



June 2026 NEWSLETTER

**LAUNCH OF THE NOOJEE TRUFFLE FESTIVAL
THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2026**



A big congratulations to everyone involved! Your hard work really paid off, and it was such a wonderful team effort!



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LAUNCH OF THE NOOJEE TRUFFLE FESTIVAL

Warragul & Drouin
The Gazette

ESTABLISHED 1898 • CIRCULATING THROUGHOUT BAW BAW SHIRE & WEST GIPPSLAND
Tuesday, June 30 2026 • 84 pages • www.thegazette.com.au Recommended retail price \$3.00



Noojee becomes truffle capital

by Courtney O'Brien

The Noojee Truffle Festival officially launched on Thursday, at the Noojee Heritage Centre, kicking off a three-week immersive experience festival in the town.

Truffles are rare, edible fruiting bodies of subterranean fungi. They are prized for their earthy aroma, intense flavor, and culinary value. No two are alike and with a short shelf life they are an expensive delicacy, globally.

"We've got about five and half thousand truffle trees planted in this area, producing world class truffles," explained Noojee Truffle chair Abby Graham.

"We have national and international niche agricultural businesses with their expertise around here, and we have a community that is incredibly vested in a positive future for the town."

A plate of these curious misshapen balls of 'underground gold' made the rounds at the launch, being offered up for a sniff.

Even better were the snacks, created by local venues and garnished or infused with the delectable delicacy.

Over four weekends, food lovers can enjoy the taste and aroma of truffles in a specially curated journey.

From meeting truffle growers and chef-led tastings, to cooking demonstrations and seasonal menus across local cafés, restaurants and pubs to truffle dog hunting shows; the truffle trail can be followed through the forests, farms and food venues of Noojee.

"This mid-winter celebration of local produce and history is an example of the way we can come together and adapt to change, grow as a community and a region and build a better future for our communities," Baw Baw Shire chief executive officer Tilla Buden said.

"I'm really hopeful and confident that this hard work and the well-placed funding is going to bring visitors from far and wide and help those visitors come and see the best of what Noojee and Baw Baw has to offer."

The Truffle Festival received a grant of \$173,000 through the State Governments Forestry Transition Programs Community Development Fund.

It has been seen as a new beginning for the town, devastated by the announcement of the end of native hardwood logging in 2024.

Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing acknowledged the end of logging led to a painful and difficult time for communities like Noojee, who had generations of families, connections and jobs in the logging industry.

"We couldn't keep going with the industry because of bushfires and because of ongoing legal challenges. It simply wasn't fair to hedge a bet about what might be available around supply that was increasingly difficult to guarantee," Ms Shing said.

She said communities like Noojee had set the standard for local development, referring to the joint effort of the Noojee and District

Historical Society, Baw Baw Shire, local truffle growers and business owners, in bringing the festival to fruition.

"What has happened as a result of all of this hard work and these collaborations, and these partnerships is that outcome that we are celebrating today."

"Bringing people here for the truffle festival is part of long-term transition, growth, development and pride, most importantly. It's a way for us to showcase world class produce, with provenance right at the heart of what we do," Ms Shing said.

For more information about the Truffle Festival which will run from July 10 to August 2, visit: www.noojeetrufflefestival.com or socials: @noojeetrufflefestival



Above: Local growers Graham Dewhurst and Wilf Sweetland (right) give Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing a hands-on insight to truffles.

Left: The Noojee Truffle Festival has officially launched, celebrated by Noojee and Neerim South hospitality staff, Sunshine Duff, Troy Wawrzik, Shae Maxwell, Margaret MacDougall, Kristy Abernethy, Baw Baw Shire chief executive officer Tilla Buden, Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing, truffle growers Wilf Sweetland and Graham Dewhurst, Truffle Festival chair Abby Graham, French visitor Valentine Ronjat and truffle dogs Milky and Bindi.



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THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT'S TINY TOWNS FUND



We are absolutely thrilled to announce that the Noojee & District Historical Society has successfully secured \$43,389 in funding through Round 3 of the Victorian Government's Tiny Towns Fund to Boost Local Heritage and Tourism Infrastructure, which aims to modernise the existing kitchen at the Heritage Gifts and Coffee Café located at the Noojee Heritage Centre.

The project focuses on improving the efficiency and functionality of the kitchen while maximising limited available space. Key features of the upgrade will include the installation of energy-efficient appliances, a new exterior cool room, and state-of-the-art cooking equipment designed for speed and space-saving.

Advanced induction technology, multifunctional combi ovens, and automated systems will be utilised to reduce costs and enhance safety. Additionally, the kitchen design will support shared use and provide ample preparation areas, fostering community connections and enabling quick food service for upcoming events and tourist visits.

Preserving local history and enhancing visitor facilities, the Noojee Heritage Centre serves as a hub for both the community and regional tourists. The improvements around these heritage sites will make Noojee's unique history more accessible, ultimately promoting local tourism while providing modern, functional facilities for residents.

This funding is a tremendous win for Noojee; our heritage assets are important. This grant enables us to preserve our history while building the high-quality infrastructure our community and visitors deserve.

The Tiny Towns Fund supports communities with populations under 5,000 in delivering high-priority local projects, and work on the Noojee heritage infrastructure project is expected to begin in the coming months.

A massive thank you to everyone from the Historical Society volunteers and the broader community who worked hard to pull this successful application together!



We've received
a grant from the
Tiny Towns Fund!



NOOJEE HERITAGE CENTRE EVENTS CALENDAR 2026

July – August 2026

Truffle Station @ Noojee Heritage Centre operates every Sunday during the Noojee Truffle Festival, which runs from Friday, 10 July, to Sunday, 2 August 2026

NOOJEE Truffle FESTIVAL | 10 JUL – 2 AUG 2026 | Truffle Station @ Noojee Heritage Centre | Noojee Truffle Festival VIC



Truffle Station @ Noojee Heritage Centre | Noojee Truffle Festival VIC

Time: 11am to 3pm

Each Sunday during the Noojee Truffle Festival



The Noojee Heritage Precinct transforms into Truffle Station – a place to wander, linger and follow your nose.

Enjoy truffle dog appearances, children's face painting, heritage displays and live music, all set against the charm of Noojee's historic heart. Grab a coffee, snack and even a truffle toastie from the café, then settle in and soak up the atmosphere.

It's also your starting point for exploring the festival, with friendly Noojee Truffle Festival Ambassadors on hand to share local walks, festival activities and assist with booking events such as dining experiences and truffle hunts.

For more information about the Noojee Truffle Festival visit
<https://noojee-truffle-festival.com.au/program/>



August 2026 – Ada River Rally 2026 – 22 August 2026

Location: Noojee Heritage Centre, Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road, Noojee

Organiser: Western District Car Club

Venue Notes: The rally will be based in Noojee, VIC, emphasising regional forest stages.

For official updates, entry information, and to view the full calendar of events, please visit the Rally NSW website or the WDCC website.



The 2026 Ada River Rally is set to take place on August 22, 2026, in Noojee. This event, rescheduled from May, is part of the NSW Rally Championship as Round 4 and serves as Round 5 of the East Coast Classic Rally Series (for both 2WD and 4WD vehicles).



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N&DHS NEWSLETTERS
2025 & 2026


NEERIM DISTRICT
Community Enterprise



VOLUNTEER UPDATE

VOLUNTEER CONNECT

2026 WORKING GROUP DATES STARTING AT 10AM

Every second and fourth Wednesday

JULY 2026

- Wednesday, 8 July 2026
- Wednesday, 22 July 2026

AUGUST 2026

- Wednesday, 12 August 2026
- Wednesday, 26 August 2026



In the month of June, the dedicated team sprang into action, meticulously preparing for the highly anticipated launch of the Noojee Truffle Festival.

The J550 locomotive, a centerpiece of the Heritage Centre, received a thorough pressure cleaning both inside and out, thanks to the hard work of Dale Bates, who ensured that every nook and cranny sparkled.

Meanwhile, Kylie Wilson took charge of beautifying the outdoor areas, applying a glossy protective lacquer to the furniture and the floor of the GY Wagon, safeguarding them for all visitors to enjoy.

The efforts of John Olsen and Will Langoor provided invaluable support, rallying the team with encouragement and additional expertise.

Everyone's hard work truly paid off—the Heritage Centre emerged looking absolutely stunning, ready to welcome guests to the festival!



**JOB
WELL DONE**



BAW BAW SHIRE INFORMATION

Shaping the future of

NOOJEE

A BETTER WAY TO
CONNECT.

YOUR SAY,
YOUR WAY.

A place for community collaboration



Grant Writing Workshop – Monday 3rd August

To register your attendance, either scan the QR code below or click the link:

<https://events.humanitix.com/grant-writing-workshop-a8hvuycl/tickets>

Shaping the Future of Noojee.

Grant Writing WORKSHOP.

FREE EVENT!

Highlighting:

- Create your grant strategy
- Learn how to find grants
- Build your grant toolbox
- Develop your grant writing skills
- How to read guidelines & refine your project ideas
- Understanding grant agreements and contracts
- Acquittal and evaluation
- Analysing and refining process if unsuccessful
- Understanding the role of an auspice

Date: Mon 3 August
Cost: FREE
Time: 5.30pm – 7.30pm session
Address: Noojee Community Hall
Henty Street, Noojee

Light supper provided.

Register your attendance on-line via The Shaping the Future of Noojee website or scan the QR code.



Hardcopy applications can be submitted via the drop box located at the Little Red Duck café – Post Office.
Register your attendance by COB Friday 24 July.



Talk to the project team



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