

TOONGABBIE NEWS

ISSUE 5, WINTER 2020

FREE



Back in February in front of more than 200 spectators at the Village Green, the Toongabbie Under 12's won the Grand final after a wonderful season going undefeated all year.

In a great team performance Toongabbie won 77 runs to Ex-Students 55. Blake Cooper won Man of the Match with 17 not out and 3/7 with the ball. Blake Bass batted well also with 15 including a big 6 that went more than 40 metres, his first one at that. His brother Connor also made a fine 12. Jack Weatherhead in only his second game in the under 12's made 4 at the end in a partnership that yielded 10 handy runs at the end.

As for our bowlers, everyone bowled extremely well with Blake Cooper 3 wickets, Tom Hood 1, Max Noble 1, and Blake Bass 1 and also a great runout.

Many of the players had been playing for 3 or so years now and have worked hard on their skills and teamwork in that time. They have shown that even if they are getting beaten in a game, that through hard work, never giving up and having a belief in each other, the game was never over until the final ball was bowled.

Photo: Back row: Alex Thompson, Brendon Wall (assistant coach), Jack Wall, Scott Mitchell (assistant coach), Tom Hood, Cooper Mitchell, Connor Bass, Max Noble, Dustin Martin, Blake Cooper, Rob Taylor (coach). Front Row: Alec Kenneally (mascot), Blake Bass, Jack Whitehead.

The players, parents, coaches and Club would like to thank Veolia Morwell for their generous donation of shirts, caps and hoodies over the last few years.

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 SPRING EDITION

DEADLINE

for all contributions is

**FRIDAY September
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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Toongabbie

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COVID –19 restrictions have started to ease and our Community Groups and Clubs have been able to recommence under the more relaxed physical distancing laws/guidelines in place since 1 June. Prior to June 1 many Clubs had gone into recess and some community events and programs have been run under very different circumstances by going virtual.

During these difficult times the Toongabbie Facebook page has been and continues to be a valuable source of news and information for community members who access the page. Cassandra Tolsma is responsible for the day to day task of administering the page. Thank you Cassandra. Your capable and consistent efforts have not gone unnoticed and are much appreciated.

The Toongabbie Township Group has just heard that from the start of July this year Public Liability Insurance coverage for the Group will be provided by the Latrobe City. This support by the Latrobe City is very welcome. Thank you Latrobe City.

Everyone deserves a warm, safe home.

You can help the Warm Safe Home Project.

In many cultures, the home is key to our sense of safety. In elder abuse situations however, the home can become a place of danger. Help to start conversations about the right everyone has to a warm safe home.

Make a little house using a precut template that you can put together:

- 1 Pick-up a pack from Latrobe City Council Headquarters, Latrobe City Council Libraries or contact us to get one posted to you
- 2 Write a statement about what a warm safe home means to you
- 3 Decorate your little house

Completed houses will be displayed in our libraries to raise awareness for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15.

For more information please contact Latrobe City Council on 1300 367 700 or email communitysafety@latrobe.vic.gov.au

JUNE 15 WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

VICTORIA Warm Safe Home PROJECT Living WELL Latrobe City a new energy

Toongabbie and Traralgon looked a little different with Mother's Day Classic event going virtual in 2020.

Usually held along the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail, starting in Toongabbie and Traralgon, respectively, this year's Classic saw over 100 local participants register their commitment to either walk or run, 4km or 8km, anytime, anywhere—on or before Mother's Day 2020.

Support for the event was as strong as ever from community groups such as the Wellington/Latrobe Lion's Club donating \$300 and local resident Lisa Sedgmen who fund raised over \$1300 to walk 20km through the bushland of Toongabbie, contributing to an estimated \$5000 raised. Other generous donations were received from Frank Balcombe and Carmel Shippen—all which go towards much needed research projects that make a difference to those living with breast cancer, as well as hopefully to prevent future breast cancer cases.

On behalf of the local organizing committee we extend a big thank you to everyone who participated, donated, and supported the Mother's Day Classic Virtual 2020. It has certainly been different, but we are glad the day still went ahead in some capacity as its vital we continue to raise funds and awareness for the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Medallions are on their way for participants. Watch out on our MDC Facebook page for collection date and time. Thanks for your patience.



LATROBE STREETGAMES

VIRTUAL TIMETABLE

1 - 28 JUNE 2020

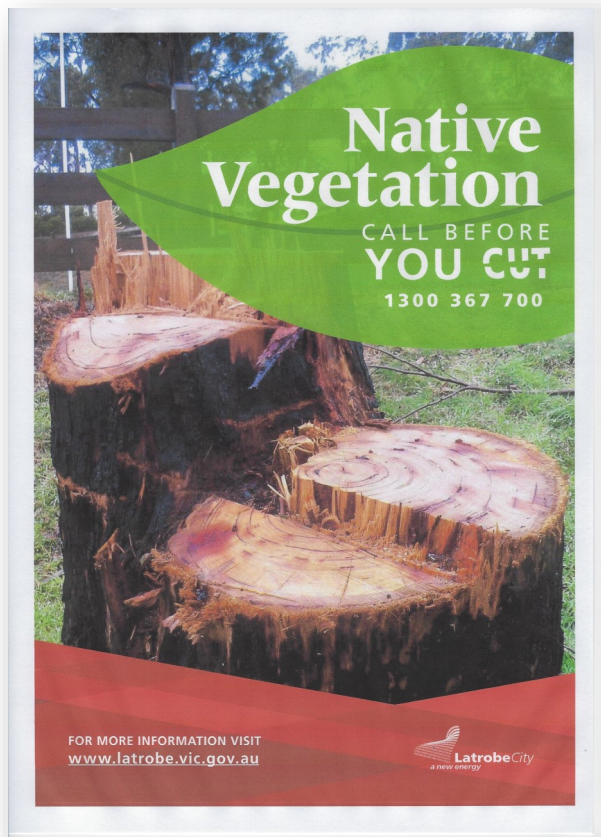
MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Mindful Mondays	Tik Tok Tuesdays	Winners are Grinners	Tips & Tricks	Fitness Fridays		Sunday Sessions
5PM	5PM	5PM	3PM	5PM		5PM

JOIN US ONLINE NOW

Make sure to follow our socials @latrobestreetgames

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Working together in the Latrobe Health Innovation Zone



Gippsland Plains Rail Trail News

Finally the bridge over the Eaglehawk Creek is completed. After holdups with weather and busy contractors we put it in place on Tuesday May 12th. So you won't need your gumboots on to cross the creek now and thank you all for your patience and great comments throughout the process. The contractors are currently waiting for two good days to seal the trail from Princes Highway Traralgon to Loy Yang Creek bridge. This sealed section will be added to after winter is over and we hope to have enough funds to get us to Black Tank Road.

We are also in the initial stages of choosing a bridge design for the Thompson River between Cowwarr and Dawson. The time frame for this construction will be stretched out a few months due to the onset of winter but the time will be used wisely to seek permits and consultation with the landholders and authorities in readiness for a summer start.

A new business is setting up at the Glengarry Railway Station and the owners have done some great remedial work before they open the doors. The Covid 19 rules have delayed their progress so watch out soon for a grand opening. We wish them well with their new endeavors and hope trail users and the community supports them.

This year has seen very few European Wasps on the trail.. not sure if it was the great job our wasp whisperers did the season before or the weather...whatever else it worked. If any trail users discover a nest or a colony of wasps can

you please let us know through the website.

We are in the early stages of consultation with Latrobe City Council regarding works to be completed in the car park area at the Glengarry Station site. More on this next newsletter. Latrobe City Council and Wellington Shire Council are to be congratulated for the support they give your rail trail annually.. without it our volunteer committee of management would struggle to continue our work. So a very big thank you to both Councils.

Some of our trail surface has been down for many years and we are now looking at seeking funds to upgrade the worst sections in the next two years. Please bear with us while we sort this out.

Unfortunately we have had reports of people using the rail trail at night shooting rabbits in the Toongabbie area and very close to town. This is not only dangerous but also illegal. We have trail users doing night time walks and quite often scout groups as well. You are encouraged to report the practice of shooting on or near the Rail Trail directly to the police.

Helen Hoppner

Toongabbie Men's Shed News

The Toongabbie & District Men's Shed has finally reopened on the 2nd June 2020 after its closure due to the COVID 19 virus that has taken over all our lives. The opening times of the Shed at this stage are the same as before the closure, every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 3 pm to 6 pm and any other time by arrangement. All the governments' social distancing rules and regulations are being adhered to.

New members, male and female are always welcome, drop in and have a chat and see what there is to offer.

During the closure we took the opportunity to engage a contractor, Micronair Dust Control to design, supply and install ducting through the Shed to all the wood working equipment, to enable us to finally be able to use the dust extraction unit that we had donated and set up at the rear of the Shed. On return to the Shed, the system has been used and is working well.

The supply and installation of the dust extraction ducting was only made possible by the Latrobe City Council's Small Towns Minor Capital Works Grant and our thanks and appreciation to the Latrobe City Council for the successful funding application that will make the environment in the Shed safer and cleaner, as well as potentially lowering the fire risk.

Our thanks also to the Toongabbie Township Group for their support towards making an application to the Council for funding. These grants offered by the Latrobe City Council do make a big difference to small organisations in the township.

Thank you to a great supporter of the Shed Bunnings Traralgon for providing us with a \$500 voucher to purchase



equipment or other goods at their store. We have used the voucher to purchase a compound mitre saw.

The north end of the Shed has been landscaped over the shutdown period and is looking much better thanks to our quiet achievers and gardeners Terry and Margaret, who also kept the place clean of cobwebs and leaves over the time we were absent.

It is great to see everybody up and about again and please stay vigilant with the social distancing rules and regulations to help keep our community safe.

LIONS CLUB OF WELLINGTON/ LATROBE HAPPENINGS

We currently have 13 members one of whom is to be inducted into membership when this becomes possible.

The club sadly went into recess due to the constraints of COVID – 19.

Despite this, we have managed to stay in touch via phone calls and we are in the middle of two new projects.

Firstly our **“PLANTS FOR MALLACOOTA”** project.

This project involves any keen gardeners, the idea is to pot up as many plants as we can and in due course arrange for the plants to be delivered to the Lions Club of Mallacoota for distribution.

This project was the brainchild of former Lion, Dianne Feenstra.

We have managed to generate a lot of support and with the assistance of Steve Boyce, Bunnings in Sale have donated a full pallet load of potting mix and 300 8-inch pots.

At present, there are many plants already potted and striking and many more to do, any donations of garden cuttings would be much appreciated.

Please feel free to ring Peter on 0418825011 if you are able to donate some cuttings for this exciting project.

Our second project is **“A DEFIBRILATOR”** for Toongabbie. Toongabbie presently has no publicly accessible defibrillator. We have in principle agreement from the Toongabbie General store for a defibrillator to be stationed there, this shop is open for many hours per day and is the most logical place to install it.

We have applied to the Heyfield Branch of the Bendigo Bank for financial assistance with this project.

Since receiving this news item, the Lions Club with the support through a substantial donation from the Heyfield & District Community Bank, have been able to proceed with the project and a new defibrillator will be installed at the Toongabbie General Store in the very near future. The Lions Club of Wellington/Latrobe Inc. would like to thank the Heyfield & District Community Bank for their generous support.

Other than that, thankfully, none of our members have fallen victim to the dreaded virus and members are in their



usual good spirits despite the Anti – Social distancing currently required, we are all keen to get started again with regular meetings etc.

Peter Feenstra

Club President/Secretary



With the role of the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner ceasing on 30 June 2020, the Commissioner Professor Rae Mackay is hosting a series of two webinars in June in place of a final public forum. At the time of printing this newsletter the first webinar will have been held on June 10. This was to share an overview of the work undertaken over the last three years in the rehabilitation planning of the three Latrobe Valley brown coal mines. A second webinar has been scheduled for June 26, further details will be available on our website and Facebook page .

The Commissioner's final newsletter can be accessed at www.lvmrc.vic.gov.au/newsletter-may-2020. <<http://lvmrc.vic.gov.au/newsletter-may-2020>.

Toongabbie Recreation Reserves Report

With the easing of the COVID restrictions the Recreation Reserves Committee resumed its monthly meetings. Users at the Stadium are required to maintain social distancing and record names and phone numbers of attendees, as per COVID safety requirements. Hand sanitizer has been provided at the main entrance and meeting room entrance.

The rebuild of the boardwalks located at the Village Green have been painted and the project is now completed. This project was a Minor Capital Works Grant from the Latrobe City. The total cost was \$7300 with the Latrobe City Grant contributing \$5000. The Committee would like to acknowledge the Latrobe City contribution without which this project would not have been possible.



From July Minor Capital Work Grants will be available for the 2020-2021 round. These grants have been increased to \$7000. The Committee encourages all clubs and organizations to consider making a grant application. The grant guidelines can be found on the Latrobe City website.

The Committee has discussed the possible impact the COVID restrictions may have on our annual auction held at the end of October this year. At this stage we are optimistic that by that time restrictions on crowd numbers may be lifted and the auction would be able to be held as usual.

So, if you have already or are thinking of cleaning out that shed or garage and want to sell items or a car, caravan, boat, bike, mower ...keep the auction date in mind and enter your items to be sold at auction to be held at end of October (date to be finalized).

TOONGABBIE MECHANICS INSTITUTE: A Brief Social History 1920-1959— by Ann Berrett

We moved to Toongabbie in 1977. The Mechanics Institute was then a shabby building which was still used by

the community for meetings, badminton, school concerts and just before it was closed for extremely popular Bush Dances which attracted people from a wide area. The community had already decided that a new hall which would provide improved sporting facilities for the community was needed. They no longer maintained the building, choosing instead to raise funds for a new Community Centre. With the support of the State Government and the Rosedale Shire the Community Centre located on the Recreation Reserve was built and the official opening was on the 28th June 1981. From 1981 to 1991 the Mechanics Institute stood unattended and derelict, subject to vandalism and coming perilously close to collapsing. In 1991 extensive restorative work to exterior of the Mechanics Institute was undertaken. Much had already been written on the Toongabbie Mechanics Institute largely centered on details of the building itself. In 1991 I had the privilege of sitting down and speaking to a few long term Toongabbie residents. I also was given access to old minute books and records. The day to day management, and community groups who used the Mechanics Institute and recollections of those who spent most of their lives in Toongabbie. Many of the those whom I spoke with in 1991 are no longer with us but my appreciation and thanks to them is still remembered today. Mr. Colin Mitchell, Mr. Seddon Scott, Mrs. Alice Bridges, Mrs. Anne Ashford, and Mr. Roger Ries.

The period 1920-1959 roughly coincides with the period of Toongabbie's decline, before it was reawakened in the late 1960's as a residential area for those employed in the Latrobe Valley.

In 1892 the Public Health Department had reservations about allowing the construction of a two storey wooden building for public usage due to the risk in case of fire. They gave permission for the building to hold the following number of persons. Main Hall 273, Supper Room 231, and Library 142. Permission was given because all public rooms were on the ground floor with direct access through doorways to the outside. However, at the time the Committee were required to give a written undertaking that only 60 persons would be allowed into the Library at any one time. The Mechanics Institute was managed by a committee of local people who were elected each year at the AGM of Subscribers. It was the duty of the Trustees of the Mechanics Institute to ensure that any monies received were to be used for the maintenance and improvement of the building and reserve. The positions on the management committee of Secretary and Caretaker of the Mechanics Institute were paid positions. The Secretary received an annual bonus of around 10 pounds. In 1935 the two paid positions were combined with Miss. K. O'Meara receiving an annual bonus of 15 pounds. Miss Kitty O'Meara held the position of secretary and later caretaker for many years. It was in 1957

that the position of Secretary/Caretaker was no longer paid and therefore held in an honorary capacity.

Letters requesting refunds on hire charges were frequently tabled at committee meetings. The committee generally refunded hire fees to church, school (Mother's Club) and Red Cross groups who hired the hall for fund raising ventures. The Gippsland Hospital in Sale, the Children's Hospital, and the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind.

The problem of finding the funds necessary for the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the building appears to have always existed. In late 1922 tenders were called for quotes for the painting of the building. Mr. W. Gilbert was the successful tenderer, quoting 50 pounds. Mr. Ellismith loaned the committee the 50 pounds at 5% interest. On July 8th, 1924, the loan was repaid with 6 months interest. In 1929 with State Electricity Commission approval, electric lights were installed in the building 13 points at a cost of 27/6 per point. In 1933 the successful tender for a new fence was Mr. W. Hower. The price being 5 pounds and 15 shillings. In 1937 due to the damage caused by flooding in the building a new floor was needed in the supper rooms. The cost was 30 pounds. Electric lights were also installed in the Lodge Room at a cost of 1 pound 10 shillings. Repairs to the Lodge Room, door, porch, and a new stairway provided for the sum of 10 pounds.

The most popular method of raising the extra funds required for the upkeep of the Mechanics Institute was to run a bazaar. The committee enlisted the aid of the entire community to hold the bazaars which were held in the

years 1922, 1935, 1940, 1947 and 1958. In 1922 the following stalls were listed and open. Fancy Stall, Refreshments, Flower Stall, Produce Stall, Lollies, Dips and Fishpond, Jumble Stall, Shooting Gallery and Hoopla, and an art gallery. A profit 110 pounds 12 shillings and sixpence was presented to the Mechanics Institute. In 1940 the Bazaar raised 64 pounds 18 shillings and 1 penny. In 1958 the bazaar made a profit of 182 pounds 15 shillings and 1 penny.

The caretaker was responsible for opening the free library. Up until 1932 the Library was open every evening. On average 3 pounds was spent each year on books for the Library. In 1932 the Library closed one evening each week and opened on a Thursday afternoon instead.

An agency of the Bank of Australasia and Court of Petty Sessions were also conducted at the then Mechanics Insti-

tute. The Court of Petty Sessions ceased in July 1931. Because transport between communities was more difficult many community groups and organizations used the Mechanics Institute. People sought recreation in their own communities rarely travelling to other towns. The Toongabbie Gymnasium Club, Football Club, Tennis Club, Horticultural Society, Junior Red Cross, Red Cross, Lodge (Oddfellows and later Manchester Unity I.O.O.F.), Golf Club (Race Night Dance, April 1926), Mother's Club, Fire Brigade, Toongabbie Young Men's Club, Cowwarr Football Club, Community Singing Club, Country Women's Association, Red Cross First Aid Classes, Indoor Games and Social Club, Church Groups, Toongabbie Sports Club (Badminton commenced in 1951), Youth Club all used the building for meetings and functions. The State Film Centre booked the hall on several occasions from 1951-1956 to show educational pictures.

In 1922 Doctor Hagan use a room at the Institute for consultations. Rental for the room was 6 pounds 10 shillings per annum. Nurse Phillips also rented a room, rent was 1 shilling per visit.

The Mechanics Institute was the venue for many concerts and dances. The Bellringers, Quadrille Club, Buffalo Minstrels, Walhalla Minstrels, Hugo Minstrels, Burns Minstrels all performed at concerts in the early years. Later Euchre Parties and socials were popular. Music for the dances was usually played on the Institute's piano.

The Toongabbie Horticultural Society held their annual show in the hall each year from 1920 to 1981 when the venue was changed to the Toongabbie Community Centre. The Society disbanded in 1989 and for many years they donated proceedings from the

annual flower show to the Mechanics Institute and other groups within the community. The Annual Show was an important date in the social calendar of the locals.

By examining the past history of the Mechanics Institute we can appreciate firstly, the importance the building had in the social and cultural lives of the residents, and secondly the difficulties a small community faced in raising the funds necessary to maintain such a large building.

Tenders called for in 1940 for the painting of the building were according to the following specifications: 'Elephant cream' paint for the walls, 'Rickshaw light green' for the dado, and 'pale ivory' for the ceilings.

The Toongabbie Mechanics Institute Committee has recently organized and paid for the painting of the Mechanics Institute Toilet block. Thanks to Ray J. Hamilton for completing this work. The toilet block is looking much better with a fresh coat of paint.