



# February 2026 NEWSLETTER

**COMMEMORATING THE CENTENARY OF THE 1926 BUSHFIRES**

**Saturday, 14 February 2026**



**AN AWESOME DAY – WELL DONE EVERYONE!**



# Noojee fires - 100 years on

The 100th anniversary of the 1926 bushfires in Noojee that destroyed the town was commemorated over the weekend with historical displays, information and presentations.

The Great Fires of 1926, as they were named at the time, were devastating, with much loss of life and property and untold flow on effects for local families, forests, farmland and communities.

Led by the Neerim-Noojee Forest Interest Group, community members gathered on Saturday at the Noojee Heritage Railway Station Precinct.

Photos, newspaper articles and relics from the Noojee & District Historical Society's collection on the fires were displayed in the Louvre Carriage Van.

Forests and bushfire historian Peter McHugh spoke about the fires and their long-lasting consequences. Afterwards about 40 attendees travelled to the site of Worley's Mill on the Bunyip Rd where forests and light railway historian Peter Evans delved into the events that led to the tragic loss of 14 at that exact location 100 years ago.

Later in the afternoon Powelltown Hall came alive with

locals enjoying afternoon tea while hearing from two historians about the fires and the remarkable story of Florrie Hodges and the history of dugouts.

"We were delighted with the turnout for the 1926 bushfires commemoration, with around 70 people gathering at the Noojee Heritage Centre, many of whom continued on to the site of the Worley Mill tragedy and joined with others at the Powelltown Hall," Neerim-Noojee Forest Interest Group member Wally Notman said.

"The goal of the day was to share, learn about, and honour the people of that time, attempting to appreciate just what they went through and the legacy which connects us all in very real ways to that time."

"There were numerous descendants of families badly impacted by the fires who participated in the day, along with many others who still live in the same landscape and continue to grapple with the threat of bushfire, particularly in years like this one," Mr Notman said.

"Great credit must go to the Noojee Historical Society and the Powelltown community, as well as forest historians Peter McHugh and Peter Evans, all of whom's tireless work underpinned this day."



Photos, articles and other items from the Noojee & District Historical Society's collection of the 1926 were on display over the weekend.

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[Click here for Peter McHugh's Presentation](#)





## EXHIBITIONS INSIDE THE 1960 LOUVRE CARRIAGE VAN



**The Gladys Sanderson – Angel of Noojee and 1939 Bushfire Exhibition**



**The No:7 Trestle Bridge and Trestle Bridge Display**



**The Peter McHugh 1926 Bushfire Commemoration Display**



**The 80-inch TV screen with an extraordinary collection of footage for visitors**



**The 'Australia Heritage Festival' Faces of Noojee Exhibition**



**The history of Logging in Noojee Display Board with artefacts**



**Existing sign to be upgraded**



**Draft mock-up sign**

## **DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE UPGRADE**

We are upgrading the directional signage at the Noojee Heritage Centre to enhance the overall visitor experience and improve navigation throughout the area.

With clearer and more effective signage, visitors will have an easier time locating key attractions and historical points of interest.

This upgrade aims to reduce confusion and frustration, ensuring that everyone can fully engage with the rich history and culture of the district.

Additionally, by modernising the signage, we will improve visibility, and the strategic placement of the signs will contribute to better operational efficiency.

This will help guide visitors intuitively through the Heritage Centre and to local attractions.

Ultimately, this initiative is focused on fostering a welcoming environment that encourages exploration and appreciation of our local heritage



**Draft of a mock-up sign for Visitor Parking along the existing fence on new sleeper top posts**



**The cleanup of old signs and boards is underway in preparation for new interpretive signage**



**Brackets are on the container in preparation for our new interpretive signs along the platform**



**Brackets also in place on the 1960 Louvre Carriage**



# Noojee Heritage Centre Events Calendar 2026

## 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  
With a large inflatable screen to watch the fantastic films!



**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**

**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.

**Sunday, 26 April 2026**

**Mr Excited – Show and Shine Car Show - Watch this space – watch this space!**

**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 four-weekend festival celebrating locally grown black truffles.

### **2026 WORKING GROUP DATES STARTING AT 10 AM**

Every second and fourth Wednesday monthly

**MARCH 2026**

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

## VOLUNTEER CONNECT

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!



# BAW BAW SHIRE INFORMATION

## SHAPING THE FUTURE NOOJEE PROJECT

Upcoming Community Event: Sunday 15th March, 5-7pm

**NOOJEE + DISTRICT :**  
Community Event

**COMMEMORATING  
THE CENTENARY OF THE  
1926 Bushfires.**

**What's happening?**

- Free dinner, catered by The Little Red Duck Café
- View the 1926 bushfire display in the Louvre Carriage Van.
- Live Music
- Lawn games
- Noojee CFA truck
- View the final draft of the Heritage Precinct Masterplan

**Date:** Sun 15 March  
**Time:** 5pm – 7pm session  
**Address:** Noojee Railway Station Precinct  
– 405-415 Mt Baw Baw Tourist Rd

**Learn more about:**  
Clippisland Forest Dialogue & Neerim-Noojee Forest Interest Group.  
**IMAGE:** Loch Valley timber tramway after 1926 bushfires. Image sourced from Public Record Office Victoria.

[MORE INFO](#)

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

A BETTER WAY TO  
**CONNECT.**

YOUR SAY,  
YOUR WAY.



[MORE INFO](#)



A place for community collaboration