

NAR NAR GOON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

THE GOON * NEWS

Volume 28 Issue 01

February 2026



HOT SPOT - from your friendly fire brigade

It's your responsibility to make sure you don't start a fire

- On hot, dry days, exercise extreme caution before harvesting, grinding, welding, slashing or mowing
- Avoid driving vehicles and motorbikes through dry grass or crop - the risk from the hot exhaust system is high. Driving vehicles with catalytic converters through dry grass and crops is particularly hazardous
- Take regular breaks
- Make it part of your routine to check for straw or grass build-up, and hot bearings
- Check machinery to ensure that spark arrestors are maintained.

Harvesters:

The most common cause of harvester fires is material collecting on hot engine components such as the manifold, exhaust and turbocharger.

The key to avoiding harvester fires is diligence in clean-down and inspection. Postpone paddock work during the highest fire-risk periods.

Harvester safety checklist:

- Equip your machine with at least two fire extinguishers
- Avoid overloading electrical circuits
- Use the battery isolation switch when the harvester is parked
- Use vermin deterrents as rodents can chew through electrical insulation.

Next History Group Meeting:

Monday 23rd February at 2pm

This meeting will be at:
Winsome Andersons property
590 Seven Mile Road, Nar Nar Goon

(RHS coming from NNG direction with blue flower pot out the front of driveway). Go into the driveway and you'll see car parking in the paddock on right in front of the house.

All welcome.

NNG Progress Association

Next Meeting:
Tuesday 24th February 2026
7:00pm,
St John's Community Room,
(Behind Posh Op Shop)
Main St Nar Nar Goon.
All Welcome!

GOON NEWS DEADLINES:

Next Deadline for submissions will be the
30th FEBRUARY

Email: goonnews3812@gmail.com



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NAR NAR GOON

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- ** Wednesday to Sunday: ** 12 PM - 10 PM

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CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL

Volunteer Training Workshops

Council offers a range of free training workshops for volunteers to support our community organisations such as community asset committees, neighbourhood houses, sporting clubs, men's sheds, township committees and many more.

January- April 2026

Grant Writing

Wednesday 18th February, 6:30- 8:30pm

Join us for a FREE grant writing workshop for local organisations and community groups whose work directly benefits those in Cardinia Shire. This workshop will provide the tools, strategies and confidence necessary for writing successful grant applications. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to connect with other grant writers to discuss common challenges and share helpful strategies for success.

Governance Training for Community Groups

Wednesday 25th March, 6.30- 9.00pm

Good governance is the foundation of a strong not-for-profit organisation, providing the checks and balances needed to guide leadership and support long-term sustainability. For community groups run by volunteers, understanding this can be challenging within a complex legal and regulatory environment.

Recruitment and Management of Volunteers

Wednesday 15th April, 6.30-9pm

Volunteers are often the heart of a community group, but keeping them motivated, supported, and aligned with the organisation's purpose takes thoughtful planning and good communication. This session gives participants the tools to manage volunteers effectively and build a strong, engaged team.

For further information and to register, visit:
cardinia.vic.gov.au/volunteering
or email: connectedcommunities@cardinia.vic.gov.au



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NAR NAR GOON



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Community Hall, Nar Nar Goon (opposite primary school)

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL
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EYES DOWN at 7.30pm

EVERY THURSDAY!!!

Books on sale from 6:30pm for the 1st session
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*Canteen available with complimentary tea/coffee/milo
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Welcome to

Nar Nar Goon

People choose to live in Nar Nar Goon



It's cold. Small droplets of frost bead as the sun begins to warm the blanketed ground. A blue heeler soaking up the sun licks his paws.

His fur is patchy. Behind, two men talk. They're in no hurry and like the dog they show the toll of working on the land.

They're leaning against a red ute. It's new and the shine off the duo reflects the streets of Nar Nar Goon.

They've been talking for an hour now. But they stop and listen. The chatter of children from the local school echoes in the street. They look up. The railway crossing bells ring and a sleek ultra modern passenger train speeds through.

It looks out of place in the streets of Nar Nar Goon where time seems to have stood still. That's the way many of the people of Nar Nar Goon like it.

"If I live to 100 I hope I'll still be living in Nar Nar Goon because I don't ever want to leave," Leanne Venables says.

Leanne, who has just given birth to her first child, thinks Nar Nar Goon is a great place to live and bring up a family.

Nar Nar Goon's attraction isn't only to the older generation as one might expect. Fifteen year old Rebecca

Manly thinks Nar Nar Goon is a great place to live and she says she doesn't ever want to leave either.

"I've been living in Nar Nar Goon since I was six and I can't see myself ever leaving," she said.

Her pride for her home town is refreshing and rare amongst many of her school mates in Pakenham.

Andrew Clickaberry moved to Nar Nar Goon for a change of lifestyle.

"It's so nice and laid back and I love the good country living without being too far from the

city," he said.

In Nar Nar Goon when someone dies the whole town grieves and when a child is born it celebrates. There are very rarely strangers, just friends. And when someone needs a hand there are always two.

Nar Nar Goon is a people person's town.

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Andrew and Trudy Chippendale

Yearling Sides of Beef

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PLEASE NOTE: Extended hours Thursday evenings
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"THE GAZETTE", WEDNESDAY, 5th JULY, 1995 - PAGE 21

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Nar Nar Goon Cricket Club






Past Players Day






SAT, 7TH FEB 2026

Nar Nar Goon Reserve

3:00pm - late

Bar/canteen open

Meat Tray raffle



WEST GIPPSLAND RAIL TOWNS



www.westgippslandrailtowns.au

Nar Nar Goon • Tynong
Garfield • Bunyip • Longwarry

New West Gippsland Rail Towns Website Launches to Support Local Business and Community

The Garfield Community Website Inc is proud to announce the official launch of the *West Gippsland Rail Towns* website - a vibrant new online hub created to promote local businesses, trades, and community events across the region's historic rail towns.

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors **Southside Racing**, **Community Bank Bunyip & District** and **Community Shop Garfield** - the website is now live and open for business listings and event submissions.

Each township now also has its own dedicated website.

NarNarGoonInfo.au - TynongInfo.au - Garfield.au and BunyipInfo.au - These websites have been set up in conjunction with the local Progress or Community Associations.

Longwarry businesses and locals are welcome to join

Designed specifically for the communities along the West Gippsland railway corridor, the site provides a dedicated space where local businesses and tradespeople can connect with residents and visitors alike. Listings are **free for the first 12 months**, with a modest **annual fee of \$25 thereafter**, which goes directly toward site maintenance, with any surplus going back into the community. (*Offer ends 30 April 2026*)

Businesses and trades located within the Rail Towns area are encouraged to take advantage of this exclusive promotional opportunity. In addition to standard listings, participants can include **Special Deals**, contribute **blogs**, and receive **assistance setting up their initial profiles**.

"We want this platform to reflect the heart of our local economy," said a spokesperson for Garfield Community Website Inc. "It's more than a directory — it's a space for connection, growth, and storytelling."

The new website also features a [comprehensive Event Calendar](#), open to the public. Community members can promote any local event simply by creating a free account with a valid email address.

Whether you're a business owner looking to reach a wider audience or a local organiser promoting an upcoming event, the *West Gippsland Rail Towns* website is your one-stop destination for connection and visibility in the region.

Visit: <https://westgippslandrailtowns.au> or simply <https://wgrt.au>

For more information or assistance: admin@westgippslandrailtowns.au



Hop on board now and
help us make this website
a success for everyone

NNG History Group

On Monday 23rd Feb, at 2pm, Winsome and Ian Anderson are our guest presenters along with other family members. They will talk about:

One family's Journey with the Jersey cow since 1886". They were awarded the Presidents Medal at the Royal Melbourne Show in 1996 for 100 years of exhibiting. They will share their long and very successful story with us at their property. We will not be using St. John's Church on this day.

We are all invited to Winsome's property at 590 Seven Mile Road, Nar Nar Goon. We will initially meet in her living room (it's big!) and then move to another building to inspect a wonderful historical display of the family Jersey story.

You'll also see the old original dairy that has been relocated to this property and now in a shed specially built to house the old milking machines.

So please, note the date and address in your diaries. I'll send out another reminder closer to the time.

Winsome has kindly offered her kitchen for us to use for afternoon tea. So, please stay for a cuppa.

In summary: Next NNG History Group Meeting Monday 23rd February at 2pm

At: Winsome Andersons property,
590 Seven Mile Road, Nar Nar Goon

(RHS coming from NNG direction with blue flower pot out the front of driveway) Go into the driveway and you'll see car parking in the paddock on right in front of the house.

All welcome

Sue Rose

Convenor NNG History Group

Future meetings:

- **Monday 23rd February at 2pm**
at Winsome Andersons property
590 Seven Mile Road, NNG.

Winsome and her son Ian will share the stories of their award winning Jersey stud and life at NNG

- **Monday 23rd March at 2pm**
at St John's Church

Guest Speaker: Michael O'Brien.

Michael and his wife Mary have lived in NNG for a long time. Can you remember when Michael and Mary ran the NNG milk bar all those years ago?

All Welcome!

Doherty Family Story

Presented by Denis Doherty 15th December 2025

I am Denis, now the oldest member of the Bill Doherty branch of the Doherty's, and I am joined by my wife Mary, my brother Michael and his wife Fran, my sister Tricia, my brother Peter and his wife Tracy, and my brother Gavan and his wife Debbie. Also here is our daughter Jodi and sons Shane and Mark.



I have been asked to talk about the Dohertys of Nar Nar Goon. As Mum lived to 82 and Dad to 99 I'll try and condense those years as much as I can in a reasonable time. The Doherty's have not been large property owners or business operators (except for Peter and Tracy). It has always been residential blocks and salary and wage earners for us.

This branch of the Dohertys would not exist without a wife and mother, and as Mum was born and bred in Nar Nar Goon and lived here all her life I will start with her.

Dorothy Mary Magrath was born in Bunyip on 11 May 1923. Her mother was Ellen (nee Daly) and her father was Tom. I was 5 when Grandpa died and can remember being taken to see him the night before he died. Grandma died 3 weeks after turning 100.

Mum was number 5 in a family of 7. Her eldest and youngest brothers died in infancy. The family comprised of Patrick, Bridget, Aileen, Mum and Frank mostly known as Tigie. Bridget (or Bid) married Dan Cunningham from Nar Nar Goon, Aileen (known to the family as Gugg) married Phil Dillon from Cora Lynn, and Frank married Maureen Brown from Pakenham.

Mum grew up in Mulcare Street, the third house from the corner of Main Street. On their adjoining block was the town's original butcher shop. I remember playing in there as a kid.

Photo: Bill & Dot Doherty



Like many of her peers, Mum went to the school down the Seven Mile which burnt down, then eventually to the new school in NNG. When she left school after gaining her merit certificate she joined her sister Bid working at Ward's General Store and remained there for many years.

She played badminton, tennis and basketball as it was called then and at one stage was President of the West Gippsland Basketball Association. She was also a scorer for the cricket team.

doherty family story cont...

Dad, or Bill as I have referred to him for over 50 years, was also born in Bunyip on 18 March 1923. His father was William Doherty and his mother Elizabeth was also a Doherty, not related to each other I hope. He was third in a family of six, two elder sisters, Alice and Mary, and three younger brothers, John, Tom and Vince.

They lived on a farm on the Eleven Mile Road Cora Lynn not far from the Main Drain. The six kids all walked through paddocks to St Josephs School, Cora Lynn (Ambrose Byrne's property now). Like Mum, Bill left school when he received his Merit Certificate. He initially worked odd jobs at the Presbytery at Iona and also worked for Mr Reidy whose farm was opposite the family farm and also for Mr Riley who was the father of Des and grandfather of Tub and Jack and their sisters.

When he was seventeen regular work was hard to get so he went to work in Collingwood at Die Casters. There he worked alongside Lou Richards and out of work, shall I say, socialised around the Collingwood, Richmond and Abbotsford areas with Lou and their friends. He played in a mid-week football competition with Lou and Lou's brother Ron before both of them played for Collingwood.

In February 1945, at age twenty one, he joined the army. He never actually fought on the frontline but his unit was sent to New Guinea for six months after the war. He was in the General Hospital Unit. I don't know what he did because I don't remember him putting any band aids or bandages on any of us. He was discharged in January 1947.

Some years ago our daughter Jodi went online to the army service records of her two grandfathers, Bill and Paddy Keane. One day I told Bill about it and he sheepishly asked what did they show. When I said not a lot, there was an obvious sigh of relief.

After his army service he worked at Kinsellas on spuds and asparagus for fourteen years. Kinsellas at that time grew 160 acres of asparagus and 240 acres of spuds and only had two tractors. That was probably what started his lifelong association with spuds. His three brothers also worked at Kinsellas at different times. He always said John was the best ploughman he ever saw.

1947 was obviously a big year because on 24 May, Mum and Dad were married at St James Nar Nar Goon in the old church up on the hill. They initially lived in a house near the end of the Seven Mile on the left. The house is no longer there but there are some trees in the paddock where it was situated. He was still working then for Kinsellas as it was a Kinsella property.

They lived there for a number of years and that's when Mum met Daisy Lia, a neighbour, and they became lifelong friends. In 1948 they both became

pregnant, Mum with me and Daisy with Veronica. Veronica and I had numerous trips between Koo Wee Rup and Bunyip before we were born. Mum's Doctor was in Koo Wee Rup and Daisy's was in Bunyip. They used to alternate trips to their doctors in a horse and jinker. Veronica was born in January 1949 and me in February.

Some time later Bill went to work for his brother and sister in law, Dan and Bid Cunningham, and we moved to a house on their farm. Bill drove a truck carting milk from farms around the area to the milk factory in Bayles. That's when I learnt two more things from him. When I was about twelve or thirteen, if I went with him on the milk run, I got to drive the truck home from the factory if I loaded the empty cans onto the truck and got out at the farms and unloaded them while he read the paper. The other thing I learnt was to read the paper starting at the sport page at the back and work forward to the hatched, matched and dispatched (that's births, engagements and deaths) then turn over to check other news at the front.



Photo: The young Doherty Family (L to R): Denis, Faye holding Gavan, Peter, Trish and Michael

He was joined at Uncle Dan's by Bob McKenna and Ted Thorn and they also carted milk. They all carted other general produce and groceries from the rail to the two general stores, Wards and Gillmartins, as well as to farms in the area. Back then most produce came by rail. In season they carted a lot of spuds from farms to the rail. All the loading and unloading was done by hand, a lot of hard work, men were men back then. I remember going with him when he carted asparagus to the Gartside Cannery in Dingley.

He spent time working for Roy Downes carting Brewers grain from a brewery in Melbourne and delivering it to farms all around the region. That involved unloading the grain by shovel. He was not afraid of hard work. He also did some "fill in" driving at night for Barry Cunningham taking bulk cement to Traralgon.

He reunited with spuds when he and Margaret Deering were the first employees at Barkers Potato Factory, now Red Gem, in 1968. He was the

doherty family story cont...

Production Manager, buyer and agent for bulk sales. He was well known for employing young locals and giving them an opportunity. Once he even had to teach a young guy how to sweep the floor but he persevered with him. He employed Billie Riley and she worked for him for over 20 years.

For a few years he grew spuds for the factory. He combined that with fund raising for the footy club. A couple of times a year, when the spuds were ready to harvest, instead of paying outside pickers he would organise a working bee of players, committee and supporters and he would pay the club for every bag picked. Then we would return to the club for a barbie and a few beers. The club benefited greatly financially and it was a great team building exercise.

Nar Nar Goon Football Premiers

Down through the years Nar Nar Goon has been noted for its sportsmen and sportswomen. Many premierships on the sporting fields have come their way, but for 28 years the premiership of West Gippsland Football League eluded them. This year they broke that "drought."



• Pictured here are members of the premier team



• Football Club officials and committee

—Photos: by Graham Southern, Bowli-on-matic Buildings, Dandenong

He was employed at the factory for 23+ years, and after he retired he continued his involvement with spuds, arranging contracts between several growers and a potato processing factory in West Footscray. He continued that until he was 97. He also worked with Peter O'Sullivan for about 6 years helping to prepare for his potato crops.

In the potato industry he was known for his honesty, no written contracts for him, his word was his bond. He did business with one family for over 50 years all

by word of mouth.

A couple of years ago I was visiting him in Hillview Aged Care when another ex agent came in and they were reminiscing about old times and the other man said I didn't know how to deal with you when you came on the scene – I wasn't used to dealing with someone so honest".

Through his work at Kinsellas, on the milk run, carting produce around the swamp, carting grains around the region and his involvement with spuds he had an incredible knowledge of a broad area. He could have sat here and given us a detail virtual tour of the swamp and many stories to go with.

Connecting people and communities | starcommunity.com.au | Wednesday, 20 March, 2013 Page 23

Doc's party a classic line-up

By BRIDGET SCOTT

A BIRTHDAY celebration which drew a gathering of more than 300 people, was referred to by some as the "Brewfest" for the former footborders of the West Gippsland Football League.

The event, which celebrated the 90th birthday of Bill "Doc" Doherty, featured many family faces.

Visitors ranged from childhood friends, to the likes of former local footborders who went on to play VFL, such as Mulga Shalton, John Dinnen and Freddy Miller.

In the 90-year-old Nar Nar Goon icon stood at the entrance of the Nar Nar Goon Community Hall, welcoming his guests, there wasn't a face

he didn't recognise.

The crowd packed the local centre, and as guests wandered around the room, a similar conversation could be heard among many.

They hoped that if they make it to the impressive age of 90, there would be as many people overflowing a room to help them celebrate their birthday as there was for Doc.

Ninety years did not go to waste for the Nar Nar Goon resident, with a majority of his time spent in the potato industry and as a former president of his beloved West Gippsland Football League.

In that time, Doc also met the love of his life, his late wife Dot. The couple were together 59 years and raised six chil-

dren. They have since blessed him with many grand-children and great-grand-children.

On Sunday, most of these family members were there to hear tales told and secrets shared, when Doc was interviewed by local sports reporter, Tony Oiler.

Friends Colin Robinson and Gary King also spoke, delighting guests with stories of Doc's past. As well as the two friends, son Michael spoke on behalf of the family.

Spuds, footy and family have been the mainstays of Doc's full life. The big crowd was enlightened by the remarkable life of an inspirational family man who admittedly loved nothing more than a kick of the footy.



Tony Oiler with Bill 'Doc' Doherty. Tony interviewed Doc on Sunday afternoon and helped to tell the story of a life which left many inspired.

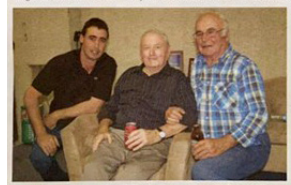


Photo: growers Richie, left and Charlie Scamporrino with Doc, middle, on Sunday.



We weren't able to go on the NNG History Group's recent Swamp tour but I read the itinerary and noticed the reference to Kinsella's where he worked and also reference to the Koo Wee Rup Railway Station. He told me once that a lot of spuds used to be carted from Koo Wee Rup on the rail. One Italian farmer sold his wife on every load he took there. He used to hide her in the load and after he weighed the load he used to let her off to walk to the main street, unload the spuds, then weigh the empty truck, he was paid for the net weight, which included his wife so he gained a bag or more on every load.

It must have been nearly seventy years ago we moved into 25 Main Street, which Mum and Dad bought from Dan and Bid Cunningham. That property is now part of the second lot of units past Richards Road. When they sold the property in December 2004 they moved over the fence to a unit in Richards Road, which was previously Mrs Arnold's. He remained there until he sold it to move into Hillview Aged Care in Bunyip in 2018.

Bill started playing football at Garfield as back then, there was only one team per club and Cora Lynn had too many players. He later transferred to Cora Lynn and was the last player or official of the 1944 Catani-Cora Lynn premiership team to pass away. The two clubs had combined for that year because of the shortage of players due to the war. In that team he was joined by his brothers John and Tom. Bernie Byrne and Bob McKenna also played in that team.

doherty family story cont...

I once asked him if Vince ever played with the three of them. He said no, but one day he played on Vince who was playing for the opposition. At the start of the game he told Vince it would be an easy day for him, but Vince kicked three goals on him in the first quarter and he was shifted off him.

Later he transferred to Nar Nar Goon. I asked him why he transferred. He said Grandpa Magrath was President of Nar Nar Goon and told him he could only marry Mum if he played for Nar Nar Goon. He played until 1956. He had joined the Committee in 1955 and in 1957 at the age of 33 became President. That was the beginning of his long involvement in official positions.



Richmond premiership coach Tom Hafe (second from left) is presented with a tea set by Nar Nar Goon Past Players president Bill 'Doc' Doherty, league president Mick Fox and sponsor Tom Whelan from Compass at one of the grand final breakfasts.

He served as President for 8 years from 1957 to 1959 and from 1961 to 1965. In 1965

Nar Nar Goon were premiers

for the first time in 28 years after he recruited Pakenham legend Bill Drake as coach.

His other honorary roles included:

- Nar Nar Goon Football Club

Committee member for 22 years, League delegate for 22 years, Team selector, Convenor Grand Final Breakfast

- West Gippsland Football League

Vice president 5 years 1968-1971, President 9 years 1972-1980 (he was pretty proud that in one of his years as president Faye was President of the Netball Association, the same position Mum held many years previously), Inter League selector 9 years, Publicity Officer 7 years (which included presenting scores on 3UL in Warragul each Saturday), Tribunal Secretary 5 years

- Community Service

Captain of Nar Nar Goon Fire Brigade 1963, Fire Brigade Third Lieutenant 1965 to 1967, Volunteer with the Fire Brigade for many years, Voluntary oval maintenance/curator of Nar Nar Goon recreation reserve and the 2 local school sporting grounds for 20 years, Co-commentator for the Koo Wee Rup Potato Festival

- Awards

In recognition of his service he received many awards. Victorian Country Football League recognition of service medal (the highest honour in country football), Life Member West Gippsland Football League, Life Member West Gippsland Junior Football League, Life Member Nar Nar Goon Football Club, Legend Nar Nar Goon Football Club, It's not an award but when Nar Nar Goon and Cora Lynn play each year the best player is awarded the Bill Doherty Medal, Cardinia

Shire Citizen of the Year 1999, Australian Sports Medal 2001 for 55 years involvement with West Gippsland Football as a player and official, Australian Centenary Medal 2001 for voluntary service to the Nar Nar Goon community, Order of Australia Medal (OAM 2021 for outstanding service to sport and the community.

Bill wasn't the only one to be awarded a Life Membership – Faye and Tricia are both life members of the Nar Nar Goon Netball Club.

It was a pity that Mum was not still alive when he received his OAM. Mum played a significant role behind the scenes in his public life. She was his No. 1 fan, supporter, confidant and often adviser. She made it easy for him to have the time to pursue his passions and was by his side the whole way. She played a big part in him receiving his numerous awards. She attended many functions, football games, and accompanied him on his Saturday trips to 3UL to broadcast the football scores, but she didn't go with him on his many circuits of the football ground mowing the oval.

In her own right she worked on the Ladies Committee from the time Bill started playing for Nar Nar Goon until us boys finished playing.

Well known television personality Joff Ellen had a long association with the Nar Nar Goon club and was appointed official patron, often returning in that capacity at major events. Here he and wife Bernie (centre) are entertained by two club presidents – Bill 'Doc' Doherty and wife Dorothy (left) and Bob Rose and wife Joan.

She literally keep the home fires burning whilst he was on his community duties – we had an open fire in one room for heat, she cooked on a wood stove and oven and we had a wood fired copper for hot water, no hot water service



in the early days. The other family members here may not remember that but I used to have to chop the wood and light the copper. Even with the wood fired oven Mum was renowned for her scones, cakes and sponges. Later we upgraded to a gas hot water service, stove and heater.

Somehow Mum and Dad found the time to produce 6 of us, me in 1949, Faye in 1951, Michael in 1954, Tricia in 1956, Peter in 1958 and Gavan in 1962. As an aside, when I was preparing this I realised I was the only one conceived during football season.

We were very fortunate growing up, we didn't miss out on anything, given they were single income parents and mostly on a truck driver's wage. Mum

doherty family story cont...

was the "Treasurer" and managed the finances extremely well.

They set a great example to all of us and by their example we have assumed many of their values. We are fortunate to have had a front row seat to the Bill & Dot show. Proudly, we all went to the same school as Dad which was St. Josephs, Cora Lynn.

Mum passed away at age 82 on 27 January 2006, after a long battle with cancer. In her final days she was in a coma. Father Michael Willemssen the Parish Priest came to administer the last rites to her and as he finished the last prayer Mum frightened hell out of him when she said "Amen". That was her last word. Dad passed away at age 99 on 14 July 2022. They were the last of each of their families to pass away.

I'd like to say how great it was to read the messages of sympathy left on the NNG Football Club and Funeral Director's sites and personal messages received on their passing. It's amazing how a humble couple from Nar Nar Goon had such a profound effect on people of all ages.

Now for the family. Except for Peter we all managed to find our life partners close to home:

I married Mary Keane from North Nar Nar Goon, Faye married Terry Dempster from North Nar Nar Goon, Michael married Fran Connolly from Maryknoll, Tricia married Des Scanlon from Tynong, Gavan married Debbie Farrell from Pakenham, Peter is the odd one out as he married Tracy Lyons from Kangaroo Flat. It must have saved us a lot of travelling and fuel when we were courting.

Combined we have produced 18 grandchildren, who then produced 25 great grandchildren. Unfortunately only two were born before Mum passed away, but Dad saw a further 19, and 3 more arrived after he passed away.

We now total almost 70. Yesterday we had our annual pre-Christmas get together. We had a great day with 65 attending. Faye and her family surprised us locals by arriving from Queensland for the day. I'm sure Mum and Dad would have been looking down with great pride on what they had had produced.

So where are we all now?

Mary and I have just moved back to the new Lifestyle Village between Nar Nar Goon and Pakenham. We are pleased to say our postal address is Nar Nar Goon but that is going to change but importantly not to Pakenham. Faye, who unfortunately lost Terry in April lives in Upper Coomera Queensland. Michael and Fran mainly live in Rhyll but also spend time in Bunyip. Tricia lives in Bunyip, as do Gavan and Debbie. Peter and Tracy split their time between Barham and Kangaroo Flat (and anywhere else there is a golf course.)

The Grandkids and Great Grandkids are spread even further, Iona, Garfield, Narre Warren North, Darwin, Pacific Pines Queensland, Bunyip, Leongatha, Welshpool, Patterson Lakes, Pakenham, Warragul, Bendigo, and Sydney.

Our branch of the Doherty's is in danger of phasing out. Unless our grandson Chase or Peter's sons Jordan and Ryley can produce a son that's it. Michael and Gavan only had girls and Faye and Tricia's sons are Dempsters and Scanlons.

I hope I haven't taken too much of your time but I'd like to finish by saying how good this NNG History Group is in bringing to light the history of this little town and its' residents, and ensuring that history is preserved for future generations. We unfortunately only heard about it a few months ago and look forward to receiving the book when published.



Photo: Doherty Family Annual Family Christmas Get Together. December 2025



Photo: Doherty Family at NNG History Group 15 December 2025: Jodi, Peter & Tracy, Mary, Gavan & Debbie, Tricia, Fran & Michael, Shane, Denis & Mark (in front).



Thanks to Denis and all the Doherty family.

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Tuesday 3 March, 11am - 1pm

Cost: \$25

Aged Care Information Session

You are invited to attend an informative session hosted by Care Connect - Care Finder Program, where you will learn about: how to register for aged care services, the assessment process for aged care services, the various funding options available to help you continue living at home and the Care Finder Program – who is eligible and the support it offers. Wednesday 25 February, 1pm - 2pm

Cost: FREE. Facilitated by Care Connect



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Independence rarely disappears overnight. It slips away through small losses of balance and confidence.

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Tuesday 10 March, 10.30am - 11.30am. Cost: FREE. Facilitated by Inez Musgrove from Free to Move



Movement Snapshots for Over 50s

Where you are today is just the beginning, let's explore what's next. In this complimentary movement check-in, small habits that can quietly limit confidence are explored. Learn how simple, practical changes can protect your balance, mobility, and independence for years ahead. Tuesday 17 March. Choose 1 session: 1pm - 1.30pm, 1.30pm - 2pm or 2pm - 2.30pm.

Cost: FREE

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence is reshaping our world and is the way of the future. Learn to navigate AI with a balanced approach through real life examples that show how to use it to your advantage, while becoming aware of its flaws and the risks that come with this new emerging technology. Fridays commencing 6 March for 4 sessions, 9.30am - 12.30pm. Cost: \$25. Supported by Learn Local

Smart Phone Basics

You'll be a whizz in no time! Feel comfortable with your phone and understand its layout and learn how to customise it. Learn how to make, receive calls and texts confidently and how to attach photos. Learn how to build up a contact list and how to recognise and avoid common scams. Mondays commencing 23 February for 2 sessions, 9.30am - 11.30am.

Cost: \$10. Supported by Learn Local

Computer Maintenance and Internet Safety

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Xero Accounting

Accounting software for small business. This simple cloud based accounting system will let you manage your finances and cash flow on the go. Please bring a working email address and smartphone to the class. Tuesdays commencing 10 February for 7 sessions, 6pm - 9pm. Cost: \$80 (Includes course notes). Supported by Learn Local



• *Help shape the future of food and agribusiness in Cardinia Shire.*

Cardinia Shire Council is strengthening the shire's food and agribusiness sector and is calling on the community to get involved. Expressions of interest for the Food and Agribusiness Advisory Committee are open until 22 February. The Draft Agribusiness Audit Report is available for the community to view and provide feedback until 15 March. To help inform the strategy, a number of community pop-up sessions will be held:

- Monday 9 February, 6–7:30pm, Koo Wee Rup Community Centre, 255 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup.
- Monday 2 March, 6–7:30pm, Cardinia Cultural Centre, Lakeside Boulevard, Pakenham.
- Saturday 14 March, 10 am–2pm, Pakenham Agricultural Show, PB Ronald Reserve, John Street, Pakenham.

For more information, please visit <https://creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/agriculture-audit>

• *Grants opportunities that are currently open:*

- Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour Grant Program (Victorian Government) closes 3 February 2026
- Veterans Capital Works Grants (Victorian Government) closes 3 February 2026
- Tiny Towns Fund (Victorian Government) closes 4 February 2026
- Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program - Community Grants (Australian Government) closes 5 February 2026
- 2026 Community Bank University and TAFE Scholarship program (Bendigo Bank) closes 6 February 2026
- 2026 Community Bank New Beginnings Mature Aged Scholarship (Bendigo Bank) closes 6 February 2026 this program are Lang Lang, Koo Wee Rup and Bunyip.
- Community Sponsorship Program (WorkSafe Victoria) closes 13 February 2026
- National Shed Development Programme (Australian Men's Shed Association) closes 20 February 2026
- Community Project Funding (Women's Mental Health Australia) closes 5 March 2026
- National Shed Development Programme - Defibrillators Category (Australian Men's Shed Association) closes 6 March 2026
- Small Environmental Grants (Wettenhall Trust) EOI opens 9 March 2026
- Wellbeing Support Grant Program

The Community Wellbeing and Support Grants Program helps to establish new organisations, projects and services. It also funds initiatives that improve residents' health and wellbeing, support opportunities for volunteering, as well as those which help to build the capacity of community groups, projects and programs to be sustainable. Categories are: • Seeding grants of up to \$5,000 to support the cost of starting a new organisation,

group, club, program, project or service. • Volunteering grants of up to \$3,000 to help create volunteering programs, train volunteers or promote volunteering opportunities. • Small change grants of up to \$1,000 to assist with a range of ad hoc costs that cannot be met through other funding sources, such as buying small items of equipment, website redevelopment, Christmas decorations and more. Applications close 10 April 2026 For more information on all Council grant programs and to apply, visit Apply for a grant - Cardinia Shire Council or <https://cardinia.smartygrants.com.au/> or register to attend the upcoming Grant Writing workshop!

• *Share her story: recognising the women who inspire our community*

Do you know an inspiring woman who is making a difference in the local community? If the answer is yes, we want to hear her story! This International Women's Day, Cardinia Shire Council is honouring the extraordinary women who help shape and uplift our community. Please tell us what makes her special in 500 words or less, or by submitting a short three-minute video. Everyone who submits a story, along with the women featured in their stories, will be invited to join our 2026 International Women's Day celebration on Thursday 5 March at the Cardinia Cultural Centre. During the event, five stories will be highlighted from each of the following categories: Leading the way, Making a difference, Using creativity, Celebrating culture and generations, Quiet achiever

Submissions are now invited for women who have a strong connection to Cardinia Shire either as a resident or through their meaningful contributions to the local community. Entries may be submitted as a written story, poem or video and will close on Sunday 8 February. For more information, or to make a submissions, please visit International Women's Day 2026: Balancing the Scales Through Her Story submissions – Cardinia Cultural Centre

• *Free green waste drop-off in Pakenham!*

To help residents clear out their gardens and tidy up their properties this summer, Cardinia Shire Council is holding free green waste drop off days this February. From 7–14 February 2026, residents can drop off their green waste at the Future Recycling Transfer Station in Pakenham. This free service gives residents a convenient and environmentally friendly way to dispose of green waste, in addition to the optional food and garden waste bin. Residential green waste can be dropped off, including: garden clippings, tree branches and trunks (up to 30 centimetres wide and 1 metre long), weeds, grass clippings, leaves, flowers

Drop-off dates and location: Future Recycling Transfer Station, 30–32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham. Operating times: Saturday 7 February: 8am – 2pm, Sunday 8 February: Closed, Monday 9 – Friday 13 February: 7:30am – 3:30pm, Saturday 14 February: 8am – 2pm, Only open to Cardinia Shire residents, so please present photo ID as proof of residence when you arrive. To find out more information on all upcoming waste events, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff

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St Joseph's
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Mass - Every Sunday 11am

St Mary's Lang Lang & Holy Family Maryknoll
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Donations of sewing supplies, fabric and quilts (both tops and fully completed) are more than welcome.

The group meet up on "Comfort Quilt Fridays" every 2nd and 4th Friday each month. Everyone is welcome (including hand sewers).

For more information, contact:
Lynne 0417 318 290 or lynne.smythe@gmail.com
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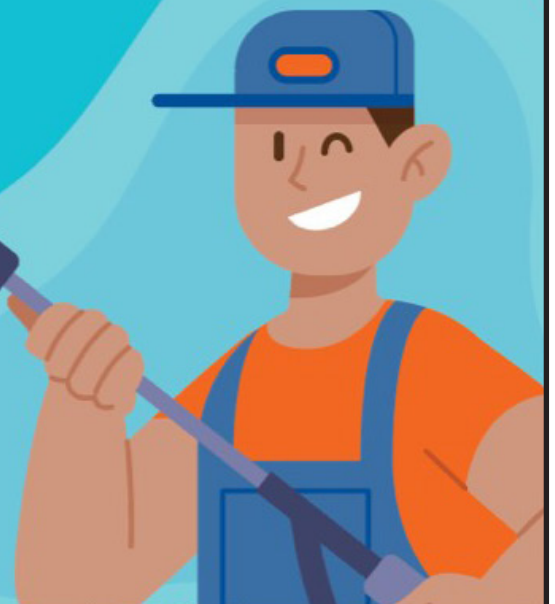
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Community Diary

- **Every Sunday morning:** CFA training
- **Every Monday evening:** CFA training / meetings
- **Monthly Monday:** Nar Nar Goon History Group meet 2pm in St John's Church or Op Shop (behind). Contact Sue Rose on 0421 514 607
- Next Meeting: **Feb 23 (nb: different venue), Mar 23**
- **First Tuesday:** Nar Nar Goon RSL Sub Branch meets monthly at the Community Centre.
- Contact Secretary Samantha O'Sullivan should you want to attend as a guest or member via email: secretary.narnargoonrsl@gmail.com
- Next meeting: **Contact Samantha for confirmed date**
- **Fourth Tuesday:** NNG Progress Association meet bi-monthly at the St John's Community Centre at 7pm
- Next meeting: **Feb 24, Apr 28, Jun 23, Aug 25**
- **Fourth Wednesday:** Pakenham Camera Club meets at the Community Centre of Meadowvale Retirement Village, Eagle Drive, Pakenham at 7.30pm
- Next meeting: **Feb 25, Mar 25, Apr 22**
- **Thursday:** For information on local Scout meetings, please contact Olive Elston, Ph: 0408 390 593.
- **Every Thursday night:** BINGO! at the Community Centre. Eyes down 7.30pm/8.00pm. Book sales 6:45pm
- **Second Saturday of month & 5th Saturday (if applicable):** Old Time Dance at Nar Nar Goon North Hall
- Contact Kaye on 5942 5411, Fred, Beryl on 5942 8246
- Next dance: **Feb 15, Mar 8 & 29, Apr 11, May 9 & 30**

CONTACT INDIVIDUAL CLUBS FOR DETAILS

Weekly Church Services:

- **Sunday:** St John's Holy Eucharist - 10am
St John the Baptist - 9:30am
St Joseph's - 11am
- **Saturday:** Mass at St. James - 5pm



Thursday
Nar Nar Goon Primary School
11.00am - 12.00pm

**Hours might differ on
public holidays &
special days.**

**Prefer to have your copy of the
Goon News emailed to you?
Send us your email address to
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285 issues printed monthly

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NAR NAR GOON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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by post to PO Box 153, Nar Nar Goon 3812.
Contact: 0448 533 511 for more information.

**It's your responsibility to make sure your
organisation's contact details are correct.**

Community Contact List

Organisations	Contact	Phone No.
Adult Riding Club	Kate Holmes	0412 992 850
Chairo School	Fiona Clacy	5942 5632
Community Hall	Cardinia Shire	1300 787 624
Cricket Club	Nick Mueller	0437 365 376
Fire Brigade - Captain	Justin Seddon	0402 763 663
Football Club	Andrew Rose secretary@narnargoonfc.com	
Kindergarten	Brooke Johnson	5942 5287
BC/AC Landcare Group	Kate Holmes	0412 992 850
Local Councillor	Alanna Pomeroy	0436 353 194
Nar Nar Goon Bingo	Sharon	0417 446 840
NNG History Group	Sue Rose	0421 514 607
Nar Nar Goon North Hall	Kaye Willis	5942 5411
Netball Club	Hanna Smith	0403 969 779
Pony Club	Kerry Harley	0407 646 092
Primary School	Jacqui Cutler	5942 5311
Recreation Reserve	Cardinia Shire	1300 787 624
R.S.L. - Secretary	Samantha O'Sullivan	0419 537 606
St. James School	Rebecca Roche	5942 5404
Scouts/Cubs	Olive Elston	0408 390 593
Vinnies Welfare Assistance Line	www.vinnies.org.au	1800 305 330

Please Note: Rainfall in parentheses are an average of the recorded amounts as recordings for these months were unable to be taken.

Month	Rainfall 2024			Rainfall 2025		
	Geoff L	Zoe	Geoff B	Geoff L	Zoe	Geoff B
January	154.80	120.00	144.60	60.60	41.00	36.00
February	25.80	22.00	26.00	67.60	54.00	77.40
March	13.00	7.00	10.00	72.20	55.00	54.00
April	144.20	132	126.00	36.00	35.00	44.00
May	39.00	(41.50)	44.00	36.40	31.00	20.00
June	56.20	79.00	38.00	74.00	55.00	50.20
July	155.40	136.00	138.00	113.00	91.00	79.20
August	35.00	26.00	16.40	53.60	(53.1)	52.60
September	114.00	85.00	91.20	76.20	55.00	55.80
October	84.80	(75.00)	65.20	112.80	99.00	100.20
November	57.60	48.80	62.50	227.20	209.00	242.60
December	44.80	45.60	42.60	52.80	26.00	49.40
Total	924.60	701.40	804.50	982.40	804.10	861.40

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Defibrillators are located in the following places for use prior to ambulance arriving. In case of an emergency call 000 first.

- The Nar Nar Goon Fire Station. (24 hour accessible)
(- - Available during hours of operating - -)
- Nar Nar Goon Primary School. (school hours only)
- St James Primary School (school hours only)
- NNG Rec Reserve. (when rooms / reserve in use)
- Graham Farr (NNG Nth resident)
(registered with Ambulance Victoria and available with contact by phone: 0468 815 211)

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