SPRING, 2023

VOL. 23, ISSUE 3



Spring edition

Photo credit: Ray Malins

Are you looking for answers?

What's our obsession with surfboard art? How can I get involved with the Sandy Point Community Plan? What's happening with the Caravan Park? How can I help protect our wildlife and habitat? What's happening with the Marine Rescue Service? Who was the Sandy Point skeleton found at Shallow Inlet? Does Sandy Point have an EV charging station? What was it like here in the 1940s and 50s? How do I see the Milky Way? What live music is coming up in Sandy Point? What have all the SP groups been up to over winter?

Please JOIN US - <u>sandypoint.vic.au/membership</u>

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



Scan this QR code to learn more about Sandy Point. <u>sandypoint.vic.au</u>



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



























Decorative Surfboards

It has been 15 years since the four decorative surfboards on the foreshore opposite the café were painted and installed. They have become an important tourist attraction and also an inspiration to many Sandy Point residents, who have continued the idea by using old surfboards, often with paintings on them together with their house numbers, to mark the entrance to their properties.



Pictured (L to R) are artists Sally Gibson, Margaret Lacey, Kim McDonald and Rory Thomas with Anda Banikos of the Fish Creek Primary School

With the passage of time and bleaching by the sun, the original surfboard sculptures on the foreshore reserve were starting to look very faded so it was decided last year to ask local artist Judy Schrever to update them. Her work has now been completed.

The original painted boards were the work of local artists Sally Gibson, Kim McDonald, Margaret Lacy and Rory Thomas based on designs submitted by the South Coast Boardriders Club and students from the Fish Creek and Foster Primary Schools. Each board had a different theme but all were connected by the special landscape, wildlife and flowers of Sandy Point. Funding was received for 6 boards and this originally included 2 boards installed near the town sign on Telopea. Unfortunately due to repeated theft and vandalism those boards are no longer there.

Rather than using real surfboards it was decided to have some boards made for the project with a more durable metal core. Because of their weight however they were painted in a garage before being installed in the foreshore reserve in April 2008. The official opening was in June that year.

Local artist Judy Schrever was asked to update the surfboards and she started work on them in 2022. Judy has been coming to Sandy Point since 1993 and has had a house here since 2007.

get an uPdate

Judy completed a Diploma in Visual Arts in 2007 and exhibited in many group shows with her last solo show in Castlemaine in 2018. She has received several awards including at the King Valley Art Show and also the Sandy Point Art Show. She says that her passion is painting from life and particularly Australian wildflowers.

A decision was made to not repaint the rear sides of the four surfboards as they hadn't faded to the extent of the side facing the street and the sun. This allows people to experience some of the great work done by the original artists.



South side of boards still with the original artwork

Judy explained to us that the new design she has used on the front of the surfboards was one she hoped would appeal to children, incorporating examples of some of the local birds, wildlife and wildflowers found in Sandy Point.



Article by Di Cornwell



Welcome to the Spring edition of the SPCG quarterly newsletter which comes to you due to many contributions of not only the hard-working SPCG committee but from volunteers of the community groups of Sandy Point and community members. Our Newsletter editor, Glenda, does a superb job of pulling it all together to inform, promote, enlighten and entertain you!

The Sandy Point community are commendably very proactive and constantly seek improvements to facilitate, maintain and enhance our environment and resources. The Draft **Sandy Point Community Plan** has been updated by a diligent SPCG sub-committee following extensive engagement with the community and groups. This plan will enable us to prioritise our projects, appropriately allocate our funding and strengthen collaboration and support from South Gippsland Shire Council and other key stakeholders.

We have progressed on many of our current projects:

- Historical Interpretive Signs: The content and design for the historical interpretive signs, to be placed in the TP Taylor Reserve, are in the final stages. The signs will present historical narrative and images on the development of the township, known as the 'Playground of the South', and stories of people and the community. Funded by the Public Records Office of Victoria, it is anticipated these signs will be installed prior to the summer season.
- New Sandy Point Welcome Sign: This sign has been approved by Council, along with a small grant. SPCG is presently exploring grant and sponsorship opportunities to fund the shortfall of \$10,000. The project is shovel ready, so once funding is sourced, the new sign can be installed.
- Skatepark: SPCG is presently collaborating with a number of stakeholders in the community to develop a revised proposal to Council for a small skatepark in Sandy Point. The aim is to present the proposal to Council in the coming months. Once Council has approved a site and concept design, SPCG can work with Council to formalise the project and begin to source funding opportunities.

The SPCG Annual General Meeting is being held on Saturday 30th September 2024, commencing at 10.30 am at the Community Centre, Sandy Point - we hope to see you there. If you are interested in joining our committee or even offering to assist in specific projects of your interest or expertise, from time to time or helping-out at our fundraising events, please contact us as your assistance would be appreciated!

As advised, through correspondence to our members, we are also planning an information day in January where we can provide updated progress reports on our projects and gain your feedback, concerns, suggestions and ideas.



The popular annual Foodies & Artisans Market will be held on Saturday, Jan 6th 2024 commencing at 4.00pm and held at the Community Centre and surrounds. Sites are available for bookings now and many regulars have already secured their site. As we were so busy last year we are on the look-out for additional 'ready to eat food' vendors and would appreciate if you could 'spread the word'.



Unfortunately, I have received several concerning reports of dogs roaming the streets of Sandy Point and subsequent dog attacks that required medical attention. Please adhere to Council rules of dogs being on leash throughout the township to maintain a safe environment for our residents and visitors. Especially as the school holidays are approaching, please be mindful of our 'shared roadway system' and obey our speed limits.

Kind Regards, Anne Kinne, President SPCG



Sandy Point Community Plan

KEY THEMES

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

The SPCG Committee is volunteer-led, working collaboratively to advocate and guide the direction of key community issues, initiatives and events.

The SPCG Community Plan will provide clarity and direction relating to decision making and governance, which will inform subsequent detailed plans over the next five years.

The Community Plan will guide the functioning of the SPCG Committee with regard to the development of strong, collaborative relationships with Sandy Point organisations and stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of community initiatives.

SPCG will continue to address issues and community concerns as they arise; however, the key themes represent the principal areas SPCG will focus on over the next 5 years,

Community Engagement

We will continue to build a more connected and engaged community through:

- Events and activities, such as Foodies and Artisan Market, Sandcastle Competition, live music and fundraising initiatives
- Town Hall gatherings
- Communication channels, including newsletters, digital platforms and surveys
- Education and information forums

Town Centre Rejuvenation

We will work to rejuvenate the central town precinct through:

- Installation of recreations facilities for children and youth, such as a skatepark
- Intelligent use of space, such as multipurpose courts with sliding fences
- Improved facilities for community events eg: outdoor sound stage
- Enhanced street scape and character eg: Surfers Walk



Environment Protection

We will continue to look for opportunities to support our local wildlife and habitat that:

- Restore and protect the health and survival of wildlife and natural habitat
- Facilitate animal rescue and disease management
- Promote community awareness with interpretive signage, education programs and activities
- Reduce light pollution



Safe Walkways & Roads

We will pursue safe walkway and road initiatives throughout Sandy Point that:

- Promote Sandy Point as the 'Walkable Town'
- Introduce traffic calming measures
- Create safer recreational pathways, such as the Sandy Point Road Safe Path and Waratah Wav
- Reduce light pollution and propose viable alternatives
- Recognise and preserve existing pathways, such as the Henderson Track
- Support controlled roadside vegetation management



to GET INVOLVED go to Sandy Point **TO GET IIVOLVED 90 CO** Community Group www.sandypoint.vic.au/community-plan



In previous newsletters we have kept you updated on the progress of an application by the caravan park owner to subdivide the land into 14 residential lots. The Sandy Point Community Group, along with many others, lodged an objection to the application.

Since the last newsletter update, the South Gippsland Council has considered and refused the application. The details and grounds can be found in the <u>Council Meeting Minutes</u>, <u>19 July</u> <u>2023</u>, item 4.3, pages 38-44.

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/download/meetings/id/1936/min utes_council_meeting_no484

The permit applicant has now applied to have VCAT review Council's decision. The Sandy Point Community Group will now become a party to this matter, and has lodged a Statement of Grounds to the Tribunal. We note the owners legitimate right to apply for a permit. Our statement of grounds is based upon your consistent feedback and community interest.

Updates will continue to be posted on our website news blog at www.sandypoint.vic.au/news/caravan-park-subdivision-refusal



We often need help for an hour or two at a community event, such as sausage sizzle or sandcastle competition

Can you lend a hand?

Please let us know at <u>www.sandypoint.vic.au/helpers</u>

or info@sandypoint.vic.au



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COASTAL BANKSIA WOODLAND PROJECT

Work has commenced in the project area site located between Sandy Point Road and the Roy Henderson Trail.

It is now easy to recognise which side of the track (picnic table side) is subject to some intense rehabilitation weeding efforts. The project site has been divided into five areas. Four Saturday afternoon weeding activities have been held with between 16-22 volunteers coming to lend a hand and each Saturday we have focused on a different area of the site.

The results are impressive.

- Rob O'Sullivan has mechanically removed African Boxthorn bushes. Their fierce thorns make them impenetrable and dangerous to track users.
- The large Boobialla at the eastern entrance to the wooded area is now clear of Climbing Groundsel as is the area around it.
- Large amounts of English Ivy have been removed from the roadside and central area.
- Small Pittosporum and Mirror Bush have been removed and larger ones treated to prevent further spread.
- Arum lilies and Asparagus Fern have been dug out and work is in progress to reduce the area of Blue Periwinkle (Vinca major) which currently lines the edges of parts of the trail.

We have two further afternoon weeding activities planned for 2023. The first is on Saturday 16 September and the second is Friday 29 September 2023 (AFL Grand Final Friday) when review of all efforts will be undertaken as well as tagging of native plants where needed, prior to Spring Contractor spraying.

Very special thanks to the volunteers who have attended and to Rob O'Sullivan. This work is not possible without such community support!

Contact Henri and Cherry email: sandypointhabitat@gmail.com

Spring Update











Victoria





Sandy Point Community Men's Shed has been busy since the last update. Our members have been heavily involved in the new EV Charging Station (which is now online and available), working at the Community Centre on maintenance and upkeep and continuing the fit-out and completion of the Shed so we can start to plan activities.

The EV Charging Station launch attracted about 30-40 people, 8 electric cars and one electric motorcycle. There is now a charging station shown on various EV charging station maps. It will be interesting to see who it will attract. One of the nice aspects of our electrical supply is the 15kw solar array, meaning we are generating the electricity not a local power station, keeping our offer as green as possible. Our active members are now 21 and we suspect once the Shed is open and operational, we will see the return of some past members and some new faces as well.

The fit-out of the shed has been slowed by a revisit of the construction plans and finding the need to retrofit a fire rated system to the east wall. The Marine Rescue 'Shed' co-tenant will need to do the same to their north wall (facing the CFA) for us to both obtain a Certificate of Occupancy. Provided there are no delays, this should be completed by the end of November.

A 'watch this space' event coming, they call it a Flexible Local Transport Solution. More when I's are dotted and Ts are crossed.

The Men's Shed meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am at the Shed, the corner of Ocean View Parade and Surfers Parade, come by for a chat or to have a look at the progress as we design and layout the equipment and tables in our work area.

Sandy Point Men's Shed members



With the Sandy Point Community Centre going through its quiet time, we have done some annual maintenance, installed bump strips on corners and minor repairs. It is good to see community groups helping one-another and we enjoy seeing our esteemed Centre looking and operating at its best.

We have also been involved within the community by assisting a resident in installing an annex to their caravan. The A-Van have an unusual design that was missing of all things a grommet, our members fixed it and got the annex installation completed.

You may also have noticed a new picnic table just off the Roy Henderson Track; we installed that a few weeks ago and have one more to install once the location is decided.



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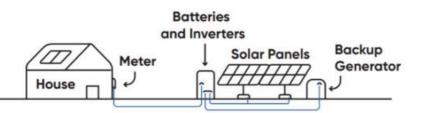
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SANDY POINT COMMUNITY POWER

AUSNET COMPLETES STAND-ALONE POWER SYSTEMS (SAPS) TRIAL

AusNet recently completed a trial where a Stand-alone Power System was installed at 17 locations in Victoria. The sites were selected in high bushfire prone areas where both the cost of maintaining the power line was high, and supply reliability was poor. The State Government funded the trial.

A SAPS is an independent electricity generation and supply system comprising solar panels, a battery, and a backup generator.



Supply to home via pole or pit



With the success of the trial, AusNet will continue to deploy SAPS in locations where it is an effective and cost-efficient solution for improving network reliability and resilience. This is typically locations at the fringes of remote or long distribution feeders with a history of prolonged supply outages, or customers located within areas with increasing climate risk (e.g., bushfire, storms and flood) according to the climate change modelling, and locations which home Telecom towers, fire-fighting equipment (water pumps), water utilities and local emergency facilities. The electrical feeder line is retired and removed once the successful operation of SAPS is proven. SANDY POINT

SAPS can reduce bushfire risk as overhead power feeder lines to the location are removed. They can also make communities more resilient to extreme weather events and natural disasters as they enable a customer or community to isolate and remain energised in an emergency.

While the design currently includes a diesel generator for backup power, the capacity of the solar panels and battery is set to minimise its use. In the future, AusNet will be seeking further design optimisation and exploring fully-renewable solutions

Sandy Point is not currently on the list of potential SAPS locations, but several other sites in South Gippsland are. We will continue to monitor the roll-out of SAPS to understand what Sandy Point would need to contribute to get us on the list.

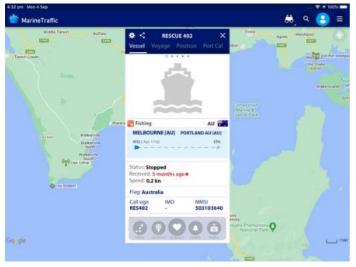
SANDY POINT JOINS WITH OTHER GIPPSLAND TOWNS IN AN APPLICATION FOR STORAGE BATTERIES.

Recently Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN) invited Sandy Point Community Power to submit proposed locations for 'behind-the-meter' batteries as part of a Gippsland-wide application for a Federal Government grant round which GCCN were compiling. After consultation with the SP Men's Shed and South Gippsland hospital, these locations were put forward. Unfortunately, the application was not successful.

> The crew at Sandy Point Community Power Email: energy@sandypoint.vic.au



Nothing much has changed since the last report. While there was a very limited service last summer, the new Gemini vessel was last used in early April, and was then taken to Melbourne for some minor work on the vessel and trailer, and has not been on the water since, now 5 months since it was last used according to Marine Traffic AIS data.



Screenshot of Marine Traffic app showing 5 months since the vessel was on the water

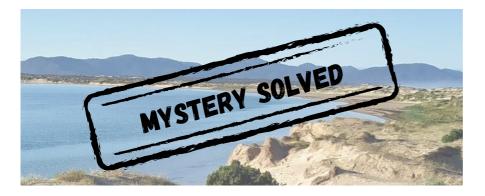
There has so far been no attempt by Life Saving Victoria to contact local members who still refuse to operate under their current model. Regarding the longer-term future, in 2022 Emergency Management Victoria engaged a consultant, Nous Group, to conduct a series of workshops to consult with all Marine Rescue unit members, to try to determine a suitable delivery model for the future. This process is now completed, and we believe EMV will soon begin a series of meetings with Marine Rescue units statewide, to discuss the final report and obtain feedback from members. So far, it seems there is pretty much universal support for a new single integrated service with common management, training, and branding etc, and independent from any current organisation.

As to the immediate future, it seems unlikely there will be a viable Marine Rescue Service for the coming summer, unless there are some major changes in the operational model very soon. The important thing is if you or someone you know has a boating incident and requires assistance, you need to contact "000" and ask for the Water Police, they will then arrange the most suitable response, most likely either Port Welshpool Coastguard or Inverloch SES Marine unit.

Former MSAR crew member



SPRING 2023



The State Coroner, Judge John Cain, has now delivered his finding on the identity of the human remains found at Shallow Inlet in 1929 and 2017. The discoveries became known as the Sandy Point Skeleton, and the identity has been an unsolved mystery ... until now.

The official and full history of this mystery is available to read in the <u>Coroner's Report of 27 July, 2023.</u> It outlines the initial tragic events of 1928, subsequent investigations into the human remains found at Shallow Inlet, and the final DNA breakthrough evidence revealed in 2023 ... almost a century later. The report begins with the following background ...

1. On 15 January 1929, a jawbone was discovered on the beach at Shallow Inlet, Sandy Point. Eighty-eight years later, on Christmas Day 2017, a snorkeler swimming in the waters at Shallow Inlet, discovered a human skull. Subsequent investigations by search and rescue teams found the complete skeleton buried in the sand near where the snorkeler had discovered the skull. The skeleton discovered did not include a jawbone.

2. Following extensive work by the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) in conjunction with the Court the jawbone and skeleton have been identified as the remains of Christopher Luke Moore, a First World War veteran who went swimming at Waratah Bay and drowned on 30 December 1928.

3. Mr Moore's identity was confirmed by DNA comparison. This is the first time that Forensic Genetic Genealogy has been used to assist confirming identity in a coronial finding in Victoria.

A link to the full report is available at <u>sandypoint.vic.au/news/shallow-inlet-skeleton-mystery-solved</u>.

Listen to ABC Radio Raf Epstein interview with Kathy (grandniece) abc.net.au/melbourne/programs/drive/sandy-point-skeleton-identifieddna-breakthrough/102691064



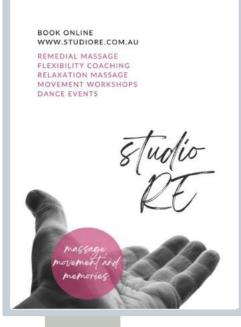
by the Editor, <u>news@sandypoint.vic.au</u>

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Cirls still going places ... Townsville, Qld.



So, the girls, Penny Nevill and Josie Mulcahy, have been at it again. This time a trip to Townsville for the opportunity to compete in qualifying events to represent Australia in the World Triathlon Multisport Championships which will be held in Townsville, August 2024.

The first event was Josie's turn to compete in the X bike Duathlon riding her newly purchased mountain bike. Josie had a blitz of a start, not an easy feat when part of the 6-kilometre run included soft sand. Leading coming into transition and heading for the twenty-kilometre ride had Josie well out in front. All the training in off-road was paying off. We waited nervously for Josie to reappear keeping track of who was in front of her. Josie finally arrived back from the ride only to inform us that she had ridden the last four kilometres on a flat tyre, which results in little traction on the track with the back wheel continuously slipping out from under her. A well-deserved third place gualified her for the Worlds in 2024 in this event.

Day two sprint Duathlon consisted of 5km run, 20km bike ride and 2.5 km run. Race start was 2pm, very hard to back up from the day before.

Josie says "she was cooked from the start, didn't cope well in the heat, the first run super tough, enjoyed the bike ride but had nothing left in the last run." It didn't help not having any drink stations along the course. Result was 6th just missing out on World qualification by 4 seconds. Josie now has to compete in another event in order to score points for her to qualify.

The event was even more special for Ron, Josie's dad and Sandy Point resident, to spectate at his first ever "athon" event. Ron was even happier with the ideal beer drinking weather.

Penny had selected the X Triathlon for her first event. The first stage was swimming just near where a local had hooked a bull shark the day before off the beach. Swimming in over 20 degrees was a rare treat and Pen completed the swim comfortably. All the years of swimming at Sandy are now paying off. A 20 km cross bike ride followed with some coaching tips from Josie who had completed her run. Last leg was a run, which Pen finished well to receive a podium first place and qualify for Worlds.

Pen rested in the afternoon in preparation to take on the sprint Duathlon the next day. Training down south wasn't conducive to a 2 pm start and 30 degrees. It was a solid race with a premium location for spectators, along The Strand. Pen was stoked to take out the overall win in women's and claim her second National title for the weekend.

Bring on the Worlds at Townsville, 2024 *by Dot Devine*

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The main beach has copped a battering this winter with very high tides that have caused extensive erosion of the dunes and in fact even the Horsetrack beach which usually remains fairly unscathed.

It is however pleasing to see very minimal damage around the erosion fencing adjacent to the Main walkway and Life Saving Club vehicle ramp. The vegetation has remained intact behind the fence constructed on the west side, so the fencing is working well. We would hope optimistically that further grants may be available to the Committee to pursue, to enable extensions of the erosion fencing to be constructed including vegetation renewal behind these fences. The Main Beach access has been damaged during the high tide events but this will be rectified shortly.

On the matter of grants, the Committee has been successful in obtaining funding to replace the decking for Ned Neals and the Main Beach walkways except the viewing platforms which do not require updating at this stage. The public would notice over the last year that the existing decking is failing and has become unsafe so these replacement works are great for long term safety and reducing maintenance. It is expected that these works will be undertaken before the summer holiday period. During the works there will be restricted or alternative access. The Committee congratulates WISP (Wildlife in Sandy Point) members, as part of the Sandy Point Community Group, being successful in obtaining funding for the Coastal Banksia Woodland Project, which is tackling weed removal in the Crown land area near the Shallow Inlet end of the Roy Henderson Track. The numbers of volunteers attending the weeding days are wonderful and we implore anyone interested in assisting to please look out for information on these days which occur on Saturdays. This is a great initiative to assist weed control within the Crown land area the Foreshore Committee manages.

The Committee has other important news coming up but we are awaiting formal advice before informing all the locals and visitors who enjoy this area.

Stay safe and continue to keep our beach and Shallow Inlet rubbish free.



King tide at Shallow Inlet, July 2023

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GOOD NEWS re HOODED PLOVERS at Sandy Point

Hooded Plovers from Sandy Point have returned to the sand spit, reunited with their partners, and are now considering site, aspect and construction materials for the first nests of this breeding season. Since most of our Hoodies are unbanded it's unknown which pairs are made up of the same individuals as last season - whoever they are, we welcome them home.

SP breeding pairs DOUBLED last season on the BirdLifeAustralia data portal.

Whether due to more resident Hoodie breeding couples or increased regular volunteer monitoring is impossible to saygood news regardless.

Our Hoodies are on Social Media:

Bass Coast Friends of Hooded Plovers group now formally includes South Gippsland on its Facebook page, accepting Hoodie news from across Gippsland including Philip Island.

www.facebook.com/groups/1379173392891252/

LANDCARE are expecting chicks!

SGLN (South Gippsland Landcare Network) recently put together and delivered a **nest protection kit** to assist volunteers at Sandy Point including signs, rope and posts, tools, backpack, but most importantly **chick shelters** constructed and donated by a local. These protect tiny, camouflaged chicks which feed themselves on the beach until they fledge (fly) 5 weeks after hatching.

BASS COAST Friends of Hooded Plovers has over a decade of a successful Shore-Nesting Birds program, culminating in unprecedented Hoodie breeding success rate last season. They will share some of their expertise with us over this breeding season, including banding with tiny ID tags to assist volunteer monitoring and data collation.

Individuals interested in training to become **volunteers** are welcome to join us and share our excitement as the breeding season commences.

Contact Kasun Ekanayake at Birdlife Australia www.ekanayake@birdlife.org.au

Although Hooded Plovers are small birds, data collected from volunteers' meticulous observations of this vulnerable species helps scientists understand the big picture.

Wendy Hayes Birdlife Australia, volunteer monitor.





Photos: Wendy Hayes - shorebirds at Sandy Point David Hartney - hoodies at Shallow Inlet Glenn Ehmke - chick shelter at Rye back beach



Kevin Barnes

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The Milky Way is a galaxy; a galaxy is a huge collection of stars, solar systems, gas and dust, all held together by gravity. There are billions (maybe trillions) of galaxies in the (one) Universe. The Milky Way is a disc-shaped spiral galaxy, with a massive black hole at the centre, and it is our galactic home.

Question: What do you see when you gaze at the Milky Way in our night sky?

Does it look like this?



Image 1 - Source: NASA. R.Hurt

Like many questions in life, the answer depends on your perspective, or point of view.

Image#1 is an imagined view of the Milky Way from the outside, looking in. We can never see it like this because we are on the inside of the Milky Way, and cannot get far enough away from it to take a photo. So this image is an artist's rendition based on our observations of other similar galaxies.

Image#2 is a photo of what we can see of the Milky Way from our position within it - which is about halfway out between the centre and the outer edge of the spiral. So we are looking back through the spiral disc, and we see it "side-on" from the inside.

Image#3 is a marked-up image of how our indigenous astronomers see the Milky Way. Many Aboriginal nations have "Emu in the Sky' stories, and its changing position in the sky indicates the timing of available food sources on country.



or this ?....

Image 2 - Source: Space Australia,

or this?



Image 3 - Source: Barnaby Norris/Ray Norris

Here in Sandy Point we are fortunate to have 'dark sky' opportunities to view the Milky Way, without the light pollution of other towns (while humming The Church song). The Sandy Point Community Group supports the preservation of our dark sky status, with minimal light pollution from street lighting.

You can read this and previous Dark Sky at Sandy Point articles at www.sandypoint.vic.au/dark-sky

References:

- <u>spaceplace.nasa.gov/galaxy</u>
- www.abc.net.au/news/science, M Steffens, Australia's first astronomers
- spaceaustralia.com/news/moonhack-codingstory-emu-sky

by the Editor, <u>news@sandypoint.vic.au</u>





future events



23 September – Microbat Info Session and WiSP Shorebird Program Launch. This event will feature our special guest Ericka from Microbats of Melbourne. <u>facebook.com/microbatsofmelbourne</u> https://microbatsofmelbourne.org/

We'll have a children's session and activities, Habitat CBW project update and the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Shorebird Monitoring Project.

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Find this event information again on the Sandy Point website

www.sand ypoint.vic. au/events/ microbats

animal welfare



HABITAT REHABILITATION

Please see the Coastal Banksia Woodlands Project article.

Mange in wombats has continued to be a focus of our response efforts. Five more wombats were reported in Walkerville North, Sandy Point and Yanakie. Volunteers and property owners have been involved in spotting and treating the wombats. Catching mange before it spreads is a key strategy to protect the Sandy Point koalas so we will continue to respond with the support from Mange Management.

If you see a mangy wombat report it to Mange Management at i<u>nfo@mangemanagement.org.au</u> or on 0431600125.

During this period, we had a dead young male koala and a dead older koala reported. Several wombat strikes were responded to in order to check for young.

Injured or sick animal response contact list

... on Facebook



... on the <u>Sandy</u> Point website





Community Engagement

WiSP has started setting out posters and flyers, in beach and sand spit access areas notifying people that it's Hooded Plover nesting season. The posters were designed by Keely Goodall of Its All Good. Thank you, Keely. The "Help the Hoodies" poster's message is to either avoid the area all together or use the bypasses in order to avoid where hoodies nest and or feed. Controlling animals is an important aspect of "Helping the Hoodies" so if you don't want to put the dogs on leads please stay west of Manuka Entrance or take dogs to their designated area west of Ned Neal's Lookout.

On 1 July Studio RE held a "Out of the Shadows" Dance Night and pledged to support WiSP by sharing half the profits. We received a generous donation and our members involved enjoyed the collaboration, so thank you so much Elizabeth.

On July 22nd WiSP hosted a Whale Spotting Information session and practical at Walkerville North Community Centre and Cape Liptrap respectively. The two researchers offered a lovely day of whale appreciation whereby seven humpbacks were observed (an amazing result) during the practical. People came away with the knowledge on how to contribute to this important citizen based research.

If you'd like to sign up to participate in the whale migration/killer whale monitoring citizen science please send your details to killerwhalesaustralia@gmail.com.

Please become a member of our Facebook noticeboard here. <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/364325165518116/</u>

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.

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SANDY POINT NEWS



SANDY POINT MUSIC IS BACK FOLLOWING A WINTER BREAK.

To kick start the return, in August we were proud to host new local talent **Kate Spacey**, a singer-songwriter who brought a personal touch to her songs and **D'Arcy Spiller**.

In September, **Minnie Marks** and **Kathleen Halloran and her band** warmed up the season with a knockout concert. Some really slick guitar work, mesmerising vocals, humour and entertaining with their story telling which really engaged the crowd.



NEXT GIG IS ON OCTOBER 7TH WITH AUNTY BLUE AND ALLY ROW.

Aunty Blue are an Indie-Folk-Rock band from Melbourne whose music includes gritty melancholic, groovy neo-soul tones, smooth rhythms and sweetly phrased textures of Jeff Buckley.



Ally Row we already know from April this year. They are a local indie folk duo who reminded us how exceptional the talent is in Gippsland. The duo write their own songs and deliver them pitch perfect with an infectious energy. They have just released a new single called The King is just a Clown. Here it is <u>https://youtu.be/bb1D3WqBxYM</u>



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NOV 4TH (MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND) MISS EILEEN & KING LEAR

On November 4th, Melbourne Cup weekend, **Miss Eileen & King Lear** (Perch Creek duo) will grace the stage with new music that's fresh and crisp. Check out the link to see them perform. <u>https://youtu.be/VPytM_xh6y4</u>



Before it gets too busy in December, put Dec 2nd in your diaries for our last show in 2023. We are working on a dance night and will keep your posted via email and our facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/sandypointmusic

The best bet is to book tickets on Trybooking <u>www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1108875</u> Note that with the increasing summer audience numbers there will be limited tickets at the door. Its easy to join our email list, just send an email to <u>sandypointmusic@gmail.com</u>

Words and show photography by <u>donnakilleenphotography.com</u>

GIGS	OCTOBER 7 - AUNTY BLUE & ALLY ROW
ΑΤ Α	November 4 - Mekl (Miss Eileen & King Lear
GLANCE	december z - TBA







SPRING 2023

SANDY POINT NEWS



The Sandy Point Community Centre Committee recently held their AGM chaired by local Councillor Scott Rae. The following committee members were elected:

- Danny Millton, Chairperson
- Tony Cornish, Vice Chairperson
- Kim White, Treasurer
- Dot Devine, Secretary
- General Members, Judy O'Sullivan, Judy Barnard, Rick Martin, Phil Cornwell, Sue Stanecki, Cherry Thurlow and Nicky Thurlow and new member Ray Henderson.

At the last few Committee meetings, we have extended an invitation to local councillors and Council employees to enable getting their input and understanding while presenting them with any of our concerns. It has been an excellent avenue for us to be able to share with Councillors and council management and seeing action take place from these meetings.

The long-awaited playground refurbishment is finally completed and it will be a delight to see local children and visitors using the equipment during the week and over the school holidays. The shade cloth covering the playground is away being cleaned and repaired and will be returned early November in time for the Summer season.



Yoga has now commenced in the Centre, on a Monday night, so we can proudly boast that the Centre is used for yoga, tai chi, pilates and table tennis along with Elizabeth's dance sessions and numerous community group meetings, and not to mention our own Sandy Point Music Group. Advertising for these sessions is in the front entrance for days and times.



www.sandypointcc.org.au/calendar



We even hosted the party following the EV (electric vehicle) charging station launch at the Community Centre with over thirty people attending.

On the maintenance front, council has painted the iron support beams on the north side, painted some walls and is discussing the ageing veranda boards and the need for more external paint with Facilities Manager Peter Cook (when he attended one of our committee meetings).



Sandy Point Community Centre & TP Taylor Reserve Community Asset Committee

The faulty air conditioners in the main hall have now been replaced as part of Council's cyclic maintenance. We noticed a crack in the kitchen bench which Council are in the process of repairing, and we also recently had some Council workers clean out the gutters and spouting. Council is aware of the missing playground fence section, and are investigating replacing the fence.

Two of our Committee members attended the annual Neighbourhood Safe Place inspection and review, with an 'all is good' result. There are signs and placards around the Centre and grounds if you are curious.

The Sandy Point Community Men's Shed have continued their commitment to the Centre maintenance and have recently installed aluminium on vulnerable corners to prevent damage to plaster edges when moving tables and chairs.

As our summer season approaches, please remember to read in our window and the Community Group Newsletter of coming events. Also feel free to inquire if you would like to book the hall or have any questions.

Dot Devine, Secretary Daniel Millton, President

www.sandypointcc.org.au





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Memories of Sandy days past

Keith Haycroft grew up in the 1930s and 40s, in the outer suburbs of Melbourne. By the age of 11 or 12, curious about the world and armed with a camera and an emerging passion for photography, Keith became a regular annual visitor to Shallow Inlet and the surrounding area, that would become the township of Sandy Point.



The Haycroft family, accompanied by relatives and close friends, had a tradition of camping on the Henderson property at Shallow Inlet for two weeks each January. They travelled in a convoy with trailers full of tents and the necessarv equipment for two weeks of school holiday fun. The access road into Shallow inlet was very difficult for the cars and trailers unless it had been raining, and everyone got used to getting out and pushing !

Two tents, measuring 3.6 X 3.6 metres, served as their home. Here, the family cooked meals over campfires, bathed in the sea and had the luxury of a "drop toilet."

During this period, the Haycroft clan were the sole campers in this special place, unknown to most people. For city-bred children like Keith, his brother Barry, cousin Yvonne and their friends, the seaside retreat was a wonderland. They swam in the inlet, played cricket and archery on the beach, and contributed to the family's food supply by trapping rabbits. The family also hired a fishing boat and caught a variety of fish.



Keith remembers Mr. Henderson senior, armed with binoculars on the sand dunes, watching for shoals of salmon trout. At these times the local fishermen would swiftly cast their nets to capture the fish.

One of the most enduring legacies of these summers was Keith's developing passion for photography, nurtured by his Uncle Arthur, a professional photographer. Under his uncle's guidance, Keith began to capture the essence of their holiday adventures, creating a treasure trove of memories.

Beyond Shallow Inlet lay another jewel waiting to be explored: Wilson's Promontory. During World War II, this natural wonder had been closed off to the public, serving as a training ground for army commandos. However, on February 1st, 1946, "The Prom" was opened to the public once more. At the age of 12, Keith embarked on a 20 kilometre trek from Tidal River to the iconic lighthouse, accompanied by Uncle Arthur and two eager visitors keen to explore the Prom.

Each generation asks "What was it like then?" but frequently the answers are disappointingly sketchy.

This article is a part of our investigation of Sandy Point's history, where we put this guestion to

This article is about Keith Haycroft's

Inlet in the 1940s and 50s.

residents and visitors willing to share memories of the past, so that these can be preserved into the future.

childhood experiences of camping at Shallow

The lighthouse keepers, having seen few civilians during the war years, welcomed the travellers with open arms. They insisted that Keith and his companions stay overnight in one of the lighthouse cottages and offered an exclusive tour of the lighthouse. As a special gesture, the lighthouse keepers generously shared precious commodities like tea, sugar, and butter, which were still rationed in those post-war days.

Keith's adventures didn't end there. He returned to the Promontory's lighthouse on two more occasions, the final time as a 19-year-old, accompanied by his beloved Gloria, his future wife.



Keith's journey through life continued, with marriage to Gloria, a talented sportswoman and captain of the 1960 Australian netball team, the birth of two sons, Colin and Jeff, work as a carpenter, a technical school teacher, a cattle breeder and cattle judge, with eventual retirement to Port Welshpool where Gloria and he built their retirement home. Sadly, Gloria died in 2020 aged 86 years, but Keith continues to lead a very active life.

Thank you, Keith for sharing your wonderful stories and photographs with us.

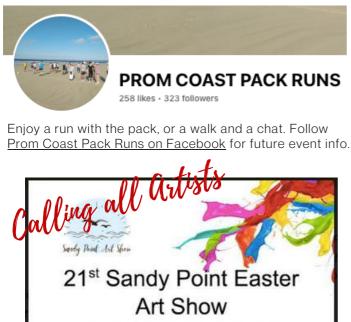
by Bronwyn Parry-Fielder and Nicky Walker



Buckley Park Community Farm will again be running the weekly fresh food market over summer in Fish Creek, Saturdays 9am to 11am. The starting date is yet to be decided, but as this is a Buy Swap Sell fresh food market, vege growers will want to start thinking about their spring and summer plantings. For more information, contact Marg 0488 592 725.



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Sandy Point Community Centre Saturday 30th March to Monday 1 April 2024 10am-4pm

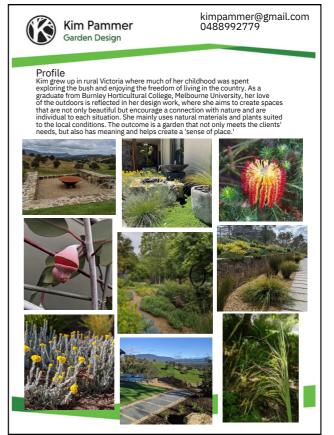
Inviting all artists Prizes in all categories

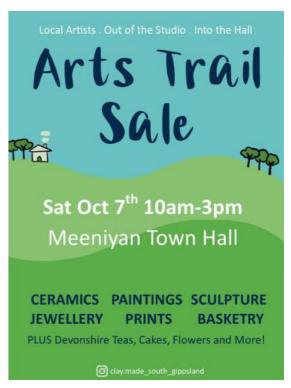
For information and entry forms www.sandypointcc.org.au/art-show

Key Dates:

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







Sixteen local artists are bringing their work out of the studio and into the hall for the Arts Trail Sale on Oct 7th from 10am-3pm in Meeniyan Town Hall. CLAY.made South Gippsland is group of local ceramicists working to create opportunities for artists and makers in South Gippsland to show and sell their work locally.

The Arts Trail Sale is part of the <u>Arts Connect</u> <u>Open Studios & Art Trail</u> event happening across South Gippsland throughout September and October.

SANDY POINT NEWS

Waratah Beach SLSC

WARMING UP FOR THE 2023/34 SEASON

Things are starting to pick up over at the club in anticipation of the 2023/2024 season. We've had a team getting stuck into maintenance and improvement works around the club which we know you'll enjoy when it comes time to reacquaint yourself with the Warabar in a few short months.

A jam-packed social calendar is on it's way and we'll have an update for you in the next edition of the Sandy Point Community Group Newsletter - look out for this on our Instagram and Facebook pages too.

For now - we take a look back at the last few months with an introduction to our newly reformed IRB team and a look over the key stats from 2022/2023.





WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

We were pleased to have a keen group of athletes who re-established the clubs IRB team this year. You might have seen these enthusiastic young clubbies training in the inlet and at the bay

The team exceeded expectation, travelling across the state to all but one of the Life Saving Victoria competitions and achieving some terrific results.



SANDY POINT NEWS



2023 / 2024 STATS SNAPSHOT

PATROL

17,250 Beach Attendance 2,441 Preventative Actions 0 Major First Aid/Rescues required 5 Minor First Aid

NIPPERS

220 Nippers 42 Water Safety 250+ volunteer hours

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

28 Surf Rescue Certificate 33 Bronze Medallion 5 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation 13 Inflatable Rescue Boat Crew 10 Silver Medallion Inflatable Rescue Boat Driver

SUPPORTERS

17 Sponsors 8 Grants 27 Donors

MEMBERSHIPS

212 Junior Active members (5-13)
65 Cadet members (13-15)
57 Active members (15-18)
53 Active members (18+)
292 Associate members
19 Award members
10 Honorary members
34 Life members

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GETTING YOUR RSA?

WBSLSC in partnership with Gippsland Tafe will be running a RSA certification program on Thursday 28th December. Volunteers of the club or those intending to assist at the bar or in other capacities can receive the training for free.

Community members or those in surrounding communities who are not members or WBSLSC are also eligible to apply to attend the training for a cost of \$90 per person.

If you are interested in attending the training, please complete the following brief form and we will be in touch with you!

https://forms.office.com/r/vpVhPdLa2T

DOES ANYONE KNOW A FRIDGE MAGICIAN?

We are on the look out for someone someone who is trained, knowledgeable or capable of helping us with servicing our refrigerators and freezers. If this is you - or you know this person - we would love to hear from you.

<u>aratahbeach.com.au</u>

facebook.com/WBSLSC1963

O instagram.com/waratahbeachslsc/



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

Optional additional payment

Postage of print quarterly newsletter \$12 (optional)

Donation to SPCG (optional)

The SPCG appreciates your support.

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Donation amount (optional)

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O Bank Transfer O Cheque O Cash

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Membership Type * O Individual membership \$15 O Family household membership \$25	end yron 1999 • OR - Submit the online form at <u>www.sandypoint.vic.au/payment-options</u> Bank transfer to SPCG Inc.
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Eirst Name Additional family email	Cash or Cheque
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Email membership@sandypoint.vic.au for further payment options or inquiries.

Sandy Point Community Group (SPCG) membership

Please join us - go to www.sandypoint.vic.au/membership

or complete this paper form and see details for alternative payment methods



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

<u>news@sandypoint.vic.au</u>



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

Got some SP news fit to print? Interested in contributing to the Sandy Point Newsletter?

Email to news@sandypoint.vic.au

Catch up on news updates <u>www.sandypoint.vic.au</u>





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