



Volume 27 Issue 11

December 2025

Nar Nar Goon Fire Brigade Santa Visit - Monday 22nd December -

We are pleased to announce that Santa Claus will be visiting our town on Monday, 22nd.

In Nar Nar Goon Township, Santa's street parade will begin at 4pm.

In Pakenham East, Santa will be available at the Stockland Averley Sales Centre from 4pm-5pm and then at Lifestyle Communities Ridgilea Estate from 5pm-6pm.

Elves can drop off pre-labeled gifts on Friday, 19th between 3pm-5pm or Monday, 22nd from midday, or schedule a drop-off at their convenience via messenger.



Next History Group Meeting:

- MONDAY 23rd February 2026, 2pm
Guest Speaker:
Winsome & Ian Anderson

RAIN FALL MILESTONE

The end of this year marks 30 years that Geoff Leed has recorded our rainfall.

In the 30 years there have only been 3 months in which the rainfall exceeded 200mm:

- February 2011 - 259mm (and Bessie Creek Rd was under water where it crosses Ararat Creek.
- April 2020 - 211mm
- November 2025 - 227.2mm

Congratulations Geoff on your amazing 30 year milestone and thanks for the stats!

And a big thank you to all our rainfall recorders.

GOON NEWS DEADLINES:

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

Email: goonnews3812@gmail.com

parklea.

*proudly supporting
The Goon News*

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
BUNYIP-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au
Police Aboriginal Liaison Officer



Home Salon in
Nar Nar Goon

By appointment only

M - 0477101989



KPLhairstudio



COFFEE
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HOT/COLD FOOD
FRESH SANDWICHES/
ROLLS
HAMBURGERS
SOUVLAKI



Nar Nar Goon Fish & Chips
Take-Away Cafe

CATERING AVAILABLE

PHN. ORDERS - 5942 5042



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 ****

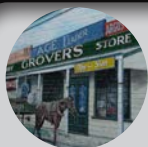
**** 🎉 Function Room: ****

- ** Available for hire **

- Perfect for events, celebrations and gatherings.

**** 📱 Stay Connected: ****

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates and promotions!



Nar Nar Goon Progress Association

The Nar Nar Goon Progress Association held its AGM on the 28th October and an informal meeting at the Christmas get together and are pleased to announce that all positions have been filled.

President - Greg Templeton
Vice President - Travis Parker
Treasurer - Sue Rose
Secretary - Jan Williamson
Goon News Editor - Joanne Parker
History Group Admin - Sue Rose

Meetings are bi-monthly and are held at the St John's Community Centre behind the Op Shop. 8 Main Street, Nar Nar Goon. Everyone is welcome.

NNG Progress Association

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

GOON'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.

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



COMMUNITY CENTRE - SPENCER STREET, NAR NAR GOON
Every Thursday Night • Eyes Down 7.30pm • www.narnargoonbingo.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 and mugs



• • • • •
Merry Christmas from
us all at BINGO.
We'll be back supporting
the community on
Thursday 5th February



HOT SPOT - from your friendly fire brigade

Restrictions during the Fire Danger Period

Vehicles and motorbikes propelled with an internal combustion engine must not contact any type of vegetation unless they are fitted with a system that takes all of the exhaust from the engine through a silencing device.

Machinery incorporating a heat engine in contact with, or within nine metres of crop, grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth or other vegetation must be:

- Free from faults and mechanical defects that could cause an outbreak of fire
- Fitted with an approved spark arrester
- Carry fire suppression equipment: this can be a knapsack spray pump or water fire extinguisher. It must be in working order, fully charged with water and have a minimum capacity of nine litres.

Tractors fitted with a turbocharger or an exhaust-aspirated air cleaner do not require a spark arrester.

Cutting, welding and grinding equipment must be operated with:

- A fire-resistant shield or guard in place to stop sparks and hot material
- An area of at least 1.5 m clear of flammable material or sufficiently wet down
- A water supply or an effective water knapsack of at least nine litres capacity available
- Cut-offs and electrode stubs placed directly in a fireproof container

On a Total Fire Ban day, the use of fire (or equipment that produces a naked flame) is banned.

Read more about what you can and can't do on days of Total Fire Ban at <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i>

If you feel volunteering is for you, contact Captain J. Seddon Ph: 0402 763 663.

NNG Rec Reserve Improvements

A big shout out to the Shire of Cardinia for responding positively to a request from the Nar Nar Goon Progress Association to repair the broken and aging seats around the footy ground and Bernie's walk which is on the perimeter of the recreation reserve.

Within weeks of the online request, the seats were repaired or replaced and painted. Great to see our Council supporting our local community facilities.





Garfield

PRO-AM

2026

Have your chance to play with the
Pro's



Wednesday, 04 Feb, 2026
 AM and PM tee times
 Garfield golf club



Sponsor Packages
 now available


Many prizes to be won on the day


Fun Categories • Door Prizes • Hole-in-One Challenge

REGISTER NOW!


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New Life to Tired Murals

Brigitte Dawson will be bringing our old tired murals back to life!

The first three murals on the agenda are the free standing murals.

1. General Store - this mural stood in the space at Anzac Park.
2. Nar Nar Goon North - this mural stood in the space opposite the post office.
3. The Churches - this mural stands in the grounds of St John's Anglican church and depicts the many churches that stood in NNG.

The murals were formerly painted by Andrew Rowe who has since hung up his paint brushes and retired from painting. Lucky for us we have the talented Brigitte Dawson, who was recommended by Andrew, to take on the big task.

It will be great to see our murals slowly come back to life. It's a slow process and funding plays a big part, so if you'd like to help out by way of donation to a particular mural, then please get in touch.

If you also know about the history of the mural subjects, then also please get in touch. The NNG History Group would love to hear all about it.

There will be more on the progress of our mural restoration in coming issues. Stay tuned!





Photo: Santa and his helpers

Sunday 30th November, Nar Nar Goon hosted the annual NNG Community Christmas Festival. Despite a few showers here and there, it was a fabulous evening with loads of people enjoying the atmosphere. Welcome to the NNG Primary School Choir. It was the first time we have had them at the festival and they did an amazing job!

The event is a fabulous collaboration of volunteers that work together behind the scenes and on the day to ensure it's success. Planning begins in May! On that note, we'd like to thank the Cardinia Shire Council for the grant which allows us to run the event and also end the occasion with a magnificent fireworks display. Special thanks go to our NNG Fire Brigade. We had 19 members lending support including manning the BBQ and the all important task of getting Santa in on the fire truck. The event could not run without the support of the CFA!

Our wonderful bands: THANK YOU!

- Darryl Lee - Chordettes
- Swamp Dogs - Bones Mackinnon, Greg, Kinglsey, Peter & Ric
- Backstreet Bandits - Felix, Gerard
- True Tones - Darryl, Frankie, Frank & Lloyd
- The NNG Primary School Choir

Thank you to our hard working face painter Lynette who painted faces for 2.45 hours! She went above and beyond with her beautiful face art. She travelled from Kyabram. Thank you we are truly grateful.

Thank you to Graeme Moore. It was good to have him back as MC. Like the 'good ole days'! You may not know, but Graeme Moore was one of the originals that helped organise the Christmas Festival back in 2000.

Thank you to Tony Finlay and team at Southern Cross Fireworks. He has looked after us forever and it is always good to have them back. We all loved the fireworks. It was a superb show.

Red Gem Growers & Packers kindly donated the onions to go with the snags! Thank you for your on going support!

Downes Transport / Charlie's Stockfeed are the best. They supply the truck every year for us and they helped us out with storage - we cannot thank them enough!

The Cranstons from the Dandenong Christmas Tree Farm who supply us with the magnificent Christmas tree.

The Christmas sub-committee and a host of unofficial, (but official) members of the community including Cheryl Edyvane, Jan Williamson, Ambrose Byrne, Gia Roberts, Geoff Bramley, Sue Rose, Joanne Parker, Travis Parker, Xanthe Parker, Simone Bialy, Wayne Crowley, Jasmine Crowley, Nicole Kennedy, Kerry Harley, Darryl Lee and Graeme Moore.

On top of the above mentioned, we would also like to acknowledge and thank the local and surrounding businesses that supported the raffle. The prizes were awesome and congratulations to the lucky winners.

Below are the generous businesses who made our raffle top notch!! THANK YOU:

- Bunnings Pakenham • Cannibal Creek Vineyard
- Castello's • Charlie's Stockfeed • Coles Pakenham
- Community Bank Bunyip & District
- Flow and Co Pilates • Garfield Hotel
- Goon Eatery • Granite Cafe • Gumbya World
- HA Brands • IGA Bunyip
- Kennards Hire Pakenham • KPL Hairstudio
- Lilin & Co • Luna Park • Moonlit Sanctuary
- Museum of Play & Art • Nar Nar Goon Hotel
- NNG Post Office • NNG Takeaway
- Pakenham Mazda - Cloughs
- Pakenham Western Wear & Saddlery • Priceline
- Repco Pakenham • Shanikas Pantry
- Southside Racing • Silly Solly's
- The Butcher with The Chef • Warragul Golf Club
- Woolworths Marketplace
- and the anonymous supporters

The Progress Association would finally like to thank the community for coming along and enjoying the Festival. We all hope you have a safe and happy festive season and we'll do it all again next year!



NNG History Group

On November 28th, the St John's church was packed today with an estimated 45 people present. Brian Arnold (85 yo), now living on Phillip Island along with the support of his older brother Kevin (87 yo) from Wangaratta, presented the story of Arnold family and growing up in NNG. Kevin's son, Kim and daughter Janine and Brian's son Paul, were all there today to support their Dads as the Arnold family story was shared by Brian.

Brian sensitively outlined the hardships their family of 3 boys (including Robby who is now 90 and living in Coffs Harbour), endured growing up in Mulcare Street, NNG, across the road from the railway line. They loved their childhood years but struggled emotionally and financially after the passing of their Dad in his early 30s when he died as a member of the Australian Army during WW 2. Brian was only 3 years old at that time. The death of their Dad left their young Mum with the responsibility to bring up 3 little boys on her own.

Brian shared some great stories of life in NNG and the strong links established over the years with the community and the NNG Football Club. At one stage there were the 3 Arnold brothers on the footy club committee of 8. He shared many anecdotes of life experiences in NNG and the appreciation of families in particular Doc Doherty, who provided a safe and welcoming home to visit. The Arnold Family story will follow in this issue.

On Monday 15th, over 50 people enjoyed Denis Doherty's recount of life in the Doherty household. His parents Dot (McGrath) and Bill lived very busy lives. Dot kept the home fires burning bringing up 6 kids and Bill was a great Dad who was the financial bread winner for the family. Bill's ability, interest and commitment to the family first, followed by the community was beyond expectation. In fact his outstanding service to sport and the community was acknowledged by being awarded the Order of Australia (OAM) medal in 2021.

It's a great family story which was honoured by the presence today by most of the immediate Doherty family and some of their off spring. Yesterday they coincidentally held a Doherty family reunion. Faye Doherty surprised them all by flying down from Coomera in QLD with her family for the day. Unfortunately Faye lost her husband Terry in April this year.

Following the talk, the floor was opened up for input from the audience. It was so heartwarming to hear

from people like Fran who is married to Michael Doherty, confirming the welcome and warmth Dot and Bill offered to her when she came into the family. This was confirmed by other comments made by immediate and extended family members. Bert Kooloos and Brian Arnold both talked about visiting the Doherty household - a home away from home in which they loved being involved.

There's so much more to the Doherty family story which will be in a future issue of the Goon News. Below is a photo of all the Doherty's attending Denis' presentation.



After a random on line chat with Geoffrey Abrehart last night, he and his brother Stephen have agreed to present the Abrehart family story in December 2026. That's a big effort that is really appreciated as Geoffrey lives in Bundaberg, QLD.

We have had approx 20 families who have presented so far. Fast forward to now, our group has grown to nearly 100 on the mailing list. Donna Handley (Byrne) has summed up this group beautifully- it's brought a whole community together. Well said, thank you Donna.

John Jarrott who is a sprightly 92 year old member of our group, moved to NNG 4 years ago. He lives at 22 Home Road, NNG. During a recent home renovation he and his family found relics of the past inside and below the house. John is trying to trace the history of the land back into the 19th century. If you can help, you can contact John via Sue Rose. He would really appreciate any input.

Thanks to you all for the great support of the NNG History Group. Enjoy a safe and happy Christmas break. We will resume meetings on Feb 23rd, 2026. Hope to see you all again then.

Confirmed dates for presentations in 2026 include:

- Feb 23rd - Winsome & Ian Anderson
- March 23rd - Michael & Mary O'Brien (ex NNG Milk Bar)
- April 27th - Kerry Van Dieman & Paddy Noonan about the Noonan Family and early days of Maryknoll
- Oct 23rd - Swamp tour - War sites of the swamp
- Dec 14th - Geoffrey and Stephan Abrehart

nng history group cont...

If you know of any NNG families past or present who would be prepared to share their family story with our group, please encourage them to contact Sue to lock in a date for 2026.

*Sue Rose
Convenor NNG History Group*

Arnold Family

Presented by Brian Arnold on November 28th, 2025 with the assistance of his brother Kevin from Wangaratta. Other family members present were Brian's wife Gwenda, son Paul and Kevin's daughter Janine and son Kim and his wife Leonie (who was a Jackman).

OAM The Medal of the Order of Australia 2012

Brian ended this presentation saying he was lucky enough to be awarded an OAM in the Queens Birthday Honours list in 2012. It should have been at the start of his talk because it is such a huge achievement, so now it's at the start of his written story!



Brian Arnold

Brian humbly claims he doesn't know how he got this recognition but as you read the long list of Service to the Community at the end of this document, you will understand why. He began making this huge contribution while he was running a plumbing business and bringing up a young family.

Brian Cunningham was the first caller to congratulate him and was elated that someone from NNG had been awarded an OAM. His contribution to Community Service is to be congratulated.

Arnold Family Story

Brian's story is focused on growing up in Nar Nar Goon. Brian, 85 lives in Rhyll on Phillip Island. He is the youngest of 3 brothers Roby 90, is the eldest, living in Coffs Harbour and Kevin 87, lives in Wangaratta. Their Dad worked for Benham's Poultry farm (the land later owned by Dan & Brydie Cunningham) and became Melrose farm on the 7 Mile Road. It was a huge poultry farm and created its' own meal for the chickens and had crushing works to crush up all the chicken bones. Brian thinks this was possibly where his Dad met his Mum who was a Deering.

Brian thinks his family is closer to the Deering side of his family than the Arnold side. The Deerings lived across the road from St. Johns Church on the site next to the kindergarten that has recently been turned into 6 units. Brian's Mum's sister was Eva Downes (Deering) and his Mum had 3 brothers – Fred, Albie and Ted Deering. Evie married Roy Downes.

Ted Deering married Margaret Kavanagh. Uncle Ted and Auntie Margaret played a big role in the life of the 3 Arnold boys.



His parents married in 1934. At that stage Brian's Grandfather was on the Rose farm, milking cows and making scolded cream for a market in Melbourne. The Roses bought the farm in 1939 which would be after Brian's Grandfather worked on the property. Roby who has just turned 90 this year, was born while their Grandfather on that farm. Then came Kevin and Brian.

In June, 1943, their father joined the army at the age of 30 which was fairly old to be joining the army at that time. Brian is not sure why their Dad joined the army but he thinks maybe the security of the job and doing his bit for the country. They know that because of the many letters that their Dad wrote to their Mum every day while in the army. Mum was not happy at all because at home she had 3 little boys with Brian only aged around 3 years old.

Then Dad was sent to New Guinea and by September of the same year he was no longer with us after being shot. Mum as devastated to say the least. Here she was with 3 little boys in Nar Nar Goon which was not a big place. Their Mum knew she had to make it happen for her family. NNG was the best place to be. Many friends and a supportive family helped the Arnolds through this very difficult time. The Government support in those days was not great and it was hard to make ends meet. Their Mum "could turn 10 bob into a quid." She could do things with money to make it work.

arnold story cont...

Mum - Jessie Arnold



Mum loved her family and was always involved with community groups. We were in the scouts, the school committee, the hall committee, the footy club and much more.

The NNG footy club was important then and still is today. At that stage you would have thought there was nothing else in

NNG but the football. Thursday night was the busiest night in NNG because that's selection night and all the boys would be there to see if they got a game or in Brian's situation to see if he got the job to run the boundary. It was a good time and a lot of fun.

This put the Arnold boys on the path of community involvement. All 3 boys got involved in things and there was a time when the 3 of them were on the football club committee. Bill (Doc) Doherty was like God to Brian. He was the President of the footy club at the time with the 3 Arnold brothers on the committee of 7 or 8 members. The 3 brothers didn't all necessarily agree on some of the issues discussed on the footy club committee. Doc managed the committee very well and kept them together and taught them a lot of things.

The Arnold family bought a house in Mulcare Street in NNG, where there were only about 6 houses. Their house was almost on the road, across from the railway line. Financially it was tough so their Mum had boarders living in. The school teacher from NNG South school, a bloke called Bernie Ryan, boarded with them. Bernie used to ride his bike every day to South NNG to teach the kids and come the weekend he'd been known to ride his bike to his home in Geelong. It was very hard to get accommodation in NNG and the teachers would usually stay for 6 months or a year. The Arnold boys don't know how Mum found room for the boarder in their 3 bedroom house. But she did with the 3 boys sleeping in the smaller room on the other side of the passage.

The bathroom facilities in those days were very ordinary with an outside toilet and the tin bath in a lean too on the back of the house. There was no town water – just a 500 or 1000 gallon tank out the back. When it was bath time, Brian can remember sitting in the kitchen waiting his turn. There was no hot water service. There was a copper in the laundry where they boiled water and carted it in a kerro tin to fill the bath with hot water. Eventually a chip heater was developed which heated up the water and the hot tap would drip slowly into the bath. When the boys started to work, Mum was able to get a job too. She got a job at Raleighs which eventually became Nestle where they processed pears and peaches. Brian was a

plumber and was able to install a hot water service at their house. They installed a nice bathroom with an inside toilet and got rid of the boarder, so now they had more room.

Kevin mentioned briquettes – the trains delivered the briquettes from Gippsland to Melbourne. The single railway line was being duplicated into 2 lines. People from the Baltic countries used to come to Australia to work. They had a little hut as their accommodation, which was an old guard's van next to the railway line. Their guard's van was right opposite the Arnolds. It was freezing during winter. Every time a train went past with briquettes, the Baltic workers had a big stick and would shave the briquettes off the top of the briquette pile from the passing carriage. The Arnold brothers were often quicker than the Baltic workers to collect the shaved "off the top" briquettes.

NNG had lots of families who were struggling financially. They were big families. There was almost a footy team of boys in Mulcare Street. The boys used to play footy day and night, often without a footy, instead using paper wrapped up with string tied around it or a pig's bladder, which they blew up and kicked around until it fell to bits.

Kevin was the best footballer in the family. Their Mum's rule in the family was "respect". People like the local policeman, the railway station manager and the bank manager were all well respected. Brian is very disappointed that today, "respect" does not seem to be there. The 3 boys all went to NNG State school 2248.

Robbie later attended Dandenong High school, Kevin Pakenham Consolidated and Brian went to Dandenong Technical school.



The Arnold Family:

Back: Janine, Leonie, Kim, Gwenda, Paul

Front: Kevin & Brian

George McGrath was the baker at Le Haines bakery and they loved him, because he made the bread and what he called "the bumper" which was a little bit of dough left over that he'd make into bread. You couldn't score the "bumper" 2 nights in a row

arnold story cont...

because he would remember who he'd given it to the day before.

They all had little jobs after school. Brian loved to help David's (Thorn) father in the butcher shop. Thorn & McCutcheon's Butcher shop, was a great meeting place. Mr. Eric Thorn owned the butcher shop with his 2 brothers and Mr. McCutcheon owned the slaughter house.

David's father Eric, loved a lemonade, specially the one with the froth on the top. On a Sunday morning you could go into the butcher shop and get a hair cut, you could buy a dozen eggs or apples or spuds but the most popular thing was that you could get a beer. In those days the pub was shut on a Sunday. They would take a gallon jar across to the closed pub to get it filled up and in turn go back to the butcher shop. They had all sorts of devices to get that beer out of the gallon jar. The most popular one was the rubber where you squeezed it and up came the beer out of the spout. At the same time, the meat that had been hanging all week would be cut up ready for sale on Monday.

The butcher used to do meat deliveries to farms and local houses, from a big wooden bin with a big heavy door on it, on the back of a ute. As kids the Arnold boys would go out on the ute with the meat bin. Their job was to jump off and go and break off a piece of gum tree to chase the flies away from the meat while the butcher was cutting it up to serve a customer. Eventually the telephone system was introduced so people could ring up and order their meat.

The butcher shop was a great place if you wanted to have a bet. Teddy Thorn would take the meat orders on the phone and they'd write the order with a skewer dipped in ink on the big piece of white paper that the meat was to be wrapped in. The meat deliveries would be covered in a tarp and delivered the next day from the back of the ute. Sometimes the phone calls included "bets" on horses and that would be written on the same paper as the meat order.

In those days footy was Number 1 and even today it is still very popular in NNG. In Mulcare Street, there were 10 to 15 boys including the McGrath boys, the Blackwell boys, the 3 Arnold boys and more. Brian first got involved with football through his Grandfather Bob Deering who used to do the hot dogs. He was a roley poley sort of bloke with not a blade of hair in his head who had the job of doing the hot dogs on a Saturday. He had a big copper of boiling water which he divided into 2 – the hot dogs that were ready and the ones to be processed. The boys helped cutting the buns, which was all part of raising money for the footy club.

Later in life when Clem Pitts started "The Barracker" which came out on a Wednesday or a Thursday, the kids used to take it in turns to sell the footy record and got a half penny for each book they sold. That was more than they got for helping with the hot dogs, which was nothing!

Brian, Robbie and Kevin could not have thought of anything better than being part of the NNG Football Club. It kept them all involved and probably kept them out of their Mum's hair. Right up until the 3 boys were married, the football club was the go to place in their lives. As they got older they became more involved in the social side of things. Joff Ellen of the In Melbourne Tonight TV fame from the Graham Kennedy show came through the contact of Bill (Doc) Doherty. Bill had contacts in places the rest of the community didn't even know existed. Joff Ellen (Joffa Boy) used the name of Nar Nar Goon as a bit of a joke. Doc never missed an opportunity and made Joffa Boy a Patron of the NNG Football Club. When there was a social night he would organize Dorothy Baker, Patty Newton and other well known singers to come and perform in the NNG hall. These events were great fund raisers.

While talking about the hall on Racecourse road, families would go to the NNG dances (1960s) where the hall was alcohol free. Some of the attendees carried alcohol supplies in the boot of their cars. This resulted in a lot of visits to the car during the evening. There were no police in the town. One dance night a car came into the car park doing wheelies. Brian who was Secretary of the footy club at that stage was asked to sort it out. He rang up Frank Palmer who was a Police Officer in Pakenham. At that stage Bald Hill Road was a dirt road. Frank turned up at the hall after Brian's call and asked him to come out to the car park to identify the culprit. Brian nodded in the direction of this guy who in turn said he would get him! Frank had a long torch which this young offender felt impact of in that moment. It turned out that Frank came to NNG along Bald Hill Road in his own private vehicle. These same young guys were driving towards Frank on Bald Hill Road and decided to do a wheelie right in front of him. That was a poor outcome for the boys being boys.



arnold story cont...

In NNG there was always lots of things to do. When they were younger they used to walk up to Miller's dam up over the Ararat Creek for a swim. On a Sunday night the train went through from Melbourne to Gippsland. There was an afternoon Herald in those days and when the train stopped in the NNG station they would con the Herald from someone on the train. Sometimes the boys would stand in the street and direct the traffic coming off the highway, looking to go to Koo Wee Rup. There were not many signs up so the boys would give them directions of how to get to KWR and then wait and see how long it was before they came back.

NNG was over supplied with boys from the families including: Browns, McGraths, Crawfords, Blackwells. Really good mates included Sutton, Few (Crawford), Brownie, Ocker and Brian. One of the first televisions in NNG was with Bill Doherty and his family. These boys spent a lot of time in the evenings at the Doherty house. Dot and Doc Doherty were so good to them at a time when maybe they only had one small child (Denis) of their own. They all had jobs to do when visiting the Doherty house such as to put the kettle on, wash the dishes etc. This was the boys meeting place one or two nights a week over the years as the young Doherty family began to grow. Doc was one eyed towards Collingwood and Dot one eyed for Essendon. Doc instilled football and respect into the boys through their visits over the years.

The Brown family had 4 or 5 boys and 2 girls. They lived on Browning Road and struggled financially. Billy Brown married Marie McGee. Billy had a brother named Hurricane (Tom). Les Miller had the corner shop where we all used to meet. We all have skills but Hurricane's skill was that he could recognize a vehicle by the noise that came out of the exhaust pipe. He'd say as an example that's Roy Downe's International coming over the hill. If he didn't know the noise, he would know the number plate.

Brian thanked everyone for listening to his story and said he'd come back tomorrow if he'd had half a chance! As a matter of interest the audience of 45 to 50 people, most with connections to NNG, filled St John's church to hear the Arnold story.

Where has the journey of life taken the Arnold brothers?

Roby married Marie. They had 4 children. Roby worked for the PMG (Post Masters General) He owned the local store, which at one stage, was owned by the Wards. When Uncle Roy Downes built the service station on the highway, Roby and Marie ran it. Marie passed away at age 40. Roby has since married Jenny and they now live in Coffs Harbour. Unfortunately Roby's health is not good.

Kevin married Marie. Prior to marriage he started in

the building trade but never finished the qualifications to be a builder. He worked for R.E. Downes when he was younger and then went farming. He and Marie had 5 children. They shifted to QLD where Kevin bought a Gold Coast milk run after which they decided to come back to Wangaratta where Kevin lives today. Marie passed away 3 years ago in 2022. His son Kim and his wife Leonie also live in Wangaratta as does daughter Janine. Janine was very proud to share with everyone that she was christened in this St. Johns Church and also went to Sunday school here. Kevin commented at the end of the presentation that he walked up Mulcare Street today remembering the life growing up there playing footy and cricket on the road in bare feet with the other boys living on that road. Nothing much has changed. It's still a dirt road with no drainage. The only thing that has changed is that the big pine trees on the railway side have gone.



Brian married Gwenda Brice from Pakenham 64 years ago. They have 3 children. Brian was a Plumber and started a Plumbing store in Pakenham in 1962. He acknowledged that Bernie Byrnes invented and built their first sheet metal bending machine which they still use to this day. Gwenda and Brian left Pakenham and went to Phillip Island where they owned and operated the Rhyll store.

Paul took over the Plumbing business. Paul was in the business longer than Gwenda and Brian. Now Paul's 2 sons run the business, which has been in operation for about 64 years. They have 10 grand children and 11 great grand children.

Brian's community Service over the years contributing to his OAM

NNG and Pakenham Rural Fire Brigades 1960 - 1987

- Councillor for the Shire of Pakenham 1977 - 1983
- President of the Pakenham District Hospital 1972 - 1979
- President of the Pakenham Jaycees 1971 - 1972
- Former President of the Pakenham Chamber of Commerce
- Chairman of the Springvale Necropolis Trust 1996 - 2002
- Councillor with the Shire of Phillip Island 1991 - 1994
- Member of Phillip Island RSL
- Served as Legacy Treasurer and President
- Treasurer Rhyll Community Association
- President Phillip Island Cemetery Trust

arnold story cont...

- Member of Cowes Golf and Bowls Clubs.

Admiring the OAM Medal – Leonie, Janine & Brian Arnold



We're making it easier to recycle this festive season! This year, we're expanding beyond cardboard to accept a wider range of hard-to-recycle items that pile up over the holidays.

Drop off your e-waste, polystyrene, soft plastics, textiles and excess cardboard for FREE without even leaving your car!

- Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 January, 9am – 1pm (both days)
- Council depot (18A Purton Road, Pakenham)

Registration is essential: www.trybooking.com/1488579

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- Textiles - Good quality and end-of-life textiles including clothes (no underwear or bras), shoes, fabrics, towels, and bed linen. They can have minor rips, holes or stains but must be clean and dry.
- E-waste - Any batteries and small electrical items such as phones, tablets, chargers, vapes, gaming devices, toys, power tools, and other small appliances or devices.
- Cardboard - Flattened cardboard without any plastic film or wax coating.
- Polystyrene- White polystyrene packaging and produce boxes.
- Soft plastics - Any 'scrunchable' soft plastics including plastic bags, bread bags, pasta and rice bags, chip packets, produce bags and frozen food bags. Please bag all soft plastics together.

For more information about Council's drop-off events, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff

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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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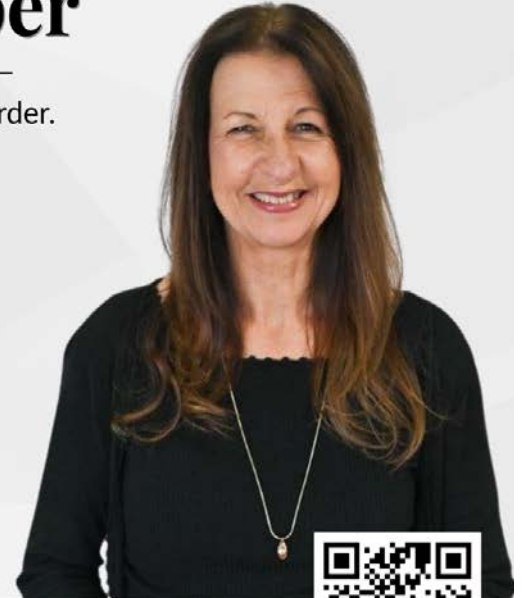
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Ladies of the Swamp Charity Quilting Group

The Ladies of the Swamp Charity Quilting Group started in 2019 in response to the Bunyip/Tonimbuk bushfires with over 100 quilts being donated for those in need of some comfort.



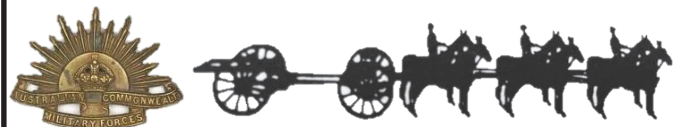
The group now support many charity groups including Wombat's Wish, Backpacks4VicKids, local nursing homes and aged care organisations as well as community group fundraisers and relief efforts just to name a few.

Donations of sewing supplies, fabric and quilts (both tops and fully completed) are more than welcome.

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

For more information, contact:
Lynne 0417 318 290 or lynne.smythe@gmail.com
or join us on Facebook:

 **Ladies of the Swamp Charity Quilting Group**

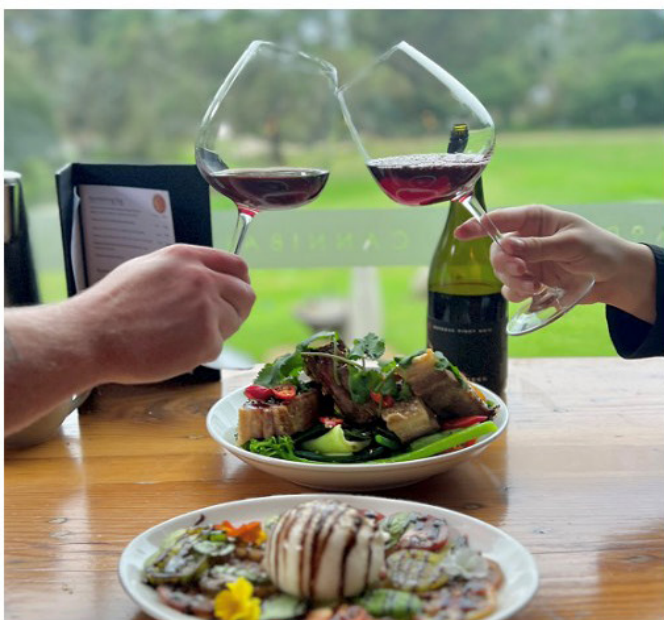


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Lest We Forget.

The museum has been an icon for many years and the Dingle family have worked hard to maintain the true character of its time. They are seeking our support with their fund-raiser "Brick Appeal". If you can help in any way with this appeal please contact Edward Dingle.

Edward Dingle
Asset Protection/Project Manager
Light Horse & Field Artillery Museum
www.lighthorsemuseum.com.au
Ph: 0419 400 306



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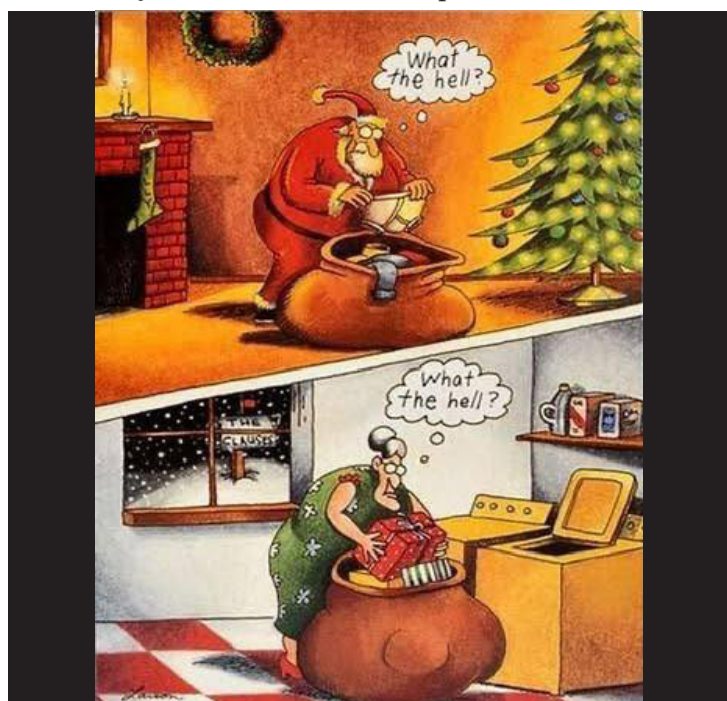
Community Diary

- **Every Sunday morning:** CFA training
- **Every Monday evening:** CFA training / meetings
- **Monthly Monday:** Nar Nar Goon History Group meet 2pm in St John's Church or Op Shop (behind). Contact Sue Rose on 0421 514 607
- Next Meeting: **MONDAY 23rd Feb**
- **First Tuesday:** Nar Nar Goon RSL Sub Branch meets monthly at the Community Centre.
- Contact Secretary Samantha O'Sullivan should you want to attend as a guest or member via email: secretary.narnargoonrsl@gmail.com
- Next meeting: **Contact Samantha for confirmed date**
- **Fourth Tuesday:** NNG Progress Association meet bi-monthly at the St John's Community Centre at 7pm
- Next meeting: **Feb 24, Apr 28, Jun 23, Aug 25**
- **Fourth Wednesday:** Pakenham Camera Club meets at the Community Centre of Meadowvale Retirement Village, Eagle Drive, Pakenham at 7.30pm
- Next meeting: **Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 25, Apr 22**
- **Thursday:** For information on local Scout meetings, please contact Olive Elston, Ph: 0408 390 593.
- **Every Thursday night:** BINGO! at the Community Centre. Eyes down 7.30pm/8.00pm. Book sales 6:45pm
- **Second Saturday of month & 5th Saturday (if applicable):** Old Time Dance at Nar Nar Goon North Hall
- Contact Kaye on 5942 5411, Fred, Beryl on 5942 8246
- Next dance: **Dec 13, Jan 10 & 31, Feb 15, Mar 8 & 29**

CONTACT INDIVIDUAL CLUBS FOR DETAILS

Weekly Church Services:

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



Thursday
Nar Nar Goon Primary School
11.00am - 12.00pm

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

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

Community Contact List

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

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

Month	Rainfall 2024			Rainfall 2025		
	Geoff L	Zoe	Geoff B	Geoff L	Zoe	Geoff B
January	154.80	120.00	144.60	60.60	41.00	36.00
February	25.80	22.00	26.00	67.60	54.00	77.40
March	13.00	7.00	10.00	72.20	55.00	54.00
April	144.20	132	126.00	36.00	35.00	44.00
May	39.00	(41.50)	44.00	36.40	31.00	20.00
June	56.20	79.00	38.00	74.00	55.00	50.20
July	155.40	136.00	138.00	113.00	91.00	79.20
August	35.00	26.00	16.40	53.60	(53.1)	52.60
September	114.00	85.00	91.20	76.20	55.00	55.80
October	84.80	(75.00)	65.20	112.80	99.00	100.20
November	57.60	48.80	62.50	227.20	209.00	242.60
December	44.80	45.60	42.60			
Total	924.60	701.40	804.50	929.60	778.10	812.00



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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