

# TOONGABBE NEWS

ISSUE 8 AUTUMN 2021

FREE

## FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED: SUNDAY 31ST Jan 2021

Photographer: Theo Van Der Meulen



A new website has recently been launched across Gippsland with selected communities having dedicated pages to their community work around the bushfire space. Toongabbie is one of these handful of communities. You can check out the page that Rebekah Baynard-Smith (Community Based Bushfire Management Project Officer) has put at <https://www.communitybushfireconnection.com.au/community/toongabbie/>



### COMING SOON—Welcome packs for new residents.



Are you new to the Toongabbie area? Been around for a few years but haven't received a welcome pack? Community members have been working hard to prepare revamped welcome packs with an emphasis on emergencies in the area and how residents can contribute to the overall resilience of the community in times of bushfire and flooding. This is a valuable and free resource that will be available soon for pick up from the Toongabbie General Store or from Rebekah Baynard-Smith (CBBM facilitator). For more information or to reserve a pack, please contact Rebekah at [Rebekah.baynard-smith@latrobe.vic.gov.au](mailto:Rebekah.baynard-smith@latrobe.vic.gov.au) or phone 0427 368 657.

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](mailto: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 4TH JUNE,  
2021**

Want to see more community news then go to



<http://toongabbie.vic.au>  
Or <https://www.facebook.com/toongabbievicau>

**Printed by**

**MJ B Printing**

**Toongabbie**

SUPPORTED BY:



The winners of the Toongabbie 2020 Christmas Lights Competition are :

1st 36-38 Victoria Street

2nd 71 Main Street

And 3rd 6-8 Sparks Lane.

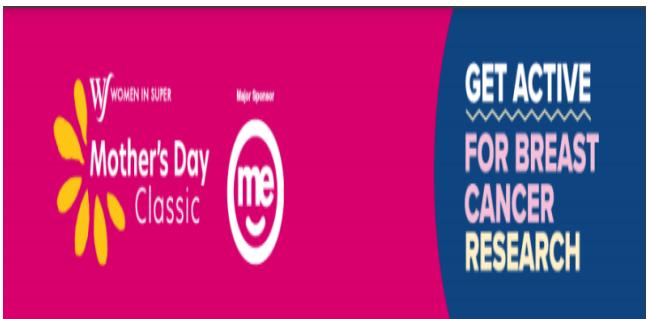
Congratulations to the prize winners and thanks to all the entries in the competition and to the many other homes in the community that displayed lights and decorations which makes Toongabbie look very festive.

A special thank you to the sponsors Frasers Solar Farm and South Energy.

Photo below is of the winning entry.



New seating located at Village Green ( see page 5) photo sent in by  
Malcolm Goodwin



## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

The local committee is busy planning what might take place again this year.

We very much appreciate your continued support for this event and fingers crossed it can be up and running again by Mothers Day Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.

The national MDC team will be running it a little differently with 'Mother's Day Classic Local' combining the flexibility of a virtual fun-run or walk with the community atmosphere seen at physical Mother's Day Classic events. This means that the fees are set by the national MDC team and are the same across the country - view details here <https://www.mothersdayclassic.com.au/>

Updates as to how we are going to proceed with our local event will be on our MDC Toongabbie Facebook page.

Please do not hesitate to contact Karen if you have any further questions on 51924507.



## Toongabbie Golf Club News

After all the stops and starts of 2020, Toongabbie Golf Club is back into gear with our usual Saturday and Tuesday competitions, inter club events and our Friday

dinners about to resume after more than a year since the last one was held.

We had a bit of a hiccup a few days before Christmas when our fairways mower breathed its last, but we were able to pick up a new one very quickly in the New Year which kept the course looking good after all the December rains.

Despite the extended dry spell, the course is still looking really good and those fairways are providing plenty of run.

We've had some wonderful sponsorship since the sudden and unexpected expense of the new mower. The Toongabbie Rec Reserves Committee very kindly offered to meet the cost of the new turf on the 16th green which is greatly appreciated. The green is coming along well and hopefully it won't be too long before it's ready to go.

Latrobe City has also provided a grant to cover the cost of painting the exterior of the clubhouse, for which the club would again like to express its sincere thanks. Both jobs needed to be done, but with reduced income last year and then the new mower, our finances would have taken a severe hit.

Autumn is a great time of year for playing golf, so if you've been itching to get out and have a hit or have been thinking of joining a club, it could well be worth your while to check out the Toongabbie Golf Club. Daily green fees are only \$15 and you can play as many holes as you like. Memberships are only \$240, the cheapest you'll find anywhere, and we do offer a heavily reduced pro rata membership rate to cover until the end of the financial year.

And, don't forget our monthly dinners. The first one will be on Friday March 12 at 7pm. In April it will be Friday 9th, the week after Easter. From May onwards we plan to return to the usual first Friday of the month. We'll be following all the necessary Covid protocols to keep everybody safe. Bookings are required and can be made by calling either 0407 764 921 or 0438 157 129.

**For any enquiries about the club, our events and functions or about joining or playing, give us a call on 51924755. If we aren't there, leave a message and we will get back to you.**

## Toongabbie Township Group

The Township Group meets monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7.30pm at the meeting room Toongabbie Mechanics Institute. Guests are welcome to attend. Contact the Secretary, Graham Berrett [graber52@outlook.com](mailto:graber52@outlook.com) or 51924567 if you would like to be in attendance.

We are currently investigating upgrading the Township Group Website. Cassandra Tolsma will be overseeing this project and community groups and clubs are invited to either edit or update their current detail/information/photos listed on the current website or if you would like your organization included please contact us via the Township Group email: [toongabbietg@gmail.com](mailto:toongabbietg@gmail.com) or phone Secretary on number listed above. All information will be forwarded onto Cassandra and we can give assistance if needed to make any changes or additions.

The Toongabbie Men's Shed will use funds available from the Township Group Christmas Grant 2020 to make Christmas decorations to be used next Christmas to decorate the township. Margaret and Terry Foulds are the driving force behind this project within the Men's Shed.

The Township Group will coordinate the organization of an Anzac Day Dawn Service to be held at the Toongabbie Village Green and Mechanics Institute this Anzac Day. More information closer to Anzac Day will be posted on the Township Group Facebook page and leaflets will be distributed. Due to possible COVID restrictions the format of the Dawn Service may be different to that held 2 years ago.

Graham Berrett will be the Township Group contact person for the Anzac Day Service.

## Toongabbie Mechanics Institute News

The installation of the heating and cooling system is nearing completion. This project is funded under the Drought Community Funding Round 2. Once completed the Mechanics Institute Committee will be given a full handover on how to operate, troubleshoot and maintain the unit.

The Toongabbie Mechanics Institute Committee would like to thank the Toongabbie Township Group and acknowledge the Latrobe City for the Grant received through the Seven Small Townships Minor Capital Works Program. The successful application for the Grant by the Township Group enabled the timber paling fence surrounding the Mechanics Institute to receive the needed coats of paint to keep it looking great and maintain the timber. The work was completed by Brett Kennedy Painting.

The Mechanics Institute Committee hold their meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Mechanics Institute. Guests are welcome, so if you think you may be interested in attending a meeting email: Ann Berrett on [annber2016@outlook.com](mailto:annber2016@outlook.com). We will be holding our Tri Annual meeting in 2021 at a date yet to be confirmed by DELWP. With the installation of a heating and cooling system the building will be even more attractive as a venue for hire for functions. The Committee is seeking new members to join a dedicated group of volunteer committee members. If you have an interest in promoting the Mechanics Institute and increasing the opportunities to expand the financial fortunes of our historic hall which is listed on Victorian Heritage Register, please consider becoming more involved.



## Toongabbie Recreation Reserves Report

The Recreation Reserves Committee has recently completed the replacement of the old seating and table settings at the Village Green. The use of a recycled Replas material is in keeping with other seating at the Church, Wetlands, and the Recreation Reserve. This should be durable for the years to come.

The project was funded with a Latrobe City Minor Capital Works Grant, and the Toongabbie Men's Shed was the installation contractor. Many thanks to Latrobe City for this grant opportunity. These projects would be difficult to fund without the grant.

The Men's Shed did a great job and obviously showed a great deal of pride in the work they provided.

The Recreation Reserve encourages all clubs and organizations to be aware of grant opportunities available for any projects they may be considering.

## Toongabbie and District Men's Shed News

The beginning of the 2021 year has been a busy one for the Toongabbie & District Men's Shed members, with working bees to remove the old seating and to construct five concrete pads at the Village Green to fix new seating and a table onto, which were also assembled by the Men's Shed members. Thank you to the Toongabbie Recreation Reserves Committee for the opportunity to participate in their project.

Through a successful application for a Latrobe City Minor Equipment Grant, an air compressor and a Sorby Sharpening Kit were able to be funded and purchased that will be great assets to the Shed in enabling more projects possible with the use of this equipment. Members have been busy setting up the air compressor and the sharpening unit.



Local contractor PGD Electrical and member Jesse Dilkes have completed an electrical upgrade and the installation of security and safety lighting at the Shed, thanks to a Latrobe City Minor Capital Works Grant.

The Toongabbie and District Men's Shed Committee and members would like to acknowledge the support of the Latrobe City Council through their grant funding, which enables community organisations to prosper and contribute to building better, healthier communities.

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.



## LIONS CLUB OF WELLINGTON/LATROBE.

This Toongabbie based club, like most Lions Clubs has been struggling with COVID – 19 Issues, the restrictions imposed from time to time have severely curtailed our normal fundraising and community support activities.

However, with the semi lifting of some restrictions we were able to extend a big welcome to District 201V3 District Governor, Graham Cockrell and Zone 3 Chairperson Errol Blanch during their leadership team visit to our club on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February.

The District Governor presented a ten-year service Chevron to Lion Margaret Foulds and exchanged bannerets with our President, Lion Peter Feenstra.

It was a great and sociable evening with a real sense of NORMALITY prevailing once more!!

The club has resumed running the breakfast club at the Toongabbie School and was also able to make a substantial donation to the school to assist with the cost of transporting the students to and from Traralgon for the swimming program.

Become an **integral** part of your local community

Where there's a need, there's a Lion. Lions Australia is Australia's largest service club with more than 1200 clubs in Australia and Papua New Guinea. Lions are friends, family and neighbours who share a core belief: **community is what we make it.**

**What we do**

- Our focus is the community
- Youth and Family Projects
- Environmental Projects
- Community events
- Emergency Response Assistance
- Temporary assistance to those in need
- Health and other Medical Projects see our website for a detailed list!
- Community Fundraising for infrastructure and more

 #morethansausages



**What do you get out of it?**  
Apart from the warm and fuzzies?

- A true sense of belonging
- Meet new people and make lifelong friends
- Making a difference to those in need
- Helping your local community
- Not to mention - Developing great leadership skills in:
  - Project Managing
  - Finance control
  - Speaking in Public



**Join the Wellington/Latrobe Lions today!**

Contact Colin Gardner on 0427 489 349

Visit our website [www.wellington-latrobe.lions.org.au](#)



We have been able to operate the occasional BBQ at Woollies in Traralgon again and look forward to slowly but surely picking up the pace as things become more COVID normal, whatever that may be.

We continue to be grateful for the community support we receive from the greater Toongabbie Community.



## Integrated Community Bushfire Risk and Fuel Management Planning Project



During 2019 and 2020, Latrobe City Council has undertaken a Municipal Wide Bushfire Risk Assessment project. This project considers how together, both Land Use Planning and Fuel Management Treatments can serve to lower community exposure and risk of bushfire.

This project will build on this knowledge gained through the detailed Bushfire Risk Assessment undertaken over the last 2 years and inform community based bushfire planning in 13 at risk communities in the Latrobe City municipality.

By working with each of the identified small township development associations and broader community to prepare cross tenure 'Individual Community Bushfire Protection Plans', the primary outcome of this project is to reduce fuel loads at a more localised scale for townships by implementing active fuel management strategies.



### KEY DATES

#### JANUARY 2021 – FEBRUARY 2021

- Project Set up
- Establishment of Project Working Group
- Identify key areas key to the success of the project

#### MARCH 2021 – MAY 2021

- Undertake desktop review of bushfire risk work to date
- Develop community engagement methodology via Comms & Engagement Plan
- Develop community engagement database and register
- Engage with the 13 communities
- Develop Community Bushfire Plan template

#### JUNE 2021 – NOVEMBER 2021

- Draft Community Bushfire Plans developed
- Further engagement with communities
- Final Community Bushfire Plans completed and submitted for addition to the Joint Fuel Management Plan (JFMP)

### KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

#### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

IMPROVED ACCESS/EGRESS FOR COMMUNITY AND FIRE RESPONSE AGENCIES

#### DEFENDABLE SPACE

CRITICAL COMMUNITY ASSET PROTECTION

FUEL BREAKS ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LAND

IMPROVED COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE AND FIRE AWARENESS

INFORM THE FIRE AGENCIES ON COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PREVENTION PRIORITIES

Department of Environment, Land  
Water & Planning Victoria

FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT VICTORIA

Parks  
Victoria Parks Victoria

CFA

HVP  
plantations

Latrobe



## ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE TOONGABBIE

**6AM**

**SUNDAY 25TH April 2021**

**MECHANICS INSTITUTE/  
VILLAGE GREEN**

**More details will follow and you will find them on the Toongabbie Facebook page and**

**At the Toongabbie General Store**

**Contact Graham Berrett on 51924 567 or  
mobile 0439 988 873**

**Toongabbie Township Group**

### WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW:

The exploration of example guidelines and methods have been undertaken by Latrobe City Council to reduce fuel loads at a more localised scale for township and settlements.

Fuel management actions are one of a suite of tools available to communities to increase their protection and resilience from bushfires. The Latrobe City Municipal Bushfire Risk Assessment recommends that Council undertake necessary planning to align fuel reduction works at township and property scale for all townships and settlements identified as being within extreme bushfire risk landscapes.

Latrobe City Council understands that the implementation of active fuel management within and surrounding settlements provides the opportunity to contribute to the following outcomes:

- The development or acknowledgement of 'safer centres' within towns or settlements where communities usually or traditionally gather
- Reduced exposure to bushfire for critical community assets including schools, shops, meeting places and homes
- Ensuring that critical community assets remain to support recovery after a fire
- A demonstration and strengthening of shared responsibility across all land managers
- Landowners and land managers who are better informed and empowered to act and understand the role of fuel management in landscape scale risk mitigation and how it integrates with other risk treatments undertaken in their locality
- Effective implementation of strategic, integrated fuel management across the landscape.

As part of this work, it will be necessary to consider all stakeholders, tenures, agencies, landowners and managers of land within the legislative, regulatory and planning context. In particular, bushfire management prevention works must take into account land use planning arrangements, statutory and other regulations which enable and control vegetation management across tenures.

### PROJECT OUTCOMES

With the increasing risk of bushfires within the Latrobe City footprint, it is important to collaboratively manage this risk through agency, Government and community partnerships is critical. The key tasks to this project include, but are not limited to:

- Review fuel management recommendations and opportunities identified in the Draft Latrobe City Municipal Bushfire Risk Assessment Report to inform stakeholder consultation regarding future land management practices and collaborative bushfire fuel management practices
- Socialise the completed assessments of bushfire risk for selected precincts to the community and develop corresponding fuel management plans specific to each necessary location
- Socialise and educate the community on necessary bushfire risk recommendations to underpin collaborative fuel management activities to be undertaken jointly by land managers.

### PROJECT CONTROL



Department of Environment, Land  
Water & Planning Victoria

FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT VICTORIA

Parks  
Victoria Parks Victoria

CFA

HVP  
plantations

Latrobe

## NED STRINGER

The township of Toongabbie came into existence in 1863 when alluvial gold was discovered by Ned Stringer at Stringers Creek (Walhalla) in 1862.

Ned Stringer died at the age of 44 years in September 1963 without reaping the benefits of his discovery of gold. The reason for this is believed to be that gold had only just begun to be mined and perhaps because of his convict origin. Not a lot is known of his background and at various times he had used three different surnames. Macklesfield, Randel and Stringer. Apparently, this was not uncommon.

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 1863, an inquest before Dr. Alexander Arbuckle attributed his death to poor health and poverty-stricken circumstances. The inquest was held at Cowan's Accommodation House and Store/Hotel where Stringer (alias Macklesfield) had died. Stringer had been staying at Cowan's for the week before his death after arriving back from Sale where he had sought medical attention to treat a chest complaint.

Ann Cowan, William Robinson, and John Davis were present when Stringer died and gave evidence at his inquest. It was stated that Ned Stringer was restless and ill that night, wandering in and out of the kitchen seeking warmth and company. He applied a mustard poultice to his chest to draw out the congestion. Stringer believed he could no longer work at the diggings because the water did not agree with him.

Davis who was acquainted with Stringer for 12 to 15 months prior to his death, said that Stringer had complained of chest pains for the last two months. Ann Cowan heard Ned Stringer get out of bed during the night of the 29<sup>th</sup> to get a drink of water. When he did not answer her call out to him, she went to check and found him lying across his bed bleeding from the mouth. Both Davis and Robinson came to assist and realised he was dying.

Giving evidence at the inquest both Davis and Robinson and Constable Feeley, confirmed the absence of marks of violence. The jury foreman McQuilkin, questioned Davis carefully as the jury were interested to know if there had been a quarrel about gold. Constable Feeley had found 8 dwts of gold dust and a miner right in Stringers trouser pocket.

The jury found that Stringer died from excessive bleeding by the rupture of a blood vessel. Ned Stringer was buried on the day following the inquest, on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. About 16 miners made the trip down from the gold field to attend the funeral.

Ned Stringers bush grave was neglected in Toongabbie until his remains were finally re-interred in the Toongabbie Cemetery. Unfortunately, the site of his original grave was forgotten. When Stringer died there were no surveyed sections, allotments, or streets.

Controversy continued over a suitable monument for many years. It was 100 years after his discovery of gold that an appropriate memorial was eventually erected.

In 1888 when Toongabbie Streets were first named, Stringers Street was described as proceeding from the railway gates past Stringer's Grave to the boundary. Running north-south between Section 7 and 8. In 1970 when the Streets were renamed Stringers Street became Stringers Road.



*Once again, I acknowledge and thank Roger Ries for giving permission to include historical material from his book "Toongabbie, Gippsland: A Gateway to the Walhalla Goldfields". Alan Harding and Roger Ries.*