



# Sandy Point News

Summer 2019

Price \$1.00

Volume 19, Issue 4

## A Community Energy Project for Sandy Point

It's been a busy few months since we last reported our early ideas regarding a CORE (Community Owned Renewable Energy) project for Sandy Point. Our small committee is continuing to gather information in this rapidly changing world to try to develop a suitable project.

As a first step, we are currently working closely with the Men's Shed group to investigate the opportunities to install PV panels and take advantage of the large roof area. These, together with battery storage and, potentially, charging points for Electric Vehicles (EVs) could form the basis of an initial community project. Such an installation would provide reduced electricity costs to the shed, a potential revenue source for other Community projects and environmental benefits. It's early days yet and there are numerous details to work through, multiple organisations to get on board and of course the perennial problem of funding but it's a starting point for what could become a community-wide project.

We have established a page on the Community Group's website ([www.sandypoint.vic.au/core.html](http://www.sandypoint.vic.au/core.html)) where we will be reporting developments and posting links to relevant and interesting articles you may wish to follow up.

We would also hope that you could take time to participate in a short online survey (See page 4) This will help us to better gauge the Community's interest in a project and hopefully provide some base data that we can feed into feasibility studies and grant applications. Thanks in advance for your help.

Finally, we will be holding a public meeting in the New Year to discuss the possible options with the community. We'll confirm a date and time as soon as possible. So please keep an eye on our webpage and also on the [SPCG Facebook page](#).



*The roof of the Men's Shed would provide room for a large array of solar panels.*

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS



Come along and help us start the Christmas festivities by joining in to sing your favourite Christmas Carols, led by local children's and adult choirs. Santa will of course be making an appearance. After the carols are over and the kids go home the adults are encouraged to stay on and party the night away

**MONDAY 23 DECEMBER**

Concert starts 6pm but come along and join us  
for a picnic/BBQ from 4.30pm  
Free Entry. BYO drinks and nibbles

**SANDY POINT COMMUNITY CENTRE**



# **Sandy Point Community Group: President's Report**



Our newsletter editor has advised that this edition is possibly the biggest yet! Just proves that “it’s all happening” at Sandy Point with many activities and events to report on! Whether you are a permanent or part time resident, holidaymaker or visitor, we hope you can join in to our summer activities and enjoy our wonderful beach and inlet and all that Sandy Point offers.

- To our delight our Café has finally opened. We wish you well Sandy Toes & Salty Kisses! See page 15
- The SPCG worked with the community through submitting a response to South Gippsland Shire Council’s Sandy Point Caravan and Camping Site Investigation. In early December, SPCG committee members met with Julie Eisenbise, Council’s Administrator Chair and Bryan Sword, Acting CEO, which enabled us to provide feedback on the project and to clarify the next steps. Please see page 7 for the update provided to us by Council.
- The research into a Sandy Point Community Owned Renewable Energy (CORE) Project has been progressing well with delegates participating in meetings and numerous information sessions. Please see page 4 for a link to our Community Engagement Survey to help gauge the community’s interest in this project.
- We are continuing to advocate to Council on our aim to implement a Community Garden at Sandy Point and seek a small area of land within the township to utilise for this purpose. Any suggestions?
- We are (impatiently) waiting to be advised by Telstra of the location and installation date of the Small Cell Repeater they have promised us, which will hopefully make a difference to those of us who suffer with poor mobile service, particularly in the eastern end of the township.
- Our progress with Waratah Way seems to be at a standstill. We all worked so hard (especially Cath Giles) to achieve the trail being included in Councils Paths & Trails strategy but where do we go from here? An SPCG sub group strongly advocated for our trail and were successful with gaining interest and support from Russel Broadbent MP and others - there IS funding out there! We desperately need a champion to see this project to fruition. Any volunteers?

The SPCG committee after a very busy year are now organising their annual community and fundraising events. We are delighted to have new committee

members and are appreciative of the expertise and assistance they have willingly contributed.

We hope you enjoy our annual summer activities and fundraising events:

## **Sandcastle Competition & Sausage Sizzle**

28th December on the main beach 9.30 am for 10.00 am start. Prizes awarded at 11.00 am. \$1.00 entry per person. Bring your own spade!!

Sausage sizzle to follow on the walkway to the beach opposite General Store.

## **Foodies & Artisan Market**

4th January, 4.00 pm start, local ready to eat food, produce and artisan crafts, wine & beer & live music entertainment @ the Community Centre.

We have had a great response from our regular vendors who booked in very early this year and several new hot food options. See further details on Page 10.

## **Raffle**

Our annual raffle which includes prizes of a local produce hamper, picnic basket & Music Club tickets, will be sold at the Foodies & Artisan Market.

Please be mindful of our shared roadways this summer and, for everyone’s sake, please adhere to the regulations about when and where dogs are allowed on our beaches. Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas and New Year,

Anne Kinne

President, SPCG







# SUMMER AT SANDY POINT

WHAT'S ON...??

## DECEMBER 2019

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS MON 23RD

Jingles, bells, carols, songs, fun & joy! At Sandy Point Community Centre; Free entry; BYO picnic/BBQ from 4.30pm; concert starts at 6pm

### NIPPERS - FIRST SESSION FRI 27TH

Surf skills and heaps of fun for kids aged 5-14. Runs 9.30-11.30 Mon/Wed/Fri until Fri 17th Jan. For more info, visit: [waratahbeach.com.au](http://waratahbeach.com.au)

### SANDCASTLE COMP SAT 28TH

10am at the main beach - all welcome!

### YOGA FRI 27TH

8am - 9am in the Sandy Point Community Centre with Howard; daily until 5th January.

## JANUARY 2020

### TRIVIA NIGHT THU 2ND

7pm at Sandy Point Community Centre, to book a table - call Di on 0418 336 690

### CURRENT CRUISER SWIM SAT 4TH

It's back for the 2nd year! 500m & 1.5km distances at Shallow Inlet. For more info, visit: [waratahbeach.com.au](http://waratahbeach.com.au)

### FOODIES TWILIGHT MARKET SAT 4TH

4pm at the Sandy Point Community Centre

### FUN RUN SUN 5TH

Waratah Bay to Sandy Point, 8km along the beautiful beach. Contact Gabby 0419841360 for more info

### KIDZ KLUB MON 6TH

9-12.15pm: Prep - Grade 6 at Sandy Point Community Centre. Daily until Fri 10th January. More info and to check for other sessions: [sandypointkidzklub.org](http://sandypointkidzklub.org)

### YOGA ON THE GRASS MON 6TH

8am - 9am at Sandy Point Community Centre with Jacki; daily until Sunday 12th January.

### SANDY POINT MUSIC SAT 18TH

Three Kings - at the Sandy Point Community Centre. For tickets, go to: [facebook.com/sandypointmusic/](https://facebook.com/sandypointmusic/)

## FEBRUARY 2020

### SANDY POINT MUSIC SAT 15TH

James Bennett & Vena Klymo - at the Sandy Point Community Centre. For tickets, go to: [facebook.com/sandypointmusic/](https://facebook.com/sandypointmusic/)

## HAPPENING AROUND TOWN...

- + Tennis court hire - book at the General Store
- + Elizabeth Collins Massage Therapy - [elizabethcollins.com.au](http://elizabethcollins.com.au)
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## **So who is the Sandy Point Skeleton?**

On Christmas day in 2017, a snorkeller swimming at Shallow Inlet found a human skull sitting on the seabed only metres from the shore-line. Police recovered the skull together with extremely well-preserved skeleton which was buried at the same site under about 20cm of sand.

Because these skeletal remains were unidentified, the death of the individual was reported to the coroner. The skeleton was transported to the mortuary at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine where it was examined by a forensic anthropologist, odontologist (dentist) and pathologist. A sample of bone was analysed by the Institute's Molecular Biology Laboratory and an almost complete DNA profile has been extracted.

Despite these examinations, the Sandy Point skeleton has not been identified.

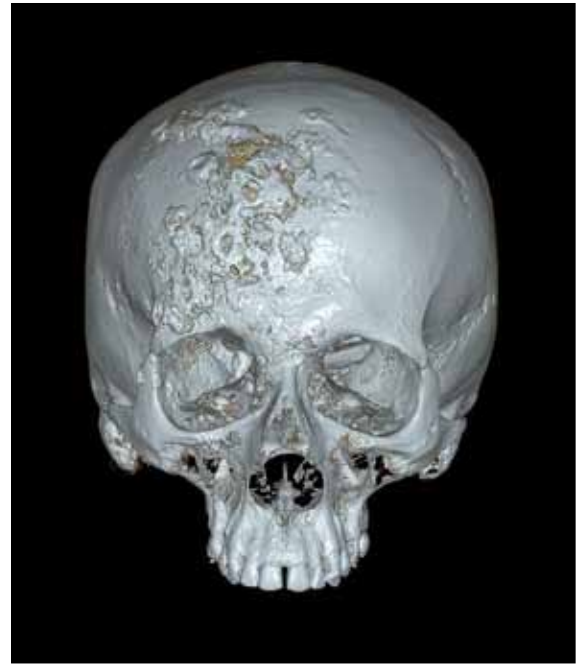
We do know that the skeleton belongs to a Caucasoid male who was in his 20s when he died. He has some unusual dental work which is not typical of contemporary Australian dental practices, including a gold filling in his front tooth. It is possible that the skeleton is quite old, maybe belonging to a man who lived more than 50-70 years ago. The individual has no evidence of skeletal fractures and there is no evidence of any clothing. Based on DNA bio-geographical ancestry, he is likely to be of Western European descent.

I work at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine as a lawyer and have been holidaying at Sandy Point for many years. The mystery of the Sandy Point skeleton has me in its grip. If you have any stories of historical drownings in Waratah Bay or Shallow Inlet, I would be very interested in hearing from you.

I can be contacted on [Fiona.Leahy@vifm.org](mailto:Fiona.Leahy@vifm.org).

Thank you.

Fiona Leahy



*CT image of the front view of the skull from the Sandy Point Skeleton showing shell-like growths on the right side of the forehead*

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## **Sandy Point Community Energy Project: On-Line Survey**

We would really like your help. Can you spare us a few minutes?

We are trying to gauge the interest within the Community to the ideas of Renewable Energy projects here. We have set up a short on-line survey which we hope you will complete to gather some basic information. This will guide us in further developing possible projects.



You can complete the survey by going to:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TV8673S>

Further information can be found on the Community Group's website at [www.sandypoint.vic.au/core.html](http://www.sandypoint.vic.au/core.html)

Thank You



## The Sandcastle competition is on again!

We are having the Sandcastle Competition this year on Saturday, 28th December, commencing at 10am and finishing at 11am.

This has become a very enjoyable time for all family members as we have different categories for Under 8, Under 12, and Family, with prizes for each category and also for Most Creative, Best Traditional, Best Sea Creature and Highly Recommended.

It is a great morning for everyone, with a sausage sizzle for the hungry builders afterwards, so do come along and enjoy the fun times.



## Community Garden project

We are still pursuing the possibility of setting up a Community Garden at Sandy Point and are currently working with the Council to find a suitable place within the township. We'll let you know when this has been decided. There are many expert and enthusiastic gardeners at Sandy Point and they are looking forward to having a showpiece for their talents.

Doug Brown

*Right: An example of a wicking bed that is in use at the Manna Gum Community Garden in Foster.*



## WATER BORING

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# Sandy Point Koala Project: 2 years in – what have we achieved?

Sandy Point's Koala Action Project is part of WHiSPA (Wildlife and Habitat in Sandy Point Action) Project. This is all about protecting our native wildlife and improving their natural habitat in and around Sandy Point, and the project has been running since late 2017, with the help of a grant from the Victorian Government.

## So what have we achieved so far?

When we sat down to reflect on what we've been up to over the last two years, we realised... geez, we've been busy! Here's a potted summary of what the project has achieved so far:

- We've been doing community education about living with and caring for our wildlife: producing the Living with Koalas brochures and fridge magnets, community information sessions and market stalls. Pick up a copy at the store or hall, or find a digital copy of the brochure and other information on our website at [sandypoint.vic.au/koalas.html](http://sandypoint.vic.au/koalas.html)
- We've mapped koala habitat and planted new wildlife corridors for habitat and koala food in the coastal reserve and on farmland – more than 2,000 trees planted across more than a hectare – and done tree giveaways.
- We've done two bi-annual community koala counts to estimate population numbers. Around 30 koalas were counted by volunteers in September 2017 and October 2019, suggesting a stable population over this time. We estimate the population to be at least 50% higher than that figure.
- We've completed a genetic study on our koala population in partnership with Federation Uni, which suggested that the Sandy Point koalas are most likely a remnant population of the larger South Gippsland (Strzelecki) koala population. The Strzelecki koalas are a population that has a high importance for conservation. Having been isolated for a long time though, our koalas have a low level of genetic diversity. The results from this study helps us to understand ways to look after our koalas. See our website for a copy of the study.
- Fundraising for our local wildlife shelters and carers, who do amazing and tireless work
- Developing a Sandy Point Koalas Community Action Plan

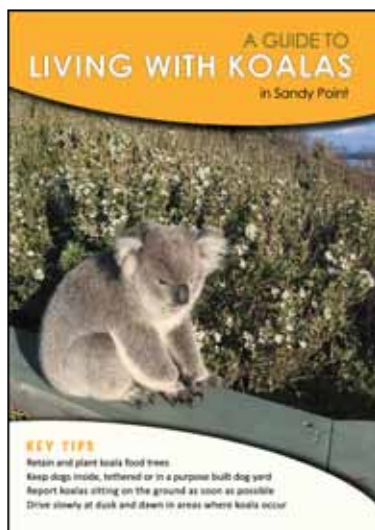
## Where are we heading next?

We've made a really good start in better understanding our local koala project and getting people involved in helping to protect and look after them. We need to keep up this good work, and think about how to look after a healthy and sustainable koala population for future generations.

The grant money we've been working under runs out in June 2020, but this is a long term project and there's lots more left to do. It's important to keep the momentum going beyond that time. The Community Action Plan that was put together contains lots more ideas to progress. It's up to people in the community who are passionate about our wildlife to take ownership of these – and any new ideas. Take a look at the Action Plan on our website.

Some of the next steps we'll be working on are:

- Installing interpretive signage about koalas in Sandy Point – look out for these next year!
- Looking after and maintaining the tree plantings that have been completed, and planting more
- Continuing the Action Plan, which belongs to the community
- Investigating more ways to increase the genetic diversity and resilience of the Sandy Point koala population



*Left: our brochure is available from the Store or from [sandypoint.vic.au/koalas.html](http://sandypoint.vic.au/koalas.html)  
Below: map showing where koalas were sighted at the 2019 Koala Count*



## Who is WHiSPA?

The WHiSPA committee is Caitlin Pilkington, Di Cornwell, Jude O'Sullivan, Di Cooper, Celia Suttery, Wendy Bryce-Johnson and Lynda Buckland, along with the help of many other locals including Jan Hallas.

Please get in touch if you want to get involved in helping to organise future projects:

[sandypointkoalas@gmail.com](mailto:sandypointkoalas@gmail.com)



# Statement from Council regarding the status of the Caravan Park investigations

In response to our request for a follow up meeting, members of the the Community Group Committee met with the Administrator Chair, Julie Eisenbise and Acting CEO, Bryan Sword in early December to discuss the status of the Caravan Park investigations. Below is a record of those discussions issued by the Council. You will note that Council have assured us that a public document will be prepared and made available to the Community and that further consultation will be available. SPCG will maintain close contact with Council on this issue. Council received over 250 submissions regarding a caravan park and camping ground in Sandy Point.



For more information about the background to this issue please go to our webpage at <https://www.sandypoint.vic.au/caravanparkissue.html>

## Update from Council

On the 2nd December, Julie Eisenbise, Council's Administrator Chair and myself met with some members of the Sandy Point Community Group. The meeting enabled us to receive feedback on the project and to clarify the next steps. I offered to provide an update to help clarify some matters for the public record. The key project points are:

### About the Project

- Is an initiative of the former Council and was first adopted into the 4yr Council Plan in June 2017
- Seeks to identify a suitable location for a caravan park in Sandy Point, if the existing caravan park is lost
- Council has no intention of owning or operating a caravan park in Sandy Point
- If a site is identified, it would be up to private interests to advance and would be subject to obtaining the normal approvals, e.g. planning

### The Sandy Point Caravan Park

- The existing caravan park is privately owned and is located in the Township Zone, the same zone as private houses in Sandy Point
- The current owner has advised of his intention to seek approval to further subdivide the caravan park. Planning approval is required for subdivision
- Council has made no decisions in relation to a future subdivision application. Any application would be subject to public notification as has been done for past applications
- There are no special zones, overlays or planning controls which mandate the existing caravan park land must be used as a caravan park

### Next Steps

- Any decision on how the project advances or otherwise will require a formal decision of Council
- We have received approximately 250 submissions
- Submissions will be collated and a public report will be presented to Council by mid 2020 which considers the outcomes of the public consultation
- We will notify the Sandy Point community when the report is ready for Council's consideration
- There is no rush to complete this project, further consultation may occur in response to the submissions.

I hope that this information is helpful. If anyone has further information please contact the Strategic Planning team on 5662 9200 or email [council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

Bryan Sword, Acting Chief Executive Officer





## **Sandy Point Community Centre & TP Taylor Reserve Committee of Management: President's Report**

With Christmas fast approaching Sandy Point will become a vibrant town with visitors taking advantage of our beautiful beach and local areas. With the influx of these visitors please remember to take care on the roads as there will be kids & adults on their bikes, people walking their dogs, not to mention the kids on skateboards.

There will be many events taking place in Sandy over the next couple of months - please refer to the "Summer at Sandy Point" flyer on page 3 of this newsletter.

The ever popular Trivia Night will be on Thursday 2nd January 2020 at the Centre – doors open 6.00pm for a 7pm start. Don't miss out and book your table early by ringing Di – 56841545/ 0418 336 690

Don't forget the 2020 Art Show will be on once again over Easter 2020 so for the talented artists out there, now is the time to start thinking about getting your creative /artistic juices flowing and start on your entries. Entry forms are available from [www.sandypoint.vic.au/page79.html](http://www.sandypoint.vic.au/page79.html)

Wishing everyone a safe and happy festive season.

Di Cooper - President



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# Birds and Beaches: Dogs and Leashes

As we do at this time every year we would like to ask you to respect the regulations about when and where you are allowed to take your dogs onto our beaches and whether they should be on a leash.

The current regulation is that dogs are not allowed between the hours of 9am and 6pm on the main, most well used part of the beach, from Ned Neales east to Manuka St South. Before and after these hours they can be walked on a leash. The off leash area is at Ned Neales, west of the lookout.

This is to stop dogs frightening or injuring people, especially small children. We know everyone thinks their dog wouldn't hurt anyone but the reality is that it does sometimes happen, particularly when there are several dogs off leash chasing each other in a crowded part of the beach.

## Disturbance can be deadly to beach-nesting birds

Another important reason for not allowing your dog to run off leash is that it could hinder the breeding success of beach-nesting birds.

Beach-nesting birds are some of the most threatened birds in the world. Their numbers are in decline as they struggle to find undisturbed space on our beaches to raise a family. If too many birds fail to produce young they will soon become extinct.

An example of this that can be found locally is the Hooded Plover. During spring and summer they nest on the beach or dunes. They lay their eggs in a simple nest scrape in the sand and the eggs are difficult to spot. Chicks are incredibly vulnerable as they wander along the beach in search of food. It takes 5-10 weeks for them to be able to fly out of harm's way.

When adult birds see a person or dog approaching they will leave their nest to keep it secret and won't return until the threat is out of sight. They will try to distract the person or animal by flying away, often pretending they have a broken wing. They view dogs as predators, like foxes and cats and the result can be that they leave the eggs untended for long enough for them to bake in the hot sand.

The plovers will keep trying, laying several clutches each nesting season but sadly not often with success.

## "My dog wouldn't harm the birds"

We all love our dogs but if you abide by some simple rules when walk your dog on our beaches you can play a huge part in helping these birds escape extinction.

No matter how well trained your dogs are, when they run around on the beach they can accidentally crush the fragile eggs or harm the chicks.

## "My dog is just having a bit of fun chasing the birds"

The trouble is dogs are seen as predators so the adult birds will fly off to distract the predators and warn their chicks to go into hiding. If there are unhatched eggs these can get trampled on or simply bake in the hot sand.



*Top: Two plover eggs in a simple scrape in the sand  
Bottom: An adult Hooded Plover.*

## Please help our plovers raise a family

We currently have a few pairs of nesting birds down the sandspit, so if you are walking in that area:

- Please keep close to the water's edge where you are unlikely to step on a nest or chick.
- Don't approach any nesting birds or chicks.
- Look out for temporary signs that alert you to the presence of nesting birds or chicks.
- Only let your dogs off the lead in the designated off-leash area at Ned Neales beach



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## Foodies & Artisan Market

Our 6th annual Foodies market will be held on Saturday 4th January 2020 commencing 4.00 pm. The idea of a Foodies Market was conceived at a Community Planning meeting and instigated by Neil Shaw (past SPCG President) and has grown from strength to strength. Feedback from vendors and the general public have assisted us in making some positive improvements. We now include local Artisan crafts, live music and beer and wine sales and have altered the time to achieve a Twilight Market. Our aim is to create a free-entry event open to all to enjoy.

- Local musicians, Fiona Curram (we all loved her last year!) and Rob and Jenny Teskey will provide musical entertainment throughout the event from the deck.
- Beer, Prosecco and varieties of red and white wines will be available from the kitchen servery. Certainly proved popular last year and this year we will also have Sandy Point coolers on sale!
- Hot food includes: Calamari, Gozleme, Thai, Potato Twists, Smoked Pork Ribs, Chicken & Brisket, Baked Spud Bar, Loaded Nachos & Cronuts, Indian Hot Food, Dim Sim & Dumplings.
- There will be a variety of delicious sweet treats: waffles and ice cream. Inside the Centre will be crafts, local produce and products, wood fired organic sourdough bread and much more...

EFTPOS will be available at the bar for drink purchases and with some of the market vendors.

Think we have it all covered. There'll be something for everyone!



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# Foreshore Committee Report

## Works undertaken this year

The Foreshore Committee has had a very busy year in 2019 organising and completing the following list of tasks (which do not include day to day issues we have to deal with):

- upgrading works to the Ned Neale's viewing platform with structural repairs and new decking;
- upgrading signage throughout the area due to signage age;
- undertaking roadway and track repairs;
- progressing the approval process with the SG Shire Council for construction of a new viewing platform on the Main Beach walkway;
- working bee to tidy up the banksia forest trees;
- completing the solar powered pump system for the Shallow Inlet toilet block and
- weed eradication works.

To complete the larger items we are grateful to DELWP for approving our Grant submissions.

## Other works happening soon

The rush to Christmas will see, if all goes well:

- another grading of the Shallow Inlet entrance road
- the grading and filling of poor areas along the total length of the Roy Henderson Track
- upgrading the road and parking area to Ned Neale's Lookout with new gravel including speed humps
- installation of conspicuous "no camping" signs at the high level carpark at Shallow Inlet and Ned Neale's
- installation of the old picnic tables, that came from the park opposite the General Store, along the Roy Henderson Track, and
- our usual tidying up of the 7 beach access tracks.

Post-Christmas we will see the construction of the Main Walkway viewing platform.

This year we have again employed Rangers to assist in cleaning up our walking tracks and other works prior to Christmas,

followed by monitoring illegal camping, litter management and collecting parking fees at Shallow Inlet from the 26th Dec onwards.

These parking fees, after wages are taken out, provide a small amount of finance to the committee to undertake minor works throughout the year.

The Rangers also provide some support to visitors so that their visit to the area is a satisfactory and enjoyable one.

## Unsatisfactory and illegal activities

We do of course have issues within our area or responsibility that are not satisfactory and we have seen greater emergence of this over 2019. More specifically the issues are illegal camping and lighting of fires.

### Illegal camping

The amount of free camping has increased and with it an increase in unremoved rubbish and people using the surrounding area as a toilet with that associated litter left behind.

The people that are doing this are not only vandalising the area but make it hard for others to enjoy and even harder for those concerned in having to clean up after them.

We are reinforcing our efforts to stop the illegal camping.

### Illegal lighting of fires

With regards to fires we have had two cases this year at Shallow Inlet when fires could have posed a major risk to Sandy Point. Both had to be put out by Andy. Thanks for your time Andy in carrying out this task.

The public may think that during winter lighting fires should be OK, BUT, within our highly flammable vegetated area any time of the year can be extremely dangerous and, dependent on wind direction, could turn out to be catastrophic for Sandy Point and its surrounds.

### Leaving couches etc on nature strip

On a final note to property owners within Sandy Point the Committee would appreciate it if you did not leave any couches/chairs etc as they regularly get vandalised and quite often end up at a beach viewing point in the dunes with the inevitable leaving behind of bottles, cans and even fireplaces. Yes fireplaces where people have lit fires within the dunes!

Thanks to all the committee members and friends of the committee who have assisted over the last year on a volunteer basis.

Finally a Merry Christmas to all.

The Committee



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# Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club Report: What a summer it's going to be

## Over 50 surf life savers re-qualify for their life saving awards

Over 50 surf life savers hit the beach recently to re-qualify for their life saving awards including Surf Rescue Certificate, Bronze Medallion, IRB crew and drivers and much more. This event is just one of many events that have been held to get ready for the season. It is significant, because you might not know, but every year our surf life savers have to re-qualify to ensure their skills are up to date. This involved demonstrating skills in run-swim-run, CPR, advanced life-saving, oxygen administration, spinal care, radios and much more. Re-qual must be completed before the members can start patrol, or be involved in training and water safety. The new patrol season has started and we expect our volunteers to donate 1,000s of hours, so why don't you take a moment to say 'Hi' to the patrollers who are dedicating their time to keep us safe this summer and do your part, by swimming between the flags.



*Right: Some new members training to achieve their Bronze Medallion*



*Above: The Nipper in the left hand photo became the Water Safety person in the right hand photo last season*

## Calling all children aged Under 6 to 13...come and join us at Nippers!

Nippers is set to be 'bigger than ever' this year and we can't wait to see you on the beach! I think one of the most amazing things is seeing how much the Nippers have grown from one season to another. And we are so proud when our smallest Nippers grow up to become Water Safety and join patrol (see the photo below).

Nippers runs on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 9:15am (for 9:30am start) to 11:30am.

First session will be held on Friday 27th December, with the final session (and Club Championships) on Friday 17th January 2020. See the Club website for more information: [www.waratahbeach.com.au](http://www.waratahbeach.com.au)

Along with learning about water safety and surf rescue skills, Nippers will have a lot of fun off the beach with 'crazy cap day' and film nights. This season we really need additional people to volunteer as Age Managers to help us run the program. If you can donate some time to a session please email Natalie: [nippers@waratahbeach.com.au](mailto:nippers@waratahbeach.com.au)

## Marine Rescue Base/Men's Shed

We are very excited to see that works have almost finished on the Marine Rescue Base which will also be the home of Men's shed. You can track the progress on the Club's facebook site. Members of the Club and community are asked to admire the progress from 'afar' and are not permitted to enter onto the site for any reason, unless you are working for the builder. It is a building site and we ask that you please request this request. See page 19 for a recent photo of the Shed.

Marine Rescue have also received new wet weather gear, life jackets and uniforms.

## Current Cruiser Swim

Sandy Point Current Cruiser is on 4 January 2020 at Shallow Inlet, same location as earlier this year, swimming 500m and 1,500m with the current.... fast swimming in shallow water. See page 21 for details.

## And finally... The Bar will be open this summer and we now have AIR CONDITIONING

That's right! Think amazing sunsets, great catch ups with family and friends, cool drinks and staying cool with the newly installed air conditioning at the Club house – what more could you ask for on a beautiful Sandy Point evening? We look forward to you all joining us for a welcoming and inclusive family-friendly environment.

Natalie Ashdown



## Mobile phone communications (or lack of) at Sandy Point

In our previous edition we reported on the lack of progress in resolving the problem of poor mobile phone communications in Sandy Point. You will recall we have been promised the installation of a "Small Cell Repeater" as a means to improve communications, particularly at the eastern end of town. We had been anticipating an installation in the middle of the year in time for the busy summer season. Sadly, we have been advised that is not going to happen.

In a follow up with Telstra we were advised that in a recent review conducted by Telstra the original location, at the beach end of Manuka Street, was found to be sub-optimal and that a better location has been identified. Access to this new site is currently being negotiated and we will be given details and an installation timeframe in due course. Installation will not commence until early 2020.

Phil Cornwell



## BEACH WHEELCHAIR AVAILABLE - FREE



### Everyone should be able to enjoy the beach!

The wheelchair's large balloon tyres mean it can be pushed over the track to the beach and is easily handled by two able bodied carers. It is not designed for use in the water but can be taken right down to the water's edge.

The wheelchair is available for bookings free of charge for any period from one hour to half a day, for use on the Sandy Point main beach.

For more information or to make a booking call Wendy on 0467 970 707 or Di on 0437 392 277 or email: [sandypointbeachwheelchair@gmail.com](mailto:sandypointbeachwheelchair@gmail.com)



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**[promcoastelectrics@gmail.com](mailto:promcoastelectrics@gmail.com)**



# Are our koalas threatened with extinction?

As the nation has suffered through an unprecedented number of bushfires this month, the plight of the koala has been front-page news, attracting attention world-wide. Images of the lovable furry creatures with charred skin, blackened paws and clear symptoms of dehydration have become a symbol of the bushfire crisis currently threatening the east coast of Australia.

Koalas are in fact now considered by many not just to be a threatened species but to be vulnerable to extinction in NSW and Queensland.

Research has shown koalas are on track to be extinct by 2050 in New South Wales if land clearing rates continue. But with a changing climate and early start to what has turned out to be an extreme bushfire season, many doubt they will even make it that long.

Many believe that unless humans intervene, capture and feed them and conduct breeding programs, they may well become extinct much earlier than that.

The Federal Government recently has allocated \$6 million towards koala initiatives in northern New South Wales and South East Queensland.

However, Victorian and South Australian koalas are not considered to be endangered and in some areas there is even over population. There is also some doubt about the accuracy of numbers arrived at in recent counts. However, our local koala population faces a range of threats and is isolated genetically from other koala populations, which puts them at risk. With climate change affecting the weather and consequent risk of severe bushfires, of course, this situation could easily change.

That is why it is so important we continue to work to protect the small numbers of koalas we have here in Sandy Point. The Sandy Point Koala Action Project, for which we received State Government funding has allowed us to do some preliminary research but one of the key next steps in our program, which will continue after funding ceases in June 2020, will be to investigate more ways to increase the genetic diversity and resilience of the Sandy Point koala population.

For more about the Sandy Point Koala Action Project see our report on page 6 and on our website at [www.sandypointkoalas.html](http://www.sandypointkoalas.html).



*Photo above by Derek Finch of the Beaudesert Times showing a koala that was rescued by police.*

*Below is a lucky, healthy Sandy Point koala*



## Please make a donation to our local wildlife carer, Sue Moore

The best way to donate to Sue's Wildlife Shelter is by  
Paypal, direct debit or by post  
using the following details:

**Bass Coast/South Gippsland Wildlife Rescue & Shelter Inc**

**PO Box 317, Tarwin Lower, Vic 3956**

**Bendigo Bank**

**BSB - 633 000**

**Account number – 167210343**





## Sandy Toes and Salty Kisses (StaSk) opens!

To everyone's delight the café is finally open for business and already doing a roaring trade. The décor is wonderful and the food and coffee equally good so do go along and try it out yourself.

A big Sandy Point welcome to the owners, Alison and Mike Hodgson, and their staff, who include several locals you might recognise, such as Josh the Barista.

The café is open from Fri 20 December to Sunday 22nd, closed from Mon 23rd to Wed 25th, then open every day from then on. Hours are 8am to 8pm, with Fridays and Saturdays open until 10pm. Sundays the cafe closes 4pm. No bookings required.



*Left: From left, Ema Hodgson, Chloe Wilson and proprietor Alison Hodgson*

*Below: Barista Josh with some of the tools of his trade. The Espresso Machine is amazing too!*



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## Time for some weeding!

Most residents and visitors will have noticed the abundance of Mirror Bush (*Coprosma repens*) throughout Sandy Point, though they may not have known its name or realised it is actually a weed. Originating in New Zealand, it was originally planted as a hardy, fast growing hedge/screening shrub, however it is now a Declared Weed (i.e. it must be controlled by land owners) in South Australia. In Victoria it is not currently declared, but is classified as an Environmental Weed which is “a plant which threaten the values of natural ecosystems, can invade native plant communities and out compete them. This affects the balance of the entire ecosystem by reducing biodiversity, taking away vital food sources and habitat for native insects, bird life and fauna”

Mirror bush spreads very easily, as you may have seen from the seedlings that keep coming up in your garden! Parks Victoria is now seeing it spread by birds to the Islands in Corner Inlet and into the Prom, so as residents of Sandy Point we should do our bit to reduce its presence in the township.

So what can you do?

Small plants can be weeded by hand. Large plants will need to be cut and can then be treated by the cut and paint method - paint the cut stump immediately following cutting using Round Up (glyphosate) or other suitable herbicide. Please always check the Herbicide label before use.

Mirror Bush (together with other environmental weeds) should not be included in Council's green waste bin as it needs to go to land fill to prevent further spreading.

Once you've removed the mirror bush, why not visit the local native nursery <https://www.narkabundah.com.au/> for a selection of native plants that are well adapted to our coastal climate. For further information about weeds in the South Gippsland area and to help you identify other weeds you may have on your property, please visit the South Gippsland Land Care Network website

<http://www.sgln.net.au/south-gippsland-weeds/weed-identification/>

Wacek Lipski



**Sandy Point  
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Gallery Cottage**  
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[www.sandypointgallery.com.au](http://www.sandypointgallery.com.au)

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[www.beachhousebandb.com.au](http://www.beachhousebandb.com.au)

## WATER DELIVERY

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## **Sandy Point Music's Summer of Music**

Sandy Point Music continues with its summer series of concerts. All concerts are at the Sandy Point Community Centre

### **Monday 23 December: Sandy Point Carols and sing along**

Free Entry. Bookings not required

4.30pm onwards - join us for a picnic or BBQ. BYO food, drinks and nibbles

6pm - Concert starts

These are always fun nights where the community gets together for a sing along, listen to local talent and catch up with each other. Santa will of course be making an appearance. Come along and help us start the Christmas season by joining in to sing your favourite Carols, led by the local children's and adult choirs.

Stay on to merry mingle after the performance.

### **Saturday Jan 18th - Three Kings**

This Melbourne Blues group, Three Kings will bring together a trio of this country's most dedicated, authentic blues artists to Sandy Point. Doors open at 7.30pm. Concert starts at 8.30pm. BYO drink and nibbles.

For more information and to book tickets go to: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=577045>

*Below: James Bennett  
Right: Three Kings*



### **Friday February 15th James Bennett with support act Vena Klymo**

James Bennett almost needs no introduction. This will be his third concert hosted by Sandy Point Music and all we can say is get in quick for these tickets. He never disappoints.

Vena Klymo is a 21 year old folk songstress and is currently on the road doing a national album launch tour with James for her new album "Motions & Potions"

Doors open at 7.00pm. Concert starts at 8pm. BYO drink and nibbles. For more information and to book tickets:

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=574272&>



Also, make sure you don't miss on **Saturday 4th of January**, starting at 4pm, local talents **Fiona Curram** and **Rob and Jenny Teskey** playing at the Sandy Point Foodies and Artisans market to be held at the Community Centre.  
Great food and great music!

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**2020 BENDIGO COMMUNITY BANK FUN RUN  
WARATAH BAY - SANDY POINT BEACH (8km)**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 5th 12noon (low tide)**

Registrations on the day from 10.15am - 11.45am  
at the Waratah Bay playground/BBQ area

Cost: 15yrs & under - \$10, 16yrs & over - \$15, Families - \$40

Starting at Waratah Bay Beach, finishing at Sandy Point  
at the Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club

First Aid, BBQ and drinks available at Sandy Point by the  
Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club

Presentations at the Surf club around 2.00pm (approx.)

Courtesy bus available to transport competitors back and to  
Leaving Sandy Point General Store approx. 10.00am

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Jacqui Tracy 0429841425  
[fishcreekfnc@hotmail.com](mailto:fishcreekfnc@hotmail.com)

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The Sandy Point Community Men's Shed project is thriving. We are an incorporated entity with a formalised committee structure, ABN, bank account and growing membership. We meet on a monthly basis to review progress with the construction of our shed, plan shed projects and discuss ways that the group can assist with Community activities.

On the construction front; the joint facility shed which together with the Men's Shed will also house a new Marine Rescue vessel for Shallow Inlet/Waratah Bay is close to lock up. We expect the initial construction phase to be completed by Christmas and the internal fit-out to commence in early 2020.

Funding so far has come from State Government grants but we will need to pursue strategies to raise further funds for the purchase of tools and equipment for the shed. We hope also to deploy solar PV on the large east-west oriented roof which will be a substantial investment. We continue to pursue any avenues we can for fund raising but would welcome your ideas for future fund raising initiatives.



If you are interested in joining the group (men and women members welcome), please complete a membership form available from our website at <https://www.sandypoint.vic.au/page58.html>. Membership is just \$45 a year. Please either scan and return the completed form to [spmensshed@gmail.com](mailto:spmensshed@gmail.com) or mail to Sandy Point Community Men's Shed, c/- Post Office, Sandy Point, Victoria 3959

Phil Cornwell Secretary (SPCMS)

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## Help protect our wildlife

Living in close proximity to people means a range of threats for koalas.

### **Koalas and cars don't mix**

Roadsides are important corridors for koalas as these are often the only trees left that connect areas of remnant habitat.

Koalas are nocturnal and are most active at night when they leave their trees to move to new feeding areas.

They are especially vulnerable when crossing roads, so please slow down from dawn to dusk and watch out for koalas.

### **Keep your dog on a leash and well away from koalas**

Dogs running free around Sandy Point have also been the cause of many koala deaths so please keep your dogs on a leash and do not let them out at night unsupervised. That way, we can all continue to enjoy the company of our resident koala population.

If you see a sick or injured koala or other wildlife, contact **Wildlife Victoria** immediately on 03 8400 7300 or use their online form at [www.wildlifevictoria.org.au](http://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au)





## Have you signed up yet for the NBN?

You need to be aware that if you are relying on your landline as your only method of communication, the old ADSL form will be cut off in February 2020. However, if you wish to retain your landline you will need to join up with an NBN Provider.

This could be Telstra or any number of other ones.

Once you have decided on a Provider you will probably need to purchase a modem so that you can receive the NBN, but so long as you are in possession of a Concession Card and are over seventy-five it could only cost you \$30 per month for you to retain your landline. When you think about it, February is not very far away, so you need to start thinking about it shortly and maybe begin ringing around a few providers to find out the best deal you can get.

If you don't understand how the NBN works and how it will affect you, a good starting point would be to go to the NBN's own website. They have a range of information which will tell you all you need to know about how the NBN works and also provides a useful list of internet providers who will cover Sandy Point. If you don't want to do this yourself, I'm sure a grandchild or son or daughter could be persuaded to help you out.

Sally Gibson  
(Sally's Snippets)



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## **Current Cruiser event: sign up now!**

Sandy Point Current Cruiser is on 4 January 2020 at Shallow Inlet, same location as earlier this year, swimming 500m and 1,500m with the current.... fast swimming in shallow water.

The first swim starts 11:30am (M500) and ends by 2:00pm

The age groups are:

Male/Female: 12-17, 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, >70

Registrations have started and we are capping the swim at 300 entries so make sure you get your entry in soon on the surf life saving club website: <http://www.waratahbeach.com.au/shoponline/current-cruiser-swim.html>

Paul Minahan



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## **Please don't dump unwanted furniture and appliances on the nature strip!**

We know that most people put their unwanted furniture out on the nature strip in good faith, thinking that someone else might want it, but the sad truth is they often end up in the dunes where they may be vandalised and finally left to rot in the rain.

It leads to a great deal of work and cost for the Foreshore Committee, which, as part of its duties, is required to remove any rubbish found on the foreshore. Not only does it cost the Foreshore Committee time and money, something they have very little of but removing heavy furniture from the dunes is hard, unpleasant work too.

Putting things like couches, chairs or other household goods out on the nature strip is also against the Shire Council's by-laws. Therefore, people who do so are actually breaking the law and could leave themselves open to prosecution or at least a fine.

So, before you leave things out on the nature strip, stop and think – not only are you breaking the law, but you could also be causing a great deal of work for the Foreshore Committee, who are all volunteers.


If you do see hard rubbish left on the nature strip you can report this to the Customer Service Team at Council on 5662 9200 or take a photo and post it on Snap, Send, Solve (<https://www.snapsendsolve.com>)

(Based on a Snippets article by Sally Gibson)





2019-2020



# Swell Times

Official calendar of events for the South Coast Boardriders Inc. Est. 2004

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## JT's President Report

Yahooo we have a shipping container! Not just a container, but purpose built for the club. Thanks to South Gippsland Shire Council for the grant that allowed this to happen and to Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club for giving us the perfect location to house our gear right near the beach. The convenience for our ongoing, awesomely popular Friday night development sessions is hugely welcome. A special thank you to Glen Morris Sans for his tireless work and greatest thanks go to the committee members who gave a significant amount of their time to make this happen, high five to you all! Welcome to new committee members this year too, Emma Hughes and Brett Kruger helping to enhance the committees capacity and seamlessly blending into the energy and positive culture of the committee.

Cant wait to catch up with our club members old and new at our season opening event - The Beach Clean up and BBQ day Saturday 2nd November.

### SCB Comp Dates

**December 2019**  
COMP ONE 7th - 8th

**February 2020**  
COMP TWO 22nd - 23rd  
ANNUAL PROM CAMPING WEEKEND.  
Fantastic weekend camping and surfing, family tag team, Big BBQ, always a great weekend of surf, sun & fun!




**March 2020**  
COMP THREE 21st - 22nd

### Friday Night Development Sessions

Every Friday night at WBSLC at 5.15 for 5.30 start, weather dependent. Check Facebook for cancellations. Qualified coaches and mentors in the water. Club boards supplied, and can BYO boards. Kids must wear yellow club rashie, and be a paid member. Practice comp heats held every second week for advancing grommets.


### Achievements

**Evie Bassed, Remi Gange, Rye and Jarra Cisero** took out the South Gippsland Primary Schools Surfing Competition on Phillip Island. Competing against much bigger schools from Wonthaggi, San Remo and Newhaven, this team of SCB members won the event for Fish Creek Primary School. This was the first time the title has ever been held by a non Phillip Island school. An amazing result for both Fish Creek and the SCB.

### Enquiries and bookings for development sessions:

Richard Gange 0411 127 220  
Amy Paul 0406 02 184  
Latest news on facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/SouthCoastBoardriders](http://www.facebook.com/SouthCoastBoardriders)




**Find us on Facebook**

Find us on Facebook for constant updates on current news and events concerning SCB.

### SURF & SIP

Family weekend surfing, BBQ nights and social outings will be announced through the season via our FB page.




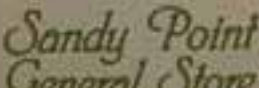



**Jedd Kruger:** First place South Coast Boardriders and Phillip Island Boardriders Junior Boys 2018-2019. First South Coast Boardriders Open 2018-2019.

**Evie Bassed:** Victorian state team rep competing this December in the Australian titles to be held at Margaret River in W.A. 3rd place 2019 Victorian Junior Titles under 14 girls.

**Lilly Bassed:** 2nd place Woolworths Surfer Groms under 10 girls 2019.

**Pauli O'Neill** made the open final at the Phillip Island Kneeboard Pro 2019.

Our club appreciates the generosity and support of our many sponsors

This newsletter is produced quarterly by the Sandy Point Community Group (SPCG) on behalf of the local community. You may use content from it as long as you provide appropriate and proper reference to SPCG as its source. The newsletter can be purchased in hard copy from the Sandy Point General Store and is distributed by email to all members of SPCG free of charge. If you've received this newsletter by email it is because you subscribed to receive it when you joined the SPCG. You can unsubscribe or update your details by emailing [SPCG.editor@gmail.com](mailto:SPCG.editor@gmail.com) or by writing to: The Editor, Sandy Point Newsletter, c/- Post Office, Sandy Point, Vic. 3959. To join the SPCG and receive this newsletter by email, use the form attached or go to [www.sandypoint.vic.au](http://www.sandypoint.vic.au).





## Membership Application and Renewal Form

for the Sandy Point Community Group (SPCG)

website: [www.sandypoint.vic.au](http://www.sandypoint.vic.au)

email: sandypoint.membership@gmail.com

### Membership renewal

Could you please complete the form below and return it to us so we can confirm your details on our membership list.

### New members

Please complete all the details in the form below and return to us.

	Person 1	Person 2
Family Name		
First name(s)		
Local Address (Sandy Point)		
Postal Address (if different to above)		
Phone (home)		
Mobile		
Email		

- Do you wish to receive our Newsletter by email? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Do you wish to receive other information from us by email? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Would you like our Newsletter posted to you for an extra \$10 per year? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Is there any way in which you would like to contribute to the work of the SPCG?
- Are there any issues you would like the Committee to consider?

---

**Membership is \$10 per person or \$20 per family living at the same address. Please add \$10 onto your payment if you have indicated above that you would like the Newsletter mailed to you.**

### Payment options

- Direct deposit into SPCG Inc. Bendigo Bank account BSB 633 000 Account 1440 68590
  - Please identify your deposit by using your Initial and Surname.
  - Save your completed application form and email to sandypoint.membership@gmail.com
- Cheque made out to SPCG Inc. and mailed with a printed copy of this form to:
  - Sandy Point Community Group, Sandy Point, Vic 3959