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 09 October 2026

A Christmas Festival is in the Air



It's almost that time of year! We are furiously planning for our annual Community Christmas Festival.

Sunday 29th November 2026, 5pm start.

Enjoy a relaxed and fun afternoon/evening at our family friendly event. There will be entertainment from our rockin good time bands: the Swamp Dogs, True Tones, Backstreet Bandits, Over it and all with our local legendary 'Chordette' Darryl. Loads of kids activities as well as our talented face painter. 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.

There will be a visit from Santa at approx. 8pm followed by the raffle draw and fireworks! Santa is a very busy chap at this time of year, so we ask that parents/guardians help him out by bringing a gift with your childs full name written on the gift. These can be dropped off at the Posh Op Shop from now until Friday 27th November. Their opening hours are Tuesday to Friday 11am - 4pm and Saturday 10am - 2pm. Alternatively you can 'sneak' it in at the event and hand it over to our lovely helpers in the canteen.

We will have our awesome raffle so keep an eye out at our local businesses in the town. We will be promoting the event on Facebook and on our Nar Nar Goon Progress Association Facebook page. Like and follow our page for updates on the event as well as a showcase on all the raffle prizes on offer from our fantastic and generous sponsors who have donated the prizes.

Save the date and see you at the festival!

Remembrance Day Service

Wednesday 11th November 2026

At the NNG RSL Memorial Park at 10:50am and then observing a minute's silence at 11am.

NNG History Group

Next meeting:

- Friday October 23rd - Swamp Tour

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

NNG Progress Association

Next Meeting: AGM
Monday 19th October 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 OCTOBER

Email: goonnews3812@gmail.com

Supported by Cardinia Shire Council | Cardinia

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
4 Pearson St, Bunyip, 3815,Vic
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!

2026 REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE – NAR NAR GOON MEMORIAL PARK



As we approach Remembrance Day for another year, Nar Nar Goon RSL invite the community to join us on one of the most important days on our commemorative calendar.

Members of the Nar Nar Goon RSL will once again adorn the Memorial Park with handcrafted poppies that have been donated from many generous locals as well as prepare boxes of poppies and Remembrance Day badges to place out in the community. Our Nar Nar Goon RSL Memorial Park on the corner of Carney Street will come alive once again and adds some brightness to the town.

Remembrance Day commemorates the armistice signed between the Allies and Germany at Compiègne, France, to mark the end of the war on the Western Front, after four years of bitter fighting. This took effect at 11:00 am—the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

This year, Nar Nar Goon RSL will hold a Remembrance Day observance service on Wednesday 11th November 2026, and invite all locals including RSL members, families of veterans, local schools and businesses to come down to the Memorial Park at around 10:50am to participate, and then observe a minute's silence at 11:00am marking the end of World War 1. If you cannot attend in person, we encourage you to observe a minute's silence wherever you may be at the time.



If you would like to get involved it's not too late! We will also happily continue to accept hand-made poppies throughout October and beginning of November - please contact us via our Facebook page if you require patterns or need a drop off point. We are also happy to accept any old knitting needle donations as these are what our members are placing the poppies on in the gardens!

We also encourage our local schools to have students make poppies at school from coloured card or patty pans, and create displays on their lawns or gates. Local businesses are welcome to contact us for Poppy posters or to add poppies to their lawns or windows.

Our RSL Poppy Appeal poppies and badges will also be available for sale at local businesses, Cloughs service station, or at the Cardinia Coles shopping centre supported by our local cadet unit.

In appreciation of our community,

Lest We Forget.

NAR NAR GOON RSL



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

HOT SPOT
- from your friendly fire brigade

SPRING IS HERE
Taking the time to be prepared

Taking steps to get prepared before the fire season. Reducing the vegetation around your home is one of the most important things you can do to keep your home safe in a bushfire.

Preparing your property key notes:

- Move your winter woodpile away from the house and sheds.
- Prune tree branches, so they are not overhanging the roof.
- Prune back plants and garden beds near doors and windows.
- Remove fallen leaves and twigs from around your property.
- Clean out gutters.
- Keep grass shorter than 10cm.

Take the time to test any systems that are part of your fire plan.

- Sprinklers.
- Pumps.
- Generators

Have you thought about emergency vehicle access to your property?

- Ensure your property number is clearly visible from the street.
- Gates and driveway entrances must be wide enough to allow emergency services vehicle access.
- Electric gates must be able to be opened manually in the event of power loss.
- When parking in a narrow street, make sure you allow enough clearance for emergency services vehicles.
- Drivers must not park within one metre of a fire hydrant.

What about a property advice service visit?

Here at Nar Nar Goon Fire Brigade we are passionate about keeping our community safe!

DO YOU EVER WONDER…..

- How do I keep my family and home safe from fire?
- How do I prepare my home and property?
- When should I leave?
- Am I ready to go? What should I take with me? Will any body come?
- Who needs to know my plans?

Just to name a few.

If you answered YES to any of the above questions OR have burning questions of your own, Nar Nar Goon Fire Brigade are here to help answer all your questions and offer the advice to get you well and truly on your way to being confident in your preparedness in the event of a fire.

NOW THE HOW...

What do you need to do?

If you feel that you would benefit from this service, pick up the phone and contact our Brigade Captain Justin on the contact details below. Justin will pass on your details to one of our 3 fully trained and qualified Property Advice Visit Service Facilitators, who will be able to make a suitable convenient time to walk you through step by step and offer advice on practical ways to prepare your property from a FREE comprehensive package designed by the CFA.

This package gives you the opportunity to learn more about property clearing, water tank fittings, LPG gas tank storage, where to find warnings and advice updates and understanding these warnings, leaving early emergency kits, action plans for pets and livestock and how to build a bushfire plan and much much more.

Although the Fire Danger Period is still to be introduced in the region, residents should be aware of weather conditions along with Cardinia Shire Council Local Laws. Cardinia Shire Council can be contacted on 1300 787 624.

If you feel volunteering is for you, contact Captain Juston Seddon 0402 763 663

CFA

NAR NAR GOON FIRE - RESCUE EST. 1942

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

FireReady Victoria

Stakeholder Update

cfa.vic.gov.au

Get Fire Ready 2026

CFA volunteers have been strengthening community preparedness across the state, with 128 Get Fire Ready events already delivered as part of our statewide preparedness campaign.

With a challenging fire season expected across Victoria, it's more important than ever for residents and property owners to understand their local fire risk and take steps to prepare.

Thank you to those who have helped spread the Get Fire Ready message to your local area by sharing assets from our Stakeholder Kit available on the website.

With more than 500 events still to come, we'd greatly appreciate your continued support in sharing the Get Fire Ready message through your networks to help ensure Victoria is well-prepared summer.

To find an event near you check out the map available on the website.

If there's anything else we can provide to help promote this initiative in your local area, please don't hesitate to reach out.

https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au









The Nar Nar Goon North Hall turns 100 this October and 'Old Time Dance' will be hosting a 100 year centenial celebration.

Saturday 14th November 2026 at 7:30pm

$10 admission (includes supper)

Cnr Bessie Creek Road & 642 Dore Road

Live music provided by Lloyd Poole. Get your dancing shoes on and get ready to dance the evening away.

Old Time Dance is held at the Nar Nar Goon North Hall every 2nd Saturday of the month.

All welcome. Enquiries: Kaye 0407 343 754

OLD TIME DANCE

Nar Nar Goon North

2nd Saturday of the month

7.30pm til 11.00pm

$10.00 admission

(includes supper)



Live Music

Lloyd Poole

All welcome



Nar Nar Goon North Hall

(cnr 642 Dore & Bessie Creek Road)

Enquiries Phone Kaye 0407 343 754

NNG History Group

Val and Ron Carroll Story

– Interviewed by Chris Cullinan
at NNG History Group 24th August 2026

Val taught at Nar Nar Goon kinder for 23 years and Ron played football for Nar Nar Goon in the 1950s. He is also recognised historically for his contributions at Pakenham racing. Now, both in their 90s, Val and Ron gave us a great insight into their lives over the years and their connections with Nar Nar Goon.



Photo: Val & Ron Carroll

Val

Val had a very interesting life before she arrived in Pakenham and subsequently Nar Nar Goon. She grew up in Avenel, which at the time was a little town north of Seymour. Her first posting from Teachers College in 1955 as a young 19 year old, was to a tiny settlement at the foot of Mt. Buller. There was no public transport and she lived with the male teacher - a 2 teacher school. She was one of only about 10 teachers in Victoria who received a remote allowance. She did not enjoy her time there so her father used "his right of contacts" to help Val get transferred to Pakenham.

Her Dad had grown up in Bunyip and knew a bit about Pakenham. He was really good mates with Bunny Drake who together as kids loved to ride bikes from Bunyip to Garfield. Her Dad went to Melbourne when he was 16 years old and became a Policeman when he was 19. When WW 2 broke out the family moved north to Avenel. Visiting Grandpa in Bunyip from Avenel was a long way to travel at that time.

Val taught for 4 years at Pakenham Consolidated School where Ron also taught. She then took a transfer to another position in Shepparton. She was coming back to Pakenham regularly to see Ron. He claims he needed a tennis partner in the mixed doubles where they originally had met! This was set to be a love match. They married in 1960 and 66 years later, still going strong. Val stopped teaching for 7 years to have her family. They had 3 boys in 4 years and 4 years later a baby girl arrived. Val wasn't happy that she had to forfeit her long service and sick leave to have her children.

Ron and Val's first house was in Gardenia Street in Pakenham, with their near neighbours being Brian and Gwenda Arnold and directly opposite were the Russos. Peter Russo played for Hawthorn as Pakenham was in the Hawthorn zone at that time. Val still barracks for Hawthorn and Ron barracks for the Old Fitzroy – now the Brisbane Lions.

New Zealand Teacher Exchange 1969 with 4 young children



Ron saw an exchange teaching position advertised in Christchurch, New Zealand. To his surprise, he got the job. By the time they were ready to do the exchange they had 3 little boys and a 6 week old baby girl. They set sail on the ship Iberia to Auckland with their car. They worked their way down to Christchurch where initially finding somewhere to live was very difficult. The rental agent said

"Mr Carroll, there's not a property to be rented in Christchurch."

They found temporary accommodation in a hotel and privately advertised for a house to rent for the year. They got a magnificent house looking toward the alps belonging to a lady travelling to England with her husband for the year. When she asked Ron what it was worth, he offered her $20 a week and surprisingly she accepted the offer. They enjoyed seeing many visitors from Pakenham in Christchurch that year.

Nar Nar Goon Kinder

A year later they returned to Pakenham and Ruth Bentley contacted Val about the position at the Nar

val and ron carroll story cont...

Nar Goon Kindergarten. Val had previously taught at the Pakenham, Main Street Kinder. By now Ron was a very young school Principal at Lang Lang. Val met with the NNG Kinder Committee who offered her the job. Her precious little daughter Cathy was very young and she had 3 little boys at school so the only way Val could see to manage the job was to bring Cathy with her to work each day. The Committee agreed to that arrangement for the 3 kinder sessions each week. Cathy would be put down for a sleep in the Health Centre part of the building. In 1970, Val was teaching about 25 children in each class. At that stage the kinder program was heavily reliant on volunteers. Val loved the Nar Nar Goon families who made her job very enjoyable. The families had to pay fees for their children to attend. The parents were always fundraising to get equipment. Today, kinder education is free.



Local identities who made a contribution to the NNG Kinder

Nancy Collins was Val's assistant teacher for 15 years. When Val did ordering for the kinder and said she was calling from a place called Nar Nar Goon, people would ask if she was 'for real'. Local identities did help the kinder in many and different ways. Cr. Michael Moore helped get the community toilets and later on he was instrumental in getting the playground. The Moore family had 3 children who came to the kinder and Michael Moore was a local Councilor with the Shire of Pakenham. Barry Cunningham who was an MP at the time helped the kinder to get an Aussie Flag and Michael Houlihan assisted with sorting out the land lock issue. Brydie Cunningham started the NNG Health Centre when her first baby Phonse was born. At different times, Val would be out in the yard with the children and a gentleman on a bike would ride up and down making the most of his young audience. His name was Bill Doherty!

Mrs. Arnold used to come into the kinder every day. She was a wonderful lady who Val admired so much as she brought up 3 young boys Roby, Kevin and Brian, having lost her husband through the war. She reared the boys to be wonderful young men who played football and tennis. She lived just near the kinder and every day she walked past calling out "Hello Val". Val said Mrs. Arnold was "A true Australian lady who had suffered so much."

Photo: 60 year Celebration Nar Nar Goon Kinder in October 2019



Sharon Park and Val Carol shared the celebratory cake.

Val Carol, Michelle Adams and Val Porter all worked at the kindergarten for a number of years.

Hannah Smith, Lizzy Cunningham, Val Carol and Abby Scanlon enjoyed reminiscing about the kindergarten.

Teaching then was very different to now. Val says she couldn't sing but loved music. She could play the piano and enjoyed lots of music. She had a few students she identified then as students with huge potential. One of those pupils was Wyn and Hank Dortman's son Peter who became a Nuclear Physicist. Alison Lester who is a children's author and illustrator, had her children at NNG Kinder. Alison would bring in her books and play the piano to work out some of the content for the stories in the early days. Val would not be brought into the conversation about who was a "brat".

Val was very honoured to have a garden at the kinder named after her – "Val Carroll Garden". People in the audience were very appreciative of Val's time as the kinder teacher of their children. One comment was that their children did not want to go to school because they only wanted Val to be their teacher. All the money raised by the kinder parents was spent on things to benefit the children. Another little boy wouldn't go to kinder unless Val was there. Helen McCutcheon was a teacher at Pakenham Consolidated School where some of the NNG Kinder students went onto at school age. Helen said she was so impressed with students from NNG Kinder who were well disciplined and educated ready to go to Primary School. Other memories shared from the audience included the massive fund raising efforts, including the Deb Balls when the deb set was presented to the Shire President and his wife Dan and Brydie Cunningham.

Kellie Handley was the only one of Val's ex students in the audience. She can remember Val as her teacher

val and ron carroll story cont...

in 1979 and fondly recalled all the music, concerts and nativity plays they did at kinder. Val was extremely proud of the nativity performances over the years even though at times she did encounter a few issues.



Archway presentation for Nar Nar Goon debs

The first Nar Nar Goon Kindergarten debutante ball last Saturday week saw 13 beautifully presented debs and their partners pass under an archway in the Nar Nar Goon Community Centre.

The debutantes were presented to one of the original founders of the Nar Nar Goon Infant Welfare Centre, Mrs Bridie Cunningham, and the first teacher at the pre-school Mrs Joan Rose.

Others in the official party included president of the kindergarten committee Mrs Catherine Nave and directress of the kindergarten Mrs Val Carrol.

After the presentation, debs and partners danced the Pride of Erin and the Charmaine. Mrs Cunningham commented on the magnificent presentation of the debutantes and their partners and complimented their trainers, well-known local dancers Margaret and Ted Deering, for an excellent job.

The debutante ball was the first to be held by the committee to raise funds for the kindergarten.

The hall and stage were decorated in red, white and green which were followed through with the debutante's wrist bouquets. The popular local band Nite Moves provided music for the evening.

The four tiny flower girls for the ball were Joanne Beilby, Nellie Ianello, Kirsty Morris and Rachel Wilson, all currently attending the kindergarten.

The debutantes presented were Jayne Coombs (partnered by Rod Downes), Yvette Rees (Howard Beall), Christine Shaw (Michael Prentice), Leah Langhans (Troy Duke), Narelle Gudgin (Brett Young), Melinda Chilcott (Darrin Cooke), Kathryn Zerafa (Anthony Cafarella), Tracey Lewis (John Hansen), Josie Gillespie (Nicky Collins), Kerry Finn (Steven Armstrong), Cherylle Duke (Steven Dore), Paula Knaap, (Simon North) and Jenny Londrigan (Peter Knaap).

● Above: The 1985 Nar Goon Kindergarten debutantes and their partners, back row, from left: Troy Duke, Steven Armstrong, Darrin Cooke, Peter Knaap, Simon North, John Hansen and Howard Beall. Second row from back, Michael Prentice, Cherylle Duke, Rodney Downes, Paula Knaap, Nick Collins, Melinda Chilcott, Brett Young, Kerry Finn, Steven Dore, Kathryn Zerafa and Anthony Cafarella. Front row (seated) are Jenny Londrigan, Yvette Rees, Jayne Coombs, Christine Shaw, Mrs Cunningham, Mrs Rose, Josie Gillespie, Leah Langhans, Tracey Lewis and Narelle Gudgin. Flower girls, from left, Nellie Ianello, Rachel Wilson, Joanne Beilby and Kirsty Morris.



AT NAR NAR GOON

Val knows her four year olds

A young child wanders through the door of the office and proudly shows a picture to the lady behind the desk.

The lady takes a special interest in the picture, asking questions. When at length a proud child skips away to another activity, Val Carroll pronounces the drawing a superb piece of kindergarten art and explains some of its meaning.

After 22 years of teaching kindergarten - and specifically, teaching kindergarten at Nar Nar Goon - Val is well qualified to know the ins and outs of kinder art, playdough sculptures and the four year old mind.

As one of the Shire of Pakenham's longest serving kindergarten teachers Val has seen a second generation of children passing through her care.

There are hundreds of Nar Nar Goon children who know of her special skills with kids, and hundreds of Nar Nar Goon mums who know of her kindness and help.

To Val, the kindergarten is not just a building. It's a "centre" for the township and a place where mums can always feel at home. "Today we even had one mum come here and cook her breakfast, as her power was off."

Nar Nar Goon can lay claim to the oldest kindergarten building in the shire. It was built before the war as a health centre, mainly at the instigation of the late Bridie Cunningham when her son Phonse was born. The land was donated by Bill Rattis. One of Bridie's grandsons attends the kindergarten today.

A pre-school with a play leader was opened in the building in approximately 1957, and in 1970 the building was first extended and a kindergarten started operating.

"Over the years it has been extended another three times and there are plans now to do another extension to cope with modern day needs," said Val. Val also has plans to create a special children's garden on the block adjoining the centre.

The building now caters for 70 pre-school children, 20-30 health centre babies and has a successful playgroup.

Val came to the centre only months after it first opened as a kindergarten, and she has remained there ever since.

Over the years, she has of course seen many changes. "It's become more professional, with more backup for teachers and special needs children with field officers.

"The idea now being mooted of committees taking over will place tremendous pressure on parents. Not all could cope well," she said.

Passing years have also seen a change from predominantly farm children to children from hobby farms and a more urban environment. But the children themselves, says Val, never change.

She aims to teach children to become "self reliant, confident little people" and improve their self esteem to the point where they feel they can attempt all sorts of activities.

"I think it's very sad when a child says they can't do something. They need to have the skills and confidence to tackle the formality of school.

"Kindergarten is the only time they are ever able to be completely themselves. At school there is more pressure to learn and there are siblings. Here they are just themselves, reaching their best potential."

Val is not just a teacher; she is a friend. She strives to understand what makes a child behave and act in a certain way and what motivates children.

"Children don't change," she said, smiling at her charges. "There is still a spontaneity and love in little children that doesn't change. Lifestyles have changed dramatically - there are mums at work and a lot more activities outside kinder like swimming and dancing.

"Little children are very receptive. They listen attentively and it's amazing the detail they can gather. They think I live here - when they see me somewhere else their eyes pop out of their heads!

"They come in at the start of the year as little strangers and they learn to trust and love. Little children give a lot of love."

Val likes to keep track of the children who pass through her kindergarten in their later lives. She tells of one little boy with poor eyesight who is now running his own business in America, while others have gone on to further studies and one even has a doctorate in nuclear physics.

"But all children are really beautiful," added Val.

There have also been sad times, when children Val has taught have passed away, or mothers she has known have died.

Mums are an important part of Val's life and she likes to feel she is always there to help. "When you help the mums, you help the children," she said. "I like to feel I've been able to help some mums."

She's made many lifelong friends from mothers at the kindergarten, and has had a good relationship with the ever-changing committees.

Val has a second generation child just starting kindergarten, and many of her former students have come back for work experience. She jokes about her gradual change from a motherly figure to a grandmotherly figure.

"I enjoy being around young people. Their youth and enthusiasm rubs off on me, and hopefully a little of my wisdom rubs off on them!"

Although Val says her "days are numbered" at the kinder, her enthusiasm for the job is obvious even after 22 years. "It doesn't matter how long one teaches, one never loses the pleasure of little children," she said.

Val Carroll has a warm winter hug for Katie Tivendale, Alyce Edwards and Ben Looby.



A day in the life of . . . .

a kindergarten teacher

Many people have the mistaken belief that kindergarten teachers spend their day reading stories to children.

But not Nar Nar Goon Kindergarten Directress Val Carroll and she'll tell you a different story.

Val arrives at work by 8.30am. She likes to prepare so the children can walk straight in at 9am and start their activity.

The first session is usually creative painting of some type, working with clay or dough, cutting and pasting, sewing - all based on using different parts of the body.

"At mid-morning we pack up and spend some time on the mat with language, stories, singing, music, the children's own expression or playing games" said Val.

Next is milk and fruit, then weather permitting, a playtime outside. The grounds are set up to encourage imaginative play, climbing, digging and construction in the sand, pit, and more.

"We encourage them to use their imagination and develop muscles and co-ordination" said Val.

At the end of the 2½ hour session, the children assemble on the mat again, in time for their parents to pick them up.

Val tries to sneak in a half hour to three quarter hour lunch. In the afternoon is a similar session with the second group, and she finishes up around 4-4.30pm.

PREPARATION

Preparation always takes a while, and phone calls take some time. "Mothers often like to talk about problems, and I try to help. If the mothers are happy, the children are happy, and that's what it's all about."

Val gives a mock shudder at the thought of having taught at Nar Nar Goon kindergarten for 19 years. In that time she has seen it grow from 2½ days a week to full time. "This year realised a dream for Val when extensions allowed the building to also house the child health centre, play groups and three/four year old kindergarten.

"The children can come here from birth to five years old - they get to know the surroundings" said Val.

INNOCENT

Even after 19 years, Val still enjoys her job. "Little children are so innocent and they have so much to give you" she said.

"It's lovely to see them develop into confident, capable little people. There's a real misconception that kindergarten teaching is just child minding, but our primary aim is to develop the child - their self esteem, their confidence, and send them off to school feeling happy.

"There is no such thing as a bad child. There's always a reason for their behaviour and it's up to us to find the reason and eradicate it. I feel very strongly about that."

Val also enjoys working with mothers. "When I was a young mother I felt very much alone, so I've always tried to help other mothers to enjoy their children".

Enjoying children is the key to her success. She has heard hundreds of funny things in her 19 years.

"You learn all the family secrets!" said Val with a twinkle in her eye.

"A classic a few years ago was a little boy who said he was going on a holiday to Cowes-ba!"

"Another child asked me why I had creases on my face. Children can be very frank and very direct. You definitely need a sense of humour!"

The Carroll family has been somewhat depleted with the departure of Cathy for a month's holiday in Thailand.

The daughter of Ron and Val Carroll of Pakenham, Cathy has spent some time in the north of Thailand trekking amongst the hill tribes, and is now in the south, island-hopping.

A trainee nurse at St Vincents Hospital, she is travelling with four other trainee nurses.

Ron and Val's son Michael is also overseas. He has spent the past seven months in London, has visited Lords and at the moment is at Wimbledon. Michael is teaching at a school at Piccadilly Circus.

Happy occasion shared by friends Mr Don Duffy, Mrs Lois Stephens, Mrs Marg O'Neill, Mr David Bourke and Mrs Val Carroll.

Nar Nar Goon Kindergarten Directress Val Carroll surrounded by some of her small friends.

Ron

Pakenham Racing Club

Ron was born in Koroit in the Western District and moved to Melbourne when he was 6 years old. He arrived to teach in Pakenham in 1956 where he became very involved in the Pakenham Tennis Club. On Ron's first day of school the Principal Charlie Hicks who liked the horse races, announced that the school would be closing early for the day because it was the Pakenham Cup. Ron couldn't believe his luck on Day 1 as a school teacher that he got to go to the Pakenham Cup in school hours.



Photo: Ron at the races with daughter Cathy and brother Ray

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val and ron carroll story cont...

His interest in racing started from a young age through an Uncle and Aunt who enjoyed the races. They had a station at Orford in the Western District and always had a horse for Ron to ride. At aged 9 or 10 Ron would catch the steam train from Melbourne, alone, to go to the races at places such as Koroit and Warrnambool. His Mum would take him to the train and ask a couple of ladies on the train to keep an eye on him. He is now a long time Pakenham Racing Club member, Life Member and a former President of Pakenham Racing Club. He has a benchmark handicap race named in his honour called the Ron Carroll BM 58 Handicap, which is typically run over 1000m. He was very involved in the relocation of the race club from Pakenham to Tynong.

LIFE MEMBERS

Southside Racing proudly acknowledges our esteemed Life Members. These dedicated individuals have made wonderful contributions to our Club and racing community, embodying the passion and excellence that define our legacy. Their commitment and support have shaped our journey, ensuring Southside Racing remains a beacon of tradition and camaraderie.

SOUTHSIDE RACING LIFE MEMBERS

Bon Hutchinson, Don Duffy OAM, Doug Smith, Frances Knapp, Garry Sidwell, Geoff Whiffin, Gerry Lieuwen, John Finning, Michael Duff, Michael Hodge, Michael Moore, Rick Tyrell, Robin Daley, Ron Carroll, Simon Conn & Yvonne Blackwood

Nar Nar Goon Football Club

The teacher in the next classroom to Ron, Bob Slocombe, suggested to him that he should come out to the Goon to play football with him and his brother Alec. Brian Arnold recalls that it was a big coup to get 3 players from Pakenham because of the rivalry between the clubs. Ron remembers kicking 3 goals one day but suggested he was only a great goal kicker when the team sent the ball to him. He won the goal kicking in 1956. Reg Harley ex South Melbourne VFL player, was the coach. Ron was a Monday to Friday boarder, so needed to leave his accommodation each weekend. After footy on Saturday he would get a ride back to Melbourne with Reg or when no other option available, he would hitchhike.

He enjoyed NNG football club and meeting identities like Bill Doherty. Ron recalls that Bill was on the League Tribunal and there was a request to clear a Nar Nar Goon player to Garfield because that's where the player's girlfriend lived. When the Tribunal deliberated Bill said the couple would probably break up in a week, so the clearance was denied!

The Carroll Family

Val and Ron have 9 grandchildren, (7 girls, 2 boys), 5 great grandchildren and one on the way. Eldest son Bernard who is 65, lives locally is a business man and still umpiring football. Their second son Michael, is Manager of Pakenham Ambulance station. Peter

val and ron carroll story cont...

their third son lives at Phillip Island and has a cleaning business. Cathy became a nurse and roamed Australia and the world. Her first nursing appointment was to Fitzroy Crossing in WA. She availed herself of every opportunity to do additional courses and travel, to extend her nursing career. She worked with the Flying Doctor for many years out of Cairns. Now she lives in Tasmania. She has 3 daughters all living in different parts of Australia.



Photo: The Carroll Family



Photo: Michael, Bernard, Peter and Cathy

Thanks Val and Ron for sharing your story.

NNG History Group

Future meetings:

- Friday 23rd October, Swamp Bus Tour with a Military theme. Includes: BBQ lunch and an update on Ambrose's work on St Josephs school. Bookings open early October $20pp. Subsidised by NNG Progress Association.

- Monday 16th November,
2pm at St Johns Church
Guest Speaker: Andrew Walsh with support from his Mum, Martha.

- Monday 14th December 2pm,
St Johns Church
Guest Speakers: The Abrehart Family

NNG Progress Association

Annual General Meeting (AGM):
Monday 19th October 2026, 7:00pm,

St John's Community Room,
(Behind Posh Op Shop)
Main St Nar Nar Goon.

Do you love Nar Nar Goon as much as we do?

Or perhaps you are new to the town and want to meet new people?

Want to get involved?

Experience is not necessary.
The committee all work together as a team and help each other out.
Be involved with community driven projects for our community.

All welcome!

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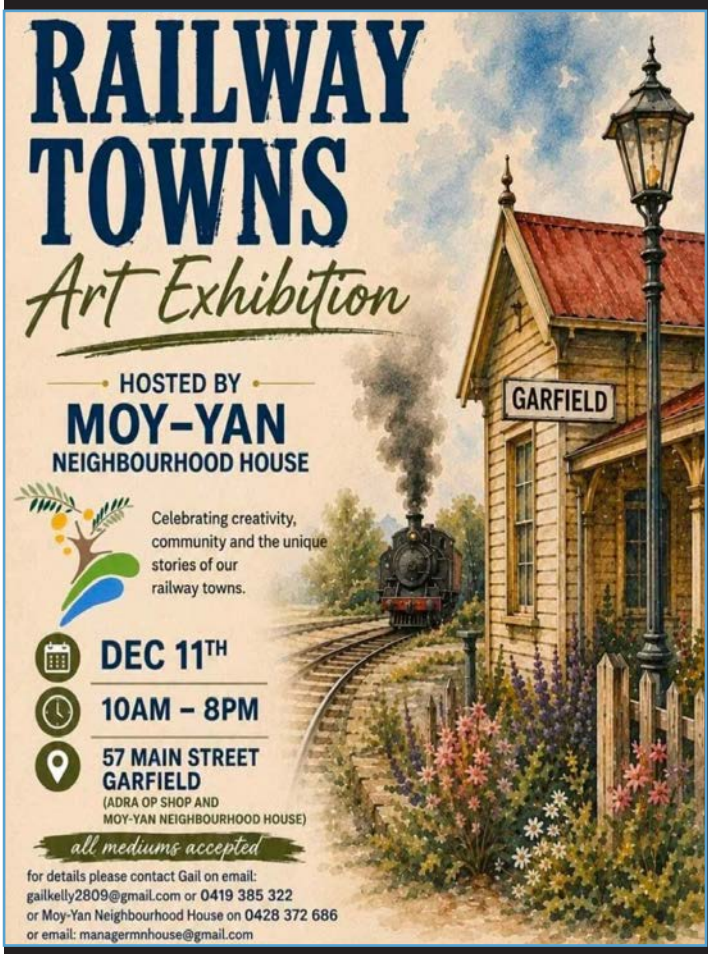
Community Choir
Ages 18+
7.00pm - 8.00pm

Soldiers Memorial Hall,
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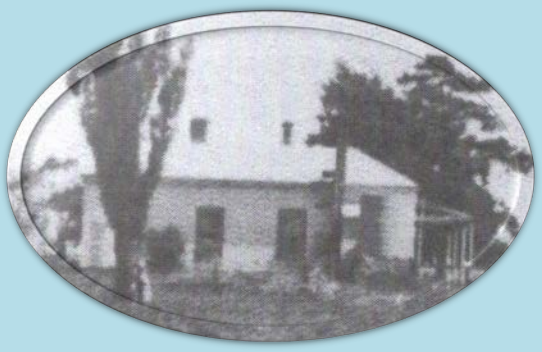
Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society

Presents a talk by

Dr Pat McWhirter

The Grange

The oldest house in Koo Wee Rup



After the talk you are invited to visit the garden at The Grange and Dr McWhirter will talk about the garden restoration work

When: Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start
Where: Mallow House Museum, 325 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup

RSVP: Heather Arnold - 0407 521 637 or harnold3814@gmail.com

Victorian Seniors Festival 2026
VICTORIA State Government



Station Street history: Museum talk and walk series

Thursday 22 October, 10.30am–12.30pm

Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society, 325 Rossiter Rd, Koo Wee Rup

Explore the history of Station Street with a short museum talk and optional guided walk. Morning tea included.

Cost: Free | Bookings required
Call: 0429 814 410
Email: mdalziel@cadesystems.com.au

More information
1300 787 624
mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au
cardinia.vic.gov.au/seniors

Cardinia Ageing Well | Cardinia

Cardinia

Project ideas sought for community grants program

Community groups across Cardinia Shire are invited to put forward ideas that will improve local facilities, strengthen community connections and deliver lasting benefits for residents.
Community groups across Cardinia Shire are invited to put forward ideas that will improve local facilities, strengthen community connections and deliver lasting benefits for residents.
Cardinia Shire Council is seeking project proposals for its 2027–28 Community Capital Works Grants Program, which supports community-led projects that improve local facilities and help meet the needs of our growing community.
The program gives eligible community organisations the opportunity to turn ideas into practical projects that make facilities more welcoming, accessible and functional, enabling community members to stay active, connected and involved.
Eligible community organisations are invited to submit a simple project proposal outlining their idea and the benefits it would deliver. Council will review all submissions and invite suitable projects to progress to the next stage.
Funding of up to $35,000 is available for community-managed projects that improve community facilities and respond to community needs.
Funding is available in two categories:
•Minor capital works: for minor upgrades or improvements to community facilities that enhance functionality, accessibility or usability.
•Essential equipment: for major equipment needed at community facilities or reserves. Equipment funded through the program must remain onsite and be available to all facility users.
Applications will be considered for projects valued at up to $70,000. For projects valued at more than $5,000, applicants are required to contribute 50 per cent of the total project cost. Projects valued at less than $5,000 do not require a contribution from applicants.
Project proposals close 9 December 2026. If successful, applicants will be invited to provide a detailed grant application.
An online information session will be held on 14 October 2026 to help interested groups learn more about the program and application process.
For more information, and to register for the information session, please visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/ccwg

Drop-off your green waste and keep your property fire ready

Residents are encouraged to drop-off their green waste for FREE at the upcoming green-waste drop off event in Pakenham.
Hosted by Cardinia Shire Council, this event supports residents in managing green waste and reducing fuel loads as part of their fire season preparedness. Properties within the Bushfire Prone Area are especially encouraged to participate.
Council's green waste drop-off event will accept residential amounts of green waste including gar den pruning's, tree branches and trunks (up to 30 centimetres wide and one metre long), weeds, grass clippings, leaves, and flowers.

When
Saturday 14 November, and Monday 16 - Saturday 21 November 2026

Monday to Friday: 8am–3:30pm
Saturdays: 8:30am –2pm

Where
Future Recycling Transfer Station, 30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham .

Residents must present photo ID as proof of residence within Cardinia Shire to access the free service. Green waste will only be accepted from residential vehicles and trailers; commercial business operators cannot use this free service.
Note: This is a privately run transfer station that will also be operating for normal commercial customers during the event period. Council does not run this facility. Please be courteous and patient with staff.
For more information about Council's green waste drop-off event, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff



Outlook COMMUNITY CENTRE

Discover a welcoming range of free courses, groups and special events at Outlook Community Centre. Whether you are caring for a loved one, looking to meet new people, build digital confidence, explore new interests or find helpful information, there is something here for you. Enjoy a cuppa, share a laugh and connect with your local community in a friendly, supportive setting. Never been to our centre before? We love seeing new community members, so give us try. View our complete Term 4 Program Guide online at www.outlookaust.org.au/events/, or drop in to pick up 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 Morning Tea

Do you care for someone elderly, disabled or with mental illness? Join us for a morning tea celebration of the amazing job you do. A morning to relax and enjoy. There will be refreshments and entertainment.
Wednesday 14 October, 10am – 12pm Cost: FREE
Supported by CarersVIC Australia

Carer's Games Day – for Victorian Seniors Festival

Join us for a games morning to relax, socialise and have some fun. The morning will feature a variety of games. Enjoy a scrumptious morning tea. Supported by Cardinia Shire Council
Thursday 20 October, 10am – 12pm
Cost: FREE

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. Supported by CarersVIC Australia.
1st Thursday of the month - 5 November & 3 December
10am - 12pm Cost: FREE (Gold coin donation welcome)

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 - 20 October, 17 November & 15 December
10am - 12pm
Cost: FREE (Gold coin donation welcome)

Get Tech Savvy - with Edie

Keep up to date with the digital world. Ask your questions about computing technology which frustrate or make you curious. As we learn from each other, these sessions are for beginners or those with some experience. Includes computers, phones and tablets. Use your own iPads and computers or use ours. Supported by Be Connected
Tuesdays commencing 6 October – join any time (No session 3 November)
10am - 12pm Cost: FREE

Armchair Garden Tour 'Gardens Across Continents' for Get Online Week

Travel the world without leaving your chair! Join us for a relaxing three-hour online journey through some of the world's most spectacular gardens from England and Japan to Singa-pore and Australia. Along the way you'll discover beautiful flowers, fascinating plants and inspiring landscapes, while also learning simple internet search skills to find more gardens, virtual tours and gardening information at home. A friendly, enjoyable session de-signed especially for seniors—no gardening or technology experience needed.
There will be refreshments and door prizes.
Friday 23 October, 9.30am - 12.30pm Cost: FREE
Supported by Good Things Foundation

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. Supported by Outlook Australia.
Monday 16 November, 10am - 11am
Cost: FREE

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Weekend Mass Times

St James Church,
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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The Posh Op Shop supporting:

- Nar Nar Goon CFA

- Tynong CFA

- Nar Nar Goon RSL

ENCOMPASS GROUP

For people with disabilities and their carers.

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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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!

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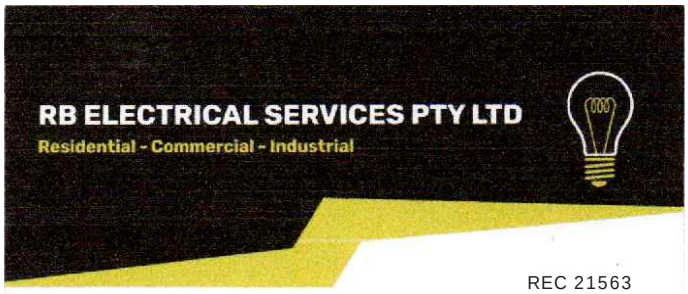
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Contact: Editor, Joanne Parker
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Community Diary

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: **Oct 23 (Fri), Nov 16, Dec 14**

Third Monday:

• NNG Progress Association meet bi-monthly at the St John's Community Centre at 7pm
- Next meeting: **Oct 19, AGM, Christmas Dinner (tbc)**

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:

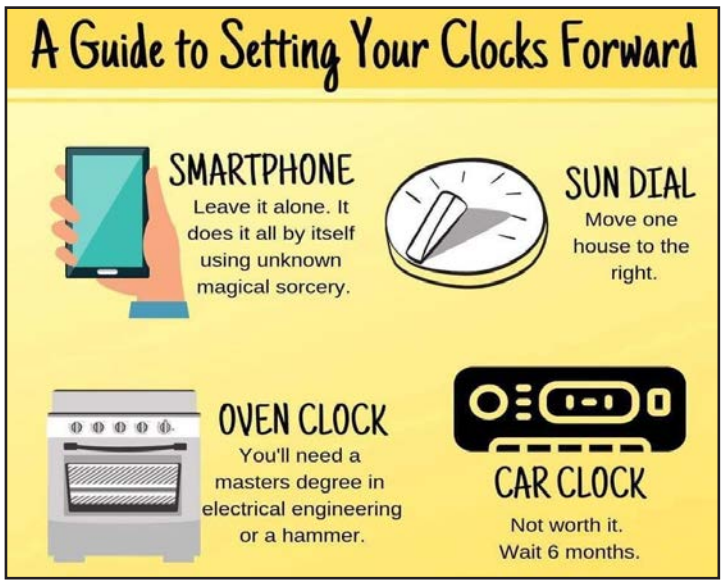
• Cardinia Civic Concert Band - 6:30pm to 7:15pm
Call or email for more information: Ph: 0439 408 311 or email secretary@cardiniacivicconcertband.com.au

Fourth Wednesday:

• Pakenham Camera Club meets at the Community Centre of Meadowvale Retirement Village, Eagle Drive, Pakenham at 7.30pm
- Next meeting: **Oct 28, 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

myli my community library

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

Got something to say?
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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!

goonnews3812@gmail.com
PO Box 153, Nar Nar Goon 3812
Contributions can also be placed in the box at the Posh Op Shop.

NAR NAR GOON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
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Phone: 0448 533 511
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Facebook: Nar Nar Goon Progress Association

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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
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				112.80	99.00	100.20
November				227.20	209.00	242.60
December				52.80	26.00	49.40
Total	**657.00**	**559.30**	**625.50**	**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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