

# TOONGABBIE NEWS

**FREE**

**Issue 4, Autumn 2020**

## **Australia Day Celebrations 2020**

### **LIONS AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY**



Once again this Australia Day we held our free community breakfast and Australia Day ceremony, proudly supported by Latrobe City Council. Our Citizen of the Year was Mr. Alan Paulet, a very humble and worthy recipient, and we thank the Glengarry Scout Group for their assistance in the flag-raising ceremony.

The Lions Club of Wellington/Latrobe are back at work after a brief recess over Christmas. December saw the Club catering for the Toongabbie Primary School grade 6 graduation, also providing scholarships for 2 nominated children. These scholarships help parents with the cost of books & uniforms

for starting secondary school. We cooked sausages to provide a barbeque at the Carols at the Village Green, helping with the arrangements and setting up for the event. Our very successful Xmas raffle was drawn on this night, with 2 very happy winners, and on this note we must thank our very generous community for supporting our major fundraising effort for the year.

The money raised from this helps finance causes like the scholarships, sending local children to camp Licola, providing for the cost of buses to take Toongabbie school children to swimming lessons. With YOUR support, YOUR local Lions Club has contributed over this summer to Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund, Lions Need for Feed, bushfire relief through Australian Lions Foundation. We also make donations every year to local groups and organisations, so you see, by supporting Lions you are supporting a lot of other people! Every dollar you spend on a sausage, raffle ticket or donation is given back to the community, nothing is taken out for administration costs.

Meanwhile, it is back to our twice a month Sausage Sizzles at Woolies in Traralgon (who would have thought the humble sausage could achieve so much?) – keep an eye out for us there and come and say hi! Or better still, buy a couple of sausages.

**CHEERS FOR NOW - PETER FEENSTRA on behalf of the Lions Club of Wellington/Latrobe.**

The **Toongabbie News** is produced by the Toongabbie Township Group who welcome news and photographs from community groups, clubs and individuals.

Please send text and photos as separate attachments by email to the Editor, Ann Berrett at **annber2016@outlook.com**

Clearly written or printed material will also be accepted and can be posted to The Editor, Toongabbie News, PO Box 35, Toongabbie 3856.

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or Township Group. Although care is taken, no responsibility is assumed for any errors which may occur. Submissions may be subject to editing.

## THE WINTER EDITION

### DEADLINE

for all contributions is

**FRIDAY June 4TH, 2020**

Want to see more community news then go to

<http://toongabbie.vic.au>



Or <https://www.facebook.com/toongabbievicau>

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### Editorial

If your group or organisation has an event planned the newsletter is happy to publish this information.

The newsletter has four editions over the calendar year.

Have you also considered using the Toongabbie website and

Facebook page to notify the Community of your event?

Know someone who may have missed out on a copy of the newsletter? The Toongabbie News is also available on the Toongabbie website :

[toongabbie.vic.au/newsletter/](http://toongabbie.vic.au/newsletter/)

Thank you for liking our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/toongabbie.vic.au](http://www.facebook.com/toongabbie.vic.au)



### Toongabbie Township Group prize winners for the Xmas light competition:

1st : 31 Victoria Street (photo p3)

2nd: 6-8 Sparks Lane

3rd : 36 Victoria Street

4th : 51 Sparks Lane

Thank you to Jakes Place Dog Holiday Park for sponsoring the prizes

<http://www.jakesplacedogpark.com/>

## TOONGABBIE RACECOURSE RE-SERVE 1884—1930

**E**stablished in 1884 the Toongabbie Racecourse Reserve Club held annual meetings, the last being in 1930. The Diamond Bracelet pictured below was part of the Winnings from the Blue Diamond Stakes dated possibly in the late 1890's. The race was won by one of the W.E. Heywood race horses. W.E. Heywood being my Grandfather.

Max Bridges.



## TOONGABBIE RECREATION RE-SERVES COMMITTEE news

**T**he Committee wish to bring to the attention of all Clubs and User Groups that Latrobe City Minor Capital Works Grant will open in July 2020.

Now is the time for your committees to consider a possible grant application and investigating quotes. Grants can be applied for up to \$5000 in value.

For more information go to [Latrobe.smartygrants.com.au](http://Latrobe.smartygrants.com.au) then click on Community Grants/Latrobe City Council for Minor Capital Works Grant Guidelines.

If you have any questions please call Graham Berrett on 5192 4567

TRRCoM



## TOONGABBIE GOLF CLUB news

**T**he Summer rains have left our town's golf course looking a treat.

Our fairways are lovely and green and the greens are benefitting from the work we're doing. The result is that a lot of people have been out on the course enjoying a round of golf in the late Summer sunshine.

The calm, sunny weather of Autumn provides the best weather of the year for playing golf and, as always, Toongabbie Golf Club is the most accessible club in the region:

The course is never too busy and is always available for green fee players;

At only \$15, our green fees are half the price of the major clubs;

The course is flat and provides an easy walk.

Memberships are also available and we are offering extremely affordable deals for the remainder of the financial year. Men's competitions are held on Saturday and Tuesday and women's comps are held on Tuesday. Unlike at many clubs, women are also most welcome to play on Saturday.

If you're thinking of joining a club or just playing a round or two, come and give your local club a try - we think you'll be pleasantly surprised.



Photo below: Winner Xmas lights Competition 31 Victoria Street.



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TOONGABBIE RAILWAY STATION YARDS

The town of Toongabbie began in 1863 as a supply depot and staging post on the road from Port Albert to Walhalla. Goods were hauled from Port Albert to Toongabbie via both sale and Rosedale by bullock wagons and then transferred to packhorse and mules (over 600 in all) for the arduous journey over tortuous tracks to the Jericho, then later the Walhalla Goldfields. As tracks turned to roads, horse teams took over.

The advent of the railways in the 1870's and 1880's allowed goods to be transported overland. A railway line from Melbourne to Sale was completed by the mid 1870's. A branch line from Traralgon to Heyfield was commenced in late 1882 and was completed by the contractors, Lewis P. Moline and James King in the time for the official opening on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 1883.

A crane was installed in the station yards in mid-1883 to lift the heavy piles, logs and sawn timber. It was situated on the north side of the railway line and to the west of the proposed goods shed and platform. Goods, however, came before the comforts of travellers in a town dependant on the carrying trade.

In May 1884, the town celebrated the opening of the new railway department-built goods shed and 150ft long platform with a grand ball in the newly completed Mechanics Institute. It was to house thousands of tons of goods over the years, most of it bound for Walhalla. For the next 26 years the sight of wagons loading at the goods shed pointed to the reason for the very existence of Toongabbie.

It was not until June 1887, however, that plans were in place for the railway station buildings itself. Tenders were called for a 45ft long building comprising of a booking office, general waiting room, ladies waiting room,,,,,, and out offices including toilets. The construction of the station building which cost 368 pounds commenced in August 1887 and was completed by years end. Toongabbie finally had a respectable railway station building, four years after the official opening of the railway line.

The railway department's original recommendations for the preferred site of the railway station yards was rejected by the townsfolk after protracted negotiations the townsfolk finally got their way. They selected sections one and five, the respective sites of the police station and the State School. The old police quarters comprising the house and office, horse stables and portable lock up was situated on allotment five, section one, exactly where the C.F.A. building now stands. The teacher's residence and school building were located further to the east on allotment five, section 5, close to the stand of yellow box trees opposite the general store.

The buildings occupying both sites were auctioned in October 1883. The school building was knocked down to James Slater, the owner of the Toongabbie Hotel. A Mr. Sims bought the teachers residence and Dr. John Heywood purchased the police quarters. The portable lock up was removed to the site of the new police station on allotment one, section six, currently owned by Roger Ries.

Two railway houses were built by the Department. The Grangers house (date unknown) and the Station Master's house (built in 1894) were constructed on Allotments four and five, Section five, situated on what is now known as How-er Street.

The Toongabbie Railway Station achieved the distinction of receiving the second highest tonnage of inward goods in the mid 1890's for the whole of Gippsland behind only Korumburra which was buoyed by its association with the coal industry. It was not uncommon to see upward of 100 trucks on the rails at the station on any given day during the boom times. The station also achieved the distinction as the highest revenue earner of any Gippsland station for inward goods in both 1895 and 1896. Because of a flourishing timber industry, the Toongabbie railway station became even busier on top of the Walhalla goods traffic.

1886-87 was a boom year with tonnage out of the railway station reaching 6,485 tons. This comprised mainly red iron bark from the local foothills which became a much sort after timber, flourishing in the Melbourne market, and forest red gums from the Plains. Red gum blocks were extensively used in the construction of many roads in Melbourne in the latter part of the 1800's. A number of sawmills were erected in the



railway yards after 1990, the last one by John McMillan in the early 1950's.

The good times for the Toongabbie station were not to last, however, and by 1909 the inward tonnage had dropped alarmingly.

This was brought about by the closure of many of the gold mines in and around Walhalla and by the construction of the railway line from Moe to Walhalla in March 1910. The carrying industry was now no longer viable and many of the local carriers who had plied their trade for over 40 years were forced to leave the district.

The huge goods sheds were now silent and empty with the demise of the carrying trade. By January 1924 a large section of the goods shed had been removed, the station master's position had been made redundant and to add insult to injury the crane was also taken away. By 1941, the greater part of the station buildings had been removed along with the station masters house and the remainder of the goods shed and platform.

In late 1976 it was announced that the Traralgon to Maffra passenger train would be discontinued and replaced by a bus service. The railway station building itself was officially closed on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 1978.

For years the Victorian railways had been chipping away at the railway station and yards, thing this or that away. The final indignity saw the removal of the station building and associated structures including the Grangers House in 1979. The last passenger train to use the line was pulled by the 'K.153', a steam locomotive which carried 500 passengers on a sentimental journey from Traralgon to Maffra and return on a weekend in November 1983, exactly 100 years since the opening of the line.

To complete the total demise of the once proud railway station yards, the railway lines themselves were pulled up in 1987. So ended Toongabbie's long and productive association with the railway industry.

**Written by Roger Ries (Local Historian).**

## **TOONGABBIE & DISTRICT MEN'S SHED news**

Since the last edition, Christmas has been and gone and the Toongabbie & District Men's Shed members and their partners enjoyed a great Christmas breakup with a lovely three course meal, thanks to Colin and Christine Gardner and to Peter Feenstra for providing a delicious dessert.

The Wellington - Latrobe Lions Club's sign was erected beside the Toongabbie Mechanics Institute Hall and the cubby houses at the Toongabbie Primary School were also repaired, thanks to all members involved in both projects.

The Vermont Men's Shed offered marine ply cut offs to any Sheds that would like them and Ron Wojcinski drove to Vermont to take up the offer and while enjoying their hospitality, was generously offered the donation of an excellent wood turning lathe that was in excess to their needs. Thanks to the Vermont Men's Shed and Ron, the wood lathe was quickly put into use and tested by Maurice Gunulson, our wood turning specialist.

The Toongabbie and District Men's Shed members would like to express their appreciation and sincere thanks to the Toongabbie Township Group and the Latrobe City Council for the opportunity to make a successful application for the Latrobe City Small Towns Minor Capital Works Grant to install ducting for the dust extraction unit in the Shed. This successful application will now allow ducting to be installed to complete the dust extraction unit that will make the Shed environment safer and cleaner for all members, as well as lessen the fire risk.

We always welcome new members, both male and female to our group.

The Shed is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 3.00 pm. For more information please contact Colin on 0427 489 349. Ron & Maurice pictured below working the lathe



## LATROBE STREET GAMES

**G**ippsport's Latrobe Streetgames will be heading to Toongabbie Skate Park // Rec Reserve with social sport for teens and young adults every fortnight, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month!

**WHAT IS LATROBE STREETGAMES?** Latrobe Streetgames is about getting out, having fun with your mates, and getting active.

It's totally free

No booking required (except for Skateclub)

No fancy uniforms or equipment required (if you can, comfy clothes and closed toe shoes)

A good place to hang out, have a go, and meet other teens and young adults!

**WHAT LATROBE STREETGAMES IS NOT?**

We're not about skills and drills, no matter what your skill level you can come and join in, feel welcome, and have fun

We're not high pressure and we're not a competition (friendly competition is fine if that's your thing, but it's not about winning or losing to us)

We're not a boot-camp (if you get fitter great, but it's primarily about having fun and connecting with friends)

We're not about overdoing it (if you like to go all out that's totally fine, but we encourage you to pace yourself and we take regular breaks as a group- we want you to be able to move the next day haha)

We strive to choose locations and styles that are as accessible as possible, and our coaches are welcoming to all groups, including people who are LGBTIQA+, culturally and linguistically diverse, those living with disabilities, and heaps more. For more accessibility information about your town's event please get in touch!

Check out our website @[www.latrobestreetgames.com.au](http://www.latrobestreetgames.com.au), facebook @Latrobe Streetgames, or instagram @latrobestreetgames for more information! We can't wait to see you at one of our events!

\*\*\*If our events are outdoors and we don't have a suitable indoor backup location we use weather forecasts to tell if an event goes ahead or not. Make sure you check back to the event or page in the morning of the event day to check whether or not it is going ahead.

Made possible by Gippsport and the Latrobe Health Assembly, working together in the Latrobe Health Innovation Zone.



Come say hi to our crew at Toongabbie Streetgames! (back row left to right: Tom, TJ, Monte, Dylan; front row left to right: Mandy, Jay, Jasmine, Den, and Catherine; missing from shot: Ami, Chris)





## FRIENDS OF THE TOONGABBIE WETLANDS

The “Friends of the Toongabbie Wetlands’ have been busy installing our new seats on site. The two seats, made of recycled plastic, will be hardy and require little or no maintenance as opposed to the seats they are replacing which, being made of wood, required ongoing painting and tended to rot out at the base. We are attempting to replace the remaining wooden seats as funds become available.



The Latrobe City Council continues to support us financially through an Annual Maintenance

Grant. We also endeavour to run two sausage sizzles per year at the Traralgon Bunnings store which brings in some very handy funds. As members we rather enjoy the day, catching up with many acquaintances and interesting characters as they feast on our delicious sausages and perfectly cooked onions!



At a recent working bee to prepare the sites for the new seats fallen trees were chopped up and removed and sticks collected and heaped (an ongoing task at the wetlands).

In recent times we organised John Dunne's company to remove a number of large chunks of concrete that had been infested with blackberries from between two of our ponds. The overflow is now restored, which may be handy with all the rain Toongabbie is presently experiencing, and the area is cleaner and more manageable.

Once again if anyone is interested in being involved with our group they could speak to

Philip O'Malley (President) on 0419110057 or

Barbara Fulton (Secretary) on 0428924718





LATROBE

# STREETGAMES

# MARCH 2020



**TRARALGON MONTHLY**  
3:30-4:30pm Stockland Traralgon  
First Monday of the month (2nd of March)  
Spikeball, table tennis, badminton



**TRARALGON EAST WEEKLY NEW EVENT!!**  
5-6pm at Traralgon East Community Centre  
MONDAYS  
Volleyball, soccer, dodgeball, + more!



**MOE WEEKLY**  
3:30-5pm Moe Library  
TUESDAYS with Latrobe Youth Space  
Dodgeball, spikeball, table tennis +more



**BOOLARRA WEEKLY**  
4-5pm Boolarra skatepark (Town Hall if poor weather)  
TUESDAYS Basketball, dodgeball +more



**YINNAR FORTNIGHTLY NEW EVENT!!**  
6-7pm Yinnar Bicentennial park  
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month  
Dodgeball, footy +more



**GLENGARRY FORTNIGHTLY NEW EVENT!!**  
4-5pm Glengarry Park  
1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month  
Basketball, dodgeball, soccer +more



**TOONGABBIE FORTNIGHTLY NEW EVENT!!**  
6-7pm Toongabbie skatepark  
1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month  
Footy, dodgeball, frisbee +more



**MULTICULTURAL STREETSOCCER & 3X3 BASKETBALL**  
5-6:30pm Morwell Leisure Centre  
WEDNESDAYS Streetsoccer, basketball  
+more with CMY and Latrobe Youth Space



**YALLOURN NORTH WEEKLY**  
Yallourn North skatepark  
Pool rec room if rain/hail and not too hot  
Over 36 degrees the event will be cancelled  
THURSDAYS 4-5pm dodgeball, footy +



**TYERS FORTNIGHTLY NEW EVENT!!**  
6-7pm Tyers Community Park  
2nd & 4th Thursday of each month  
Soccer, footy, dodgeball, frisbee +more



**MORWELL WEEKLY**  
3-4:30pm Midvalley West Court  
@ YouthSpace FRIDAYS  
Badminton, table tennis +more



**BOOKINGS REQUIRED- SEE BACK!**  
**SKATE CLUB WEEKLY**  
4:30-5:30pm Morwell Skatepark  
MONDAYS & FRIDAYS  
Group & private skate and scoot coaching



**CHURCHILL YOUTH GROUP WEEKLY**  
6-8pm (during term) Churchill Town Hall  
FRIDAYS with Latrobe Youth Space  
Dodgeball, badminton, table tennis +more



**T'GON SOUTH YOUTH GROUP BACK ON!**  
6:00-8:00pm T'gon South Hall Fridays  
We attend on the 3rd Friday monthly  
Dodgeball, badminton, table tennis +more



**KOORIE YOUTH GROUP BACK ON!**  
(for Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander Youth)  
4-6pm Fridays  
We attend on the 1st Friday of the month