



Sandy Point News

Winter 2021

Price \$1.00

Volume 21, Issue 2

USO found on the beach at Sandy Point

With UFOs making the news recently we've had our own "close encounter" - a USO (Unidentified Sailing Object) Well not really; the strange thing that washed up on our beach recently wasn't that difficult to identify after all as it had plenty of markings enabling its origins to be quickly established. But it makes an interesting story nonetheless.



*Saildrone 1203 washed ashore on Sandy Point beach.
Photo Greg Moulding*

It appeared on our beach in early May halfway between the township and the entrance to the inlet, a little bit worse for wear. Several people lay claim to a first sighting but it was eventually recovered by a team from the Waratah Beach Marine Rescue Unit led by Greg Moulding.

It even made [national news](#) with Greg interviewed by the ABC. The story is intriguing. Our Saildrone, as we now know it, was packed with scientific instruments and launched from Bluff on the southern tip of New Zealand some 2 years ago. It's mission to study ocean currents, salinity levels and stock levels of krill, a vital food source in the southern ocean. Sadly, unlike its sisters, it went missing soon into the mission, thought lost until it turned up on our beach.

Further research points to an extensive use of the technology to gather scientific data in hard to get to places. Follow this link to [learn more](#).



Stop Press!

As we go to print we would like to bring the good news from Sandy Point Community Power that they have been successful in securing grant funding towards a community battery for installation at the Community Centre.

The first grant through our Federal Member Russell Broadbent's office is for \$16,848. The second has been secured through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and is for \$9,800. Together they will allow SPCP to purchase and install a large battery storage system at the Community Centre. For more on this story and the progress towards a community energy trading scheme please [see page 3](#).



Greg with the Saildrone loaded for transfer to Melbourne and shipping to California. Greg is holding the vital data package which was shipped independently.

Sandy Point Community Group: President's Report



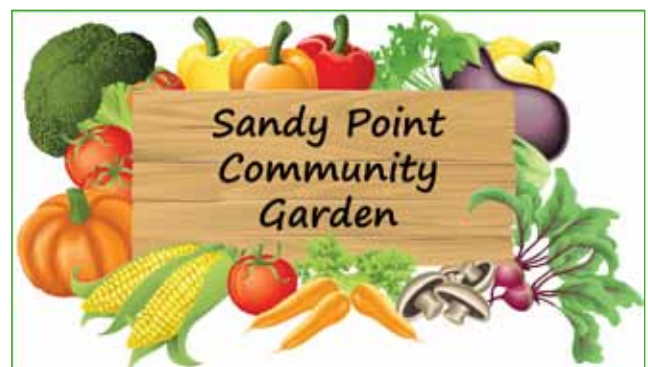
When writing this report, I always aim to concentrate on the positives to make it uplifting, rather than dwelling on the negatives, but I felt it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the hardships Victorians have had to face over the last couple of months and even years ... With all we have had to contend with (bushfires, Covid & accompanying lockdowns & restrictions, relentless rain, wild winds & storms etc) I think having no power, especially the lack of hot water, has to be the last straw for many! However, I have heard wonderful reports of people helping out and looking out for one another - even sharing their generator-driven hot water. It is heartening to know that we live in such a community spirited town. Hope everyone has now had power restored and damage to property is minimal and those home owners who have been 'locked out' will soon be able to return and enjoy our unique, special place again.

I have also been reflecting of how many people have shown their commitment to Sandy Point by making valuable contributions to our community over many years. Di Cornwell (Newsletter Editor) recently sent the committee the first newsletter that she published, which was in Sept 2011. It was fascinating reading and so interesting to realise what has been achieved since then and also the projects that are still unresolved and remain ongoing eg Waratah Way, mobile phone service. The newsletter was a great initiative which I am pleased to see being carried on and a well-deserved thank you to all those who originally made it happen and those who continue to do so.

Our recent meeting held on Tuesday May via ZOOM was cut short by technical difficulties but the items that we didn't get to were followed up by group committee email. You can read the minutes on our website at <https://www.sandypoint.vic.au/page22.html>

Update on current projects/issues

- **Visit to Sandy Point:** SGSC Chair Administrator, Julie Eisenbise, was in the process of planning a meeting with representatives from the various community groups of Sandy Point to gain first-hand knowledge of our achievements and aspirations. This has had to be postponed due to lockdown restrictions but has now been rescheduled for Tuesday 20th July. Community groups will be contacted to invite a representative from their group to attend when time is confirmed.
- **Tourism/Economy Development Strategy:** In response to Council's request for input into their Tourism and Economic Development Strategy we have sent a group submission. Peter Slifirski will continue to work with Rob McGauran, Michelle Jelliff and other relevant contacts to produce recommendations for a longer-term urban street-scape project.
- **Road Resurfacing:** An email was received from Paul Challis, SGSC Engineering Consultant, concluding that regular asphalt is proposed to be used for the critical areas of Beach Parade near the shops This decision was received with disappointment and dismay from the committee especially as we had met with Paul in January and discussed looking at alternative solutions rather than black asphalt. Paul advised that they had looked into producing a lighter mix but the contractor deemed it unviable due to costs associated for such a small amount. The committee have responded requesting further investigation in sourcing a lighter stone.
- **Community Garden:** Our Project Coordinators, Doug and Liz Brown, have reported that: "there have been delays in obtaining the necessary equipment/parts for the wicking beds but we are hopeful that 2 wicking beds will be installed in the next few weeks and another 3 to come, hopefully soon after. Any interested and passionate gardeners are welcome to contact Liz on 0438 447667 or Amanda on 0490 690505 and they will fully inform you on the progress and what we are planning to plant in the garden."
- **Waratah Way:** Our Project Officer, Michelle Jelliff is in the process of investigating funding sources to determine if we can continue to pursue our dream of a shared trail from Ned Neales to Waratah Bay. [See page 6](#) for more information about this.



(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Sandy Point Community Group: President's Report: continued

- **Skate Park:** A grant application to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) has been submitted for funding to conduct a Sandy Point Skate Park Feasibility and Concept Design – will keep you posted on outcome! [See page 6](#)
- **Community Owned Renewable Energy Project:** We congratulate the Sandy Point Community Power Inc for successfully gaining two grants which will enable battery storage at the Community Centre. See further details on this exciting project lower down this page.
- **Sandy Point Signage Project:** Looking forward to seeing the commencement of this project to enhance our township. The project is exciting and looks very impressive and is to my mind, long overdue. There have been several enquiries from the Sandy Point/Waratah Bay Noticeboard Facebook page re replacement of the missing surfboards at the existing town entry sign on Telopea Drive. My understanding is that when the new Welcome sign is installed there, the remaining surfboard will be relocated to be with the others opposite the General Store on Beach Parade. They are all due to be updated later this year. For further information about other aspects of this project please [see page 13](#).
- **New website:** We are getting closer to being ready to showcase our new website – many hours have been spent researching, designing and editing but we are finally getting there. We will let you know when it goes live.



Take care and be safe and warm,

Kind regards, Anne

Anne Kinne, President, SPCG

Sandy Point Community Power

Lots more to report on since the last edition of the newsletter was published.

You will recall that in the last edition we advertised for participants in a trial of our energy-trading scheme. We were extremely pleased to get over 30 applicants. Meanwhile, we are working with our partners in the venture to finalise contractual arrangements. We also await an understanding of the changes in regulated tariffs which are scheduled to be announced prior to July 1st. We are hoping for a launch by early August.

We have recently received the very good news that we have been successful in our applications for two grants. Firstly, a \$16, 848 grant through the “Stronger Communities Program” sponsored by our Federal Member, Russell Broadbent’s Office. Secondly an amount of \$9,800 secured through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR). These grants will fund the installation of a smart inverter and battery storage at the Community Centre. In the short term this investment will provide greater resilience to power outages and will reduce the centre’s power bill. In the longer term it forms a building block in our vision for a Virtual Power Plant (VPP) for Sandy Point. Solar generation from our residential, business and community buildings and substantial battery storage form key elements of our anticipated VPP. These together with generation from other aligned renewable sources will continue to strengthen our e-trading scheme.



For more information on our activities please email us at energytrading@sandypoint.vic.au

Sandy Point Art Show 2021

Wow, what an Art Show! Things kicked off on Friday 2nd April at 6.30pm with the official opening, with more than 60 guests in attendance.

Di Cooper, the co-ordinator of the Art Show welcomed everyone and then introduced Joe Bucello, a volunteer director of Toora & District and Foster Community Bank, who explained that over the past 9 years as a major sponsor over \$6000 has been donated.

It was then over to Nadia Stefani to cut the ribbon and declare the 2021 Art Show open. Nadia was meant to open the show in 2020 but as we all know COVID spoiled those plans. Nadia is the cornerstone of the Fish Creek Community and was 2020 Corner Inlet Citizen of the Year.



Top: Joe Bucello, a volunteer director of Toora & District and Foster Community Bank, opened this year's Art Show.

Left: Nadia Stefani cut the ribbon and declared the show open.

Below: Gary Beresford won the Best in Show award with "Man & Beast".

This year's winner of Toora & District and Foster Community Bank Best in Show was Gary Beresford with "Man & Beast" (pictured right).

Fifty seven artists entered the Open section with 160 pieces of art and there were 27 entries in the Junior Section. The standard of this year's entries was fantastic and all the comments received were so positive, which is very rewarding for the artists.

The running of the 2021 Art Show was a little different to previous years as it had to be a COVID-safe event. Raffle tickets could not be sold, but everyone, by signing in, were entered into the draw for the raffle prizes. There was not a catalogue either, which meant more work for the volunteers, but all this was all done by them with a smile on their faces.

The high standard of the entries resulted in a record number of sales – 25 in total.

The support from our sponsors was again very generous with \$2900

collected and the funds awarded to the artists as prize money. So a big thank you to the sponsors – South Gippsland Shire Council, Toora & District and Foster Community Bank, Watertank Cleaning Co, Prom Coast Travel, SEJ,

Paragreen, Prom Coast Holidays (Stockdale & Leggo), Waratah Ice Cream Co, Alison Lester, Williams, Tracy & Ass, Gene Laity, Steve Coad Plumber, Johnoelec, Prom Coast Electrics, Fish Creek Pharmacy, South Gippsland Concrete, Barnes Fencing, Sally Gibson Portraits, Brent Sinclair Catering, Sandy Point General Store, Narkabundah Nursery, Elizabeth Collins Massage, Cheryl Wynd, Gibson's Café & Larder, Jackie Deering Hairdressing and The Mirror.

Thanks to all the volunteers, the artists and our sponsors for making this year's event such a wonderful and memorable show.

Di Cooper
Coordinator Sandy Point Art Show

See page 19 for a list of all the prize winners in the competition and some more photos of the event and the prize winners.



Can you help us?

Planning is under way for the 2022 Art Show and as the old saying goes "many hands make light work", so how about joining in and helping with the 2022 Art Show. As this time of the year this involves attending a couple of discussions and deciding how to ensure the Art Show continues. If you're interested please contact: Di Cooper on 0418 336 690 / dicooper104@gmail.com

So please support our Art Show, new ideas and new faces would be welcome.



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

The Centre is coming back to life, despite occasional restrictions imposed by lockdowns, and weekly activities in the Centre are all starting to resume – so if you're interested in Tai Chi, Indoor Bowls, Pilates, Tennis, Table Tennis or enjoy a card game or board game do come along. There is a list of activities on the window of the Centre and on our website at www.sandypointcc.org.au

The Centre has purchased 2 new tennis nets and 2 winders which have been installed and are being enjoyed by enthusiastic tennis players. The purchase of equipment was made possible with a grant from South Gippsland Shire Council.

As there are now 2 table tennis tables at the Centre there is now a social evening of table tennis on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. So why not come along and enjoy a game or two: cost is just a gold coin donation.

It has been rewarding to have weddings that had to be cancelled in 2020 due to COVID being re-booked plus a number of other private events. So let's hope that COVID stays away and the community can continue to use the Centre

Stay safe.

Di Cooper - Chairperson



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The Waratah Way: an update

The Sandy Point Community Group (SPCG) has been campaigning for over ten years for a shared trail to be constructed along the inland side of the sand dunes, linking Sandy Point with the Waratah community. The trail is to be known as the Waratah Way. This page details the steps we have taken so far in our campaign and our future plans to progress this initiative.

In recent discussions with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), the SPCG has been advised that to progress this initiative, a number of elements need to be determined:

- Revise the trail concept to be limited to walkers and cyclists only
- Identify a route that is solely on Crown Land
- Liaise with DELWP, the Gunaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation (GLAWAC) and Aboriginal Victoria to determine potential concerns relating to a cultural heritage assessment and management plan
- Liaise with DELWP regarding a feature and boundary survey
- Develop a project plan to guide actions in terms of intent of usage, preferred alignment and design, associated assessments, survey, proposed works (proposed route, extent of works, eg trail, boardwalks, bridges, site line clearance, etc), trail management once completed and the overall funding required.

SPCG will continue to liaise with the key stakeholders to address these elements and keep the community advised of the outcomes.

For a detailed account of the campaign please see [our website](#).

Michelle Jelliff: email: projects@sandypoint.vic.au

Skate Park project

A small skate park in Sandy Point is a strategic priority for SPCG. With the increasing number of people coming to live in Sandy Point and to holiday here over summer we believe it is really important to have more recreational facilities for the younger members of our community.

SPCG is committed to support all members of our community and understands how important it is for young people to feel recognised, respected and included in the decisions that impact their community. To demonstrate the Group's commitment to exploring opportunities to provide recreational facilities that are accessible and safe for our young people, SPCG is seeking a grant to undertake a feasibility and concept design plan. This will help to determine the level of support, site options and overall viability for a skate park.

At present a range of funding opportunities are being sought, including grants, private donations and pro bono expertise in order to progress a feasibility study and concept designs to present to Council for approval. If you are able to help or have any questions please contact me.

Michelle Jelliff: Email: projects@sandypoint.vic.au



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New wildlife group for Sandy Point

A new wildlife group Wildlife in Sandy Point (WiSP) has now officially been formed.

The original Koala Group (WHiSPA) was formed as a result of a three-year \$50,000 grant obtained for a koala project by Caitlin Pilkington. This project was coordinated by Caitlin together with the original committee of Di Cornwell, Dianne Cooper, Judy O'Sullivan, Lynda Buckland, Celia Sutterby and Wendy Bryce-Johnson.

It was supported by the Sandy Point Community Group, the Foreshore Committee and many community members including Rob O'Sullivan (Narkabunda Nursery).

Please see our website at <https://www.sandypoint.vic.au/koalas.html> for details of how the 2017 Sandy Point Koala project was conducted and its achievements.

We also acknowledge the amazing contribution to the project and to helping our wildlife by those members of the community who have volunteered, contributed at meetings and with their cash. And a big thank you too of course to our "Koala Lady", Jan Hallas, who has been rescuing our wildlife for many, many years and still continues to do so. Thank you everyone!

Wildlife rescue helpers needed!

Of course we're asking for everyone's continued support and involvement, so to no surprise, we're asking urgently for more volunteers to come forward to bolster the animal rescue team.

We need volunteers to rescue and/or transport animals. Rescuers will be trained and mentored in rescue and have OHS instruction specifically since volunteers are covered by OHS legislation.

Transporters will be given instruction and will of course need to hold a current driver's licence, have appropriate insurance, roadworthy cars and be able to contain and secure the injured animal within the car.

The 2021 Koala Count

On the immediate horizon is the Koala Count, which will be held on 26th September this year, so mark it in your calendar. It is so important to monitor the animals in terms of number, sex and health status. This year we are hoping to engage an expert to help us rescue any animals we see on the day that have mange or are injured. By isolating infected animals we can help to prevent spread of the mites that cause mange.

We are hoping to raise \$500 to conduct this event. If you'd like to help out you can 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

Email: sandypointkoalas@gmail.com



Hooded plovers, an endangered species of bird, can occasionally be seen on the beach near the inlet at Sandy Point.

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Rob on mobile: 0418 595023**

History of Sandy Point

Ned Neal's Story

Text and photos by Nicola Walker

Despite the signmaker's confusion over the spelling of his surname, Ned Neil / Neale or Neal has been enshrined in Sandy Point history by the naming of the lookout near the junction of Beach Parade and The Boulevard in his 'honour'.

According to the story, Edward 'Ned' or 'Ted' Neil was a cattle 'duffer' (ie cattle thief) who stationed his mother on the high point of the dunes to make sure the 'coast was clear' for him to re-brand the cattle he had stolen. Vi Pilkington wrote in her history book *South of the Dividing Creek* "... the highest sand hill was always known as Neil's Lookout where Mrs Neil was stationed to watch with an eagle eye whilst Ted had a little job to pull off." However, there is more to Edward Neil's story and perhaps he has been unfairly portrayed.



The following account is a summary of reports from various newspapers at the time and information from the Victorian Government Gazettes, Victorian Births Deaths and Marriages Registry and Ancestry.com.

The Gippsland Farmers' Journal reported that Edward Neil, a selector from Upper Agnes, was arrested on July 23rd, 1888, for stealing cattle from David Fraser (the licensee of the Sandy Point Run from 1867 until approximately 1888). The term 'selector' is at odds with Neil's notoriety as a cattle thief. A selector was someone who had been granted a licence or lease of Crown Land. Success in the 'selection' process required that the local Lands Board had satisfied itself that an applicant was of good character and capable of improving the land.

The Gazette contains records of an Edward Neil in the vicinity of Agnes being granted a licence, and later a lease for 187 acres in the parish of Toora.

Court and prison records state Neil was born in 1863 and was therefore 25 years old at the time of his arrest. There is only one possible record in the Victorian Births Deaths and Marriages Registry of an Edward Neil, born to Thomas and Ann (nee Bourke). The same source has a possible record for the death of a Thomas Neil in 1874 aged 49 years. If this is his father, young Edward would have been eleven years old when his father died. This accords with the evidence in the court records that Neil had looked after his mother. Like many, the Neil family possibly relocated from Ballarat to the Toora area to take advantage of new tracts of Crown Land that were being opened up for selection.

The trial and sentencing

The Police Gazette (7th Jan 1889) describes Neil as being 5'9 1/2" in height with sandy-coloured hair and blue eyes. He had a fresh complexion and was of stout build. He had a long thin nose, a scar on his forehead and a freckled face and arms.

The case was heard in Sale. Unusually, both the Crown Prosecutor and Fraser gave evidence in Neil's favour, describing him as being of good reputation and excellent character, always ready and willing to do all in his power to oblige. Fraser said he had known Edward Neil for fourteen or fifteen years and had been his employer for nearly all that time. He recounted how, since falling from a horse, Neil's conduct had become very different from what it used to be. The Crown Prosecutor also remarked that he had observed that a great change had come over the prisoner whom he had known favourably for years. It seems possible, Neil had sustained a permanent brain injury as a result of this fall, which left him with behavioural changes and a diminished ability to tell right from wrong.



(Continued on page 9)

The present day lookout as viewed from the beach

(Continued from page 8)

The Defence informed the court that this was a first offence. He characterised Neil as having a strong desire to do humane acts to show himself as a charitable hearted young man supporting his mother by means of his small salary. He appealed to the court for leniency so that Neil could be restored to his work again so that he might regain the reputation he held prior to this unlawful act.

The Judge in addressing the prisoner said he found great difficulty in dealing with his case. He could not exercise the prerogative of mercy as it rested with the prisoner to petition for mitigation of his sentence on health grounds. He could only deal with the case as a first offender. Neil was sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour in the Sale gaol. The Victorian Police Gazette records that an Edward Neil, farmer, imprisoned for cattle stealing following his trial at Sale was released from Castlemaine Prison during the week of January 7th, 1889.

There are no further records of Neil or his mother and it can only be surmised what happened to them. David Fraser was soon to lose all his property in the economic 'crash' and the subsequent depression of the 1890s and may not have been in a position to offer assistance. With no social welfare or health system to fall back on, it is hard to imagine Neil as ever restoring himself to the position he was in prior to his accident.

You can view more stories about the history of Sandy Point on our website at:
sandypoint.vic.au/history.html
If you have any stories you'd like to share about the history of Sandy Point please contact
SPCG.editor@gmail.com



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Despite the excitement expressed in our last report we are still waiting for our building permit and the anticipated start of the internal construction at the shed. We're told that building surveyors are extremely busy with the boom in building construction state-wide but it is extremely frustrating that we cannot make a start. We've engaged with a local builder and he's good to go, got materials at the ready and we have an enthusiastic team of volunteer labour. We just want to get on with the job.

We did manage a number of jobs with the easing of Covid restrictions but are now faced with restrictions and limits again on face to face meetings. Hopefully as they ease we will be able to resume our Monday morning get togethers from 9.00am to undertake whatever tasks are at hand or just to have a coffee and chat: important functions of a Men's Shed.

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 or by writing to Sandy Point Community Men's Shed, c/- Post Office, Sandy Point, Victoria 3959

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The music just keeps coming!



With the gradual slackening of lockdown requirements we were able to seat more people in the hall and finally, when towards the end of May the Pierce Bros performed two shows for us, we were all delighted to be able to get up and dance once more.

Sadly, with the latest COVID outbreaks happening in Melbourne, South Gippsland Council's event featuring Didirri and Steph Strings has had to be postponed. Tickets sold for their 10th June performance will be honoured when, hopefully they finally get to play here on Thursday 12 August.

Saije

The tunes just keep on coming at Sandy Point Music and the show in April featuring Saije was no exception.

Chris Aitken and Rob Davies kicked the night off with well-crafted songs and music to warm the audience. A great performance from the South Gippsland locals.

Then Shanteya and Jo, the most unassuming couple, graced the stage with award-winning, contemporary folk songs and soulful harmonies. As their bio states, "dynamic guitar-lines and percussive breakdowns breathe life into heartfelt stories". Totally!

It was such a privilege to share a night with the exceptionally talented duo called Saije, who tapped on drums, played harmonica, strummed capo-strapped guitars, clapped some rhythms, sang from the soul and gave us their best.



Travels in their van around Australia have informed their music and we enjoyed their stories of life on the road, right down to the French songs and the demonstration of why Jo needs a new scarf!

Kim Churchill

In late April we were scheduled to have a rather different sort of event, featuring Kim Churchill. Kim was meant to be performing from his campervan on the lawns of the Community Centre but poor weather forced a last minute change of plans and he played on the stage in the hall.

(Continued on page 12)



WATER DELIVERY

South Gippsland

Jarrold
0429 822 782
Danielle
0499 985 857

(Continued from page 11)

Kim Churchill rocked our Sunday with some knockout tunes and cracker stories. Grandma would have been proud that he was almost wearing jeans without rips in them. What a legend, what a concert. Rock on Kim, You're one of the best.

The Pierce Bros

Energy on steroids with the return in May of the Pierce Brothers, this time with support act Steph Strings.

We've been lucky to have had not one, not two, not three but FOUR shows in 5 months with this multi-talented powerhouse of brothers.

When Jack threw his drum sticks away to play the same guitar as Pat, we threw away our inhibitions and danced the night away. Thanks for a sensational night of entertainment.

Steph Strings, who can certainly play the guitar alright, started off the evening with some great instrumentals, great lyrics and a really great show. See you back here real soon. You're a hit, Steph!

Words and images by Donna Killeen Photography



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Sandy Point Signage Project: Council's reply

As previously reported in the Autumn edition of this newsletter, a plan has been developed which has now been submitted to Council and they have replied with some positive comments.

The project has been divided into two sections.

Section 1: Welcome to Sandy Point sign

Council has approved that the existing town map sign may be moved.

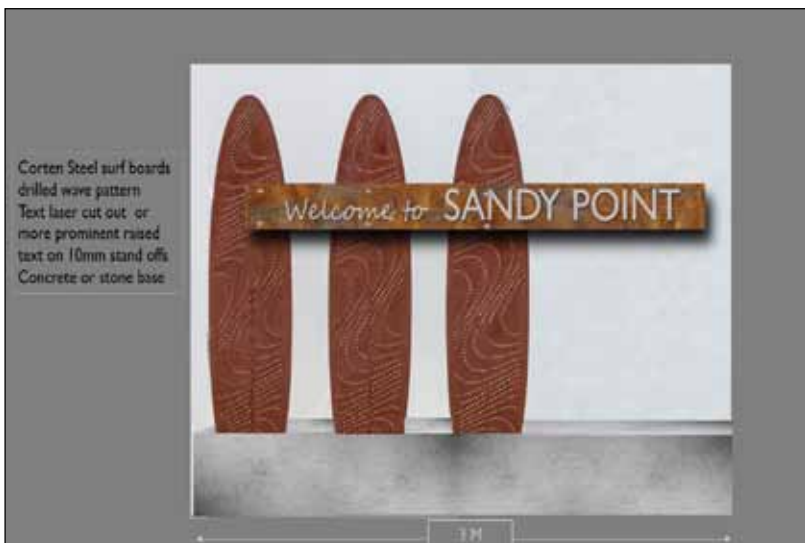
Council requires a site visit and meeting with Rob Jenner (SGSC) to discuss an alternative footing for the "Welcome" sign on Telopea. They have concerns about road safety associated with having a 3m long x 0.5m deep x 0.6m high concrete block (that forms the base of the proposed sign) sitting on the roadside. The plan provided doesn't show an offset from the edge of carriageway to the proposed structure.

The designer has been contacted and we are awaiting his response regarding an alternative option for the base of the sign before arranging a site visit to discuss this with Rob Jenner.

Section 2: Information Signs

Our proposal for information signage at the rear of the reserve, adjacent to the town toilet block is considered to be very good and is endorsed for action

Council however, is concerned that our requested location for the information signs to be placed right up against the fence does not provide the space required for mowing the lawn. Another concern is that we make sure we 'Dial before you Dig', that is, that we consult on the location of any underground cables before installing the signs. Further discussion is planned with Council to address their concern about mowing.



Above: The sign proposal we submitted to Council

A grant application for the Information signs has been submitted through the Council Community Grants Program and hopefully a decision on the grant should be known soon.

Updating of decorative surfboards

The updating of the decorative surfboards does not require Council approval and there are funds still set aside for this from when the original funding was made, so this is update is being planned. However it will have to wait until warmer weather in Spring.

Di Cooper
Project Co-ordinator

Email: dicooper104@gmail.com

A & K Electronics


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Waratah Marine Search and Rescue is recruiting!

What could your role be?

Are you interested in boating/fishing? Do you live/work in Sandy Point or within 30km, or are you a regular visitor on weekends and in holiday periods? Would you like to volunteer with our Marine Search and Rescue Service?



With the opening of our new base and potential for a larger offshore capable vessel in the near future, we need to increase our membership. There are roles for both active (boat crew) and non-active (trainer, admin, communications, fundraising) members, so you do not need to go to sea if that is not your thing. We now receive an annual grant to cover operational costs from the State Government through EMV, so the pressure to fund raise is reduced. Whilst prior boating experience is an advantage, not having this background is not a problem as all training is provided at no cost and we have several members with a great deal of experience who will mentor you and help you achieve the required qualifications.

As well as being tasked to incidents by the water police, we also act as a safety vessel for the annual Current Cruiser swim and assist Waratah Beach SLSC with training their members for search and rescue etc.

The minimum age for boat crew is 16 and we welcome members from all age groups. On-water training is generally conducted on Saturday mornings from 9:00am to midday. We have also just obtained a grant from Better Boating Victoria for audio visual equipment so we can conduct theory training at the base in the evenings or when the weather is inclement.

For further information email: marinerescue@waratahbeach.com.au and one of our members will contact you.

Drop-In Music Sessions for Sandy Point?

For all those closet musicians out there, Sandy Point Music are looking at the idea of promoting a “drop-in session” to provide an opportunity for us all to get together and have fun playing music.

A regular, monthly say, session at the Community Centre is suggested. Please let us know if you are interested by contacting us at music@sandypoint.vic.au Tell us when best suits; weekday evening, weekend (morning or afternoon) and your favoured instrument(s). Looking forward to hearing from you.



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Waratah Marine Search and Rescue – June update 2021

As we move into winter we have been spoilt with some wonderful days. With restrictions in place and although very few have been able to take advantage of the light winds and smooth water, Waratah Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) volunteers have remained on stand-by to keep a watchful eye.

On Monday 26th of April a strange orange vessel landed on our sandy shores. A Sail Drone that was set circumnavigate Antarctic waters was damaged by a collision with an iceberg and ended up spending a total of 718 days at sea. The vessel was first sighted coming towards shore early that morning, then later became grounded and photographed on the beach. The Waratah MSAR crew was mobilised and tasked with the job of finding and inspecting the object, finding the Sail Drone about 7km down the beach from the Surf Club. A commercial recovery of the vessel was undertaken and it is now awaiting return to California for evaluation and preparation for its next adventure.



In other news, around mid-June this year we are expecting a new tow vehicle to arrive, Leongatha Isuzu is providing a new D-MAX for towing the RHIB and our training vessels. We are thankful to the Victorian Government for the grant that funds this vehicle, as well as Leongatha Isuzu for sponsoring both MSAR and the Surf Life Saving Club. Along with the D-Max, we will also take possession of an Isuzu MU-X, so we will have the best of both worlds in a ute and a wagon.

Also, keep a look out for new signage at the Waratah Marine Search and Rescue base we share with the Men's Shed group.

Finally, as a volunteer organisation we must also keep up our qualifications and competencies. All MSAR crew are required to maintain a current first aid qualification, and as part of this CPR must be refreshed annually. This is a reminder that if you need to refresh your CPR or First Aid qualifications, please contact our training guru, Mike Devine, to enrol for a course.



Until next time, stay safe and warm through the winter months and remember to check in with someone before you head out on the water, and check in when you return. If anyone requires assistance on the water, or you see something dangerous, remember to call 000.



History of Sandy Point

A Pioneer Schoolteacher

Margaret Francis Coutts nee Ebbott
b:1906 – d:1993

The school at Sandy Point was sent a new recruit by the Education Department in 1925, this coincidentally was the final years of the Sandy Point school that was located in what is now the north central section of Ash Avenue. There are still some remaining large pine trees and a plaque signifying the school site erected by the community in recent times. Nearby at No 41 Ash Ave was a dam where children found time to get up to mischief.

Margaret was 19 years of age and it was her first teaching assignment.

She was to teach Keane Pilkington and others how to read & write and become a long time friend and correspondent to Vi Pilkington, right up until the final years of her life.

Vi Pilkington often visited us at our holiday home for a chat and a cup of tea and remembered Margaret as having a wise and pleasant nature.

She was a long time border at “ENNISVALE”, the homestead that no longer exists, just north of the intersection of Sandy Point Road an Ennisvale Avenue, walking across the paddock toward the school each day for lessons.

Margaret was a distant cousin of mine and I spent time talking of those early days with her in her Al-phington home where she spent her later years living alone. She did marry but had no offspring.

I recall her telling fondly about reaching Fish Creek from the City, and being met by horse and buggy and taken to Sandy Point and seeing ALL the Ferns and wildlife along the journey. What a first trip that must have been! She also enjoyed the musical evenings provided on a regular basis by the large assembly of Pilkingtons in the area

After the school was closed down in 1927 she returned to Melbourne and never again visited the area.

Notes compiled by Lorna Plaw



The old Ennisvale homestead



The site of the old Sandy Point school was in the area between 29-41 Ash Ave. The school opened in March 1919 with Alex J King as teacher and closed on 11 April 1927.

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The effect of extreme tides at Shallow Inlet recently

Unfortunately, not all of you would have had the opportunity to explore the inlet recently but on these really still early winter days with the sun shining it's a spectacular place and a photographer's paradise.

Those who have been down there recently will also have noticed the effect of some unusually low and high tides.

For those boaties out there navigating the channel into the boat hole it would have been a real challenge!



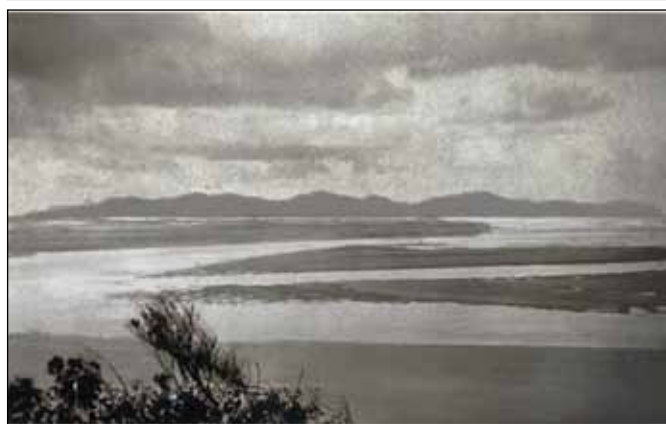
Further down the inlet, there is evidence of possible breakthroughs from the ocean into the inlet well away from the current mouth.



Note: The sandspit at Shallow Inlet is constantly changing and people who've lived here or been coming here for many years will remember when there was very little vegetation on the dunes, which were as a result much flatter and the mouth of the inlet was not as far south as it is now. In fact, over the years it has moved considerably. At one stage the entrance to the ocean was from the boat hole. For more detail about this and some amazing aerial photos read Petrus C. Heyligers's 2006 research article "[Vegetation development on sand spit at Shallow Inlet](#)".

But for the birds using the sand and weed banks to forage it was a great opportunity.

Dark, damp patches of sand and weed show recent flows across from the ocean. With rising sea levels we can probably expect to see more evidence of this in the future.



Photos and text by Phil Cornwell and Nicky Walker. The black and white photo above (supplied by Ray Henderson) shows breakthroughs at the inlet from the ocean, probably in the 1960s.

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Winners Sandy Point Art Show 2021

- Best in Show** Gary Beresford – Man & Beast -7, \$500
- R/U Best in Show** Judy Schrever - Native Bouquet -126, \$50
 Teresa Murphy – The Gourd & The Garland -107, \$50
 Julie Lundgren-Coulter – Afternoon - 93, \$50
- People’s Choice** Keith Haycroft – Storm at the Port - 68, \$200
- R/U People’s Choice** Svea Wan-Ching Chang- Abundance -136, \$100
- Oils** 1st – Judy Schrever – Native Bouquet - 126, \$125
 2nd – Ruby Mckenzie – Sandy Point Sand Pit with Tidal Pools - 94, \$50
- Acrylic** 1st –Cheryl Roberts – Hazelwood – 118, \$125
 2nd – Liana Casson – The Deluge – 19, \$50
- Watercolour** 1st – Kenneth Elmore – Evening Towards the Prom - 47 \$125
 2nd – Fleur Wheeler – Autumn Mists - 140, \$50
- Mixed Media** 1st –Theresa Murphy – Wonderland – 106, \$125
 2nd – Pauline John – Homage to 60’Minimalist - 75, \$50
- Photography** 1st – Mario Mirabile – Spin- 96, \$125
 2nd – Linda Keagle -Banksia in Depth- 81, \$50
- Sculpture** 1st- Andy Cumming – Yggdrasil (Tree of Life) – 26, \$125
 2nd – Pete Smith – Me Ol’ Boots – 131, \$50
- Pastel** 1st – Julie Lungren –Coulter – Afternoon -93, \$125
 2nd – Sally Gibson – Trixie – 57, \$50
- Drawing** 1st – Jack Timms (FSC) – Wanted – 157, \$125
 2nd – Kate Yass -Black & White Emotions -148, \$50



Top: Coleen Herbert’s “Two Cows”, Teresa Murphy’s “Wonderland”
 Centre: “Me Ol’ Boots” by Pete Smith
 Bottom: Andy Cumming – Yggdrasil (Tree of Life)
 Left :Two award winning paintings by Judy Schrever

Winners Sandy Point Art Show 2021

(Continued from page 17)

Juniors

Jnr Best In Show Arielle Humphreys –Daydream – J12 \$50

Jnr People’s Choice Jarrah Cicero- Fish Trap – J 1 \$50

R/U Jnr People’s Choice Arielle Humphreys–Waratah–J11 \$25

Prep – Grade 1st Painting/Drawing –Willow Hastie – Summer - J10 \$20

Grade 4 – 6 1st Sculpture : Ryder Deppeler – Selfie –J4 \$20

Yr 7 – Yr 10

1st – Sculpture – Jarrah Cicero –J1 \$30

1st Digital Art – Katelyn Lavarda (FSC)-My Friend– J13 \$30

2nd Digital Art – Erin Jacobson – Jones (FSC)-Unntitled – J26 \$15

1st Drawing – Arielle Humphreys- Waratah-J11 \$30

2nd Drawing - Jemima Gill (FSC) –Pet Dreaming-J8 \$15

1st Painting – Arielle Humphreys –Daydream- J12 \$30

1st Photography – Zane Wilson - Summer Sunset -J22 \$30

Yr 11-12

1st - Drawing – Lia Livingsworth –Restrains Unbound- J14 \$30



Top right: Junior Best in Show: Arielle Humphreys’ Daydream

Top left: Rye Cicero’s Sea Glass Island



Above: Foster Primay School submissions

Left: Includes the People’s Choice Junior Award winner Jarrah Cicero’s Fish Trap



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
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