THE VOICE OF NAR NAR GOON - THE MURAL TOWN

ABN: 24 367 068 998

NAR NAR GOON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

THE GOON * NEWS

Volume 28 Issue 10 November 2026

Sunday 29th November 2026, 5pm start.



Come and relax with friends and family at the Recreation Reserve, Spencer Street, Nar Nar Goon. Be entertained by the NNG Primary School Choir, the Hiland Pipes and Drums Band, the Swamp Dogs, True Tones, Backstreet Bandits and the Chordettes. Free facepainting and loads of kids activities.

Our CFA friends will be there too. Bring a picnic rug/ chairs and relax. Byo your food and drinks or you can purchase sausages in bread, softdrink, zooper doopers and our popular and delicious scones with jam and cream. Complimentary tea and coffee.
The all important man in red (aka Santa) will visit at approx. 8pm followed by the raffle draw and fireworks!

We have some awesome prizes up for grabs. Purchase your raffle tickets around town from our local business including: Goon Eatery, NNG Takeaway, NNG Post Office, NNG Hotel, The Butcher with The Chef, Charlies Stockfeed and the Posh Op Shop or they can be purchased at the Community Christmas Festival.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates on the event and to check out the great prizes on offer.

Important Notes:
Santa is pretty busy this time of year. To help him out, please organise a gift with your childs full name on it. Drop it off at the NNG Posh Op Shop during business hours and by Friday the 27th November (or alternatively you can 'sneak' it in at the event and hand it over to our lovely helpers in the canteen).

Not long to go... see you at the festival!

Remembrance Day Service
Wednesday 11th November 2026

The NNG RSL will hold a Remembrance Day observance service on Wednesday 11th November 2026. We invite all locals including RSL members, families of veterans, local schools and businesses to come down to the Memorial Park at 10:50am to participate and then observe a minute's silence at 11:00am marking the end of World War 1.

NNG History Group

Next meeting: Monday November 16th
- Andrew Walsh and his mum Martha

St John's Church, NNG followed by a cuppa in the Community Centre room afterwards. Everyone welcome!

NNG Progress Association Christmas Get-Together Dinner

Wednesday 9th December 2026, 6:30pm
Nar Nar Goon Hotel (pay your own).
Email: nngprogress3812@gmail.com so we can reserve a seat. All Welcome!

GOON NEWS DEADLINES:

Next Deadline for submissions will be the 30th NOVEMBER

Email: goonnews3812@gmail.com

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NAR NAR GOON SUPPORT LOCAL

Nar Nar Goon Smokehouse

Luke & Kylie
5 Carney Street
Nar Nar Goon

TheButcherwithTheChef

Ph: 5942 5370

Bunyip Police
5629 5205

Please ring 000 for immediate emergency assistance and attendance - 131444 for any other police assistance or reporting. Or contact the station via below details.

Bunyip Police Station
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Phone 5629 5205 Fax 56295 5999
BUNYIP-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au
Police Aboriginal Liaison Officer





NAR NAR GOON HOTEL

** The Nar Nar Goon Hotel **
** Phone: ** 5942 5221
** Website: ** [www.narnargoonhotel.com.au] (http://www.narnargoonhotel.com.au)

- - -

Bottle Shop Hours:
- ** Monday to Tuesday: ** 2 PM - 9 PM
- ** Wednesday to Sunday: ** 12 PM - 10 PM

- - -

** Meals Available (Wednesday to Sunday):**
- ** Lunch: ** 12 PM - 2:30 PM
- ** Dinner: ** 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

** Takeaway Available **

- - -

Function Room:
- ** Available for hire **
- Perfect for events, celebrations and gatherings.

- - -

** Stay Connected:**
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates and promotions!



EVERY THURSDAY!

EYES DOWN at 7.30pm

Community Hall, Nar Nar Goon (opposite primary school)

A **non-profit organisation where ALL PROFITS go to local clubs / organisations!**

Books on sale from 6:30pm for the 1st session and 8.00pm for the 2nd / 3rd session / flyers

•• 42 BIG GAMES OF BINGO plus raffles ••

GIANT $1,000 jackpot in the last session if sufficient tickets sold

Canteen available - complimentry tea/coffee/milo before last session - cooled/heated venue - EFT available.

Must be 18yrs or older.

Like and follow our Facebook page

If you've ever wanted to come and check out Bingo then now is the time. Show your support for our local community groups by coming along to play. Bingo is run by volunteers which means ALL the profits of Bingo go to our 9 groups (NNG Kinder, NNG Primary School, St James Primary School, NNG CFA, NNG Cricket Club, NNG Football Club, NNG Netball Club, NNG Pony Club, NNG Progress Association).

These community groups have been coming Thursday's to assist with running Bingo. They are about to receive $3,000 each. A nice little Christmas boost to their fundraising accounts. We look forward to hearing what each group spends their donations on and what impact these funds have made.

Our last Bingo for the year is the 17th December. We have our super Christmas Bingo raffle along with all our other bonus raffle prizes.

See you at Bingo. Eyes Down 7:30pm!
(or come at 8pm for the second session).

Back to Nar Nar Goon in 1965

The Goon News is read by people from all over Australia. Many have close connections to Nar Nar Goon through living here at some stage in life. Lesley Newman (Mason) is one of those people who enjoys reading about the town she grew up in. She has found the photos below from the Back to Nar Nar Goon celebration in 1965.

The children on the float include: Curly Abrehart is on the extreme right looking through the window, and on the float is Shirley Stockwell, Sue Couttie, Leonie Morris, not sure of the next two girls, Roddy Collins, Murray Webster, Craig Crossley, Graeme Mayson, not sure of the faces in the middle, maybe Ian Fortune above the girl with the pale pink bow.
Thanks Lesley





HOT SPOT
- from your friendly fire brigade

PROTECT YOUR HAYSTACK THIS SUMMER

What causes haystack fires?

Haystack fires have a range of causes, such as sparks from machinery and equipment, embers from nearby burn-offs, or bushfires and lightning strikes.

Hay can also self-ignite when excessive heat builds up in a haystack. This is called spontaneous combustion and is the leading cause of haystack fires in Victoria.

Haystack fires can happen in any type of bale stored in a haystack. Even hay stored as single bales can spontaneously ignite under some conditions.

Why does hay heat?

If hay is cut too 'green' (the internal plant moisture content is too high) or if some of the hay becomes damp before, during or after baling, a complex series of biological and chemical processes may cause the hay to heat up.

This is because the plant material is still alive and using energy (respiration) and that microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi, are able to grow in the moist environment.

These processes generate heat which may result in the loss of dry matter, nutritional value and reduced palatability as fodder.

Haystack fires can spread quickly into the surrounding area and often result in thousands of dollars of damages.

If heating remains undetected and the stack is not pulled apart to allow heat and moisture to escape, the temperature within the bales will keep rising.

When the temperature reaches about 70°C, it may then increase rapidly to the point of spontaneous ignition (at about 180°C).

Spontaneous ignition may occur within two weeks of baling and may continue to pose a threat more than three months afterwards.

Signs of heating hay

Regularly monitor all haystacks for signs that the hay is heating up.

You can do this by using a temperature probe or a crowbar. It may, however, be more difficult to detect heat deeper inside the stack.

Other signs of heating include:

- Steam rising from haystacks.
- Condensation or corrosion under hayshed roofing.
- Mould growth in or on bales.
- Unusual odours (burning, musty, a pipe tobacco or caramel smell).
- Slumping in sections of the haystack.

Minimising the risk

Make sure hay is fully cured (dead and dry) and at the recommended moisture content before baling.

This will vary depending on the type of crop and bale being used.

Use a moisture meter to check hay moisture levels throughout the baling process.

Be sure to test plant nodes and heads inside leaf sheaths for hidden moisture, particularly if baling drought-affected cereal hay.

Just one damp bale is enough to ignite a haystack, so make sure you protect all bales from rain, leaking roofs and spouts, and run-off.

If some bales become damp, they should be stored separately and closely monitored.

Make sure haystacks are limited in size and have enough airflow to allow heat and moisture to escape.

It's important to know the history and moisture content of any hay you purchase.

Store hay away from possible sources of ignition (such as roadsides, workshops, and fuel and chemical storage areas) and away from vegetation.

Be careful when using vehicles, machinery and equipment near haystacks, especially on high fire risk days.

Store hay well away from powerlines. If hay does ignite under or near powerlines, it could be very dangerous and may disrupt local power supply.

Protecting your assets

Store hay in a number of different locations and limit the size of the stacks. This will reduce the risk of losing all your hay if a fire does occur.

Do not store vehicles, machinery or equipment in the same location as your hay.

Create and maintain fuel breaks around haystacks. The wider the break, the more useful it will be at helping to stop a haystack fire from escaping into the surrounding area, or to stop a fire from reaching your stored hay.

What to do if your hay is heating

If there are signs that the hay is starting to heat, pull the stack apart to improve airflow and allow the bales to cool.

Be aware that very hot hay may suddenly catch alight if it is pulled apart.

If any part of the stack is near or above 70°C, or if you see or smell smoke, you should call Triple Zero (000) immediately and ask for FIRE.

Do not walk across hay that may be heating. Charred bales inside the stack may suddenly collapse and result in entrapment, and the rush of air may result in a sudden fare-up.

NNG History Group

We welcome Andrew Walsh and his Mum, Martha as our guest speakers at the next NNG History Group Meeting.

Andrew and Martha have many stories to share about the family and the business.

The Walsh Family is well known as the owners of:
FARM SUPPLIES AND RURAL HARDWARE STORE IN PAKENHAM SOUTH.

D & M Walsh Industrial Hardware & Farm Supplies is more than just your average hardware store. We are a family-owned business, proudly serving Pakenham, South, and surrounding areas since 1968. With over 50 years of experience, we are known for our extensive range of quality farming products, affordable prices and friendly, expert advice.

Date: Monday 16th November at 2pm
At: St Johns Church in Nar Nar Goon
Stay for a cuppa.
All welcome.

Sue Rose
Convenor NNG History Group

Coombs Family Story

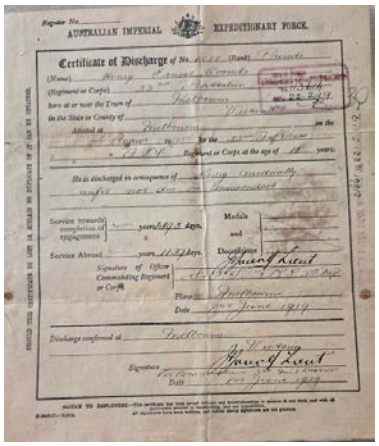
Presented by Gwyn, Jayne and Robyn Coombs - 28th September 2026



In the 1890s the first Coombs family members arrived in Tynong. Jayne, Robyn and Greg's great grandfather first moved from Kent in England where the family had owned a pub, The Chapter Arms Hotel. The family bought land in Tynong called "Canterbury" where the Pakenham Racing Club now stands. Henry (Ernie) married Olga Adareen Jean Perkins and bought land on Racecourse Road in Nar Nar Goon which at the time was the Racecourse.

Harry (Ernie) was enlisted in the army in 1915 (service number 4080) and went to the First World War. He reported for duty with the ANZAC Corps in the Middle East in the Military Police. He later joined the 22nd Lighthorse Brigade Headquarters managing the horses. He was discharged on 1st June, 1919 for being medically unfit because he had a lot of shrapnel though his body. He spent 1137 days abroad and received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. On his return to Australia he continued his duties on the farm with his family at "Canterbury" in Tynong.





AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Certificate of Discharge

Post war he worked for the local Shire grading the local roads using a team of horses. He would grade roads including the Main Street of Nar Nar Goon and the new football oval at the time, where it still is to this day. Ernie played football for Nar Nar Goon and eventually joined the Football Committee and ultimately became a Life Member of the NNGFC. He was also a life Member of the West Gippsland Football League.

Ernie married his first wife Ada May Harley and had 3 daughters together – Margot, Jacqueline and Elizabeth. His wife passed away when the eldest girl was 8 years old. Ernie then married Olga who was the Nanny of the children. Together Ernie and Olga had their only child Raymond Ernest born in November 1942. He was known as "Sonny". They lived on Racecourse Road for a few years and then in 1967 relocated to Browning Road.

Ray went to the Nar Nar Goon Primary school followed by Dandenong Tech to pursue a career as a Fitter and Turner. He enjoyed playing cricket but said he wasn't any good at it, so started playing football. He finished football but maintained his involvement as a trainer for the Club. Ultimately Ray joined the football club committee and became Secretary – a job that he did for many years, 1981– 1996. The family still has many of the Secretarial documents from that time which are all hand written by Ray and others.

coombs story cont...

Gwyn Shortt met Ray on an outing with girlfriends to church to watch the boys play basketball in Williamstown where she lived. A young man came cycling past and stopped to chat to the girls and ultimately asked if he could join them at the basketball. Ray mentioned the town of Nar Nar Goon and Gwyn knew she'd heard that place name in relation to the TV show IMT (In Melbourne Tonight) with Graeme Kennedy as host and funny man Joff Ellen or better known as Joffa Boy. Gwyn did not believe the town existed. Ray pulled out his wallet to show the girls his driver's license with the Nar Nar Goon address. Gwyn thought it was hilarious that someone actually lived in that fictional place.

At the time Ray was working as an apprentice in the Newport Railway Workshop and boarded in Newport. Gwyneth Shortt lived in Williamstown with her brother Graeme and parents Edna and Douglas. A few months later Gwyn invited Ray to tea (dinner) at her parent's house. This invitation was regularly offered and accepted. Eventually Ray invited Gwyn to meet his parents for a meal in Nar Nar Goon. For Gwyn that offer was "big deal", more so because she was dying to come up to the country and to ride with Ray in his FJ Holden to the Coombs family house on Racecourse Road.

The first people Gwyn met were the McKenna kids – Pat, Kathy, Rita, Marg and Eileen. Gwyn was greeted with a very country "How ya goin'?" from the McKennas. She thought this was hilarious and used her best city voice to say that she was very well, thankyou! She got to know the McKennas and their parents Edna and Bob and in turn, she and Ray were regularly invited for Saturday night stew to the McKenna house.

She met the Blackwell children and the 15 Crawford children over the many weekends she and Ray would visit Nar Nar Goon. She got on well with Ray's Dad, Ernie and Ray's 3 sisters. Gwyn was unfamiliar with terms such as a "cow pat" but she was soon enlightened by the sisters.



Ray and Gwyn married at the Methodist Church in Williamstown and then came to live in Nar Nar Goon. By then, Ernie Coombs had sold Racecourse road property and had purchased in Browning road where Robyn lives today. The newly married couple built a brick home in Main Street and raised their 3 young children, Jayne, Robyn and Greg in that house. Gwyn played basketball even though she says she was too short. She was Secretary at the local kinder for a couple of years but the main staple in their lives was the Nar Nar Goon Football Club.



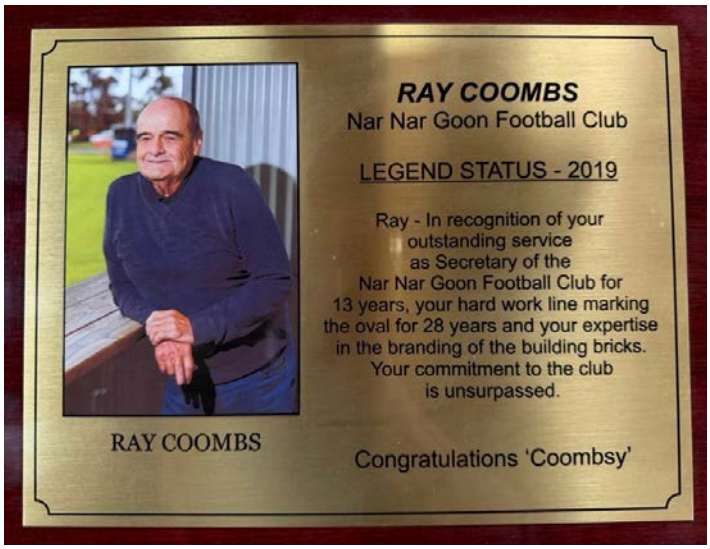
Initially Gwyn got a job at the NNG telephone exchange at the Post Office. The job required connecting the caller to the Nar Nar Goon phone number they had called. Gwyn was shocked to witness her supervisor trying to tune in on private conversations. After that job she got a weekend job with NNG Packers and Growers through Bill Doherty. She became a "stay at home" Mum when her 3 children arrived and eventually went back to that same job with Bill. Around Ash Wednesday time she worked for a couple of years for Gabbi Reich at the end of the Seven Mile Road before eventually returning to NNG Packers and Growers, which ended up being renamed Red Gem Packers and Growers.

On reflection Gwyn said coming from Williamstown to NNG was a challenge but she was very glad to meet and marry Ray and have 3 children together.

Ray became a Life Member of the NNG Football Club in 1985. He spent so much time at the club, it was labelled as his first home. He spent 28 years marking the boundary lines for game days, walking behind the line marker as he pushed it around. When his knees could no longer cope with all the walking, he rigged up the line marker behind the ride on mower.

In 2019, Ray became a Legend of the NNG Football club joining the elite group of Legends which included Doc Doherty and since Patrick Noonan has joined the group. In year 2000 he became a Life Member of the West Gippsland Football League. He was honoured with posthumous recognition in 2022 with a memorial bench seat at the ground.

coombs story cont...



He received the Life Member of the NNG CFA in 1995 and also received the National Medal for outstanding Services in the CFA. He used to volunteer everywhere!

That included the Pony Club and Dandenong Motor Cycle Club. He had greyhounds and pigeons. At Pony Club he made horse jumps and built a horse float from scratch with a team of others. He made the girls hooks for their saddles and bridles. Brother Greg, was into Motor Cross and Ray made a trailer with a lift up lid for all the gear. He started the NNG BINGO with others in 1991. It was held every Thursday night and still runs to this day. BINGO recently celebrated 35 years.



On the wall in the NNG Footy Club are red gum bricks which were cut by Bernie Byrne. Everyone who bought a brick to raise money for the club had their name branded onto these red gum blocks. Ray branded every brick in his shed at home, with names of those who had donated $ to the club. He made individual letters on irons to carefully brand each brick with a donor name. The bricks are still on display today at the clubrooms.

The irons have now been handed onto John Dore, Ray's best mate who worked with him at Nestle. In fact, Ray was invited to make a speech at Johny's retirement function at Nestle.

Ray enjoyed his boat and going out on the Snowy River. He loved fishing at Marlo and Lakes Entrance and went duck shooting. He would come home and cook the ducks, and in turn his daughters would find pellets as they tried to eat the duck. They tasted gamey and awful!

Photo: Ray's farewell speech to John Dore on his retirement 2017



Ray used to catch the fish at Lakes Entrance, throw them over his shoulder for Robyn to catch and gut. This was her contribution to fishing. They would take sandwiches for lunch while they fished. Ray would use the bait knife to cut the tomato for the sandwiches, claiming he'd given the knife a good wipe before cutting the tomato.



In 2017 Ray received the Stan Henwood Volunteer of the Year Award from the Shire of Cardinia. This award was very humbling for him as he realised others had noted his contribution to his community. But the honour of the award was overshadowed by the need to go to BINGO that same night before heading home to share the award with his family! BINGO stopped to applaud his success on his arrival.

Ray worked at the Nestle Factory in Pakenham from 1968 – 2007. He started at Nestle when he was invited by Tommy Flynn to be an apprentice. It was a cannery for peas in those days. He was there for 38 years when he retired at age 64. Jayne joined Nestle in 1988 for 30 years and brother Greg and sister Robyn joined the same day as each other in 1993. Greg is still working at the same factory today as a Boiler Attendant. It's now call Patties Pies.



Ray passed away on 5th November, 2018 at his beloved NNG Football ground. The memorial seat made by Paddy Noonan and others is still on the hill overlooking the ground.
A week later his greyhound Coco Marlo, won his first race having been to Ray's funeral the week before.

coombs story cont...



THE VOICE OF NAR NAR GOON - THE MURAL TOWN

NAR NAR GOON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

THE GOON ✳ NEWS

Volume 19 Issue 5 June 2017

The Coombs News

Ray Coombs was announced the 2017 Stan Henwood Award winner at the annual Mayor's Volunteer Reception Dinner on Thursday 11th May. The award acknowledges individuals across the shire for their significant contributions to the Cardinia Shire Community.

A trip down memory lane with Ray & Gwyn Coombs was spent in their backyard overlooking one of the best specimens of the Coral Flame Tree (*Erythrina crista-galli*) in NNG.

As a young man, Ray completed a Victorian Railways apprenticeship at the Newport workshops. It was during this time whilst boarding in Williamstown, he met his wife Gwyn. At the time a popular TV program, *In Melbourne Tonight*, gave NNG some notoriety, thanks to the comic genius of Joff Ellen. However, when Ray said he came from NNG, Gwyn was somewhat sceptical. "I laughed like hell and didn't believe him" and subsequently requested a viewing of his licence to confirm.

Once married, they built in Main Street, NNG and started a family. Gwyn, originally from Williamstown, described NNG back then as 'quiet' and having to "... go home once a fortnight to smell the sea air". With 2 girls and a boy, much of their time was spent crisscrossing the state with events for the NNG Pony Club and Dandenong Motorcross (motorbike club).

Ray spent time on the school council whilst Gwyn was secretary of the kinder. Ray settled into position as maintenance fitter at Nestle Pakenham for 38 1/2 years, coinciding with 42 years of voluntary work at the NNG CFA. He reached the position of lieutenant and was in charge of the road rescue training program. He has life membership at the NNG CFA

continued page 2.

Jayne

Jayne is the eldest of the Coombs children born 2nd December, 1969. She was raised in NNG going to both local Kinder and Primary school followed by Pakenham High School and Warragul Technical School. Jayne left home at 22 years old. After getting married, she had 2 children Erin now aged 31 and Lincoln 28. Jayne lives in Drouin and is an empty nester working in aged care. She enjoys hiking, outdoors and going to see her Bombers play at the MCG. In August 2018, Nestle offered redundancies so Jayne could not accept quickly enough! She has since obtained a Certificate 3 and works in Aged Care (Personal Care Assistant) which she enjoys.

Robyn

Robyn was born in October, 1971. She attended the local Kinder and Primary School, Pakenham High and Warragul Technical School. Her interests include travelling and she has explored many different locations around the world including a recent trip to Egypt. Her memories include growing up in a loving family. She recalls weekend parties in Home Road which included the Dukes, Knaaps, Dores and Jones families. Robyn works in Aged Care at the Koo wee Rup Aged Care Facility.

The good times involved music, horses and motor bikes. Saturday was always football and Thursday nights were sacred for BINGO. This year (2026) Robyn joined the committee of the NNG Football Club with the intent of giving something back to the community that her Dad really loved. She is very proud of the players and the committee for their success and winning 3 Senior flags in a row in 2024, 2025 and 2026.

Greg

Greg is the third child in the family. He was born in July 1973. He went to NNG Kinder and Primary school, followed by Warragul Technical School. He later worked at Nestle as a Line worker and then became a Boiler Attendant. He grew up enjoying fishing, motor bikes and duck shooting with his Dad. He played cricket and football for Nar Nar Goon. He umpired football too. He has 2 sons Josh 30 and Cooper 19 years old. Greg enjoys camping in the outdoors, going for bush walks and building model trains.

Photo: Ray & Bill Doherty



"Bill Doherty" was a Collingwood supporter and great mates with Ray. He would ring and when Gwyn answered he would say it was Mick Malthouse calling, followed by a rendition of "Good Old Collingwood forever ….". Bill would visit about 4.30 each afternoon when Gwyn would be about to enjoy the TV serial "The Bold and the Beautiful".

When Gwyn asked him why he visits at that time so regularly, his response was that Dot (his wife) didn't want him at home because she liked to watch "The Bold and the Beautiful!"

Gwyn did see Bill as the unofficial Mayor of NNG and asked him to sign a document saying she was an official NNG resident when she had been in town for 30 years.



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coombs story cont...

The Coombs family used to go out to Bill McCutcheon's (the local butcher) on Convent School Road where they had graded a dog track for greyhounds to run on. Ray was a regular out there on a Sunday when they would run trials with other local greyhound owners including the Knaaps and the Coombs. They would have the FJ Holden up on stilts, take the off front wheel and attach a lure so the greyhounds would chase it around the track.

Gwyn, Jayne and Robyn Coombs did their family proud with the story of their family in Nar Nar Goon. Ray's community involvements were many and varied, all with great dedication and input. If he was listening to the ladies in his family talking about his legacy, he would be so proud of them, along with his own contribution to community life.

Thanks to the Coombs family for their very entertaining presentation.

NNG History Group
Future meetings:

- Monday 16th November, 2pm at St Johns Church, guest Speaker: Andrew Walsh with support from his Mum, Martha.
- Monday 14th December 2pm, at St Johns Church, guest Speakers: The Abrehart Family

Photo: Greg, Ray, Robyn, Gwyn & Jayne



Photo: Gwyn & Ray Coombs



Koo Wee Rup Swamp Bus Tour with a Military Theme

Friday 23rd October was the opportunity for 47 people with connections to Nar Nar Goon History Group, to tour the swamp. Heather Arnold and Gerry Cunningham were the tour leaders. They had researched military servicemen connected with Honour Boards in the Soldiers Memorial Halls in towns with connections to the swamp such as Cora Lynn, Iona, Catani, Bayles, Koo wee Rup and Nar Nar Goon. We heard many stories about these brave military servicemen around World War 1 and 2. Big thanks to both Heather and Gerry for all their research and sharing of the information.

Photo: Jean Chatfield & Gerry Cunningham



Photo: Heather Arnold (right) with Vicki and Greg Templeton.



Greg Templeton shared the story of his father, a WW 2 Serviceman, who after the war took up the offer of a Soldier Settlement farm at Nar Nar Goon. The Templeton family considered the Soldier Settlement Farming scheme a success from their experience. Greg also talked about the Olson brothers who were involved in World War 1. The Olson family have connections to some of the people on the bus and there is an Olsen Road (slightly different spelling), connected with the family, in Nar Nar Goon North.



Photo: Iona Church and Hall stop



Photo: Xanthe and her Dad Travis



Morning Tea was provided by the team at Koo Wee Rup Historical Society. It was delicious, so many thanks to those involved. Xanthe Parker who is the 15 year old daughter of Joanne and Travis, made a cameo appearance with her special scone recipe. She called in "sick" to school so she could take up the challenge of making and delivering scones smothered in jam and cream to Koo wee Rup to 47 hungry bus travellers, with her Dad as her driver. Great job Xanthe!

Photo: Morning tea at KWR Museum



swamp tour cont...

Photo: Ceiling vault rose plaster mold and plaster strapping



Ambrose Byrne's property on Convent School Road was the starting point for the tour. Ambrose bought the property 51 years ago with St Josephs Primary School on the land. He was a student at the school as were others on the trip, all of whom had a range of different memories of their experience. Ambrose had a long term plan to renovate the classroom and in recent years this plan has come to fruition. He has done an amazing job on the meticulous renovation which includes making ceiling vent rose plaster molds, replicating the originals. He also made new molds of the original strapping that covered the joins on what was originally the horsehair plaster. Today he used normal gyprock and the new plaster strapping that he made the molds for to cover the seams of 4 foot by 4 foot panels in the ceiling. He needed 84 straps and could initially make up to 4 a day but got to 8 on his best achievement day.

Photo: Ambrose with Jan sharing his renovation story



His dedication and skill to replicating the original is to be admired. He has worked hard to bring the school back to what it once was. He has enjoyed the project so much that every day he looks forward to getting into the classroom. Asked if has enjoyed school more today than all those years ago?

He said "Absolutely! School was an interruption to my program at home when I was a kid."

He thanked the NNG History Group for the motivation to do the renovation knowing the 2026 bus load of NNG History Group Swamp Tourists would be keen to see the changes he has made over the 12 month period.

Lunch was served back at the school in the classroom. A great group of helpers jumped in to get the lunch organised. The highlight of course was the icecreams at the end.

Thanks to everyone involved in the day. It's such a great opportunity to get together and hear about layers of history of our Koo Wee Rup Swamp that are not often heard. Thanks to coach driver Dave from Berwick Bus Lines for his patience and generosity throughout the day.



Photo: L to R: St Josephs School, Nar Nar Goon ex students Carmel Sparks (Kennelly), Ambrose Byrne, Donna Handley (Byrne), Jo Cornell (representing her Mum), Sally Byrne, Gerard Cunningham Jenny Bow (Dore) representing her Mum Dos, Peter Dore

Special thanks to Ambrose and Jan for the huge preparation to get ready to welcome all of us on the day to Convent School Road. The tour provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with local places, share family memories and uncover lesser-known layers of the swamp's military history. Nar Nar Goon History Group is already looking ahead to October 2027 for the fourth Swamp Tour, which is planned to explore the theme of The Swamp and Sport.

Prefer to have your copy of the Goon News emailed to you? Send your email address to goonnews3812@gmail.com

swamp tour cont...

Military Themed Swamp Tour 2026 Photo Wall



Photo above: Vicki & Greg Templeton, John Spencer Bert Kooloos, Donata Gaylard in the classroom



Photo: Lunch in the School

Photo below: Carmel Sparkes selling the tour tickets





Photo: Len Dalziel & John Jarrot



Photo right: At The KWR Museum - Melinda Byrne, Kellie Handley, Denise Davidson, Sue Dore, Di Ferrari with Paul Arnold and John Spencer in the background

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To view our complete term program please visit www.outlookaust.org.au/events/ or drop on for a booklet.

HOW TO ENROL IN A PROGRAM

In Person:	24 Toomuc Valley Road, Pakenham
Online:	www.outlookaust.org.au/events/
Telephone:	1300 617 649 (select option 2)
Email:	communitycentre@outlookaust.org.au
Payment:	Cash, cheque, EFTPOS, credit card - online, over the phone or in person

Carer's Group

Supporting those who support others
Caring for someone can be rewarding, but it can also be challenging. This friendly group offers carers of people who are elderly, have a disability or experience mental illness the opportunity to get together, enjoy a cuppa and a chat, and learn more about the latest news, services and support available to them.
1st Thursday of the month - 5 November & 3 December
10am - 12pm. (Gold coin donation welcome)
Cost: FREE

Forget-Me-Not Café

This café style program brings together people living with dementia and their loved ones
The café is a nurturing space that offers enrichment, support and understanding where you can share experiences with others living with the challenges of dementia. Come along to enjoy activities, entertainment and refreshments.
Tuesdays once per month - 17 November & 15 December
10am - 12pm.
(Gold coin donation welcome)
Cost: FREE



Aged Care Information Session

You are invited to attend an informative session hosted by Mentis Assist - Care Finder Program
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 11 November
10.30am - 11.30am Cost: FREE
Supported by Mentis Assist

Volunteering Information Session

Have you ever thought about volunteering?
Join us for this informative session
Volunteering can help give you a sense of purpose and belonging by being part of a team. It's a great way to meet new people and engage in meaningful activities. Whether you'd like to volunteer at Outlook or have something else in mind this
session could open the door for you to take the first step.
You may be able to meet your Centrelink mutual obligation requirements through approved voluntary work (your mutual obligation requirements depend on your age and circumstances).
Everyone is welcome, tell your friends.
Monday 16 November
10am - 11am 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 emerging technology.
Thursdays commencing 12 November for 4 sessions
9.30am - 12.30pm
Cost: $25
A Learn Local course

Learn Local

Smartphone Basics – Android phones

Would you like to feel more confident using a smartphone? This friendly, practical course will help you make the most of your phone at a comfortable pace. Learn everyday skills including calls, messages, photos, email, internet browsing, video calls, maps and apps. Designed specifically for seniors, sessions include clear explanations, patient guidance and hands-on practice. No previous experience is required, and there are no silly questions!
Thursdays commencing 12 November for 2 sessions
1pm - 3pm
Cost: $10

FREE Legal Advice

Do you have a legal issue that you would like some advice on?
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60 Nar Nar Goon Road, Nar Nar Goon,
Mass every Saturday evening at 5pm

St John the Baptist,
Station St, Koo Wee Rup
Mass - Every Sunday 9.30am

St Joseph's
Bunyip River Road, Iona
Mass - Every Sunday 11am

St Mary's Lang Lang & Holy Family Maryknoll
Please refer to the Parish Bulletin which is available at the parish office 60 Nar Nar Goon Road, Nar Nar Goon
Office hours: Tuesday 10:30am to 3:30pm and Friday 9.00am - 1pm
Phone 0456 000 990 Email ionaparish@dcsi.net.au

Parish Administrator: Fr Avinash George
mobile no. 0451 997 904
Baptism Preparation - please contact the Parish office

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ENCOMPASS GROUP

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We meet on the 4th Sunday at St John's Community Room @ 12:30 - 2pm.

Bring a plate to share.

Enquiries: Rev Sally Hart 0429 531 152

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Edward Dingle
Asset Protection/Project Manager
Light Horse & Field Artillery Museum
www.lighthorsemuseum.com.au
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Goon News Deadlines for submissions last week of the month

Got something to say?
Good news, Bad news,
Tell it to The Goon News.

What have you personally, or your organisation been doing lately? A bit of publicity goes a long way. There's no better way of sharing your achievements than letting the people of Nar Nar Goon (and beyond) know what's happening out there. We want to get your story told. Supply us with your info, a photo or two and let us do the rest. Don't be Shy!

All submissions to be emailed to goonnews3812@gmail.com or placed in the Goon News Box at The Posh Op Shop

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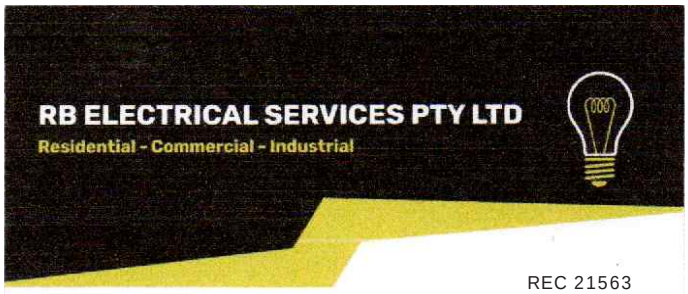
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Community Diary

CONTACT INDIVIDUAL CLUBS FOR DETAILS

Every Sunday:

• CFA training (mornings)
• CFA training / meetings (evenings)

Every Monday:

• Cardinia Civic Concert Band Choir - 4:30pm to 8:00pm
Call or email for more information: Ph: 0439 408 311 or email secretary@cardiniacivicconcertband.com.au

Monthly Monday:

• Nar Nar Goon History Group meet 2pm in St John's Church or Community Room behind Op Shop. Contact Sue Rose on 0421 514 607.
- Next Meeting: **Nov 16, Dec 14**

Third Monday:

• NNG Progress Association meet bi-monthly at the St John's Community Centre at 7pm
- Next meeting: **Christmas Dinner Dec 9, Feb 15**

First Tuesday:

• 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**

Every Tuesday:

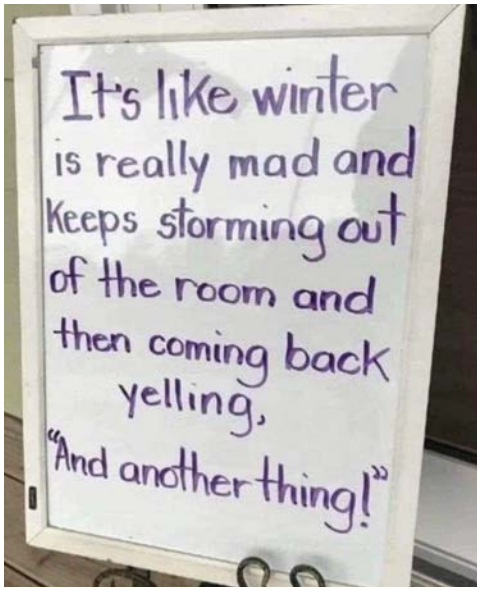
• Cardinia Civic Concert Band - 6:30pm to 7:15pm
Call or email for more information: Ph: 0439 408 311 or email secretary@cardiniacivicconcertband.com.au

Fourth Wednesday:

• Pakenham Camera Club meets at the Community Centre of Meadowvale Retirement Village, Eagle Drive, Pakenham at 7.30pm
- Next meeting: **Nov 25, Dec 23, Jan 27**

Every Thursday:

• Scout Meeting. For information on local Scout meetings, please contact Olive Elston, Ph: 0408 390 593.
• BINGO! at the Community Centre. Eyes down 7.30pm/8.00pm. Book sales 6:45pm



Every Second Saturday of month:

• Old Time Dance at Nar Nar Goon North Hall
- Contact Kaye Willis on 0407 343 754
- Next dance: **Nov 14, Dec 12, Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 13**

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

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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 goonnews3812@gmail.com

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285 issues printed monthly

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NAR NAR GOON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
Editor: Joanne Parker
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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
Cardinia Civic Concert Band / Choir		0439 408 311
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 1599
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.

	Rainfall 2026			Rainfall 2025		
Month	Geoff L	Zoe	Geoff B	Geoff L	Zoe	Geoff B
January	8.80	(7.30)	5.80	60.60	41.00	36.00
February	79.60	65.00	76.00	67.60	54.00	77.40
March	101.60	74.00	83.20	72.20	55.00	54.00
April	64.80	40.00	61.80	36.00	35.00	44.00
May	99.60	84.00	65.00	36.40	31.00	20.00
June	76.80	(78.00)	79.20	74.00	55.00	50.20
July	86.80	82.00	101.60	113.00	91.00	79.20
August	91.80	97.00	104.60	53.60	(53.1)	52.60
September	47.20	32.00	48.30	76.20	55.00	55.80
October	159.40	137.00	220.60	112.80	99.00	100.20
November				227.20	209.00	242.60
December				52.80	26.00	49.40
Total	**816.40**	**696.30**	**846.10**	**982.40**	**804.10**	**861.40**

24 Hour AED Defibrillators:

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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