



# November NEWSLETTER

## Hello and a warm welcome to the Noojee & District Historical Society Newsletter!

We're thrilled to share the highlights from November 2025, especially the exciting news about the funding for the Noojee Winter Truffle Festival!

Don't forget to get your Christmas gifts at the Noojee Heritage Gifts & Coffee with 10% off all refreshments for N&DHS members.

The Café is amazing – well done Troy, Crystal and Michael!

If you have any questions or would like to chat, please reach out and email: [noojeeheritage@gmail.com](mailto:noojeeheritage@gmail.com).

Janiene Ayre, President, Noojee & District Historical Society



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## Noojee, Australia Hosts Inaugural Truffle Festival with Government Backing: A Unique Culinary Experience Awaits Visitors

Published on November 13, 2025



## NOOJEE WINTER TRUFFLE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCEMENT

"The Noojee and District Historical Society is proud to auspice the Noojee Winter Truffle Festival, providing the organisational framework to ensure strong governance, financial accountability, and best practices.

Together with the local Truffle Growers Group, we are excited to showcase the Noojee region's world-class truffles and dining experiences while strengthening community connections and building new partnerships.

This collaboration reflects the thriving networks that have developed in our region and highlights our shared commitment to celebrating local produce, supporting tourism, and preserving Noojee's unique heritage."



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## Ros Spence

Minister for Agriculture  
Minister for Community Sport  
Minister for Carers and Volunteers



13th Nov 2025

### Creating New Tourism Opportunities in Gippsland

Noojee is in for a treat next year when the community hosts its first truffle festival, supported by the Allan Labor Government, to celebrate local flavours and show off the regions home grown produce.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence today announced \$173,000 from the Forestry Transition Program's Community Development Fund to help the Noojee & District Historical Society launch a new annual truffle festival. The festival will showcase the locally grown black truffle with a feast of experiences for visitors, including food and produce workshops, farm gate tours, truffle hunts with dogs, cooking demonstrations and artisan market stalls.

Starting next year, the festival will be held for three weeks during harvest time in July and August. Funding will be provided over three years to put Noojee and the surrounding region on the map for tourists who enjoy truffles while supporting local producers and businesses.

The project has devolved from the Future of Noojee Local Development Strategy (LDS), designed to be community led and reflect local priorities and ambitions as communities transition away from native timber harvesting.

The Innovation Working Group developed the festival project alongside the Noojee Truffle Growers Group, who will provide \$75,000 of in-kind support, including locally grown produce for cooking demonstrations, skills and knowledge sharing with local hospitality venues.

The Future of Noojee has been supported with \$410,000 in funding through the Community Development Fund.

Noojee is one of 11 Victorian towns and communities receiving support to transition and implement new strategies in their local economy supported by the Government's Forestry Transition Program Community Development Fund.

For more information on forestry programs, visit [vic.gov.au/forestry](http://vic.gov.au/forestry)

#### Quote attributable to Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence

"We're proud to back Noojee's inaugural truffle festival, and proud to back community-led local priorities that showcase our regions and boost local economies."

#### Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing

"This is a terrific opportunity to develop a unique tourist attraction that will showcase Noojee, its businesses and the locally grown black truffle."

#### Quote attributable to Baw Baw Shire Council Mayor Cr Danny Goss

"This festival is designed to showcase Noojee and District as an emerging destination for truffle production and will celebrate the region's rich variety of local produce by partnering with local restaurants and cafés."

#### Quote attributable to Noojee and District Historical Society President Janiene Ayre

"Together with the local Truffle Growers Group, we are excited to showcase the Noojee region's world-class truffles and dining experiences while strengthening community connections and building new partnerships."





## FORESTRY AUSTRALIA FIELD DAY

A recent field day organised by Forestry Australia took place on Saturday, November 8, 2025, in the Noojee area. Wally Notman co-organised the event with a member of the Victorian branch committee, focusing on native forest silvicultural initiatives in Tanjil Bren and the Toorongo Plateau.

The event began at the Noojee Heritage Railway Station Precinct and provided participants with insights into the outcomes of these initiatives. Most attendees were members of Forestry Australia who travelled from various parts of the state to participate.

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## RECOGNISING THE 'ANGEL OF NOOJEE' GLADYS SANDERSON EXHIBITION

The Noojee & District Historical Society Inc. is excited to announce a new permanent photographic display in the 1960s Louvre Van Carriage at the Noojee Heritage Railway Station Precinct.

This display commemorates the Noojee Reserve, which was officially named Gladys Sanderson Park on November 30. We invite everyone to visit the exhibition, featuring informative panels about Gladys, along with a captivating slideshow of fifty images on our Apple Mac. This slideshow chronicles the history of the 1939 fires and highlights Gladys's bravery.

To enhance the experience, we will also showcase three vintage telephones, a switchboard, and fire equipment from the 1930s. Don't miss this opportunity to explore an important part of our local history!

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[MORE INFO](#)



At the opening on 30 Nov 2025

Left: Baw Baw Shire Cr Brendan Kingwill, Cr Kate Wilson (Mayor), Cr Adam Sheehan

Right: Will Langoor, Janiene Ayre and John Olsen - N&DHS





### 1. DEECA Display stand with roof



### 2. Cleaning and Whipper Snipping



### 3. New walkway Update



**AN INSIDE LOOK  
AT WHAT WE'RE  
CURRENTLY  
WORKING ON**

NOVEMBER  
2025

1. The stand at the end of the platform now has a roof. It is being prepared for painting in black, for the display of the \$500 sponsorship plaques honouring our sponsors.
2. We are currently cleaning and whipper snipping the area around the container, which has become a dumping ground for rubbish. This cleanup is part of our efforts to tidy up the precinct, and it also helps ensure safety along the walkway.
3. We are in the process of obtaining a quote to upgrade the walkway leading to the platform, facilitating better access for everyone and improving ease of access to and from the platform.

### TRIBUTE TO JOHN RYAN DISPLAY

The tribute to John Ryan, featuring a striking truck bonnet alongside a framed display, is now prominently showcased inside a newly refurbished shipping container. This transformation creates a unique and engaging space for visitors to admire the tribute and appreciate its significance.

New mats have been added to complement the restored area, and additional work is planned for 2026.

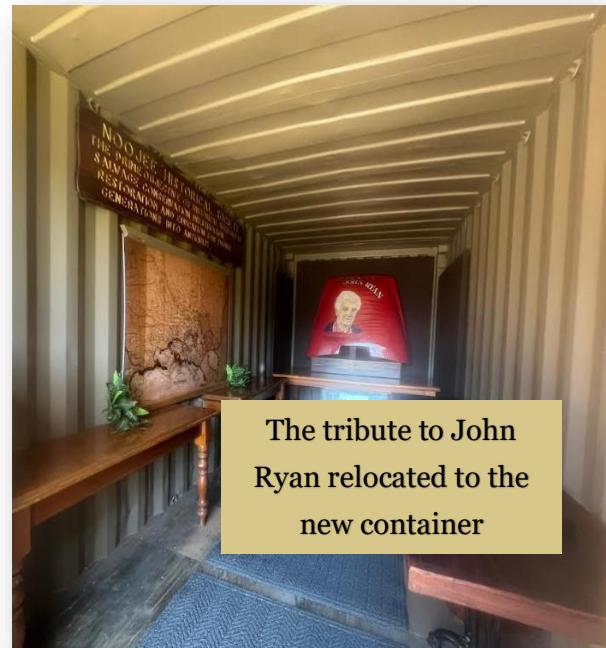
A big shoutout to Gary Ryan

We're thinking of you during this challenging time and wishing you a swift recovery.

Your commitment to mowing, even when not feeling your best, is truly inspiring. Thank you!

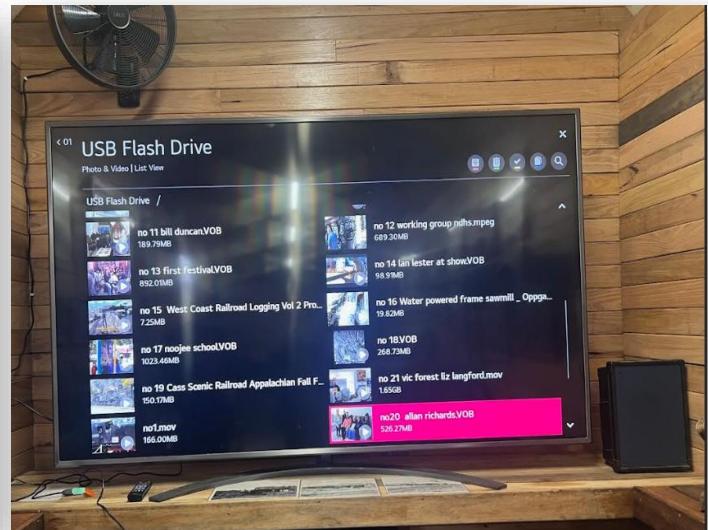


The tribute to John Ryan relocated to the new container





## VISUAL DISPLAY ON THE TELEVISION IN THE LOUVRE CARRIAGE VAN



Will Langoor has thoughtfully compiled an extraordinary collection of footage on a USB drive for display on the 80-inch TV screen, aiming to inspire both visitors and locals alike.

This presentation includes in-depth interviews with remarkable residents, both past and present, such as Bill Duncan, Allan Richards, Edna Moran (nee Capuano), and Ian Lester, along with captivating footage of local attractions and historical events.

Additionally, it offers a glimpse into our heritage with clips of railway logging and sawmill operations from a bygone era. This exceptional selection serves as a treasure trove of our history and culture.

Congratulations, Will, on your incredible dedication and the heartfelt effort that has gone into gathering this invaluable resource!

## N&DHS - AGM

### Annual General Meeting 2025

**Sat, 6 December 2025**

Online and in-person

Time: 3pm

**Noojee Heritage Gifts & Coffee  
Mt Baw Baw Tourist Rd Noojee  
Noojee Heritage Railway Station  
Precinct**

## VOLUNTEER CONNECT

**Last Working Group starting at  
10 am at the Precinct for 2025**

DECEMBER – Friday, 12 December

We're eager to define new days and times for  
2026!

Stay tuned for upcoming developments.

If you're ready to be a part of our Working  
Group, reach out to us at  
[noojeeheritage@gmail.com](mailto:noojeeheritage@gmail.com)—we want to hear  
from you!





We are excited to provide our monthly updates on all activities at the Noojee Heritage Railway Station Precinct!

As we take a brief break from our newsletter in December 2025 and January 2026, please rest assured that our dedicated work will continue to progress "full steam ahead!"

Our next newsletter will be issued in the first week of February 2026, where we will share updates on our projects and achievements made during the break.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas! We look forward to reconnecting with you in 2026.

Best regards, Janiene - President, N&DHS and the Committee of Management

November 2025

For more information, please email: noojeeheritage@gmail.com



**BAW BAW SHIRE INFORMATION**  
**SHAPING THE FUTURE NOOJEE PROJECT**

**NEWS  
UPDATE**



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

**MORE INFO**



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