



Sandy Point News

Summer 2021

Price \$1.00

Volume 21, Issue 4



The Sandy Point Community Group strives to meet the needs of the community by addressing issues and concerns that may affect the future wellbeing of residents and visitors. We aim to maintain and preserve our enviable environment and seek, encourage and support projects that have a positive impact on the community, township and wildlife.

The SPCG is an increasingly diverse group of people drawn together by our love of and passion for Sandy Point, its hinterland and community. Unfortunately we have recently lost a few valuable committee members and now need some new members to help us achieve our goals for the future.

It is very rewarding to be part of a group like ours that has done so much for the community over the years. Sandy Point is a great place to live and visit and we strive to enhance and preserve this unique and wonderful community. We are hoping you will consider joining us to continue our role in the community.

We meet monthly over summer and less frequently over the rest of the year and often via Zoom so you can still join in even if you spend your time away from Sandy Point.

Our AGM is to be held at 10am on 22 January 2022 and you are welcome to attend and advise us of your concerns, ideas & feedback and be updated on our current and future projects.

Find out more about how to get involved with the group, what we've achieved and what we are working on at the moment by going to page 2.

Anne Kinne. President SPCG

info@sandypoint.vic.au



Continued from page 1

Sandy Point Community Group: What we do

The primary role of the Sandy Point Community Group (SPCG) is to provide strong advocacy in support of improved facilities, infrastructure and recreational facilities within the local community.

Over the years, we have responded to key Council initiatives, and advocated for relevant community issues, such as improved phone and internet connections, better toilet facilities, traffic calming measures, caravan park issues, bore set back issues and responding to members' requests to address identified hazard areas.

This coming year we will advocate for the development of a Town Centre Plan by the Shire which might include commercial centre revitalisation, environmental initiatives, tourism initiatives etc. The Waratah Way Shared Trail and the installation of a skate park are still priority projects and toilets at Ned Neale's are one of several on the wish list

Financial support for local groups through assistance with grant applications and donations to their specific projects is also a role of SPCG. We can act as the facilitator to apply for grants on behalf of other Sandy Point community groups and have several sub groups operating under the auspice of SPCG, such as Sandy Point Music, WiSP (Wildlife in Sandy Point), the Community Garden group and Signage group.

SPCG also conducts community strengthening events, such as the Sandcastle Competitions that are held on the surf beach each year, generally one at Easter and one during the Christmas holidays (usually between Christmas and New Year). Each year in early January we also hold our increasingly popular Foodies and Artisans Market which showcases a range of local food, drinks and artisan products.

What we have achieved

Donations we've made to other groups have included:

- TP Taylor Committee of Management for solar panels on the Community Centre, payment for additional power outlets and a donation towards purchase of new photocopier/printer
- Sandy Point Music for the purchase of a stage and lighting
- Donation to the Sarsfield Community Group Bush Fire Appeal
- Sandy Point Community Power Inc for setting up costs
- Marine Rescue Service for a water rescue training dummy
- Foreshore committee for installation of bench seat on boardwalk
- Donation towards the printing and installation of the new information signs on the reserve opposite the shops
- Sandy Point Koala project for training of wildlife rescue personnel
- Bass Coast Wildlife Shelter

Advocacy has included:

- the installation of new toilet block and landscaping of surrounding areas
- Telstra for installation of new tower (further advocacy for improvements, ongoing)
- SGSC review of caravan park
- SGSC, EPA, DWELP, Government consultation re bore set back requirements
- Road surfacing
- Road hazards and traffic calming measures
- Dogs on beach
- Replacement of the Big Yellow Slide at playpark

Funded projects include:

- Provision of a beach wheelchair for free community use
- Community Garden wicking beds
- A smart cabinet to house a 24 hour access defibrillator unit



Sandy Point Community Group: President's Message

Thank you for your support this year – it has been a tough one for many and Sandy Point you have done well! To those who have not been able to be here, a big welcome back and we have been waiting for you! I am delighted to be back here now and looking forward to spending the summer months in this lovely place with so much on offer and such wonderful people! We are so lucky to have such a great community!

I also thank our committee who volunteer their time and efforts when they are busy with work, family commitments and conflicting demands (eg have a life!). I know only too well, how hard it is at times to fit it all in! I appreciate their responses (to my endless emails) and the sharing of their expertise and willingness to do whatever has to be done! They are truly a great bunch!

Our new website is soon to be launched! We hope you like the new modern design and find it more user friendly and functional.

Our editor for the last 10 years, Di Cornwell is resigning from her role as SPCG Editor but fortunately member Glenda Scott has volunteered to take on Di's role as Newsletter editor, Facebook and website manager. You may have noticed Glenda is already updating our Facebook page! She has spent the last few months creating the new website and we believe this will go live in the next few weeks. She will then no doubt revamp the newsletter too, so watch this space!

Our thanks to Di and good luck Glenda!

Best wishes for a Happy and Safe Christmas, please be mindful on our shared roads and enjoy all that is Sandy Point!

Kind Regards, Anne & SPCG Committee

info@sandypoint.com.au

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



*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land, waters and sky where we live, learn and work and pay our respect to Elders past, present and future, recognising that sovereignty was never ceded.
We commit to walking the path of reconciliation together for a better tomorrow for all.*

Looking for a new year's resolution....
1 January 2022 (afternoon)




WIN Network CURRENT CRUISER

Waratah Beach SLSC

500m (swim and float) / 1,500m* Current-Assisted Swim
Shallow Inlet, Sandy Point

* Includes the perpetual Barbour Trophy for fastest male and female Active Patrolling WBSLSC Member

Entry fee includes event T-shirt and swim cap; EARLYBIRD \$50 - REGULAR \$60

All welcome at presentations in the newly refurbished WBSLSC clubhouse bar after the swim

REGISTER NOW at <https://currentcruiser.waratahbeach.com.au>



Event sponsors: The Gilberts, Andrew Bean, TWB Chartered Accountants, Ted and Jo Clark, Assorted Walkerville Walruses, Tim and Sue Barbour
 If you have any questions, please email paul.minahan@waratahbeach.com.au. Swimmers must be fully Covid vaccinated and show digital certificate with event QR code at pack collection, prevailing state covid event guidelines will apply to swimmers and spectators

Hi Everyone, Christmas is getting closer and that means so is the **WIN Network Current Cruiser**. What a great opportunity to wash away the dust from New Year's eve celebrations with a lazy swim or 500m float with friends while being carried along near the shore with the current and being watched over by Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club life savers.

The Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club is overwhelmed with the amazing support from sponsors for WIN Network Current Cruiser and now the next phase is to lock in entries and pledges.

We strongly encourage you to sign up now at <https://currentcruiser.waratahbeach.com.au> so we can plan and prepare for the day. We know there will be plenty of walk up swimmers on the day who are not on our distribution lists, so if you could please sign up early that will give us plenty of capacity to sign up new Cruisers on the day... and you will save \$10!

After the swim join us at the newly refurbished clubhouse bar for presentations and a refreshing drink. Look out for our television commercials, they should be on air later this week.....

Paul Minahan

The Currnet Cruiser event in 2020 was a huge success. Let's hope the 2022 event is as good!



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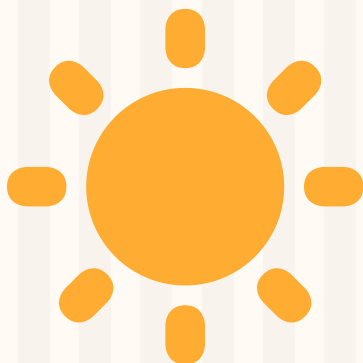


SUMMER AT
**SANDY
POINT**

WHAT'S ON...??

**HAPPENING
AROUND TOWN...**

- + Tennis court hire
- book at the General Store
- + Elizabeth Collins Massage Therapy
- elizabethcollins.com.au
- + General store - open 7 days
- + Mini golf - next to General Store
- + StaSk Cafe
facebook.com/StaSkcafe/
- + Offshore Surf school -
offshoresurfschool.com.au



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next wedding,
party or
corporate event!

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COMMUNITY CENTRE

SANDYPOINTCC.ORG.AU

DECEMBER 2021

NIPPERS - 1ST SESSION MON 27TH

Surf skills and heaps of fun for kids aged 5-14. Runs 9.30-11.30 Mon/Wed/Fri until Fri 14th Jan. For more info, visit: waratahbeach.com.au/nippers

YOGA SUN 26TH

8am - 9am in the Sandy Point Community Centre with Howard; daily until 2nd January.

JANUARY 2022

CURRENT CRUISER SWIM SAT 1ST

It's back! 500m & 1.5km distances at Shallow Inlet. For entry and more info, visit: currentcruiser.waratahbeach.com.au

YOGA ON THE GRASS MON 3RD

8am - 9am at Sandy Point Community Centre with Jacki; daily until Sunday 9th January.

SANDCASTLE COMP THU 6TH

10am at the main beach - all welcome!

LOCAL KOALA SURVEY SAT 8TH

Survey runs 8th-15th Jan; Results & program update 2-4.30pm Sat 22nd Jan at SPCC. Contact Christy 0425 802 669

FOODIES TWILIGHT MARKET SAT 8TH

Music & food :) 4pm at the Sandy Point Community Centre

SANDY POINT MUSIC SAT 15TH

Little Quirks - at the Sandy Point Community Centre. For tickets, go to: facebook.com/sandypointmusic/

COMMUNITY GROUP AGM SAT 22ND

10am at SP Community Centre

FEBRUARY 2022

SANDY POINT MUSIC SAT 12TH

The Detonators - at the Sandy Point Community Centre. For tickets, go to: facebook.com/sandypointmusic/

SANDY POINT MUSIC SAT 26TH

James Bennet - at the Sandy Point Community Centre. For tickets, go to: facebook.com/sandypointmusic/

Proof of double COVID
vaccination required
for indoor events



We're back! Many months have passed since Sandy Point hosted an evening of music. So excitement was almost tangible on Saturday night. Folk singer Khristian Mizzi was the first cab off the block to entertain us.

Most of us would have been happy to see anything, more or less, as long as it was live music. But what an unexpected treat was in store.

His voice has been – accurately – described as ‘strong and gentle’. Influenced by classic singer-songwriters Cat Stevens, Leonard Cohen and Neil Young, Khristian nonetheless stamped his own identity on each song. He specializes in short stories, the beauty in the everyday, soulful insights into family life and the innocence of childhood. His acoustic guitar playing was precise, smooth and effortlessly melodic, occasionally punctuated by his harmonica.

The evening was sprinkled with cover versions. There were classic renditions of ‘Heart of Gold’ and ‘Human Highway’ from Neil Young (Khristian also fronts a Neil Young cover band), the Mamas and the Papas’ ‘California Dreaming’, Cat Stevens ‘Moonshadow’ but also some more obscure choices such as a brilliant interpretation of Don McLean’s early song ‘Castles in the Air’.

But Khristian’s own songs by no means suffered by comparison. In a world where artists can be catapulted to global fame as a teenager, it seems a crying shame that his songs have accumulated relatively little attention to date. But, it did mean we were able to enjoy an evening in the company of this warm and self-deprecating artist in an intimate setting.

Khristian was joined on stage by radio veteran, singer, song writer Greg Champion for a few numbers and the duo harmonized to great effect.

The evening kicked off with Meg Doherty who delivered a beautiful acoustic set.

As we all helped stack the tables and chairs at the end of a magical evening, we were all reminded of what we’d been missing out on all this time. Thank you to Khristian, Meg and Greg for a very special night.

Photography by Donna <https://www.donnakilleenphotography.com>

Words by Donna & Ian Forth <https://www.sombreroofallout.com>

For information about upcoming music events see:

<https://www.facebook.com/sandypointmusic/>



Top right: Khristian Mizzi.

Centre: Greg Champion joins Khristian on stage for a few numbers.

Bottom: Meg Doherty set the standard for a great evening’s music.



SANDY POINT

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Sandy Point Community Centre & TP Taylor Reserve Community Asset Committee: Chairperson's Report

On Friday 10th December the committee organised the “Sandy Point Reconnecting” event on the grass at the Centre and what a great success it was, with over 120 people getting reacquainted with other residents. Thanks to the South Gippsland Shire Council COVID recovery grants allowing for the event to be fully funded and free to all who attended. The tasting platter from Trulli's of Meeniyan plus the sausages from Jenkins butchers of Foster were enjoyed by everyone along with the refreshments from Sandy Point General Store.



The installation of the Community Centre Solar Battery Storage system is well under way and the Sandy Point Community Power team are hoping to have it “up and running” early in the new year. South Gippsland Council has been successful with a grant to cover the cost installing a satellite dish to ensure NBN connection even when power is lost, which will be backed up by solar battery. This is vital to the community as Sandy Point Community Centre is a designated “Place of Last Resort”.



The Trivia night in January has been cancelled again, 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 was most important. Once again Kidz Klub will not be running their program down here in Sandy Point in 2022.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and let's hope that things return to some sort of normal in 2022.

Stay safe.

Di Cooper – Chairperson

Looking for Volunteers to assist with the 2022 Art Show

We're looking:-

- for someone to organise and run the Café over the 3 days*
- assist with receiving and hanging of the works – 2 days*

Can you help?

Please contact Di - 0418336690

Waratah Beach back on patrol over summer!

This season, the members of Waratah Beach SLSC are excited to get back down onto the beach to make our community safer!

We patrol every Saturday, Sunday and public holiday between the 27th of November right up until the 25th of April. Our times we will be on the beach are below:

27 November – 25 December

- o Saturday: 1:00pm - 4:30pm
- o Sunday: 10:30am – 4:00pm

26 December – 26 January

- o Saturday: 1:00pm – 5:30pm
- o Sunday: 10:00am – 5:30pm

27 January – 25 April

- o Saturday: 1:00pm - 4:30pm
- o Sunday: 10:30am – 4:00pm



Please feel more than welcome to come up to any of us and say hello, we are a friendly bunch I promise! Keep an eye on our website and facebook pages for up to date information on how you can help out, courses, swims, and much more!

Stay safe this upcoming summer, and we look forward to seeing you down on the beach.

Keegan Clarke

Director of Lifesaving Services

Waratah Beach SLSC

clubcaptain@waratahbeach.com.au

The freshly renovated Warabar is looking great and almost ready to re-open

In the space of 2 months the bar in the clubhouse has been given a stunning make over by Chris, Adam, Daniel and Emily Cope and Annie Byrne. The results are truly fantastic! A modern and welcoming social room with a million dollar view out over the ocean. Don't miss out on visiting the clubhouse over summer!



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Good news - the STaSK cafe is open again!



The General Store is as prepared as they can be for the summer rush. There has been supply issues with several of our suppliers but for the most part the shelves and freezers are well stocked, and we think it will stay that way during the festive season. Be sure to drop by the bottle shop and check out the new range of local beers and wines including the Sandy Point range of wines. The store will be staying open until around 8pm each night during peak times to ensure you have a chance to get what you need without worrying about an early close.

Salty Toes and Sandy Kisses has re-opened for the summer with well-known locals Alex and Cody taking the reins and responsibilities of serving up quality take away meals. The cafe will be open for breakfast through to dinner Wednesday to Sundays with opening hours 9am-8pm. The bar will open Boxing Day, more so for customers to have a cold beer or glass of wine with their food or to wash the sand away from a day at the beach whilst their order is prepared. Post the summer boom the cafe will cater more so to the local community; watch this space for updates.

The other new addition that we are sure you are aware of is the Good Vibes coffee van run by another local, Taya. The van passed all the shire requirements to trade as a food service vehicle and is registered with both the shire and on Streatrader with Taya having a couple of permanent locations registered for the summer period. As well as great coffee Taya will serve up slushie's, iced teas and a few other cold treats over the summertime. Make it part of your daily routine to drop in and catch up with Taya and share the Good Vibes.

A huge thanks to all in the community for your support, feedback, and comments over the last few months. May you have a very festive, happy, and safe Christmas and New Year.

With kindest regards from everyone at the General Store, STaSK cafe and the Good Vibes coffee van.

Cody (left) and Alex (right) are waiting to serve you at the STaSK cafe



Sandy Point General Store

Open 7 days

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FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS**

- Milk & Bread
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- Grab & Go Sandwiches & Cakes
- Bottle Shop
- Fresh Coffee
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- LPG Gas Bottle Delivery
- Boat Hire
- Fuel

**Paul Anthony
5684 1362**

Wildlife in Sandy Point

Thank you to Di Cooper

WiSP would like to thank and congratulate Di Cooper. She's retiring from Wombat Rescue leaving a strong foundation for our rescue team. Di has offered to mentor and advise us and we greatly appreciate her continued support, in this and all the very many matters she's heading and or directing in her position as President of SPCC. We so appreciate her dedication to our community.

Future Events

8-15 January – The Koala Survey

We're wanting people to report koala sightings or scat during this period to sandypointkoalas@gmail.com. We'll be promoting the survey in the upcoming weeks through social and print media. If you want to be involved please contact us at sandypointkoalas@gmail.com.

8 January – Foodies Market

WiSP has been offered a table at the Foodies Market to promote the Koala Survey and fundraise. See you there!

22 January 2:00-4:30pm – Koala Survey Results and Program Event

WiSP will present the results of the survey then plans to hold a panel discussion regarding collaboration and support, focusing on resources and data/knowledge sharing. Come along and share in the discussion with us.

27 February 10:00-11:30 – WiSP Meeting at the Community Centre

All invited to attend.

23 March 12:00-5pm – WiSP Flea Market

This will be a market for people to sell previously-owned (second-hand) merchandise. The format will be similar to the Foodies Market whereby tables are made available for a fee. We'll plan the Flea Market at our February meeting.

Wildlife welfare

We had six successful releases in 2021. The highlight of these was the release of Baby Alice on 10 November, an article about which was included in the Foster Mirror on 24 November. Baby Alice is the first successful treatment of chlamydia in koalas from Sandy Point by Jenny Scheppers (only the second case reported here).

Our total number of animal call outs in 2021 was 15 (13 koalas, a microbat and a ringtail possum). Unfortunately 7 koalas were either already dead or later died (5 of these from mange). Neither the microbat nor the possum survived.

If you want to get involved in WiSP activities and or want to be on our distribution list please contact us at: sandypointkoalas@gmail.com

For more information about WiSP see our website at: <https://www.sandypoint.vic.au/WiSP.html>

If you want to support our Wildlife in Sandy Point program please make a direct donation to the SPCG's Koala account:

Bank: Bendigo Bank
BSB: 633 000
Acct: 161 432 976

Thank you for your continued support and interest.

Christy Fejer



A happy looking baby koala. Alice was successfully treated for chlamydia and released back into a tree in Sandy Point on 10 November 2021

As the end of 2021 approaches it seems appropriate to look back on an eventful year. The rules and regulations around accessing Men's Sheds changed numerous times and we had to adapt: "Yes we're open, No we're not". But, we're happy to announce that we are now back to our normal schedule and are open on Monday mornings at 9.00am. So come and participate in some interesting projects, or just drop in for a coffee and chat.

For example, recently we've been helping SP Community Power with building an enclosure for the Community Battery at the side of the Community Centre and the SP Signage Group with preparing the support frames for their fantastic information signs - soon to appear on the reserve opposite the general store. And there are plenty of other projects in the pipeline, including the internal fit-out of the shed - yes we've finally got the building permit and can proceed!

If you are interested in joining us you can find out more details at <https://www.sandypoint.vic.au/page58.html>. We welcome new members and would encourage anyone interested in joining our group to contact us by sending an email to spmensshed@gmail.com or by writing to Sandy Point Community Men's Shed, c/- Post Office, Sandy Point, Victoria 3959.



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Colleen and Kevin Da Silveira
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Sandy Point
Art Gallery & Gallery Cottage
33 Beach Parade, Sandy Point

 A photograph of a single-story building with a white gabled roof and a covered porch supported by columns. The building is surrounded by trees and a paved area.

(03) 5684 1094
www.sandypointgallery.com.au

 A simple line drawing of a fish, likely a whiting, facing right.

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A thriving vegetable garden in the heart of Sandy Point!

The Sandy Point Community Garden is flourishing. We have seven enthusiastic members and more are welcome to join us.

Produce is available to all but please put a donation in our box to enable purchase of more plants. Careful picking is appreciated. There are tomatoes, basil, silverbeet, herbs, lettuce, beans and lots more ready for picking.

An information sign is currently being printed and hopefully installed before Christmas.

We meet at 10am on every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. All welcome.

Contact Liz on 0438447667 for more information.



Don't miss out on the chance of buying one of our hand made shopping bags. Made by community garden members with all proceeds going to the Community Garden. Available now in the General Store!



...and yes, that really is a pink cauliflower!

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The Sandy Point Foreshore Committee of Management: its role and funding

When we were asked to provide an article for the newsletter, we thought it was a great opportunity to enlighten all the new visitors to our area as to what we do and also provide an update to all the locals and visitors who have enjoyed our area for many years.

The Committee manages in the order of 600ha of Crown Land reserve, covering from around 1.5Km west of Ned Neal's and east to the Shallow Inlet ocean entrance and both sides of the Shallow Inlet road from the outskirts of the Sandy Point Township.

We have 2 types of funding:

1. Grants, if we are successful in winning them, mainly from DELWP, that are used for specific projects such as the new main beach viewing platform and the erosion fencing on the beach. We have also endeavoured to obtain funding for weed control but have not been all that successful.

2. Parking fees generated at Shallow Inlet over the summer period and for yearly parking fees. This pays for our rangers to clean and trim all the tracks, undertake rubbish removal and collect the fees. This generates around \$3,500 net a year, so is not a huge revenue base.

From the parking fees we have to undertake the following tasks:

- Gravel and grading the section of road from the bitumen to Shallow Inlet entrance undertaken twice yearly (this is not Council land)
- Gravel and grading the high level (HL) carpark at Shallow Inlet undertaken once yearly
- Pruning the traffic island at the entrance road near the HL carpark entrance
- Maintenance of the toilet block area by:
 - Mowing and brush cutting, 4-5 times yearly
 - Maintaining water supply and cisterns
 - Repairs to picnic tables
 - Gas supply and repairs and maintenance to the gas BBQs
- Maintaining signage at Shallow Inlet
- Removal of rubbish at Shallow Inlet area
- Maintaining safe access for vehicles at Shallow Inlet
- Pruning and brush cutting:
 - The track from HL carpark to shallow inlet toilet block and the boat launching area
 - The Roy Henderson track 2.1 km long and 2.4m wide



Continued on page 14

South Gippsland Septic Tank Cleaning

Call: Chris Whittle
0427 350 360



Servicing Sandy Point
No job too small

Jake Pilkington 0422726743 jake.pilkington@live.com.au

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- Other tracks from township to beach: the Horse track, Manuka Sth, Manuka, Ennisvale, Park Ave and 2nd Avenue and main beach access road
- Maintaining main beach track including:
 - grading of main beach access road annually
 - drainage at main beach access road including grated drains and open drainage paths
 - beach erosion fencing
 - access to main beach sand walkway
 - maintenance and repairs to main beach shower
 - maintenance of main beach timber walkway handrails and fencing
 - maintenance main beach viewing platform
- Maintenance of Ned Neal's beach access area by:
 - gravel and grading of access road and car parking area annually (this is not Council Land)
 - pruning and mowing etc of access road and carpark areas
 - maintenance of Ned Neal's viewing platform, the timber walkway, handrails, stairs and fencing
- General maintenance of signage including main access track signage.
- Removal of rubbish and goods such as couches and similar items deposited in sand dunes. No funding for disposal
- Removal/hindering/elimination of newly established tracks through dunes
- Purchasing of Doggy bags (Approx \$750 per year)



So as you can see we have lots to undertake and fortunately we have some great volunteers and our paid Rangers that undertake a lot of the general works.

However some of the very important tasks are getting a lot more costly to undertake so we are always looking for new and supported funding from the Government agency DELWP we represent.

I hope the above gives some insight to our role in managing this wonderful place and of course if you the public can assist us please do not hesitate to get in touch at sandypointforeshore@gmail.com

Even small things such as bringing your own doggy bags and taking rubbish home with you helps heaps.

Just a reminder also it is the time of year that dogs are restricted in accessing our beach to specified times and please resist the inclination to leave recycled goods such as couches etc on the nature strips as they more than often end up in the sand dunes.

Have a great Xmas, from the Foreshore Committee.

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Sandy Point Community Power: an update

We are pleased to report that the Community Centre Battery project is nearing completion. The enclosure is now complete thanks to the great help in its construction from the Sandy Point Men's Shed. There have been some delays in sourcing some components but these have been recently landed and it is hoped to have the equipment in and running early in the New Year. The 30kW of storage will help to maintain essential services at the centre in the event of grid power disruptions.

Unfortunately, our e-trading scheme has not yet progressed to the anticipated trial phase. We have been working through a number of last minute contractual issues in order to get a scheme appropriate for community participation. Also, recent changes in the electricity market, with substantial wholesale price drops, have increased the availability of alternative retailer competition and as such reduced the attractiveness of our proposed rates offer. We are still negotiating.

You may recall that we were invited to partner with an energy company in an application for the Victorian State Government's Energy Innovation Fund that, if successful, would potentially see the establishment of a Virtual Power Plant (VPP) here at Sandy Point. The project would, if funded, see a mix of renewable energy generation and storage at residential, commercial, and community buildings at a scale required for energy self-sufficiency. We are still awaiting the results of our application.

We'd love to hear from you if you'd like more information or if you'd like to get involved with our team. We have a need right now for someone with website design skills. If you can assist, please contact us on energytrading@sandypoint.vic.au



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Signage projects update

The Sandy Point Signage Group is a sub-committee of the Sandy Point Community Group and over the last two years the group has been working on a project to update the signage around Sandy Point.

The project has been split into three stages: a set of information signs to go on the reserve opposite the shops, a new welcome sign on Telopea Drive and revitalising the four decorative surfboards near the shops.

Information Signs

We're nearly there. These have now been designed and printed and we hope will be in the ground for the Christmas period, though minus the concrete slab, which is a requirement by Council to ensure that the area can be accessed for mowing. This will be added soon after the installation. There are 3 large signs plus an additional copy of the Koala sign:

- Sandy Point's Amazing Wildlife
- Where the Sand meets the Sea
- A Brief History of Sandy Point

These are looking fabulous so do go and have a look at them when they are installed. This project will benefit the whole community and revitalise Sandy Point.

The cost of this project was projected to be \$8265 and the grant received from Council was \$4840. The Sandy Point Community Group has pledged funds and other local groups have been approached but we have a shortfall of funding.



The Sandy Point Signage Group is therefore looking for donations to complete the first stage of the project. Donations can be made by direct credit to Sandy Point Community Group - BSB 633 000 Account No: 144068590. Please use your surname and "SP Signs" as the reference.



Revitalising Decorative Surfboards

This is a work in progress. You may have noticed that the four decorative surfboards opposite the end of Surfers Walk on the foreshore have recently had a coat of sky blue paint applied over the lovely but faded coastal scenes. New artwork is coming over the Xmas period by local artist Judy Schrever. Keep a look out as she works on her new design. Funds were allocated within original grant monies to cover for the maintenance of the boards – so no additional funding is required.



New 'Welcome to Sandy Point' Sign on Telopea Drive

This is intended to replace the existing map and sign.

Plans have been submitted to Council for approval as the sign is on a roadside reserve.

Council has approved the draft plans so the next stage will be to source grants for the project to ensure all costs are covered. We'll keep you informed of the progress on this.

The CFA Water Tank in the car park opposite the Centre is currently in need of some beautification but this tank is the responsibility of the Community Centre, CFA and South Gippsland Shire Council and so does not form part of this project. Discussions about what would be the best option for this project are being considered.

Di Cooper, Project Manager

Nippers news!

The team at WBSLSC Nippers is looking forward to welcoming Nippers and their families back to the program.

We have a great range of activities planned and look forward to spreading the fun, colour and lifesaving skills across our beach.

We are dreaming of bright sunny days with perfect sets of waves...but after such a challenging year, it's going to be so great to be on the beach anyway!

“Crazy Cap” day is back and of course the Friday BBQ, after our session is completed.

Nippers will hit the beach on:

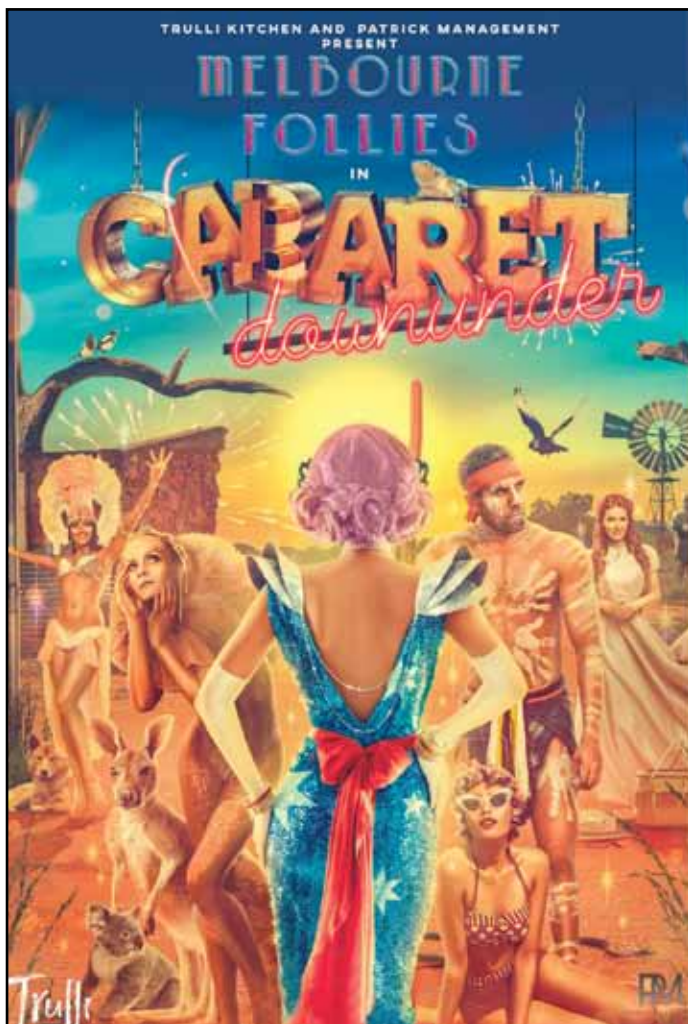
Monday, Wednesday and Fridays

From Monday 27th December 2021 to Friday 14th January 2022

9:30am – 11:30am.

For more information you can contact :

Natalie Ashdown, Junior Activities Coordinator at nippers@waratahbeach.com.au



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19TH-21ST JANUARY 2022
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Waratah Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR): annual report

This year was a continuation of the last with respect to disruption to service, travel restrictions and increased safety at the base and on board the rescue vessel. COVID 19 changed the way we operate, interact, and respond. Where previously we could take the full allocation of 6 on board, we are currently restricted to 3.

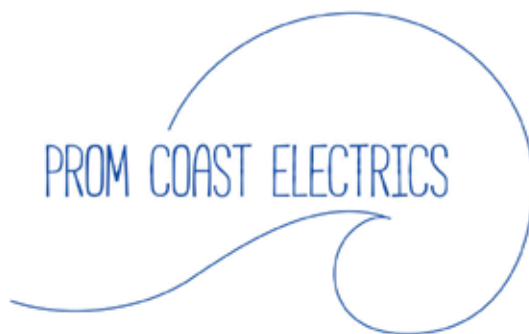
We also had the opportunity this year to include an 8.5m NIAID rescue vessel in our flotilla, but due to logistics and after a fit for purpose review of the vessel, we declined. Suffice to say the Andrew Cope stays as our primary rescue vessel. But good news is that we upgraded the GPS and essential equipment on the vessel and are slated to install new outboards, replacing the 15-year-old Yamahas that have done us good service.

We also recently launched our base and placed a commemorative plaque to honour Rob O'Brien and name the base the Rob O'Brien Marine Search and Rescue Base.

Finally, with the introduction of a Charter and Committee of Management, Waratah Marine Rescue has put structure into the day-to-day operations and function of our unit. Where previously we managed training and events in an ad hoc fashion, we now have schedules and plans – which now we are out of lockdown, we can implement.



Continued on page 20



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Continued from page 19

Training

Our training has been enhanced by a dedicated training team, headed by Mike Devine and supported by Greg Moulding, Doug Taylor and Ray Henderson.

Also, exciting news in the training world is the near completion of Sinkalot, a training vessel specifically designed to sink. Sinkalot is a hull that was gifted to the service after being rescued. It has gone through major modifications to allow it to be partially sunk after launching, so crew members can practice and train on real life equipment. Sinkalot was funded in part by the Victorian Government and by the Bendigo Bank.



MSAR Member of the Year

As a result of changes to training and the effort to improve our records, Mike Devine was named the WMR member of the year. Well done Mike on a fantastic job!

Active Duty

Our last season saw 5 official callouts with 1 stand down, one request for support, and one unusual “rescue” (travelling with the Walkerville Walruses as they swam 5 km from Walkie to Waratah). Low numbers were probably due to being in lockdown for a substantial part of the year. The tasks were both within Shallow Inlet and around the islands off Wilsons Prom.



Planning, operations and management

The past season has seen the use of different aspects of IT to assist with planning, operations and management.

WhatsApp is now used as a platform to provide frequent two-way communication. Members are notified of events, issues, and upcoming training activities and can quickly respond and advise of availability for training or provide other contributions.

The Andrew Cope

The Andrew Cope is a 15 year old 6m Zodiac Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat – RHIB. It has a new GPS which is a Furuno NavNet, current equipment for all rescue vessels. It will allow us to interact with the Rescue Coordination Centre and receive data and tracks when a search pattern is prescribed.

The automatic identification system, or AIS was recently installed, and is used to transmit a ship's position so that other ships are aware of its position.



The Tow Vehicle

This year we were also fortunate enough to secure our own tow vehicle. The vehicle chosen was a new Isuzu D-MAX supplied by Leongatha Isuzu. During negotiations, we also managed to secure sponsorship from the dealership.

Why we exist

Our MSAR unit is positioned between the Inverloch SES and Port Welshpool Coast Guard. We cover the treacherous waters that rise between Shallow Inlet outflow and Waratah Bay. With the Surf Life Saving Club in the same estate, the best way to define our roles is any white water (waves, close to shore) in the Bay are covered by the Surf Club rescue boats, the blue water and Shallow Inlet inland waters are covered by our MSAR.

How to keep yourself safe when boating this year

A really important thing to remember for this year, is that both the Boat Hole launching site and the Heads have changed. The launching channel is not correctly marked now by buoys, so be careful and watch depths. The Heads have shifted significantly, so the best thing to do is put a trail on your GPS on the way out and follow that same trail on the way back in. There is now a bommie and the sand has shifted, causing the outbound and inbound tracks to not be straight. With that, stay safe, remember to carry your safety equipment and if you have any questions please feel free to ask either the Surf Club Patrolling members or Marine Search and Rescue.

Please remember, in an EMERGENCY call triple zero (000) and they will contact us.

<https://www.waratahbeach.com.au/marine-rescue>

Sandy Point Easter Art Show

Saturday 16th- 18th April 2022

Sandy Point Community Centre

10am-4pm



Inviting all artists to enter



Prizes in all categories

For information and entry forms

- www.sandypoint.vic.au/page79.html
- Di on 0418 336 690

Entries close Friday 1st April 2022

**Deliver entries on Wednesday 13th April
between 10am and noon**

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- 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 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.



Membership Application and Renewal Form

for the Sandy Point Community Group (SPCG)
website: 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?

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
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