

Sandy Point

Sandy Point Community Group



NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter



Photo credit: Bridget McDermott

Autumn edition

In this Issue ...

- We celebrate and commemorate the lives of Sandy Point women - past and present
- We address some environment and safety concerns - Sandy Point Road pedestrian safety, bushfire prevention and response, Hooded Plover protection, and the issue of light pollution.
- We preview upcoming community events - the 20th Easter Art Show, WiSP's Whale of a Time event, the Waratah Bay Charlie Brown Day, Pack Runs and Sandy Point Music events.
- We have updates from all our busy community groups.



Scan this QR code to learn more about Sandy Point.

sandypoint.vic.au



Please JOIN US - go to sandypoint.vic.au/membership

The Sandy Point Community Group (SPCG), through community engagement, advocates on behalf of the community and is committed to preserving our unique natural environment.

We acknowledge the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



Sandy Point
Community Group

... just a few of our

ACHIEVEMENTS



beach toilets



foodies markets



boardwalk benchseat



playground
long slide



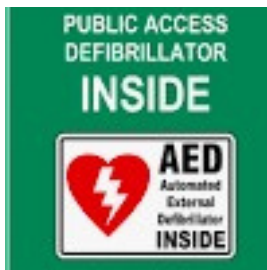
community
garden



beach
wheelchair



information
signage



public
defibrillator

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US**



sandcastle
competitions



WWW.SANDYPOINT.VIC.AU/MEMBERSHIP

The Sandy Point Community Group, through community engagement, advocates on behalf of the community and is committed to preserving our unique natural environment.

SPCG *President's Report*



I hope you have enjoyed another summer filled with activities and events at Sandy Point! We are so fortunate to have such proactive community groups and willing volunteers to assist in providing entertainment, community engagement, improving and maintaining our resources and advocating for our environment and wildlife, all of which enhances our little piece of paradise!

The SPCG events of the Sandcastle Competition and Foodies & Artisan Market both reached record crowds and the sausage sizzle and Breakfast BBQ were successful fundraising events. Many thanks for your participation and support.

Thank you to the generous sponsors of our events and raffle: Sandy Point General Store, Studio RE Massage, Sandy Point Mini Golf, Aldi Leongatha, Foodies Market vendors for their continued support and raffle donations. Unfortunately, we will not be holding our Easter Sandcastle Competition and Sausage Sizzle due to the lack of availability of committee members to organize. To assist us in subsequent planning of events, we would like to compile a list of volunteers who we could call on to help out at our fundraising activities when needed. Please advise if you would be willing to provide your name and contact details - no ongoing commitment required!

Our Annual General Meeting held on Jan 14th was well attended and current projects and issues discussed. Thanks to those who came along and contributed their feedback, comments, ideas and raised questions - it was recognized as the most informative, pro-active and vibrant AGM yet! Thanks also to Cr Sarah Gilligan for chairing the official proceedings of the AGM and for providing further Council information. We were delighted to gain 4 new committee members, whose input has already been greatly appreciated by the ongoing committee members and has enhanced our expertise and knowledge base. The DRAFT AGM Minutes have been emailed to members and link available on our website www.sandypoint.vic.au/our-story

Update on current projects and issues:

We continue to advocate for our ongoing projects of Waratah Way Shared Trail, and implementation of a Skate Park and hopefully we will have a breakthrough with obtaining funding through our persistence! A petition is being prepared to send to Council to facilitate a pathway for Sandy Point Road to be included on the Paths and Trails Strategy. The Historical Interpretive Signs are currently progressing with design and wording being finalized. The SPCG's response to the South Gippsland Shire Coastal Strategy has been submitted and SPCG delegates have attended an information session

with SGSC and Project Consultants – we will keep you updated on further progress. See Council website: yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/coastal-strategy for any further information.

Many thanks to our hard-working SPCG committee, who have had a full-on few months – your constant input is greatly appreciated! Happy Easter everyone and enjoy the school holidays! As always, please be mindful on our shared roads and adhere to Dogs on Beach regulations.

Anne Kinne, President SPCG



**Sandy Point
Community Group**

Can you lend a hand?

Would you be willing to help out occasionally at a Sandy Point community event? Perhaps you can offer an hour or two at a sausage sizzle or sandcastle competition.

Please let us know if you are happy to be asked.

Email to info@sandypoint.vic.au
or leave your details at www.sandypoint.vic.au/helpers





SUMMER FUN & Fundraising



SANDY POINT ROAD SAFE PATH INITIATIVE

Petition to the South Gippsland Shire Council

Sandy Point is a ‘walking town’ where all road users share the roads. This approach is supported by the 40km per hour speed limits and signage. In general, residents and visitors respect the shared roads approach, and pathways alongside roads are not necessary.

However, Sandy Point Road is a different matter. The speed limit is 80 km per hour (but some travel much faster) and the section between Telopea Drive and Ennisvale Avenue is inherently unsafe because of this and a number of other reasons:

- The verge / road shoulder in many places is sloping, narrow and often obstructed by debris from fallen branches. Therefore, it does not provide an accessible and safe refuge from oncoming vehicles.
- There are 3 – 4 particularly dangerous places along the road created where it runs up against a property boundary on a bend or into a ‘blind corner’ where oncoming traffic is obscured from view. Riders and those on foot are forced to cross the road at these places to stay off the bitumen as far as they can and to maintain some visibility.
- Vehicles (such as trucks and cars towing boats, caravans and trailers) travel at high speeds along this road, often ignoring the speed limits.

Many people have reported they would use the road more for fitness and recreational pursuits if it was safer, as the road completes a circuit around the town. We are organising a letter / petition to Council so that the Sandy Point Road Safe Path initiative is included in the SGSC Paths and Trails Strategy.

If you would like to support this, please read and sign our petition / joint letter to the South Gippsland Shire Council.

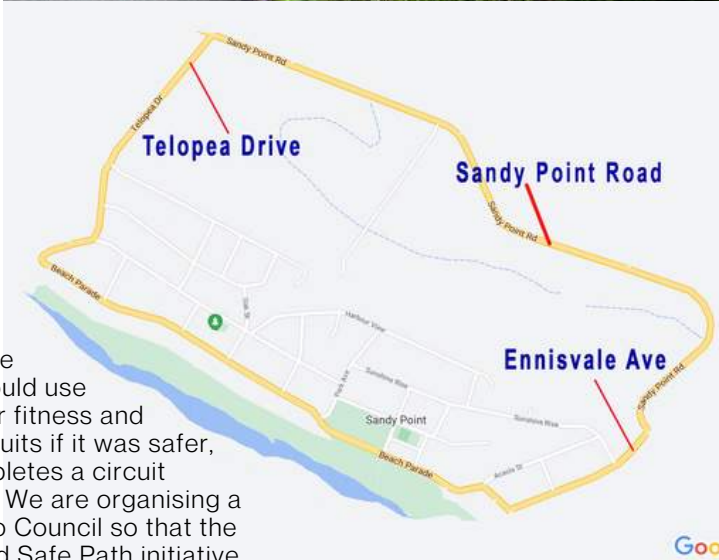
It is available from the General Store, or Community Centre, or the SPCG website

[Download Petition](#)

If you would also like to make a comment, or share an experience you have had whilst using the road, please complete the comments form on the back of this newsletter, email us, or submit your comments online at the link below. Printed forms can be forwarded to us per contact details below. All comments may be used but your name will not be attached to the comment unless you give us permission.



www.sandypoint.vic.au/road-safe



Once completed (by hand or electronically), you can:

- Post the petition letter and/or comments form to Sandy Point Community Group Inc., C/- Sandy Point General Store, Beach Parade, Sandy Point, 3959. DO NOT send it to the Council yourself as it won't be counted.
- Email to info@sandypoint.vic.au
- Place in the secure box at the Community Centre or General Store.

* All fields are required to be completed in order to be counted. Please use a pen (not pencil) to complete this petition or do so electronically. Please do not staple or otherwise attach the letter to any other page.

We respect the privacy of your information. Your details will only be used by us for the purposes of submitting this joint letter / petition to the South Gippsland Council. Please refer to our Privacy Policy and that of the South Gippsland Shire Council for further information.



"Let there be Starlight!"

We're all well aware of environmental issues such as air pollution and water pollution, but who knew about light pollution? What's that about? Why are many communities now working to reduce it or, even better, to prevent it?

Light pollution is the 'brightening of the night sky caused by street lights and other man-made sources, which has a disruptive effect on natural cycles and inhibits the observation of stars and planets.' (Oxford Languages, <https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/>)

Why is it a problem? There are many issues worldwide associated with light pollution, concerning human health, global warming, energy resources, the environment, astronomy, wildlife conservation, even plant health. Here in Sandy Point there are two vital local factors: our visual access to the natural night sky, and the welfare of our wonderful nocturnal wildlife.

One of the many natural attractions to Sandy Point is our view of the night sky. How many of us have looked up and sucked in our breath at the literally awesome multitude of stars, planets and any other heavenly sights that come by, which are totally unseen or unnoticed in other towns and cities? We are blessed to have minimal artificial lighting in our town to make this possible.

We are blessed also to share this place with our local wildlife, some of which sadly is battling to survive loss of habitat and other human environmental impacts. Much of our wildlife is nocturnal, our iconic koalas are a prime example. Light pollution has been found to have devastating effects on animal feeding, breeding, exposure to predators, seabird migrations. Street lighting is a major contributor to light pollution; keeping it minimal is not just a kindness to our wildlife, it is vital to its survival.

What can we do about it? Many local councils, government departments and energy authorities are now looking at street lighting policies and Dark Sky Ordinances to address light pollution issues. The *National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife* (dceew.gov.au) has as its number one recommendation: "Start with natural darkness and only add light for specific purposes."

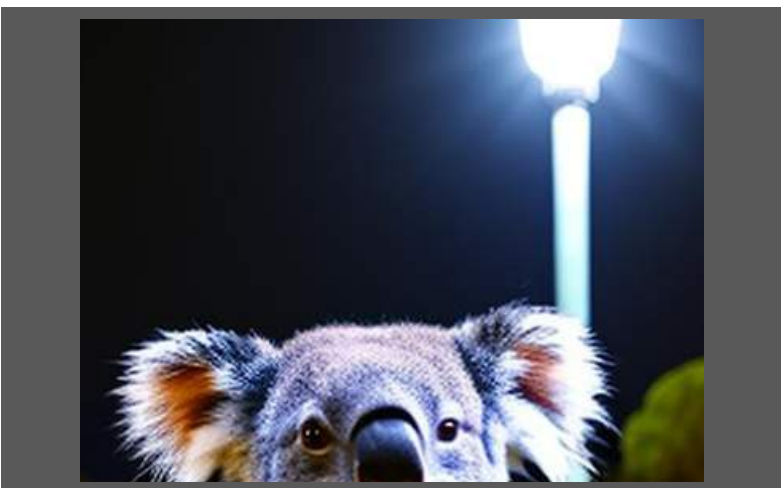


Example of environmentally responsible outdoor lighting from www.vizona.com.au/product/basso-solar-bollard-light/

As a community, we need to advocate strongly and work with our Council to ensure that our concerns and values are understood. Where additional public lighting is deemed essential, we need to ensure that the design and specifications are best practice, including low height level, fully shielded, directing light only where it is needed, and of a colour temperature that is least damaging to wildlife.

As individuals we can help to prevent light pollution by keeping our outdoor lighting to a minimum, and by resisting the urge to have sensor lighting around our property. We can also join our Sandy Point Community Group to maximise our advocacy power on this and other important local issues. www.sandypoint.vic.au/membership

Recommended reading:
[National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife](http://www.dceew.gov.au/wildlife/national-light-pollution-guidelines-for-wildlife)





We look forward to seeing you all at the

20th

Sandy Point Easter Art Show

Sandy Point Community Centre
Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 April 2023
10am – 4pm

Monday 10 April, 10am – 3.30pm



The Sandy Point Art Show Committee extends its thanks to all the sponsors, artists, judges and supporters.

A special thank-you to the Sandy Point Men’s Shed for their assistance in painting and assembling the art stands, plinths and hanging the new hanging system for the Art Show. Without the community support the Art Show and all other Sandy Point groups and events would not be possible.

With this in mind, we would like to recognise Joyce Crawford by renaming the People’s Choice Award to

The Joyce Crawford People’s Choice Award.

Joyce was a resident at Sandy Point and recently passed away. She was a stalwart of all Community Groups, secretary of the Sandy Point Community Group and Sandy Point Community Centre (TP Taylor Reserve Committee of Management) for many many years.



VALE Joyce Crawford



A long time past resident Joyce Crawford recently passed away in Port Macquarie. Joyce had been active in community groups in Sandy Point and Foster. An avid tennis player she continued playing until her mid eighties. Joyce organised a group of locals to play weekly at Sandy Point. The Fire Brigade. Sandy Point Community Group, Sandy Point Foreshore Committee and the Sandy Point Community Centre all had Joyce at one time or another as secretary. With her very good shorthand, minutes were dispatched in a blink of an eye. The Sandy Point Community Centre saw Joyce involved in all the fund raising to get it built. We owe Joyce a belated big thank you for all her participation and good work for Sandy Point.

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**Sandy Point Community Centre
& TP Taylor Reserve
Community Asset Committee**

Wow, our new playground is being installed, but unfortunately asbestos has been discovered in the soil surrounding the playground. The Council are now working on the soil being cleaned to enable the project to be completed. A huge thankyou to Sophie Millton, Ebony Taylor, Kate Coleman and the White family some of our local playground users who spent the time sifting through the nine designs the Council sent and ensuring the playground catered for all ages. Well done. You should be very proud of yourselves.

Our next task is to update the TP Taylor tennis court sign, which is showing its age. A huge thank you to all at the Sandy Point store who co-ordinate the bookings for the tennis courts..



Another purchase for the Centre has been a new free-standing stove. The old one was past its use by date, and had become rather tricky to use.

Come along to the Centre on Monday or Friday if you are interested in a game of table tennis. The ladies are always keen for new competitors, and they finish the session with a cuppa.

We have nearly completed our very busy summer season of weddings, which has involved a number of Committee members, doing pre and post walk throughs, being on stand by during the event in case of any problems, then ensuring everything is packed away including laundering of linen ready for the next event. Not to mention ensuring bins are out and emptied. It's been an extremely busy time for the Committee considering the Centre was out of action during Covid. We hope that our volunteering efforts benefit the town and neighbouring towns by having houses booked and guests making the most of our beautiful part of the world.

Feedback from many of the wedding parties have been really positive and they are super impressed with the facility we have available. On that note... if you are having any functions feel free to contact us.

The Sandy Point Music Group has continued with their sessions and providing multiple 'most memorable' nights of entertainment. Rumour is they are planning an open mike night, so watch for posters out and about town. The WiSP group continue to hold regular meetings and have provide informative sessions on all things wild in Sandy Point.



Make sure you take the time to visit the Sandy Point Art show; it is running over the Easter break. The Art Show celebrates its twentieth year! There will be plenty of wonderful pieces of art from local and regular artists. The Sandy Point Men's Shed has assisted with the Art Show by repainting the art display stands and plinths as well as installing a brand-new hanging system around the walls and on the display boards. It will make the task of hanging the art works quicker and will be safer for these prized pieces.

May 23, the South Gippsland Shire Council will be at the centre and will be available to talk with the local community, so pop that date in your diary.

And finally, I have been contacted by the South Gippsland Hospital to be a contact for the services from the Flying Doctor Service, who are planning to provide services around the Foster area. More details are in this edition of Community News.

Dot Devine
Secretary

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aprons, caps, mugs ...

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Flying Doctor Community Transport >

What is Flying Doctor Community Transport?

Accessing health care and maintaining social connections can be challenging for residents of rural areas who are unable to drive or have limited transport options. Flying Doctor Community Transport aims to help Victorian communities overcome this barrier by providing eligible clients with free transportation to health care appointments and Social Support Groups.

The service is offered by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Victoria in partnership with South Gippsland Hospital and supported by a team of dedicated volunteer drivers in each community.

Eligibility

To use the Flying Doctor Community Transport service, you must:

- > Live within a service area
- > Be travelling to a health related appointment or Social Support Group*

Operating hours

Flying Doctor Community Transport operates during business hours Monday to Friday. We do not operate on public holidays.

* A Social Support Group is defined as a variety of leisure and social connection activities that are funded through Home and Community Care (HACC) and facilitated through registered health services.

Service areas

For the most up to date information on our service areas, please visit our website: www.flyingdoctor.org.au/vic/what-we-do/community-transport/

Pick up & drop off zone




Volunteer with the Flying Doctor!

Would you like to be a part of one of Australia's favourite charities, help your community and gain skills?

The Flying Doctor is pleased to provide free community transport for Foster community members to their medical appointments and we are seeking volunteer drivers for this great service.

As a volunteer driver, you will be required to assist with the transport of eligible community members from their home to their health appointments and group programs. You will receive full training, a uniform and drive an RFDS vehicle, with flexible hours available.

More information >

To register your interest to be part of this exciting opportunity, contact communitytransport@rfdsvic.com.au or phone **(03) 7046 4664**.



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Sandy Point Community Centre

Neighbourhood Safer Place - Bushfire Place of Last Resort.



At our March committee meeting we invited James Bremner, Senior Emergency Management Officer for the South Gippsland Shire Council to update the current committee on the Sandy Point Community Centre - Neighbourhood Safer Place - Bushfire Place of Last Resort.

After the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires, the Victorian Government established 'Neighbourhood Safer Places' in response to the recommendations from the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission regarding the need for a range of community shelter and relocation options in the event of a bushfire threat.

Emergency Management Victoria provided funding in 2012 to support the upgrade of the newly established Sandy Point Community Centre to comply with the CFA assessment criteria allowing the facility to be designated as a Neighbourhood Safer Places – Bushfire Place of Last Resort for the Sandy Point Community.

This included the purchase of the property which is now the carpark to reduce the amount of vegetation around the Centre. Restrictions on the garden areas were also put in place. The Sandy Point Neighbourhood Safer Place - Bushfire Place of Last Resort was designated by Council at their meeting on 28 August 2013.

The background information to this definition is worth considering when you are making your fire plans at Sandy Point. If you live near areas that have significant bush, forest, long grass, or coastal scrub, then you need to plan for the fire season. Taking steps to get prepared means you know what to do when you're at risk of fire. A written, and preferably well-practised plan, will help you remember what needs to be done during a crisis.

The Sandy Point Community Centre is an identified 'Neighbourhood Safer Place' (also known as a 'Bushfire Place of Last Resort' or NSP-BPLR) and is a place of last resort when all other bushfire plans have failed.

What are NSP-BPLRs?

- Locations that may provide some protection from direct flame and heat from a fire, but they do not guarantee safety.
- Not an alternative to planning to leave early or to stay and defend your property; they are a place of last resort if all other fire plans have failed
- An existing location and not a purpose-built, fire-proof structure.
- Not to be confused with Community Fire Refuges, Relief Centres, Recovery Centres or Assembly Areas, each of which have a different and specific purpose.
- Not an appropriate destination when leaving the area early.
- Not a place of shelter from other types of emergencies (e.g. to escape rising floodwaters or severe weather events).



Will I be safe at an NSP-BPLR?

- Sheltering at an NSP-BPLR does not guarantee your safety. An NSP-BPLR may offer improved protection (e.g. a safer place) if caught in a fire but they cannot be considered as 'safe'.
- Travelling to and using a place of last resort is dangerous and can lead to mental trauma, serious injury or death. Traffic congestion, fire activity, accidents or fallen trees may block the route.
- CFA or other emergency services may not be present at an NSP-BPLR.
- NSP-BPLRs may not have the capacity to cater for special needs (e.g. infants, elderly, ill or disabled).
- There will be no support services (e.g. food or drinks, medical services) and no provision for pets or livestock.
- Visibility is likely to be extremely poor due to smoke.
- NSP-BPLRs are places of absolute last resort. The safest place to be is out of a high-risk bushfire area

More information can be found here - <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice/neighbourhood-safer-places>


**Neighbourhood Safer Place -
 Bushfire Place of Last Resort.**

In the event of a significant emergency event South Gippsland Shire Council may open an Emergency Relief Centre. Emergency Relief Centres are places (such as a sports hall or large community facility) established to provide immediate and basic services to people affected by an emergency. The Centre provides services including shelter, food and water, non-food items (such as bedding and clothing) reconnecting friends and families and information.

A Centre would normally be established on a temporary basis to cope with the immediate needs of those affected during the initial response to the emergency and will be opened once the nature, extent and the location of an emergency event are known.

Emergency Relief Centres do not open for every event. If you are relocating during an emergency, you are encouraged to go to family and friends in a location well away from the emergency area. In the event an Emergency Relief Centre is established the location will be announced via Vic Emergency and Emergency Broadcasters.

As a follow up to the Sandy Point Community Centre being a Neighbourhood Safer Place, James, conducts an annual review. It was decided that Danny and James will meet and review the facility and surrounds and the Standard Operating Procedure, as well as Wi-Fi testing and test the STAND system as well review what is connected to into the battery system.

A community information / simulation session will be arranged for some time late August - early September which will bring more information and readiness to our community.

Dot Devine, Secretary
 Daniel Millton, President
 president@sandypointcc.org.au
 0413 307 706

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 Community Group

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Positive Ageing Service Community Care

The Positive Ageing Service (PAS) has just started at the South Gippsland Hospital within the Community Health Centre, Foster.

There will be a Community Information Session at the Sandy Point Community Centre on Tuesday May 9th at 1pm for anyone who would like to come. Afternoon tea will be served

PAS is a free Advocacy and Allied Health service available to anyone over the age of 65 years. PAS focuses on supporting people with the transition into their senior years.

PAS can help people in a few different ways:

- Help people to understand and access aged care, health and community services like My Aged Care.
- Support people to maintain or establish social connections
- Support people to access activities that interest them
- Support people with their balance or increase their movement
- Support people to maintain a healthy diet and understand their nutritional needs

The Positive Ageing Advocate is available 4 days per week, alongside a social worker, dietician and exercise physiologist. The Positive Ageing Service is located at the Community Health Centre, with services also able to be provided in a person's own home. And the best news is that PAS is free to anyone who is eligible for the service!



International Women's Day in Sandy Point

Local Women, Global Impact

The inaugural Sandy Point International Women's Day event was an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the incredible contribution two local women have made to community in the field of medicine, both locally and globally.

Gabrielle Stefani had her posting to the Mercy Ship delayed due to COVID, but in 2022 she finally realised her dream of joining the team off the coast of Senegal, West Africa. For two months she played an integral role in theatre as an anaesthetist assistant, supporting the team across a range of surgical procedures. The impact of this experience was so profound that Gabrielle plans to return to the Mercy Ship in 2023.

Louise Vuillermin captivated the audience with her reflections of appointments in Sudan, the Royal Flying Doctors Service, the Arctic Circle and a number of remote Indigenous communities. With a propensity to spot an ad and apply for jobs in unusual locations, Louise has the perfect 'can do' approach, coupled with a suite of practical skills, that enables her to adapt to whatever environment and challenge she finds herself in. One can only imagine what the next adventure will entail!

Attended by over 50 people, the audience was enthralled by the stories and images shared by Gabrielle and Louise. Their openness, enthusiasm and humbleness was both moving and inspiring.

A huge 'thank you' goes out to all those who contributed to the fantastic meal on the night; the soups and desserts were wonderful! Narkabundah Nursery provided lovely vases of native flowers for the tables, which everyone appreciated. The tremendous support of the Community Centre Committee and SPCG Committee for providing the venue and general support to ensure this event could take place was greatly appreciated by all involved.

As the event was so positively received, the organising committee will soon begin planning for 2024!



L-R: Michelle Jelleff, Louise Vuillermin, Gabrielle Stefani, Susi Millton



Susi Millton & Michelle Jelleff

A woman's life in the early days at Sandy Point



Photo: Ennisvale house

Learn more: sandypoint.vic.au/history

The traditional custodians of country we now know as Sandy Point, Waratah Bay and Wilson's Promontory are the Boon Wurrung, Bunurong and Gunaikurnai. For many thousands of years, they moved across this area, fishing the inlets, hunting on the coastal plains and gathering food. In addition to giving birth to and raising children, women provided the bulk of the food, catching fish and gathering shell-fish, birds' eggs and vegetables, fruits and seeds, while the men hunted fish and larger birds and animals. This way of life continued for thousands of years before the arrival of the Europeans.

Mary Kydd Finlay was probably the first European woman to live in the area. She married David Fraser and they lived on the Sandy Point Run during the 1870s-1880s and raised 5 children.



David and Mary Fraser and family

It must have been a tough and lonely life for her as she had no close neighbours, the closest being in Tarwin Meadows and Yanakie. She did occasionally meet them for a chat and a cup of tea but it was a long journey over rough tracks in a horse and cart.

In 1880s and 1890s most selectors were men. Women were only permitted to select farming land if they were unmarried. Edith and Francis Lowry and Kathleen Griffin all selected land in their own right, building fences, dwellings and making improvements to the land.

Kathleen, who had been a nurse in London, arrived in the area in 1901 and selected land at the head of Shallow Inlet. She called the property 'Loch Shallow' and worked mainly alone, clearing the land and building a home.

She raised turkeys that she drove all the way along the beach to the port of Waratah (now Walkerville South) to sell and transport to Melbourne. Life must have been very hard for her and a real contrast to her life before coming to Australia. She eventually sold her land and returned to Ireland



Kathleen Griffin

The original houses of Sandy Point were built by the Pilkington brothers and their cousin Charlie Griffin when they arrived in Australia around the turn of the century. They later married and their wives worked hard turning the houses into homes and together with their husbands, they built successful farms. Rosa Robertson McFarlane married Dan Pilkington and they lived at 'Doonagatha', built near a hut constructed originally by one of the graziers in the 1860s. Mollie (Mary Hastings Moore) married Fred Pilkington and they lived at 'Gyndahnook' nearby and Evelyn Dewar married Charles Pilkington and lived further south along the track at 'Ennisvale'. Further still along the track at Blue Lookout lived Lilly and Charles Griffin. These women all had children and raised families and many of their descendants still live and farm in the area.



Afternoon tea at Ennisvale - Eve and Charlie Pilkington with baby Haughton, Dan and Rosa Pilkington and family friend

A woman's life in the early days at Sandy Point

There is no doubt that life was tough for women and their families and making a living here was challenging. However, their support of each other and the community they built made it possible to live and thrive. Women took on the unrelenting tasks of dairying and making butter from churning the cream, and growing, gathering and preserving fruit and vegetables. They also looked after their houses, sewed and knitted clothing, provided meals and gave birth to, cared for and educated their children. Their husbands worked the land.

As Vi Pilkington, Mollie and Fred's daughter, describes in her book, *South of Dividing Creek*:

"The arrival of babies to these young mothers in the bush must have been a nerve-wracking time though they seemed to take it all in their stride. Getting close to the hospital in good time entailed a rough buggy ride to the train at Fish Creek, then to Leongatha or Melbourne to stay with relatives or friends until it was time to go to hospital. Then after all the care and professional help, the homecoming, with no telephone, no mothercraft nurses; only themselves entirely responsible."

A State School operated at Sandy Point from 1921-1927, but for some years beforehand school was held in the sitting room at Ennisvale by Evelyn Pilkington, nee Dewer. When the State School closed down, and until the start of the school bus service to Fish Creek and Foster in the 1950s, it then fell back on to the women of the community to once more to organise their children's education.



Sandy Point S.S. No 3986 c1923 Nan, Tom, May, John, Nancy Walters, Peg, Isabel, Ted, Keane, Edith, Vi

When mail delivery and the first telephone line came to Doonagatha in 1929 Rosa Pilkington took on the job of organising their distribution and use. From 1953 Vi Pilkington ran the phone exchange and post office from her kitchen at Gyndahnook. It was eventually relocated to the Sandy Point General Store in the 1970s.

Sometime in the 1950s, Vi also took over the religious education of children that her mother Molly had conducted on Sundays at Gyndahnook for many years. This continued right up until about the 1970s.



Vi Pilkington takes a call in the kitchen telephone exchange, 1964

Despite the isolation and hard work, there were frequent visitors from Melbourne, and many social get-togethers were held, often with music from the family members, many of whom were accomplished singers and musicians. There were also many outings and picnics at the beach.

Tom and Mary Henderson and family moved to Shallow Inlet in 1934 and made a living fishing. They weren't allowed to build permanent dwellings there and so built a house mostly out of driftwood timber. Life was tough for them, but it seems they had a good time socially with the Pilkington families. Margaret (Peg) Pilkington married Roy Charles Henderson and they built a house and lived at the inlet. By all accounts Aunty Peg was an extraordinary woman who created a very loving and warm family home under what were often difficult circumstances. She has been described as 'The Angel of the Inlet'.

In those early days before the advent of modern technology it must have been hard to make a success of farming the land while living in relative isolation. However those of us living now in this wonderful place called Sandy Point can understand why they persisted in trying.

With thanks to contributors to this article: Nicky Walker, Virginia Pilkington, Mary Rose Nichol, Di Cornwell

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**WARATAH BAY
CHARLIE BROWN'S
FREE FAMILY FUN DAY**
Easter Saturday 8 April, 2023
Sand Castle Building Competition is the first event (gather on beach at 9am for 9.30 am start) and followed by Easter Egg Scramble.

All other activities up at the Gale Street Playground:

- Blind Cobblers Thumb (10.30am to 12 noon)
- Doggie Derby (11.45am)
- Novelty Races (3 legged, egg & spoon, sack)
- Parent Races
- Tug of War (last event of day)
- Presentation of shield

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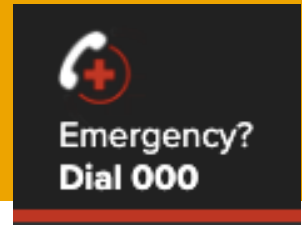
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BRIGADE NEWS



A busy start to 2023

It has been a very busy start to the year for the Fish Creek & District CFA, and unfortunately our members have had to attend many incidents such as fires and road accidents.

We have also had the opportunity to speak with many local people at various community engagement events and have been busy training new members and up skilling our long-standing members. The station has been a very busy place lately. We are still actively looking for new local community minded people to join our brigade, so if you are interested to learn some new skills and help on the fire truck, or have experience with topics such as fundraising, bookkeeping, truck driving, come down and have a chat to us on a Thursday night from 8pm at the Fish Creek Fire Station.



You can stay up to date with what is happening with the Fish Creek & District Fire Rescue CFA by following us on our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/fishcreekcfa/

Smoke alarms

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You are more likely to die in a residential fire without a working smoke alarm.

A working smoke alarm can reduce the risk of death in a residential fire by up to 50%. Smoke alarms can also help you escape a fire in time. They can also help you escape a fire in time. They can also help you escape a fire in time.

Only working smoke alarms save lives.
Change your clock, change your smoke alarm battery when daylight savings ends.

Can I have a barbecue, light a camp fire or light a fire for warmth or comfort?



During Fire Danger Period

No, unless:

- the wind is not more than 10km/h (this can be observed if leaves and small twigs are in constant motion)
- the fire is lit in a **properly-constructed fireplace** or in a trench at least 30 centimetres deep
- the area within a distance of 3 metres from the outer perimeters of the fire and the uppermost point of the fire is clear of flammable material
- the fire does not occupy an area in excess of 1 square metre and the size and dimensions of solid fuel used are the minimum necessary for the purpose
- a person is in attendance at all times while the fire is alight and has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire
- the fire is completely extinguished before the person leaves

Note that the CFA Act 1958 defines, a properly-constructed fireplace as a fireplace that is constructed of stone, metal, concrete or any other non-flammable material that contains the perimeter of the fire. A commercially-produced barbecue or portable gas stove is considered a properly-constructed fireplace.

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spmensshed@gmail.com



The Shed recently held its AGM with some changes to the executive.

The new office bearers are:

- President – Alan Wright
- Vice President – Geoff Grumley and
- Treasurer – Phil Cornwell
- *** We're still looking for a Secretary – are you able to help???? ***

To our retiring President, Ray Henderson, we would like to pass on our thanks for his vision for the original concept and steering the ship over the last 5 years. Ray will continue as a valued member of the committee.

The building fit-out continues with the meeting room plastering and painting complete and lighting and electrical outlets now installed. However we will need some additional funds to complete the flooring and kitchen fit-out and have applied for some grant funding to cover these costs. We've also been busy outside the building with some work to tidy up the native plant garden.

Talking of fund raising, we did manage a very successful sausage sizzle over the holiday period which has helped with the purchase of some materials for the fitout. Thanks to those members directly involved in organising and running the event.

On the project front, the shedders continue to assist with community projects, most recently helping to refurbish display boards and stands for the Community Centre's Annual Art Show.

We are continuing to pursue modifications to our lease arrangements with DEECA that, once implemented, will allow us to proceed with the installation of an Electric Vehicle charger. This will allow us to use the substantial solar array on the shed roof to provide a charging service to visitors to Sandy Point with an EV.

Continuing the theme of renewable energy, we have recently been asked to participate in a potential project to bring an Electric Community bus to SP as one of 4 coastal townships. The concept is that it will be housed at the Men's Shed and use the EV charger and solar array to recharge its batteries. The bus would be available to provide transport for those in the community who are "mobility-disadvantaged". It's early days with a great deal of planning and sourcing of funding yet to be done to make it a reality.

For those interested in joining us, we meet regularly, two mornings a week, Monday and Wednesday 9.00am, at the shed, to work on active projects and also once a month (second Wednesday at 7.30) at the Community Centre to manage the group and discuss and plan future activities. The monthly committee meetings are open to all members to attend.

You can get more details of our activities at www.sandypoint.vic.au 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. Phil Cornwell, SPCMS



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SANDY POINT MUSIC



Coming Up



PRESENT

MATT JOE GOW

ALLY ROW

SATURDAY, 15 APRIL 2023
Sandy Point Community Centre | doors open : 7.15pm

TICKETS VIA TRY BOOKING - LINK AVAILABLE ON SPM FACEBOOK PAGE OR SCAN BELOW

SCAN ME

\$35 ENTRY

Sandy Point Music are mixing it up a bit this year and that includes tearing up the dance floor.

15th April - Matt Joe and Ally Row Doors Open: - 7.15pm

Matt Joe Gow and his trio can be defined by their lush 3-part harmonies, detailed guitar, slide and mandolin playing. They are including SPM as part of their Between Tonight & Tomorrow Album tour.

Ally Row are an indie folk-pop duo changing the narrative of what it means to be 'indie-pop'. The multi-instrumentalists perform velvety harmonies alongside blissful guitar and piano, with lustful, modernised elements of banjo, harmonica and stomp box. This night will be a ripper. Tickets online from [Try Booking Matt Joe Gow](#)

27th May - Sultanas

No support act. Now that's going to be a show with a 7-piece dance band from Gippsland. Lets do it! Save the date and check back on our Facebook page for the ticket release.

www.facebook.com/sandypointmusic/



June - Local Vocals

A Friday night community event. Keep an eye on the Facebook page for details.

July - No Gig – what no gig! Yep it will be cold and we all want to snuggle in. However absolutely keep your eyes open for the September gig.

September - Minnie Marks and Kathleen Halloran.

This will be like no other with two acts. Look them up and think Susie Quatro. Some really slick guitar work. We will be in the dance floor for sure. Cant wait!

Looking Back

January - Kerryn Fields Trio and Fiona Curram as the support was a double treat. It was arguably one of the best nights SPM has ever hosted.

Fiona's solo performance was next level thanks to her variety and range in her voice. We love our talented locals. Then Kerryn with her trio took command of the stage and literally blew us away. The country folk singer songwriter puts her own twist on her tunes with her unique voice, varied vocals cords, a genuine heart, a fabulous sense of humor and a blue hat.

The story goes, that we all passed our audition and got a job as back up chorus singers for Kerryn for the track, Mamma's going to see you right, except for the screecher in the front row.





facebook.com/
sandypointmusic

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SANDY POINT MUSIC



Looking Back

February - Tay Oskee and Brook Street

It was the ultimate variety show with Brook Street and Tay Oskee. Two acts but in the end one blended show with delightful twists.

The multi-talented Jason and Hannah, the duo behind Brook Street started the night. After the break, the three of them jumped on stage and treated us to a night of outstanding music.

Stand-alone musicians all in their own right, clearly, but put the three of them together and wow! They rotated around the drums, guitars, bongos, keyboard, and singing whilst sharing their personal stories. The whistling nearly stole the show until Tay sang Black Smoke which started the dancing. It was magic.

March - Philip Beggs and Jungle Jim Smith.

A terrific night and a total pile on for the South Gippsland Luuurrrvvve Fest. Not only did we have fantastic music with Phil Beggs from Korumburra and Jungle Jim Smith from Toora but we also had local wood fired Pizza by Michael, the local baker and a raffle to support the South Gippy Hospital.

Phil Beggs kicked off the night followed by Jungle Jim Smith who didn't waste a minute getting the crowd on their feet and that's where they stayed for the rest of the night playing his gritty electric blues and garage tunes that rolled into an encore that topped off the night. The 3 string cigar box was something else.

That's it from SPM

See you in the mosh pit.

words and photography by Donna Killeen photography



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ELECTRIFYING SANDY POINT

Some of you may have watched the recent ABC 'Australian Story' episode featuring Dr Saul Griffith. Saul is an eminent engineer, climate scientist, and entrepreneur who recently returned to Australia from the US where he advised the US President and Congress on how to transition America to renewable energy. His work culminated in the passing of a historic bill which allocated significant money for the 'electrification' of the US.

Now back in Australia, Saul is proposing the same pathway to a 'green' future for Australia. In summary, his approach is to switch all electricity generation to renewables, and change out all fossil-fuel burning machines and appliances to the electric equivalent. He advocates that the transition can be funded by Government eliminating the rebates and royalties enjoyed by the fossil fuel industry then allocating this additional revenue towards the transition. To demonstrate the potential for change, he has launched a 'Rewiring 2515' project in his home post code. The project has generated significant grass-roots enthusiasm and significant State government funding.

If we have gas appliances in our homes, we can accelerate the 'Rewiring' of Sandy Point by replacing these with new electric appliances when we buy new ones. Replacing gas stoves with an induction stovetop, or a

gas hot water service with an electric heat pump offers environmental and cost benefits. Induction stoves provide quick warm-up and heat control similar to gas, and hot water heat pumps are much more efficient than gas-fired hot water. Solar Vic are currently offering a \$1000 rebate on eligible heat pump systems.

AUSNET PRICE-RESET PROCESS

Every five years each electricity distribution company makes application to the Australian Energy Regulator to reset their prices. They are obligated to consult with stakeholders as part of this process. This time, Sandy Point has a representative on the 'Network Availability', 'Future Networks', and 'Prices and Tariffs' stakeholder panels. We are aiming to represent the interest of Sandy Point as an 'end of line' rural township with desires to become more energy independent. The consultation process will proceed over the next two years in readiness for the 2025-2029 pricing period.

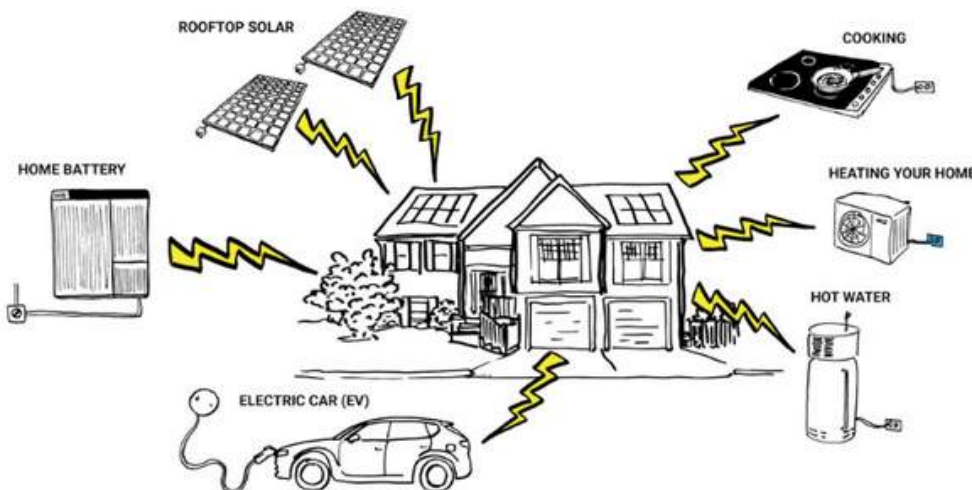
The 'Availability' panel has been formed with an initial focus on electricity supply 'reliability' and 'resilience', where 'resilience' is defined as the readiness to respond quickly to major outages, typically caused by a

natural disaster such as fire, flood or storm. Discussion has already highlighted the trade-offs between improving reliability and/or resilience, and cost of electricity. AusNet 'recovers' the costs of improving the grid through the network charge in our electricity bill. This cost recovery is spread across all AusNet customers, so for example, we would all pay a small portion of the cost of an improvement in the eastern Victoria grid even though we gain no direct benefit, and visa-versa.

AusNet currently selects improvement projects based on assessed benefits taking into account factors such as the performance of each feeder line and the number of customers affected. So, given that our electricity feeder line meets its reliability target, and given that our town is not in the highest bushfire risk zone, and given that the impacted population is small, there was no enhancement work on our feeder identified in the current 2021-2025 AusNet plan.

In future months we will have the opportunity to communicate proposals being considered as part of the price-reset process to solicit your feedback. One question we're sure to ask you is, if the rules allowed, are you prepared to pay a higher network tariff to fund specific local project/s that directly improve either the reliability or resilience of our electricity supply or our energy independence, that would not otherwise be funded?

Meanwhile the scope of the 'Future Networks' panel will include understanding the expected impact of a raft of new Government energy policies, then looking over AusNet's forecasts of future power demand and the impact on the grid of trends in uptake of; solar panels, home batteries, 'smart devices' (eg. Air conditioners/hot water systems, that have the capability to be programmed to operate dependent on the state of the electricity grid), electric vehicles, and importantly for us, community energy projects.



Infographic from <https://electrify2515.org/>



This is an exciting panel to be represented on as it will be discussing fundamental and much needed changes to the way our electricity system works. We will have a say in how the system is modernised to reflect a different operating model. The 'Prices and Tariffs' panel kicks off in early April.

EV CHARGER FOR SANDY POINT

While Sandy Point's EV charger has now been delivered to the Men's Shed, frustratingly at the time of writing, they are still waiting for approval of an amendment to their lease with DEWLP (now DEECA) for the install of the charger outside the shed. SPCP continues to provide support to the 'Shed' as we attempt to get the required change across the line.

COMMUNITY EV MINI-BUS PROJECT

SPCP have been invited to join representatives from three other Gippsland towns to explore the feasibility of having a community EV mini-bus allocated to each town. The mini-bus could be used to transport community members, their families and friends to local attractions and events, or to bring people here from surrounding locations. Providing a regular 'shopping' service to Leongatha or Foster is another potential use. We have opened discussions with the Men's Shed about ongoing operation and management of the bus should the project proceed. Our first task is to develop a business case for the project. To this end, we'd welcome your ideas and views about this concept.

MARINUS LINK INFORMATION SESSIONS AT SANDY POINT

Marinus Link will hold drop-in information sessions in Sandy Point at the Community Centre on Thursday, 13 April – 5:00-7:00pm and Saturday, 15 April – 9:00-11:00am

There is no need to RSVP to any of the drop-in sessions, however you will need to register to access the webinars. They will have a range of information and maps at both, as well as subject matter experts to answer your questions and listen to your feedback. Learn more at marinuslink.com.au/engagement/ or email team@marinuslink.com.au

The crew at Sandy Point Community Power
 Email: energy@sandypoint.vic.au
www.sandypoint.vic.au/community-power

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Wildlife in Sandy Point

Learn more: www.sandypoint.vic.au/koalas

Future Events

15 April "A Whale of a Time" David Donnelly marine mammal expert and host of Two Bay Whale Watch and Killer Whale Australia Citizen Science hubs will talk about whale migration and research as well as present a children's session on marine animals. Starting 2:30 at SPCC.

There will also be a roast spit at the main beach and later that night a concert organized by Sandy Point Music [Click here for the flyer](#) - sandypoint.vic.au/events/wisp-15apr2023

Animal Welfare

WiSP has taken on a communication and information role during summer with regard to the hooded plovers. We've provided flyers (with maps and instruction) and have had posters produced and placed at main beach entrances. WiSP and Birdlife Australia had an article about the hoodies published in the Mirror in order to further spread the word. We have a strategy for next breeding season regarding signage, posters, communication and path clearing so a program can be implemented to aid the hoodies in a proactive ongoing manner. This was a collaborative effort involving several agencies and the poster alone involved over six hands on people to get photos and the map made. The design time for the poster was donated and we appreciate the input and guidance of Birdlife Australia.

Fortunately it's been a slow period for rescue/response. The mangy wombat has disappeared (either died or moved out of the area) and a new wombat has taken over the burrow (discovered using the field camera). Another dead seal pup was reported and a shearwater was taken to the vet where it was euthanized due to a broken leg.

A new injured/sick animal response contact list has been issued, distributed and posted. [You can find the link here](#) - sandypoint.vic.au/groups-and-organisations/#WiSP

Results of recent monitoring with the field cameras has confirmed what people already know. There are significant numbers of foxes in in the Reserve and in the Village. We've captured images of gliders in two areas and koalas and wombat were also identified in different areas. Multiple swamp wallabies and large grey kangaroos have been photographed in the Reserve as would be expected in a banksia woodland. We used the field cameras to try to find the mangy wombat so their usefulness has been expanded.

Habitat Rehabilitation

The Habitat Program has developed a trial rehabilitation project in the Shallow Inlet Coastal Reserve. The area, chosen around the picnic table at the inlet end of the Roy Henderson Track, contains some remnant banksia woodland and coastal scrub. The area also contains a heavy load of invasive weeds and a weed map has been produced. The first volunteer activity days involved removal of English ivy from banksias, surveying older banksias and protecting young banksias from browsers by erecting tree guards. The group is looking to secure funding for ongoing works.

Community Engagement

WiSP held a koala survey between 26 Dec – 2 January. We had a great deal of participation with 74 separate observations identifying between 30-40 individual koalas. 7-9 mum and joey pairs were reported as well as two koalas on or very near the road. On 7 January WiSP held a raffle at the Foodies Market with Marg Grumley's quilt as the top prize (\$100 gift voucher from Wildlife Coast Cruises for 2nd and a Birdslife Calendar for 3rd), All three winners received their prizes without redraw.

On 8 January 2023 WiSP held an Information Event. The event started with a children's session that included a presentation with images that were captured with our new field cameras. It was interactive and the young participants were asked to identify the animals and talk about whether they had a pouch and whether or not they were Australian. The kids were then invited to look at the field cameras and a display of common animal scat and perhaps a bird pellet. Colouring and mask making were also available whilst parents attended the other sessions.

The Habitat program had live or freshly picked examples of weeds, indigenous and introduced plants displayed. They held a discussion about how to improve the natural environment in Sandy Point.

The last session was a summary of the koalas survey results with the submitted photos of koalas presented. Merchandise, which included show bags, beanies and totes; a sausage sizzle and donated donuts were all apart of fundraising during the event which netted \$960 all of which is earmarked for the Habitat Program. [For the Koala Survey Results click here](#) - sandypoint.vic.au/koalas

- If you want to see or post Sandy Point area wildlife please become a member of our Facebook notice board here. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/364325165518116/>
- If you want to be on the WiSP email distribution list please contact us on wildlifeinsandypoint@gmail.com
- If you want to support our Wildlife in Sandy Point program please make a direct donation to the account with:

Pay id: wildlifeinsandypoint@gmail.com ...or

WiSP
BSB: 633 000
Acct: 161 432 976

Thank you for your continued support and interest.
The WiSP Team



WHALE

of a Time

Guest presenter Dave Donnelly

Saturday
April 15
2023

Get ready to witness, and help record, the next whale migration season

SANDY POINT
COMMUNITY CENTRE



Spit Roast 11:00am

Fundraiser at the main beach entrance.



Kids' Activity 2:30pm

In this marine mammals interactive session, Dave and co will have fun with the children identifying different marine mammals, testing their knowledge with fun facts, as well as colouring and displays.



Presentation 3:00pm

Dave will present research findings, explain the Two Bays Whale Project and its relevance to the Bass Coast, Cape Liptrap and The Prom. He will also talk about the importance of citizen science and how we can get involved in time for the start of the whale migration season.

SANDY POINT
MUSIC



8:00pm

TwoBays
Whale Project



Sandy Point HOODED PLOVERS breeding season 2022/23

Hooded Plovers survive and attempt to breed on exposed ocean beaches of Australia in an extraordinarily harsh environment.

They have evolved over millennia to survive these extremes of wind, tide and storms as well as natural predators. Relatively recently in the sands of time Europeans arrived— resulting in reduced habitat, introduction of feral animals such as foxes and use of the hoodies' home beaches by humans who increasingly flock there during summer.

Study of Hooded Plovers undertaken by BirdLife Australia's research program indicated that numbers were dropping precipitously, so the population was in grave danger of disappearing altogether. Importantly for our Hoodies, data collection showed breeding success can be improved by education of the community, monitoring, and introduction of active management by responsible authorities which give the breeding pairs space in their home. They can then more effectively protect their nests and flightless chicks from natural forces and predators undistracted by humans.

Here at Sandy Point it is estimated that fewer than 2.5% of Hoodie breeding efforts result in adulthood. On beaches with active management success rate has risen to 40%. This breeding season at Sandy Point a pair established a new breeding territory close to Horse Track exit. Their first 3 nestings, each with 3 eggs laid in a scrape on bare sand at the top of the narrow beach were brief and human and dog foot prints were found over and around the empty nest sites. It's unknown if these attempts failed due to unwitting trampling of nests underfoot and/or eggs taken by off-leash dogs. Perhaps distraction of the parents by passing humans and dogs allowed natural predators to steal eggs while the pair tried to divert attention of the intruders (ie, us).

The ultimate outcome of Horse Track Hoodies 4th nest attempt within a fenced-off area is outlined in updates on the SPCG website at sandypoint.vic.au/latest-news/hoodies This documents the saga from due date of hatching following 4 weeks of incubation (including fun run at low tide below fenced area, plus the miraculous rescue of eggs which rolled away at the height of the storm surge battering Sandy Point), to the anxious wait during the week following due date wondering if the eggs were still viable. The community at Sandy Point can be congratulated for choices made by individuals supporting the determined effort of this plucky pair.



Our next challenge is to increase awareness within our community so that monitoring and resultant management including BirdLife Australia signage and fencing of the nest areas is more effective, allowing the breeding pair to focus on protection of nests, and then newly-hatched flightless chicks for 5 weeks while they forage for themselves on the wet sand. These parents are fiercely protective and fend off predators far larger than themselves, but cannot prevent trampling of their camouflaged chicks or eggs by humans, or off-leash dogs sniffing out and eating them unnoticed by their companion owners. It's up to us to make it our business to know about and protect these birds if we want them to exist and thrive in their own homes.



*Hoodie nest on the Sandy Point spit.
Can you spot the eggs?*



On the rest of the spit more breeding pairs were reported and lodged on the Birdlife Australia portal, many with nests, a few freshly-hatched tiny chicks, as well as near-fledgeling chicks. This photo of a fledgeling seen last week on the spit was taken by Jonathon Stevenson who trained BirdLife Australia volunteers in responsible monitoring protocols to avoid harm while gathering data and informing public of presence of breeding pairs. Although we sighted fledgelings earlier in the season in the breeding territories, very few of our Hoodies are banded, so we cannot be sure if these juveniles bred on the spit or flew across from Cotters Beach on Wilson's Promontory.

Over the last month Horse Track pair was observed intermittently foraging around the fenced area- if they find it suitable to nest here in the upcoming breeding season we may again enjoy the privilege of sharing this beach. Every small step we take to support the Hooded Plover breeding attempts will also help those numerous shore-birds which make this extraordinarily rich area their home.

Article by Wendy Hayes, with assistance and photos by Jonathon Stevenson.

For more information go to ...

- Birdlife Australia Beach Nesting Birds Program <https://birdlife.org.au/programs/beach-nesting-birds/>
- South Gippsland Landcare Network Hooded Plover Protection Project <https://www.sgln.net.au/2023/01/28/hooded-plover-protection/>



Above: Adult with chicks
Right: Fledgeling, grey-headed juvenile

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SANDY POINT FORESHORE
Committee of Management



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The Sandy Point Foreshore Committee had a very busy summer looking after the visitors who have come to the area to enjoy our great assets.

As all would see when going to the Main Beach we have been undertaking erosion fencing works and replanting, which is just about complete, with a successful grant application from DEECA. (previously DELWP). The previous fenced area has proven to be very successful and thus gave us a head start in getting further funds in the competitive grant process.

We have just recently been successful in another grant application to undertake the timber walkway replacements to both the Main beach and Ned Neals walkways. These have been deteriorating very quickly recently and those that use these walkways will have seen failures and subsequent repairs being completed. The replacements will give some longevity to these well used assets.

For those that are familiar with the WiSP (Wildlife in Sandy Point) group they are providing support to the Committee with regards to weed eradication to areas on the Roy Henderson track near the Shallow Inlet end and the work undertaken by the volunteers is greatly appreciated. The Committee manages 624Ha of reserve and weeds are a major issue that the Committee is robustly pursuing funding for a major eradication project. No success yet but we continue to push.

Again Dogs on beaches have been an issue during the summer period but most pet owners have understood the problem and have supported our aim to keep them away from the general public on the beach at certain times of the year.

The Committee thanks all volunteers who have given some of their time to assist us and for anyone who is interested in learning more about what we do and who would like to get involved please contact us via sandypointforeshore@gmail.com The Committee.



Fancy a slow and companionable walk down the trail stopping on occasions to dig out small weeds from the track side?

When: Saturday 8th April 2023
(Easter Saturday)
9 am till 10.30 am

followed by morning tea
at the picnic table on the trail
Where: meet on Sandy Point Rd
where the trail crosses the road

What to bring: nothing -
hand tools and bags provided
Wear: solid footwear, hat, sun protection

RSVP to sandypointhabitat@gmail.com for catering purposes





The Sandy Point Community Garden has provided a source of information to improve the knowledge of garden members in the importance of food growing. It has enhanced a sense of community interaction with holiday makers, permanent residents and kids participating too. Community response is heart-warming to see.

Thanks to all our enthusiastic supporters who have cared for the garden over the blustery summer. To the community who have gained some produce, donated money, and deposited food scraps to the composter. To the Sandy Point Shop, Tommo, Jerry, Millie, and others for their support in selling both the shopping bags and vegie bags as a fund-raiser. Lastly to Marg and her supporters at the Fish Creek Composter who have generously shared their "rocket juice" to encourage our plants to thrive and grow. Thanks also to Juneen at Buckley Park Community Garden for her advice, support, seed, and seedlings, and to Amanda for her advice and support.

Happy Food Growing Everyone..
For more information about the Community Garden, call Liz 0438 447 667.



Kim Pammer
Garden Design

kimpammer@gmail.com
0488992779

Profile

Kim grew up in rural Victoria where much of her childhood was spent exploring the bush and enjoying the freedom of living in the country. As a graduate from Burnley Horticultural College, Melbourne University, her love of the outdoors is reflected in her design work, where she aims to create spaces that are not only beautiful but encourage a connection with nature and are individual to each situation. She mainly uses natural materials and plants suited to the local conditions. The outcome is a garden that not only meets the clients' needs, but also has meaning and helps create a 'sense of place.'



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Tour de Prom



On 18/19 March, top notch cycling club Luna Riders again headed to Sandy Point for "Tour de Prom", a weekend of cycling in South Gippsland. 18 Luna Riders joined 11 Waratah Worriers to cycle the Toora Hills and Walkerville. The Luna Riders picked up valuable skills from the Waratah Worriers superior discipline and cycling techniques on the country roads. Sandy Point local, Greg Johnson took off the top cycling award for the weekend.



Waratah Worriers is a social cycling group from Sandy Point and Waratah Bay.

For more information or to join contact Linda 0459 036 086. Everyone welcome.

Prom Coast Pack Runs



The 18th Prom Coast Pack Run will be held along the beach at Sandy Point on Easter Sunday.

It is a low tide but who knows what wind we will get.

There will be a short briefing on the beach at 8.20am and there is a 5k run or walk and a 10k run on offer. The 10k run will be 2 laps of the 5k course.

As with all these events they are FREE and held every 3-4 weeks throughout the year, mostly along the Great Southern Rail Trail. Information is posted on most community Facebook pages plus there is a [PROM COAST PACK RUN Facebook page](#) as well. Hope to see you here or at one of the other events. Cheers, Craig.



Waratah Beach SLSC

THANK YOU

We're nearing the end of the summer season, but there is still much happening at Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club. We hope that we'll continue to see many of you around the clubhouse in the coming weeks before we settle in to a beautiful Sandy Point winter.

In this edition you'll find updates on a few of the events that were hosted at the club including the 60th anniversary celebration and the Current Cruiser, as well as a wrap up of the Nippers program which continues to grow.

We welcome everyone to join us for a drink, fish and chips and to listen to the wonderful Fiona Curram over the The Easter long weekend – see the calendar for more information!

The club would like to acknowledge the many wonderful volunteers who dedicated hours of their time over the past few months, and to the community and visitors who supported the club and all of the events and activities!

If you have any feedback on our events, or suggestions for next summer which will be with us before we know it – please don't hesitate to reach out to news@waratahbeach.com.au.



NOTICES

Public Access Track

The Club is now responsible for maintenance of the main public access track from the toilet block near the shops over to the clubhouse and down to the beach. We will be doing some fundraising over Easter in order to complete much needed maintenance work this winter, so whether you are a resident or visitor who uses the beach please support us if you can.

De-fib Info Sessions

If you ever wondered what a de-fibrillator was and when to use it, watch out for notices over Easter and join in for less than half an hour while our active members show you what it is and how it works!





SUMMER ROUND UP

We were delighted to welcome so many members of the community to the club over the summer period! Thank you to everyone who visited the club house for a drink and fish & chips, who swam or assisted with the 5th annual Current Cruiser, supported Nippers, enjoyed a delicious spit roast, or came along to any other activities which featured on our growing events calendar. Here is the wrap up of just a few of the club's Summer events.

THE CURRENT CRUISER

New Year's Day brought ideal conditions for the fifth annual WIN Network Current Cruiser to Shallow Inlet. Members of the WBSLSC gathered boards, first aid kits, tents and IRBs in readiness for providing water safety for the swim. While this was going on the Waratah Marine Search and Rescue volunteers were laying out 15 new buoys along the shore at the inlet to mark the course.

The water was clear and swimmers were supported by the friendly outgoing tide. This year's swim ran like clockwork and saw our largest cohort of starters - over 170 registrations! Through the generosity of sponsors and participants, we raised around \$22,000 for the club which will go towards essential safety equipment, facility maintenance and volunteer training.

A huge thank you to the sponsors, and all those who volunteered in the lead up and pitched in with registration, moving toilets, tents, and with the presentation ceremony after the event. The club is particularly grateful to the local community members and groups for their support of the event and help with promotion.

We're looking forward to another ripper event in 2024!

60th ANNIVERSARY BASH

What a wonderful evening we had in January to celebrate the club's 60th year - meeting with old friends, and sharing memories that have remained strong through the years.

We were delighted that we had so many past and current members attend, representing various stages of the club's history and development, each having made unique and significant contributions over many years.

Many people - all volunteers - worked tirelessly to prepare for this event in the months before. Thank you to all, and of course, to everyone who came along to re-connect and reminisce!

If you have stories and photos that haven't yet been captured - can we please encourage you to reach out to the club at news@waratahbeach.com.au.

Every memory is important to the fabric of the club and as we look to capture a more comprehensive history of the club, we need your help (particularly if you've been around the club since the 1980s!).



SUMMER ROUND UP... continued

NIPPERS

Our Nippers Program continues to grow, and this season saw 220 Nippers registered – a rise of 12% from the previous record. Over the summer, we ran eight sessions. As you'd expect at Sandy Point, we experienced the full range of conditions – blustery and beautiful, overcast and big waves, even a few perfect board days.

Every year we marvel at the development of the Nippers and their willingness to give new activities a go. For our littlest Nippers this may mean putting your head under water. For our older Nippers it means stretching their skills by swimming out further. Our focus this season was on introducing Nippers to the many opportunities for development that are available in life-saving. This included engaging with the Life Guards and MSAR, watching the IRBs and jet skis in action, and we even met with Matt from the Marine Mammal Foundation to learn about dolphins and other local marine life!

We welcomed our grandparents and special friends to join us for morning tea and see their Nippers in action! We rounded out the season with the Club Championship, with 140 Nippers vying for the infamous Nipper of the Year title!

So many volunteers are required to make our Nippers program a success – we'd like to thank everyone who helps in and out of the water!





MSAR UPDATE

Thankfully, it has been a quiet season for rescues in the region, but very busy with training nonetheless. Throughout the summer period the new boat spent many hours in all sorts of weather in Shallow Inlet, Waratah Bay and off Wilsons Promontory. Launch and retrieval practice in mixed conditions and tides, man overboard, towing, navigation and mapping with the network connected Furuno, understanding the FLIR camera and radar and, of course, bar crossings in a new vessel and skipper training kept us all busy.

Community engagement was high on the agenda for Waratah MSAR over summer, being active both on the water and off. Amongst other things we took all LSV Development Camp attendees from across the district for a tour of the vessel and a trip out over the bar to explain inherent hazards, we took the boat to nippers for all of the kids to climb on board (keeping them off the sirens and horn was a full time focus), we helped with logistics for the sandcastle competition and community group BBQ at the surf carnival. These were all very enjoyable and we look forward to helping out more in the future with local groups where we can. We will also be providing on-water support for the Good Friday Walkerville Walrus swim.

On the 26th March, the vessel was involved in a simulated search-training exercise with many other emergency service units inside and across Port Phillip Bay. This was particularly valuable for our newer recruits in further developing search and rescue skills, better understanding the capabilities of our new vessel's technology, and building sector relationships.

We have new full set of specialised wet weather gear but hopefully the weather will be nice and this will be not needed.

Twelve months ago our government-funded volunteer MSAR service shifted from being

managed by WBSLSC on behalf of LSV, to being managed directly by LSV and understandably, we were unsure of what this would mean for the service. Happily we report that we are no longer frustrated by previous grant and funding management requirements and other communication challenges and are able to focus on training and situational preparedness. Unbeknownst to us, the previous vessel had significant structural damage and once identified, LSV worked with EMV to source another suitable vessel. What we have now is a 2-year-old Gemini RHIB which is larger, smoother, more stable, more powerful, with improved design that carries state of the art tech to aid rescues and keep volunteers safe, to replace the Andrew Cope which served the service and the community incredibly well for some 20 years.

The operational change from WBSLSC to LSV oversight meant our valued and experienced contingent of local members respectfully chose to stand aside for the time being, with the remaining volunteers (not full time residents) keeping the MSAR service operational. The consequence of this is that Waratah MSAR presently operates in a limited capacity, but the upside is that Sandy Point gets to retain a rescue vessel and MSAR service in readiness for any potential positive changes in the future.

We extend an open invitation to locals and non-locals alike to join the service, or check it out. We are a friendly bunch of committed volunteers who are eager to provide the best level of service, albeit currently limited, to the local boating community. If the Waratah MSAR is able to support the assorted Sandy Point interest groups in any way please do not hesitate to let us know, we look forward to working with you to grow our standing in the community.

Safe boating everyone!



EASTER WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Please join us at the club for a drink, some fish & chips and to enjoy the wonderful Fiona Curram over the Easter long weekend.

April
7

 The Warabar will be open 4-8.30pm

 Fish & Chips available from 5pm


April
8

 The Warabar will be open 4-8.30pm

 Fish & Chips available from 5pm

April
9

Thank You Volunteer 'Thank You' event 4-6pm (bar closed to public until 6pm)

 The Warabar will be open from 6 pm

 The amazing Fiona Curram will be playing for us all to enjoy

 Fish & Chips available from 6pm





Photo by Marco Hoefler

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Sandy Point Road Safe Path Initiative

Comments Form

If you would like to make a comment(s) about the Sandy Point Safe Path initiative or would like to share a relevant experience on this road (between Telopea Drive and Ennisvale Avenue), please record this / these below.

**Use the back of this form or an additional blank page if more space is required*

Supplying your name and address is optional.

Name	Address

We may include any comments you make in the information we provide to Council in relation to this petition. We will keep this information on file for as long as the primary reason for collection remains open, but not more than seven years.

If you give permission for your name and the suburb where you live, being supplied in conjunction with your comment, please tick this box.

Have you considered becoming a member of the Sandy Point Community Group Inc? Membership costs \$15 for an individual and \$25 for two members of a family at the same address.

Go to sandypoint.vic.au/membership to become a member.