



January 2026

NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Commemorating the Centenary of the 1926 Bushfires



COMMEMORATING THE CENTENARY OF THE 1926 BUSHFIRES EXHIBITION

The Noojee & District Historical Society has been busy preparing a permanent exhibition at the Noojee Heritage Centre. This exhibition, located in the 1960 Louvre Carriage Van, will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1926 bushfires and is scheduled to open on the weekend of February 14, 2026.

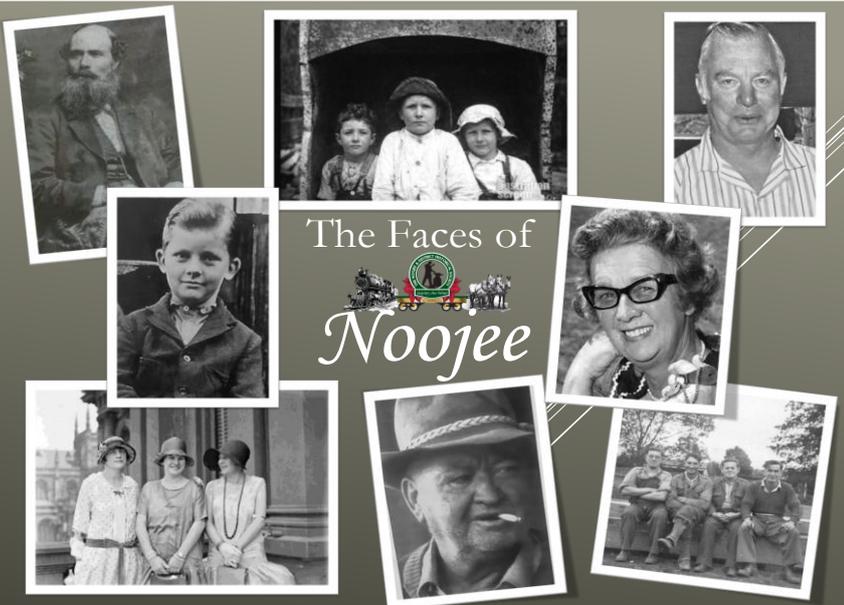
The exhibition is based on Peter McHugh's presentation, "The Forgotten Bushfires 1925/26," which highlights the history of forest and bushfire management in Victoria.

Background on the 1926 Bushfires:

- February 14, 1926 (Black Sunday)
- The impact was 31 people lost their lives, and approximately 390,000 hectares were burned, primarily across Gippsland.
- The significance is the fires led to the first major coordinated bushfire relief funds and prompted significant changes in forest management policies.

We have also received valuable contributions from Owen Salkin, Wally Notman, and members of the public. We invite you to join us in commemorating this important event!

The exhibition titled "The Faces of Noojee" will be featured as part of the upcoming event. It has been registered (pending approval) for the Australian Heritage Festival 2026, which will focus on the theme "Change." This festival, organized by the National Trust, will take place in April and May 2026.





**EVENTS
YOU
CAN'T
MISS IN
2026**

NOOJEE HERITAGE CENTRE 2026 Events Calendar



<https://noojeerailwaystationprecinct.com/>



February

Weekend of 14 February 2026 Remembering the 1926 Bushfires Exhibition

Community activities to commemorate the centenary of the 1926 Bushfires

March

Wednesday afternoon, 4th March 2026

Targa Classica - Car Event

San Remo through to Yarra Valley with a time trial in Noojee

Saturday, 14th March 2026

Gippsland International Film Festival

Session 4 - Community Connections - Time: 6.30pm - 9.30pm

Sunday, 15 March 2026

Shaping the Future of Noojee - Community Event

Commemorate the Centenary of the 1926 Bushfires – Time: 5pm – 7pm

April - May

Saturday, 18 April to Monday, 18 May 2026

The Faces of Noojee

The Australian Heritage Festival 2026 is focusing on the theme "Change," exploring how history shapes us and vice versa, organised by the National Trust.

Weekend May 16, 2026

Draper's Civil Contracting - Ada River Rally

A 3-day round for both the Victorian Rally Championship (VRC) and Victorian Club Rally Series (VCRS).

July - August

Every weekend from Friday, 10 July to Sunday, 2 August 2026

Noojee Truffle Festival

A three-week festival celebrating locally grown black truffles will include food and produce workshops, farm gate tours, truffle hunts with dogs, cooking demonstrations, and artisan market stalls.

Click  here!

NEWSLETTERS OF 2025



KORUMBURRA PROBUS GROUP VISIT

A big shout-out to the Heritage Gift and Coffee Cafe, as well as the volunteers from the Noojee & District Historical Society, for the outstanding service they provided to the Korumburra Probud Group.

They catered to everyone's needs throughout the day, and all attendees left feeling happy and satisfied. Many expressed a desire to return in the future!

NEW EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY GEAR

We are excited to announce that our application for funding to acquire a new ride-on mower and safety gear has been successful! This funding is a direct result of our team's hard work and our clear vision for maintaining the Noojee Heritage Centre.

With these resources, we will be able to effectively address our risk and safety management plan and confidently achieve our upcoming milestones. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the proposal!

- A John Deere S120 22/42 V-Twin Hydro Rom
- Stihl Fs91r-Z Brush cutter
- Ss Gy00115 Mulch Plug
- Helmet Advance X Vent
- John Deere 10p Poly Trailer

We would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Community Bank Neerim District Bendigo Bank team for their unwavering support and dedication in bringing this project to life. Your commitment has made a significant impact on our community.

We also appreciate VC Traders for supplying us with the necessary equipment—your partnership has been invaluable!





VOLUNTEER CONNECT

2026 WORKING GROUP DATES STARTING AT 10 AM

Every second and fourth Wednesday of the month

FEBRUARY 2026

- Wednesday, 4 February 2026
- Wednesday, 25 February 2026

MARCH 2026

- Wednesday, 11 March 2026
- Wednesday, 25 March 2026

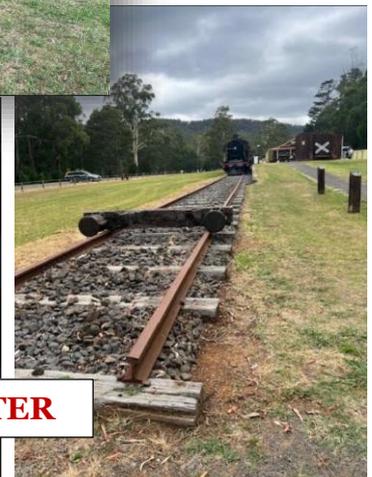
If you're ready to be a part of our Working Group, reach out to us at noojeeheritage@gmail.com—we want to hear from you!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WORKING GROUP TEAM!

I want to extend a huge congratulations to the Working Group team: John, Graeme, Gary, and Will! You have done a fantastic job with the cleanup, effective herbicide application, and all the mowing and whipper snipping. Your hard work is evident, and we truly appreciate everything you have done to make our space look great. The tidy-up of the boards along the railway line to the J550 has really enhanced the entrance.

KEEP UP THE AWESOME WORK!





PLATFORM AND GOODS SHED TIDY UP

We've recently made some improvements by removing the L-shaped partition at the entrance of the J550 and moving it to the Platform and Goods Shed. Now, this space is dedicated to storing materials like cardboard, dried leaves, old timber, and other items that can be used in the J550 locomotive burner to create smoke.

This little change has really tidied things up and gives the entrance a much nicer look! We believe it makes a great impression for both our visitors and the local community. We're excited to share the J550 with everyone in a more inviting setting!



TREASURERS OF THE PAST FOR DISPLAY

This week, we received a remarkable collection of historical items from Wally Redl. Among these treasures is a vintage railway motorcar trailer, also known as a maintenance-of-way (MOW) trailer or handcart, which was used by railway personnel for track maintenance and inspection. Its cast-iron wheels exemplify vintage machinery and showcase the strong and durable design of early 20th-century engineering. Additionally, the stationary engine trolley features large, custom-iron wheels and a sturdy frame, reflecting the exceptional craftsmanship of that era.





Gippsland International Film Festival

CELEBRATION OF STORYTELLING AT FILM FESTIVAL

The Gippsland International Film Festival (GIFF) is excited to announce its 2026 program, featuring an impressive lineup of bold short films from across Gippsland! Led by Alana Auden and Edward Yates, the festival aims to enhance accessibility to film culture. Its goal is to screen a diverse array of short films for as many people as possible from March 13 to 15, marking the first festival of its kind in West Gippsland.

The festival will take place over three days in March 2026. Opening night will be held at the stunning West Gippsland Arts Centre in Warragul on Friday, March 13, 2026. This will be followed by community screenings at the Rokeby on Saturday, March 14, and **the Noojee Heritage Centre on Sunday, March 15**, bringing the cinematic experience to residents of regional Victoria.



BAW BAW SHIRE INFORMATION
SHAPING THE FUTURE NOOJEE PROJECT

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



Happy New Year! Noojee & District Historical Society Newsletter!

We are passionate about showcasing our past. Our mission statement is to provide and establish a unique, informative and interesting avenue into history, culture and industry within the Noojee district. To research and promote our local district and history, thereby inspiring community involvement. If you have any questions or would like to chat, please reach out and email: noojeeheritage@gmail.com.

Janiene Ayre, President, Noojee & District Historical Society Inc

