



Sandy Point News

Spring 2021

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Powering ahead!

There is more exciting news from our Sandy Point Community Power group. The community battery installation at the Community Centre has the green light and installation is now underway. The trial of our local e-trading scheme is very close to launch, with an announcement to potential participants soon to be made. And, there is also the exciting potential for participation in a large scale project funded under the State Government's Energy Innovation Fund.

To read more please see page 5.



The Sandy Point Community "Food Growing" garden is now flourishing!

The five wicking beds look beautiful, thanks to the amazing expertise of Jack Schulz, who constructed them through the difficult lockdown restrictions.

Many plants are now established with new plants to be planted shortly.

A donation system that will involve a collection box is one of the tasks to be organised so that the community can share the produce. A gold coin donation will enable us to buy new plants and assist in the maintenance of the garden.

The gardening group meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 10am and everyone is welcome to join and participate. The goal of the Community Garden is to instill a sense of community in a garden setting.

Wicking beds enable us to achieve a 90% reduction in water consumption and this will be an interesting project for all the community to observe.

For enquiries, please contact Liz on 0448447667.



Sandy Point Community Group: President's Report



As I am writing this newsletter report, I am relieved that Sandy Point is now out of lockdown but saddened that many of our broader community are still under lockdown restrictions in Melbourne and other regional areas – we do look forward to, hopefully sooner than later, welcoming everyone back to our favorite place!

I am also aware that this is the final Newsletter that our wonderful Newsletter Editor, Di Cornwell will produce. Di and her husband Phil are both resigning from the committee – they are freeing up some time away from their SPCG commitments to pursue their many other interests and involvement in other community groups.

Both Di and Phil have been instrumental in the success of many of our projects. Not only has Di produced this successful newsletter for over 10 years and maintained our website and Facebook page, but has been involved with many projects including the Koala project, Beach Wheelchair initiative, Signage project, and Sandcastle Competitions. Phil's diligence as Membership Officer, has resulted in increasing and maintaining our membership base. He is also our guru with anything technical! His report to Telstra identifying black spot areas and his continued persistence in trying to overcome our mobile service issues is commendable – let's hope it all comes to fruition one day in the near future!

We thank them both profusely for their 10 years of dedicated service to SPCG and the community and wish them well.

Update on current projects/issues

- **Opportunity for Involvement with the SPCG committee:** Please see on page 3 a letter that we will be distributing widely to promote what SPCG is all about, our achievements and the exciting projects we will be undertaking in the forthcoming year and a request for your involvement in our activities. We are a vibrant, welcoming and caring community and by participating in the community groups and sharing your experiences, expertise or volunteering your time, you will be well rewarded by giving back to your community and gaining companionship, friendship and enjoyable great social times! (Thanks to WBSLC for their similar letter to members inspiring us!)
- **Tourism/Economy Development Strategy:** In response to Council's request for input into their Tourism and Economic Development Strategy we have submitted our 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 streetscape project. This coming year we will advocate for the development of a town centre plan by the Shire which might include commercial centre revitalisation.
- **Community Garden:** It is up and running! Looks fantastic – a great achievement – thanks & congratulations to Doug, Liz and Michelle and all those involved for finally making this happen! See page 1
- **Skate Park:** We were not successful in our grant application to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) for funding to conduct a Sandy Point Skate Park Feasibility and Concept Design – disappointing, but our Projects Officer, Michelle Jelleff, has reassured us that she has already identified some other grants that we can apply for to assist us in this project.
- **Community Owned Renewable Energy Project:** See progress report on page 5
- **Sandy Point Signage Project:** We have received a grant to assist in the commencement of project. See page 4.
- **Traffic calming and road surfacing:** We are continuing to address our traffic and re surfacing issues with Council

AGM

Our annual AGM is yet again, due to Covid restrictions, being rescheduled from our usual one day in September to Saturday 22 January 2022 at 10.00 am at the Community Centre. Ideally, we always prefer a face-to-face meeting where we can gain feedback from you and hear of any issues etc. and where we can provide updates on our current projects/issues. We hope to meet you there!

Kind Regards,

Anne Kinne, President SPCG

*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.*

Sandy Point Community Group: Opportunities for involvement!



Welcome to all members of our community. The SPCG is an increasingly diverse group of people drawn together by our love of and passion for Sandy Point, its hinterland and community.

The main role of the SPCG is to provide strong advocacy for our community in support of improved facilities, infrastructure and recreational facilities. Over the years, we have responded to key Council initiatives, and advocated for relevant community issues. We are continually advocating to council for traffic calming measures and responding to members' requests to address identified hazard areas. SPCG conducts community strengthening and social engagement events for families, such as the Sandcastle Competitions at Christmas and Easter and the popular Foodies & Artisan Market in early January.

Key projects and environmental initiatives such as the Koala Action project, the installation of a 24 hour access defibrillator, access to a beach wheelchair and the creation of a Community Garden are recent successes. We were also successful in achieving the construction of new upgraded toilet facilities and surrounding landscaping and are currently advocating for a Skate Park to be built in Sandy Point. The Waratah Way, a shared trail connecting Waratah Bay and Sandy Point, is still very much on our agenda. We also provide financial support and encouragement for other groups within the community eg: the Community Power Group and Sandy Point Music.

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. There's a multitude of other creative projects which are fun to be involved with as well as many support roles.

The first consultative workshop and presentations may be run on the day of the AGM which will be on Saturday 22 January 2022 at 10am at the Community Centre

Annually we run our AGM and open up committee positions. This is a great way to get to know people, make a positive contribution and have fun along the way. The more involved the better: a festival of ideas.

People have many reasons for joining the Committee or helping with a role. All are equally legitimate and respected, whether it is to support your own family's activities, to develop your own skills and experience or to simply give back to the community. If you are concerned you might not have the right experience, we have people in our network willing to mentor you if needed.

There are roles listed below which are priorities and we'd love it if you are interested in finding out more. An inquiry will not be taken as a commitment! There are also a lot of opportunities to help such as helping to set up events and assist with fundraising.

- Newsletter editor - production
- Website maintenance
- Facebook management
- Membership officer – maintaining spreadsheet and sending out reminder notices when membership due
- Secretary – minute taker and general administration
- General committee members to assist in non-specific roles to help set up and run events and working bees.

We would be grateful for you to give some consideration to how you can assist us in continuing to meet the demands of these various tasks and contribute to your community. Even volunteering for a single task would be appreciated – no need to become a committee member, although our meetings, even via ZOOM, are enjoyable! Instruction, mentoring, templates etc will all be readily available for those who are willing to contribute.

Please contact us if you can offer any support or need further clarification/information – email info@sandypoint.vic.au or ring Anne on 0427347976 .

Kind Regards,
Anne Kinne, President, SPCG

Signage for Sandy Point

You may not see any new signage in Sandy Point yet but things are moving forward with this project, despite the best efforts of the COVID restrictions to stop it.

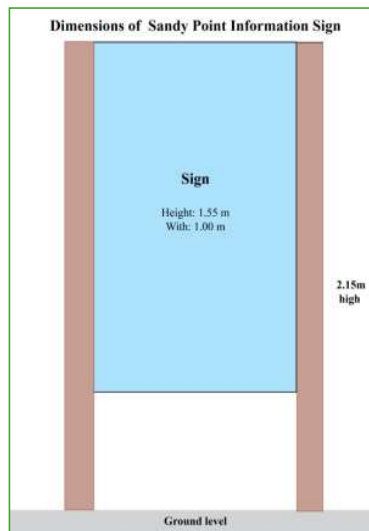
The Signage Group have decided to break the project into 3 parts:

1. Information Signs on the Reserve opposite the shops
2. Revitalising the decorative surfboards
3. Welcome Sign on Telopea Drive

The reason for this was that it would make applying for smaller grants more effective as we could apply for grants through different organisations. The group was successful with a grant from South Gippsland Shire Council for the information signs.

1. New Information Signs

These will be located along the fence line opposite the shops. They will detail the history, geography and special flora and fauna of the area. It has been decided to install 3 individual signs as this will allow more visitors to view the boards without everyone gathering around one big sign. A copy of the “Saving our Sandy Point Koalas” sign will also be installed with them. The wording of the signs is now complete and we are hoping to have the signs installed by the end of the year.



2. Decorative Surfboards

A group of local artists under the leadership of Judy Schrever are considering the best way of revitalising the boards. It is hoped that with the easing of COVID restrictions and warmer weather that the surfboards will be having a “facelift” soon.



3. Welcome Sign on Telopea Drive

We are fully aware that this project must meet all Council by-laws and we have had on-site discussions with Rob Jenner from Council and, in general, it seems the proposed new sign will be acceptable after a few minor adjustments. Next step is to submit a site plan, basic dimensions and then the engineering/construction drawings to Council. The new sign will be in the same spot and same footprint as the existing sign.

If you have some ideas please email sandypointsignagegroup@gmail.com as all ideas or comments are welcome.

Di Cooper – Coordinator Sandy Point Signage Group

Sandy Point Community Power

Update on our Activities

Despite the restrictions imposed by lockdowns the Community Power team have been busy.

You will recall that we were successful in attracting grant funding to install an energy storage battery at the community centre. We've now finalised tenders for the equipment supply and installation, and are pleased to confirm local electricians JohnoElec will be working with us. We are currently liaising with Council to finalise the battery enclosure design and hope to engage the help of the local Men's Shed in building the structure to house the nearly 30kW of battery capacity.

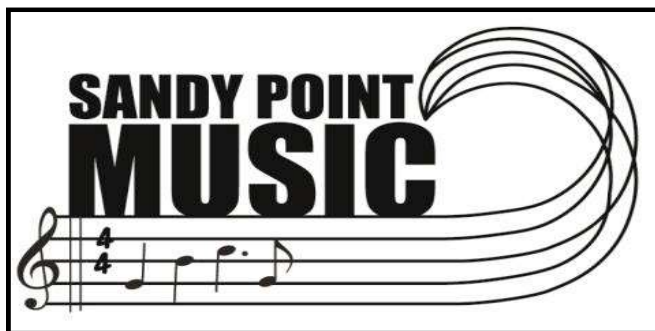
Our e-trading scheme is very close to being ready to progress to the trial phase. The trial will test the concept of energy exchange between participating community members, using the unique software platform developed by our scheme partner. We had been delayed by the final developments of the platform, and changes in the regulated energy tariff structures that came into effect for the new financial year. Our pricing has now been finalised. We believe our offer will be competitive for both energy consumption and feed-in. We've always believed that we needed to offer competitive rates to underpin our model and our vision of Sandy Point moving towards being a renewable energy community.

The e-trading scheme is the first of several steps in our exciting journey to a self-sufficient renewable energy township. Through our e-trading partnership we are participating in a grant application through the Victorian State Government's

Energy Innovation Fund that will, if funded, see the establishment of a Virtual Power Plant (VPP) for Sandy Point. The project would include a mix of renewable energy generation and storage at residential, commercial, and community buildings at a scale required for energy self-sufficiency. The scheme would offer participants access to subsidised solar and battery installations. The grant round closes late September, with successful applicants being notified in November. We will update you in the next newsletter.

We'd love to hear from you if you'd like more information or if you'd like to get involved with our team.. Please contact us on energytrading@sandypoint.vic.au





Bring it on!

Although the stage is eerily silent, behind the scenes Sandy Point Music are still toe tapping and finger snapping ready to pick up where we left off with great music from great artists.

We have used this time to modify our stage and improve our lighting equipment as well as engage new artists. We remain in contact with the bands we booked who are as keen as ever to play at Sandy Point.

Check out the amazing line up below.

The artists love the audience's enthusiasm, our hospitality, but most of all they just love making and playing music.

Don't miss out, get your tickets and bring it on!



Photo: "Empty Stage" by Donna Killeen (James Bennett show, Aug 2020)

Please be aware that Covid restrictions are ever changing and may affect the timing and capacity of our events. Please keep a close eye on our Facebook page for the latest advice:

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

October Saturday 16th - The Maes: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=793910&>

November 13th Saturday - Mia Dyson: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=680820&>

November 27th Saturday - James Bennett: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=793912&>

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SANDY POINT

COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

The Centre is coming back to life once again, with all the weekly activities at The Centre back in full swing – so if you're interested in Tai Chi, Indoor Bowls, Pilates, Tennis, Table Tennis or enjoy a card game or board game, have a look at our list of activities on the window of the Centre and on the website www.sandypointcc.org.au

It is time for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be held on Wednesday 13th October at 10am at the Centre. The Committee is a Community Asset Committee under s65 of the Local Government Act and as such is responsible to South Gippsland Shire Council.

This committee is a vibrant, fun loving group of people who are dedicated to ensuring the successful management of the Centre and new members are welcome, so come along to the AGM and find out what's involved in managing the Centre.

Here's a question for everyone:

“What does the Community want from the Centre? And are there any activities that you would like to see at the Centre?”

Remember it is your Centre! If you have any ideas or suggestions please let me know or attend the AGM.

Until the restrictions are eased, hopefully by early November, there are no events planned at the Centre, the couple of weddings that were booked have had to cancel plus Sandy Point Music have had to postpone the events that had been planned for September and October.

Now for a good news story, the Sandy Point Community Power team have been successful in obtaining grants to install an energy storage battery and this will be at the Centre. This will result in reduced electricity running costs for the Centre but more importantly will provide power if it is lost, as it was back in June. Locals will be able to come to the Centre to charge their mobile phones and tablets to enable them to contact family and friends to let them know that they're alright.

Congratulations to the Community Power team.

Planning has started for the 2022 Art Show and a flyer has been included in this newsletter. The Art Show is open to all ages and mediums. Entry forms can be downloaded at www.sandypointcc.org.au or www.sandypoint.vic.au

Stay safe.

Di Cooper - Chairperson

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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 only

Can you help?
 Please contact Di - 0418336690

After ten years of Snippets, Sally has decided its time to retire

Back in 2011, I started writing my “Snippets from Sandy Point” after we lost a small water tank from the back of our trailer when we were coming back from Traralgon: one minute it was there and the next it had disappeared. That water tank had a special significance for us, as it was Di’s farewell present from the Bank on her retirement. Therefore, we really wanted to get it back. Fortunately for us, a local farmer who was travelling behind us was amazed to see this water tank sitting in the middle of the road, so he took the trouble to hand it in to Meeniyah Police and maybe someone there had read my Snippets and we were notified and able to retrieve our tank.


And that was how my weekly “Snippets from Sandy Point” started in the local newspaper “The Mirror”. I would sit down every Sunday afternoon and come up with my Snippet for the week. Even though Sandy Point is a small town, there are so many groups and individuals there who are dedicated to improving and making Sandy Point a better place, that I was always able to write an article.

The success of a Federal Grant which enabled the building of the Community Centre in 2012 was one of these. Other local projects - the Urban Design Framework, Waratah Way Trail, Markets, Art Shows, Koala Counts just to name a few, then more recently the pandemic which has caused the cancellation of so many activities at the Centre.

Thank you to everyone who read my Snippets over the years.

Stay safe

Cheers, Sally Gibson



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Sandy Point General Store – changes hands

On July 1st this year Andy and Sue Cumming finally handed over the keys and the reins to the Sandy Point General Store after 12 years of running a successful business and more recently navigating all things Covid. The new owner is Tommo, a local of sorts to Sandy Point.

Tommo's father Eric bought "a block" down at Sandy Point in 1957 and newlyweds Eric and Maureen used to come down and camp and sometimes caravan down on their block. Tommo first appeared down here in the late 1960s on family holidays and was a regular on the beach, at the old A-frame surf club and down at the inlet in the 70s and early 80s. In 1987 Tommo purchased his own "block" and built the house he calls his beach house in the mid-1990s.

Since the early 2000s Tommo has been living and working overseas in various mining operations, coming back to Australia once or twice a year to catch up with family and friends and for the Richmond Grand Finals.

Due to Covid, Tommo has found himself working in Australia and living and working between Sandy Point, Sale and the company corporate office in West Perth. The "For Sale" sign in the front window of Andy and Sue's store kept drawing him back to having the odd discussion with Andy about a sale.

A deal was finally struck, and Tommo would eventually take on the successful business Andy and Sue had built up over many years. One small issue was who could manage the business if Tommo went back overseas? As luck would have it the rumor mill at Sandy Point was off and running and Tommo's neighbor Paul Anthony asked if indeed the rumor was true. The conversation went something like this:

Hey Tommo is it true you're taking over the store?

Yep

Are you quitting your overseas job?

Yeabhh, nahhh, heading back as soon as the window opens.

Do you want a manager?

Who?

Me

What do you know about running a shop?

Nothing, what do you know?

Nothing

Well what can go wrong then?

That was it, Tommo and Paul shook hands over the fence and the deal was done.

So, who is Paul Anthony you ask? Paul turned 50 in November last year and, after 33 years working in financial services and IT consultancy, decided to quit the corporate world and retire to his "happy place"... his house (now permanent home) in Sandy Point.

Continued on page 10

Sandy Point General Store

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- Hardware
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- LPG Gas Bottle Delivery
- Boat Hire
- Fuel

Paul Anthony
5684 1362



Left: Paul Anthony and on right Tommo

Continued from page 9

Paul spent a month or so working with Andy and Sue to understand how a general store operates. Invaluable time! The training wheels came off in mid-July and Paul got to work on his sea-change career which meant putting his golf on hold as he manages all things Covid and attends to those tweaks in the business model. The continued support from Andy and Sue has been greatly appreciated by both Tommo and Paul has asked this be acknowledged. They are both also hugely indebted to Millie and Gerrie for staying on and continuing to be the heart and soul of the store.

Tommo and Paul both agree that the store was run well and Andy and Sue had a good business model. They both agreed to build on the previous 12 years and make small tweaks to see what works and what doesn't. They both agreed that although Tommo's name is above the door and Paul is running the store the store belongs to the community.

To that end they would both like to say thanks for your continued support, they welcome ideas on what you might like to see in the store, they want to know how the business might be able to assist community groups and finally they want to say how much they appreciate your Covid compliance. The Worksafe inspectors were quite impressed with the level of compliance, the Covid safe plan and the record keeping and management.

There's a Facebook page that Tommo never sees (that's a whole other story), and a website is in the making but at the end of the day its all about you, our loyal customers who have, and continue to make the business what it is.

Finally Tommo and Paul would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land; the Bratowooloong people of the Gurnai nation. They pay respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

See you sometime soon

Tommo, Paul, Gerrie, Millie and the entire team at Sandy Point General Store

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Wildlife in Sandy Point

Koala Count

The 2021 Sandy Point Koala Count has been rescheduled for 31 October 2021. Due to lockdowns, we're aiming to fill the 30 spotters needed with regional residents. Melbourne Metro residents can volunteer and we will find places if restrictions ease. It is also our plan to have an 'all the bells and whistles' koala counting event in September 2022, so no one has to wait until 2023 (as previously scheduled) to participate.

Two people have generously donated to the Koala Count Appeal, raising \$490. \$400 was forwarded on to the Bass Coast/South Gippsland Wildlife Rescue & Shelter which supports our rescue team and cares for our injured or sick animals.

Wildlife welfare

Year to date Sandy Point has had 11 koala rescues with two koalas still receiving care at the time of this report. One in care is an elderly male who had previously been treated for mange. He now has an infected hand that is being treated and he's expected to do well. The other current case is a young female initially treated for mange then diagnosed and treated for chlamydia. There have been two females diagnosed with chlamydia this year.

We have had four dead koalas (two euthanised with mange, one hit by a car and one unknown) and one microbat death reported. Three rescued koalas have been successfully treated and released and two are currently in care as detailed above.

We have progressed getting the rescue team mentored and equipped. The last four rescues have involved providing support for Jan Hallas. We'll continue to develop skills individually until restrictions are eased so that any interested persons can participate.

If you want to volunteer for the Koala Count and or want to be on the WiSP email distribution list please contact us on sandypointkoalas@gmail.com

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



You can read more about wildlife rescue in Sandy Point in Jan Hallas's article on page 17

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Rob on mobile: 0418 595023**

Waratah Marine Search and Rescue News

The Committee of Management established in January is putting together some good structure to how we operate and communicate.

Training has been on and off lately with the lock downs and restricted travel. As was pointed out in a recent interview, Greg mentioned that the commercial vessels are still active which requires us to be on stand-by.

We recently received a new Isuzu D-Max ute for towing the rescue vessel. Through a deal with Surf Life Saving Australia, Life Saving Victoria, and a Victorian Government grant, we purchased an Isuzu D-Max through Leongatha Isuzu. Through the negotiations, we were also successful in a sponsorship deal for both Waratah Marine Rescue and the Surf Club.



Over the winter months, when MSAR crews have a bit of spare time and capacity, Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) run (currently online) workshops. We recently had representation at the 'Workshop, Beach Launch Vessel Design', where they went to key groups that either have to, or sometimes, launch from the beach instead of a boat ramp. It is hoped that when our next rescue vessel arrives, it will model the outcome of this workshop.

Along with the new tow vehicle, we were successful in upgrading the vessel's GPS to a Furuno model which is the same as used by the Water Police and most MSAR vessels in Victoria. It is larger, has more functionality, and is easier to use than the old unit.

On the equipment side we have been working on our towing training vessel known as Sinkalot. We had a working bee in August that stripped the vessel in readiness for modifications required to partially sink then refloat it. With so many of our call outs, a stranded vessel is highly probable and being able to safely and effectively tow is key.



Finally, the Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club has a new Board as of the 11th September. We welcome the new Board and look forward to keeping Sandy Point and Waratah Bay safe for boating and swimmers.

We are always ready to welcome new members so if you are interested in joining our team, please email marinerescue@waratahbeach.com.au. No experience is required and all training is provided in house.

Daniel Milton



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The 2022 Current Cruiser event is already being planned

January 1st 2022 marks the beginning of what we optimists consider to be the commencement of a new year with greater freedoms and an improved outlook for all Australians, so what a great day to hold the 2022 Current Cruiser (subject to prevailing government guidance).

The annual Sandy Point swim at Shallow Inlet is scheduled to be held on the first Saturday in January and next year this will fall on New Year’s Day. Happily the tides dictate a midday swim so there will be plenty of time for the dust to wear off from the evening prior.

From the generosity of sponsors and participants, this year’s “virtual swim” raised a much appreciated \$10,000 for the Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club and, building on the momentum of the past couple of years, we look forward to generating an even greater sum this year.

Keep an eye on the WBSLSC and Current Cruiser websites and Facebook pages for updates. We will soon have a number of sponsorship packages to circulate that will include exposure on t-shirts, website, social media, event day and hopefully WIN Television again. If anyone has any questions, wants to help with the planning, or on the day as well as sponsorship, please email paul.minahan@waratahbeach.com.au.



Photos taken at the January 2020 Current Cruiser swim event



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Weekly Activities at The Centre

All activities are very social and for the wellbeing of the community

Monday

8.30am – 9.30am Social Tennis & Table Tennis Contact Judy 0488 554 971

Tuesday

1.30pm - 3.00pm Indoor Bowls
\$3.00 and a plate for afternoon tea.
No experience required Contact Ann 5684 1445

4.00pm - 5.00pm Tai Chi. A gentle activity to assist with balance
\$2.00 Contact Joyce 0402 663 055

Wednesday

9.00am - 10.00am Gentle Mat Pilates
\$2.00 Contact Jill 0429 956 825

4.00pm - 5.00pm Tai Chi – The Beijing 24
\$2.00 Contact Joyce 0402 663 055

Thursday

3.00pm - 5.00pm “All things for All People”
A social together for Cards, Games, Crafts.
Enjoy a cuppa & a chat \$2.00 Contact Sally 0400 912 224

Friday

8.30am – 9.30am Social Tennis & Table Tennis Contact Judy 0488 554 971

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History of Sandy Point

"A Tragic Accident" or Murder at Sandy Point?

Researched and written By Nicola Walker

On Saturday 17th August 1895 two men, Thomas Radcliffe aged 24 and James Hannan aged 15 from Waratah North were arrested and charged with the murder of Joseph Radcliffe (22 years). A magisterial inquest was commenced almost immediately, and the following is a summary of this record and various newspaper reports at the time.



Map (c1885) showing the locations of the Radcliffe's and the Fraser's properties. Current day Sandy Point is located to the east of Fraser's and the Sandy Point Road runs approximately between CA 19 and 17. Map is adapted from LC2123A BULN BULN from the Public Record Office of Victoria

The Radcliffe brothers, Joseph and Thomas farmed Crown Allotments 16 and 17 (a total of 1360 acres) at Sandy Point. This land had been leased by their father on the brothers' behalf. They lived in a four-roomed house with James Hannan who was working with them at the time.

A witness from the hotel in Fish Creek gave evidence that Joseph was of a 'passionate disposition' and always growling at his brother. Thomas was more even tempered and quite the reverse of his brother.

On Saturday 10th August, Thomas left for Fish Creek. Joseph became very angry and agitated when Thomas did not return when expected and on Thursday, he went to Fish Creek to find him. The bartender at the hotel gave evidence that Joseph had become "very excited" on hearing that Thomas had met their father at Boys Station and they had gone to inspect some land. Joseph had said that it was not the first time it had happened and there would be a row about it.

The brothers somehow missed each other on the road and when Joseph arrived back in Sandy Point at approximately 5.30pm, Thomas was already at home. Thomas gave evidence that Joseph had been in a bad mood and had started quarrelling. In his statement, he described how Joseph picked up the kettle to throw at him but then threw it in the fire. After this, he then had to wrench the fire shovel out of Joseph's hands. Joseph then announced that he had his gun which Thomas knew to be in a drawer in the kitchen. Thomas knew he had no chance of getting to the gun first, so he ran. He just managed to get behind a tree when Joseph fired at him. Thomas then ran on, with Joseph after him shouting, for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. Thomas then went to Fraser's station where he stayed for the night.

After the incident Hannan also went to the Fraser's. Gilbert Fraser gave evidence that Hannan had looked very nervous when he arrived that night and announced that Joe Radcliffe had shot himself. He told Fraser that he had seen Joseph throw the gun to the floor. The gun had gone off and then Joseph fell to the floor. Hannan said he could not see any sign of a wound and said that he thought Joseph may have been putting it on.

Fraser notified the police and Constable Mackay from Foster arrived on Saturday 20th August. Thomas and Hannan both told him they had not touched the body, and everything was as it was when they left the house on Thursday evening. McKay found Joseph deceased and wearing a vest and shirt. His trousers were partially removed and there was a boot and a waistcoat on the ground. The waistcoat had a hole in one side and some

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blood on the inside. Mackay found a damaged double barrel muzzle loading gun lying near the fireplace with one of the barrels showing it had been recently discharged. He found that there was an entry wound under the ribs on the left side of Joseph's body, but he could not locate an exit wound. The mattress was soaked in blood, but he could not find any sign of blood elsewhere in the house.

James Hannan's statement was taken by Constable Miller from Toora. He deposed that after Joseph had returned from Fish Creek he had proceeded to bully Thomas. Hannan said he saw Tom run out of the house and heard Joseph say "If you run away bullets will catch you" before firing at him. He saw Thomas shelter behind a tree whilst Joseph returned to the house. He threw the gun down onto the floor and then came back out with another gun and said "I will shoot the bugger with his own gun".

Hannan described how Joseph called out to his brother to come out and face him. He flung the gun inside the back door which then exploded and hit him. Joseph had asked for help and Hannan helped him up into his room. He said he left Joseph standing about a yard from his bed. Joseph did not seem at all hurt he got himself onto the bed. Hannan said that he then "cleared away" down to Frasers' place about 5 miles away. Thomas arrived about an hour later and they both stayed there for the night.

The next day at about 9.45 am, Thomas and Hannan returned to the house. Hannan told Constable Millar that Thomas sent him on ahead and when he got to the house, he found everything as he had left it. He denied when asked that he had assisted Joseph remove any clothing and maintained that he had not seen any blood. He added that the deceased had asked him to put the lamp in his room, which he did before he left. After Thomas saw that his brother was dead, they returned to the Fraser's.

Dr Hayden from Foster examined the deceased and concluded he had died from blood loss resulting from a gunshot wound to the abdomen. He notes in his statement that the bullet had travelled in a downward direction damaging the lumber spine. He concluded that the deceased would have been paralysed from the waist down after receiving such an injury. He states:

"...after this wound was inflicted, I do not think the deceased would live many minutes. It is uncertain though. He would grow weaker and weaker from the loss of blood. I do not think it possible that the deceased after receiving the wound could walk with assistance about 10 yards, then place himself on the bed, remove his coat, waistcoat, belt and trousers."

He further notes that there was no exit wound and that there would have been very little external bleeding at first. It is quite possible that Hannan would not have noticed any blood.

The magistrate found that the deceased had met his death by gunshot wound accidentally inflicted by the deceased himself. Thomas Radcliffe and James Hannan were released. It is not clear how the discrepancies in the evidence, such as which gun went off and hit Joseph and the respective timing of Thomas's and Hannan's arrival at the Fraser's, were reconciled.

Joseph was buried on Tuesday 21st August 1895 in the Foster cemetery. Unfortunately, the headstone (if any) has disappeared and information about the location of the grave was lost in a fire in 1935. Thomas most likely moved away from the area and married Julia Coburn in Melbourne in 1899. He died in 1932 aged 61. The lease payments for the farm went into arrears and it was eventually sold. It isn't clear what became of James Hannan.

References:

1. Leader (Melbourne, Vic) Sat 24 Aug 1895 Page 24 "The Waratah Tragedy"
2. The Portland Guardian Fri 23 Aug 1895 Page 3 "The Waratah Tragedy".
3. The Snowy River Mail and Tambo and Croajingolong Gazette (Orbost, Vic) Sat 24 Aug 1895 Page 2

**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**

“So much for the dumb koala!”

Jan Hallas has been the first contact point for the reporting of sick or injured in our area for many years. Fortunately she now has the support of a group of enthusiastic volunteers led by Christie Fejer, Kerrie de Cort and Georgie Roberts. Several other people completed a training course we ran last year but not all live permanently in Sandy Point or are always available to help. It seems to be Jan who inevitably gets the phone call asking for help for injured or sick wildlife that has been reported. She then has to find someone to help with the rescue, as it is not the sort of job one person can handle on their own. Sick animals can be very hard to handle.

Jan reports that in early January two male koalas with mange were collected and taken for treatment to Jenny Bryant’s koala hospital in Tyabb. Jan likes to give her koalas names and so she named the one she and her helpers collected from Anderson Ave “Alan” and the other one, which was collected from Ash Ave was named “Geoff”. Fortunately both were successfully treated and Jan and Marg brought them home in late January and released them back into their trees in Sandy Point.

Unfortunately Jan wasn’t sure which koala was which and it seems they were released into the wrong trees! However, the good news is that eventually both koalas migrated back to the area they should have been released to.

Jan said to say: “Sorry Geoff and Alan, we got you mixed up. The amazing thing is that even though released at the wrong end of Sandy Point you both made your way back to the area you used to live in. So much for the dumb koala!”

Alan (also known as Freckles) is now back in care, having an injured paw treated.

This is the result of an infection from getting ripped by barbed wire it seems, but with the help of antibiotics he is on the mend. We are told he may be ready to come home next week. Jan says his girlfriend Lilly will be pleased to see him again! Lilly was treated for mange back in May but is now very healthy.



In early August, Jan took a young female with mange to Jenny Bryant’s koala hospital in Tyabb, but also unfortunately it turned out she had chlamydia. Jenny is confident she will be cured but the koala has to finish a 46 day course of treatment first. This is the second case of chlamydia we’ve seen recently among out koalas. Not a good sign.

Jan has also been called out to pick up an injured baby wombat and a kangaroo from the Prom, so she and all our wildlife rescuers are kept busy.

Please help them by promptly reporting any wildlife you think might be injured or ill. Contact Wildlife Victoria immediately on 03 8400 7300 or through their website <https://www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au> and they will find someone to attend to the case.



*Above left: “Alice”
Above right: “Alan”
Bottom right: Sue Moore taking “Alan” in for treatment for his injured paw*

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For more information about our Wildlife in Sandy Point (WiSP) Group and how you can help us please see the article on page 11.



In this time of ever changing rules and restrictions we can confirm that currently, for those interested, we are open on Monday mornings at 9.00am for a coffee and chat.

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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Waratah Beach SLSC news

Waratah Beach SLSC will be back again this season to patrol the beaches and help keep our community safe.

We have many new board members and some returning:

President - Richard Tremewen

Secretary - Natalie Wischer

Treasurer - Dr Andrew Bean

Club Captain/Director of Lifesaving - Keegan Clarke

Chief Instructor - Sarah Seddon

This season we will hold 2 bronze medallion camps (15yrs+) and 1 surf rescue certificate camp(13yrs+).

Our highly regarded nipper program will also return for another season. Last year we had 161 nippers over a 3 week period.

Keep a lookout on social media and local signage for some great new events (and some old ones) to be held at the club over summer.

We look forward to a safe, warm and fun filled season.

Richard Tremewen

President, Waratah Beach SLSC



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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**

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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