

TOONGABBIE NEWS

ISSUE 10 SPRING 2021

FREE

Volunteers play a crucial role in our community. So many of the organizations and clubs within Toongabbie and surrounding areas depend entirely on their solid base of volunteers.

Just as there are more than one reason why community members volunteer, there are also many reasons why they may decide that they cannot continue in their roles. While retaining volunteers doesn't appear particularly problematic for our community. Recruiting new volunteers is an ongoing challenge faced by most organizations.

Yes, our community is very fortunate with many groups having members who have individually recorded years if not decades of service. A fact to be celebrated, along with so many of their achievements. Right now there are organizations within the community seeking volunteers.

The Toongabbie Mechanics Institute Committee is one such organization. A proud history of volunteering stretching from the present back to the early years of the Township. Many on the current Committee have volunteered and served on the Committee for decades. If you ask them now, their honest reply would be that that it is now time to hand over the reins to those in the community who may be considering involving themselves in the day to day business of caretaking and running this historic building. Like so many community buildings and halls it has and continues to struggle to stay afloat. These times of COVID and the restrictions to keep us safe certainly hasn't helped, but the truth is that it has always been a challenging task for the Committee.

So, if you have a respect and admiration for the Mechanics Institute and its history you are the community members the Committee is now calling upon to volunteer.

If you believe for example, that you have a competent level of knowledge in digital/electronic communication, or perhaps in promoting, organizing venue hire or a handy person capable of taking on small repairs or if you have other skills or ideas, or knowledge you believe can contribute then please consider getting involved. Perhaps even think about persuading someone you know to volunteer as well. The Mechanics Institute and its community needs you.

If you are considering volunteering please step forward now. Don't stand back believing someone else will volunteer. The more people willing to assist us right now the better.

Volunteering has its rewards. Otherwise why would we have such great volunteers working hard for our community. If it is possible to envisage rewards and the sense of achievement volunteering offers and is felt by each volunteer then it is not impossible to imagine the rewards being involved with a valued and historic asset such as the Toongabbie Mechanics Institute would offer. Assisting in the business of ensuring the Institute continues to weather and even thrive in these changing times will be a challenge but one worth taking on.

If you are a little hesitant before making that commitment then you are welcome to call either Roger Ries on 51924702 or Ann Berrett on 51924567 email: annber2016@outlook.com for a chat before you make your decision. If you see either of us about please introduce yourself we happy to take the time to discuss options for volunteering.

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 SUMMER EDITION DEADLINE

for all contributions is

FRIDAY 3rd December., 2021

Want to see more community news then go to

<http://toongabbie.vic.au>



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

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This Edition of the newsletter will be the fourth edition produced by the Township Group with the assistance of a grant available through round 2020/21 Latrobe City Council Community Wellbeing Program. The period of the current grant round ends with this edition. The Toongabbie Township Group has applied for a grant in the next, 2021/22, round. We will not know the outcome of our application until mid October.

Wet weather and COVID restrictions encourage us getting to those inside jobs. Sorting through paperwork uncovers items you may have forgotten you still have. Back in 2003 Ruth Evans knowing we lived in Toongabbie, thought we would appreciate copies of a poem, story and limerick she had written. With the OK given by her nephew Malcolm Goodwin, I have included the limerick and story in this edition of the newsletter. Items written in the past but, I think we can appreciate and find humour in those experiences today with heavy rainfall and flooding in the Valley and rising waters of the Toongabbie Creek.

I also discovered a few photos taken back in 1994, of the Toongabbie Mechanics Institute and Stringers Memorial. Photos of the Mechanics Institute taken shortly after the major restoration works had been completed and prior to the paling fence and garden being constructed. You will be able to spot a few differences in the photos on the back page..



Ned Stringer Memorial 1994



RU OK? DAY™
9 September 2021



There's more than a hint of déjà vu as we move into Spring 2021. Last year it was lockdowns and heavy rains that kept golf off the agenda and this year it's pretty much a case of second verse, same as the first.

At the time of writing, the rain is pelting down and we're still in lockdown, although there appear to be encouraging signs that restrictions will soon be eased in regional Victoria. Toongabbie Golf Club is doing everything it can to be ready to welcome members and green fee players as soon as we get the nod.

We have been allowed to continue to maintain the course and despite a few mechanical hitches, the course is ready for play. We're crossing our fingers that the forecast rain for the first weekend in September doesn't resemble the deluge back in June.

Spring is our busiest time of the year and we are hopeful that our major annual events will be able to go ahead. The Toongabbie Plate is scheduled to be held in October. This is a men's team event with players from many of the nearby clubs competing. Heyfield, Newry, Maffra, Traralgon and Morwell and other clubs will also be looking to host their 'Plate' days during Spring and Toongabbie will be competing in them all.

The women's calendar is also very busy with many inter club events scheduled over the next 3 months and our own popular 'Housewives Day' in November.

Our annual tournament is due to be held in November with men's, women's and mixed events over 4 days. The event hosts players from near and far and is one we look forward to each year.

Other clubs in our region also have their annual tournaments during Spring and this year it's an especially important time for the collegiate clubs to support each other and continue the friendly networks that golf clubs engender and enjoy. All the events are very social affairs where enjoying the day is far and away the first priority.

Spring 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 Toongabbie Golf Club. Daily green fees are only \$15 and you can play as many holes as you like. Memberships are still only \$240 per annum, the cheapest around.

Maintaining the course and keeping it available for everyone to use is a costly exercise for a very small club and Covid has had a marked impact on our ability to generate income over the last couple of years. Nevertheless, we're keeping our fees as low as we possibly can to encourage our community to enjoy what is really a wonderful community asset.

For any enquiries about the club, our events and functions or about joining or playing, you can email us at tgc3856@gmail.com or give us a call on 5192 4755. If we aren't there, leave a message and we'll get back to you.

Hopefully, we'll see you sometime soon.

Limerick

Little Millie went a fishing
For to catch a yabby
But she only caught a cold
When she fell in the creek at
Toongabbie

Ruth Evans

2003



Toongabbie Primary School

Victoria St Toongabbie 3856

Principal: Alison Stewart

Ph: (03) 5192 4384 Email: toongabbie.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Web: www.toongabbieps.vic.edu.au

Toongabbie Primary School is your community school and we welcome you to be part of the children's learning, sharing conversation and following their journey.

Toongabbie Primary School receives State Government Grant.

Late 2021 we were notified that we had a successful application for the Victorian Government's Minor Capital Works Grant. The grant was to upgrade our basketball/netball courts and we have been allocated \$244,000 for this to occur. The upgrade will include levelling, drainage, replacement of poles etc. and resurfacing and coating the courts. Due to the amount of money the Department of Education will oversee the works. This upgrade will be wonderful for our school and we are hoping to hold some after school sport for children. At this stage works have been delayed due to the ongoing lockdowns.

School Values

At Toongabbie Primary School our School Values are:

Be a respectful person

Be a reliable friend

Be a resilient team player and

Be a persistent Learner.



Each term we explicitly teach behaviours and skills relating to developing these values. This incorporates building a growth mindset, addressing bullying, establishing respectful relationships, all through addressing the curriculum areas of Personal and Social Learning and Ethical Understanding.

Enrolments for 2022

Toongabbie Primary School is accepting enrolments for 2022 year. Please contact the school if you would like further information.

Foundation transition dates are: Sept 3rd 9:30 – 10:30, Oct 8th 9:30 – 10:30, Nov 12th 11:00 – 12:30, Dec 3rd 11:30 -12:30 and Dec 7th, 8th & 9th 9 – 1:30

There is always a lot happening around the school, we encourage you to join our face book page and read our newsletter which is online and available in hard copy from the Toongabbie store.

Alison Stewart



LIONS CLUB OF WELLINGTON/ LATROBE

The club's members are still coming to terms with the loss of our Charter Member, Barbara Morgan.

Barbara sadly passed away on the 27th of April and her passing has left a big void in the club.

Barbara in her younger years was a very dedicated nurse and I well recall her telling me that she was on duty as a theatre nurse when the first ever open-heart surgery was performed in Melbourne.

She served in that capacity with distinction, equally, she was a committed Lion and served our club very well.

We miss you, Barbara!

As with most organisations we are struggling to cope with COVID 19 in its various forms.

The club has been forced to postpone our annual Changeover Dinner and 21st birthday celebrations, these were going to be held on Wednesday the 1st of September, when we will of course still be in lock-down, hopefully, we'll be able to find a different and suitable date for this event.

It's also almost become impossible to engage in our usual fund-raising activities, sadly, as such, it's also much more difficult to give our financial support to the many community causes which would normally have benefitted from our efforts, hopefully there are better times ahead for all of us!

Now for some GOOD news. Our extraordinary Lion, Margaret Foulds has been appointed by Lions District 201V3 District Governor

Steve Boyce to chair the cabinet portfolio of "CHILDREN OF COURAGE" this is a great initiative and will be of great benefit to children in the community Australia Wide.



CONGRATULATIONS MARGARET, WELL DONE!

The club will keep going, doing what we can when we can in support of our wonderful community.

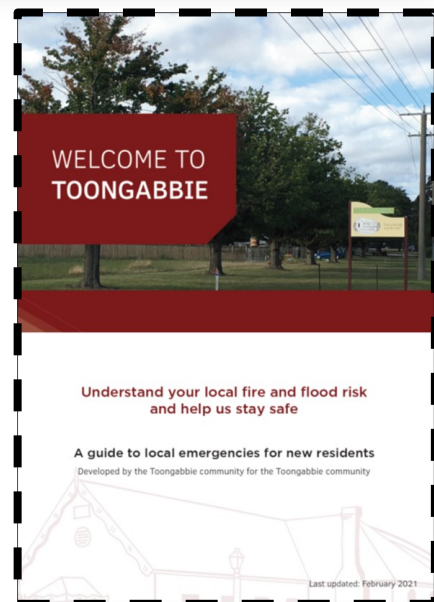
PLEASE TAKE CARE AND BE KIND TO YOURSELF!

Peter Feenstra CF

Club President

Barbara Joan Morgan

13 January 1936 to 27 April 2021



Welcome packs were launched in June for new residents to the Toongabbie area. Everyone new to the area since 2016 was invited to attend a morning tea in which community leaders presented the packs and helped answer many questions about Toongabbie. Thank you to the amazing welcome pack team who took leadership with this project from idea to launch, especially Shazelle Witt from SCS Graphic Designs.

Welcome packs are available at the General Store behind the counter, just ask one of the friendly staff.

Bekah Baynard-Smith, Community Based Bushfire Management Facilitator. rebekah.baynard-smith@latrobe.vic.gov.au, 0427 368 657

Toongabbie and District Men's Shed

The past winter months in the Men's Shed has been interrupted by the stop and start again sessions with the Government Covid lockdowns that have been in Victoria and all the other States. Congratulations to members who have been able to pick up where they have left off on their projects after returning from the lockdowns and working and socialising in a Covid safe way.

In July the Toongabbie & District Men's Shed members' were invited by the Traralgon Men's Shed members' to a Cancer Awareness Session presented by a health professional nurse at the Traralgon Bowls Club complex. The session highlighted the importance of keeping up to date with bowel, cervical and breast screening, as statistics show numbers are well down for these screenings on the period before Covid times. This may well be due to the reduction and availability of accessing these screenings or fatigue during these uncertain Covid times. The Government and Health Authorities are now concerned about the serious consequences that may occur with these screenings being delayed. If discovered early, these cancers can be successfully treated.



Through a successful application for a Latrobe City Minor Capital Works Grant, a Reverse Cycle Air Conditioner Unit has been installed in the

kitchen / meeting room of the Shed and is proving a great asset in keeping the area warm during the cold days of the late winter period.

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 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm, Wednesday 10.00 am – 2.00 pm and Friday 1.00 pm till required and any other time by arrangement. For more information please contact Colin on 0427 489 349.

Burn-off Briefing

Are you burning-off safely

CFA Brigade and Community Based Bushfire Management (CBBM)

It's that time of year again where many people burn off green waste on their property. This is one of the ways to help reduce bushfire risk ahead of bushfire season, in addition to taking your piles to Councils' green waste facilities*.

If you are considering a burn-off, always check Councils' local laws first to ensure you have permission to burn. Call Latrobe City on 1300 367 700 or Wellington Shire on 1300 366 244, depending on your area.

CFA brigades have been called out to many escaped burns across Central Gippsland in recent weeks. Checking the weather forecast prior to burning is vital for knowing the conditions over the next few days are conducive. For localised real-time weather conditions, visit www.lvin.org or use the Attentis Smart Sensors app. Ensure that your burn-off is completely extinguished before you leave it.

Registering your burn is also essential to warn fire services of an upcoming burn. This can be done by:

- Calling ESTA on 1800 668 511
- Logging into Fire Permits Victoria online: www.firepermits.vic.gov.au/
- Emailing burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au

*Latrobe ratepayers:

PineGro Green Waste, 50 Rocla Road Traralgon East. Open Saturday to Sunday 9am to 5pm. Phone: 5122 2036 (weekdays only). Cash only. More information here: https://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Home/Waste_and_Environment/Green_and_Garden_Waste_Disposal/Green_Waste_Facilitie

Wellington ratepayers:

Heyfield Transfer Station, Rifle Range Road, Heyfield. Accepts cash and card.

Open Tuesday & Sunday 11.00am - 5.00pm, Thursday & Saturday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

More information here: <https://www.wellington.vic.gov.au/environment/waste-facilities-tip>

Latrobe Streetgames is back up and running within the community, providing the FedUni Soccer League Mondays, Virtual Youth Space Tuesdays, and a few events in Baw Baw. Streetgames focus on providing accessible opportunities for Gippsland youth to engage in sports within the community.

On Monday the 16th of August, Latrobe Streetgames launched their First round in the FedUni Soccer League. The team kicked off at 6 PM in a friendly game at the Churchill Synthetic Pitch located at FedUni. Details on how to register can be located on the Latrobe Streetgames Facebook page. If you are interested in playing, it's not too late to sign up as an individual or team.

Latrobe Streetgames has partnered with Latrobe Youth Space to provide a hybrid Virtual and in-person program for the youth of Latrobe.

Every Tuesday at 4 PM, please join the Streetgames and Youth Space crew for some fun movement games for all abilities. With fun games such as Uno Fitness, Charades, and table tennis, Streetgames is dedicated to finding a game that suits the participant's interests and abilities.

Streetgames Coach Anthea says "Young people are dealing with increased stress and uncertainty in their lives and getting together to play games and have a chat can be hugely therapeutic. We're hardwired for connection with each other. Our brains develop through play, interactivity, and friendly competition. We are trying to make sport and social activities accessible for young people. By running events and streaming them on social media, we remain available for people with mobility requirements or during lockdowns".

The Stream can be accessed on the Latrobe Streetgames Facebook page. Alternatively, feel free to say "Hi" in person at the Morwell Latrobe Youth Space location.



Latrobe Streetgames invites you to join in the fun next week.

Aug / Sept
2021 Program

<p>FedUni Soccer 5 weeks from Mon 16 Aug From 6pm Churchill synthetic Soccer pitch \$10 registration</p>	<p>Trafalgar Mon 30 Sept and 6 September 3.15-4pm Trafalgar James Balfour Park FREE</p>	<p>Youth Space Tues 29 Weekly Virtual 5.0 and face to face with Latrobe Youth Space 497B Princes Drive Morwell FREE</p>	<p>Drouin Fri 3 Sept and 10 Sept 3.15-4pm Drouin Skatepark FREE</p>
<p>Yarragon Mon 30 and 6 September 4.30-5.15pm Yarragon Skatepark FREE</p>	<p>Warragul Fri 3 Sept and 10 Sept 4.30-5.15pm Warragul Skatepark FREE</p>		

All events are Covid safe

@Latrobe Streetgames
hello@latrobastreetgames.com.au

A Short Story—Toongabbie Flood

One year, I think in the 1930's a Ball was held in the Mechanics Institute.

You couldn't get to the toilet as it was part under water from the flood. Mrs Balcombe being the kind soul she was, invited all the ladies to use her backyard.

So halfway through the night a group of ladies went over to her place and although her toilet down the back was under water also, they all decided to squat down behind the hedge that went around the yard.

All was peaceful and serene and they were just relieving themselves when out of the dark night a voice said "WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?"

They all made a rush for the house in different states of undress screaming with fright, only to be told by Mrs Balcombe, laughing that it was only her old cockatoo who spoke his favourite sentence when seeing anybody about.

This was a laugh for years.

Ruth Evans 2003.



Toongabbie Mechanics Institute building 1994