

TOONGABBIE NEWS

ISSUE 27

SPRING 2026



Toongabbie State School 1883

159 YEARS STRONG - A SCHOOL STEEPED IN HISTORY

14 May 1867 was an important date for the Toongabbie Community. It marked the day the towns own school opened. Named the Toongabbie Common School (No. 856), the first head teacher was Henry W. Sanders. The school building was 'a building of slab walls, boarded floor, and iron roof'.

The school population comprised of 65 young children living in the area.

It took a further 4 years before a more permanent building was built. In 1871 a new weatherboard schoolroom was built. It was originally on the site that was later part of the railway station yard.

1883 The school building was sold when the railway line was completed. A new school building opened on the site where the Primary School is located today.

It was during this time that the local population peaked due to the booming trade linked with Walhalla, it also saw the school population grow to around 83 pupils. The school only saw another improvement in 1966. A modern school building was opened and the original 1883 school building was demolished in 1968 and an additional classroom was added at the same time.

1970 saw the name change to Toongabbie Primary School, the name we all know today.

In 2027 the Toongabbie Primary School will be celebrating 160 years. It truly is a phenomenal achievement for a small country school.

You can see the pride the school community have for their little school. It's evident in the enthusiasm the students display when they are engaging in community events.

If you would like more information about the schools history please see the links below.

Toongabbie Primary School

**ENROLMENTS
NOW OPEN**

PH: 5192 4384



Information for this article has been sourced from <https://www.vic.gov.au/toongabbie-primary-school-number-856>, <https://toongabbie.vic.au/primary-school-history/>.

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: toongabbienews@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 SUMMER EDITION
DEADLINE**
For all contributions is
**FRIDAY 20th November
2026**

Want to see more community news? Visit the websites below www.toongabbie.vic.au or at www.facebook.com/toongabbievicau

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MJ B Printing
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 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

JOIN US!

SUPER GROUP

SEVERAL COMMITTEES ARE NOW HAVING COMBINED MEETINGS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION ACROSS THE GROUPS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME ALONG AND CHAT WITH THE GROUPS.

REC RESERVE MEETING ROOM
SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH 7.30PM

Wetlands group

Mechanics Hall Comm

Township Group

Rec Reserves Comm



The Wellington - Latrobe Lions Club meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. The first Wednesday is a dinner meeting. New Members always 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?



Visit our website



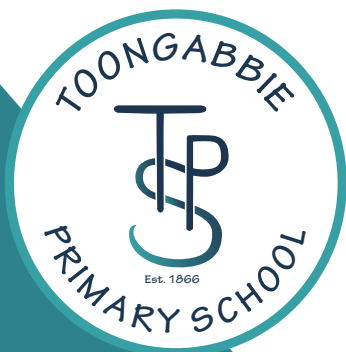
Contact Colin Gardner on 0427 489 349

Want to know what we
have to offer here in
Toongabbie?

Check out the
Toongabbie website,
community run for the
community.

You will find history,
community groups,
news and events,
past newsletters,
important contacts
and so much more.

Scan the QR below:



TOONGABBIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Out of School
Hours Care**

PH: 5192 4384

Now
Available

Lions Club of Wellington/Latrobe inc News

The club continues with 14 members and would very much like to see some more community minded people join us in serving our community, NEW MEMBERS ARE VERY WELCOME.

The club has just had it's 25th annual changeover dinner meeting, this marks 26 years of service to Toongabbie and the greater community!

It was a special treat to have our District Governor Lion Russell Napper as our special guest!

The following Lions were elected to serve.

PRESIDENT	Lion Margaret Foulds
1ST Vice president	Lion Peter Feenstra
2nd Vice President	Lion Joy Heron
Secretary	Lion Peter Feenstra
Minute Secretary	Lions Susan O'Malley/ Chris Gardner
Treasurer	Lion Chris Gardner
Assistant Treasurer	Lion Joy McLoughlin
1st Year Directors	Lions Colin Gardner & Joy Heron
2nd Year Directors	Lions Rod Affleck & Malcolm Goodwin
Membership Chairperson	Lion Colin Gardner
Club Administrator	Liona Susan O'Malley
Lion Tamer	Lion Philip O'Malley
Club Sherriff	Lion Phillip O'Malley
Publicity Officer	Lion Peter Feenstra
Christmas Cake Chairmen	Lions Kevin Morgan & Rod Affleck
Australia Day Co-ordinator	Lion Chris Gardner
Welfare Officer	Lion Peter Feenstra

The formalities were presided over by Lion's District 201V3 Cabinet Secretary Bill Lack from Heyfield; at the conclusion of the formalities the Gong and Gavel of office were presented to President Margaret Foulds.



Pictured: Christine Gardner receiving her 15 year service award



Pictured: Peter Feenstra receiving the JOHN BURTON Award



Pictured: President Margaret and Joy McLoughlin

President Margaret congratulated the club on a very successful year of community service with in excess of \$23,000.00 being donated throughout the year mostly to local organisation and also of course to the Greater Lions worldwide network to assist in various needs

It is only with the support of our local community that we as a club can manage to do what we do as Lions.

Lion Chris Gardner was presented with her 15 year service pin, Outgoing treasurer Lion Joy McLoughlin was presented with a sheaf of flowers in recognition of many years of service as club treasurer and Lion Secretary Peter Feenstra was given the Prestigious John Burton award for his continuing work as club secretary despite ongoing health problems.

All in all, it was a very special occasion and the club looks forward to another successful year, with preparation for the annual Lions Toongabbie Twilight market well underway.

The Twilight Market will be on Sunday the 6th December, (put it in your diaries NOW)

Nominations for the Toongabbie Australia Day Citizen of the year would also be very much welcomed by the club.

"WHERE THERE'S A NEED – THERE'S A LION!"



Wellington/Latrobe Lions Club



TWILIGHT Christmas MARKET

CALLING ALL STALL HOLDERS

★ \$15 A STALL ★



**6 DEC
2026**

**2PM-3.30PM STALL SETUP
4PM MARKET START**

Toongabbie Village Green
Contact Chris for your spot:
toongabbielionsmarkets@gmail.com

Events



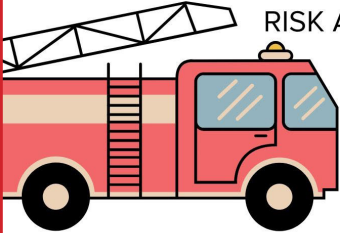
SAVE THE DATE!



GET FIRE READY

UNDERSTAND YOUR LOCAL RISK AND HOW TO PREPARE.

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER
TOONGABBIE FIRE STATION
10AM TO 3PM





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!





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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

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

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

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

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

Cost: FREE

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.

What can you expect from the JVDP?

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!





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. —



WE ARE RECRUITING

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 June the Toongabbie & District Men's Shed members hosted the Glengarry Scout Group to the Shed for an activity, similar as the previous year. Again, a fold up stool with a canvas seat was made by each scout, with the help of Shed members, parents and scout leaders. Tea, coffee and soft drinks were enjoyed by all at the end of the evening.

As part of Men's Health Week, the Glengarry Angling Club members held a special Friday Night Raffle on the 12th June at the Glengarry Hotel, with the focus on promoting mental health awareness, connection and community support. All the profits from the raffle, a great sum of \$1,500 was donated to the Toongabbie & District Men's Shed. Our many thanks and appreciation to president Garry Morton, secretary Andrew Legge, members of the Glengarry Angling Club and patrons of the Glen Pub for their great effort and support of the Men's Shed.

Through a successful application for a Latrobe City 2025/26 Capital Works Minor Round 2 Grant and funding by the Men's Shed members, roller security shutters were installed on the two front windows and on the double doors at the front of the kitchen / meeting room of the Shed, as well as, grilles over the three toilet windows. This addition to the Shed and with the new recently installed security alarm system improves our security and deters criminal activity in the 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.



Pictured: Security Roller Shutter Installation

On Friday 14th August, Shed members held a social night in the way of a casserole night, with partners, family and friends invited. All at the well-attended night enjoyed the lovely casseroles and desserts, with a lucky door prize and a raffle held on the night. Our thanks to Graeme and Tracy for entertaining us with their music on the night. Three members attended a Shed Cluster Meeting in Pakenham hosted by the Cardinia Men's Shed, with Sheds from all areas represented, as well as, executives of the Victorian Men's Shed Association. There were guest speakers on men's health and representatives from other health and "aging well" groups in attendance. It was a good opportunity for Shed members from different areas to network, discuss and exhibit some of their works. The Cluster Meeting was finished with an enjoyable lunch meal.



Pictured: Scouts working and with completed seat project.

On the 30th October, the third billy cart derby will be held between the Toongabbie Primary School and the Traralgon South Primary School students at the Traralgon South school. Again, the Shed members will be hosting the Toongabbie students and parents to help assemble their billy carts. Thanks to the organisation by Ray Just of Traralgon South Men's Shed and sponsorship by Alinta Energy for materials to make the carts and to bus the students to Traralgon South, it is a great fun day for the students, parents and spectators, with plenty of prizes for all participants on the day. A barbecue lunch is held at the end of the derby.

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.

Toongabbie Primary School

At Toongabbie Primary School our school vision is for all students to achieve their potential and develop into confident well-rounded citizens. Students are encouraged to be pro-active leaders supporting positive change at the school and embedded within the community. Our students' exhibit a growth mindset and demonstrate, resilience, respect, reliability and persistence setting them up for future success.

At Toongabbie Primary School the children are involved in a broad range of different types of learning. Academic and social learning are of equal importance with children having opportunity to apply their learning in different ways and then share it with families.

Children in Grades 3 to 6 are involved in lots of interschool sporting opportunities along with a camp's program. These activities hold a dual purpose, combining excellence in physical education along with forming part of our transition program toward secondary education as the children begin to get to know other students in the Traralgon Cluster schools. Camps programs also build student's independence and resilience as they face new challenges.

This year we have returned to running our clubs programs offering the children choice in selecting an activity they would like to pursue. This term the children chose from, Lego, Cooking, Woodwork, Indigenous Culture, Art and Acts of Kindness. The children are really enjoying the opportunity to learn new skills and knowledge associated with each of these activities. Due to the success of the program on the children's request we will be offering a program again in term 4.

- In Lego, they have been building different worlds. Starting with the setting and now adding greater detail.
- In Art they are creating textured paintings, building raised surfaces onto their canvas.



Pictured: Our Preps celebrating 100 days of School



Pictured: Students enjoying showcasing their creations

- The woodwork crew have built a shelf and seat for the cubbies along with refurbishing an old table for the Café and making bird feeders.
- The cooks have also been exceptionally busy. The first week they created quiche, frittata and spinach & fetta parcels. This week they tackled, damper, scones and muffins.
- The Acts of Kindness group have been busy making cards that have been popped in various mailboxes. They are wishing people a great day.

100 days of Prep

On Thursday 30th the children in Foundation celebrated 100 days of school. Their costumes were very reflective of 100 items, years past or future. From old Grannies and Grandpas to spots on the Dalmatian they were all very engaged. They created crowns, went on a search for 100 mentos, practiced counting 100 objects and completed lots of other activities. There were smiles all round.

Out of School Hours Care

Toongabbie Primary School council provides an out of School Hours Care Program. It currently runs Mon to Thurs after school and there is someone at school in the morning by 8:15 at the latest to supervise children in the morning. We are currently screening our families to see if there is a need to expand the service. In after school care the children are provided with a healthy afternoon snack, homework is completed, and lots of indoor and outdoor activities. This term there has been several themed weeks of activities, with science week, beauty, bring a friend night, games week and kids choice.

Enrolments for 2027 Are Now Open at Toongabbie Primary School. Book a tour today by calling 03 5192 4384.