

TOOLAMBA & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

September 2026



Toolamba Local Emergency Action Plan

Fiona Feltmann is the Resilience Officer for the Local Emergency Action Plan (LEAP) project in Council. Her role is to assist local organisations / communities in developing a LEAP.

A LEAP is a community-specific strategy that helps residents prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies such as bushfires, floods, and severe storms.

By identifying local risks, resources, and community roles, LEAPs compliment formal emergency management arrangements and empower communities to build resilience and reduce the impacts of emergencies.

On 27 February 2024, the Toolamba and District Emergency Response Group (TERG) met to discuss the Community Emergency and Recovery Plan. During the workshop, community members identified a range of actions that could be undertaken before an emergency to support the collection and distribution of information and resources during a crisis.

These actions recognise that power, water and road access may be disrupted, while building on the community's strong

willingness to help others and the existing networks, groups and relationships that support local resilience. Fiona has been working on putting information from the Toolamba and District Emergency Response Group (TERG) into the LEAP format which will then be part of the Council Plan and ultimately the State Plan. The final version should be published in mid-November.

Art in the Park

Art in the Park will take place at the Community Hall on Saturday 17 October from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Depending on the weather, Art in the Park will be either outside or inside.

There is a small charge to attend (approx. \$5), bookings will be essential and numbers limited. Art in the Park is aimed at adults with young people welcome. Bookings essential.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1648628>

Dementia Awareness Information session

A free practical session to better understand dementia. You will learn:

- What dementia is and common signs;
- How to communicate with confidence;
- Ways to support people with dignity & respect;
- Interactive Q & A session.

Thursday 1 October, 2:00pm-3:30pm.
Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre.
To book contact Stacey 0437 245 107 or email: acvs@thecentre.vic.edu.au

GREATER SHEPPARTON
EMERGENCY DASHBOARD



Stay informed. Stay safe.
Access live updates now.

shepp.city/emergency

Australian Government S Resilience VICTORIA

Toolamba's last Streetlamp Lighter

Harriet "Ettie" Huggard was born in 1896, the first daughter (after five boys) of Emily and William Huggard who lived in River Road, North Murchison.

Over the years, the family and Harriet moved around the area. Harriet first came to Toolamba with her family in 1914 and lived in an empty hotel near Noel and David Rea's home for several years. In 1917 she married Joseph Magee and moved from Toolamba. Sadly, Joe died of cancer in 1922.

Harriet returned to Toolamba in 1924, and married her second husband, James (Jim) Mellerick in 1925.

During the 1930's, Harriet was the official Toolamba Streetlamp Lighter employed by the Rodney Shire Council. Every evening before sunset it was her duty to light the five kerosene Streetlamps in Toolamba township.

Riding her bike and carrying a ladder over her shoulder, a canvas bag holding a bottle of kerosene, spare wicks and some matches she would first light the lamp in front of the hall, then along the street reaching up to the other four.

The lamps had to be turned off at midnight, and Harriet soon learnt to estimate the exact amount of kerosene needed to keep the lamps burning until midnight, thus making sure she didn't have to leave her bed to turn them off manually.

Bill "Plugger" Martin, Shire Secretary, sent her cheques for 3 pound (approx \$295.00 in today's terms) out to her each month - the job paid just 7 shillings and sixpence a week (that's approx \$40-45). Harriet had carte blanche to order new supplies of wick, kerosene and matches at the Toolamba Store - "and I never used a single drop of that kerosene in my own house - they trusted me completely".

Prior to commencing her role as the Streetlamp Lighter, Harriet worked at the Toolamba Hotel for about six months. She washed, ironed, and cleaned for one pound a week.

The depression came; money was scarce, so Harriet found more work washing and ironing for the district's families.

Harriet rode her bike four miles (6.5kms) to wash and iron for the McGill's, Ryan's and Pyke's - at one pound a day which was a great help in those hard times.

Harriet's husband, Jim, was employed by the Pogue's, and rode out to the farm from Toolamba township each day. He earned 4 pounds a week at the Pogue farm.

Harriet also leased the Refreshment Room at the Railway Station. This meant rising around 4am each day to bake scones, hot pies and small cakes, make sandwiches and then milk the cows. She then went on to the Refreshment Rooms to prepare for the 7:30am train arrival. Two girls were employed to assist in serving the train travellers between 7:30 am and 7:45 am.

Milk from the cows was delivered around the town to customers at 3 pennies a pint - and the railway people bought theirs from Harriet at the Refreshment Rooms.

Harriet died in Tatura in 1989 at about age 94.



Female Lamp lighter

*Thanks to Keith Bryant for providing this story.

Community events

Monday 28 September – Community Dinner Muster, Toolamba Community Hall, 6:30pm.

Monday 5 October – Term 4 starts, Toolamba Primary School.

Tuesday 6 October – Lions Club monthly meeting, the Junction Hotel, 7:00pm.

Monday 12 October – Seniors Lunch, Toolamba Community Hall, 12-2:00pm.

Tuesday 13 October – Toolamba & District Steering Committee meeting, CFA rooms, 5:30pm.

Saturday 17 October – Art in the Park, Toolamba Community Hall, 6:30pm-8:30pm.

Saturday 17 October – Sam Gallo Memorial Salami Competition, incl lunch, Toolamba Fishing Club, 1:00pm. Presentations 4:00pm.

Tuesday 20 October – Monthly meeting, Toolamba Wrens (CWA), 7:30pm.

Monday 26 October – Community Dinner Muster, Toolamba Community Hall, 6:30pm.

Saturday 31 October – Halloween BBQ, Colaura Gardens, 6:00pm.

Tuesday 3 November – Melbourne Cup public holiday.

Tuesday 10 November – Toolamba & District Steering Committee meeting, CFA rooms, 5:30pm-6:30pm.

Tuesday 10 November – Lions Club monthly meeting, the Junction Hotel, 7:00pm

Tuesday 17 November – Monthly meeting, Toolamba Wrens (CWA), 7:30pm.

Monday 30 November – Community Dinner Muster, Toolamba Community Hall, 6:30pm.

Tuesday 1 December – Lions Club monthly meeting, The Junction Hotel, 7:00pm.

Tuesday 8 December – Toolamba & District Steering Committee meeting, CFA rooms, 5:30pm-6:30pm.

Sunday 13 December – Lions Club Carols, The Junction Hotel, 5:00pm.



Toolamba Lions Club - We Serve

Several Lions' clubs have been actively supporting communities impacted by the January 2026 Longwood fires east of the Hume Hwy including Toolamba Lions Club who've volunteered time and resources.

Another recent activity was a thank-you breakfast provided for members of the Toolamba CFA and their families. Although not necessarily directly involved in fighting the Longwood fires, their selfless efforts protecting our community also deserve our recognition.

Seniors Lunch

It's that time again for our annual get-together for our Seniors "Toe-Tapping" Lunch, to celebrate Seniors Week.

Come along to enjoy a light lunch, listen to music from the Golden Years played by the amazing local band The Splinters, and have a chance to win one of the many door prizes.

Monday 12 October, 12:00pm-2:00 pm.
Toolamba Community Hall, Wren St.
Cost \$15.00 with a door prize ticket.

Bookings are essential, contact:

Helen on 0439 907 157, email helendmorritt@gmail.com OR
Karen on 0439 336 662, email marshy069@msn.com

RSVP by 8 October. Pre-payment is available, or cash on the day.

Toolamba Lions Welcome All Seniors.

Halloween

Halloween BBQ, Colaura Gardens,
Saturday 31 October, 6:00pm. No charge.
Join us for a sausage in bread before the Trick & Treat fun begins.

Get involved

Have you thought about contributing to one of the organisations that work towards making Toolamba a great place to live?

Here are some options:

Toolamba and District Community Steering Committee:

Meet on the second Tuesday of the month, 5:30pm at the CFA rooms. Contact - keith.bryant01@bigpond.com

Toolamba Lions Club:

Meet on the first Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm at The Junction Hotel. Contact - toolambalionsclub@hotmail.com

Toolamba CWA:

Meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the CFA rooms. Contact - cwatoolamba@gmail.com

Toolamba Recreation Reserve Committee of Management:

Contact - jam.wil@bigpond.com
Hall booking officer: Jim Woodwood.
Contact - 0427 099 955

Toolamba CFA:

Meet Sunday morning.
20 Wren St.

Toolamba Tennis Club:

Ladies social comp - Thursday nights;
Juniors coaching available Tuesday nights / comp - Saturday's;
Mens social comp - Wednesday nights.
Contact - toolambatennisclub@gmail.com

Murchison Toolamba Football Netball Club (MTFNC):

Contact Simon Robinson - murchisontoolambafnc@gmail.com

Toolamba Cemetery Trust:

Contact – Keira Birchmore
toolambacemetery@gmail.com

Detox Your Home

Toxic household chemicals, such as cleaning products, pool chemicals and pesticides can be safely disposed of for free at the Victorian Government's Detox Your Home event, in partnership with Greater Shepparton Council.

Saturday 3 October, 9:00am – 12:00pm.

Registrations essential at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/detoxshepparton2026>

Free first aid course

Toolamba CFA station

Sunday 15 November, 10:00am.

To Register go to:

<https://strathbogieshire-northeasttraining.trainingdesk.com.au/enrol>
and click on the 15th of November.

The next quarterly edition of the newsletter is due to be distributed in early December.

If you have news, information or a story to share with the community contact:

Sally - shamiam23@outlook.com

The deadline for information or news to be included is Friday 27 November.

