

TOONGABBIE NEWS

ISSUE 9 WINTER 2021

FREE



**GET ACTIVE
FOR BREAST
CANCER
RESEARCH**

Toongabbie/Traralgon Walk for Breast Cancer Research—OUR 8TH YEAR



Special thanks to all that continue to support this event with thanks to our local community and all our volunteers.

- * Wellington/Latrobe Lions Club—\$200
- * Pat's Sewing Centre Traralgon, Trish and Terry Sedgeman—\$120
- * Frank Balcombe—\$203—beer fund
- * Amanda Balcombe—\$200—selling succulents
- * Prorent—Trevor Tomholt—donation of toilets for the day
- * Toongabbie CFA—Scott Mitchell for use of the station
- * Pauline Hoeben—photographer for the day and generous donations from
- * Wilsons Property—\$1000
- * Flowers by Rhi—\$1500

Estimated total raised is \$7000-\$7500

Hoping that 2022 will be a more normal and Covid free event.



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 3rd Sept., 2021

Want to see more community news then go to

<http://toongabbie.vic.au>



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

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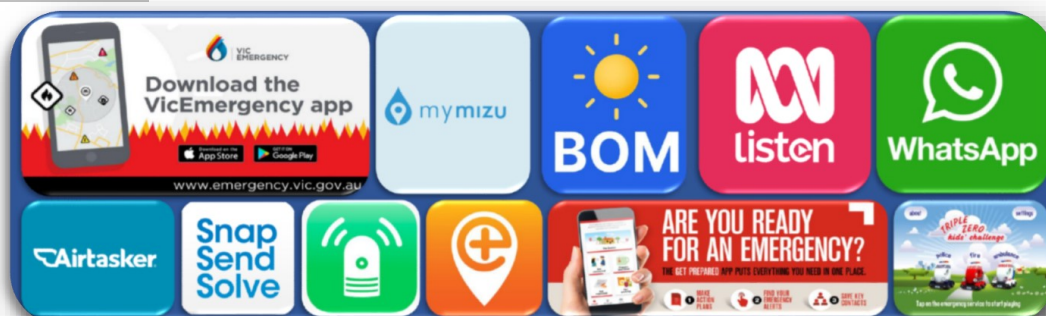


There are many apps available these days which support people to prepare for, and stay alert to, emergencies. They are free, easy to use and can make a big difference in a range of situations.

Below is a snapshot of what some of the Apps can offer to help you prepare for emergencies such as flood, fire and heatwaves and support resilience-building efforts in your area.

- ⇒ **VicEmergency** App provides information on all emergencies within Victoria and sends warnings to help you stay alert to emergencies that might affect you or others in your 'watch' zone'.
- ⇒ **Emergency Plus** allows you to dial emergency numbers such as 000 with your location detected to a 3 metre square reference
- ⇒ **Get Prepared** is a Red Cross app that guides you through preparing your own emergency plan, such as organizing your documents, key contacts and your emergency kit.
- ⇒ **Airtasker** is a mobile marketplace where you can seek support for property preparation from local people who can help. If you need help with gutter clearing, disposing green waste or mowing lawns, why not post a job on Airtasker for a price that works for you?
- ⇒ **My Mizu** maps where you can access freely available drinking water. On days of extreme heat, or if you are travelling to a new area, it helps to know where you can top up your water bottles and stay hydrated (and save from buying plastic bottles from stores).
- ⇒ **ABC Listen** allows you to listen to the radio through your phone or another device which could prove an invaluable back-up if your hand held radio dies or you don't want to drain your car battery. 100.7 FM and 828 AM are local stations which provide emergency updates.
- ⇒ There are many more, including WhatsApp, Attentis Smart Sensors (Latrobe Valley Information Network), Snap Send Solve and others.

If you'd like help with using these apps, The Toongabbie Township Group are happy to assist. Call Ann on 5192 4567 who will organize someone from the Township Group to give you some assistance.



Wellington/Latrobe Lions

Happenings

Australia Day 2021



First of all, it's not too late to once again congratulate the Lions Toongabbie Australia Day Citizens of the year, Barbara and Trevor Tomholt. Truly worthy winners of this prestigious award. It was a real honour for the Club to be involved with the selection of our annual Australia Day Citizen award.

This year, with the Covid-19 restrictions was "interesting" to say the least!

The Club is slowly coming to terms with the sad passing of one of our Charter Members, Lion Barbara Morgan.

Barbara passed away on the 27th of April and is sadly missed by all members of this Club. The sincerest condolences to Kevin and the extended Morgan family. RIP dear Barbara. Barbara always had such a unique way of expressing herself and it was a delight to sit and have a yarn with her.

We currently have 12 members and of course there is always room for a few more. We welcome applications from prospective new members. It's a fun, but busy club. Please make yourself known to any member and you will be made very welcome.

The Club has been able to once more pick up our pre-Covid schedule of fundraising BBQ's at Woolworths in Traralgon. We will be there two Saturdays per month, do come and join us for some bacon and eggs

for breakfast or a snag or two for lunch or brunch, usually from around 9.00am till 1pm or thereabouts.

Some time ago we submitted an application to the Latrobe City Minor Equipment Grants for obtaining support for the acquisition of a small club generator. The generator would be used to power our electric car fridge at our fundraising BBQ's, as well as being available to the greater community at times of emergencies, such as bushfires, floods etc.



I'm delighted to report that our application was successful and we have received a grant of \$2000 towards the cost of the generator.

A big thank you to Latrobe City, we truly appreciate your support.

We are also very pleased to share with you all, that we have been successful with getting a grant from the wonderful DYSON group of \$400.

This money was used to replace our long suffering and hardworking printer. We as Lions often get called upon by other small community groups to assist with doing a bit of printing for them. Things such as newspaper insert flyers etc. etc.

This very useful grant will enable us to not only do our own printing, but also we will continue to be able to assist with small community printing where ever needs be. Thank you DYSON.



TOONGABBIE & DISTRICT MENS SHED NEWS

Members have been busy over the past few months on various projects, including the construction of a structure to house the new air compressor that thanks to the Latrobe City Council's Minor Equipment Grant will enhance the capabilities of the workshop.

A project that is nearing completion is the refurbishment of an old 6x4 trailer that has been stripped back, the steel supports and floor replaced, undercoated and ready for a final top coat of paint. Thanks to the many members who have worked on these two projects under the guidance of Kevin Kennedy.



Another ongoing project is the creation of Christmas decorations for the Township Group that will enhance the township over the festive season. Terry and Margaret Foulds have been showing their creative side in designing the decorations.

The wood turners under the watchful eye of Maurice Gunnulson are turning out some great material, using different combinations of timber.

Through a successful application for a Latrobe City Minor Capital Works Grant, a Reverse Cycle Air Conditioner Unit will be installed in the kitchen / meeting room by the end of June, ready for the winter months.

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.

TOONGABBIE DAWN SERVICE

The Anzac Day Dawn Service went ahead this year. Organised by the Toongabbie Township Group and conducted under a COVIDSafe Plan the Service was well supported by the local community.

The Township Group would like to thank the Wellington/ Latrobe Lions Club for providing tea/coffee and Anzac biscuits following the Service and Lions President Peter Feenstra, 'audio technician' for the morning.

Thanks also to LCC Events Team for their assistance in organising the Permit for this event.

I understand that the Toongabbie Anzac Day Dawn Service will now be listed on the Latrobe City Anzac Day Service Events along with other Services held in the Latrobe Valley on Anzac Day. Pictured below are the wreaths laid under the Honour Boards at the Toongabbie Mechanics Institute.



FRIENDS OF THE TOONGABBIE WETLANDS



If you are interested or want further information you can contact:

Philip O'Malley (President) on 0419110057 or

Barbara Fulton (Secretary) on 0428924718

The 'Friends of the Toongabbie Wetlands' have now replaced another two of our bench seats made from hardy recycled plastic. We have also purchased two more of the Replas seats to replace the remaining two wooden seats. They will be positioned as soon as weather and time permit.

We continue to receive support from The Latrobe City Council in the form of an Annual Maintenance Grant. This provides funding for maintenance including mower fuel, weed killer, upkeep of paths and to assist with mower and equipment servicing and repairs. This year it has also assisted us to pay for eradication of weeds and to have our information shelter painted.

Due to covid restrictions last year we were unable to run our two sausage sizzles at the Traralgon Bunnings store which cut out one source of funding for the year. We are back on board this year having held our first sausage sizzle on Sunday March 28th.

Our group has occasional working bees to keep the site in order but most of the regular work is performed by our volunteer mowers who give up a lot of time to keep the site looking great. Many thanks go to current mowers: Philip Mitchell, Mick Wirrick, Gary Watts, Ian Blomquist, Mark Cooper and Philip O'Malley for their continued support.

We would be keen to welcome any new members to our group, which meets on the second Thursday of the month at 2p.m. at the Mechanics Institute.





Toongabbie Golf Club News

The Golf Club had a really good Autumn this year. We had a lot of wonderful Autumn weather and

our small but active group of volunteers have had the course looking and playing as well or better than it ever has.

In addition to our usual club competitions, we also hosted some very enjoyable social competitions in March with our friends from Churchill, Newry and Loch Sport Golf Clubs. Our visitors turned up in great numbers and, overwhelmingly, they were impressed by how well the course was playing.

Our women also hosted our annual anti-cancer fundraiser in late May and raised over \$700 which was a great effort.

In April we hosted the opening round of the East Gippsland division 3 pennant competition, with teams from Maffra, Sale and Newry competing. Again, a successful day and many complimentary

comments. Although we didn't make the final this year, our men's team acquitted itself well.

Unfortunately our women didn't have the numbers available to field a team this year, but hopefully they'll be back to worry the big clubs again next year.

Autumn is a busy time for Gippsland golf generally, and both our men and women took part in

competitions throughout our region. The pace continues through Winter with the club participating in a number of events from Lakes Entrance to Yarram. Membership does have its privileges, and being a club member really does open opportunities to be involved in many really enjoyable competitions and social events with and against players at all skill levels, from beginners to low handicappers.

Our monthly Friday night dinners have been back since March and have proven to be successful and enjoyable evenings for everyone attending. They're held on the first Friday of each month – Covid

permitting. Bookings are required and can be made by calling either 0407 764 921 or 0438 157 129. Please book at least a couple of days ahead to allow us to cater.

If you're interested in joining a golf club and being a part of our welcoming social environment, our

\$240 membership fee plus one off \$25 joining fee is also the lowest you'll find. Our new membership year commences on July 1, but if you join now, you might just get a few weeks free golf!

Of course if you just want to have a round of golf, our \$15 green fees are the lowest you'll find

anywhere and you can play pretty much whenever you want - including Saturdays!

For any enquiries about the club, our events and functions or about joining or playing, give us a call

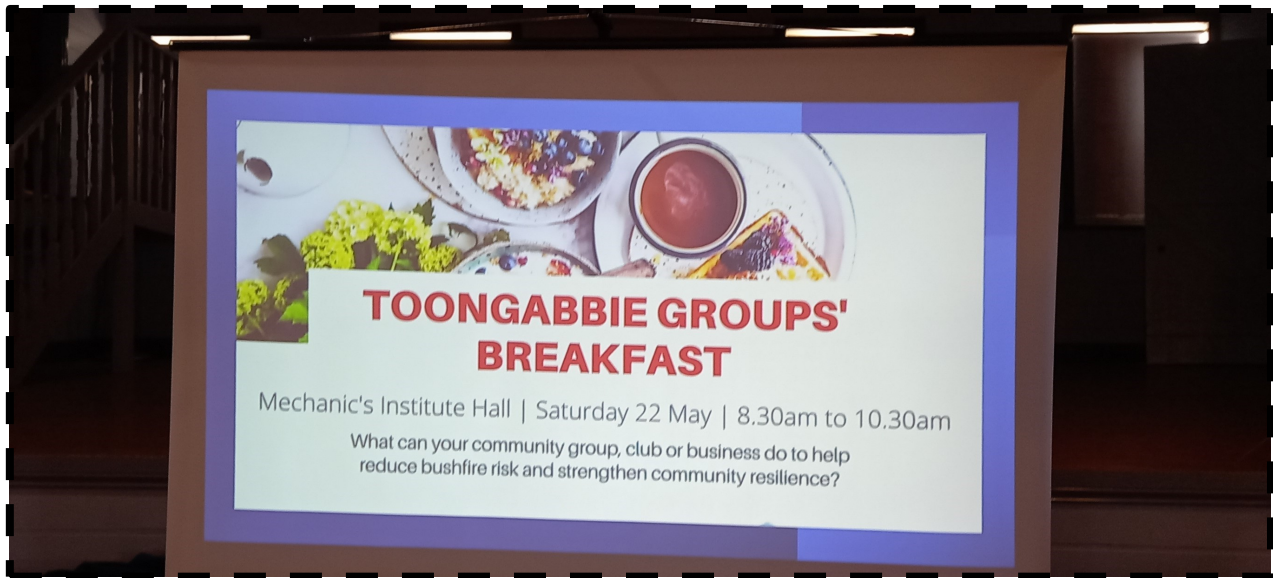
on 5192 4755. If we aren't there, leave a message and we'll get back to you.

TOONGABBIE RECREATION RESERVES

It has been a quiet time for the Committee and user groups with COVID restrictions in place. When using the Stadium please register via the QR Code located at the entrances of the building.

The Committee has provided joint funding with the Toongabbie Cricket Club for ground improvements. To improve the playing surfaces at the Roger Ries Oval and Village Green. The Cricket Club also received a \$3500 Latrobe City Minor Capital Works Grant which contributed to the overall costs of the project.

The Committee would also like to encourage user groups and other community organisations to consider what projects they would like to proceed with and prepare and submit applications for Round 1— 2021/2022 Latrobe City Grants Program. The Latrobe City Community Grants and Sponsorship Program will open for application on the 5th July and close on the 6th August 2021.



Leaders of Toongabbie Community Groups and other interested residents attended a Groups Breakfast and Workshop on bushfire risk reduction and effective communication when natural disasters impact our Community. In the first hour of the workshop attendees focused on how Groups can use their various channels of communication (internally and externally) to more effectively disseminate important information, minimize panic during fire events, and how to support any vulnerable people within their Groups. After a short break the Groups then participated in discussion led by Fire Risk Consultants who are drafting Community Bushfire Mitigation Plans across the Latrobe City, with priority areas chosen by the communities themselves. The main themes which arose from the discussion included

improved access/egress, clearer responsibilities around roadside vegetation management and understanding the planned burns strategies in the region. If you are interested in reviewing a draft of the Plan as it becomes available, please let Rebekah know at Rebekah.Baynard-Smith@latrobe.vic.gov.au or give her a call on 0427 368 657.



A morning well spent with some very productive discussion and ideas generated. The breakfast, tea and coffee was most welcome for the early start on a cold and frosty morning.. Thank you Rebekah for organizing the working breakfast.

District Fires 1870—1939

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his area has a long history of bushfires. While lightening has been the most common cause of fires over the past 20 years (Vic DSE-Wikipedia), it would appear that in the past deliberately lit fires were common. Since European settlement in the area selectors were frequently threatened by fires. Often because they burnt indiscriminately in the process of clearing the land regardless of the time of the year when the risk was very high. This area often provided/experiences the ideal conditions for bushfires. Low rainfall, dry sclerophyll forest, a combination of strong winds and high summer temperatures.

The most devastating fire in terms of their impact on communities and the environment were named after the day of the week in which they occurred.

Black Thursday 1851, Black Monday 1865, Black Sunday 1926, Red Tuesday 1898, Black Friday 1939, Ash Wednesday 1983 and Black Saturday 2009.

This area experienced bushfires in 1863, January 1875 and 1878-79 reported the worst fires seen at Eaglehawk. Selectors in the Toongabbie district included James Slater, James Rogers and Christian Christensen. The fire started at the foot of the ranges when selectors were burning scrub. Fanned by northerly winds the fire spread south, south-east and split into two fronts. One front burnt through James Roger's selection, then crossing Traralgon Road into Hugh Brown's selection. Pupils from the nearby Eaglehawk School saved Brown's house. The fire then burnt into J. Farmer's and E O'Meara's and caused the most damage to D. Kilmartin's property including his house. Firefighters stopped the fire before it burnt into J.D. Heywood's selection. They prevented the fire from continuing onto Rosedale.

New Year's Day 1884, fire burnt behind Toongabbie for a week before it stopped at the edge of the foothills to the north-west of the town. On the 9th January, it broke away again and burnt into Goodwin's property. On the 10th a back burn in Goodwin's paddock and along the road leading back into the ranges brought the fire under control.

Another fire driven by strong winds came down over the Walhalla Road, through Goodwin's and Buntines and then burnt through Scott's, Moore's and Nippe's properties spreading eastward to the railway line. Firefighters at great risk to themselves saved residents at these properties.

In 1890 a large bushfire was reported in the ranges.

1898-1901 regular bushfires broke out usually starting to the north or north west of Toongabbie. Farmers did not always give the required notice to adjoining landowners

before burning off. Once burnt out many farmers struggled to re establish.

In February/March 1906 fires burnt to the north west of Toongabbie threatening re establishment of the farms in the hill country. Gadd, Ferguson and Goodwin 'bore the brunt' and fires burnt in the direction of the township. Difficult to comprehend why someone would decide to do a burn off in town while this bushfire threatened the town and properties.

Fires burnt to the north west of Toongabbie and Cowwarr in 1906. A wind change saved the town. 1908 another fire was recorded and in 1914 northerly wind fanned fires already alight in the hills to the north threatening many properties and the township.

Toongabbie escaped the devastation of the 1939 fires.

In November 1898 Ernest Scott, the 32 year old son of early selector Richard Scott, faced charges of deliberately lighting fires around Toongabbie. He was acquitted, much to the annoyance of local property owners who had to contend with deliberately lit fires in the area. In December 1901 at the Traralgon Police Court Ernest Scott was declared insane. Ernest Scott was admitted to the Kew Asylum in 1901. He was 35 years old. He escaped and arrived back in Toongabbie in 1902. Recaptured nine days later he was returned to Kew. He remained at Kew until 1907. He died at Beechworth in 1932 in the hospital for the insane.

Bushfires and the threat of fire will continue to have an impact on our community. Our climate is becoming more variable and people are living close to a fire-prone forested area. Fires have been and continue to be a threat to the communities in this area. Fires also play a role in forest regeneration. They are a feature of the Victorian ecosystem and part of the environment in which we live in and will continue to drive us to adapt.

Source: Toongabbie, Gippsland—A Gateway to the Walhalla Goldfields. Alan Harding and Roger Ries. 2003.