



# NOWA NOWA FUTURES NEWS

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## Timber towns in transition: sharing the process

**Across Victoria timber towns are undergoing the same process as Nowa Nowa**, developing a Local Development Strategy to guide government investment using the Smart Specialisation Strategy. Project Managers are now working with local communities in Swifts Creek, Orbost, Heyfield, Noojee, Yarram, Yarra Ranges, Murrundindi Shire, Benalla and Corryong .

In early May our local project team attended a conference sharing how the Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) is being implemented across the state. As well as representatives from each project town and their support teams from RMIT and the Forestry Transition Program, the conference was attended by government advisors and policy makers.

The S3 process is very different to the traditional 'business as usual' way of government determining priorities for spending in regional development.

It became clear during the conference that the Project Managers across the state share real commitment and passion for making the S3 process work for their communities. They shared the conviction that this is a 'deep' and thorough way to bring about lasting change.

Hayley Hardy, Project Manager for Nowa Nowa Futures was one of the presenters at the conference. Although one of the last towns to commence the S3 process, Hayley has already conducted over 60 interviews across the Nowa Nowa community, garnering deep insights into the current agricultural industries, local businesses, the numerous community groups and the important recent and past history of the town and surrounds. While individual interviews remain confidential, a picture of the communities assets and values is starting to emerge.

*The Nowa Nowa Futures Project is supported by Nowa Nowa Community Development Group, the Victorian Government and RMIT University*

# Forestry Transition Update

An announcement was made on 23 May 2023 regarding a revised timeline for Victoria's native timber transition.

Native timber harvesting in Victoria's state forests will now end by 1 January 2024 with existing supports being brought forward and scaled up.

Applications for Sawmill Voluntary Transition Packages will open in July 2023, with the first payments expected in September 2023. This will be modelled on the Opt-out Scheme.

A boosted worker support package will include access to the Free TAFE program to help retrain workers to get jobs in growing regional industries.

Harvest and haulage workers will be offered alternative work in forest and land management, enabling them to continue to work in the forests they know so well and contribute to bushfire risk reduction.

Further support will also be available to downstream supply chain businesses to make informed decisions about their future.

Transition support is available for workers, businesses and the community. [vic.gov.au/forestry](https://vic.gov.au/forestry)

Information supplied by Ruth Fitzclarence, Gippsland Community Transition Support Officer, Forestry Transition Program.



## East Gippsland Nature Tourism Summit

East Gippsland Shire Council held the inaugural East Gippsland Tourism summit on May 25th, with the Nowa Nowa Futures team represented.

Eco and nature tourism was the emphasis of the summit, with a highlight being the formal announcing of East Gippsland becoming the Victoria's first certified Eco Destination with Ecotourism Australia.

Attendees learnt how Ecotourism Australia is enabling businesses to become more sustainable by taking part in their 'Strive for Sustainability' scorecard.

"Ecotourism has become one of the fastest growing sectors of Australia's tourism industry" said Destination Gippsland CEO Terry Robinson.

The growing importance - and recognition - of nature and eco-tourism is very important to Nowa Nowa's future.

Anyone interested in more information from the conference is welcome to contact Liz Mitchell, project admin: [liz@nowanowa.org.au](mailto:liz@nowanowa.org.au)

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## NOWA NOWA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

# NEWS

## Nowa Nowa CDG has been busy!

There was a lot of activity to discuss at the May meeting of the Nowa Nowa CDG.

- An **update from the Nowa Nowa Futures** project manager, Hayley. This is an important part of every meeting as the NNCDG is responsible for administering the project.
- A **new website for Nowa Nowa** is being developed as part of the Futures project, with information about the town for tourists as well as the place to go for locals to keep in touch with the Futures project and activities of NNCDG.
- A **lease agreement** between NNCDG and the Dept. of Education and Training is now being drawn up for the school site.
- **Amalgamation** of the Hall committee with NNCDG is underway, with the necessary forms submitted to Consumer Affairs Victoria
- **Volunteers** will be needed to help carry out routine maintenance on the Hall and school site.
- **Fundraising opportunities**, to support the work of NNCDG: from small costs like printing, to annual registration and insurance costs and seed funding for projects. Nothing comes for free these days!
- **Governance of NNCDG.** Constitution: Committee, roles and elections. More on this further down.

## Telstra and NBN Drop in Day Tues June 27th.

A drop in session for locals to get one on one advice from the Regional Engagement Manager for Telstra, and the Business Lead for NBN will be held at the Community Centre on Tuesday June 27th from 11 am to 2 pm.

If you are experiencing difficulty getting adequate service from either the Telstra or NBN, this is your chance to sit down and have a one on one conversation with an actual person to get advice specific to your issues.



## FoodArtTunes FAT bike Ride Sat June 10

Come for a ride literally in your own back yard on the FAT ride Saturday June 10th, meeting from the Nowa Nowa Hall at 11.30 am. The ride is organised as part of the East Gippsland Winter Festival, starting from Nowa Nowa and finishing in Orbost.

**Tickets for the ride** here:

<https://egwinterfest.com.au/event/the-fat-ride-nowa-nowa-to-orbost/>

The ride start will include a **Welcome Country by artist Alice Pepper**, at 11.45 at the underpass mural she created, plus a little refreshment. Come and join in !



## NNCDG -What's in a Constitution?

Nowa Nowa CDG is now administering government funds to employ project staff to develop a Local Development Strategy as well as taking on the lease of the former school site and managing the local Hall.

Under consideration is:

- Who can be a member of NNCDG - just people who live or work in the Nowa Nowa postcode?
- Who is on the Committee, and how are they elected? How many members are on the Committee? What decisions can the Executive make, and what decisions require the whole committee?
- How are meetings run and how is conflict managed if it arises?

If you would like to have a say or provide feedback on this, contact [info@nowanowa.org.au](mailto:info@nowanowa.org.au)

## NNCDG Next Meeting Tues June 13th 2

The next meeting of the NNCDG is on Tuesday June 13th 6pm at the Community Centre on Bridge Street.

Agenda items include ongoing discussion of the Constitution, the 'Stop and Stay' project and restoration of Boggy Creek Rail Bridge.

There is considerable community interest in restoring the historic rail bridge over Boggy Creek.

Chair of Save the Snowy Rail Bridge Association Inc Liz Mitchell ( also your Nowa Nowa Futures Project Admin) has been invited share the journey of the Snowy Rail Bridge restoration with NNCDG at it's June meeting.

If you have an item you would like discussed at the meeting leave a note at the General Store to the attention of "Secretary - NNCDG" or email [info@nowanowa.org.au](mailto:info@nowanowa.org.au)

