

Sandy Point

Sandy Point Community Group



NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter



Photo credit: G.Scott

Sandy Memories

Memories are always in the making, and Sandy Point is the setting for wonderful memories, both recent and of times long ago. Its natural beauty enriches our fun with family and friends, sometimes the serenity of our solitude, and always our love of this place and the planet.

In this newsletter Ian McKay shares some personal recollections and photos of early days, from the 1950s, in Sandy Point, see pages 5-6.

In previous newsletters local researcher Nicky Walker has investigated Sandy Point history through our "What's in a name?" series. More will come in future newsletters, and will also be published as a blog on our website. Check out Sandy Point History at www.sandypoint.vic.au/history.

Adding to our appreciation of times past in Sandy Point, we have recently been awarded a grant to install historical interpretive signs in the T.P. Taylor Reserve. See page 4 for details.

If you would be willing to share your memories or photos of Sandy Point we would love to hear from you. Please email news@sandypoint.vic.au.

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

Spring into activity

Go for a run

Join the Pack Runs
- page 20-21



Jump on your bike

Join the Waratah Worriers
- page 16



Dive in for a swim

Sign up for Current Cruiser
- page 17



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

... at a glance

What's on in Sandy Point

Learn more at www.sandypoint.vic.au/events



SEP
17

SP Music - Jordie Lane

17 Sep 2022 · 7:15 pm - 11:00 pm



SEP
23

Roy Henderson Trail Weeding Activity

23 Sep 2022 · 10:00 am - 12:00 pm



OCT
29

SP Music - James Bennett

29 Oct 2022 · 7:15 pm - 11:00 pm



OCT
30

WiSP Information Session

30 Oct 2022 · 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm



NOV
19

SP Music - save the date

19 Nov 2022 · 7:15 pm - 11:00 pm



DEC
10

SP Music - save the date

10 Dec 2022 · 7:15 pm - 11:00 pm



DEC
16

Community Gathering

16 Dec 2022 · 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



DEC
29

Sandcastle Competition

29 Dec 2022 · 9:30 am - 11:30 am (TBC)



JAN
1

Current Cruiser, WBSLSC

1 Jan 2023 · Shallow Inlet, mid-morning (TBC)



JAN
7

Foodies & Artisans Market

7 Jan 2023 · 4:00 pm -



JAN
21

AGM of the Sandy Point Community Group (SPCG)

21 Jan 2023 · 10:00 am - 11:00 am (TBC)



APR
8-10

Easter Art Show

8 Apr 2023 - 10 Apr 2023



Learn more at www.sandypoint.vic.au/events



SPCG *President's Report*



Whilst one could think that winter is the quiet time when everyone hibernates and seeks the comfort of their fireplaces, the SPCG committee have continued to strive towards making significant progress in our ongoing projects and addressing current issues. This has involved networking with MPs, Council, key stakeholders and liaising with other Sandy Point groups. We have held several successful ZOOM meetings and are in regular (sometimes constant!) email and phone contact.

I also attended an informative online (via TEAMS) Community Planning Network Workshop run by the South Gippsland Shire Council Community Strengthening Team which provided the opportunity to learn of the progress with other local community groups' plans. Vicki Bradley, SGSC Social Planning Officer gave a summary of the latest ABS Census data and how it related to our towns and Rhys Matulis, SGSC Coordinator Governance, spoke of the Council Plan 2022 – 2026 and Council Vision and how both documents were created, the engagement process and the advocacy role Council highlights as a priority for Community Plans. See additional info:

- Census 2021 contributed by Di Cornwell, page 7-8
- Community Engagement, page 4

At our recent committee meeting we set dates for:

- Sandcastle Competition and Sausage Sizzle Thurs 29th December 2022
- Foodies & Artisan Market Sat 7th January 2023
- AGM Proposed for Sat 21 January 2023 (To be confirmed as we are in the process of applying for an extension from Community Affairs Victoria to continue with a Jan AGM).

The SPCG subs groups have been going from strength to strength: see update reports from:

- Signage Group, page 4
- Wildlife in Sandy Point (WiSP), page 24
- Community Garden, page 27
- Sandy Point Music, page 9

You will find that this Spring Newsletter contains many informative and interesting articles and updates of SPCG and other Sandy Point Groups achievements. As my family purchased 'a block' in Ennisvale Ave in the late 1950s, I particularly enjoyed reading Ian Mc Kay's story and could relate to many of his memories. I also admire the work of the various Sandy Point groups and their persistence in overcoming barriers to reach their goals, which at times requires patience and continued advocacy. We are very appreciative of all our volunteers who give up their time and share their expertise to the benefit of our community. Please consider offering support to any of our groups where you can as it can be very rewarding, and even the occasional helping hand can make a difference.

New Website – We are delighted with how the website is shaping up and have reaped the benefits of the streamlined processes. Still a work in progress and any feedback/suggestions are always welcome.

As the September School Holidays are upon us, please be extra mindful on our shared roads and enjoy all that Sandy Point brings!

Anne Kinne, President SPCG

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

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Grant success!
Historical Interpretive Signage

SPCG was successful in winning a grant through the Public Records Office of Victoria Local History Grants Program to produce and install two historical interpretive panels adjacent to the Community Centre within the TP Taylor Reserve.

Panel 1 will highlight the township's early settlers from the 1890s - 1940s, including the important, but often unrecognised, endeavours of women in the early settlement, community buildings and facilities, community groups

Panel 2 will highlight the development of the Sandy Point Township from the 1940s to present, including, Playground Estates, sale of housing blocks, business precinct, caravan park, tennis courts and town halls.

The SPCG Signage Committee will collate content and images across the coming months.

Michelle Jelleff, for the Signage Committee

Looking forward

We look forward to Council's community consultation with our township

Many of us have noticed change in South Gippsland over the last decades which has accelerated with and post Covid. Our new Council and relatively new executive team have been very much on the front foot and the Council Plan and its strategies show us how Council is thinking about social, environmental, economic and infrastructure issues. These strategies, well implemented, should have a positive impact on our shire and township.

Extract from the Council Plan ...

Why this Plan?

South Gippsland is a place to love and protect, a varied and spectacular place with 28 unique towns, villages and hamlets and 28 passionate communities.

We are producers and land managers; practical, entrepreneurial, creative people who love our environment and way of life.

The purpose of this Council Plan is to identify our growth and change priorities and challenges, and outline how we are going to address them.

Central to this Council Plan is our support of community-led solutions. Our communities know what they need, to find opportunities for change and to keep the values and character of their towns intact.

We will work collaboratively and respectfully with our communities to deliver this Council Plan as we continue to grow and adapt.

It is a living document that Council will review each year and develop Major Initiatives, funded through the Budget, to progress the Plan.

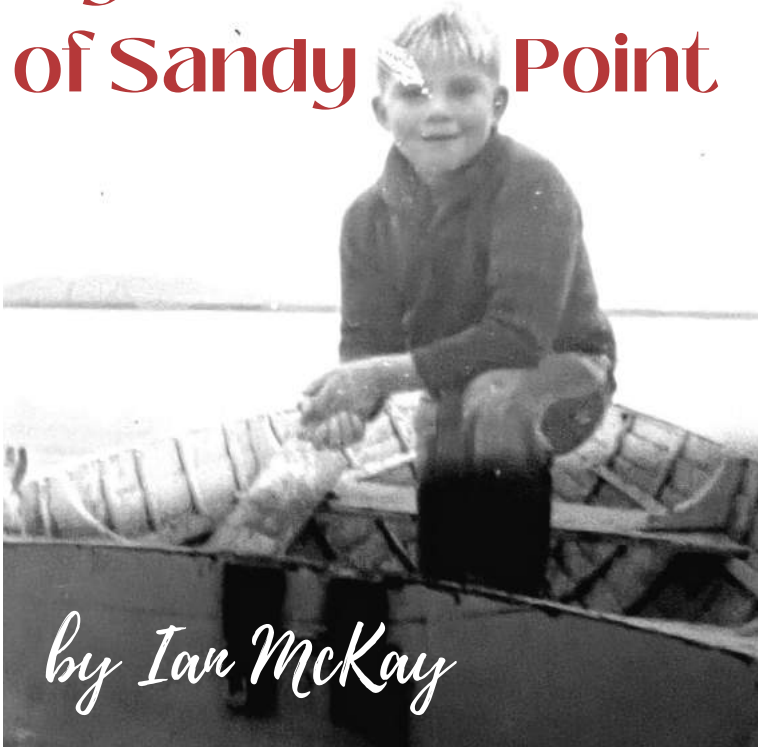
- [Council Plan 2022-2026](#)
- [Shire and Community Statistics](#)
- [Community Vision 2040](#)
- [Great Southern Rail Trail Visitor Experience and Marketing Plan 2022-2031](#)
- [Environmental Sustainability Strategy Framework 2021](#)
- [Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Strategy 2022 - 2026](#)

The SPCG has been liaising with Council and its helpful and enthusiastic officers as we seek to understand how these strategies will impact our township and hinterland and then, with Council, plan for that in a way that is not detrimental.

We encourage you to read these strategies and keep an eye on Council's website for other emerging work.

When the time comes we look forward to Council's community consultation with our township.

My Memories of Sandy Point



By Ian McKay

My Uncle, Ken Barkas, was in the 39th Battalion that fought on Kokoda. It was in the army during WW2 that he met Bill Henderson, who prior to this helped out his family that fished and netted the Shallow inlet. My Aunty who will be 100 in August recalled Bill inviting Ken and the family down to Sandy Point towards the end of 1958. She recalled how all the roads were unmade and how they would take Ken's Brick Truck from Melbourne and because they had 3 children at that stage and no room for them in the cabin, Ken would make up a seat for them on the tray and then pack stuff around them so they wouldn't fall off. She recalled there being just the beach, no Caravan Park and remembered just two families, the Hendersons and the Bowrons who lived on Blue Meadows. My younger brother Ross became friends with Rick Bowron and when he stayed at our place his pet cockatoos would fly over for a visit.

My Uncle Ken purchased a block in Anderson Ave which at the time, my dad wrote in his memoirs, was previously called Henderson Ave and was next door to my Dad's good friend Bert Caton who built the first house on the Estate. Graeme Stevens purchased the block on the other side. Dad called his mate Bert "Mickey", and we called him Uncle Mickey even though he wasn't a relative, something kids did in those days. Dad knew him as he was a co-worker at Camberwell Council. Uncle Mickey would drive us down in his new FB Holden as none of the cars Dad had would have made it. I recall on one occasion Dad bought a Vanguard from Chadstone Charlie's Car Yard for 20 Pounds and spent the night before we left getting it fit for travel. It got a coat of paint by brush from the shed at Mickey's which turned out to be Mission Brown fence paint.

Mickey, Graeme and another mate called Midnight spent countless weekends away doing things to the house, probably one nail to one bottle of beer. The lights in the house were all kerosene lanterns and you would have to take spare mantels for them and the cooking was done on an old one fire stove and made the best roasts ever. The fridge was an old kero fridge as well. I remember my father telling me how when the Estate opened blocks were cheap, records showing they were £125, and they were told to put the price up as at that price the thought was people wouldn't think the estate was any good.



My dad paid 200 pounds for his block on Manuka Street and it became known as The Sand Fly Ranch There was an apple tree growing from a seed I planted from an apple I had eaten. The block was cleared with an old Victa mower. In the early days we would camp in a tent and then a second hand Bondwood Caravan was bought. It would stay around the corner at Mickey's place so we could use power but it had to be moved every 3 months because of council regulations. Dad built the outside toilet, which was just a hole in the ground and made it with the weatherboards the wrong way up so it had to be up righted, so the door always tricked everyone by opening in the opposite direction. Eventually we got a power pole, a second hand garage and then a Blue Waters Holiday home and sold when he could no longer drive down for \$55000 in 1989.



Memories of Sandy Point ...

Peter and Joanne Close lived nearby and helped with jobs on the house as he was a builder and Dad only had it completed to Lock Up stage. I think Joanne may have been Dickie Martin's daughter. My brother bought a block in Banksia Street and I bought one in Ash Avenue for \$3000 in the late 70's. I think it cost about \$1000 for the road to be made and I sold it for \$10,000 thinking I had made a handsome profit. Who could have believed the prices asked these days.

There were two Henderson homes at the inlet entrance, one for Bill and the other for Roy, I can't remember which one was the original parents' home, and they had a beautiful stand of apple trees. They had an old army tank with a grader blade that in the history of Sandy Point was used to grade in the roads. They also had an upturned steel hulled boat that was going to be made into a fishing boat but never seemed to change. This was where we went to get the gas bottles refilled and probably ice. The track to the inlet was sand and we were instructed to take your foot off and roll so you wouldn't get bogged. The original inlet road used to partly go around the Bowron's farm boundary. Where the road went up and over a rise there was a two way track so you didn't meet someone head on at the top.

The boat hole was exactly that as boats were permanently moored there. Dad's mate Mickey had an old clinker boat that was at anchor in the boat hole and the only way out to the main channel for us was to row as we couldn't afford a motor. This boat came loose one year and was found on the opposite side of the inlet. Dad had an old bondwood boat FJ 052 that stayed moored to a concrete block there for years until it became an item for target practice.



The sand hills were massive in the early days and once the foot traffic and trail bikes started the hill soon eroded. I can remember helping out some German tourists that turned left at the entrance and not right and became bogged in the black mud. I can also recall in the 70's getting the car bogged when we launched into the main channel and I was in Dad's car.

Luckily there was an army vehicle on reconnaissance and after much grunting and straining we managed to free it just as the tide changed. The local bloke in the General Store came down in his truck and advised to always jackknife the trailer when launching as that way you move one wheel at a time on the trailer as it walks its way out, something I never forgot.

We would go spotlighting with the 22 or 410 shotgun for rabbits on the estate and go trapping on Blue Meadows and Ryan's Farm which was owned by Tommy Ryan, the publican at The Promontory Gate Hotel at Fish Creek. I recall one year going for a joy flight in a Cessna plane that was landing and taking off on the Surf Beach. We could walk up to the surf beach on a track at the end of Manuka and sometimes not see anyone and if you did were normally down near the Caravan Park beach.

We would go on the corrugated dirt roads to the Caravan Park for a shower and the hot water was started by Lachlan McInness throwing a match into the gas bottle hot water system and you would hear boom and knew it was on. I think it cost you 10 or 5 cents for a shower that you put into one of those old fashioned meters. It was hard going with soap because of the bore water used. It became a bit of a family joke "bore water, can't do anything about it"

We used to stop at Korumburra to buy a half loaf of bread that was longer than a standard loaf now and it would stay fresh for ages. Occasionally a trip to Foster was needed and the road was unmade and a two plank bridge would need to be crossed. When I first drove to the Point it was unmade from the Fish Creek turn off.

Holidays for dad were in late January and we couldn't wait to go to The Point. I haven't been down for a long time now and I bet it's changed, from the days of just a Caravan Park and the General Store, the lifesaving club being built and the introduction of the windsurfers, because it was always windy - I suppose that part hasn't changed.

Ian McKay

Rob Davies

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CENSUS

*Sandy Point
is changing*



The recent census statistics show us that Sandy Point is continuing to change and grow in many ways.

The township itself cannot grow beyond its current boundaries due to concerns with potential sea level rises and the resulting inundation of roads and low-lying blocks. However the sleepy holiday town of early years is now rapidly changing. The increase in population and housing seen over the last 10 years will undoubtedly continue, but it is thought that the figures have been changing more rapidly since COVID struck us. We'll find out for sure when the next census is taken in 2026.

It seems that since COVID and all its restrictions struck, not being able to travel far from home, more people have been investing in property and it seems quite a few have decided to make a permanent "Move to the Country". This includes people with children as well as retirees. In Sandy Point there are now very few housing blocks left.

Over the last couple of years there has also been a noticeable increase in the number of people holidaying here and a large increase in the number of houses rented out for holidays.

The census statistics for 2021 make very interesting reading, showing a wide range of statistics about our township and its population. The table below shows a few of these statistics but to see all of them please go to: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/SAL22236>
A further two releases of census results will be made in October 2022 and in early to mid- 2023.

Census All persons QuickStats for Sandy Point	2011	2016	2021
People	197	270	312
Male	99	49.2%	55.2%
Female	98	50.8%	44.8%
Median Age	54	56	58
Families	43	67	82
Average number of children per family:	1.6		
For families with children		2.0	1.7
For all households (a)		0.5	0.4
All private dwellings	642	699	726
Average number of people per household	2.0	2.1	2.1
Occupied	10.6%	14.3%	19.7%
Unoccupied	89.4%	85.7%	79.9%
Median weekly household income		\$1010	\$1343
Median weekly mortgage repayments		\$1092	\$1517
Median weekly rent (b)		\$100	\$280
Average number of motor vehicles per household		1.8	2

(a) This label has been updated to more accurately reflect the Census concept shown in this data item. The data has not changed.

(b) For 2021, median weekly rent calculations exclude dwellings being occupied rent-free.

For comparative purposes you can also read: "Spotlight on Sandy Point", a South Gippsland Shire publication released after the last census in 2016: <https://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/spotlightonsandypoint>

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CENSUS 2021

South Gippsland Shire Census Statistics

<https://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/homepage/125/shire-and-community-statistics>

- The current population of South Gippsland is 30,455 (Estimated Resident Population 2021). This is the 'official population' and is the most accurate count of total population. It factors in an estimate of those missed in the Census and those who were overseas on Census night. This population will be updated in October this year following further analysis of the raw Census data.
- The population for South Gippsland has increased by more than 1,300 people from 2016.
- Our five most populous towns have all increased in population since 2016 and are Leongatha 5,869 (up 3.8%), Korumburra 4,749 (up 6.3%), Mirboo North 2,412 (up 3.0%), Foster 2,044 (up 11%) and Nyora 1,644 (up 7.7%).
- 49% of the population are aged 50 or over.
- 2.3 people (on average) per household.
- 49 is the median age of people residing in the Shire.
- 1.2% of the population are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- 5.4% of the population speak a language other than English at home.
- 49% of households are 'couples without children'.
- 36% of households are 'couples with children'

Regional profiles

A South Gippsland Shire Council document "Regional profile" will be released soon and should also make interesting reading.

The Regional Profile Project has used several data sources including:

- The ABS Census Data (2006 -2021)
- Community Feedback and verbatim commentary which was collected through 21 in-depth interviews and over 2,200 surveys. There was a focus on having diverse representation.

In the survey, participants were asked:

- Why they liked living in South Gippsland
- How the region is unique
- What are the community priorities
- Perceived current and future challenges
- What key thing council needs to consider when meeting community needs.

Article by Di Cornwell





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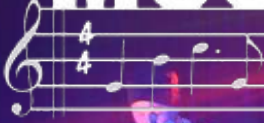
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SANDY POINT MUSIC



Light fantastic!

Sandy Point Music is back. It's Official. It's a fact!

The winter hiatus is over and you know Spring is on its way when Sandy Point Music kick starts the music scene engines.

Aye that it did.

On 21 August 2022, **Nick Carver** infused the return to music with his soulful songs, singing and skilled guitar work. He is a wonderful musician.

Then without hesitation **Rise King Tide** turned on their lights and hit the stage with full impact that went right into the night and finished on an absolute high. They owned that stage! The crowd loved it. They were either on their feet or tapping to the beat. It was a welcome return and an awesome night, thanks to a Federal Arts grant, SPM were able to provide the concert free to the community and showcase more local talent.

As you know SPM doesn't stop, we plot and plan to bring you the best and our next event is **Jordie Lane** on Sept 17th and he is bringing a support act. Doors open at 7.30pm
Jordie Lane - OMGosh OMG OMG.

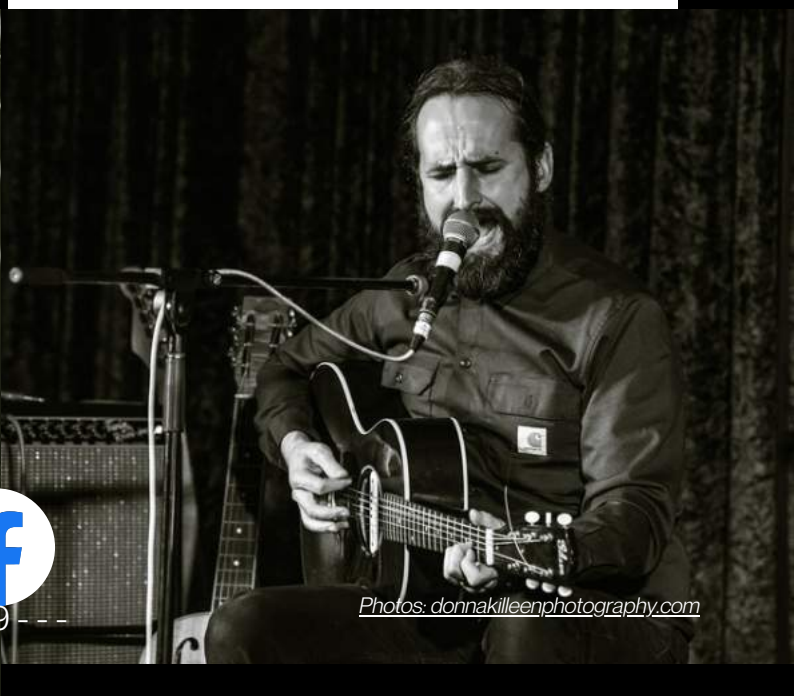
Then, if you can handle the excitement, we have one of our favourite acts **James Bennett** on October 29th. We really missed not having James perform annually so we are super excited about this event. The word on the street is that he will showcase his new album!

Then we roll into the Summer Series with the following dates. Pop them in the diary. As we secure the bands, we will let you know, but rest assured, we are digging deep to bring some cracker music to Sandy Point.

Save these dates. November 19th, December 10 and on January 7 we will return to the Foodies Market with an outdoor stage starting at 4pm and finishing around 10pm. BYO blanket or chair. Food and beverages will be available at the market. The rest of the summer dates are February 11 and March 18.

Of course, all tickets can be booked through [tybooking_\(search for Sandy Point\)](https://www.tybooking.com.au/search/SandyPoint).

Donna Killeen for Sandy Point Music



Find us on

Email: sandypointmusic@gmail.com





SANDY POINT RENEWABLE ENERGY STUDY RELEASED

The consultant-lead study analysing opportunities for additional Distributed renewable Energy Resources (DER) at Sandy Point has been completed and the report titled ‘A review of energy challenges and opportunities for the Sandy Point Community’ has been released. Patrick Green from ‘The Energy Project’ presented a summary of the project findings at a well-attended community meeting held recently in the Community Centre.

Key findings were that;

- Installation of solar panels on households at Sandy Point has a good financial payback irrespective of property type; permanently occupied, weekender, or holiday home.
- The payback period for installation of a battery is longer, ranging from 10 to 15 years depending on the property type.
- The aggregated demand for power from our electricity feeder line follows a consistent profile most days of the year. Maximum demand occurs from 11pm onwards as our hot water services kick in. Minimum demand from the grid occurs in the middle of the day as we use the solar power we generate.
- Unfortunately, we feed-in so much solar generated power into the grid on sunny days that the voltage in the supply feeder becomes unstable. This limit is called the DER ‘hosting capacity’. AusNet are controlling the extent of this instability by restricting new applications for solar panel installations in some parts of Sandy Point.
- The opportunities for a collective Sandy Point ‘virtual power plant’ and/or energy exchange scheme are limited due to the electricity system rules and tight market margins for retailers.

- Overall, the reliability of our electricity supply is poor, but the rules allow for the data to be ‘corrected’ for ‘uncontrollable’ events. Unfortunately we get a lot of events of this nature, so after ‘correction’, the reliability of the electricity feeder line is within the target for ‘long-rural feeder lines’. AusNet therefore has no plans to modify our feeder line.
- One way to improve reliability would be to install an ‘islandable’ micro-grid. This would see Sandy Point able to be energy self-sufficient if the feeder line fails. A micro-grid would require us to install significantly more energy storage capacity, a high-tech energy management system to balance and control energy generation vs consumption across the town, and switching hardware to isolate then reconnect the town to the feeder line. Our challenge is that a micro-grid would be very expensive, requiring us to find commercial partners to fund, own and operate the system. Despite these challenges, we are committed to seeking opportunities to move towards this aspirational outcome. The Federal Government for example has announced that as part of its renewable energy program, it will be installing community-sized batteries in 400 communities. We await the details.
- In our thinking, we need to envisage the energy system of the future, for example where most cars will be electric, charged from solar panels on our homes at times when the energy is ‘free’, and have the capability to also form part of the household energy storage system.



If you have not yet received a copy of the study report and/or presentation pack, please contact us at energy@sandypoint.vic.au. We’d be delighted to provide you with a copy.

Or you can download the report and presentation from www.sandypoint.vic.au/latest-news/renewable-energy.





REDUCING YOUR HOT WATER BILL AND INCREASING SANDY POINT'S RENEWABLE ENERGY HOSTING CAPACITY

Our recent study of the electrical supply issues in SP has highlighted that we are usually generating more solar power than our town's total use in the daytime and that this excess power flows back up our electricity feeder line causing instability. Paradoxically, we usually have peak power usage after 1am at night due to all the hot water heaters turning on!

It would help Sandy Point power stability and resilience if electric hot water systems were turned on at 10am to use this excess solar locally.

If you have a solar system this change will save you some \$ as your hot water will be heated from solar rather than the grid. Even if you don't have a solar system, as the off-peak pricing period runs from 9pm to 3pm the next day, the cost of electricity is the same at 10am as it is at 1am.

If you want to save some more money from your power bill Solar Victoria will give those who have an old element-based electric hot water system a 50% rebate up to \$1000 on a heat pump HW system. These systems run on 75% less electricity. Details including the application process can be found on this link <https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/solar-hot-water-rebate> _There are some conditions as usual, but most applicants are successful.

So, why not check to see if you are eligible for a rebate to replace your old elec. HW system with a heat pump system? If so, have it set up to run in the daytime up to 3pm. This it will save you a lot of money and help SP at the same time!

We recommend you consider switching to a heat pump HWS even if you are not eligible for a Solar Vic rebate.

By the way, we have asked Solar Vic why they aren't providing rebates for retiring gas HW units in exchange for electric heat pump systems. Their answer is that they are working on it (but probably won't happen soon)!

If you have an electric hot water system, consider asking your friendly electrician about changing the timing of the hot water heating to daytime 10am-3pm.

SOLAR VIC REBATES

Solar Vic offer a range of rebates to eligible Victorians including rebates for solar systems, household batteries and heat pumps. Solar Vic have offered to run a face-to-face or on-line presentation to Sandy Point property owners to outline each available rebate and the application process.

Should you be interested in attending this session, please let us know at energy@sandypoint.vic.au.



HOUSEHOLD BATTERY GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED

As a follow-on from the renewable energy study, we have made application for \$50k DELWP grant funding to support the installation of more household energy storage batteries at Sandy Point. Should our application be successful, subsidies of up to \$5,000 will be given to Sandy Point homeowners who install a battery to match their existing solar system. The outcome of our application will be communicated in November.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVITES SUBMISSIONS ON PROPOSAL FOR OFF-SHORE WIND FARM REGIONS OFF THE GIPPSLAND COAST



Consultation link

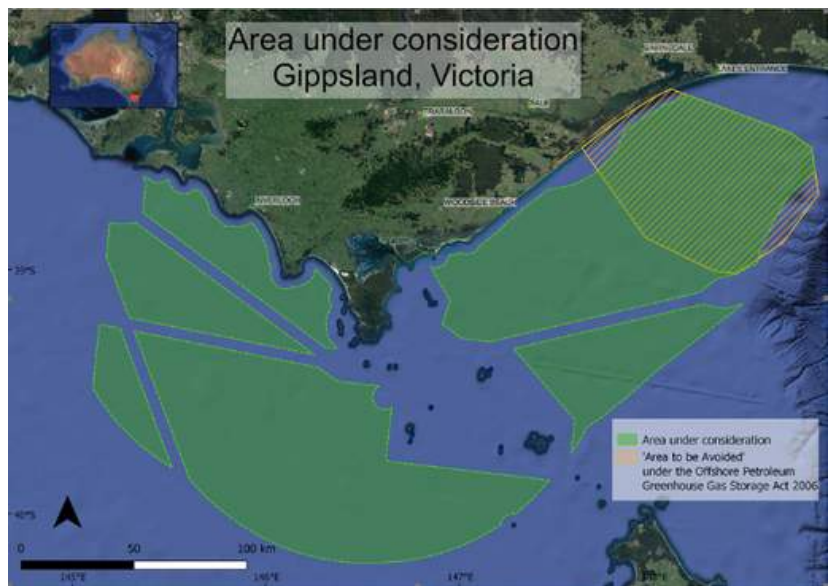
The Federal Government has released a proposal detailing regions in Bass Strait off the Gippsland Coast where off-shore wind farm projects would be allowed. The proposed regions commence 3 nautical miles from shore and are located either side of Wilson’s Prom, including Waratah Bay.

The proposal stipulates that developers of wind farm projects will need to produce Management Plans including the details of how consultation with the local community will be conducted, and demonstrating how they intend to share the area with other users. Each Management Plan must be approved by the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator before an application for a commercial licence for a wind farm can be granted.

Developers must also ensure they have received all other relevant approvals, including environmental approvals, before they can apply for a commercial licence. Before deciding whether to grant a commercial licence, which is for a period of 40 years, the Minister may require the developer to conduct specific kinds of consultation. It is only after a commercial licence is granted, that the construction of the wind farm can commence.

You can give feedback on the proposal from this linked web page.

[Consultation hub | Offshore renewable energy infrastructure area proposal: Bass Strait off Gippsland - Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources](https://consult.industry.gov.au/oeigippsland)
<https://consult.industry.gov.au/oeigippsland>



Chris Harvey, for the SPCP Team energy@sandypoint.vic.au

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MARINE RESCUE

Update

Members numbers haven't changed locally since the Intended transfer from Waratah Beach SLSC to Life Saving Victoria (LSV). The non-locals have not communicated recently, but we believe LSV has contacted them to gauge their intent for future involvement.

One member was planning to take the RHIB to get the engines serviced before the warranty expired. Having taken this on his own initiative, it was mentioned to LSV who told him to basically mind his own business and leave it where it is because they had arranged to have the vessel surveyed.

Updates from LSV / EMV, well this is a short paragraph as there has been nothing. A member attended the recent EMV MSAR annual conference where it seemed there was virtually unanimous support from attendees for a single entity to manage all Marine Rescue units. Currently there is the National Coast Guard, SES, LSV and independents. The hope is to in future bring them all under one common structure, with common branding (uniforms, vessel and vehicle livery, etc)

The CEO of LSV has made contact with a local member offering to come to Sandy Point and discuss the issue in person, but so far no firm date has been set.

On the 29th of August a visit to Port Welshpool Coast Guard by 3 skippers and 2 crew members took place. The visit was to keep the relationship alive while we are stood down, and to scope the possibilities of working with the Coast Guard, or possibly becoming Coast Guard members, until an acceptable solution can be found. We discussed the sequence of events since the inception of Sandy Point Marine Rescue and the apparent hostile takeover by LSV of our service (to prove something that has not yet been divulged?). The Coast Guard members were quite taken aback by the sequence of events and were very sympathetic to our plight. We attended their meeting and put our case on record that we were keen to find some way to work together, leaving the proposal to discuss amongst themselves.

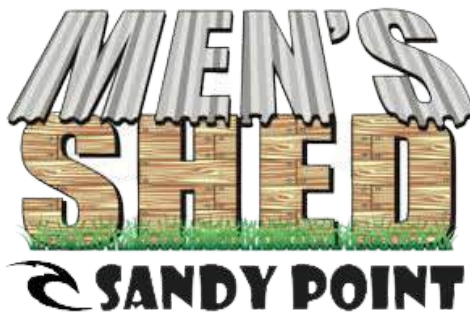
Our hope is this will allow Sandy Point to have a Marine Rescue service that is supported by local residents and would be available 24/7 for the entire year, as currently there is no service available. The tow vehicle was taken from Sandy Point a few months ago, so there is currently no designated vehicle to tow and launch/recover. As a side note, one of the issues identified with the LSV model is that without local resident members they cannot service the area out of patrolling season (early November through to April) and would struggle to service it outside the peak periods during the patrolling season, therefore it would be a seasonal service only, not a 24/7 emergency service as is required by EMV. Interestingly, Lifesaving Qld phased out their offshore (jet boat) rescue service in 2016 and Lifesaving New South Wales also did this earlier this year, including the highly regarded Ballina jet boat rescue which will in future become part of Marine Rescue NSW.

What's next? The important thing is if you or someone you know has boating issues and needs assistance, you need to contact "000" in the first instance. If you would like to know more about what LSV is planning, feel free to contact them directly and if they provide some details, please let us know!

Sadly, at this time it does not look like there will be any locally supported Marine Rescue Service this summer. The local knowledge required to navigate Shallow Inlet, the entrance (that is constantly changing), and navigating around the Wilson Prom Islands is key to a safe operation. If you wish to contact the local members, have any information not publicly available, or have any contacts in Government who may be able to help, please email sandypointmarinerescue@gmail.com

**In an EMERGENCY
call triple zero (000)**





It's a slow process! The internal fit-out is making progress despite many of our volunteer taskforce escaping the cold weather for locations further north.

We continue to meet on a weekly basis to progress the internal fit-out with the plastering nearing completion and final plumbing and electrical work to follow. In fact we've decided to open the shed an additional morning a week to speed up work; so you can, if you wish to join us, come along on a Monday and/or Wednesday morning from 9.00am.



As well as our own building work we have been active in other ways. You will see the results of the landscaping work outside the shed with grasses and shrubs now adorning the southern boundary.



The EV charger project continues with the anticipation of having it installed in time for the summer visitors. And, we have a long list of jobs to assist in the maintenance of the Community Centre.

We now have a registered list of 50+ people interested in membership and 20+ active/financial members. We meet regularly, now weekly two mornings a week 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.

You can get more details of our activities at <https://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 Mens Shed, c/- Post Office, Sandy Point, Victoria 3959.

Phil Cornwell, Secretary, SPCMS
Thanks to Brett Lindstrom for the photos.



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Evie Bassed

Young local surfer competes in the Australian Surfing Titles

Competing at the Australian Open Women's Shortboard Championships last month, Evie Bassed, Sandy Point achieved her best result to date. After winning her preliminary and semi-final rounds, she finished the weekend in fourth place. The other finalists are all currently competing on the World Qualifying Series. Evie was the highest placed Victorian on the day and the youngest competitor in this class.

Evie has been surfing since she was two and is part of a strong surfing family. Both parents surf and dad, Derek competed on the world qualifying series and taught Evie to surf. Younger sister Lil, aged 12 and hot on Evie's heels, recently placed third in the under 14 Victorian titles. The girls surf nearly every day either before school, afterwards or both on a good day!



*Photo : Lighthouse Sports Photography
Article : Nicky Walker*

Leave your worries behind ...

Join the Waratah Worriers



Waratah Worriers is a fun cycling group dedicated to eating and drinking facilitated by cycling.

During summer and holiday periods, cyclists from Sandy Point and Waratah meet at the Waratah turn off for a group ride of between 40 to 60 kms and sometimes more.

We welcome a toot and a wave from motorists and more importantly a 1.5 metre passing distance.

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



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Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club

We are looking forward to welcoming new and old friends to WBSLSC this year as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the club. A full calendar of events and activities will mark this milestone and provide an opportunity to celebrate the history and contributions of the community over many years.

2021/22 SEASON IN NUMBERS

- 9,500+** people enjoyed the beach over the patrolled period
- 732** members in total (increase from 611)
- 204** active members (increase from 161)
- 196** Nippers took part in our programs throughout January (increase from 161)
- 15** members achieve over 100 Volunteer Patrol / Water Safety hours
- 5252** total hours patrolled over the season
- 34** active members formed our largest patrol on the January 26th
- 1871** preventative actions taken to avoid rescues
- 8** minor first aid incidents responded to
- 0** rescues required!

CURRENT CRUISER

The 5th annual Current Cruiser will be held on New Years Day, Sunday 1 January 2023 around mid morning with final times to be confirmed soon.

Please add this to your calendars! In four short years, the Current Cruiser has raised \$42,000, all of which has supported the club to keep facilities and safety and rescue equipment maintained and volunteers trained.

For the 2023 swim we have introduced a number of changes to improve reported timing and course sighting for swimmers.

Shirts and artwork design are currently being developed and sponsor packs will be out shortly. Please start thinking of any businesses that may wish to contribute to this fun day and keep an eye out for news of the [swim website](#) which will be updated shortly.

The club are grateful to the many people who make this event and success, but particularly want to acknowledge Paul Minahan and Max Collins who are the driving force behind this growing event.





NIPPERS IN 2023

Our **Nippers program** continues to grow and build the confidence of our younger beach goers. We always need volunteers to support this program - if you are interested - please get in touch and don't forget to sign your nippers up as the season nears.

tinyurl.com/NippersWBSLSC

WARABAR

We will once again have a **members discount at the Warabar** this year - so don't forget to renew or start your membership through this link.

tinyurl.com/joinWBSLSC

EVENTS

We look forward to hosting a range of community events as the weather warms up - look out for updates on Spit Roast nights, live music, trivia and other events. The WBSLSC website contains the latest details of upcoming events.

<https://tinyurl.com/eventsWBSLSC>

LIFE SAVING NEWS

Our active members are continuing to stay fit and improve their skills over the winter.

As part of the national program, Surf Life Saving Australia held their annual leadership college in Sydney in July. We are delighted that **Jameson Trainor** was one of 24 participants selected to participate in the week-long course to develop key leadership capabilities, teamwork and problem solving.

Chief Trainer **Sarah Seddon** participated in the LSV Member Leadership and Development Program, meeting members from across Victoria and working closely with a mentor from another club.

Ryder Tremewen (R) came away with gold at the 2022 Victorian Interschool snowsports Championship at Mt Buller recently.



BEACHSAFE APP

You can do your bit to prevent drowning by downloading the BeachSafe app on your mobile. We'd encourage everyone to check this out. Even on days when Waratah Beach seems calm, risks are present. The beach is patrolled from the end of November through to Easter - during these times swimmers should swim between the flags.
beachsafe.org.au/apps



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

We are fortunate to have some wonderful images of the club house and club activities from the past 60 years, but are sure others hold some of these memories too.

If you have any photos, artefacts or stories that you'd like to share, please get in touch!

news@waratahbeach.com.au

The club will have much more to share about our 60th anniversary celebrations later this year.

VOLUNTEERS

The club is completely dependent on many dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers - we can't thank them all enough. Some of these roles are large, and others are small - each is critical to keep the beach patrolled and the cogs turning behind the scenes.

As our programs grow - particularly Nippers - we are looking for others to bring their talents and passions to the club. If you can help in any capacity - for one hour, or for 10 - we'd love to hear from you.

tinyurl.com/SupportWBSLSC



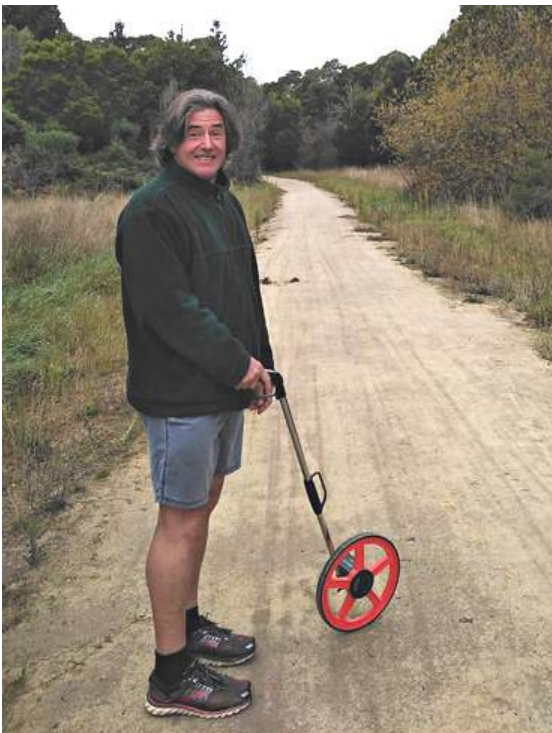


Celebrating Volunteers



Meet the leader of the Pack!

Craig Couper is a local to Sandy Point. He has recently established the Prom Coast Pack Runs. SPCG sat down with Craig to find out what inspired him to take on this initiative.



I have been involved in athletics for over 50 years starting with Little Athletics and then progressing to under age and seniors. Over 30 years ago my preferred event was distance running and I started coaching athletes of all ages. This was a progression from being a physical education teacher where you encourage students to pursue a healthy activity that they have an interest in and to improve their fitness.

I have loved the concept of parkrun, a free weekly 5km event that started in London and is now happening around the world. A small group of like-minded people thought of starting one in either Fish Creek or Foster, then COVID hit. We also discovered the many boxes to be ticked and red tape to get the go ahead. I then had an idea of coordinating a similar event that takes place on a monthly basis, rather than weekly, incorporating a 10km option and held at different local venues.

Having the Great Southern Rail Trail running through the Prom Coast region provides an ideal venue to run these events and to hopefully encourage locals and visitors to be a part of a free, fun activity for all ages.

How often are the Prom Coast Pack Runs held?

The aim is to have one a month throughout the year.

Who is the target audience?

There is a 5km event, which allows runners and walkers to participate without a lot of fitness. I have had one of my prep students walk the 5km with his mum who pushed a toddler in a pram! There are also some pretty quick 60 y.o. plus runners in both the 5k & 10k options.

Now 9 runs at various locations have taken place already in 2022, what has surprised you and do you have a highlight?

I have been surprised by how quickly people have embraced the events and regularly turn up – some have even participated in all events so far.

The highlight has been the joy on the faces of those that participate and also the majority that stay and chat with the others until the final runner has finished. That so many say how much they enjoyed the event and thank our helpers is very heart-warming and certainly makes it all worthwhile. I love seeing our four-legged friends taking their owners for a walk or run. Also, many participants have improved their times.

PROM COAST PACK RUNS

What is it that appeals to participants?

Many have commented that they enjoy the simplicity of the event. All you need to do is make sure you have an appropriate level of fitness & health and get to the start line by 8.30am. It is a very low-key event compared to normal fun runs.

Many participants comment that it is great to do their walk or run with a group instead of heading out by themselves.

The 10km is 2xlaps of the 5km so you see plenty of people going both ways

What is your pitch to try and entice someone to participate?

“Here is an opportunity to organise some friends to come and join you for a run or walk in a safe and picturesque environment and maybe finish with a hot drink +/- or breaky at a local café.

If you are flying solo then there is the opportunity to meet other runners or walkers that may turn into regular meetings in between the Prom Coast events. If you enjoy testing yourself and improving your fitness, then there will possibly be someone to run alongside or have your own little battle to the finish line.”

What can participants look forward to in the coming months?

Many venues are about to have their 2nd event and some have changes to make the course more interesting. I am also looking at introducing an event at Port Franklin and Welshpool.

The next event is at Meeniyah Rail Trail on Sunday 25th September 8.30am then Sunday 23rd October at Port Franklin, followed by Saturday 12th November, venue to be decided.

Stay informed with

Prom Coast Pack Run

on Facebook.



Interview by Michelle Jelleff

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Sandy Point Community Centre & TP Taylor Reserve Community Asset Committee

The Community Centre held its Annual General Meeting on July 30th, which was chaired by Councillor Sarah Gilligan, and the following were elected: Tony Cornish, Di Cooper, Dot Devine, Kim White, Judy O’Sullivan, Phil Cornwall, Judy Barnard, Rick Martin, along with new members: Danny Millton, Nicky Thurlow, Cherry Trevorrow. It is exciting to have some new faces, who will no doubt come along with fresh ideas.

Sally Gibson has stepped down from the Committee and we thank her for her input in running the Centre, her contribution to the Annual Art Show, as well as Sally’s Snippets that appeared weekly in The Mirror.

The Committee of Management is tasked with keeping the Centre up to a certain standard and strives to improve, repair and maintain the Centre for the Community. A number of community members have commented to Committee members on the rust on the exposed beams along the North of the building. We have had our annual building inspection which Council conducts yearly, and they have assured us that it is on the to do maintenance list.

We have been well serviced by the South Gippsland Shire Council in recent times, as due to birds nesting under the roof, this led to contamination of the water in the tanks and hot water service, not noticed due to COVID closures. Council lifted and removed all bird nests, sealed the roof, flushed out and replaced the water in the tanks, which solved our problem.

The Council have the responsibility for the external part of the centre while the Committee is responsible for the internal part of the building.

We have been contacted by Council that they intend to replace the playground at TP Taylor Park. I have approached some local young residents for input and are eagerly awaiting a response from the Council suppliers on what design the playground will take. If you are around at Port Welshpool, their new playground has some of the equipment that may be installed.

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Sandy Point Community Centre & TP Taylor Reserve Community Asset Committee

If you haven't noticed, Council removes the shade cloth over the playground during the winter months to repair, clean and then refit it ready for the warmer months.

The Community Centre's calendar is once again starting to fill. Along with all the regular groups who use the facility weekly, during August and September we have a number of private parties, weddings as well as the fabulous Sandy Point Music Group. And don't forget to put in your diary, November 25th where you will be able to vote at the State election at the Centre.

While a number of residents and holiday makers are working from home, they may not be aware that they can hire our small meeting room to work from. The Centre has WiFi available for use. We had a number of residents use our space during COVID lockdowns which proved very successful for them. It can be hired on a regular basis or just for a one-off occasion. We also have our consulting room that is available for hire, either as a consulting room or can be used as an office.

Dot Devine, Secretary, Sandy Point Community Centre

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After our successful community gathering at the end of 2021, the Community Centre committee plans to hold another **community function on December 16th from 6.00-8.00.**

The Community Group and Sandy Point Music group will also be approached to assist in the cost of running this function. All Sandy Point groups will once again be invited. We received lots of positive feedback from the last event, and it's a great way for the Community to get together before the busy holiday season. Looking forward to seeing you there.

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Future Events

- 30 October 2022, 2:30pm at the Sandy Point Community Centre. Information Sessions: Animals Rescue including pouch checks and retrieval. Overview of the WiSP Wildlife Surveillance Program
- Quarterly meetings: TBA

WiSP Planning Workshop

WiSP held its planning meeting on 27 August. A draft Annual Activity Summary, had been provided to those on our contact list (the Summary to be finalized and posted publicly), which formed the basis of the early sessions discussion. Participants were asked their interests and the areas they want to contribute to in order to confirm the activities and subjects we would plan.

We set priorities and goals for the upcoming year including (but not limited to) fundraising for our carers, subjects for information sessions and allocating funds to start our wildlife surveillance program (allocated money for purchasing field cameras to monitor koalas crossing the road and to obtain a base fax count in sensitive areas).

We had the opportunity to hear from a WiSP member’s recent experience with Wildlife Victoria training and heard from our two long-term rescuers and their view on how to organize things going forward. We also clarified our merchandising and messaging with one of the group volunteering to take on the role.

Most notably we had Ian Campbell, Chairman of the Foreshore Committee, address the group and give insight into the Committee’s responsibilities and how little funds they have to discharge those duties. We had three men from our area also attend the session, as they have offered to be on the ground for the animal surveillance work. Our habitat program coordinator offered insights into what activities are likely in the future including those outlined in “The Koalas Action Plan” and some weeding sessions before the snakes come. She offered an overview of the recent work in the Manna Gum Reserve and discussed how she had contacted the Foreshore Committee previously.

It was agreed that WiSP will coordinate (and potentially collaborate) with the Foreshore Committee to ensure they are aware and are accepting of our activities.

Feedback of the day was positive and we thank everyone for their contribution.

If you want to see or add posts about wildlife in the Sandy Point area, 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 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 and Kerrie De Cort



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Habitat Program

Roy Henderson Trail Weeding Activity

Ten hardworking people volunteered on a beautiful spring morning to remove asparagus fern from the Roy Henderson Trail.

We collected 4 large bags of weed all chopped up ready for the Fish Creek Community Composter. After weeding we enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by STaSK cafe. Lunch was funded through the Shire of South Gippsland Community Recovery Fund.

Removal of the weed will benefit the smaller plants some of which are presently in bloom. Next weeding session is Friday 23 September. It's a careful hand-weeding task and weeds will again be taken to the composter in Fish Creek. Refreshments will be provided ...bring a thermos.

If you're interested in volunteering, or for further information, please contact Henri or Cherry. Our new contact is sandypointhabitat@gmail.com



Saving your local beach birds
Help protect threatened Hooded Plovers!



*Do you like walking along the beach?
Ever wanted to get involved in protecting your local threatened species?*

Come along to our Fish Creek workshop to learn about Hooded Plovers and what you can do to protect them!

Learn about their quirky behaviours, why it is so important for the local community to get involved in their protection and what you can do to help out. We will spend the morning indoors, have lunch and go for a beach walk, where we'll get to see the birds' behaviours. All are welcome!

Date: Monday 26th September **Time:** 10:00am – 1:00pm
We will drive to Waratah Bay after 1pm for the beach walk
Location: Fish Creek Memorial Hall - 13 Falls Road, Fish Creek
RSVP: 19th September to kasun.ekanayake@birdlife.org.au / 0433 964484

Morning tea & lunch provided. Please inform of any special dietary requirements at RSVP. Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather.

This project is supported by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA and delivered by BirdLife Australia, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program





StaSk Cafe

Hey folks

We are so happy to be back after our time off in August! We have a busy few weeks ahead.

First off **OPEN MIC night** is back and has moved to a new night! It's now every Friday night from 6.30pm onwards. Bring some friends or come alone and enjoy or participate in a fun open mic night, sing a tune or play an instrument, all are welcome!

Next up we have **Parma nights** returning on Thursday nights. Come down for a yummy parma, chips and salad. Bar is open from 5pm onwards.



AFL grand final is right around the corner, and we are going to have the bar open from lunch. We will have a special parma chips and salad and a beer, all for \$17 dollars!!

Trivia will be back the first Thursday in October. Bookings are essential so please contact us on Facebook or come into the Cafe to book! It will be "pub trivia" and general trivia, so a bit of everything for everyone! All entry fee proceeds this time will go to the Foster Manna Gum Community House.

Last, but certainly not least, **we are looking for staff** for the coming summer period. All welcome to apply. Experience preferred but willing to train the right applicant. Weekend and night work is essential. Please send your resume to staskscfe21@gmail.com or contact Alex at the Cafe or on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/staskscfe).

Can't wait to see you all! Come on down and support local!

Alex and the team at StaSk Cafe



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Winter has been quiet, and exceptionally cold at times. Silverbeet, kale, and lettuce are growing well ... we have found a good source of old manure from a few generous Sandypointers. This, plus the addition of ageing compost will help to improve the structure and composition of the wicking bed soil.

We have a new, enthusiastic member, Adrian. Also an offer of lettuce seedlings to put in the beds, from a local Sandypointer, Judy. Come on Spring!

Plant enthusiasts are very welcome. Contact Liz 0438447667. We meet every 2nd Wednesday, 10am at the Community Garden, next to the tennis courts.

Summer Market in Fish Creek

Weekly fresh food market starting 7th January 2023 until 25th March. Running every Saturday 8-10am.

Are you a vegetable grower and often grow too much over summer? This market is for you, come along to buy/swap/sell. We are encouraging people to plant out a bit more garden so that they can earn themselves a little extra cash or trade excess for veggies that don't grow well in your own garden. If you are not a gardener but love fresh local produce, come along and support those who are offering fresh food from their garden.

This is a new initiative of Buckley Park Community Farm, helping and supporting people grow food. Buckley Park Community Farm's vision is a Community should be able to feed a community.

Questions Contact Marg Watson 0488592725



Thank you to all you amazing photographers out there who have sent in your best pics of Sandy Point. We all love this place, and thanks to modern phone cameras, have taken shots that have a real WOW factor. Please give us YOUR best shot we'll then be able to use it in our newsletter, website or socials, and acknowledge your brilliance as the photographer.

Email your Best Shot to news@sandypoint.vic.au
or #sandypointbestshot on your public Facebook or Instagram account.

Got some SP news fit to print?

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