

# TOONGABBIE NEWS

ISSUE 22

SUMMER/AUTUMN 2025



Image: Jo Caminiti with her amazing sculpture

## Railway Dog

Local Cowwarr artist, Jo Caminiti, has completed the first of three scrapmetal sculptures of the Railway Dog for the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail, the "running" dog for Toongabbie. She is now working on the "standing" dog for Glengarry, and the trio will be complete with the "sitting" dog for Cowwarr.

The Rail Trail committee will be constructing plinths and installing the three sculptures at the respective station sites in 2025, in time for the 90th anniversary of the front page article in the Melbourne Herald, "Gippsland's Wonder Dog Believes in Two Means of Locomotion."

Jo says "it's been quite a challenge convincing piles of rusted scrapmetal to capture the likeness and spirit of the female red kelpie known only as the Railway Dog."

Donations of small items of scrapmetal for the Railway Dog sculptures (retired tools, farm scrap, garden implements, machinery parts, cogs and sprockets, nuts and bolts) can still be made at the Toongabbie Men's Shed from 2 to 5pm on Wednesdays and Fridays.

This is a Gippsland Plains Rail Trail Committee community partnership project with Alinta Energy.





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, Shazelle Witt E: [toongabbieneews@gmail.com](mailto:toongabbieneews@gmail.com)

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 18th April 2025**

Want to see more community news? Visit the websites below [www.toongabbie.vic.au](http://www.toongabbie.vic.au) or at [www.facebook.com/toongabbievicau](https://www.facebook.com/toongabbievicau)

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Toongabbie**

SUPPORTED BY:



The Toongabbie Township Group has been successful in acquiring a grant through the Latrobe City Council Quick Response program to continue publishing the Toongabbie News. We have received \$1,500 which will go towards the cost of publishing our quarterly newsletter for Summer 2024, Autumn 2025, Winter 2025 and Spring 2025. Printed copies of the newsletter are available free of charge from the Toongabbie General Store with all editions uploaded to the Toongabbie website (<https://toongabbie.vic.au/newsletter/>).

We would like to acknowledge the Latrobe City for their financial contribution and extend a huge thank-you to the volunteers that make this newsletter possible.

## Local Groups

### TOONGABBIE TOWNSHIP GROUP MEETING

First Tuesday of the Month 7.30pm  
Mechanics Hall Meeting Room All are Welcome  
email: [toongabbietg@gmail.com](mailto:toongabbietg@gmail.com)

### Toongabbie CFA Juniors

Every Second Thursday 6 - 7pm  
Contact Cassandra for more info

### Friends of Toongabbie Wetlands

Meet at 2pm the 2nd Tuesday of the month  
at the Mechanics Institute New Members Welcome



The Wellington - Latrobe Lions Club meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The first Wednesday is a dinner meeting. New Members always welcome!

# Lions Club of Wellington/Latrobe inc News

The club now has 14 members, with Susan and Phillip O'Malley and the Rev Gradwell Fredericks joining the club just before Christmas.

We have been coping with ill health, with President Margaret Foulds coming down with the dreaded Covid just before our Christmas breakup dinner.

Also Club Secretary Peter Feenstra spent 5 weeks in hospital after complicated hamstring surgery on his REAL leg. Sec Peter managed to get home from hospital on Christmas eve, however, he's still struggling with the after effects of the surgery.

We had a great Australia Day celebration with local identity, Scott Mitchell being crowned the Toongabbie Australia Day Citizen of the year.

Scott well and truly deserved this award, he is forever doing things for the community and of course there would not have been a CENOTAPH in Toongabbie if it hadn't been for Scott's efforts.

Unfortunately, Scott was unable to attend in person on Australia day, so Lions President Margaret Foulds accepting the award on Scott's behalf. The certificate and perpetual rose=bowl were presented to Scott at our February Dinner meeting.

The club is keeping very busy and we have been collecting empty cans and bottles, cashing them in and using the proceeds to fund some kids to the Lions Licola Wilderness Camp, we were able to support two kids to camp this year, so collecting cans and bottles is well and truly worth the effort.

Two of our members have volunteered to assist with the upcoming Australia wide (MD 201 convention) in Traralgon.

This will mean that there will be Lions from all over Australia. New Zealand and PNG flocking to Traralgon to attend this fantastic function.

The club continues to conduct a fundraising BBQ every moth at the Glengarry Markets, this BBQ is very well supported and the funds raised allows the club to give financial support to many local, interstate and indeed international Lions causes and projects.



Scott Mitchell being presented with his Citizen of the year award

We have just made a substantial donation to Lions International to go towards making and distributing steel wood and other solid fuel burning stoves for the people of the Ukraine.

There is a great need for supplying means of cooking and heating for the people there especially during the winter months.

The Lions motto "WHERE THERE IS A NEED, THERE IS A LION" is very much alive and well.

Despite some health problems, the club is in very good spirits and we all enjoy putting into our great community.

Speaking of community, without our great NON LION volunteer helpers, we would not be able to manage the things that we do. A BIG thank you to all who make themselves available.





# Toongabbie Township Group

The Toongabbie Township Group (TTG) is a group of residents or property owners who advocate for and/or organise activities within the Toongabbie township that:

- Allows for sharing of information, ideas and learnings between all members and community
- Facilitates effective planning, development and implementation of community projects
- Work in partnership with other local community groups and associations

Achievements of the TTG in 2024 included:

- ANZAC Day Dawn Service
- Completion of the Toongabbie Cenotaph project and official opening ceremony in July 2024. A huge congratulations to Scott Mitchell for leading this impressive project.
- Published the Toongabbie News. Thank you to Shazelle Witt for your time volunteering as the editor. The newsletter is printed by MJB Printing in Toongabbie with a grant from the Latrobe City Council.
- Maintained the Toongabbie website (<https://toongabbie.vic.au>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/toongabbie.vic.au>)
- Provided Information Packs for new and existing residents (these are available at the Toongabbie General Store)



Image: Welcome Pack for new families



Image: Scott Mitchell Toongabbie Citizen of the year

- Continued to engage in excellent discussions with Cowwarr artist Jo Caminiti who is creating Railway Dog sculptures for Glengarry, Toongabbie and Cowwarr. The Toongabbie dog will be placed at the old Toongabbie Railway site.
- Connected Ambulance Victoria and Heart Foundation with community groups to deliver the Heart Safe Community initiative at the Toongabbie Primary School Fete and Lions Club Twilight Market.

The TTG welcome new members who also want to keep Toongabbie a great place to live! Community members are also welcome to attend the meetings without formally joining the group. Please contact Cassandra (0411 422 173) or email [toongabbietg@gmail.com](mailto:toongabbietg@gmail.com) for more information and meeting dates.



# Toongabbie Golf Club



Toongabbie Golf Club has had an interesting Summer.

After having our greens cored and sanded back in December and finally getting our relaid 6th green into action we have either been very, very dry or (briefly) very, very wet. Once again, many thanks to Latrobe City for their financial support for the new green.

Then a couple of weeks ago, both of our ageing greens mowers decided that they had had enough and stopped working. This led to a frantic search for replacements and a worry that we might not be able to find something suitable that we could actually afford.

Despite the grass on the greens being too long for putting, we still had good support from green fee players which was very pleasing. Green fees are very important in allowing us to maintain the course and our machines.

Then a bloke from a company called Nu Turf heard about our plight and arranged for us to have a loan of a mower, free of charge. This really got us out of a bind and our greens are now actually better than they were!! Thanks Matt at NuTurf!!

We should have a new mower of our own soon!

Autumn is a great time for playing golf. In addition to our regular weekly competitions, the club will be involved in a number of inter club competitions over the next few months. We will also be hosting a couple of events on Sundays. We will advise of the dates via our Facebook page to let green fee players know.

We really do need more members that would like to play in our competitions and various social events. If you think you would enjoy obtaining an official golf handicap and playing in competitions, Autumn is a great time to give it a try. Our membership year starts in July, but we offer a reduced pro rata fee.

**Full year membership is still only \$260.**

And if you are thinking that you aren't good enough to play in competitions, you're wrong! We have players at a very wide range of skill levels and the handicapping system brings them all together. We all enjoy our golf and we all enjoy the social side as well.





# Toongabbie and District Playgroup

## Toongabbie POP UP Playgroup

Toongabbie Playgroup is back and ready to ignite joy and connection! Join us as we relaunch our vibrant community playgroup, where parents and children can bond, learn, and play in a safe, welcoming environment. Together, let's create new memories and support each other on this exciting journey!

**When:** Wednesdays during school terms

**Time:** 9:30am - 11:00am

**Location:** Toongabbie Community Hall Complex

Please reach out to express your interest and to be added to our email reminders—let's stay connected as we embark on this exciting journey together!

For further information please contact:

**Sascha Reese-Sharam**

E: [srsharam@playgroup.org.au](mailto:srsharam@playgroup.org.au)

M: 0447 479 651



[playgroup.org.au](http://playgroup.org.au) [@playgroupvicofficial](https://www.instagram.com/playgroupvicofficial)  
[1800 171 882](tel:1800171882) [/playgroupvic](https://www.facebook.com/playgroupvic)

Great news, Toongabbie families! The Toongabbie & District Playgroup is back up and running, and it's better than ever. After a bit of a break, we're so excited to see little ones laughing, playing, and making new friends again.

With the support of our amazing community and our first dedicated volunteer, the playgroup is buzzing with activity. Parents and caregivers love having a welcoming space where kids can explore, create, and connect while they also get to meet and chat with

other local families.

"It's been incredible to see the playgroup come back to life," said Sascha from Playgroup Victoria. "We've had such a warm response from families, and it's clear this space was truly missed. Watching the kids play and bond has been so rewarding. We'd love to see even more families come along and help make the playgroup a continued success!"

If you've got little ones aged 0-5 and are

looking for a fun, relaxed place to spend time together, we'd love for you to join us. We have arts and crafts, active play, book time, outdoor play, and plenty of activities to keep the kids engaged. Plus, it's a great way to meet other parents and be part of a friendly, supportive community.

Come along and see what all the excitement is about—we can't wait to welcome you!

For more information, please contact Sascha on 0447 479 651, email [SRSsharam@playgroup.org.au](mailto:SRSsharam@playgroup.org.au) or visit <https://www.playgroup.org.au/find/> to find your closest Playgroup.



Image Supplied by Toongabbie Playgroup



Welcome to the first edition of our school news for 2025. At the end of last year, we sadly said goodbye to thirteen grade 6 students but wish them well with their secondary education and the life that lies ahead. This year we welcomed five new foundation students, one grade five and one grade six student and their families to our Toongabbie Primary School community.



Our big piece of upgrade to the school at the end of last year was our bike track. The children and broader community have made great use of it over Summer. At school the bike track is used every day by some of the children. Our bike track has several bumps and corners for riding over and many of the children have gotten proficient with doing jumps at every opportunity. Some budding BMX and mountain bikers in the making. We invite the community to enjoy our facilities, however, ask that children are supervised and that it is used respectfully.



We also had the internal of our Library, Office and Portables painted and some fantastic, upgraded storage installed in the Tech room. New Library shelving will be installed during this term.



This year we welcome Mrs Robinson to our staff. Mrs Robinson is teaching Art and Technology, along with doing some tutoring.

## Upcoming Events & Activities

26<sup>th</sup> March Toongabbie PS Twilight Athletics starting at 3:45 pm.

BBQ tea. All welcome. 😊

4<sup>th</sup> April Final Assembly



## Our School Values

At Toongabbie Primary School we have four school values that the children are specifically taught knowledge and skills that relate to them.

At the beginning of the year, we revisit them all and then we focus on teaching one value each term with all of them reviewed continually. The children learn to understand their feelings, deal with social issues and actively engage through role play and discussion with various real-life scenarios that they may face.



# Events

## THE GLEN PUB FUNDRAISING Event FOR MND

15TH MARCH

- \* Silent Auction
- \* Dunk Tank from 2pm
- \* Matt-Peter Fry performing 4pm-8pm
- And MORE!



Call us on  
(03)5192 4222 or  
0429 926 178 for  
details



# ANZAC DAY Service

Friday 25th April  
From 6:00am

*Lest we forget*

Toongabbie Mechanics Institute  
Cenotaph  
Village Green

## TOONGABBIE CFA



Toongabbie CFA Juniors 2025  
Time: 6 -7pm

### Term 1

Feb 6, Feb 20  
Mar 6, Mar 20  
April 3

### Term 2

May 1, May 15, May 29  
Jun 12, Jun 26

### Term 3

No Juniors

### Term 4

Oct 16, Oct 30  
Nov 13, Nov 27  
Dec 11



**Must be aged over 11 and under 16 years  
to join the program.**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT CASSANDRA

0411 422 173 [cassandra.tolsma@members.cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:cassandra.tolsma@members.cfa.vic.gov.au)

## SCHOOL READY? JOEY SCOUT READY!

GLENGARRY JOEY SCOUTS ARE INVITING ALL 5 YEAR  
OLDS WHO ARE STARTING SCHOOL IN 2024 TO HAVE  
FREE 3 WEEK TRIAL.

TUESDAY 5:30pm to 6:30pm



Adventure



Personal Growth



Friendship

Joey Scouts helps build essential skills, but not just in the outdoors, we build leadership, independence and community.

[Bin75@email.com](mailto:Bin75@email.com)



# Biggest BBQ ever!



**Come join the fun at the Lions Biggest BBQ!**

All net funds raised will go towards the fight against kids' cancer.

**GLENGARRY MARKETS  
SUNDAY 16TH OF MARCH 2025**

Lions Club of WELLINGTON/LATROBE

Every child deserves a chance at a healthy life Our  
Vision: 100% survival for kids with cancer



The Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation is a Category 'A' Project of Lions Australia.

## **Toongabbie Men's Shed**

The opening times of the Shed are every  
Wednesday 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm, Friday  
2.00 pm till required.

Any other time by arrangement.

For more information please contact Colin  
on 0427 489 349.

## **Toongabbie Mechanics Institute**

Committee Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 7.30pm  
at the Rec Reserve

## **St. David's Toongabbie**

Services held every

1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays

11am Holy Communion

# LIVE MUSIC

*Jewels*

AND THE HEIST

FULL BAND!

**SAT  
3  
MAY**

**COWWARR  
HOTEL**



# Mother's Day Classic



Image Supplied by Mother's Day Classic

We are extending an invitation to the Toongabbie community to participate in the upcoming annual Mother's Day Classic Event on Sunday 11th of May.

Since 1998, we've been dedicated to walking, running and fundraising to save women's lives on Mother's Day. In 2024, we took it one step further and made it our mission to stop both ovarian and breast cancer in their tracks.

In the last 27 years, our community has donated \$46.1 million to the Nation Breast Cancer Foundation, and since 2024, \$1.2 million to the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation.

We extend a warm invitation for you participate in the Mother's Day Classic Event at Traralgon/Toongabbie on **Sunday 11th of May**. Your involvement will undoubtedly contribute to the success of this meaningful cause.

We have two distances available for participation:

**Toongabbie to Glengarry - 9km walk or run**

**And**

**Traralgon to Glengarry - 5km walk or run**

We sincerely hope that you will join us in making a positive impact towards vital research for breast and ovarian cancer this Mother's Day. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

For more information check it out here: [Traralgon/Toongabbie Mothers Day Classic](#) and on our Facebook page.

Registrations open soon, so be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page.



Image Supplied by Mother's Day Classic



# Farewell and Welcome? - Toongabbie Volunteer Shortage



ALAN PAULET

## ***A real shortage of volunteer workers in the Toongabbie - will you help?***

DURING the last twelve months, the Toongabbie community lost several long term bastions of community spirit. They were fondly remembered at packed funerals, their loved ones well supported in their grief by their friends and neighbours near and far.

Eulogists spoke eloquently of their good works over the decades, and pointed to their legacies in terms of community groups, sporting clubs, volunteer institutions and physical landmarks.

Their families' loss is also a community



RAY POLLARD

loss, as groups struggle to keep up with the need for volunteer efforts which make the town such a great place to live.

Many people think that event organisation, grass cutting, line marking, hall, grounds, course and courts repairs and maintenance all "just happen" - they don't. And they wouldn't without members of our community becoming involved.

So join a club, join a committee, sign up for a roster - and YOU will be made to feel warmly welcome by whichever community effort you support.

Part of any community group's activities include the making of applications for



JOHN SHIPPEN

grant funding from local, state and federal governments - indeed many projects would never get off the ground without them. But grants simply won't be made unless groups can show solid community support. That's where Toongabbie has excelled - and why the town has what it has.

So look around you at what needs to be maintained and improved. It's a great feeling, good fun, and your community will be forever grateful. Ring one of the leaders below, and get into it!

Visit [toongabbie.vic.au](http://toongabbie.vic.au) for more information.

- Written by Mark Woods

### TOONGABBIE COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS

<b>TOONGABBIE RECREATION RESERVES COMMITTEE INC.</b>	Mark Woods, Secretary 51924509	Manages all Crown Land in Toongabbie including the main Cricket Oval, Community Centre, Skate Park, Tennis Courts, Equestrian Centre, Golf Course, Water Reserve, Village Green, Grandstand
<b>TOONGABBIE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE INC</b>	Tracey White, President 0419 874 958	Manages the Mechanics' Institute and surrounds, including the Cenotaph. Available for bookings for private and public functions.
<b>TOONGABBIE &amp; DISTRICT MEN'S SHED INC</b>	David Johnston, Secretary 0477 709 615	Operates the Men's Shed located behind the Community Centre. Undertakes community projects in conjunction with other groups and provides building and maintenance expertise.
<b>TOONGABBIE GOLF CLUB INC</b>	Russell Hodgson, Secretary 0412 342 290	Operates the 18 hole golf course, and clubrooms and is responsible for all maintenance and improvements, all of which is done by volunteers. Conducts fundraising efforts to improve equipment
<b>TOONGABBIE TOWNSHIP GROUP INC</b>	Cassandra Tolsma, President 0411 422 173	Co-ordinates projects within the township, and advises the Latrobe City on priorities for the use of municipal grant funds. Initiates community events and improvements to infrastructure.
<b>WELLINGTON LATROBE LIONS CLUB INC</b>	Peter Feenstra, Secretary 5192 4423	Service Club operated by members for the benefit of the community. Raises funds through its activities, and donates to many causes and events in Toongabbie. Meets at the Mechanics' Institute.
<b>TOONGABBIE CRICKET CLUB INC</b>	Tom Shippen, Secretary 0400 704 266	Major regional sporting club with strong historical connections in the town. Fields senior and junior teams and plays matches at both the main oval and Village Green. Operates Social Club. Maintains first class turf wicket.
<b>St DAVIDS' ANGLICAN CHURCH</b>	Roger Ries, Treasurer 5194 4702	Congregation celebrated 140 years a few months ago. Services held each 1st and 3rd Sundays. Available for baptisms, weddings and funerals.
<b>FRIENDS of TOONGABBIE WETLANDS INC.</b>	Barb Fulton, Secretary 0428 924 718	Maintains the diverse wetlands located at the southern end of town, ensuring the ecological diversity of the town is preserved.
<b>TOONGABBIE &amp; DISTRICT RIDERS' CLUB INC</b> <b>TOONGABBIE &amp; DISTRICT PONY CLUB INC</b>	Dave Smith, President 5148 9344 Candice Ford, Secretary 0438 047 433	Two equestrian groups providing for adult and young people's sporting and recreational riding needs. Substantial events held during each year with riders from near and far coming to Toongabbie. Facilities maintained and improved by volunteers, with exciting plans for improvements this year.



# Toongabbie & District Men's Shed News

The end of the 2024 year was very busy for the Toongabbie & District Men's Shed's members with the successful Billy Cart Derby at the Traralgon South Primary School, with their students competing against the Toongabbie Primary School students. Both the Traralgon South and Toongabbie & District Men's Sheds' members constructed billy carts with the students at their respective Sheds to take back to their school to paint and decorate each cart into a one-off piece of art.

Members transported the decorated carts to Traralgon South and on Friday 15th November, the Toongabbie and Traralgon South students competed against one another over a timed run, with one student pushing another in their billy cart. The weather was great and both spectators and students had a great time, finishing with a barbecue lunch. Thanks to Ray Just of the Traralgon South Men's Shed and the principals of both schools for their organisation to make a memorable and enjoyable day out of the classroom for the students.

The Glengarry Scout Group attended the Shed also in November, to put together



Image Supplied: Glengarry Scout Group - Seat Project

a canvas topped seat each, as a project and to use on camps. Thanks to Colin and Terry for preparing the seats ready for the scouts to assemble and to the members and scout leaders for assisting the scouts assemble the seats.

The Men's Shed members hosted a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle in November. Thanks to Bunnings Traralgon and Shed members who volunteered their time, with a successful day financially had, that will go a long way towards the ongoing running costs of the Shed.

In December, the Shed members held a successful stall at the Lions Club Christmas Twilight Market, to promote the Men's Shed movement, to display and sell some of the great things made by members over the year. Congratulations to the Lions Club's executive and members for another successful market.

Through a successful application for a Latrobe City Capital Works Minor – 2024/2025 Grant and funding by the Men's Shed members, an upgrade to LED high bay lights over the main work areas of the workshop were installed, improving the lighting and safety around machinery.

The Toongabbie & District Men's Shed

executive and members would like to acknowledge the support of the Latrobe City Council through their grant funding that allows small community organisations to achieve their goals much sooner, which then enables them to prosper and contribute to building better, healthier communities.

The Toongabbie & District Men's Shed has a new sign, thanks to the donation by the Wellington / Latrobe Lions Club, to replace the old sign that had faded and was looking the worse for wear. The sign has been placed high on the east wall of the Shed, so it can be seen from most areas of the Reserve.

The Lions' Club has always been a great supporter of the Men's Shed, as well as, many other organisations in the local and wider community. We thank and appreciate your work in the community.

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

**Membership is still \$52.00 per year.**

The opening times of the Shed are every Wednesday 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm, Friday 2.00 pm till required and any other time by arrangement.

For more information, please contact Mark on 0407 924 700.



Image Supplied: Billy Cart Derby