

NAR NAR GOON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

THE GOON * NEWS

Volume 27 Issue 03

April 2025



including Clough's Shell Service Station, The Goon Eatery, Tynong and Maryknoll Post Offices. Leaving a monetary donation in one of our campaign tins helps us help our veterans and families.

We look forward to coming together with our community on this commemorative occasion in the coming weeks

NNG RSL

April brings another year of commemorating ANZAC Day and the Nar Nar Goon RSL begins to prepare for our Dawn Service for the local township. The poppies will be back in our Memorial Park, and we will once again fly both the Australian and New Zealand flags in respect of all soldiers who fought and died at ANZAC Cove.

The Nar Nar Goon RSL invites all locals to come together to honour those men and women who have served our great nation across many military campaigns both at home and overseas.

We welcome all to join our ANZAC Day Dawn Service on Friday 25th April 2025, 5:45am for a 6.00am start. Please assemble at the Nar Nar Goon RSL Memorial Park, corner of Nar Nar Goon Road & Carney Street. Parking will be available at the Nar Nar Goon Recreation Reserve and further down on Carney Street. Please reserve use of the Memorial Park carpark for the elderly and disabled. Check the Nar Nar Goon RSL and Nar Nar Goon Community Facebook pages for updates as we draw closer to the date.

As we lead up to the day, we ask that you please consider supporting our veterans by purchasing ANZAC Day badges which are again available at a number of locations in and around Nar Nar Goon -

NNG Progress Association MEETING Tuesday 22nd April

7pm, NNG Community Center
(behind the Posh Op-Shop)

All welcome!

Contact the NNG Progress Association via email:
nngprogress3812@gmail.com

Nar Nar Goon History Group

Our Next meeting will be Monday 28th April 2pm in the St John's Community Centre (behind the Posh Op Shop).

Guest Speaker:
The Cunningham girls - Bones and Maree.

GOON NEWS DEADLINES:

*Next Deadline for submissions will be the
30th APRIL*

Email: goonnews3812@gmail.com

Supported by Cardinia Shire Council



NAR NAR GOON SUPPORT LOCAL

Bunyip Police
5629 5205



Nar Nar Goon Smokehouse

Luke & Kylie
5 Carney Street
Nar Nar Goon



TheButcherwithTheChef

Ph: 5942 5370

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

4 Pearson St, Bunyip, 3815, Vic
Phone 5629 5205 Fax 56295 5999
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Police Aboriginal Liaison Officer



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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!



Easter Bingo 17th April 2025

Coming up on the Bingo calander is Easter Bingo on 17th April 2025. There will be 2 x Bingo raffles - Free entry with bingo books as well as Monster Raffle tickets to buy. Last Jackpot \$1,800 in 52 calls or less. Guaranteed \$1,000 minimum. Come join in the Easter fun with your Bingo buddies. Big Bucks Bingo being played to increase your chances to win \$\$\$\$. Books on sale from 6.30pm. EFTPOS available. Eyes down 7.30pm.

Nar Nar Goon DEFIB Returned



In the early hours of Sunday morning (30th March) our Automated Emergency Defibrillator (AED) was stolen from its location at the front of the NNG CFA building.

The Nar Nar Goon Progress Association with funding assistance from Community Bank Bunyip & District and Cardinia Shire Council purchased the AED at the end of 2017. There are other AED's in the town, but this is the only 24 hour accessible AED making this a very important and life saving asset for our town.

The NNG Fire Brigade shared the security footage on Facebook. The community shared it's brutal opinions of the individual's actions. With the help of the community and the police, the stolen AED was turned in at the Warragul Police Station. The CFA collected the device and it has been returned to its home.

To the 'individual' with no respect for public property and no control over your own actions...stop drinking!!



COMMUNITY CENTRE - SPENCER STREET, NAR NAR GOON
Every Thursday Night • Eyes Down 7.30pm • www.narnargoobingo.org.au

EVERY THURSDAY!

Community Hall, Nar Nar Goon (opposite primary school)

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL
COMMUNITY, COME AND HAVE
A PLAY AND WIN !!**

EYES DOWN at 7.30pm

EVERY THURSDAY!!!

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

- **1st SESSION** (\$2 books)
- **2nd / 3rd SESSION** (\$4 books)
- **2 BINGO FLYERS** (\$1/\$2 Ducks, Big Bucks)
- **RAYS RAFFLES** (\$2 tickets)
- **1st Number-Last Number** (\$1 tickets)

(Win \$50 or a meat tray from The Butcher With The Chef)
(Win up to \$1000 JACKPOT in the last game)
(Win up to \$20,000 in linked Big Bucks bingo)
(Win \$100 bingo voucher last Thursday of the month)

Canteen available with complimentary tea/coffee/milo
before last session. Cooled/heated venue. EFT available.
Must be 18yrs or older. A Non Profit Organisation here all
profits go to local clubs/organisations.

Any Questions call Sharon ph: 0417 446 840

BINGO Gift Vouchers



**Fire Danger Period for
Cardinia Shire Council District
09 Dec 2024 to 01 May 2025**

Savoy Opera Company
Proudly presents the Australian première of
JEANIE DEANS
A Scottish opera by Hamish MacCunn

Bunyip Hall
38 Main St, Bunyip
Saturday 17th May - 2 pm

Book tickets at:
• savoyoperacompany.com
• trybooking.com/CYRIG
• scan below





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Goon News emailed to you?
Send us your email address to
goonnews3812@gmail.com

Ladies of the Swamp Charity Quilting Group



The Ladies of the Swamp
Charity Quilting Group started in 2019 in response
to the Bunyip/Tonimbuk bushfires. Over 100 quilts
were donated to the fire relief for those in need of
some comfort. The group have also donated many
quilts to the East Gippsland bushfire relief, Batemans
Bay bushfire relief, a women's accomodation project
in Morwell and also to the Koo Wee Rup nursing
home.

The self-funded group rely on donations of fabric
and quilts (both tops and fully completed) to help
continue our work. If you would like to join us,
everyone is welcome.

For more information, please contact:
Lynne 0417 318 290 or Diane 0417 332 767

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Join Thel in her 3rd year of hosting the

Biggest Morning Tea

Monday, 2nd June 10:30am

St John's Community Centre
(behind the Posh Op Shop)

Donations for raffle most welcome.

GOON'S GOODS

Free sharing station for fruits and vegetables.
You don't need to give to take, help yourself to
whatever you like and drop off whatever surplus
you have when you have it!

Located at Kindergarten entry.



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address to
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Thinking of Selling?

Contact me for your free market report



Matt Clark
0417 411 883



**first
national**
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OLD TIME DANCE

Nar Nar Goon North

2nd Saturday of the month

8.00 til 11.30

\$8.50 admission
(includes supper)

5th Saturday if applicable

(ladies please bring a
plate of supper to share)



Live Music
3 piece band

All welcome



Nar Nar Goon North Hall
(cnr Dore & Bessie Creek Road)

Enquiries Phone Kaye 0407 343 754



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NNG History Group

On Monday 24th March 25 people heard Marie Houlihan share her family story over the generations and the journey to end up farming on Nenagh on the 5 Mile Road, Nar Nar Goon. The family home had been relocated to the 5 Mile from Carrum with the help of bullocks all those years ago. Her connections with the NNG community are many. She was the person responsible for the sign outside the NNG pub that had just blown up in 1972 due to a gas explosion. Her hand written sign was printed all over the Melbourne media read "Beer without a pub". Her memories included 7 schools within a short distance of the 5 Mile Road. Marie's family story of settling in the swamp area will be written up and printed in the Goon News May edition.



At the February NNG History Group meeting, Arda and Bert Kooloos presented the Kooloos family story. It makes for really interesting reading so here it. Thanks to all the Kooloos family for sharing the story. Enjoy the read.

Kooloos Family Story

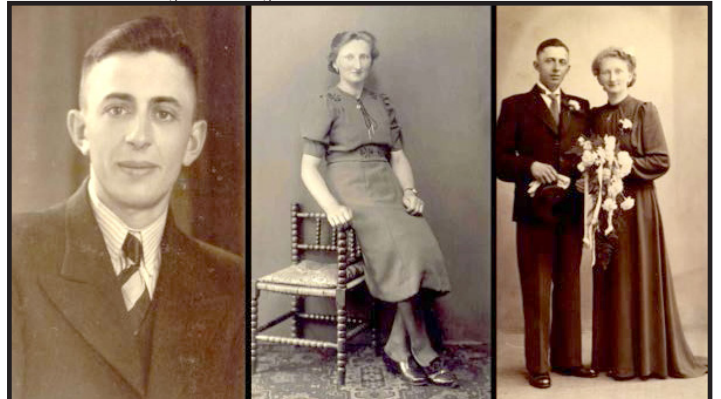
(Presented by Bert & Arda 21st February 2025)

Migrating to Australia and the Road to NNG

Migrating brought a lot of challenges with language being one of the main ones. In the early days arriving in Australia, Dad would hide in the dairy if any visitors turned up on the farm where he worked at Narre Warren. He was determined to beat the language issue so bought the Melbourne Sun every day even though he couldn't read it. He used to read his children's school readers including "John and Betty" which was the Prep/Grade 1 reader of the time.

Mum took longer to learn English. A door to door salesman convinced her to buy the bigger toilet rolls which in her words had an extra 22 shifts in ever roll – her way of saying sheets!

Kooloos Family History



Mum and Dad wanted to assimilate into the community and make Australia home. Both parents got very involved in the Catholic church, taking on jobs of responsibility in their effort to become Aussies. Dad's name in Dutch was hard to say and spell so he became Harry. Bert's name was Gijsbertus with the closest English word being Goose. Everyone called him Goose until the man delivering petrol to the farm one day asked about this name. The man told Dad that you can't send him to school with that name as he would be crucified. Dad asked what we should call him? The fuel driver replied that his name was Bert so you can call him Bert. And he's been Bert ever since. All the different Government Department such as Taxation Dept and Drivers' Licence were all happy with Bert but when he tried to get a passport it didn't happen. He needed to change his name by deed poll to become Bert Kooloos. So he did.

Arda recalled her family story back to the birth of her parents early into World War 1. Dad was born in 1914 and Mum in 1916, both coming from long traditions of Dutch farming families. Dad left school at 12 and Mum at 11 years old, following the tradition of working in the

kooloos family story cont...

family home for Mum and on the family farm for Dad. Dad went to night school until he was about 30, mainly studying veterinary and farming-related subjects. The times during the Depression were particularly tough and, under the threat of repossession of the farm by the bank, Dad took over the control of the family farm, subject to his parents and siblings agreeing to receive pocket money only (I'm told my grandparents' financial management skills were somewhat lacking!). My parents married in 1943 during WW2. Unlike many in Dutch cities who were starving particularly during the Dutch famine (1944-45 WW2), farming families had access to food, provided they weren't in flood zones due to the bombing of dykes and canals. The family lived in a very comfortable double story brick house on the family farm with one of the Dad's brothers and his family. Dad had 25 acres with pigs, cows, chickens and potatoes. Children followed quickly after the marriage: Peter 1944, Anton 1945, Corry 1947, Derek 1948, Harry 1949, Arda 1950, Kees 1952 (died Dec 1953) and Bert 1953. Martina 1955 and Keith 1956 were both born in Australia.

Migrating to Australia

In the early 1950s, the family was reasonably comfortably off. Mum had full-time live in home help and Dad had farm help. However, by 1953, they had six sons! My parents had a strong desire to put their sons on farms but the problem was the large number of sons. At the time in The Netherlands, there was a lot of talk about migration. A number of Dutch farmers had already moved to Canada, including Mum's youngest brother. The family thought Canada was too cold. South Africa was another option but not considered because of apartheid. At about this time, there was a joint sponsorship migration agreement between the



a population of more than 10 million people. At the same time, Australia had a population of about 8 million people and heaps and heaps of land.

The question of migration came up and that sponsored migration seemed to be a good way to go. However, the family failed to meet the sponsorship conditions, namely that the bread winner was under 35 years of age and/or you had no more than 4 children. (The latter didn't make a lot of sense to me given Australia wanted lots of people.) Dad was nearly 40 and there were 8 children so we clearly did not fit the script.

This meant the family had to go through a different pathway to be able to migrate to Australia. Essentially, the breadwinner needed to have a job in Australia if the family was to migrate. At the time, there was a Catholic priest in the Albury/Wodonga area, Father Maas, who set up work sponsorships between Dutch families and Australian people and he organised a job on a dairy farm for my Dad. The sponsorships came through but there was also all the paper work, immunisations and passports to process. You'll notice Kees in the passport photos. Unfortunately he died 4 months before the family migrated. He had wandered off and drowned in a canal.



Family migration passport photo 1954:

Anton, Harry, Arie, Corry, Arda, Peter, Corry with Bert, Derek

Additionally, there was the challenge of taking possessions to Australia. You could only take £1500 out of the country so the family brought all their possessions, arranging for them to be shipped over. They brought a butter churn, an apple peeler for the stewed apples they enjoyed every day in their household. There were sheets, beds and much, much more. There were 10 in the family so large cast iron cooking pots were a necessity. They brought a car. A Morris 6 which Bert says he has never seen another one in Australia. They had it converted to right hand drive. There was a rule that you needed to leave the boot empty for transportation. Their dad like to save "quid" and ignored that rule and filled the boot up with tools and anything else that would fit. On arrival in Australia, the boot was empty as it should have been when it left The Netherlands! Cheating doesn't always pay.

Getting to Australia

A further problem for the family was that they were

Dutch the Australian Governments. Australia wanted a lot of people and, at the same time, Holland wanted to get rid of a lot of people. The Netherlands is only 2/3 of the size of Tasmania and, in the early 1950s, had

kooloos family story cont...

coming to Australia from a farm. By flying to Australia, as was initially planned, they would need to spend 5 or 6 weeks in quarantine. The decision was made to go by boat. By far, the toughest part of migrating was saying the final farewells to parents, siblings and friends, never expecting to see them again. They left Holland April 1, 1954 on the ship called Johan van Ouder Barneveldt which was considered a very comfortable luxury cruise ship in that era. Mum and Dad were having a six week "trip of a lifetime" with playrooms and crèches for the kids, restaurant meals – no cooking or milking cows. They had 2 cabins with bunk beds and all Arda can remember at 3 years old, was wanting to sleep on the top bunk. She never did!



Arie (39) and Corrie (37) Kooloos with their children, Peter (9), Anton (8), Corry (7), Derek (6), Harry (4), Arda (3) and Bert (10 months), left Amsterdam 1/4/1954 on board M. S. Johan van Oldenbarneveldt

The family arrived in Melbourne May 4, 1954 and what a shock it was! Dad was met at the ship and, because he was on a work sponsorship, was immediately taken to a farm in Narre Warren North and was actually in trouble for being late for milking on that first night! Mum, the 7 kids all under 10, three trunks of luggage and not a word of English between

them, were put on a 3 hour train trip to Bonegilla – a migrant camp - just out of Wodonga. The main reason they had to go to the camp was that their possessions had not arrived from Holland and the house they were moving into was not furnished. Mum was eternally grateful to the two young Italian men who helped with the kids and luggage from the train to the camp. Bonegilla had been an army camp and consisted of lots of corrugated tin huts. The bigger shock was food, with lamb and three veggies being standard fare. Lamb was not a meat consumed in Holland. To this day, some of the family still have an aversion to lamb! The family stayed at Bonegilla for 2 weeks and then back on the 3 hour train trip to Spencer Street Station (now Southern Cross) where they were all looking for Papa. Finally a stranger named Mr. Walters who had sponsored the family for the job, approached their Mum and checked she was Mrs Kooloos, with all seven children. He took

them

to their new home in Narre Warren North.

Bonegilla Migrant Camp

Remembering they had no English it was a difficult start ordering food from the grocer shop. Mum would take whatever she wanted to buy and put it on the counter. She was unaware that she was paying a lot of money for steak which they regularly enjoyed in Holland but was beyond the budget given Dad's sponsorship deal only paid £12 per week.

The family were free to roam about in Narre Warren and played a lot of cards and games at home. On the very first Christmas they were told there's no such thing as Father Christmas as there was no money for presents. Harry and Arda would often wander around with Mr Walters and we're very excited when he gave them a big box of chocolates for Christmas. However, taking the chocolates home was the last they saw of them. They were going to visit another Dutch family, the Dortmans' for Christmas day and the chocolates were regifted.



There was not a lot of progress in their lives after 9 months in Narre Warren North, so then came a move to Cardinia.

Narre-Warren North: May 1954 - January 1955

Dad was a share farmer on a 250 acre property on Station Road between Manks Road and Ballarto Road. Life got better. They built a piggery and the 5 eldest kids started school at Tooradin North Primary School. After starting school in Tooradin North which they all enjoyed, the local Parish Priest said they needed to go to St. John's Catholic school in Koo Wee Rup. Not long afterwards, Tooradin North State school closed due to lack of numbers. By now Martina, who was number 9 child, had arrived. All previous births had been at home in Holland with a mid wife and Dad present. Martina's birth at Berwick hospital was particularly isolating for their Mum. A further difficulty was her lack of English which made her feel even more isolated. Unable to engage in conversation, she would just nod to any questions asked by the nursing staff.

kooloos family story cont...

At Cardinia, the family of nine children and Mum and Dad moved into a 2 bedroom home. There was no laundry or running hot water and the toilet was 100m from the house. Not long after, they moved to another house on the farm which had 2 bedrooms and a front verandah that could be used as a sleep out for the girls. On 27th July, 1960, in the Tooradin hall we became Australian citizens. It was a small but very important ceremony as the family loved finally being Australian.

Farming at Cardinia.



The children stayed at St. John's in Koo Wee Rup, which went to Form 4, until the end of 1962, at which time it became a primary school only. During this time, Peter

left that school and went to St. Patrick's boarding college in Sale and entered the Seminary at Werribee 2 years later to study to be a priest. Anton and Corry both left school at 14 yo. Anton worked on the farm and Corry milked cows and helped with household chores. The three other high-school aged children, Derek and Harry, and Arda, attended Catholic schools in Dandenong and Springvale.

Christmas holidays were Bert's favourite as he had friends over to stay and they would camp in a tent on the lawn and go to beach each afternoon, planning to be home for afternoon milking time. The beach was the Tooradin foreshore which they all loved but others might disagree. The beach was 3 miles from home and getting there was a challenge. Dad was too busy on the farm so Anton, who was 14 years old, got the job of driving the grey Fergie tractor pulling a farm trailer loaded with anywhere from 7-14 kids all with their legs hanging over the side of the trailer.

Share-farming Cardinia: 1955 - 1964



**Partners – Harry & Corry
with Myra and Bill Mason**

In 1959, Dad became a part owner of a 600 acre farm called Binnalong at Labertouche which adjoined the Bunyip river. Dad was the farm manager and also took up cattle dealing. After selling his share in that property, Mum and Dad bought Boorganna, a 150 acre farm on McCraw Road, NNG with the Ararat creek running through it. This was the beginning of the

connection with NNG. The vendor gave permission for Dad to start a piggery. At the time when it was finished, it was possibly the most modern piggery in Australia. Apparently it is still standing today. Dad thought he'd save a buck and make our own bricks to build the piggery. During the school holidays he had the brick building team consisting of Peter, Anton, Derek, Harry, Bert, Martina and Keith. They would make bricks until lunchtime and then it was back onto the back of the Fergie and the beach.

The move to NNG was in mid February after school had started. Harry and Bert went to school in Warragul with Harry at the Tech school and Bert at Marist Brothers. At this stage they were still living in Cardinia so Mum would drive them to Pakenham station each morning. Bert had never been on a train before and had no idea where the school was located. They were simply told to follow the kids wearing the same school jumper as you. When they moved to NNG they had incredible neighbours. Everyone was friendly. Some of them were the Byrne family, Ian & Jeanie Chatfield, Alan & Heather Chatfield, Pam and Dan Kennelly and the McCreadie family. On the school train there were the Dohertys, Kennellys, Harrops, Bruce Templeton, Keens, Cunninghams and other Dutchies including John Keysers and Peter Hermanns.

And Keith 17/11/1956



Martina aged 3



Cardinia: Martina and Keith



Martina (3) and Keith (1)

Arda was at boarding school and had never been to the new farm at NNG. At the last minute the Nuns announced the boarders could go home for Labour Day weekend. She knew to get off the train at NNG and went into the Post Office and asked for the family phone number and directions to McCraw Road. While asking for help and trying to find the address a man behind 13 year old Arda said I know where exactly where you live, I'll take you there. It was Ian Chatfield. To this day Arda still surprises herself that she hopped into the truck of an unknown man.

To help ease the pressure of making farm payments in those first few years at NNG, Dad set up a hay carting crew of Peter, Derek, Harry, Arda and Bert. We now spent the summer holidays carting hay in the area including at Barry and Jack Cunningham, the Keysers, and Harry van den Brock. We were a very efficient

kooloos family story cont...

team and, one Christmas Eve, carted and stacked over 2,200 bales at Rod Templeton's in a single day. Bert's memories of NNG include the 1965 drought breaking footy premiership which was repeated in 1970. The Back to NNG in November 1965 had a parade and Dad decorated the horse and the cart and Martina and Keith decorated their bicycles to enter in the "Best Decorated Bike". Another float Bert recalled was an old car belonging to the Cunningham family who were dressed in the Beverley Hillbillies theme.

Other recollections are the opening of the new NNG Catholic church, the community Centre and being a witness to the pub blowing up on the Sunday evening. Calf rearing was used as a way to raise money to build the new community centre. The farmers donated a calf and the town's people reared the calf. Once the calves got bigger Roy Downes would donate his brewer's grains to help them gain more weight. When the calves were sold, the proceeds went to building the hall.

Arda's older siblings all followed expected and more traditional pathways. When she came home from boarding school and announced that she'd applied for, and been accepted into, Melbourne University, Dad's response was fairly direct that no daughter of his would be attending university. At the time, many people in the country thought universities corrupted the minds of young people and it was certainly no place for girls. Arda was undeterred because she knew she had a studentship, which paid university fees and a weekly living allowance. The shock came when she attended a meeting before the start of the university year and was told that, if she didn't pay the compulsory \$60 union fee within two days, she would lose her place. Unfortunately the studentship allowance had yet to come through and when her parents refused to loan her the money, she was distraught. The following evening, and without being asked, Anton walked into the bedroom and threw \$100 on the bed. To put this in perspective, Anton was working for Bernie Byrne for \$1 per hour at this time. Anton will forever be Arda's 'knight in shining armour' and, in later years, her parents expressed regret for making things so difficult.

Nar Nar Goon: 1964 - 1975



Nana and Grandad - 1965



Martina, Keith, Nana and Bert

Bert has always had a keen interest in the footy club and pointed out a few familiar faces in the room including

Mick Doherty, Leo Kennelly and Johny Dore. He is very grateful for all the friendships and good times enjoyed at the footy club and still tries to get to most of the games. The footy club ran a lot of functions including car trials, balls, dinner dances, pleasant Sunday mornings and a Mock Deb Ball. All the debts were males, the beaus were females and were presented to Lord and Lady Haveacrap who were better known as Mick and Marie Houlihan. All the debutantes had their own names which appeared to have been generated by Phyllis Byrne and Dossie Dore. Bert's partner was named Ivan Appetite and Bert was Nora Tittoff. All the names were of a similar style. It was a great night.

Migration was very positive but Arda believes that while you gain a lot, you also lose a lot. Being a migrant to Australia meant that the Kooloos children never knew grandparents. She went to the Netherlands aged around 32 and felt very much at home. At school she only spoke English but, at home, her mother only spoke Dutch. Her Mum couldn't understand her letters home from boarding school, written in English, so she needed to write letters using very simple language, which meant you never got to say much at all. Every week for the 5 years Arda was at boarding school she received an A4 page from her Mum written in Dutch which, at times, she struggled to decipher. The good thing was that the nuns read your mail and couldn't make any sense out of the letters.



Harry, Derek and Dad - Nar Nar Goon diary (about 1970)

In 1969, Bert at 16 years old needed a way to get to work in Pakenham. Someone suggested he give Bozo (aka Malcolm McQualter) a call as he travelled to Pakenham every day too. Bozo was new to 16 yo Bert and agreed that the weekly travel fee would be \$1 out of his \$15 weekly wage at Woof and Beer Carpentry. After the first week which was December, Bozo wouldn't take the \$1 as he suggested Bert would need the money to buy beer or something for Christmas. They agreed to start the payment in the new year but when the time came Bozo said he just couldn't take money from him. They travelled together for 18 months and to this day Bert thinks it was a very generous gesture by Bozo. That was the spirit of NNG. There was a news flash that the price of beer was going to 15c for a 7oz glass and 17c

kooloos family story cont...

for a 10 oz glass or a pot. Bozo was beside himself and said if it gets to 20c a glass he was quitting! Bert thinks he spotted Bozo with a beer in his hand at the footy last year!

Now a few comments about the piggery. They used to separate the milk in the dairy and keep the cream to send to the Longwarry Butter Factory. The skim milk was pumped from the dairy to the piggery for around 2 years. If the wind was blowing the wrong way "that used to make the neighbours fairly happy. Perhaps occasionally they got a whiff of it in NNG!" After they finished with the skim milk they would drive to Longwarry in the truck and get themselves 1500 gallons of by product from cheese making, called whey, which was fed to the pigs along with a concentrated food. They usually had around 1000 pigs and sometimes up to 1500.

The Kooloos family found the people of NNG to caring and sharing, welcoming, generous and generally loved having a great time. Mum and Dad sold the farm in 1974 and moved to Grantville to semi retire. Dad passed away in 1977 aged 62 and Mum spent her last 30 years in Pakenham, and died at the age of 91. Its now been 71 years since the Kooloos arrival in Australia.

Arda reflected on what it is to be first generation and second and third generation migrants. She said she spent all her childhood simply wanting to be Ann Smith with blonde curly hair. All I wanted to do was assimilate. 18 years ago before her first grand children were born, a colleague asked Arda what she would call herself. She decided she would be Olma because her children had

such Irish Anglo Saxon names and they may not even realize a big part of their heritage is Dutch.

Was migrating a good idea?

The Kooloos family went onto do the following: Peter became a Catholic Priest and still is, Anton was an engineer and a farmer, Corry was a partner in a transport company, Derek was a farmer and bus driver, Harry an engineer and farmer, Arda a school teacher and an Associate Professor in Educational Psychology, Bert a cabinet maker and farmer, Martina an accountant and Keith a real estate agent and a farmer. The 5 boys all ended up owning a farm so Bert concluded that he thought Dad's wishes were fulfilled by each of them "getting some dirt under their feet".

Mum and Dad have 68 descendants and, as a family, we feel very lucky they chosen Australia as home.



1970: Arda, Peter, Derek, Mum, Dad, Anton, Corry, Harry, Keith.
Front: Bert, Martina



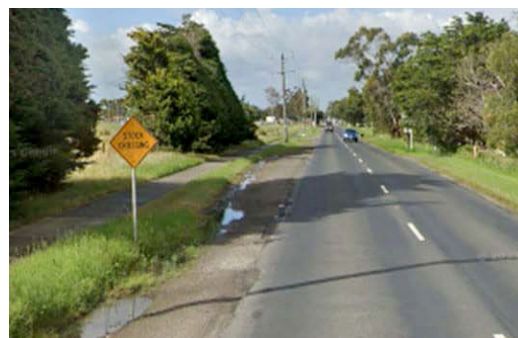
a little
BIRDY
told me

Signs, Signs, Everywhere a Sign...

The little birdy was flying over the Goon and noticed that the signless sign heading into Nar Nar Goon has been reinstated and not too soon enough! Imagine driving through town and being caught out by stock crossing the road and no sign to warn motorists. The sign has been missing for a very long time. Possibly years. Timelines are blurry. In January it became a 'fox post' for a very short time and later in early February, like magic, the missing sign was no long missing. Phew! It would not have been a good look having a fox hanging from a signless post in the recent NNG Town Strategy Assessment document.

The little birdy was flying around and saw that the signs at the NNG railway carpark entry had been pushed over as well as another signless post, heading out of the town. Just standing there! At attention! Waiting for a job! A request was put into VicRoads to tend to the signs/posts and there was no time wasted. Less than a

week and those signs were back in situ. (Little birdy usually has to wait at least 6 weeks in our shire.) What was the signless post you wonder? It was the other stock crossing sign heading out of the town. Thank goodness it's back. Town is safe again. It hasn't been a stock crossing since 2012, but you never know what tomorrow's Nar Nar Goon will look like.



Goon Eatery's Next Chapter

The Goon Eatery, formerly O'Brien's Milk Bar has once again changed hands. Michael and Mary O'Brien ran the milk bar and general store for 14 years handing the reigns over to Jill Petrovic in 2016.

Jill has transitioned the milk bar into a thriving cafe that has been a much loved asset to the town for the past 9 years. If you are a regular you will be familiar with the famous rocky road, jelly slice, caramel slice and lemon slice. All home made and delicious. Her food and coffee have been great. The town was lucky enough to experience the fabulous 'burger night' for one last time with the team cooking 100 burgers and around 36kg of chips!

Jill and Troy are ready for their next chapter in life where they plan on spending quality time with their families. Erin, who was part of the 'Goon Eatery' family has also finished up. The mum to be will be welcoming a new little member to her family. If you are following the Facebook page, there will be baby news updates to come.

Taking over the reigns are Pat and Alison. They have set up a new The Goon Eatery Facebook page so make sure you head over and like it. Pat's daughter

Kate is excited and enthusiastic about the their new chapter in The Goon Eatery. They have introduced a loyalty card where you get your 8th coffee free, so get on board!

The town is excited that The Goon Eatery remains open and we welcome the new owners and wish them all the best. We wish Jill & Troy the best for their next chapter and we also wish Erin and Chris the best with their exciting next chapter as they await the birth of their first child.



Photo: Erin, Jill and Kate

Page 4 Wednesday, 6 April, 2016 pakenham.starcommunity.com.au Connecting people and communities

Milk bar changes hands

By GARRY HOWE

POPULAR Nar Nar Goon storekeepers Michael and Mary O'Brien have hung up their aprons.

Last Friday they handed the keys to the Milk Bar and General Store to new owner Jill Petrovic.

Michael insists they will see out their days on the farm on Seven Mile Road they have called home for the past 37 years.

"The only way I will be leaving there is when (funeral director) David Bull comes down with his tape measure," he smiled.

Michael says he and Mary have loved the shop life but that 14 years of the seven-day-a-week demands were enough.

"We have reached retirement age, so it's time we had some time together away from the shop."

They have grown to love the small mural town and have become involved in community affairs, with Michael serving on the progress association for seven years, four as president.

"It is one of the nicest places you would want to live," he said. "It still has that real country town feel."

"I would say 98.9 per cent of people are fantastic - the type you would have around for dinner."

That feeling is reciprocated, with both primary schools - Nar Nar Goon and St James - holding farewell morning teas for Michael and Mary in the past few weeks.

He says they have got to know some wonderful people over the years - town icons like Bill 'Doc' Doherty, Margaret Deering, Bob Rose, Bill Bickerton, Ray Coombs, Daisy Lia and Malcolm McQualter

ing in for the paper and some milk on his way home from the cowshed. of the regulars didn't an-

around to say hello and check if they were okay. It is that sort of connection with

are looking forward to now that they have taken over.

have grown to love the town. Jill has worked in IT for 21 years.

Michael and Mary O'Brien wish new owner Jill Petrovic well. 152301

Mary and Michael O'Brien say goodbye to the Nar Nar Goon Milk Bar and General Store after 14 years. 152301

Pictures: STEWART CHAMBERS

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Friday 9 May, 10.30am - 12pm. Cost: FREE



First Nations History Course

Learn about the history of Australian Indigenous people from first contact through to 2025. Discuss the impact colonisation has had on First Nations people and how we can create a better future that everyone can enjoy, share and protect a healed and healthy country. Fridays commencing, 2 May for 10 sessions at Outlook Community Centre, 10am - 12pm. Cost: \$10 (Free for U3A members in Cardinia, \$5 for all other U3A members)



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Men's Discussion Group (Men Over 60s) - OM:NI

Meet for a coffee and a chat. Discuss issues of interest and concern, with plenty of laughs. Meet new people in a friendly welcoming atmosphere. 1st Wednesday of the month - 7 May & 4 June & 2 July, 7pm - 9.30pm

Cost: \$6 per session (payable on the day)

OR

2nd Wednesday of the month - 14 May & 11 June & 9 July, 9.15am for a 9.30am start - 12pm, Cost: \$6 per session (payable on the day)

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Please refer to the Parish Bulletin which is available at the
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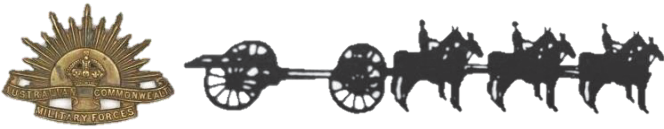
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Edward Dingle
Asset Protection/Project Manager
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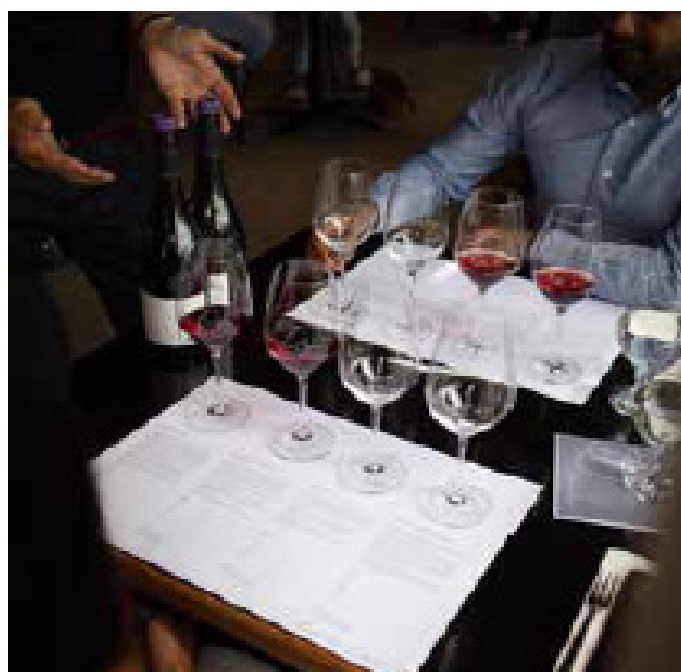
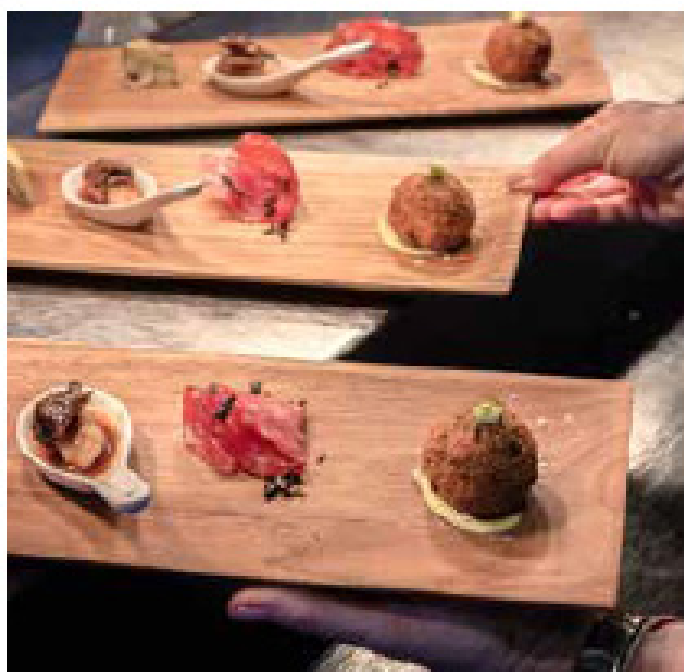
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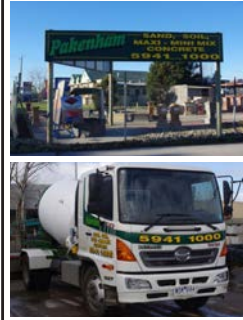
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Community Diary

- **Every Sunday morning:** CFA training
- **Every Monday evening:** CFA training / meetings
- **Third Monday:** Nar Nar Goon RSL Sub Branch meets monthly at the Community Centre at 2pm
- Contact Samantha O'Sullivan on 0419 537 606
- Next meeting: **Contact Samantha for confirmed date**
- **Monthly Monday:** Nar Nar Goon History Group meet 2pm in St John's Church.
Contact Sue Rose on 0421 514 607
- Next Meeting: **Apr 28**
- **Fourth Tuesday:** NNG Progress Association meet bi-monthly at the St John's Community Centre at 7pm
- Next meeting: **Apr 22, Jun 24, Aug 26, Sep 23, Oct 28**
- **Tuesday fortnightly:** Euchre Club at Community Centre, 8pm
- Contact Jim Chatfield on 5942 5263
- Next meeting: **Apr 8, 22, May 6, 20, Jun 3, 17**
- **Fourth Wednesday:** Pakenham Camera Club meets at the Community Centre of Meadowvale Retirement Village, Eagle Drive, Pakenham at 7.30pm
- Next meeting: **Apr 23, May 23, Jun 25, Jul 23**
- **Every Thursday:** Scouts meet at the Scout Hall in Spencer St, 7pm - 9pm & Joeys meet 5.30pm - 6.30pm.
- **Every Thursday night:** Bingo at the Community Centre. Eyes down 7.30pm / 8.00pm.
- **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: **Apr 12, May 10 & 31, Jun 14, Jul 12**

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 - 6pm



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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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!

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PO Box 153, Nar Nar Goon 3812

Contributions can also be placed in the box
at the Goon Eatery (former Milk Bar).

NAR NAR GOON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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Contributions can be sent via email to
goonnews3812@gmail.com or
placed in the **Goon News box at the Posh Op Shop** or
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	Mick Keane	0418 570 176
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		55.00	54.00
April	144.20	132	126.00			
May	39.00	(41.50)	44.00			
June	56.20	79.00	38.00			
July	155.40	136.00	138.00			
August	35.00	26.00	16.40			
September	114.00	85.00	91.20			
October	84.80	(75.00)	65.20			
November	57.60	48.80	62.50			
December	44.80	45.60	42.60			
Total	924.60	701.40	804.50	128.20	150.00	167.40

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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