



The N&DHS President's Report 2025 – December 2025

The Major Achievements and Strategic Overview

Our significant milestones and projects:

- Funding Grants in 2025**
 - Baw Baw Shire – Air conditioner and Fans \$ 4,848.00
 - Neerim District Community Bank – GY Wagon \$ 3,850.00
 - Tiny Towns – Interpretive Signage Project
 - \$ 32,000.00 + \$4K N&DHS + \$4K in kind \$ 40,000.00
 - Neerim District Community Bank - The Mower Project \$ 5,000.00 NEW
 - + Auspice funds for the Truffle Festival Trail Map \$ 2,500.00 NEW
 - Auspice funds for the Noojee Truffle Festival (3 Years) \$173,000.00
- The Heritage Gifts and Coffee Cafe**
 - A great partnership with Troy, Crystal, Michael, and the team
 - Installation of Starlink for free wi-fi and future EFTPOS for sales
 - Assistance with new booths and tables
- Publications and Digital Media:**
 - N&DHS Newsletter published from January to November 2025
 - Active Facebook presence
 - Collaboration with Mariah to develop the N&DHS Social Media Plan for 2026
 - Articles in the Neerim Star by Janet Cowden
- Infrastructure and Upgrades**
 - Refurbishment of the 1960 Louvre Carriage Van
 - Remodelling and updating of the Platform Container
 - Updates to the displays in the Platform & Goods Shed – “The Lamp Room”
 - Removal of potential risk hazards from the Platform
 - Installation of a new fence and gates along Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road
- Events and Engagement:**
 - Successful hosting of the 2025 Ada River Rally
 - Engagement with the Wally Notman Groups
 - Coordination of various walking groups
 - Involvement with local school groups
- Collections Management:**
 - The Gladys Sanderson Exhibition
 - Creation of the N&DHS Google Drive for storage of files, images, and corporate information
 - Upgrade of the map's cupboard by Janet Cowden
 - Publication of the 100-Year Noojee Hotel Calendar
 - Introduction of the new J550 Postcard
- Advocacy and Community Engagement:**
 - Participation in Shaping the Future of Noojee with Baw Baw Shire
 - Involvement in the Masterplan Feasibility Project
 - Membership in the Baw Baw Heritage & History Networking Group





- **N&DHS Volunteer efforts who have gone above and beyond:**

The dedicated volunteers who work on weekends play a vital role in inspiring others by actively showcasing the rich heritage and history of Noojee to visitors, locals, and groups.

Janet Cowden	Will Langoor	Gary Bell	Percy Camilleri
John Olsen	Sarah Hobgen and son Jack		

The Working Group, Maintenance Team, and Garden Team consistently demonstrating their hard work and commitment to achieving outstanding results.

Miles Spencer	Graeme Linaker	John Olsen	Angie Langoor
Will Langoor	Janet Cowden	Gary Ryan	

- **Membership Management:**

- We expanded our membership by including our \$500 and \$50 Platform Sleeper Sponsors as Honorary Members and our Sponsors.
- Thank you to Angie Langoor for managing the N&DHS Membership Database

- **Challenges and Future Outlook:**

Here are our outlined plans and goals for the upcoming year 2026:

Signage	▪ Completion of the Tiny Towns Interpretive Signage Project
Railway Assets	▪ Finishing the GY Wagon floor, including seating and benches
	▪ Completion of the Container deck with flooring and a viewing wall
	▪ Internal upgrade and restoration of the J550 and the caboose
Platform Upgrade	▪ Upgrading the south end walkway to the platform and creating a parking area for disabled access and bus parking
Exhibitions	▪ Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1926 bushfires in February 2026
	▪ A tribute to Ralph Cornwall, acknowledging his significant contributions and the positive impact he has made to Noojee
New Initiatives	▪ Investigate a Blues Music Festival for 2026/2027
	▪ Collaborating with all stakeholders on the Masterplan Feasibility Project
Financial	▪ Partnering with the Noojee Truffle Growers
	▪ Auspising the funds for the Noojee Truffle Festival over the next 3 years

- **Financial Overview:** A brief summary of the society's financial health is separately presented in the Treasurer's report.

- **Closing Remarks:**

As I conclude my review of the past year, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all our members, volunteers, and the dedicated committee for their hard work and commitment to our organisation. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones and tackled significant challenges, all while fostering a strong sense of community.

Our accomplishments in 2025 reflect not only our resilience but also our shared vision and collaboration. We have laid the groundwork for future success by enhancing our infrastructure, initiatives and partnerships. We should take pride in the positive impact we've made.

As we look ahead, I encourage continued engagement and support for one another. Let us embrace succession planning to ensure that the N&DHS thrives for years to come. With your involvement, we can achieve our ambitious goals and continue to serve our community effectively and treat our visitors to Noojee with something very special!

Janiene Ayre, President Noojee & District Historical Society