

TOONGABBIE NEWS

ISSUE 7, SUMMER 2020

FREE



Funding Success

After reopening for a short time, the Toongabbie Men's Shed again had to close when stage 3 was reintroduced by the Government and now the DHHS has allowed us to open under the Government's COVID Safe regulations. It is great to have members back and enjoying what the Shed has to offer.

Back in February the Toongabbie and District Men's Shed applied for funding in Round 20 of the Australian Government Department of Health National Shed Development Programme. Gladly we were successful in the Health & Well-being & Events category in obtaining funding for a Flammable Storage Cabinet that will provide a safe place to store all the flammable and combustible liquids such as paints, solvents, thinners, turpentine and oils used in the Shed, as well as reducing the potential fire risk.

The Toongabbie & District Men's Shed would like to acknowledge the support and funding from the Australian Government Department of Health under the National Shed Development Programme in supporting Sheds and wellbeing of members and their communities.

The Men's Shed was successful in applications to the Latrobe City Minor Equipment Grant for funding to purchase an air compressor and a Sorby Sharpening Kit and a Minor Capital Works Grant to upgrade and extend the electrical power points in the work shop, as well as installing security and safety lighting outside the building.

The Toongabbie & District Men's Shed Committee and members would like to acknowledge and thank the Latrobe City Council for its continued support to the Men's Shed and for making a better, healthier community.

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

The opening times of the Shed are every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 3 pm to 6 pm and any other time by arrangement. For more information please contact Colin on 0427 489 349.

The 2020 Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 11th December 2020.

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 AUTUMN EDITION DEADLINE

for all contributions is
**FRIDAY 5TH MARCH,
2021**

Want to see more community news then go to



<http://toongabbie.vic.au>

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

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Victoria's changing COVID restrictions are welcome news for the summer months ahead. Community Centres are able to open with density restrictions and people once again able to gather. Face masks must be carried and still worn in certain settings but we can look forward to catching up with family and friends during the festive season and summer months.

Summer also brings fire restrictions and being aware of the risks associated with an Australian Bushfire Season. In this issue a CFA publication "Livestock and Bushfires" has been included. Protecting your livestock requires that you prepare and plan well ahead. Those of us with livestock and domestic pets need to take this a step further and take into consideration our local environment and resources available in our area. More info on pages 4 & 7.

Sharing the road with horses The holiday season also means that children are on school holiday and may be out riding their pony or horse. Many adults have some leave or are making the most of the summer months and daylight saving to get out and about either riding or driving their horses and yes donkeys.

The Victorian Road Safety Road Rules 2017 consider an animal being ridden or driven on the road to be a vehicle. A rider/driver must obey the same rules as other drivers. There are some road rules that apply to riders of animals. If you are under the age of 18 years you must wear a helmet when riding a horse on the road. You can ride an animal on footpaths and nature strips, unless it is specifically prohibited but must give way to pedestrians. If you are riding beside another rider, you can't ride more than 1.5 metres apart.

When you are out riding your bike or driving your car in the Toongabbie area there is a good chance that you will come across horses (donkeys) and horse (donkey) drawn vehicles. Take extra care because animals can be unpredictable and in some cases easily frightened. So if you see a horse be prepared to slow down and be ready to stop. Give the animal plenty of room (at least a car's width) and pass slowly when safe and legal to do so. Please do not make sudden moves or noises like revving your engine, tooting your horn or cycling quickly past the horse from behind.

Have a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year Everyone.



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LIONS CLUB OF WELLINGTON/ LATROBE INC

During the COVID-19 shut-down, the club was looking for ways to continue serving our community.

Our President's wife, Dianne Feenstra, suggested perhaps a project such as growing plants for recently bushfire affected Communities might be a good thing to do and importantly, such a project could be done by individual club and community members without infringing COVID-19 restriction.

THUS – GROWING PLANTS FOR MALLACOOTA WAS BORN!

What a fantastic project this turned out to be with much community support being generated, donations of pots, potting mix etc all being donated by Bunnings in Sale.

A whole flat tray ute load of plants being donated by Red Bill native plants from Toongabbie and finally, the plants being transported to Mallacoota by our great supporters COURTNEY CARTAGE from Nambrok and a VERY special price.

The result was a double decker cattle truck being loaded, with all the floor space and half of the top deck being filled with a wonderful assortment of plants.

The Lions Club of Mallacoota members were on hand to assist with the unloading and they will now distribute the plants wherever they may be needed.

This was such a great project. Many thanks to Dianne Feenstra, all the members of the Lions Club of Wellington/Latrobe Inc and a SPECIAL thanks to members of the public who simply wanted to help and grow a few plants for this great cause.

Hopefully, these plants will brighten a few lives at Mallacoota and will be a reminder for a long time to come of the simple generosity of the Australian People.

Peter Feenstra

Club President

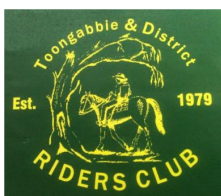




FRASERS SOLAR FARM

The Frasers Solar Farm had received the planning permit on the 10th September 2020. We are still in the process of obtaining the grid connection approval which is expected to be obtained next year. This project is the first utility-scale solar farm approved in the Latrobe Valley, which will bring the benefits of job creation in the region as well as playing a key role in helping the State realise its renewable energy target.

Steve Nguyen *Project Coordinator*



Toongabbie & District Riders Club Inc.

Thankfully we now have something to be able to write about for the Rider's Club. Dec 6th we will be holding our first club ride for a few month's but it will be the last one for the year. It will be a morning ride followed by a picnic lunch and get together at the grounds.

To round out the year the members and partners are joining together for a dinner at the Glen pub to celebrate an end to the year.

The club has again been successful in receiving a grant from the Latrobe City with the money for all the materials to complete the renewal of the boundary fences between the golf club and our grounds. Thanks to the Latrobe City we have been able to maintain the grounds in a condition we can be proud of.

As a club we are looking forward to next year and being able to enjoy our monthly rides in the company of other like-minded people

Community Based Bushfire Management Project

Have you:

- A) Ever been affected by bushfires or flooding in the Toongabbie area?
- B) Got pearls of wisdom about disaster resilience you'd like to share with your community, especially newcomers and visitors?
- C) Got great creative/graphic designer skills and some spare time?

If you said 'yes' to any of these, we'd love to hear from you!

The Community Based Bushfire Management project is working with Toongabbie community members to open the conversation about risk, hazards and disasters. We'd like to prepare a welcome pack for new residents filled with local knowledge, lessons learnt and 'tips and tricks' for us to be a resilient community.

If you have local knowledge, tips, photos or graphic design skills to offer, or if you'd just like to be part of the conversation or other activities on the topic of bushfire/flooding resilience, please email your interest to Rebekah at Rebekah.baynard-smith@latrobe.vic.gov.au or call/text her on 0427 368 657.



Alternatively, you can fill in this short expression of interest form through the link or QR code: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WelcomePacksEOI>

Everyone's voice and experiences are valuable. Don't miss the opportunity to make a difference in preparing your community for future emergencies!



Rebekah Baynard-Smith
Project Officer





Every day around 18 Victorians will have a cardiac arrest, with only 1 in 10 surviving. We know that bystander intervention has the greatest impact on improving that survival rate. Performing CPR and using an AED lifts their chances of survival by 68 percent. When 72% of cardiac arrests happen at home, it might even be the life of a family or friend you save.

How can you save a life?

Learning CPR and how to use an AED

We've created an instructional video that you can find at <http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/community/education/restart-a-heart/>

Find your closest AED by visiting

<https://registermyaed.ambulance.vic.gov.au/>

Organisations/businesses that own an AED can also ensure they registered via the AV website and made publicly accessible if needed in an emergency on the above website. This way Triple Zero (000) call-takers can direct people to it.

By becoming a **GoodSam responder** you will be alerted if a cardiac arrest happens near you. You can find the closest AED and start CPR before the ambulance arrives to more than double chance of survival.

Sign up here <https://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/goodsam/>

Or download the GoodSam responder app through your app store.

If you have a social media page, you may also wish to include some of the above messaging with the video below. It is an instructional video showing how to perform CPR and use an AED

<https://youtu.be/oH7KciZ3UAQ>

Toongabbie Mobile Black Spot Update

At the end of October I received an email from Lorretta Willaton Telstra Regional General Manager, that Telstra was compiling a submission to apply for support funding under the Federal Govt. (\$83m) Regional Connectivity Program to expand mobile coverage in Toongabbie. I supplied requested data about the economic and social benefits for the community with improved mobile coverage. I believe Latrobe City was also contacted to supply relevant information.

I also forwarded letters of support. Many thanks to all those local clubs and organisations who supplied letters of support at very short notice. A particular thank you to the Toongabbie School and CFA for their letters and all the locals who signed a petition organized by and located at the Toongabbie General Store.

Basically the Telstra submission is a competitive process with other communities Australia wide. Telstra has long recognized the MBS status of Toongabbie however this is the first time we have gone to submission. SO FINGERS CROSSED.

Graham Berrett TTG

Toongabbie Township Group Inc. Would like to take this opportunity to thanks the Latrobe City for their support through the Seven Small Towns Minor Capital Works Grant Program for monies allocated that has enabled the completion of the Toongabbie Cricket Club Kitchen installation and the external



painting of the Toongabbie Mechanics Institute Building.

Both of these projects would not have been possible without the Latrobe City Grants. Our community has been benefited from these projects and the support of volunteers from the Toongabbie Cricket Club is also recognized and acknowledged. Thanks also to Brett Kennedy Painting who was contracted to make preparations and paint the exterior of the Mechanics Institute building, thus preserving our historic building.

Local farm gate first



By Eaglehawk Creek Farm Produce

When local farmers Chris and Geena Pettigrove began their produce adventure three years ago, they only dreamed that one day they would open a farm gate shop at their Glengarry North farm.

“When you live on one of the busiest roads in the Latrobe Valley, at 1115 Traralgon-Maffra Road Glengarry North, you might as well harness the potential of both the local traffic and the tourist trade.” said Geena.

A ‘foodie’ trail would be so easy to market. We have exceptional produce here in Gippsland. The variety and quality of local producers is second to none, the food

bowl of Victoria is on our doorstep and the product is well worth promoting.

The newly established farm gate shop, the first in Latrobe City, will showcase Eaglehawk Creeks renowned pork (just in time for Christmas) and of course their locally renown bacon.

In addition to that, Chris and Geena will be offering grass fed beef, fruit/veggies, honey and pre made meals - all highlighting produce from the farm.

The farm gate opens mid-December, and will be opened daily. It’s important to us that our community has access to fresh local produce daily.

We love the farmers markets and will continue to be there, but we want to be able to offer the community daily access to the fresh local produce as well.

Chris and Geena would like to take this opportunity to express their appreciation of the local community. COVID-19 has impacted us all. We are so grateful for the support the local community has continued to show us especially through these times.

For more information take a look at Eaglehawk Creek Farm Produce on Facebook or on the website.

eaglehawkcreelfarmproduce.com.au
facebook.com/EaglehawkCreekFarmProduce

Round 1 and 2 Drought Funding Projects Completed

The redevelopment and asphaltting at the Toongabbie General Store has now been completed. This together with the sealing at the Toongabbie Stadium carpark and Roger Ries Oval perimeter have been projects awaiting funding for many years.

Thanks to the Federal Government Drought Funding these projects have finally been completed. Also included in the funding was new concrete pathways between the Store and the Toongabbie Primary School along Victoria Street.

These projects along with the installation of heating in the Toongabbie Mechanics Institute (still underway) were designed and managed by Latrobe City officers following consultation with the Toongabbie Township group Inc. Many thanks to all the City Officers involved and the local contractors who did a great job.

Ann Berrett TTG

LIVESTOCK AND BUSHFIRES



Protecting your livestock from bushfires requires that you prepare and plan well.

Your plans should:

- be safe, easy and fast to carry out
- aim to preserve fences
- identify low risk areas into which livestock can be moved, and
- consider the possibility of evacuating animals away from the property

If your livestock are located in a high-risk area, consider either moving them to a safer location during the fire season, or leaving them in well-grazed paddocks with supplementary feed with fences that are stock proof even without electricity.

Preserve Fencing

Preserving fencing ensures your livestock remains safe on your property and allows for quicker recovery after the fire. This includes

- Avoid cutting internal fences to allow stock to move. Containment in a secure, low risk, area is more suitable and should reduce stock confusion and distress as the fire front passes
- Do not cut fences along roadsides. Loose stock can cause accidents during fire.
- Reduce impact of fire on fence lines by removing vegetation by slashing or spraying
- Where possible use non-combustible materials in fence construction

Low risk areas

A core part of protecting livestock from a bushfire is to create one or more 'low risk areas' to which you can move your animals early on days of high fire danger. Such areas may also act as a firebreak and work best when they are:

- located centrally and with easy access
- located away from areas of scrub or bush
- large enough to allow livestock to move far enough away from the fire
- protected by laneways or ploughed firebreaks, and
- free of leaf, twigs and bark.

They must have enough drinking water – stock may need to stay there for many hours or days when temperatures are high. Confined animals are susceptible to radiant heat, heat stress and dehydration.

Low risk areas must be available at all times during the fire season and at short notice. For days of Extreme, Severe or **Code Red** fire danger rating, put your livestock in your low risk area.

Low risk areas include:

Cultivated paddocks

Areas cultivated and kept clear of regrowth can provide protection from fire. Business objectives may not allow these unproductive areas to exist on some farms.

Bared-out paddocks

These are paddocks that have been heavily grazed in spring and early summer to reduce dry feed. They can provide a low risk area when they are well defended by fire breaks.

Green paddocks

Irrigated paddocks and green summer crops don't burn as readily as dry feed. As well as providing a bushfire refuge and fire break, these paddocks continue to be productive.

Yards

Using yards as a low risk area may be a consideration, however extra care should be taken in preparation for the coming fire front. Wetting down the surrounds and extensive fire breaks around the yards are recommended.

Evacuating livestock

Your livestock fire plan may be for early evacuation of livestock to a safer district. However evacuations present unique problems such as

- Transporting stressed animals
- Access to vehicles/floats/trucks
- Traffic congestion
- Risk of being caught by the fire on the road

Make arrangements well ahead of time for a place to temporarily relocate your animals.

Options may include showgrounds, sale yards, parks, racetracks, pony club grounds or placing your animals with family and friends.

If your livestock are agisted, develop a livestock bushfire plan with the landholder.

Visit cfa.vic.gov.au

Memo from Latrobe City:

A reminder of the importance of **having your own plan and back-up plan**. Locations of 'safer places' to take your horses can't be guaranteed or told in advance as it is highly dependent on the nature and location of the emergency. As information become available, it'll be shared through the normal emergency channels, such as the radio (local ABC, TRFM etc.).

“A Gippsland Pioneer”

Roger Ries has given me permission to include historical material from his book *Toongabbie, Gippsland: A Gateway to the Walhalla Goldfields*. Alan Harding and Roger Ries. I have also referred to I.T Maddern's work *The History of Toongabbie 1862-1967*.

William Henry Goodwin was born at Whitechapel, England in 1840 and was three years of age when the family migrated to Australia.

Goodwin worked in various trades, furniture, foundry, timber, with “Age” newspaper, coach building before joining in the gold rushes. He first settled in Walhalla in 1871, married Martha Cadden, and they had a family of five daughters and two sons.

W.H. Goodwin selected land on the edge of the ranges where the Walhalla road winds into the hills. He was granted a license for a scrubby block consisting of 187 acres in 1877. He was also an explorer who with a man called Sullivan was said to be the first to cross the Dividing Range in the vicinity of the future townships of Woods Point and Matlock. Goodwin received a portion of the government award for the discovery of a road through the Great Dividing Range and into Gippsland.

In 1879 he requested that his license be transferred as a bushfire had destroyed his block with all bar his house being destroyed. He acquired adjoining blocks including that of his deceased father, Robert Goodwin, a former accountant who had selected land at Toongabbie in 1880.

William was interested in the cultivation of sugar beet, a fodder crop for cattle and sheep and organized 20 test plots to be planted in 1902 under the guidance of an Agricultural Department expert. In 1892 W. H. Goodwin commenced building a creamery at his sawmill site. Tests on the butter produced in 1893 rated it as of quality good enough to secure a market in any part of the world. Although William owned the factory it was his daughters who ran it. The creamery discontinued business in 1900 when it was along with the sawmill destroyed by a bushfire that threatened the township of Toongabbie.

In 1885 Goodwin took over the Mitchell and Lang Sawmill located on the Toongabbie Creek adjacent to the township. With his partner Raymond Frost an ex-schoolteacher they were kept busy filling a steady demand for piles, telegraph poles, sleepers, post and rails and sawn timber. Demand for timber for railway construction saw the tonnage out of Toongabbie Railway Station climb. Toongabbie timber products were sent far and wide and ironbark piles from Goodwin's sawmill were used in the construction of the Warrnambool breakwater.

W.H. Goodwin was also a champion for the railway through Toongabbie and the first moves towards the establishment of a Mechanics Institute in the early 1880's was led by Goodwin and he was one of the first Trustees.

Ten people including W.H. Goodwin hopeful of finding ways to sustain the township of Toongabbie each contributed 10 pounds to have a sample of encrinite marble from Toongabbie sent to Melbourne. Toongabbie marble gained publicity for its use as decorative material.

In 1889 Goodwin contested the Toongabbie Riding Seat which he lost by 3 votes to Cr. Moore in 1892 Goodwin stood for the Toongabbie Riding vacancy upon the retirement of William Moore. He won the seat easily. He served three terms as president on the Rosedale Shire Council. 1896-97, 1905-06 and 1911-12.

W.H. Goodwin died in 1912 aged 67 years following a period of poor health. He was associated with Gippsland for close to 50 years. A Rosedale Shire Councillor, for 26 years, he was the last of the pioneers to sit on council with links to Walhalla and the early development of Toongabbie. Councillor W. H. Goodwin frequently contributed to 'The Gippsland Farmers Journal' under the pen name “Pioneer”.

