



# August NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to the Noojee & District Historical Society Newsletter!

In this edition, we proudly celebrate the impressive achievements of August 2025.

We take great pride in the hard work and unwavering dedication displayed by our members and volunteers over the past month. Their efforts have not only preserved our local history but have also significantly strengthened our sense of community.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, we eagerly anticipate the upcoming events and initiatives that will further enrich our society and engage our members.

If you are interested in joining the working group, we would love to hear from you. Lunch is provided at our working groups, and all you need to bring is your enthusiasm!

Thank you for your continued support as we confidently move forward together!

Janiene Ayre – President, Noojee & District Historical Society Inc

## VOLUNTEER CONNECT

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

SEPTEMBER – Friday, 5 September and Friday, 19 September

OCTOBER - Friday, 5 October and Friday, 17 October

## Neerim Star

Local News for Local People

### ARTICLE SUBMITTED TO THE NEERIM STAR BY JANET COWDEN

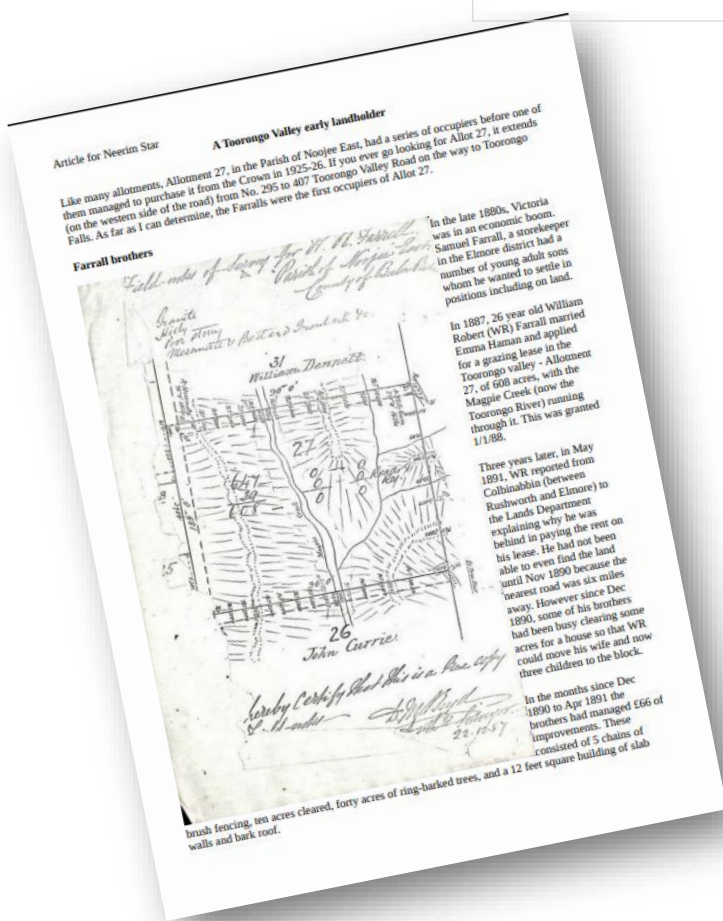
Janet has recently submitted an article to the Neerim Star, focusing on the early landholders of the Toorongo Valley.

In her piece, she explores the historical significance of these pioneers and their contributions to the development of the region. Janet is also planning a sequel that will delve into the story of the Capuano Family.

Congratulations Janet!

[Click on the link to read the article](#)

CLICK





## WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES – AUGUST 2025

Over the month of August, we again completed several tasks in preparation for new projects starting in September.

### GY Wagon Update

- We are pleased to share that, with the support of David Taylor, the owner of Victorian Sustainable Products in Hill End, we are constructing the floor of the GY Wagon using donated sleepers from DEECA, which were refurbished from the Trestle Bridge. Thank you, David and team for your assistance! Click on the link for more info about David.



- Additionally, we would like to extend a big thank you to the DEECA crew, especially Jed and Narelle, for their hard work and support with supplying and delivering the sleepers and display stand!



### New Display Area in Development

- Our new exhibition space is now ready to showcase an array of engaging displays
- This fresh environment will allow us to present captivating historical artifacts and stories that reflect the rich heritage of the Noojee and District area
- The container on the platform will now accommodate larger items, transforming it from a storage area into a display area
- The container at the far end is now a new functional workspace to accommodate all our tools and equipment



We relocated and removed shelves from the container



New Functional Workspace Clean, tidy and organised!





## WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES PLANNED 2025

The next projects planned for September are:

### 1. DISPLAY STAND

- Earlier this year, a generous donation from DEECA provided us with a beautiful display stand. This stand is set to be relocated to make room for the \$500 sleeper plaques, which are presently affixed to the exterior wall of Heritage Coffee and Gifts.
- We plan to position the stand at the end of the platform, ensuring that it enhances both visibility and accessibility for all visitors. This strategic placement will allow passersby to easily view the plaques and engage with the display in a welcoming environment.



### 2. BIG LOG – TIMBER DISPLAY TRIBUTE

- We are excited to announce that we have been generously gifted an impressive large log by Brett Robins. This striking log will become the centerpiece of a new display on our grounds, showcasing the rich heritage of timber production. Accompanying the log will be an array of memorabilia, including vintage timber saws and various cutting machines that highlight the craftsmanship and technology of the bygone timber industry.
- The log itself is an extraordinary specimen, measuring approximately 6 meters in length and 4 meters in diameter. Its natural beauty and size will create a captivating focal point, inviting visitors to appreciate the importance of timber in our history.



### 3. VINTAGE TIMBER SAWS AND VARIOUS CUTTING MACHINES TO BE SHOWCASED

- Many older saws and machines were constructed using superior materials and techniques that are challenging to replicate today. This gives them exceptional durability and artistry, qualities that are often hard to find in modern products. They truly exemplify the craftsmanship of a bygone era, especially when contrasted with our current "throwaway" culture.
- We feel privileged to showcase these remarkable pieces at the Noojee Heritage Railway Station Precinct. Here's a sneak preview of what you can look forward to seeing on display in the coming months!





## RECOGNISING AN ANGEL – GLADYS SANDERSON

The Noojee & District Historical Society Inc. is proud to present a permanent photographic display in the 1960 Louvre Van Carriage at the Noojee Heritage Railway Station Precinct. This display coincides with the dedication of the Noojee Reserve, which will be named after a local hero: The Gladys Sanderson Park, now planned for later this year.

We are excited to celebrate her incredible contributions and the many lives she touched! Gladys Sanderson's selflessness and courage have left a lasting mark on the history of Noojee.

Background: On January 13, 1939, Noojee and much of Victoria were devastated by one of the worst bushfires in the state's history—the catastrophic Black Friday bushfires. During this crisis, Gladys Sanderson, who served as the town's assistant postmistress, was the last person able to operate Noojee's telephone switchboard, the area's only communication link. She worked tirelessly to relay urgent messages to isolated families and emergency responders until the post office was engulfed in flames, forcing her to seek shelter in the La Trobe River.

Gladys's extraordinary bravery was widely recognized, and her story made headlines from Warragul to London. In June 1940, she was awarded the Order of the British Empire for "gallantry and devotion to duty."



## Events Calendar

### EVENTS AND BOOKING CALENDAR 2025 - 2026

Month Year		Tentative Date	Organisation	Contact Name	Email Sent Yes / No	Booking Form Received	Enquiry Only / Confirmed
<b>September 2025</b>		Monday 8th September 2025	Chairo Christian School Drouin East	Lynne Schmidt	Yes 28/05/2024	Yes	Confirmed from 10.30am to 11.30am
<b>March 2026</b>		Wednesday 4th March	Taraga Classic Car Event	Linda Lawson	Yes 20/08/2025	No	To be confirmed
<b>March 2026</b>		3 days 13th, 14th and 15th March	Gippsland International Film Festival gippslandinternational filmfest@gmail.com	Ed & Alana	Followed up to stage 2	Initial meeting in May 2024	Enquiry – to be confirmed





## NEWSLETTERS AND NEW BROCHURES



Newsletter & Brochures

- Our visitor information is constantly being updated, and we have just launched three new informative flyers. These flyers highlight the Noojee Heritage Railway Station Precinct, showcasing its historical significance and intriguing features.
- Additionally, we've detailed various scenic walking routes in Noojee and its beautiful surroundings, perfect for nature enthusiasts and those looking to explore the area on foot. Finally, we've compiled a guide to delightful dining options, where you can savour delicious meals and enjoy refreshments throughout the town.
- All of these resources are available on our website, along with our complete collection of newsletters, ensuring you have all the information you need.



Discover a stunning region rich in natural beauty, with breathtaking scenery, native bushlands, and historic treasures. Explore fantastic walking and cycling tracks suitable for the whole family.

Experience some of the finest natural attractions in Victoria

From the Noojee Heritage Railway Station Precinct, you can enjoy the following walks:

- Ralph Cornwall Loch Valley Tramway Walk
- The Water Wheel Walk
- The Noojee Trestle Bridge Walk and Rail Trail
- Toorong Falls and Amphitheatre Circuit Walk

For a unique experience, you can also catch a fish at the Alpine Trout Farm!



HERITAGE GIFTS & COFFEE

New Operating Hours

FRIDAY 11-4  
SATURDAY 11-4  
SUNDAY 11-4  
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 11-4



The Noojee Heritage Railway Station Precinct

Embrace the journey to explore and uncover the inspiring heritage of Noojee



Discover a variety of charming restaurants, cozy cafes, and serene spots to relax and rejuvenate in Noojee

Heritage Gifts & Coffee

The Little Red Duck Cafe

The Noojee Hotel

Discover the stunning scenic walks that begin at the Noojee Heritage Railway Station Precinct, where you can immerse yourself in the breathtaking natural beauty and captivating history. Don't miss the chance to explore this remarkable destination!



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 - August 2025

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








## BAW BAW SHIRE INFORMATION SHAPING THE FUTURE NOOJEE PROJECT

The Baw Baw Shire Project Team, with Lana Horn, the Project Manager for the Noojee Forestry Transition, is thrilled to announce their upcoming community event on Sunday, September 21st, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.




As part of the activities organised by the Noojee Eco-Community Working Group, attendees will have the opportunity to meet the architect from Architect That, who is responsible for designing the Heritage Precinct Masterplan.





Home All Projects Shape Baw Baw Budget Hub Noojee Council Website

Sign in Register



### A place for community collaboration

As a member of the local community, you have the opportunity to shape the future of Noojee. Progress and updates from each of the five working groups will be shared on this site so that you can follow, be engaged in, and provide feedback on the project.

### Development of the Noojee Heritage Precinct

#### Background:

As part of the Shaping the Future of Noojee Project, The Project team and the recently combined Eco Tourism and Multipurpose Community Hub and Education Centre Working Groups (Now known as the Noojee Eco-Community Working Group) reviewed initiatives identified as part of a feasibility study that was conducted to explore opportunities for tourism activities. One of the identified opportunities was to develop the Noojee Heritage Precinct.



Please find a detailed Baw Baw Shire update on the exciting developments of Shaping the future of Noojee



An initial concept design identified in the feasibility study is outlined below.

