

# TOONGABBIE NEWS

ISSUE 26

WINTER 2026



Image: Volunteers from Friends of the Rail Trail and Artist Jo Caminiti with Railway Dog Sculpture

## GIPPSLAND RAILWAY DOG “NOTHING DAUNTED, SHE CARRIED ON THE RACE”

On the 9th April, the long awaited Gippsland Railway Dog sculpture was installed on old station platform mound behind the CFA. The volunteers from Friends of the Rail Trail did a great job securing the sculpture in the railway sleeper plinth that was constructed with the assistance of Loy Yang apprentices.

In the 1930s, a female red kelpie known as the Railway Dog adopted the Traralgon rail crew and was a “confirmed tourist” travelling the trains around Gippsland. In

December 1935, the Railway Dog made the front page of the Melbourne Herald “Gippsland’s Wonder Dog Believes in Two Means of Locomotion” which told the story of her missing the Stratford train then giving chase for 20 miles from Traralgon to Cowwarr.

The three Railway Dog sculptures located at Glengarry, Toongabbie and Cowwarr stations are created from donated scrap metal by local artist Jo Caminiti, commissioned by the Gippsland Plains

Rail Trail committee through a community partnership grant from Alinta Energy. The Toongabbie Men’s Shed provided a drop off point for donations of retired tools, nuts and bolts, farm scrap and machinery parts used to create the sculptures.

The Toongabbie Township Group is hosting a “Meet the Artist” event on Sunday 28th June at 10.30am to celebrate our Railway Dog sculpture and hear more about its creation.



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: [toongabbieneeds@gmail.com](mailto:toongabbieneeds@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 SPRING EDITION  
DEADLINE**  
For all contributions is  
**FRIDAY 21st August 2026**

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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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 2025, Autumn 2026, Winter 2026 and Spring 2026. Printed copies of the newsletter are available free of charge from the Toongabbie General Store and Post Office 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



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!

# Toongabbie Golf Club



We have certainly had some issues this year, but with winter about to kick in, Toongabbie Golf Club has our town's golf course in pretty good nick.

When the rains came in Summer and Autumn, you could actually watch the grass growing. As usual, we had the odd hiccup with machines chucking wobblers just when we could least afford it, but we managed to keep on top of everything.

Our big story for the year was finally removing that annoying hump on the 3rd green and resurfacing the entire green. Our thanks go to the City of Latrobe for the grant they provided to help with the project and also to Kennard's hire for the free hire of an excavator. Without this support, we would not have been in a position to get the work done this year. Latrobe City, in particular, has supported us a number of times in recent years and our valuable community asset has been much improved as a result of Council's support.

The new green is coming along really well and we are hopeful that it will be in use very soon.

We have continued to work on our greens and the work is really paying off as they are certainly the best they have ever been and many players have commented on them. The comments are nice to receive, but what has been particularly pleasing is that we have picked up some new members and the number of green fee players has also increased.

The current cost of fuel would have been almost prohibitive for us, but the extra people paying green fees and joining the club has been a great help.

Our membership year commences from July and we would love to be able to welcome more new members. It has been wonderful to have new faces recently join us and to see them fitting in so well and enjoying the atmosphere of our small, but welcoming club. But more members will make it better still.

If you've ever thought about joining a golf club, why not give us a try. Our fees are still the cheapest you'll find and we have a wonderfully relaxed approach that makes playing in our competitions more enjoyable and you get to meet and mix with all our players.

Being a member allows you to get an official Golf Australia handicap that can be used in competitions all around Australia. We also join in various team events at a number of our neighbouring clubs and are always looking for new members who would like to be involved.

If you have any questions, please ask. We're on Facebook as Toongabbie Golf Club and you can also team us by email. Our address is [tgc3856@gmail.com](mailto:tgc3856@gmail.com).

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## Toongabbie and Surrounds Community Calendar

This year the Toongabbie and Surrounds Community Calendar proceeds went to the Toongabbie CFA.

It is with great pride that I can announce that the funds raised by the sale of these calendars have come to a grand total of \$2,105 which was deposited into their account on the 29th May.

A huge thank you to all that have supported the calendar in your

own way, without you we would not have been able to achieve such a great outcome. Thank you to Bek who has worked tirelessly in taking the photographs and working with local businesses to make this happen. Next year the calendar will be raising money for a different community group, so keep an eye out for the release of the 2027 calendar.

# Lions Club of Wellington/Latrobe inc News

## The Lions motto is LIONS - WE SERVE.

That is what the Lions Club of Wellington Latrobe has been doing for their community of Toongabbie for 26 years! We still have some of those original charter members working with us today.

We raise money at the sausage sizzle at the monthly Glengarry Market and other community events, catering and the occasional raffle. All profits from these fundraisers are donated back to our local communities, state and national disaster appeals and world humanitarian appeals.

So far this year we have made large donations to the Traralgon Hay Runners supplying hay for the farmers after the Longwood fire, the fire relief fund for the same event. A large donation to Latrobe Regional Hospital for a machine that blasts kidney stones, a Community Service scholarship for a local grade 6 student, donation to Toongabbie Primary School to subsidise children going to camps/excursions. We worked with other Lions clubs in our zone raising money to refurbish a kitchen at Wurruk Primary School - there are so many other causes we contribute to like Olivia's Place, the Centre for Eye Research and many more - we respond to nearly all requests for assistance. All of this comes

from the community money we raise from the community, every time you purchase a sausage or raffle ticket, you are helping!

We have also assisted local groups with support BBQ's, such as the school on their family sports night, the Rail Trail committee at their Railway Dog launch, the Toongabbie Community group at the Anzac Dawn service, the Mother's Day Classic fun run/walk. We help the school with their Breakfast Club each week and hold a Seniors Dinner every 2nd month providing a great meal and companionship for some of our older residents. Our biggest community events that we organise and run are Australia Day celebration and the community Twilight Christmas Market.

There are so many ways that Lions can make a difference in their community and make it a better place to live. Have you ever thought about joining your local Lions Club?

If you'd like more information on joining Lions and sharing in the excitement of serving your local communities, please contact our membership chairman, Lion Colin Gardner on 0427489349

Or Secretary Lion Peter Feenstra on 0418825011

You'll be made very welcome.

**New Members Needed!**  
The Wellington/Latrobe Lions need your help!  
**VOLUNTEERS DESPERATELY NEEDED!**



Can you spare a bit  
of time to make a  
difference in your  
community?

Contact Colin Gardner on 0427 489 349



Visit our website



# Toongabbie and District Pony Club

It has been an exciting few weeks at Toongabbie & District Pony Club, with success coming from several areas of the club. Along with the Musical Ride team qualifying for the State Finals, we are also thrilled that two of our riders, Florence White and Ruby Meo, have qualified for the State Horse Trials. A fantastic achievement for both girls and a reward for all of their hard work and commitment.

The Toongabbie & District Musical Ride team earned their place at the State Finals after a fantastic performance at the regional championships. Their routine, choreographed to songs from Hairspray, was full of energy and showcased the teamwork, dedication and riding ability of everyone involved.

Musical Ride is all about riders working together to perform synchronised patterns and movements to music, and the team's performance reflected the many hours of training put in by riders, horses and volunteers.

The whole club is incredibly proud of what these riders have achieved and we look forward to supporting them at the upcoming state events.



Pictures Supplied by Toongabbie & District Pony Club



# Toongabbie Township Group



## Anzac Day Dawn Service 2026

A moving Dawn Service at the Toongabbie Cenotaph brought our community together once again to honour all who have served — and continue to serve — in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. This year marked the second outdoor service at the Cenotaph.

Led by Scott Mitchell, the service featured a speech by Dale Cupit who came from Townsville to share reflections on his life in the service. Toongabbie Primary School students Drew and Halle delivered a beautiful reading of To the Sunburnt Ear. Returned serviceman Wayne Swan, who served in Afghanistan, respectfully carried out the raising and lowering of the flag.

After the ceremony, attendees gathered for morning tea and

homemade Anzac biscuits — a warm opportunity to share stories, memories, and connection.

The Anzac Day service was proudly organised by the Toongabbie Township Group, with valued support from the Lions Club of Wellington/Latrobe and the Toongabbie Mechanics Hall Committee. A heartfelt 'thankyou' goes to every volunteer whose time and dedication made the Dawn Service possible, and to all who attended. Events like this reflect the collaboration and community spirit that make Toongabbie such a special place.

Lest we forget.



Pictured: Toongabbie Junior CFA Members, Community Members and the Cenotaph.

# Events

## GIPPSLAND RAILWAY DOG TOONGABBIE



### MEET THE ARTIST - JO CAMINITI



Glengarry

Toongabbie

Cowwarr

Come along to celebrate our Railway Dog sculpture and hear more about its creation. We will start at the Toongabbie CFA station for a presentation and chat, followed by a visit to the sculpture for Jo to recite the Ballad of the Gippsland Railway Dog.

**SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**  
**10.30AM**

Toongabbie Township Group toongabbietg@gmail.com 0411 422 173

## Toongabbie & District Playgroup

Playgroup is Fun!

**When:** Wednesdays (During School Term)

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

**Location:** Toongabbie Community Hall Complex  
Maffra Road, Toongabbie 3856

Curious? Just come along and check it out!  
No pressure, no commitment - just a chance to see what it's all about. Everyone's welcome!



**St. David's Toongabbie**  
Services held every  
1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays  
11am Holy Communion



## TOONGABBIE CFA

### JUNIOR VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (JVDP)

2026 Dates  
Time: 6 -7pm

Cost: FREE

**Term 1**  
Feb 5, Feb 19,  
Mar 5, Mar 19

You don't even need to buy a uniform! CFA provides personal protective clothing and equipment for all juniors (overalls, gloves, helmets). We also have spare steel capped boots that can be borrowed.

**Term 2**  
Apr 30, May 14,  
May 28, Jun 11

What can you expect from the JVDP?

**Term 3**  
Jul 23, Aug 6,  
Aug 20, Sep 3,  
Sep 17

The Toongabbie JVDP program provides a fun, safe and challenging environment for Junior members to learn the basics of being a volunteer with CFA. This includes learning to use the fire-fighting equipment, map reading, radio communication, fire-ground safety, fire behaviour and much more!

**Term 4**  
Oct 15, Oct 29,  
Nov 12, Nov 26,  
Dec 10

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

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT CASSANDRA

0411 422 173 cassandra.talsma@members.cfa.vic.gov.au



## LOCAL PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

— WHEN YOU VOLUNTEER, EVERYONE WINS. —



## TOONGABBIE CFA ARE RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS



ENQUIRE AT  
THE STATION



OR FACEBOOK  
MESSENGER



## 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 Mens Shed

In November 2025 the Toongabbie & District Men's Shed members were requested to construct and install a bookcase and display board for the Walhalla Corner Store and Museum. Brian Trippett managed the project, with members constructing the bookcase and display board at the Shed and then travelling up to Walhalla to install it. Thanks to Brian and all the members who worked on the project, Sally of Walhalla Museum Pty Ltd was very happy with the outcome.

In December 2025, the Shed members again held a successful stall at the Lions Club Christmas Twilight Market at the Village Green, to promote the Men's Shed movement and 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.

Recently, the bench seat at the Toongabbie shop was refurbished and painted by members. Shed members Terry and Margaret have been busy repairing and painting the Glengarry Township's Christmas decorations that were starting to look a little sad with time and are doing a great job bringing them back to life.

Thanks to Bunnings Traralgon, the Toongabbie & District Men's Shed members have successfully hosted a Sausage Sizzle in March and April to help with the on-going running costs of the Shed. Thank you to all the members who gave up their time to work on the sausage sizzles.



Pictured: Bench Seat at Shop Refurbished

Through a successful application for a Latrobe City 2025/26 Capital Works Minor Round 1 Grant and funding by the Men's Shed members, two LED motion sensor security lights over the two entrance roller doors were purchased and installed to illuminate the area for safe entry and to improve security, as well as, installing five LED highbay lights over work benches and equipment to improve the lighting and make a safer work area.

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.

Recently, the alarm system in the Shed was upgraded with a new system, after discovering the old alarm system was not covering the whole workshop and the siren not functioning.

Our great vegetable gardeners, Terry, Alby, Colin and Don have been growing some great autumn / winter vegetables, with some beautiful broccoli picked recently, carrots ready at the moment and onions, garlic and lettuce growing. Over summer, some huge tomatoes were produced much to the delight of members.

New members, male and female are always welcome, drop in, have a chat and see what there is to offer. Membership is \$65.00 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.



Pictured: Glengarry Christmas Decorations

# Toongabbie Primary School

## Enrolments for 2027 Are Now Open at Toongabbie Primary School

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions a family can make. At Toongabbie Primary School, we are proud to offer a welcoming, supportive, and engaging learning environment where every child is encouraged to thrive.

Recently, we hosted information sessions for families considering enrolment for Kindergarten in 2027. If you were unable to attend, we warmly invite you to contact the school and book a tour to discover firsthand what makes Toongabbie Primary School such a special place to learn and grow.

Our students enjoy a rich and diverse educational experience, with a strong focus on excellence in literacy and numeracy. English and Mathematics are explicitly taught, with daily phonics and spelling programs helping students build strong foundations for lifelong learning.

Beyond the classroom, students have access to an extensive range of specialist programs including Physical Education, German, Digital Technologies, Science, and The Arts, encompassing music, dance, drama, and visual arts.



Pictured: District Basketball Held at Toongabbie Primary.



Pictured: Some of our Students at the ANZAC March

Learning is further enhanced through a wide variety of extracurricular opportunities, including interschool sports, swimming programs, gymnastics, camps, excursions, incursions, the interschool bilycart competition, and student leadership conferences. These experiences help students develop confidence, teamwork, resilience, and leadership skills.

Our unique facilities provide exciting opportunities for children to explore, create, and connect. Students enjoy our school garden and cooking program, BMX track, Cubby Town, and dedicated Wellbeing Space, which offers a wide range of activities to support social and emotional development. Popular events such as Book Fair and themed celebration days add even more fun and excitement throughout the year.

We understand the importance of supporting families, which is why we offer a Breakfast Club every Tuesday and Thursday, as well as After School Care from Monday to Thursday.

A vibrant and active Parents and Friends Association plays a key role in building our strong school community. Through a variety of events and fundraisers, they create opportunities for families to connect while raising funds to improve school facilities. Recent projects have included replacing library air conditioning, funding the BMX track, and transforming the old amphitheatre into a fantastic outdoor undercover learning space.

At Toongabbie Primary School, we are committed to providing every child with the opportunities, support, and experiences they need to succeed. We invite you to come and see the difference for yourself.

**Enrolments for 2027 are now open.**

**Book a tour today by calling 03 5192 4384 and discover why families choose Toongabbie Primary School.**