

Sandy Point

Sandy Point Community Group



NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter

Summer edition



Photo credit: Reannon Wright



for the fridge magnets ...

*** SP SUMMER EVENTS POSTER** (p.2)

*** SP HELP & SAFETY GUIDE** (p.12-13)



Our eBus
has arrived!



Scan this QR code to
learn more about
Sandy Point.

sandypoint.vic.au

Please **JOIN US** - 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.

What's On in Sandy Point

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



DEC 26
- JAN 1

Koala Survey

26 Dec 2023 - 1 Jan 2024



DEC 30

Saturday 30th Dec. 2023
SANDCASTLE COMPETITION
9:45AM
Registration @ main beach for 10:00AM Start

Sandcastle Competition

30 Dec 2023 - 9:45 am - 11:00 am



Saturday 30th Dec.2023
Afte Sand Comp @ main beach walkway

Sausage Sizzle

SANDY POINT COMMUNITY GROUP
www.sandypoint.vic.au/events

Sausage Sizzle

30 Dec 2023 - 10:30 am - 1:30 pm
at the Sandcastle Comp.



JAN 1

2024 Current Cruiser

Shallow Inlet, time TBA



JAN 6

Coastal Saltmarsh 'Walk & Talk'

6 Jan 2024 - 9:30 am - 11:00 am



JAN 6

Pop Up Skate Park

6 Jan 2024 - 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm



JAN 6

Foodies & Artisans Market

6 Jan 2024 - 4:00 pm -



JAN 13

WiSP Event: Everything Koalas

13 Jan 2024 - 11:00 am - 3:30 pm



JAN 20

Rise King Tide

20 Jan 2024 - 7:15 pm - 11:00 pm



JAN 21

Town Hall Meeting

Sunday 21st Jan. 2024, 10am.

Catch up on our projects and priorities

All Welcome

Town Hall Meeting

21 Jan 2024 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am



FEB 17

Kerry Fields & Matt Joe Gow

17 Feb 2024 - 7:15 pm - 11:00 pm



MAR 16

Claire Anne Taylor & Band

16 Mar 2024 - 7:15 pm - 11:00 pm



Sandy Point Community Group

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





President's Report



Welcome to the Summer edition of the SPCG quarterly newsletter which includes details of upcoming events, reports from local groups and interesting articles. We hope you enjoy and find it informative.

I am once again enjoying being back in Sandy Point for the summer and enjoyed meeting up with everyone again at the Community Get-together held at the Centre Friday December 15th. It was a great evening with delicious catering! Congratulations to all on another successful event!

The planning is full steam ahead for the SPCG summer events of:

- Sandcastle Competition & Sausage Sizzle – Sat 30th Dec, Registration 9.45 for a 10.00 am start at Main beach.
- Foodies & Artisan Market - Sat 6th Jan 4.00pm start at Community Centre.
- Raffle – Hamper of local goods and produce will be conducted and drawn at Foodies – all proceeds will be donated to the Fish Creek Football & Netball Club
- Town Hall meeting – Sun 21st Jan, 10.00am at the Community Centre – Information session and update on current projects - all welcome.

Our AGM held on 30th Sept was well attended. The interest shown, feedback and questions presented were appreciated. Welcome to our new committee members Richard Tremewen and Mark Wallace and thank you to our long serving, retiring members Ray Henderson, Doug and Liz Brown. See draft minutes at www.sandypoint.vic.au/our-story

The Sandy Point Community Plan was well received when presented to Council on 23rd Nov by Peter Slifirski, who provided a powerpoint presentation which reiterated our goals and priorities. To see the Community Plan go to www.sandypoint.vic.au/community-plan.



Historical Interpretive Signs: The historical signs that will highlight the establishment of the Sandy Point township in the 1800s are in the final stages of design. The aim is to have these signs installed in the coming month. The signs will be located in the T P Taylor Reserve.

Sandy Point Road: We have finally received a response from Tony Peterson, Director Sustainable Infrastructure SGSC which provided very disappointing results following over a year of advocating for safer solutions to the dangerous Sandy Point Road. The report advised that the traffic counts which were completed in February showed that most of the traffic were travelling within the 80 km speed limit and other factors such as road hierarchy, crash rates and rural nature of the area does not currently meet the technical guidelines outlined by the Department of Transport and Planning for a reduction in the speed limit.

We feel this is unacceptable as we have repeatedly stressed the dangers of the road to all road users and of particular concern, pedestrians and cyclists etc due to poor road surface, no verge, dense vegetation and blind corners which deem an 80km speed limit is not appropriate! Also, the traffic counts were done in February – not at our peak holiday season which involves greater volumes of traffic especially vehicles towing boats, trailers and caravans.

Council has advised that the petition for a shared path, was resolved at the June Council meeting that any future allocation of funds for paths and trails would include consideration of the proposed path along Sandy Point Rd.

SPCG will obviously be engaging in further discussion with Council and continue to strongly advocate for this road safety issue. We will also be requesting the outcome/results of the survey that was undertaken by council to assess the community's perception of road safety.

Follow this issue at www.sandypoint.vic.au/road-safe

Mobile Communication: We received notification from CPS Technology on behalf of their client Optus that they are looking to lodge a Planning Application with South Gippsland Shire Council for the development of a new Telecommunications Facility in Sandy Point, specifically at 82 Sandy Point Road, Sandy Point. See page 10 for further details.

Have a great summer everyone and be safe on our shared roads and please adhere to speed limits and dog rules.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
Kind Regards, Anne Kinne, President SPCG



PRIZES
donated by
General Store



Saturday
30th Dec.
2023

SANDCASTLE COMPETITION

9:45AM

Registration
@ main beach
for 10:00AM Start



& Sausage Sizzle



SANDY POINT COMMUNITY GROUP
www.sandypoint.vic.au/events

FOODIES & ARTISANS Market



... at the Community Centre

6th Jan, 2024
from 4pm




Sandy Point

**FOOD TRUCKS.. ARTISAN CRAFTS
LOCAL PRODUCE .. BAR OPEN**

ALL ABOARD SKATEBOARDING SESSIONS

SANDY POINT

POP UP SKATE PARK

BEGINNERS 2PM - 4PM | INTERMEDIATES 4PM - 6PM
SATURDAY 6 JANUARY 2024

Sandy Point Tennis Courts - Church Parade, Sandy Point VIC 3959
Register at skatepark.ymca.org.au/all-aboard



FREE
for ALL people +
equipment
provided










Sandy Point
VICTORIA

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- Fuel

PH: 5684 1362

Sandy Point Community Centre & TP Taylor Reserve Community Asset Committee



Once again this year we conducted a community get-together for all of the Community, and hosted the evening with the Sandy Point Community Group and Sandy Point Music. Over 160 people enjoyed the evening which was a chance for the community to get together before our holiday makers, day visitors and family join us in this beautiful part of the world.



Over the summer, the Centre will once again be a major focus in town, with Sandy Point Music, yoga, Kidz Klub, Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club Leadership Development Camp and the annual Foodies Market. We also hear there will be a special skateboard session while the Foodies Market is on.

It is wonderful to see children and families using our newly opened playground. We are still in discussion with the Council regarding the missing parking barrier and a solution to its replacement, which we consider a matter of urgency.

The Committee have continued to ensure the Community Centre is maintained and is ready for use by the Community. This year we had the support of the Sandy Point Men's Shed who enthusiastically assisted us with maintenance. See if you can spot the changes, new items and other enhancements.

No doubt many have heard of the misadventure with our newest purchase of a large television. After lengthy negotiation, the problem has been solved and the television should be up and running for use at presentations and functions. Thanks once again to our ever accommodating Men's Shed group for putting it up, taking it down and putting it up again.

On November 14th we participated in the annual inspection of the Centre along with representatives from South Gippsland Shire Council. The inspection allows us to point to areas of concern which need maintenance or repair. Our focus is a decking upgrade and the external building area in need of painting. We thank the Council for keeping our Centre looking its best.

On behalf of the Sandy Point Community Centre Committee may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe festive season. Please take care on our roads and beaches, and keep a watchful eye for our local wildlife and children.

Dot Devine, Secretary
Daniel Millton, President
www.sandypointcc.org.au

Other maintenance has included installing timed lights on the walkway to ensure it is safely lit while keeping electrical costs in check. The Music Group have appreciated the installation of their spot lights and permanent power points which saves setup time and is a much safer arrangement.

The tennis courts have had the lines remarked in preparation for the busy summer season and we are in the process of updating the TP Taylor Tennis signage. If you are keen on having a hit, you can book at the Store or join with a yearly family or individual membership.

The table tennis group who regularly have a hit on Monday and Friday morning celebrated the festive season recently at a lunch at the RACV club. We are always looking for anyone interested in having a hit. It's a "come when you can" arrangement, with payment of a tennis membership to cover heating and lighting, equipment, etc.

21st Sandy Point Easter Art Show
 Sandy Point Community Centre
 Saturday 30 March to Monday 1 April 2024
 10am - 4pm

Inviting all Artists
Prizes in all Categories

For information and entry forms
www.sandypointcc.org.au/art-show

Key Dates:

- Entries close
 Sunday 3 March 2024
- Deliver entries
 Sunday 24 March 2024 1pm - 3pm

SCAN ME

**SANDY POINT**
COMMUNITY CENTRE

COMMUNITY GATHERING





Our Men’s Shed members continue to keep busy. Since the last newsletter we can report that we’ve helped with several projects around town; installing a second picnic table on the Roy Henderson trail, maintenance at the Community Centre and of course progressing the fit-out of the Shed. Recently the flooring was laid in the meeting room and the kitchen cabinetry will soon be installed.

We believe we now have a solution to the fire rating issue which has delayed getting occupancy and hope to complete the retrofit of the cladding in the coming months allowing us to start activities in the shed.

For those requiring one, we have a tandem trailer that is available for use, for a small donation. We also now have a surplus of donated tools that we are sorting through and are planning our own “Garage Sale” sometime in the near future, watch this space



New picnic table on the Roy Henderson Trail

EV Charger usage

The EV charger has started to attract visiting EV drivers coming to town. The table below is a summary of the usage data collected to date. We expect a significant increase in activity as the holiday period approaches.

Month	Number Vehicles	Duration Minutes	kWh	Billed
July	0	0	0	\$ -
August	5	82	14	\$ 8.50
September	5	475	70	\$ 42.82
October	6	724	131	\$ 78.40
November	6	2711	91	\$ 55.33
December	0	0	0	\$ -
January	0	0	0	\$ -
February	0	0	0	\$ -
March	0	0	0	\$ -
April	0	0	0	\$ -
May	0	0	0	\$ -
June	0	0	0	\$ -
TOTALS	22	3,992	307	\$ 185.06

It is anticipated that the modest income will help with our future shed finances.

Community eBus

We can report that there has been real progress with the Community eBus project. The Minister’s office has now formally announced the project - see the following Media Release - and the 10 seater (plus wheelchair lift) electric bus has now arrived in Sandy Point.

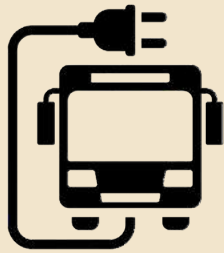


Seeking eBus drivers

We are seeking expressions of interest from those who would be interested in registering to join the roster for driving the bus. So if you think you can help please let us know by sending us a contact email address to spmensshed@gmail.com headed “EOI as eBus Driver”.

For those interested in joining us, we meet regularly, two mornings a week, 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. You can get more details of our activities at www.sandypoint.vic.au and follow the links to the “Men’s Shed”.

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.



**Sandy Point
Community eBus**

30 November 2023

Media Release

Improving Community Transport Accessibility Across Gippsland

Residents in Sandy Point and Venus Bay will benefit from new transport options to connect them to health care, local businesses, education and more, through a collaborative pilot community electric minibus service supported by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP).

Through funding of \$249,450 from the DTP's Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program (FLTSP), the purchase of electric buses will help engage the two communities to reduce their carbon impacts as well as promote inclusion.

Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams said tailored local community projects, like the Gippsland E-Bus trials, are what funding from the Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program is all about.

"Lack of accessible transport services can have a real adverse effect on communities, especially in regional Victoria, so we're doing everything we can to address this," Minister Williams said.

The day-to-day operation and management of the services will be undertaken by the respective committees and local communities, with the pilot being supported by a two-year research project aiming to identify sustainable models to benefit remote communities.

South Gippsland Shire Council - Mayor, Cr Nathan Hersey said the project is innovative and community-led.

"It will create opportunities and social connection for residents in remote communities, by providing transport to neighbouring townships and important health, education and employment services," Mayor Hersey said.



SP community groups celebrate the arrival of our eBus

As well as assisting with the promotion and marketing of the new service, the research project will, through contributions from the DTP's Transport Research Team, La Trobe University and the iMOVE Cooperative Research Centre, investigate ways to make the community bus service efficient, financially sustainable and provide a model for other regional communities in Victoria.

iMOVE Program's Director Lee-Ann Breger said transport in regional areas is an ongoing challenge all over Australia.

"This collaboration brings the local community together with government and researchers to investigate an approach that provides immediate benefits for two communities, while also developing a framework that could be applied in many other rural areas," Ms Breger said.

Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Industry Engagement La Trobe University, Professor Susan Dodds said the university has a long and proud history of pursuing sustainability and the transition to renewable energy.

"We aim to support that transition through transport research and innovations that increase safety, accessibility and efficiency, such as electric vehicles," Professor Dodds said.

The funding from the Victorian Government is via the FLTSP which provides funding to local government and community organisations for small-scale transport projects, evidence-based transport studies, and funding to redesign and trial new ways in which transport services at a local level can be delivered across the state.

For more information on the Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program visit the Department of Transport and Planning website.

END of Media Release

<https://imoveaustralia.com/project/gippsland-community-e-bus-pilot/>.

PROPOSED OPTUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT 82 SANDY POINT ROAD



The Sandy Point community has been notified of this proposed Optus facility by CPS Technology & Infrastructure. They write ...

What is the proposal at Sandy Point?

Optus proposes an important improvement to our mobile network, with the installation of a new telecommunications facility at 82 Sandy Point Road, Sandy Point VIC 3959.

The proposal involves installation of a new 30 metre monopole, a new triangular headframe upon the monopole, three (3) panel antennas and provisions for nine (9) future Active Antenna Units (AAUs) mounted on the headframe, one (1) parabolic antenna, one (1) outdoor unit within a new compound; and ancillary equipment including one (1) GPS antenna, remote radio units, hybrid cables, mounts and rejection filters.

The proposed facility requires a planning permit from South Gippsland Shire Council. A planning Permit Application will be lodged with the Council.

We are writing to provide you with more information on the proposal. A webpage is available to view the proposal, together with supporting documentation, and this will be updated as the project progresses.

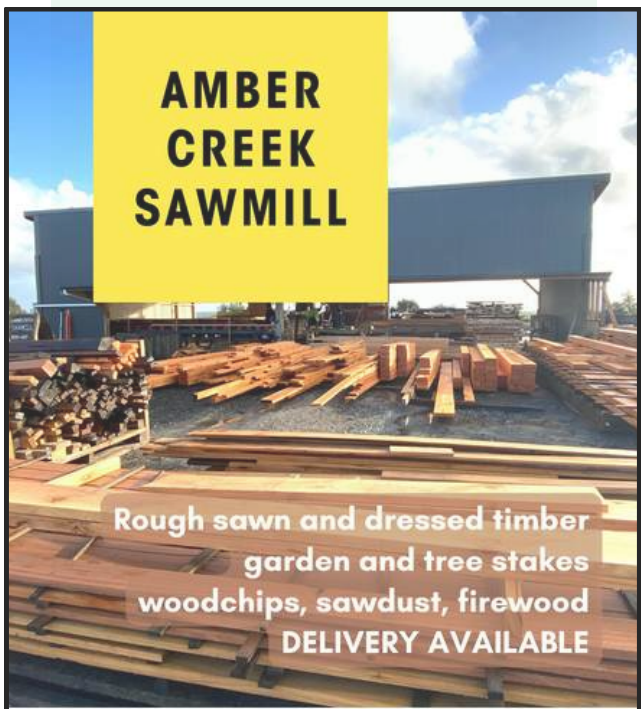
Please visit: www.rfnsa.com.au/3959007

Their news release pdf can be read in full at www.sandypoint.vic.au/news/proposed-mobile-tower




Paul Inglefinger
21 Falls Road, Fish Creek, 3959
Ph: (03) 5683 2378 Fax: (03) 5683 2434
fishy-hardware@bigpond.com

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FISH CREEK & DISTRICT FIRE BRIGADE

Fish Creek and District Fire Brigade responds to fires in the communities of Fish Creek, Sandy Point, Waratah, Buffalo and support our surrounding brigades in Tarwin Lower, Walkerville, Foster, Yanakie and Meenyan-Stony Creek.

Fish Creek and District Fire Brigade have trucks located in Fish Creek and Sandy Point. Sandy Point has a number of active CFA who reside in and around Sandy Point. Regular monthly training is conducted at Fish Creek and Sandy Point on a Thursday evening.

As a Rescue brigade, we are also called for our specialist skills in patient extraction from vehicles and rescues in difficult terrain across South Gippsland. This year we have attended over 50 incidents already ranging from escaped burn-offs, bush fires and grass fires, vehicle accidents, police support, shed fires and house fires.

We are a busy brigade covering a very large area, which is why we need your help.

The fires season is shaping up to be a big one. Bureau of Meteorology data shows Victoria is headed for a long, dry summer. We're doing what we can to get prepared. We're checking our equipment, getting out and training and preparing our own properties. As we are a small, but dedicated group of firefighters and rescue crew, we need your assistance to help make our community safer.

You can do this by preparing your properties, talking with neighbours and deciding well ahead of time what your fire plan will be.

*Ray Poletti, Captain
Fish Creek and District CFA
0429 424 512
raypoletti@bigpond.com*



JOIN US NOW

Bring along your life skills and learn some new ones. No matter your age, gender or availability, we are keen to hear from you. For more information about volunteering, use the QR code or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteer



Can I or Can't I?

It is now a declared Fire Danger Period in South Gippsland. Restrictions apply every day during this period.

Find out what you can and can't do during the declared Fire Danger Period, and on days of Total Fire Ban, when fires in the open air are legally restricted.



[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/
warnings-restrictions/
total-fire-bans-fire-
danger-ratings/
can-i-or-cant-i](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-fire-danger-ratings/can-i-or-cant-i)



CFA. Can I BBQ? : <https://youtu.be/Ga6E2Hzc4jI>

STAY SAFE IN SANDY POINT



The following information is provided by the Sandy Point Community Group as a quick guide to services available for your assistance and safety. To provide updates contact: news@sandypoint.vic.au

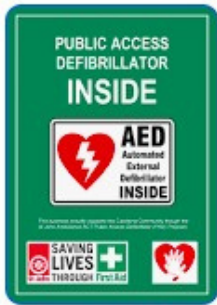
You can access this information again at www.sandypoint.vic.au/help-and-safety.

In an Emergency call Triple Zero (000)

3 SIMPLE STEPS TO SAVE A LIFE

- **Flood or storm damage - SES**
Phone: 132 500
- **Non-Emergency Police Assistance** Phone: 131 444

DEFIBRILLATORS



AEDs accessible 24/7 are located

- outside the General Store
- outside the Men's Shed

AEDs possibly accessible are located

- inside the Surf Club
- inside the Community Centre

Follow the visual and voice prompts of the AED. Do not remove the AED chest pads while performing CPR.

MEDICAL SERVICES



- Foster Medical Centre. PH 5682 2088
- Toora Medical Centre PH: 5686 2203
- South Gippsland Hospital, Foster PH 5683 9777
- Nurse on call. PH: 1300 606 024
- After hours GP helpline. PH: 1800 022 222



Install the Vic Emergency app for all emergency warnings and incidents.

Together we can save lives!

If someone is... **unconscious? not breathing normally?**
It's time to act! Seconds count. It's up to all of us to learn how to save a life in 3 simple steps:

- 1: CALL**
Call Triple Zero (000) now. The call taker will talk you through CPR and using a defibrillator (AED).
- 2: PUSH**
Push on the chest between the nipples. **Push hard. Push fast.**
- 3: SHOCK**
If available, turn on the defibrillator (AED) and follow the instructions. **KEEP GOING!**

SHARED ROADS

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!



Our shared roads are a valued part of the Sandy Point experience and lifestyle. They are shared with walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, kids playing, wildlife crossing (including wombats, koalas, echidnas).

Please drive slowly and keep car use to a minimum.

*This road sign can be purchased from www.tinsignfactoryaustralia.com.au

BEACH WHEELCHAIR



This is available for any person who is disabled, elderly or infirm to enable their access to the beach at Sandy Point.

NB: Two adults are required to push the wheelchair through soft sand when entering and leaving the beach, particularly to get back up the dunes when returning to the boardwalk.

- www.sandypoint.vic.au/beach-wheelchair

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACE (NSP)



Sandy Point Community Centre is a designated Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP) – a place of last resort in the event of an emergency. The Centre now has solar power batteries which can assist the community to manage any extended power outage.

- info@sandypointCC.org.au
- www.sandypointCC.org.au

STAY SAFE IN SANDY POINT

www.sandypoint.vic.au/help-and-safety

WATER SAFETY



Swim between the flags.
For information on surf beach patrols

- www.waratahbeach.com.au/beach-patrol
- Follow WBSLSC on Facebook

BEACHSAFE APP



This Surf Life Saving Australia app includes the location, weather, surf conditions and hazards plus the local facilities for all Australian beaches. It also provides expert advice about rip currents, flags and signs, waves, marine creatures, surf skills and more.

BOATING SAFETY



- Call Triple Zero (000) and ask for Water Police if a distress or rescue situation occurs. Water Police will be able to direct the correct response.
- For information on boating safety www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au/maritime-safety/recreational-boating.

BUSHFIRE



Download pdf - *Sandy Point Community Information Guide - Bushfire: Prepare - Act - Survive.*

- www.sandypoint.vic.au/help-and-safety

The Sandy Point Community Centre is a place of last resort in the event of a bushfire emergency.

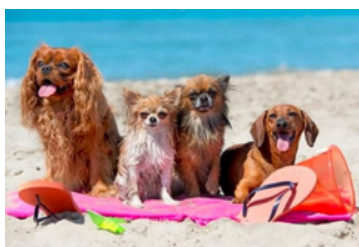
Be aware of current CFA warnings and restrictions. Sandy Point is in the West & South Gippsland Fire District.

- www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions

Fire Danger Rating System



LOCAL VET



Ph (03) 5682 2757
15-17 Court St, Foster,
<https://gippsvet.com.au/foster/>

INJURED WILDLIFE



If you see sick or injured wildlife, report it immediately to Wildlife Victoria

- (03) 8400 7300
- online form at www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au/wildlife-information/report-a-wildlife-emergency

POISONS & VENOMS

Victorian Poisons Information Centre. If someone ... has been poisoned, has overdosed, has made a mistake with medicines or has been bitten or stung by something venomous.

- PH: 131 126

SNAKES

Be aware that snakes share our environment, and will be more active as the weather warms up. Look out for them on beach tracks and watch your step.

Polyvalent Snake Antivenom does not require the identification of the particular snake - do not attempt to capture it.



If a reptile needs to be removed from a residential location, call Todd on 0437 116 805

REPORT LOCAL HAZARDS

- Snap Send Solve app
- www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/report

POWER OUTAGES

- www.outagetracker.com.au





Living with snakes

Following a wet few years snake numbers appear to be higher than normal with many sightings reported. Care should be taken at all times.

If bitten, stay calm, call Triple Zero (000)

From the current snake bite guidelines at **Victorian Poisons Information Centre - Austin Hospital.**

www.austin.org.au/bites-and-stings/#Section11

Dangerous snakes found in Victoria

- Tiger snake (the most common cause of snake envenoming in Victoria)
- Common or Eastern brown snake
- Copperhead snake
- Red-bellied black snake

All snake bites should be regarded as being dangerous. Identification of a snake is difficult and there are serious consequences of wrongly identifying a snake as non-venomous.

Preventing snakebite

Most cases of snakebite can be avoided by following these simple rules:

- Leave snakes alone
- Wear adequate clothing and stout shoes (not sandals/thongs) in 'snake country'
- Never put hands in hollow logs or thick grass without prior inspection
- When stepping over logs, carefully inspect the ground on the other side
- Keep barns and sheds free of mice and rats, as they will attract snakes
- Keep grass well cut

First aid for snakebite

- Stay calm and call for help.
- Note: Do not wash the bite site. Traces of venom that are left on the skin can be tested to identify the snake group, and therefore the type of antivenom that may be indicated.
- Venom is injected deeply so there is no benefit in cutting or sucking the bite. A tourniquet is not an effective way to restrict venom movement.
- **The most effective first aid for snakebite is the pressure bandage with immobilisation (PBI) technique.**

The principle is to minimise the movement of the venom around the body until the victim is in a hospital by applying a firm bandage (or suitable alternative) to the bitten area and limb, and to immobilise the victim. When applied properly, this method can trap the venom in the bitten area for many hours. The victim might not suffer any effects of the venom until the pressure bandage is released, which is done in hospital where antivenom can be administered if required.

After the pressure bandage and splint are in place:

- Bring transport to the victim
- Keep the victim still
- Leave bandages in place until the victim has reached a medical facility.

This guide to the Pressure Bandage Immobilisation Technique (known as PIT or PBI) is from

AustraliaWide First Aid

www.australiawidefirstaid.com.au/resources/pressure-immobilisation-technique

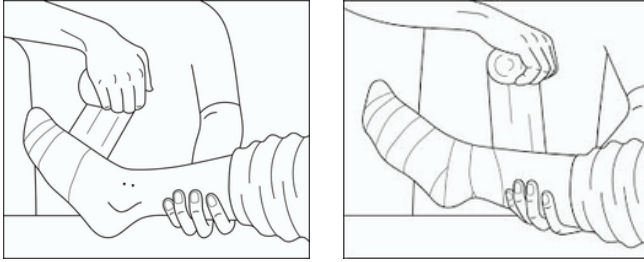
How to use the PIT

In the event that the Pressure Immobilisation Technique is needed, firstly ensure that the casualty remains as still as possible. This will help slow the spread of venom through the body.

You should also follow [DRSABCD](#) and be prepared to perform [CPR](#). You can then begin applying the PIT, like so:

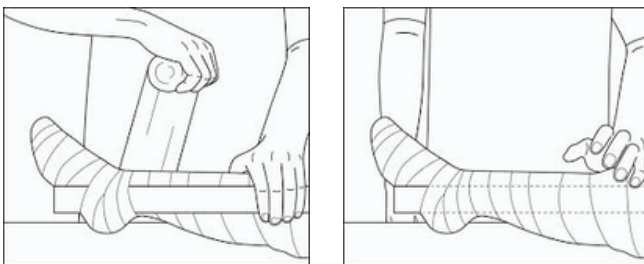
If the casualty is bitten or stung on a limb, apply a broad pressure bandage over the bite site as soon as possible. It is recommended that you use elastic bandages (10-15cm wide) rather than crepe bandages to form your pressure immobilisation bandage. If neither of these are available, you can improvise with clothing or other material. The bandage should be firm and tight - not so tight as to cut off circulation, but tight enough that you cannot easily slide a finger between the bandage and the skin.

How to use the PIT (cont.)



To further restrict lymphatic flow and help immobilise the limb, apply a second pressure bandage. Commence at the fingers or toes (the distal end) of the bitten limb and extend upwards, and cover as much of the limb as possible. Also take care to mark the bite site with a pen or texta.

Apply a splint to the limb to immobilise joints on either side of the bite and restrict movement as much as possible. The splint can be made from a variety of rigid materials, such as a tree branch or rolled up newspaper, and can be incorporated under the layers of bandaging. Bites to the arm, meanwhile, should be immobilised with a sling rather than a splint.



Important to remember

- For bites that are not on a limb and cannot be treated with the Pressure Immobilisation Technique, apply local pressure
- The bandages should be applied over existing clothing, as any attempts to remove clothing could promote the spread of venom into the blood stream
- If only one bandage is available, we recommend starting just below the bitten area and winding the bandage as far up the limb as possible



Foster Pharmacy sells these compression bandages.

Antivenom is available at the South Gippsland Hospital in Foster for Tiger snake and Brown bites. (As advised by the SGH duty nurse, 19/12/23)

Latrobe Health is said to have the polyvalent vaccine

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Lots of veggies are planted in our wicking beds - zucchini, tomatoes (tommytoe like) beans, herbs, capsicums, rhubarb, snow peas. We've had lots of rain in South Gippsland, and our leaking wicking bed has been repaired, thanks to Jack Schultz. Thanks to all who support us, both from the community, and our holiday visitors.



Look for these lovely handmade bags in the General Store. All proceeds go to support our Community Garden



Liz Brown



COAST BANKSIA WOODLAND PROJECT



Volunteers enjoying morning tea after the recent 'Walk, Talk and Weed'



Indigenous Plants infosheets are available at www.sandypoint.vic.au/coast-banksia-woodland-project

After a busy winter of hand weeding English Ivy, Climbing Groundsel, Mirror Bush, Pittosporum, Blue Periwinkle and Asparagus fern on our project site, our efforts have been concentrated on educational activities.

The first was a walk through the Coast Banksia Woodland Project site identifying some of the indigenous plants present. Participants were given an identification sheet, printed with funds from our Coastcare grant.

The next walk was along the Roy Henderson Trail identifying some of the wildflowers that were blooming beside the track. Again ID sheets were provided. At the end of the walk our volunteers were set to work removing asparagus fern from the trackside, after which everyone enjoyed a delicious morning tea.

In the meantime, at the project site, weeds were sprayed. The results of the spraying can now be seen along the RH Trail at the inlet end, with some weeds dying off faster than others. The spraying was also funded from the Coastcare grant.

Our educational activities will continue into the summer months. The next 'Walk and Talk' will be at Shallow Inlet, looking at Saltmarsh plants. This will be held on Saturday 6th January 2024. The morning 'Walk and Talk' is part of Coastcare's 'Summer by the Sea' program. To participate you will need to register through the following link to reserve a place. Prior to the event, participants will be emailed further instructions.

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/walk-and-talk-coast-saltmarsh-plants-tickets-781175746687?aff=oddtcreator

If you have any concerns please email us at the address below.



We will also give a short presentation at the WiSP event at the Sandy Point Community Centre on Saturday 13th January 2024.

Thank you to everyone who attended our walks or who volunteered their time hand weeding, slashing ivy, digging out boxthorn, or cutting down pittosporum! Our final activity was a celebration BBQ which was enjoyed by all.

Cherry and Henri
sandypointhabitat@gmail.com





Meet our first baby of the year for Sandy Point

... and the Proud Parents



This 40 day old Hoodie chick took to the skies with its parents for the first time on Friday (8th Dec), Sandy Point's first fledgling for this season. We are thrilled, since breeding success rate at Sandy Point is estimated to be less than 2%.

*Photography follows [BLA Guidelines](#)

In August this pair (unbanded and XP banded 6th Dec) took up their territory on the sand-spit. Housekeeping started in September with serial scrapes, interrupted by scrapping with visiting Hoodies. In late September the pair started incubating 3 eggs in their nest which consisted of a shallow depression in the middle of the flat shingle 100 metres behind the ocean beach.

Multiple extreme weather events threatened the nest including gales, scouring sand and prolonged heavy rain. 2 of the 3 eggs survived nearby passing horses, humans with unleashed dogs, foxes and natural predators.

The single chick which hatched at end October after 32 days incubation was then thought to have perished when exceptionally high tides inundated this part of the spit, however the tiny, recently hatched fluffy chick was observed several days later foraging for itself on the beach beside its parents.

Throughout November and into December the parents remained ceaselessly vigilant, dealing aggressively with all intruders perceived as a threat to the chick while foraging over a wide area extending several kilometres.

3½ months has now passed since the start of this pair's territorial behaviour in their first breeding attempt this season, monitored for many hours each week via binoculars which provide a window into their world as they go about their lives. The chick was not seen making any practice flights or even wing-stretching, and was still noticeably smaller than its parents right up to day 40 from hatching date.

All 3 were observed foraging as usual on the beach on Friday, alert to predators flying overhead; they then took off together heading out over the water and flew along the spit to relative safety in the far distance.

Thanks to Stephen Johnson for advice, support with fencing, and for banding 4 birds so far this season, including XP, which assists BLA volunteer monitors to figure out which of the 9 currently known breeding pairs is doing what, with whom, and where on the SP sand spit.

"Fly high, little one, see you around"

Report and photos by Wendy Hayes, BLA Volunteer Monitor

Please

HELP OUR HOODIES

- Leash your dogs
- Keep to water's edge
- Avoid high tide
- Watch where you walk
- Stay away from fenced nesting areas

Follow the fortunes of SP Hoodies at www.sandypoint.vic.au/hoodies



SANDY POINT MUSIC (SPM) CONTINUES TO BRING TALENTED BANDS TO THE STAGE.

Thank you to all the groovers and music fans who buy the tickets, come along and support the wonderful initiative that the SPM committee bring to the community.

In October, **Aunty Blue and Ally Row** were a sensational double bill who delivered Indie-Folk-Rock.

Then in November **Miss Ellie and King Lear** (from Perch Creek) graced the stage with new music that was fresh and crisp. It brought the SPM community out in full force with a packed house.

We finished 2023 in December with the **AlgoRhythm Trio** who didn't waste a minute coaxing the audience to the floor with three sets of covers that kept us dancing pretty much all night. It was a brilliant way to wrap up the Sandy Point Music calendar year.



COMING UP IN 2024 ...

In 2024, SPM is going to kick start the year on **January 20th** with **Rise King Tide**.

They last performed 18 months ago and without hesitation they hit the stage with full impact and lights that went right to the end of the night on an absolute high. They owned that stage! We loved it and we were either on our feet or tapping to the beat.

Don't miss this chance to dance.

On **February 17th**, **Kerryn Fields and Matt Joe Gow** will bring their own brand of music. Kerryn is a singer songwriter who puts a twist on her tunes with her unique voice, varied vocals cords, a genuine heart, a fabulous sense of humor and a blue hat. Matt also has a unique style and will bring his lush 3 part harmonies and detailed guitar, slide and mandolin playing.





COMING UP IN 2024 ...

On **March 16th, Claire Anne Taylor** is another of our favourites with incredible talent as a singer songwriter with an international following.

We are still working on April but have confirmed **Jungle Jim Smith for 25th May**.



STAY IN TOUCH ...

How do you get tickets and how do you find out what's on, you may well ask? It's easy!

- You can join our email list, just send an email to sandypointmusic@gmail.com
- You can visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/sandypointmusic
- You can go to trybooking.com and search Sandy Point 3959 to see upcoming gigs

Note that with the increasing summer audience numbers there will be limited tickets at the door for many of these events. Booking tickets in advance is recommended.

Words and show photos by donnakilleenphotography.com

WATER BORING

New bores - Maintenance
Decommissioning

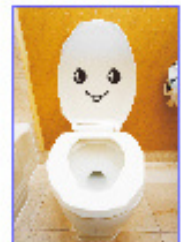
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SANDY POINT COMMUNITY POWER

Excessive solar feed-in causing problems on the electricity network

Sandy Point Community Power’s vision is that more than 50% of commercial and residential properties have solar panels. While many households have installed solar systems and saved a lot of money on their power bill, as more solar panels are installed, problems are being experienced in the electricity system.

On sunny days there can be more solar fed into the grid than our local power demand. This causes voltage instability in the grid which if left unchecked is a safety and operational headache. Because network operators are required to maintain the voltage within set limits, they are now setting lower solar feed-in limits for new solar systems in some parts of Sandy Point. In some streets the feed-in limit for new solar systems has been set to zero!

More broadly, as the costs of maintaining and improving the electricity network are ‘recovered’ by the network owner through usage tariffs, as more customers install solar panels, the allocation of network costs is shifting. Customers who do not have solar panels are paying proportionally more of the total network costs. Customers without panels currently pay about twice as much in network charges on average as those with panels, and this disproportionate situation is expected to get worse. Renters and households who cannot afford solar panels are being disadvantaged.

Plans for emergency backstops & transitioning to Flexible Solar exports

To manage extreme low demand & high solar feed-in situations, the Victorian Government recently signalled that it is planning to introduce new regulations requiring all new inverters installed after June 2024 to have an ‘emergency backstop’ fitted. This feature will give network owners the capability to stop solar exports when instructed to do so by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) who control the network.

Fortunately, network owners are also exploring less draconian measures. In order to defer the costs of augmenting the electricity network for the management of voltage instability caused by excessive solar exports (and therefore save all of us some money), AusNet and other network owners around Australia are moving towards introducing ‘flexible export’ schemes.

Rather than setting a static maximum feed-in limit – currently set at 5kWh for most solar customers, where customers elect to ‘opt-in’ to the flexible export scheme, the amount they can export will vary dependent on the state of the electricity grid at that time. On hot sunny days where there is low local demand, their solar exports might be constrained to match the local need. However, where local demand is high, these customers will be offered the opportunity to export more solar than the static limit.

This has direct relevance at Sandy Point. For example, on the 9th December 2019 the temperature rose to 29degC but the electricity feeder line servicing Sandy Point and Waratah Bay transmitted only 7MWh of power for the day. On this day a customer on the flexible exports scheme would likely have their exports constrained below the static 5kW capacity limit. However, on the 30th of the same month (after all the holiday makers had arrived!) the temperature rose to the high 30’s. This time the power demand on the feeder for the day was 24MWh. On this day a customer on the flexible exports scheme would likely be invited to export well over the static 5kW limit.

Continued ...

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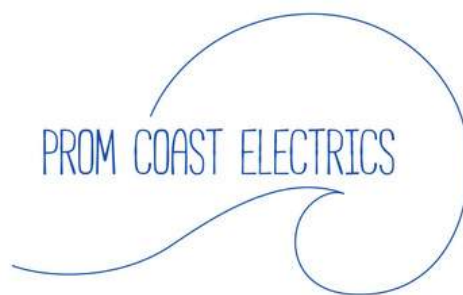
Trends in the Feed-in tariff and proposed 'Two-way' tariffs.

AusNet recently completed a 'flexible exports' trial involving 40 customers. An additional 155MW of solar feed-in to the grid was enabled compared to what these customers would have been able to export with their static limits. With the success of the trial, AusNet aim to expand the number of customers on the 'flexible export' scheme to more than 200 during 2024. Having an internet connection and agreeing to allow AusNet to control solar exports will be pre-requisites for joining the 'flexible exports' scheme.

Some owners of solar systems believe that they're being 'ripped-off' because the tariff they receive for their feed-in is so much lower than the tariff they pay when using power from the grid. The reason for the difference is that the feed-in tariff represents only the value of the power itself. That is, the cost that the retailer would pay for the power. This wholesale price of power during the day is progressively coming down as more cheap renewable energy enters the grid (the wholesale price of power is increasing in the evening as there is insufficient generation and/or stored energy to meet demand). In addition to the price of the power itself, the tariff we pay for power we consume from the grid also includes network charges, retailer charges, and Government charges. These charges are not applied to solar exports even though the customer is using the poles and wires.

For solar customers, network owners are considering the introduction of 'Two-way' network tariffs, that is, network tariffs with both consumption and export components (remembering that the network tariff makes up about half of our power bill). The export side would have both charges and reward signals aimed at changing consumer behaviour, which in-turn would reduce the need for network augmentation (again saving us money). For example, a small network charge might be laid for exporting power during the day, while the network tariff for consuming power in the middle of the day might be very low (even zero!). The intent is to encourage households to shift energy use from the evening to middle of the day (eg. daytime hot water heater or running the washing machine at lunch time). In comparison, the solar feed-in tariff in the late afternoon and evening might be set much higher than now to match the higher evening demand. One of the benefits of this idea is that it would reduce the degree of cross-subsidisation of network costs by those who don't have solar to those of us that do.

Feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions.
 The crew at Sandy Point Community Power
 Email: energy@sandypoint.vic.au



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SHALLOW INLET

Shifting Sands

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BIG DUNE AT SHALLOW INLET

Surprising as it may seem, the site of the big dune at the south end of the Shallow Inlet beach was once the main channel to the ocean!

In the late 1800s, the entrance into Shallow Inlet was in a similar location to where it is today. As now, there was a long low sand spit on the west side of the entrance.

Around the end of the 19th century, a very high tide (probably in combination with flooding rain) caused a new entrance to break through far to the west, the remains of which are still visible today as the 'Boat Hole' in front of the dune.

During the last century and the start of the current one, the entrance has slowly moved back to where it was around 120 years ago. At some time in the future, events will likely come together again, and a new entrance will form somewhere west of the present site.

During the 1970s the dune was unstable and drifting north, and was rapidly encroaching on the inlet beach, and would eventually have extended into the 'Boat Hole' and blocked access to the main channel.

The Foreshore Committee of the time obtained advice from the then Soil Conservation Authority and were advised to plant the south side of the dune with Marram Grass, and to leave the north face bare. This would cause the dune to stabilize but would also mean gradual erosion of the north face causing the whole dune to move back south.

This is exactly what happened, and native Coastal Wattle and other species have now replaced the Marram Grass, but the north side slowly eroded giving us a larger area of beach to use. Some years ago, the extent of this was obvious, as the small stump of a treated pine post that was once on the edge of the dune, appeared 30 meters out on the beach. As virtually the whole dune is now stable and covered in vegetation, we should have access to the channel and a large area of beach for many years to come!

Article and photos by Ray Henderson



The "big dune" 1970s soon after the planting of Marram Grass



The "big dune" 2020s now with native vegetation

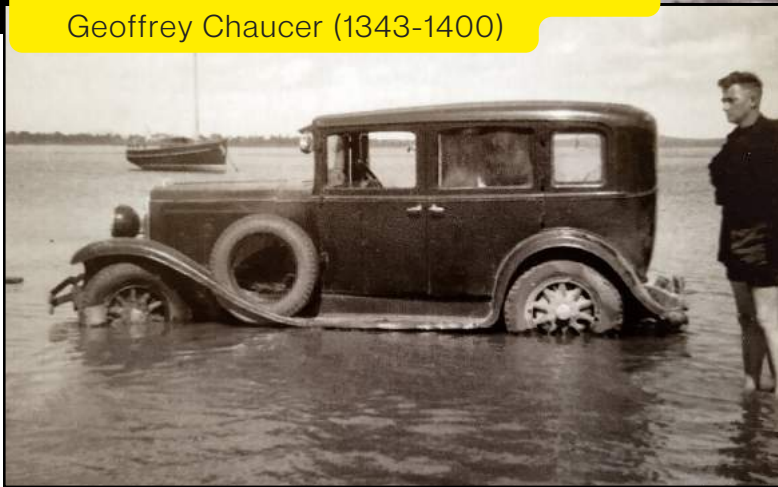


*Rising
tides*

SHALLOW INLET

“Time and tide wait for no man”

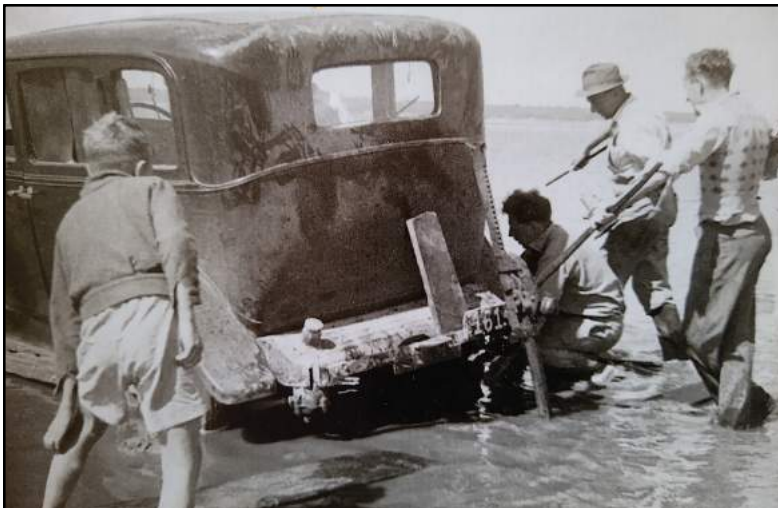
Geoffrey Chaucer (1343-1400)



Geoffrey Chaucer could have been writing about the tide at Shallow Inlet! The photo above, provided by Keith Haycroft, was taken around 1950 and shows a scene recognised by many regular visitors to Shallow Inlet.

Shallow Inlet is a popular destination for those interested in fishing and water sports such as wind surfing. It is also a safe beach for young children to swim and for family picnics.

The water in the inlet is deceptively shallow at low tide and many uninformed tourists have been caught, bogged in wet sand, or even worse, have left cars unattended and returned to find them surrounded by water. There is a local story about a car buried under the sand!



Many of the local fishing enthusiasts or community workers have needed to come to the rescue of cars at risk.

As the hardness of the sand is affected by the amount of water it holds, the sand is hardest in the 2 hours before and after low tide and above the high tide mark.

Drivers with experience of conditions at Shallow Inlet know to ...

- Avoid driving on the sand if high tide is approaching.
- Drive and park their cars near the vegetation at the side of the inlet beach.
- When launching and retrieving boats, have everything loaded and ready before putting the trailer in the water.

There is also an off-beach car park available. Tidal information for Shallow Inlet is available on the WillyWeather app, for example.

*Article by Bronwyn Parry-Fielder.
Thanks to Keith Haycroft and Ray Henderson for their assistance with this article.*

Steven Coad

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FUTURE EVENTS

26 Dec – 1 Jan WiSP Annual Koala Survey

WiSP is promoting our koala survey where we ask residents and visitors to report sightings of koalas or their scat. This is a critical activity to monitor the population and health of the local koalas.

6 January Habitat will offer a Saltmarsh Walk and Talk

starting at 9:30 at the Inlet carpark.
To register contact sandypointhabitat@gmail.com

6 January Foodies and Artisans

American BBQ Stall starting 4pm. Amazing Marg Grumley Quilt and other raffle items on offer. WiSP's BIG fund-raiser for this year!

13 January WiSP Event starting 11am.

Kid's Activities, Everything Koala including the Koala Survey Results featuring Sue Moore local carer specialist. Habitat and Shorebird Project updates.

February Meeting: TBA

ANIMAL WELFARE

The mange in the area continued to be a problem with a wombat being treated (though later died) at Waratah Hills Winery and one large male koala was taken to our mange specialist in early November and is reported to doing well. Another small koala was relocated when found on the road. Our responders also assisted with a kangaroo joey who is in care and young echidna that had to be euthanized due to being fly blown. Several dead seals were reported as well as a netted seal that is now having potential response coordinated through the Melbourne Zoo Marine Response Unit. Dead shorebirds including an Australasian Gannet and dead little penguins were also reported. WiSP thanks all the people who made reports about the wildlife, the volunteers and carers who make our response program so successful.

An injured/sick animal response contact list has been issued, distributed and posted. You can find the link here.

HABITAT REHABILITATION

Please see Coastal Banksia Woodlands Project article.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

On 23 September Wildlife in Sandy Point (WiSP), in collaboration with Microbats of Melbourne (with help from Bass Coast Bats) held an information session on microbats and how we can live together. Ericka, the rehabilitation specialist, gave a highly informative presentation about microbats and spent 35 minutes answering questions from the 30 strong audience.



Injured or sick animal response contact list

... on [Facebook](#)



... on the [Sandy Point website](#)





During the day we held a children’s interactive animal session and WiSP had Habitat display with desirable and undesirable plants as well as an update about the Coastcare funded Coastal Banksia Woodland Project. A talk was provided by Pauline, who with her partner, were two of the original migratory shorebird monitors who during the 1980s and 1990s spotted migratory shorebirds in the Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Park (SIMCP). Their counts, along with other Sandy Point enthusiasts, were the basis for the SIMCP being internationally recognized whereby greater than 1%, of the total population of individual birds, visit the area. To volunteer for the WiSP Migratory Shorebird Project please contact us on: wildlifeinsandypoint@gmail.com

WiSP concluded the day’s activities and celebration of the 40th Anniversary since the Sandy Point community had commenced shorebird monitoring with pizzas from Fish Creek Mobile Pizza. Attendees, guests and volunteers enjoyed the refreshments and had another chance to interact with other naturalists. Always uplifting and satisfying.

- If you want to see or post Sandy Point area wildlife please become a member of our face book notice board here. 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



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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The Committee has recently been successful in winning another grant from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for the replacement of all timber decking boards to the Main Beach Walkway and Ned Neale’s up to the viewing deck. There was a real need to replace this decking as it was failing and causing a risk to the public utilising these walkways. The Main Walkway has just been completed but due to the onset of the Summer rush Ned Neale’s will be completed in February. The Committee has also purchased 2 new gas BBQs to replace the ageing ones at Shallow Inlet and these should be installed in time for Xmas.

Some important news for all is that the Committee has been approached by DEECA to consider extending our responsibility over the current Coastal Reserve area, to incorporate the Waratah Bay area which is currently managed by the South Gippsland Shire Council. The area concerned starts about 1 km west of Ned Neale’s to just past Waratah Bay township and incorporates the Waratah Bay Caravan Park.

The Committee after undertaking due diligence has agreed in principle to this proposed extension of our responsibility. The Committee will not manage the Caravan Park but will lease the park to a selected tenant.

It should be noted that this is a proposal and final decisions and agreements are yet to be put in place and until that is completed we are unable to confirm if it will proceed. We would hope to advise the Community early in the new year.

With the above proposal we would like all Waratah Bay residents/home owners and holiday makers who would be interested in talking to us about getting involved in the Foreshore Committee to contact us to discuss how we can make this work better for both communities.

Best initial contact is:
sandypointforeshore@gmail.com

On another note we again thank the WiSP weeding crew and all volunteers in attacking our eastern end of Roy Henderson Track with great success.

A reminder about dogs on the beaches with regards to leads and timing after the 1st Dec and reminding all that 200m west of Ned Neale’s is leash free all year.

Also, a reminder to all dog owners that the Committee provides doggy bags for the public located at the entry to Main Beach and Ned Neale access points and on the Roy Henderson Trail and we would hope they are only used for these areas.





As part of our financial management, we have been placed in a position, due to increased costs for wages for Rangers, to increase our parking fees this year at Shallow Inlet. We have held the parking fees fixed for the last 8 years.

The parking fees are the Committee's only source of income, except competitive grants for specific works, to undertake track clearing, Inlet road and carpark works, Ned Neale carpark works, purchasing of hundreds of doggy bags over the year, toilet facility and BBQ maintenance at Shallow Inlet, and Rangers' salaries, from early December through to late January and occasionally the Easter period, and the list goes on.

The new fees are \$6.00 per day visit or \$35.00 per season ticket up from \$5.00 and \$30.00.

The funds all go to great use.

Last year we had issues with people illegally camping at Shallow Inlet and of particular concern was the lighting of fires. Not sure if some people are that ignorant but there is a restricted fire season over summer. The Committee will call on the Police when needed and fines are applicable.

The last thing we want is to have a fire in our native vegetation and with an easterly wind it could wipe out Sandy Point. Please be vigilant.

A westerly wind could also possibly drive embers into Wilsons Promontory Coastal Reserve and devastate our national park which is on the other side of the Inlet.

Please No Camping AND NO FIRES.

We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer holiday and take care.

The Committee

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Sandy Point Darts Team

Once again a few locals entered a team in the 2023 South Gippsland Winter Darts League despite not having a home venue due to the Cafe still being closed.

Fortunately one week before the season commenced Foster Golf Club were happy to host us for our home games. However this meant we had to travel every week.

After some close matches throughout the season Sandy Point finished fourth and were in the finals. Sandy Point played Fish Creek Hotel in the Elimination Final and in a nail biting finish Sandy Point won the night 6 to 5 and progressed to the Preliminary Final against a very strong Meeniyani team.

Unfortunately Sandy Point had a few players unavailable for the Preliminary Final and played one short. Despite a gallant effort Sandy Point lost to Meeniyani. Meeniyani played Toora RSL Gunners in the Grand Final held at Foster Golf Club with Meeniyani taking the Premiership Cup home.

Greg Collis from the Sandy Point team scooped the awards night claiming “the most hundreds scored” , “the most peg outs to finish” and “the most successful male player”. Well done Greg, a great effort! Another Sandy Point player teamed up with a Meeniyani player and they claimed the League’s Drawn Doubles Champions, also held on presentation night at Toora Bowls Club

Many thanks to the South Gippsland Darts League and all the other teams making it another fun and successful season.

Rob Nicholson for Sandy Point Darts Team

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SANDY POINT BEACH RUN

A Sandy Point Beach Run is being planned for Sunday January 14. This date and the time will be confirmed. Look out for the flyers, and details posted on Facebook by Prom Coast Pack Runs.



PROM COAST PACK RUNS
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Buckley Park Community Farm will again be running the weekly fresh food market over summer in Fish Creek, Saturdays 9am to 11am.

For more information, contact Marg 0488 592 725.

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Not long now until the New Year and Sandy Point's annual WIN Current Cruiser swim at Shallow Inlet on New Year's Day. Sponsors have been very supportive and generous this year, including Marinus who have come on board as a major sponsor, and collectively we are on track to raise valuable funds to support the Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club volunteers this summer. Planning is well under way and we are now actively promoting through social media and regional posters to get the word out and lock away registrations. This year we are aiming for 300 swimmers. All approvals are in, web site is updated, Tomato timing is booked, T-shirts and swim caps are ordered, the WIN television commercial is finalised and ready to screen (thanks to club member Tim Moloney for producing this) and Dynasty, a 5 piece rock band from Melbourne, lined up to play covers and originals at the club house from 6pm as a free event.

The 2024 swim will include a number of exciting developments. As tides dictate the direction of the course, this year we will walk to the start lines (towards the inlet) and finish with at the car park where hopefully we have a good crowd of cheering onlookers (keep an eye on incoming tide and where you park your car). And also new for 2024 we have introduced the Driftwood Villas Family Float, a 500m drift on BYO floatation devices with the current and overseen by WBSLSC water safety volunteers. Hopefully this proves popular and a regular inclusion on the day.



Registrations are now open online
<https://currentcruiser.waratahbeach.com.au/> and
getting in early is encouraged but can be done on the day, all money raised goes to the Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

Swim caps are included for all events and swim registrations also include a t-shirt (while stocks last). Any extra event T-shirts will be available for purchase (also while stocks last). Presentations will be at the club house after the swim, hopefully you can make it and the weather does the right thing. Please help by spreading the word.

Waratah Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR)



Warm weather is fast approaching and we are expecting plenty of boaters in the region, and varying degrees of experience, and the Waratah MSAR service will be prepared to support as needed. We have been training over winter months and will be in the water frequently over summer to hone skills and build volunteer hours and experience. Our vessel (Rescue 402) is a 6.5M Gemini RHIB with twin Yamaha 90hp outboards and well equipped with digital radio, marine VHF, AIS, EMV connected Furuno GPS mapping, Radar, FLIR camera, first aid equipment and is fully serviced and ready to go with a cruising speed of 25 knots and a maximum speed of 45 knots. Keep an eye out for us on the water, we will be training heaps over summer and have a few sessions planned with our neighbouring rescue service at Inverloch. Man overboard, vessel abandonment and fire, navigation, towing and first aid are just a few of our frequent training exercises.



The service was originally established operated by LSV through the Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club, and today Emergency Management Victoria has the service operating directly through LSV, covering the area between the Prom and Cape Liptrap. Our experience with this change has been favourable and we now consider the operation easier to deliver than ever before. We currently have 15 enthusiastic volunteers on the books and there is plenty of room for more active participants. Joining up is easy and if you are interested let me know and we can explain the training pathway to becoming an active crew and skipper.

Most of the current crew are not permanent residents at Sandy Point but we are committed and planning to have coverage throughout January and most of the summer. Any locals, either new members or past members, are always welcome and joining would certainly allow us to offer a stronger service. Fingers crossed everyone has a safe boating experience this season and rescues are not required.

Articles by Paul Minahan



December

27 Sam Minahan Nippers	28 RSA Course	29 Nippers	30 Fiona Curram	31
SRC Camp				

- Camps & training
- Nippers
- Major events
- Warabar

January

Updated 18th December

Beach Patrolled

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
1 Dynasty WIN Network Current Cruiser	2 Meg Doherty Nippers	3 Nippers	4 	5 Fiona Curram Nippers	6 Can rattle fundraiser Nippers Film Night	7 Meg Doherty Bronze Camp
8 Nippers Bronze Camp	9 	10 Nippers	11 	12 Fiona Curram Nippers Club Champs and Awards	13 	14 Dev Camp
Bass District Lifesaving Development Camp						Bar Closed
15 	16 	17 	18 	19 	20 	21
Bar Closed						Bar Closed
22 	23 	24 	25 	26 	27 Fiona Curram	28
Bar Closed						Bar Closed
29 	30 	31 	<h2 style="margin: 0;">WARABAR</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Open: 4PM - 8.30PM, open later if busy Each night December 26 - January 14 Friday and Saturday nights until end of Jan Saturday nights until Easter</p>			

The Warabar will remain open on Saturdays until Easter.

We are calling for volunteers to assist over the summer, please register your interest here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/uWanKxzRdr>



**Sandy Point
Community Group**

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For other payment methods, please complete this form, and see below for payment details.

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First Name

Last Name

Email *

Membership Type *

- Individual membership \$15
- Family/household membership \$25

Additional Name for Family membership

First Name

Last Name

Additional family email

Address

Optional additional payment

Select any additional items you would like to include with your membership payment

- Postage of print quarterly newsletter \$12 (optional)
- Donation to SPCG (optional)

Donation amount (optional)

The SPCG appreciates your support.

\$

Payment method *

Select your intended payment method

- Credit Card online (preferred)
- Bank Transfer
- Cheque
- Cash

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We need your member details with your payment. Please either ...

- Post or deliver this print membership form to -
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 - Beach Parade
 - Sandy Point 3959
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Sandy Point Community Group
BSB: 633 000
Account No: 1440 68590
Reference: **YOUR NAME**

Cash or Cheque

Post or deliver with your completed form to -

SPCG
c/o Sandy Point General Store
Beach Parade
Sandy Point 3959

Email membership@sandypoint.vic.au for further payment options or inquiries.

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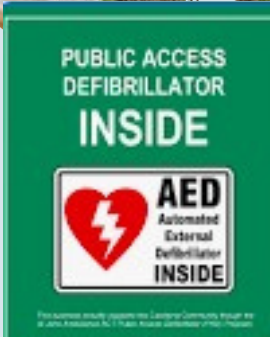
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The Sandy Point Community Group, through community engagement, advocates on behalf of the community and is committed to preserving our unique natural environment.

From the Editor : news@sandypoint.vic.au



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