



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Noojee & District Historical Society newsletter, celebrating the accomplishments of July 2025 and inspiring our members and volunteers as we look ahead to what's to come.

NEW SIGNS FOR HERITAGE GIFTS & COFFEE



Heritage Gifts & Coffee - Noojee is with **Creative48** at Noojee Heritage Centre.

July 13 at 12:17 PM · Noojee · 🌐



Our building signs are up!

How amazing are they!

Thankyou to **Peter Christian** for the photo with the rainbow, and thankyou to @creative48 for making & installing the signs!

Open Friday - Sunday 11-4



Starlink is a satellite internet service that provides high-speed, low-latency broadband internet access to users around the world. It is beneficial for remote and rural areas where traditional internet options are limited or unavailable.

Troy has successfully installed Starlink at Heritage Gifts & Coffee, along with a booster to enhance connectivity at the Platform and Goods Shed. We now have internet access for mobile phones, computers, and security cameras. In the future, we also have the option to install an EFTPOS machine for processing sales and donations from visitors. Thankyou Troy and team!





SNOWFEST
GIPPSLAND

Snowfest Gippsland was held last Friday - organised by the Warragul Business Group - is one of the largest free events in our region and is only made possible by the generous donation of funds and in-kind support by local businesses and organisations.

The Noojee Heritage Railway Station Precinct and Heritage Gifts and Coffee are joining in over the 3 weekends of the Snowfest Gippsland celebrations starting Friday 25 July through to Sunday, 18 August 2025. Watch out for our special little snowman giveaways!

2025 Australia Post Community Grants

Connecting Communities for Better Mental Health and Mental Wellbeing

With the assistance of our volunteer, Sarah Hobgen, we have submitted a project proposal titled "Valuing the Past, Looking Towards a Shared Future." This initiative aims to refurbish the fire lookout tower and use the building for health and wellbeing activities.

The initiative will leverage the power of storytelling, shared experiences, and collaboration.

Native timber harvesting in Victoria ended abruptly, and there has been little recognition of the people and stories connected to this industry, which has supported the community for over a century.

This project seeks to unite former forestry workers and environmentalists to share their stories and restore the former fire lookout tower from Mt Toorongo, which is now located at the Noojee Heritage Railway Station Precinct.

The Australia Post Community Grants program is dedicated to funding community-led, local projects that connect individuals and communities to enhance mental health and wellbeing.

Thank you, Sarah, for your outstanding work that inspires us all!



The former fire lookout tower from Mt Toorongo is now located at the Noojee Heritage Railway Station Precinct, ready for a makeover.



NEW DISPLAY IN LOUVRE VAN VICTORIAN RAILWAY JACKET, HAT & VEST

In our March newsletter, we shared that we were gathering information about the donated railway jacket, vest, and hat, while also exploring ways to protect our valuable memorabilia. We are excited to announce that the display has now been set up in the Louvre van for everyone to admire.

A huge thank you to Bev Noonan for her incredible sewing and display skills, which have truly brought the memorabilia to life!



AGATHA CHRISTIE VISITED NOOJEE

1922

We are currently assembling a large picture display to celebrate Agatha Christie.

In 1922, she visited Noojee, Victoria, as part of a world tour and enjoyed a ride on the "bush tram" through the dense forests. This experience was one of the highlights of her Australian adventure.

She described the journey as lovely, noting the tall trees and thick undergrowth. Christie mentioned the engine throwing out sparks, while a stoker made sure she didn't get singed, as stated in a Facebook post.

The tram ride concluded at the Goodwood Sawmills.



STATE LIBRARY
VICTORIA

Blog

A passion for adventure: Agatha Christie in Victoria

JANUARY 13, 2025 AT 08:46 BY MELISSA JONES IN ARTS & LITERATURE

'It was lovely all through the bush, very dense undergrowth, and the great tall tree trunks. The engine flung out showers of sparks, but a kindly stoker was on duty to extinguish me if I was smouldering in more than two places at once! We got out at the Goodwood Saw mills, right in the heart of the forest. I shall never forget it!'



Goodwood Timber Company, Noojee Victoria, 1936, J.L. Buckland. National Library of Australia.

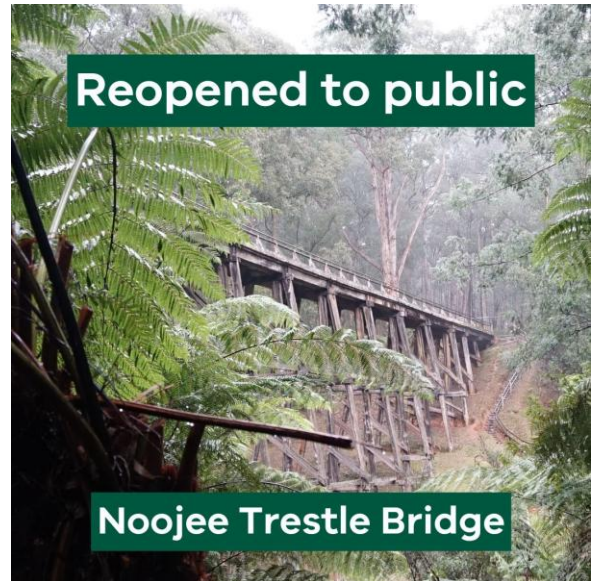
P861/677.

TRESTLE BRIDGE SLEEPERS

In our May newsletter, we shared that we have been maintaining regular correspondence with the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA). They kindly offered the Noojee and District Historical Society (N&DHS) a supply of the old used sleepers from the Trestle Bridge renovation, which can be repurposed for our projects.

In July, we received a delivery of several of these sleepers at the Precinct site. This material will be instrumental in upgrading the floor of the GY Wagon, allowing us to enhance its structural integrity and usability. Additionally, we plan to utilise the sleepers for other identified projects, helping to preserve our local heritage and improve our facilities. A big thank you Jed for your support and deliveries!

TRESTLE BRIDGE NOW OPEN



DEECA Gippsland
July 9 at 3:26 PM

The Noojee Trestle Bridge has reopened to the public after recent repairs. The historic bridge requires periodic, ongoing maintenance works to keep it structurally sound and safe for the public.

As one of Gippsland's most popular visitor experiences, DEECA is committed to keeping the historic bridge in a condition that will allow it to be enjoyed for many years to come.

<https://www.exploreoutdoors.vic.gov.au>



Sleepers and the beginning of the floor construction are ready for the sleepers in the GY Wagon.





MORE WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES – JULY 2025

Over the month of July, we have finished off and completed lots of tasks in preparation for new projects in August and September.

- **Platform & Goods Shed Area**
 - installing a 'Railway crossing' sign on the exterior wall of the Goods & Platform Shed
 - updating the displays with more timber artifacts on the walls of the Goods & Platform Shed
 - Moving the bench in front of the J550 (to be painted)
- **GY Wagon on Platform**
 - painting the newly installed ramp, gate and fence at the entrance of the container on the platform
 - removing part of the railway platform fence and installing pillars to enable access to the doors on the GY wagon in preparation to install a new floor
- **Louvre Van**
 - painting the inside of the Louvre van carriage sliding doors as well as updating the displays, which are still a work in progress
 - Painting the Louvre van roof
- **Fence and Lights**
 - painting the new gate and fence near the water tank and the boundary fence.
 - repairing the crossing sign lights at the end of the platform
 - repairing the light on the J550 Locomotive



Working Group Team
Miles, John, Angie, Janiene
and Will

Before and After



VOLUNTEER CONNECT

Future Dates for the Working Groups starting at 10 am at the Precinct

AUGUST – Friday, 8 August and Friday, 22 August 2025

SEPTEMBER – Friday, 5 September and Friday, 19 September 2025

WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES PLANNED 2025

The next projects planned for August and September are:

- Continuing the construct a floor in the GY Wagon made from the donated sleepers from the refurbished Trestle Bridge. These sleepers are delivered in small batches to the Precinct by Jed at DEECA installments because of the weight and length – Again a big thankyou to the crew at DEECA – especially Jed!
- Platform & Goods Shed - finish off securing all screws
- Secure a Lock for the gate near the water tank

NEW DISPLAY AREA IN THE PLANNING

The idea is to create another display space on the platform to handle larger items, so we are planning to transform the container from storage into a display space.

- We will start to clear the container at the far end of the platform to create a working space
- Move and clear shelves in the container on the platform to the container workspace
- The working space container has a glass cabinet that was on display in the Heritage Centre, once everything is moved out, we would like it moved into the container display. It has lights, so it will provide light in the container

NOOJEE HERITAGE RAILWAY STATION PRECINCT EVENTS AND BOOKING CALENDAR 2025 - 2026

Month Year	Tentative Date	Organisation	Contact Name	Email Sent Yes / No	Booking Form Received	Enquiry Only / Confirmed
August 2024	9th - 10th 16th- 18th August	Snowfest Warragul Business Group	Jenny Muir	Yes 28/05/2024	Yes	Confirmed
September 2025	Monday 8th September 2025	Chairo Christian School Drouin East	Lynne Schmidt	Yes 28/05/2024	Yes	Confirmed from 10.30am to 11.30am
March 2026	3 days 13th, 14th and 15 th March	Gippsland International Film Festival gippslandinternational filmfest@gmail.com	Ed & Alana	Followed up to stage 2	Initial meeting in May 2024	Enquiry Only – to be discussed



NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

We want to express our gratitude for your ongoing support; without it, we would not have been able to achieve as much as we have over the years.

thank  you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Over the past seven months, while conducting our working group activities, we have received numerous positive comments and encouragement from both visitors and locals regarding the Noojee Heritage Railway Station Precinct. Remarks such as “Keep up the great work!” and “We will be back during the next school holidays—the kids love coming here!” have been incredibly uplifting.

To continue our efforts, we would greatly appreciate securing additional funding for the many ideas we have. We kindly ask you to consider discussing membership in the Noojee and District Historical Society Inc. with your friends and family.

The Noojee & District Historical Society Inc. plays a crucial role in documenting and sharing local history as well as preserving buildings, timber and railway artifacts and memorabilia. New memberships can make a significant difference.

We can increase our funding by boosting our membership and promoting our \$50 "Adopt a Platform Sleeper" initiative. Please find the links below:

MEMBERSHIP ONLY \$20 A YEAR

<https://noojeerailwaystationprecinct.com/support/>

'All Aboard! - Adopt a Platform Sleeper'
Your ticket to support Noojee's railway heritage



On 30th April 1919, the first official train arrived at Noojee and was welcomed to town with a banquet organised to celebrate the opening of the line and newly built station. Noojee station serviced the main mill in town and was connected by a network of narrow gauge, wooden tramways to the remote timber mills that operated between 1919 and 1926.

The Heritage Centre, which opened on 22 March 2014, is becoming a beacon for history buffs, train enthusiasts, tourists, local residents and their relatives and friends.

In 2025 the centre has become the Noojee Heritage Gifts and Coffee Café and will become a focal point where our community and visitors can enjoy a great coffee and discover how Noojee's character and identity was formed.

Open Now!
HERITAGE GIFTS & COFFEE
OPEN
FRIDAY TO SUNDAY 10-5
SATURDAY 10-5
SUNDAY 10-5
415 MT BAW BAW TERRACE ROAD
NOOJEE



You can be involved and help support this great initiative by "Adopting a Platform Sleeper"

\$50 Sleeper Package

- "All Aboard" sponsor certificate
- Recognition of support on the "All Aboard" display at the Noojee Railway Station Precinct

Ticket valid for first class support!

See reverse for application form and sponsorship details



The replica Noojee Railway Station and platform and the 1955 No. 1 class locomotive
Image by Lloyd Hewitt

ADOPT A PLATFORM SLEEPER

\$50 CAMPAIGN

The Adopt-a-Sleeper campaign has begun, with folders containing forms, certificates, and a database available in the Goods Shed and the Heritage Gifts & Coffee Café for sale!

The form is also downloadable from the website

<https://noojeerailwaystationprecinct.com/support/>

We look forward to keeping you up to date each month with all the activities.

Thank you everyone for all your support and assistance.

Janiene Ayre, President and the N&DHS Committee of Management - July 2025

For further information contact Angie Langoor, Secretary - Mobile: 0488 946 837

