

# Sandy Point News

Summer 2020

Price \$1.00

Volume 20, Issue 4

## Welcome back to our little piece of Paradise

### President's Report

I have recently returned to Sandy Point and delighted to be back to enjoy the ambiance of our lovely township, our spectacular beach and inlet and most of all our wonderful community.

I have been kept up to date on all things Sandy Point by our committee, family & friends but it has been great to see first hand the new viewing platform and seat, the gardens flourishing and the Store and Café bustling with appreciative customers. I have been amazed at all the new houses and the amount of construction going on. The township is booming!

A big “welcome back” to all our home owners who have been in lockdown in Melbourne and to all our visitors “welcome” also and we hope you all enjoy our piece of Paradise.

It feels strange not to start with the promotion of our summer events but after considerable deliberation and consultation with Council, the committee decided not to hold our regular events of the Foodies market, Sandcastle competition/sausage sizzle and raffle. As we usually have the organization of these events well under way by September it was felt that at this late stage and with the complications and the limitations of adhering to the required Covid19 safe regulations, it was just too difficult and an impossible task for our small committee to undertake within such a short timeline. We also felt with the limitations imposed, the events would be of a reduced capacity and standard which would not be comparable to our previous successful events. We are disappointed that we cannot provide the events that showcase Sandy Point, encourages greater community engagement, and contributes to the local economy. We hope you understand and look forward to when we can all enjoy these events again in the near future.

We have been kept busy with our current projects throughout the year, and have made significant progress. Our committee has been “meeting” regularly and I thank them all for their input, feedback, commitment & diligence to so many projects.



### Update on current projects/issues

- **The SPCG AGM** is to be held at the Community Centre on 30th January 2021 commencing at 10.00 am – all welcome.
- **Community Garden:** We have been successful in obtaining grants from Volunteering Victoria and South Gippsland Shire Council to assist funding the Community Garden which is to be situated adjacent to the playground on the T.P. Taylor reserve. Thanks to Michelle Jelleff, our SPCG Projects Coordinator, who did a wonderful job in producing the submissions.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

Committee members Doug & Liz Brown are being very proactive in implementing the project and are currently organising the process of researching and purchasing the necessary wicking beds, tools, plants etc and liaising with Janine Schultz, who is providing her expertise and experience in community gardens. For more see page 7.

- **Skate Park:** We have recently been advised that we were not successful in gaining a grant from SGSC to conduct a feasibility and concept design study into the construction of a skate park. We are disappointed but not daunted and will not be giving up on this worthwhile project that would provide benefits to our young community members. Michelle Jelleff, Project Coordinator, has advised that she will be contacting council in the new year for feedback and be seeking alternate funding options. Will keep you posted on our progress.
- **Community Owned Renewable Energy Project (CORE):** See progress report on page 6
- **Sandy Point Signage Project:** see page 5 for information on the progress of this project. Please note that the Community notice board has been relocated to the sign board on the walkway to the main beach.
- **Defibrillator:** The 24 hour access defibrillator has been removed from the outside of mini golf at the request of the new owners and has been relocated to the front of the General Store. Thanks Andy and Sue for your generosity in accommodating this potential life saving device.
- **Sandy Point township roads:** A letter has been sent to Council relaying our concern about the poor and deteriorating road surface and enquiring if any further rectifying works are planned. No response received to date. More detail and photos on page 20.
- **Sandy Point Music:** Held their first gig on Friday 18th Dec under strict Covid-safe guidelines and regulations. See report and further dates of proposed events on page 14
- **New website:** Di Cornwell is currently working with Jemima Fullagher to design and create our new SPCG website.
- **Wendy's move to New Zealand:** Wendy Bryce Johnson resigned from her committee position which she had held for several years as she and her husband Phil are returning to be with family in New Zealand.

We appreciated Wendy's vibrant company, humour, enthusiasm and hard work over the years and were sad to see her leave but wished her and Phil the very best for their life in NZ at a farewell morning tea at STASK café.

- **Newsletter:** Thanks to all who contribute articles for this newsletter – certainly makes for interesting reading. Special thanks to our editor Di who miraculously puts it all together (although she does nag us to death on deadlines!)
- **New history page on website:** Di is now embarking on a project of a collection of articles on the history of Sandy Point. See her article on page 10. This reminded me that I still haven't written a history, as requested for some time, on my father, T.P. Taylor. I will endeavour to get to it!

Thank you for your support and continued membership which we rely on to cover our insurance and running costs. We always appreciate your feedback and welcome suggestions, ideas and the opportunity to advocate for improved services and resources. I can be contacted via email: [info@sandypoint.vic.au](mailto:info@sandypoint.vic.au) or mobile 0427347976.

It certainly has been a challenging year in so many differing ways. With so much to contend with, Victorians you should be proud!! Let's now look forward to a great summer in our favourite place.

Merry Christmas. Stay safe and happy and be kind to yourselves and others.

Kind regards, Anne

Anne Kinne  
President, SPCG



*David and Mary Fraser and Family. David Fraser was the first licensee of the Sandy Point run in 1867. Read Nicky Walker's fascinating article about the beginnings of European settlement on the Sandy Point peninsular on page 11.*



# SANDY POINT

COMMUNITY CENTRE

## Sandy Point Community Centre & TP Taylor Reserve Committee of Management: Chairperson's Report

The festive season is upon us and isn't it fantastic to be able to catch up with family and friends.

We are all well aware of the effects of COVID-19 so I will not dwell on the past but on the future with a positive attitude.

The Centre now has electronic record keeping which uses a QR code. On entering, you will find the QR code located on the right hand side, so scan using your phone. There are instructions in place next to it. The reason for the electronic record keeping was that under current restrictions the quotient with a QR code is 1 patron per 2sqm = 75 patrons, if we had continued with paper records the quotient is 1 patron per 4sqm which reduced numbers to 50 patrons which was impractical for events.

The Trivia night in January has been cancelled as preparation for this night starts months before and given the uncertainty of what could and could not be done in January it was decided by the Committee that the wellbeing of the volunteers, committee members, patrons and the public must be considered. But don't worry it will be back in 2022 – bigger and better.

Over the last 30 years Kidz Klub have been running their program down here in Sandy Point but unfortunately not this summer.

Enough of what is not happening, the Centre has had the interior painted by the Council - and what a great job they did. The decking has recently had a coat of decking oil and is looking great – thanks to those who spent a couple of hours wielding a paint brush or roller. The annual building inspection by Council will take place shortly and on the top of our list is painting the “pergola” over the deck and removing the rust from the support beams on the north side of the building plus some other maintenance that is the Council's responsibility. Overall the Council are very responsive to any issues and we thank them for this.

The Committee applied for two grants through the Council's “Community Support Package Grants” and were successful so in the New Year there will be new tennis nets and winders for the tennis courts. It has been quite a while since the courts have had new nets & winders and anyone who has tried to wind the nets up to the correct height will appreciate the new equipment. Also a Community Get Together is planned in February for everyone as a result of another grant – so watch the Community Notice Board for details.

With the sale of Mini Golf the notice board had to be relocated so you can catch up on what is happening by reading the Notice Board located on the path to the beach



The weekly activities in The Centre will resume the first week of February – so if you're interested in Tai Chi, Indoor Bowls, Pilates, Tennis or enjoy a card game or board game, there is a list of activities on the window of the Centre and the website [www.sandypointcc.org.au](http://www.sandypointcc.org.au) which has recently had a much needed facelift.

Sandy Point has such a vibrant and committed community so congratulations to the Sandy Point Community Group who have achieved some fantastic results during 2020 and not forgetting the Men's Shed, the Community Power group, the CFA and the Music Group – Well done.

Wishing one and all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy 2021.

Di Cooper - Chairperson





**Christmas @**

**The Sandy Point Centre**

**On the grass**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 5.30pm with a  
special appearance by Santa at 6.30pm**

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# Sandy Point Signage Project: an update

If you read the Spring issue of this newsletter (you can find it on the website <https://www.sandypoint.vic.au/page57.html>) you would have read a comprehensive report on this project. During lockdown the keen and dedicated group of members of the community pursuing this project met via Zoom and continued to refine the many ideas that they had come up with.

Some progress has been made but it is still very much in the planning stage and no formal submission to Council has yet been made. Council approval is essential before we can start.

As previously reported, the plans for this project include a new Welcome to Sandy Point sign on Telopea Drive, replacing the existing town map which is outdated, and the installation of an Information Sign, to be located adjacent to the back fence on the reserve opposite the shops.

We have planned to start work early in 2021 on repainting the decorative surfboards, located near the toilet block, reflecting the natural attributes of Sandy Point. At that time we will also be relocating the single decorative surfboard currently situated next to the town map sign on Telopea Drive.

It is hoped that a submission to Council will be made early in 2021 and then, depending on their response, we will then go to the next step and get things moving by getting quotes and sourcing grants to fund the project.

If you have any ideas please email [dicooper101@gmail.com](mailto:dicooper101@gmail.com). All ideas and comments are welcome.

Merry Christmas and a healthy 2021

Di Cooper – Project Manager

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# Community Owned Renewable Energy Project (CORE)

Plenty has happened since we last reported.

I'm sure you will all have noticed the big new array on the Rob O'Brien Marine Rescue/Men's Shed roof. It is now feeding up to 15kW of green energy into the grid. It is forecast to cover all of the energy costs of running the shed and provide a substantial revenue stream via the feed in.

Unfortunately we did not secure the grant funding through DELWP we were seeking for installing batteries and increasing our community solar arrays. However we are continuing to explore opportunities for alternative funding sources to secure the installation of these important community assets.

Our proposed Community Energy Trading scheme, pooling the solar resources we have, (200+ kW and growing) is proving to be a difficult project to deliver. Navigating the regulatory and economic framework to a successful outcome has proved a complex process. However we are still talking to all parties concerned and are hoping to establish a working model. We'll release more details as soon as we are able to.

Further, now that Covid restrictions have been eased we are planning some community meetings to outline opportunities to participate in the renewable energy future of Sandy Point. In the meantime you may be interested in pursuing a rebate for installing panels and/or a battery.

There are currently State Government rebates and no-interest loans available under the Solar Homes Program that make this much cheaper. The program provides eligible Victorian households with a rebate of up to 50% of the purchase cost to install solar PV panels. The rebate is up to \$1,850, currently about half the value of an average 4kW solar PV system.

To further reduce costs, owner-occupiers can apply for an interest-free loan, for an amount equivalent to their rebate amount. In line with the existing rebate, the new interest-free



loan can be applied up to an amount of \$1,850. So, if your total system cost is less than \$3,700, there will be no upfront cost. The loan is required to be repaid over four years, or can be repaid sooner in one lump sum. If you're interested, check out the website:

<https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/solar-panel-rebate>

The Solar Homes Program is also supporting eligible Victorian households to install a solar battery, by providing a point of sale discount up to a maximum of \$4,174 and are now available in every Victorian postcode. Solar battery rebates will remain at up to \$4,174 until 30 June 2021. Installing a battery can help a typical household save up to \$640 a year. The eligibility criteria and application process can be found at:

<https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/solar-battery-rebate>

For more information from us at SPCP keep a watch on the Community website at [www.sandypoint.vic.au](http://www.sandypoint.vic.au) and Facebook page for details. You can also contact us via [energy@sandypoint.vic.au](mailto:energy@sandypoint.vic.au)

*Phil and Chris from SPCP outside the "Shed and Panels"*



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Sue and Andy Cumming  
5684 1362

# Community Garden Update

The Community Garden sub-group of the Sandy Point Community Group was thrilled to find out that we have been successful in our 2 applications for grants.

We wish to acknowledge the tremendous work that our Projects Coordinator Michelle Jelleff has done to achieve this result.

These grants will enable us to buy all the necessary equipment and tools and also to commence construction of the wicking beds.

It has been decided that we will be able to construct 3 beds, approximately 2 metres long and 1 metre wide, in the space provided by the Council.

We're hoping to start work on this soon and will keep you posted via our newsletter on the development of the Garden.



*Our wicking beds will look very similar to these cypress pine clad wicking beds pictured recently at the Fish Creek Community Garden.*

If you'd like to be involved please contact either Doug or Liz Brown on 0438 447 667 or by emailing [dlbrown@live.com.au](mailto:dlbrown@live.com.au)

Doug Brown

## WATER BORING

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## The Foreshore Committee preparing for this summer's visitors

The Foreshore Committee is currently undertaking trimming and general tidy up of the beach access tracks and the Roy Henderson track to eliminate overhanging and lateral growing vegetation and make for safer access along our trails.

Our Rangers will again be in attendance from 26th Dec through to Australia Day and over Easter to clean up the main beach, Ned Neal's and to collect parking fees at Shallow Inlet.

The parking fees are the only income that the Foreshore Committee obtains other than any grants that we may be successful in receiving.

The total income for the year is minimal after we pay for rangers, track clearing staff, main Beach track grading, Ned Neal's track grading and maintain the entrance track to Shallow Inlet.

We have decided to maintain the previous year's parking fees at \$30.00 per vehicle for a yearly pass and \$5.00 per day per vehicle. Unfortunately no Eftpos will be available.

We would like all visitors to maintain Covid Safe distancing and we have placed a limit of 15 people on Ned Neal's and the Main Beach viewing platforms as a result.

Please abide by these minimal conditions to assist in keeping the virus at bay.

It appears there will be a presence this year of DELWP rangers to police illegal camping at Shallow Inlet and Ned Neal's carpark. So we implore people to not camp along or in any of the foreshore areas.

Finally the Committee would like to gratefully thank those friends of the Committee who have volunteered their time to undertake track maintenance and weed eradication during the year.

If you are interested in joining us as a Friend of the Committee please contact us on [sandypointforeshore@gmail.com](mailto:sandypointforeshore@gmail.com)

We wish you all a Very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year

The Foreshore Committee

## Our wombats need your help

A healthy wombat usually will not venture out in daylight but a wombat affected by mange will and it is these wombats that need our assistance, so please get in touch with me if you see one out and about during the day.

There are kits available to treat the wombat but first you need to locate their burrow and then install a "Burrow Flap".

You can pick up a kit from Di Cooper at 16 Sunshine Rise, 0418 336 690.

Or if you just want some information then again please contact me.

Your assistance in helping the wombats by managing their mange also helps other local wildlife, such as out koalas, who can catch mange from them.

Di Cooper



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## Current Cruiser goes 'virtual'

Not long now and we will be looking past the madness of Christmas and looking forward to the 2021 WIN Network Current Cruiser Swim Week. Responsible Covid-related social distancing requirements means we cannot run the annual event at the inlet, as in previous years. However to avoid the risk of losing the fantastic community momentum gained over the past 2 years, we made the decision to progress the 2021 Current Cruiser as a virtual event. A 'virtual swim' means creating a space in time where participants record their swims and contribute their times by uploading them onto the event website. Other than boasting rights, there are no prizes apart from those arranged amongst friends, and all entrants will receive the 2021 event t-shirt.

Virtual events are definitely not the same as the real thing. However the upside is that participants are free to swim at any time or location during Swim Week that suits, with divisions for 500m, 1200m and 1500 current assisted at the Inlet. In fact from early registrations we have several overseas entrants excited to be able to maintain connection to a valued event in Australia.

A number of people have said that they are not too fussed with swimming however they do want to support the community fund raising event by signing up for the 2021 t-shirt and we are grateful for this support. Enter online now to make sure you get the t-shirt size you want (numbers are limited) and I will bring it with me to Sandy for you: I will be there from Boxing Day until after Swim Week.

Have you checked out the event website and Facebook page? From there you can keep up with news and photos as well as registering: <https://currentcruiser.waratahbeach.com.au>. You may have already seen our advertisement on WIN TV, but if not, keep a look out for it.

The Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club is extremely grateful for the money raised from generous Current Cruiser sponsors, entrants and supporters and when you see new gear and uniforms on the beach you will know that this has been contributed to by money raised from the Current Cruiser. Whether relaxing or swimming at the beach or boating at Shallow Inlet or in Bass Strait, there is peace of mind in knowing we have our own volunteer lifesaving and rescue services ready to help if needed.

Order your 2021 WIN Network Current Cruiser t-shirt today for \$45 and wear it proudly this summer knowing you're supporting volunteer lifesaving services at Sandy Point <https://currentcruiser.waratahbeach.com.au>

And please support our generous sponsors where you can:

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*Above: WBSLSC preparing for the 2020 Current Cruiser event*

Links to sponsors are available on the WIN Network Current Cruiser website.

Paul Minahan  
Current Cruiser Race Director  
[paul.minahan@waratahbeach.com.au](mailto:paul.minahan@waratahbeach.com.au)

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# History of Sandy Point

Over the years we have often published in our newsletter articles about a particular aspect of the history of Sandy Point. They are always very well received. They have usually been written by residents or descendants of residents of Sandy Point and talk about things that they have particular knowledge of.

For instance, we have published the poignant story written by Katrina Vincent (nee Pilkington) of the death and burial of 8 month old Eric Pilkington in about 1915 and the planting of freesias on his grave, that have now spread throughout the town.

There is also the story about the 'Tilikum', a most unusual boat that sailed into Shallow Inlet over 100 years ago for a short break on an epic round the world journey and met up and partied with the Pilkington family who were landowners then.

We also published a story about well known local identity Dick Martin, who used to drive the school bus and manage the caravan park in the 1950s. Dick was also a representative for Playground Estates in respect of real estate sales for a while and his wife Peg was a member of the Henderson family who had lived down at Shallow Inlet in the 1930s.

Margaret Paynter (nee McKay) provided us with a lovely story about how her family bought a block and built a house in Manuka Street back in the late 1950s and of her wonderful childhood memories of holidays at Sandy Point.

## New webpage for the History of Sandy Point created

As a result of this, we decided to create a page on our website about the history of Sandy Point, to be found under the "About Sandy Point" section: <https://www.sandypoint.vic.au/history.html>.

We will be placing the stories I have already mentioned and others we have received over the years about the history of Sandy Point on this page, as well the two new ones published in this edition of the newsletter. We are commissioning others about the Indigenous history of the area, the first settlers including the Pilkington and Griffin families and the start of the Playground Estate in the 1950s.

Some of these stories have already been printed in our newsletter and even as books, but we believe much is as yet untold. So if you have a story to tell about earlier times in Sandy Point please do send it to us at [SPCG.editor@sandypoint.vic.au](mailto:SPCG.editor@sandypoint.vic.au).

This page may take a while to develop and will be in a continual process of updating as we receive new items, so please keep a watch on it.

## Two new history articles for you to read in this newsletter

In this issue of the newsletter we have two stories about Sandy Point's history for you to read.

On page 11 we are publishing a wonderful article researched and written by Nicky Walker about the early European settlement of the Sandy Point Peninsular. The version printed is an abridged version, but you can read a longer, more detailed and referenced version of this wonderful article on our website.

Secondly we have been given an old newspaper cutting of an article published in the Age newspaper back in 2000 when a reporter from *The Age* came down to Sandy Point to interview Diane Casbolt and Trish Lee about their "Flicks at the Point" program that they started running for the community almost every night during summer in the old TP Taylor Hall. See page 13 of this newsletter to read a summary of this and the history page on our website for the full article.

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Looking forward to receiving your stories and photos. Who knows. we might put them all together in a book one day!

Di Cornwell  
[SPCG.editor@sandypoint.vic.au](mailto:SPCG.editor@sandypoint.vic.au).

# The beginnings of European settlement on the Sandy Point peninsular

Written by Nicola Walker, this will be the first in a series of articles, written by several authors, detailing the history of Sandy Point.

Prior to the infiltration of Europeans into the area, indigenous peoples occupied the land in and around Sandy Point and Waratah Bay. Their rich and complex culture and relationship with the land had no requirement for a 'system of land tenure' that was recognisable to Europeans. Following annexation by Britain under a colonialist assumption of legality, the indigenous inhabitants of the land were gradually forced out. A full description of the impact of European settlement on the indigenous peoples of the Waratah Bay area is beyond the scope of this article and the capacity to do justice to the subject.

## Early settlers in the Waratah Bay area

It is unclear from the official records when the land that was to become the Sandy Point Run was first taken-up. However, James Dobson (b.1811) is the first licensee to be recorded in the Victorian Government Gazette. It is possible that prior to this, the run was unlicensed and/or part of a larger run incorporating Cape Liptrap and/or the Yanakie isthmus.

John Dobson took over his brother's licence, but his tenure came to an end when he was declared insolvent for reasons of 'losses occasioned by disease and death of cattle', and a creditor's judgement against him in the Supreme Court. An administrator was appointed, and the licence was sold to James Flanner.

James Flanner was born in 1813 in London. Upon visiting the run, he found John Dobson still in residence. Dobson put up some resistance to leaving and Flanner had him charged with trespass. Dobson was fined twenty shillings. Flanner's manager later reported that Dobson had taken milking cows from the run, prompting Flanner to place several notices in the local papers cautioning anyone dealing with '10 head of milch cows with calves illegally driven from his station by John Dobson and others'. Dobson placed his own notice claiming, "The cattle are not the property of James Flanner but belong to my brother for whom I hold Power of Attorney empowering me to sell and dispose of the same".

Up until 1894, Sandy Point was part of the Alberton Shire. Rate records for 1863 record that Flanner paid rates on a house and shop in Port Albert, a lumber yard in Port Albert, land in Yarram, and Tarraville, a house in Palmerston and the run at Sandy Point. He died aged 52 in 1866 and is buried in the Alberton Cemetery. His wife Elizabeth continued to run the store in Port Albert, but the Sandy Point run licence passed to John Elliot.

## The Sandy Point Run

David Fraser first appears in the Gazette as the licensee of the Sandy Point run in 1867. David aged 17 and his brother James aged 21 arrived in Melbourne from Scotland aboard the Mindoro in 1859. They followed their uncle, Gilbert Brown who had emigrated to Australia earlier and who settled in the Alberton Shire. Gilbert Brown established a brewery at Tarra Rivulet at a place known as Turnbull's Bridge. He also had a Crown lease in Woodside.

David Fraser married Mary Kydd Findlay on 11 Sept 1868. David and Mary had lived approximately 65 kilometres from one another in Scotland. Whether or not they knew each other before they married is a mystery. Mary travelled to Australia aboard the 'Great Britain' from Liverpool in July 1868 and

*(Continued on page 12)*



*Map c. 1865 of runs in the South Gippsland from Spreadborough, R and Anderson, H. Victorian Squatters)*

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*(Continued from page 11)*

arrived in Melbourne on September 4th, 90 days later. Seven days after disembarking she married David at a private residence in Melbourne. They had 5 children: John (1869), Norman (1871), Annie (1874), Douglas (1878) and Jessie (1880).

Land reform policy and the Land Acts of 1860, 1862 and 1869 saw the break-up of the pastoral runs into smaller allotments. Provision was made for the squatters in the form of a 'pre-emptive right' which enabled squatters to licence, lease and then purchase an allotment of up to 640 acres around their homestead. David Fraser exercised this right in 1875 in applying for a licence for 200 acres and later successfully converting this into freehold in 1885.

David Fraser continued with the Sandy Point run licence until the allotments were gradually licensed to others but maintaining a lease for Crown Allotment 22. The buildings on the site of the original homestead can be seen against the dunes about 800m from the western boundary of the Sandy Point township.

The infamous Ned Neal of Ned Neal's Lookout worked as a labourer for David Fraser on the Sandy Point Run. The Gippsland Times reports in July 1888 on his arrest and subsequent trial for stealing cattle from David Fraser's property in Sandy Point, his second offence. In his evidence, David Fraser described how the prisoner had been 'in his service' at the Sandy Point run for approximately 15 years but that his conduct had become very different from what it had previously been after he had fallen from his horse. The paper reports that Fraser "was evidently shocked at the position the prisoner was now in ..." and "there was indeed a great alteration in his character and mode of life since he had known him four or five years ago". Neal was sentenced in July 1888 to 6 months-hard labour in the Sale Prison.

By the end of the 19th Century David had gone into debt, resulting in a mortgagee auction of much of his property. He moved to Morwell, perhaps to be closer to his sons John and Douglas who had settled in the area. He died in 1916 (aged 74) and is buried in the Hazelwood Cemetery.

The sale of David Fraser's freehold and the break-up of the Sandy Point run marks the end of one era in the early European settlement of Sandy Point and the beginning of another, characterised by smaller holdings and leading to formation of the township of Sandy Point.

**Nicola Walker**



*David and Mary Fraser and Family (courtesy of Melinda Fear)*



*Map showing the break-up of the Sandy Point Run into Crown allotments which occurred c1880s and David Fraser's freehold south of blocks 20 and 21.*

An extended fully referenced version of this article about the early European history of Sandy Point will be posted on our website soon. Go to our website at [www.sandypoint.vic.au/history.html](http://www.sandypoint.vic.au/history.html)



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J.payne21@hotmail.com

## Jan's koala diary

“Summer is here” or at least it is supposed to be. Our trees know this, as they have started to drop their leaves, so they can get through a long hot summer. However the leaves left are not as nice and juicy for the wildlife, especially our koalas who depend on it, so please put bowls of water out at the base of trees in your yard. Then our koalas, echidnas, wombats, possums, snakes and blue tongues can get some extra water.

The coronavirus has not affected our wildlife thank goodness, but bushfires do and so do cars, dogs and the awful mange. So please be careful driving around our streets and stick to the 40kph speed limit. Also please keep your dogs confined, especially at night.

Last week I was called out to help rescue a very mangy looking koala in Ash Ave. As it was so far gone I took it straight over to Sue Moore's and it was euthanised. Very sad.

If you see a sick animal you can ring me on 5684 1045 or Sue Moore's Wildlife Shelter on 0429 016 695 for help.

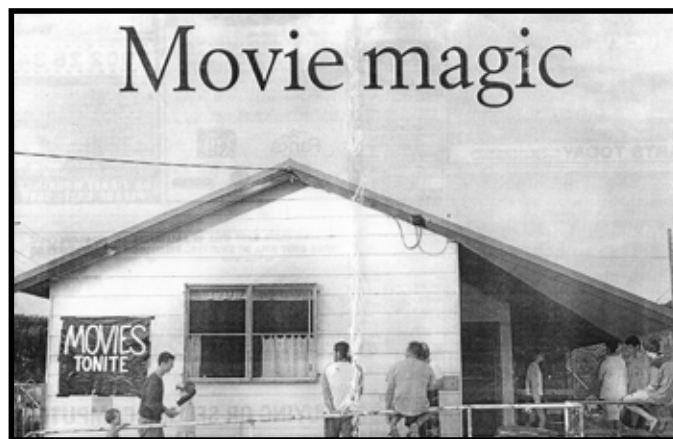
Talking of Sue Moore, she has been given a grant to build a hospital for the sick and injured wildlife that pass through her hands. It is almost finished and the plumbing and electrics were being installed last time I spoke with her.

While I was at Sue's house I met one of her latest patients, a gorgeous little puggle – a baby echidna. She also told me she had a blue-tongued lizard “somewhere in her bedroom” that she was treating for road tar on its paws. It had escaped from its box! What a wonderful lady she is.

To all the locals and visitors to Sandy Point, stay safe, happy and healthy and enjoy our Sandy Point summer if, and when, it arrives!

Merry Christmas

Jan Hallas



We were recently given an old newspaper cutting of an article published in The Age newspaper back in 2000. It seems a reporter came down to Sandy Point to interview Diane Casbolt and Trish Lee about their “Flicks at the Point” program that they started running for the community almost every night during summer in the old TP Taylor Hall. I contacted Di Casbolt about this and she remembered it well. She gave me this description of how she and Trish developed the event.

“For a few years friends, Trish and Di, ran film nights in the old T.P. Taylor Hall. They met through mutual friends in Melbourne and it was Trish's Sandy Point house Di initially stayed in. Both women loved the area and regularly travelled the three hours from Melbourne to stay in the town. An idea evolved of holding movies, so they spent hours organising the equipment, picking up hire films from Melbourne, ensuring they did not infringe copyright rules, making popcorn and setting up the hall. Trish and Kate thoroughly enjoyed this for a few years. However the effort did not match the return and so they gradually lost interest. It was fun while it lasted and gave the holiday makers another option while holidaying. The children especially enjoyed the venue and kid's movies.”

If you'd like to read the whole article about this please go to our website at: [www.sandypoint.vic.au/history.html](http://www.sandypoint.vic.au/history.html)





Merry Christmas - We are back! With an almighty bang! December 18th marked the return to music with not one, but two concerts performed by the multi talented and energetic Pierce Brothers. These brothers needed a full stage to house their energy and talent. It was full of guitars, mandolins, didgeridoos, drums, harmonicas, somersaults, hair flicking, theatrics and of course the most amazing lyrics and music. It sits up there as amongst one of the best gigs over the last 4 years. Well worth the 8 month wait.

So what a gig to kick start the summer music season. Sensational.

The perfect support act was Darcy Spiller and Jackson McCrae. Darcy has the voice of a songbird with the strength of a harmonic orchestra, except there was no orchestra, just Darcy.

Wonderful return to music and lots more in store with the following acts.

- Michael Waugh - January 16th
- Winnie Blues – February 13th
- Mia Dyson –March 23rd

Tickets available on [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com)

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details: [sandypointmusic](https://www.facebook.com/sandypointmusic)

Jump onto the tickets early because we are meeting Government regulations to ensure social distancing and a safe covid practices. Consequently there are less tickets available than usual.

Donna Killeen



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## Our very special Sandy Point Koalas

As I write this I can hear a male koala bellowing away in a tree nearby so there are definitely some koalas still around in Sandy Point despite a number of deaths from mange and road accidents over the last year.

Genetic research on koala scat (poo) samples of 11 koalas conducted by Federation University in 2018 suggested that the Sandy Point koalas are likely to be a remnant population of the larger South Gippsland koala population, that has been isolated for a long time and so has a low level of genetic diversity.

Federation University are now conducting a second round of sampling of our Sandy Point koalas to build on their previous research about their genetics and population health. Several samples have already been collected and sent to Fed Uni for analysis. We will be collecting more scat samples in the new year to continue this research.

We are hopeful that the results will help us determine our course of action for the future to help protect our very special koala population. Koalas are a threatened species now in many parts of Australia, particularly after the devastating bushfires earlier this year, so it makes the health and welfare of our own population of koalas even more important.

While we wait on the results of the research, we will be continuing with our tree plantings and maintenance of trees planted over the last 3 years. In spring 2021 we will also be conducting another koala count. If you're on our koala mailing list we will let you know when these events are taking place. If you'd like to be added to our list please email me, Di Cornwell, at [sandypointkoalas@gmail.com](mailto:sandypointkoalas@gmail.com).

Finally, please go slowly on our roads, particularly at night, and keep a watch out for wildlife crossing them. And if you see sick or injured wildlife, report it to Wildlife Victoria immediately:

- Ring (03) 8400 7300
- Use the form on their website [wildlifelifevictoria.org.au](http://wildlifelifevictoria.org.au) or
- download the “[Snap Send Solve](#)” app and report injured native animals



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Despite the restrictions imposed by Covid we have managed a fairly active program over the last several months. We have continued with our monthly meetings, admittedly using on-line technology in most instances, but at last being able to get back face to face. We have also pursued a regular program of working bees to manage a number of small jobs around the shed, like installing the water tank and plumbing; installing the donated defib and placing gravel around to cover the exposed sand. We've plenty more jobs lined up so why not sign up and join us?

On the shed itself, we are expecting approval of the planning and building permits any day and are keen to get the internal fitout underway. Meanwhile we continue to receive generous donations of tools and equipment. We think we will be pretty much self-sufficient by the time we open.



*Jessica Shepherd from Ambulance Victoria presents to Phil Cornwell of the Sandy Point Men's Shed a defibrillator, now installed on the wall of the shed.*



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As reported in the Community Power article on page 4, we now have a 15kW array on the shed roof. It is expected to cover all of our electricity running costs and also provide a substantial return by way of feed in credits. We are pleased to report that we have signed an MOU with SPCP to share this revenue to support other projects within the community. Together with SPCP we are exploring opportunities to install a battery and potentially Electric Vehicle charging stations.

Our project list has continued to grow so there are plenty of things to get on with. We would welcome new members and encourage anyone interested in joining our group to sign up. You can find out more details at:

- <https://www.sandypoint.vic.au/page58.html> ;
- by sending an email to [spmensshed@gmail.com](mailto:spmensshed@gmail.com) or
- by writing to Sandy Point Community Men's Shed, c/- Post Office, Sandy Point, Victoria 3959



## EVERYONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE BEACH

### BOOK OUR BEACH WHEELCHAIR FREE OF CHARGE

Our wheelchair is for use not only by those people living with a disability but also those people, often elderly, who just find it too hard to walk over the soft sand to the beach. Its large balloon tyres allow people like this to experience the joys of a trip to the Sandy Point beach once more. It can easily be pushed along the beach near the water's edge and also allows its users to participate in family activities and events such as weddings on the beach.

The wheelchair is available for loan free of charge for any period from one hour to half a day, for use on the Sandy Point main beach. It is easily handled by two able bodied carers. It is not designed for use in the water but can be taken right down to the water's edge.

For more information about borrowing the wheelchair and availability see

[www.sandypoint.vic.au/beachwheelchair.html](http://www.sandypoint.vic.au/beachwheelchair.html)



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# Nippers is on again!

With most junior sports cancelled this year, we are pleased to be able to announce that Nippers are looking forward to returning to the beach this January in a COVID-safe way.

It's something that we don't take for granted – the ability to learn new skills, catch up with friends and most importantly have fun in the fresh air, sand and water.

**Program dates:**

Monday/Wednesday/Friday (likely between 9:30am - 11:30am, duration to be advised)

Starting Monday 28th December 2020 - Friday 15th January 2021

Including twilight session on New Years Day!

See you there!


Natalie Ashdown



*Photos taken in 2020 before COVID restrictions were in place. Please note that we will be operating in a COVID safe way this year as per Life Saving Victoria's directions.*



**Sandy Point  
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## Marine Rescue Service ready for call outs this summer

Lots has been happening with the Waratah Beach Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) service since last summer and the group is ready to assist any boats getting into trouble at the inlet or through the mouth between the Prom and Cape Liptrap. Already this season we have performed a rescue tow from Shellback Island, recovered a couple of wayward channel markers, identified an exposed reef near the mouth and been put on standby for a potential Prom rescue. With many Australians travelling locally this summer we are expecting increased boating activity and high likelihood to be called out operationally.

The winter period presented a perfect opportunity to do some well needed maintenance, mending a couple of slow leaks on the RHIB as well as reinforcing the trailer to better support boat retrieval. From a couple of new grants we have also been able to upgrade and invest in new surveillance and rescue equipment, radios and a FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared) camera for night vision. The new shed is proving a perfect spot to store the boat and gear and volunteers are relieved to be able to grab waterproof gear and vests and be less concerned about spiders and other creepy crawlies that resided in the boat when it lived in Ray Henderson's paddock.

With the strong chance of a new rescue vessel arriving in the new year the group has taken the opportunity to develop a committee of management as a way of tightening up organisational activities. High on the list of priorities is an increased focus on attracting new volunteers and delivering essential training activities to improve skills and understanding of the formal MSAR qualifications required to be operationally qualified. Mike Devine and Greg Moulding have taken on the responsibility for these areas and have developed some great processes to record and deliver training for volunteers from new starters to experienced operators. Already you may have seen the RHIB practising towing boats, retrieving swimmers as well as launching and retrieval.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a part of the Waratah Beach Marine Rescue service then make sure you reach out to any of the existing members, including myself. To find out more email [paul.minahan@waratahbeach.com.au](mailto:paul.minahan@waratahbeach.com.au). We are planning on a season launch and information session at the shed after Christmas, so stay tuned and pop in if you can make it.

Paul Minahan



## Sandy Point's roads: a sticky situation



*Above: Junction of Sunshine Rise and Park Ave  
Right: the parking area outside the General Store*

Our President Anne Kinne has recently written a letter to Council relaying our concern about the poor and deteriorating road surfaces around the township and enquiring if any rectifying works are planned. So far she has not received a response. The resurfacing of our roads was conducted in late February this year and several people made complaints at that time about the quality of the work. Council's reply at that time was that we should give it 6 months and it would all settle down. As we all know, it has got worse, rather than better and in many places the thin layer of stones has been stripped away entirely. In hot weather the tar melts and sticks to shoes and feet as well as tyres. We have also heard reports of animals' feet being affected!

For those wanting to highlight a particular section of our roads that concerns them, we suggest you use "[Snap Send Solve](#)", write to Council or ring them on 03 5662 9200.



## Please make a donation to our local wildlife carer, Sue Moore

**The best way to donate to Sue's Wildlife Shelter is by Paypal, direct debit or by post using the following details:**

**Bass Coast/South Gippsland Wildlife Rescue & Shelter Inc**

**PO Box 317, Tarwin Lower, Vic 3956**

**Bendigo Bank**

**BSB - 633 000**

**Account number – 167210343**



This newsletter is produced quarterly by the Sandy Point Community Group (SPCG) on behalf of the local community. You may use content from it as long as you provide appropriate and proper reference to SPCG as its source. The newsletter can be purchased in hard copy from the Sandy Point General Store and is distributed by email to all members of SPCG free of charge. If you've received this newsletter by email it is because you subscribed to receive it when you joined the SPCG. You can unsubscribe or update your details by emailing [sandypoint.membership@gmail.com](mailto:sandypoint.membership@gmail.com) or by writing to: The Membership Secretary, Sandy Point Community Group, c/- Post Office, Sandy Point, Vic. 3959. To join the SPCG and receive this newsletter by email, use the form attached or go to [www.sandypoint.vic.au](http://www.sandypoint.vic.au).



## Membership Application and Renewal Form

for the Sandy Point Community Group (SPCG)  
website: [www.sandypoint.vic.au](http://www.sandypoint.vic.au)  
email: sandypoint.membership@gmail.com

### Membership renewal

Could you please complete the form below and return it to us so we can confirm your details on our membership list.

### New members

Please complete all the details in the form below and return to us.

	Person 1	Person 2
Family Name		
First name(s)		
Local Address (Sandy Point)		
Postal Address (if different to above)		
Phone (home)		
Mobile		
Email		

- Do you wish to receive our Newsletter by email? Yes  No
- Do you wish to receive other information from us by email? Yes  No
- Would you like our Newsletter posted to you for an extra \$10 per year? Yes  No
- Is there any way in which you would like to contribute to the work of the SPCG?
  
- Are there any issues you would like the Committee to consider?

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**Membership is \$10 per person or \$20 per family living at the same address. Please add \$10 onto your payment if you have indicated above that you would like the Newsletter mailed to you.**

### Payment options

- Direct deposit into SPCG Inc. Bendigo Bank account BSB 633 000 Account 1440 68590
  - Please identify your deposit by using your Initial and Surname.
  - Save your completed application form and email to sandypoint.membership@gmail.com
- Cheque made out to SPCG Inc. and mailed with a printed copy of this form to:
  - Sandy Point Community Group, Sandy Point, Vic 3959