

# Noojee News

Edition 4

Your Community Newsletter

Summer 2020

## Being prepared and aware for summer in Noojee

### Are you really prepared for fire?

The weather for this summer is predicted to be wetter and more humid than average however, according to Noojee CFA Secretary Colin Booth, there will still be a fire season, so it's important to remain vigilant and prepared. "Generally in an El Niño year, you get a late start and early finish but there's still several weeks in the middle where a lighting strike or something else can cause a significant risk to the community, although not nearly as significant as last year."

Colin has been a member of the Noojee CFA for the last five years and secretary for five. During that time he has spoken to farming land owners who say the fire seasons are getting longer. "I spoke to one earlier this year in East Gippsland who said he's been on his farm for 60 years and noted the seasons are changing. Plants that were dormant through winter are now growing in winter because it's warmer and that growth coming into summer coupled with longer, warmer seasons is creating a more significant risk."

When asked about misconceptions people may have when it comes to bushfires, Colin said the most common is not understanding how quickly a fire can burn and how hot and intense it can be even from a good distance away from the flames. He said fires also consume oxygen and the outcome of the royal commission reported that many people died in bushfires from asphyxiation.

Before joining the brigade, his view was and always has been and still is that Noojee is not a safe place to be when the fire danger rating is extreme. "It will be a day of hot winds and people could quite easily find themselves trapped in Noojee with trees down over the main road and if a fire does get started, it will move very quickly and be uncontrollable. Thinking about putting a fire plan together can cause anxiety for some people in the short term but once they've established a fire plan that works for them, I think it takes away any anxiety long term."

This year, Covid restrictions have made it difficult for the CFA to plan any community events but the brigade has still been engaged in training. They have a property advice service with members that are happy to meet with residents about how best to protect their property and they can be contacted through the Noojee CFA Facebook page. Also, most Sundays from 9.30 am onwards there will be somebody at the station and people are more than welcome to drop by and have a chat about fire or to get help putting a fire plan together.

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### Who can get through your doggy door?



Pet ownership has become more popular than ever and many residents have doggy doors that allow their beloved pets to come and go from the house as they please. Some Noojee residents however, have found that their doggy door has also allowed other unwelcome animals to enter the house.

One resident, who owns an older dog, was apparently quite traumatised when she was confronted by a local dog that had entered through her doggy door, attacking and injuring her dog in the kitchen. Then recently another resident was startled when a large, wild goanna entered the house before marching around it and leaving through her doggy door where it came in.

These small doors are wonderful for pets and very convenient but be aware that they can provide access to your home from unwanted local guests and some that may be harmful.



*Photo's by Sue Nelson*

***The Noojee News acknowledges the original inhabitants and traditional custodians of Noojee and surrounds and pays respect to Elders past, present and First Peoples of Australia who live in this district.***

## From the editor

The Noojee News is an independent publication produced by the Noojee Community, Business and Tourism group under the auspices of the Noojee Hall Committee, to provide information for the town.

If you would like an article, letter or business card ad in the Noojee News email: [noojeeebt@gmail.com](mailto:noojeeebt@gmail.com) or post to: Noojee News, C/- PO Noojee, 3833

500 copies of the Noojee News are published quarterly and printed by the Neerim District Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank. Digital copy : <https://www.noojee.net.au>

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Wendy Morriss

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Ron Bilston

Ron Bilston, born in Richmond April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1939, lived in Noojee with his family for 30 years. He and his wife Margaret bought the Noojee tearooms now known as the Little Red Duck Café, in the late 90s. They operated the business for 13 years before retiring and Ron spent his remaining years enjoying relaxed time on the veranda of his home feeding his beloved wild birds.

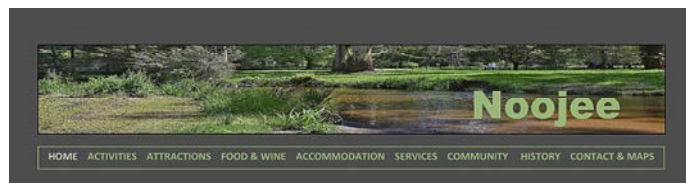


Sandra Bottrell

Sandra Bottrell was born in Alphonington on January 28<sup>th</sup> 1943. She moved with her family more than 30 times before settling in Noojee in the late 60s where she remained for almost 50 years. In 2016, ill health forced her to give up her large house and her beloved extensive garden and she moved to Western Australia to spend her remaining years with her daughter Joanne.

For information on everything you need in Noojee

Noojee community website: [www.noojee.net.au](http://www.noojee.net.au)



## Sad loss of local residents in 2020



Wally Buckland was born in Kyneton on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1945. He was known in Noojee for his passion for old cars and his fervent interest in the train at the heritage centre. He started working for Brown's Mill in 2001 and moved into the town in 2003. After retiring at the age of 65, he did a small amount of work for the Jindivick Quarry.

Before settling in Noojee, Wally had moved around a bit and worked doing a variety of jobs. He worked for a construction company in Tynong for more than 10 years and during the 90s, he worked with his son Jamie in the construction industry on projects that included the Western Ring Road, the Eastern Freeway and the bypass at Longwarry.

Wally found his place in Noojee. He loved to tinker and fix things and he always had a shed full of cars to work on. He also loved trains and enjoyed spending time during his retirement talking to adults and children about the train in Noojee.

Jaimie said his father was a man who would give everything a crack. He never backed down from anything, he'd always have a go. He kept true to himself in his appearance and in his actions, which made him unique. "While most people try to fit the norm, he just did what he wanted and that was about it. He could tell a good yarn and he never let the truth get in the way of a good story."

# Unfortunate closure of Community group

Since its inception in April 2017, the Noojee Community, Business and Tourism Incorporated group has continuously worked with an objective to maintain and enhance the social, economic and natural amenities in Noojee and the surrounding area for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors to the community. With the assistance of many great community volunteers, much has been achieved during that time.

This year, the group again focused on working with the Shire to get more amenities and infrastructure in the town. This included footpaths to get pedestrians off the roads with connections to walking, cycling and riding tracks that people enjoy and more parking. Also a site each end of the town with sufficient toilets, gas or electric barbeque facilities to discourage people from lighting fires and drinking fountains and picnic tables with all new or upgraded works to be in keeping with the town's natural, native character.

The achievements of the group since the last AGM have been:

Working with the Shire regarding extra collection of rubbish in the town.

Upgrading of the public toilets on the reserve with the addition of two more pans.

More footpaths in the town – beginning with one from the hotel to the heritage centre.

Secured some funding for proposed new toilets in the town on a second site.

Working with the Shire to establish quarterly networking meetings with other community groups in the area.

Participating in the Shire's tourism and community development workshop (DAP).

Established a community website connected to a Facebook page.

A quarterly community newsletter.

A quarterly market. The Noojee Bush market held quarterly in and around the Noojee Hall.

Sadly due to the lack of people available to commit to executive committee positions, the incorporated group can no longer operate. To save the community website, newsletter and market, group members approached the Noojee Hall Committee with a request to become a subcommittee under their incorporated group, which thankfully, they have accepted and approved. A nomination for coordinator is Wendy Morriss who is currently the NCBT subcommittee coordinator for the website and newsletter. The incorporated group Noojee Community, Business and Tourism will close and the group's accumulated community funds will be transferred to the Noojee Hall Committee.



*A big thank you to all the members, businesses and volunteers that have supported the NCBT.*

*From  
The NCBT Committee 2020*

# Noojee Bush Market

The market will be held again next year but due to the change of the group status, details won't be known until January. Rebecca Baird

Sponsored by:  Baw Baw Shire Council  Bendigo Bank  
Neerim District Community Bank Branch

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The fire plan will have three phases. He said the first, is one people should be thinking about now, which is cleaning up around their house, trimming back vegetation and moving wood piles away from the house.

In the lead up to a potentially bad fire danger day, it may be things like moving outdoor furniture away from the house or taking it inside, removing things like gas bottles and bringing door mats inside. It will be getting out the leaf blower to remove litter and cleaning out gutters.

Then on a bad fire danger day, it may be removing anything flammable from around the house, blocking downpipes and filling gutters with water, closing windows and doors and if necessary, turning off the power and gas supplies.

He said the decision everyone needs to make then is should they stay or should they go. "If they decide to stay, firstly their property needs to be defensible, they need to be physically and mentally prepared to fight a fire and they need to be equipped to fight a fire, which means having an independent water supply (not mains) and a pretty decent water pump and a hose that can deliver a good load of water. If they plan to go, they need to leave early or the night before so they aren't caught on the road during the fire. The worst thing people can do is decide to wait and see and get caught out."

In the fire plan should be an inventory of what needs to be packed into the car. It may be items that can't be replaced like photographs; identification that may be needed to access services, a fire blanket made out of wool or other non-flammable material and bottled water to avoid dehydration and secondly if you're wearing some sort of mask, it works better when its wet. "Apparently last year at the East Gippsland relief centres, the most requested item was a phone charger. People should also leave gates open so a fire truck can easily access their property."



Have a  
great  
Christmas  
in the bush  
and a safe  
and happy  
New Year!

## Multifix Property Maintenance

### Handyman Services

Jevan Hogben

0413 637 542

whatahandychap@gmail.com

Icy Creek,  
Neerim South,  
Warragul,  
Drouin



## Fritz Mylius

Painter and Decorator

Phone: 0418 174 110

## NOOJEE BUSH GOODS

- Snow Chain Hire
- Camping Gear
- Bait & Tackle
- Firewood

Open: Thu-Sun, 6am-4pm  
11 Henty St Noojee 3833



**Phone 0488 451 850**

## Little Red Duck Cafe

Phone: 56289613

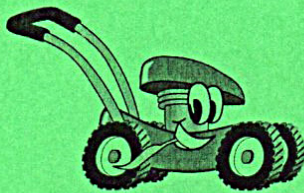
1 Bennett Street, Noojee

Open 7 days a week 8 am - 4 pm



## NOOJEE GARDEN MAINTENANCE

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- Ride on mowing
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