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For immediate release

20 Things To Do In Neerim South & District

Neerim South is one of the most picturesque towns in the West Gippsland region, set in the hills at the base of Mt Baw Baw. Neerim South is a busy rural centre and popular tourist town, servicing the snow traffic in winter, relaxing weekend breaks, and the gourmet traveller year-round.

One possible translation of Neerim is the aboriginal word for height or elevation and from the early times of settlement until today people have appreciated the clean air, clear skies, lush forests and green farmland which makes Neerim South so unique.

1. Explore your Creative self, join an Art Workshop at Neerim South

Release your inner artist at one of the arts workshops being run as part of the Neerim South Small Town Transformation arts project. The autumn workshops include linocut, mosaic, junk art, ceramics and environmental art workshops. Visit www.neerimbower.com.au for all the information and to book.

2. See local art at The Serigraph Gallery

Represent a wide variety of artists using mediums that include painting, printmaking, photography, glassware, ceramics, jewellery, furniture, and weaving. Enjoy a coffee and cake. Open: 10:30am to 4:30pm Friday through Sunday and most public Holidays.

157-161 Main Neerim Rd. Neerim South VIC 3831 - <http://www.serigraphgallery.com>

3. Taste Regional produce at Jindivick Country Market

Recently named Community Event of the Year in Baw Baw Shire, the Jindivick Country Market is held on the first Saturday of the month and features delicious local produce, organic fruit and vegetables and handicrafts.

9:00am - 1:00pm First Saturday of every month except Jan and Feb

Jackson's Track, Jindivick. VIC 3818

4. Cross the Noojee Trestle Bridge

Surrounded by tall forest, follow the old railway line from Noojee to one of the only remaining historic timber trestle bridges in Victoria. Originally built in 1919 as part of a railway used to freight timber out of the district, this huge bridge has been restored and is the highest example of its type in Victoria.

5. Wonder at Victoria's largest tree

Walk through rainforest to the Ada Tree, a giant mountain ash that's one of Victoria's largest trees. Around 270 years old, it's about 76 metres tall with a circumference of 15 metres.

Yarra State Forest, Noojee



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6. Discover the region on bike

A walking/cycling path winds its way from Rokeby to Neerim. The path journeys through bushland and agricultural areas and provides fantastic views of the beautiful scenery. Commencing at Rokeby Common, this trail passes through the Crossover Regional Park and then follows the Main Neerim Road to the edge of Neerim. Highlights include the Crossover Trestle Bridge, views of the Tarago Reservoir, Bunyip State Forest in the West and towards Mount Baw Baw to the East.

7. Picnic at Tarago Reservoir Park

Discover the beautiful walking path at the bottom of the dam wall. The walk winds its way through a damp valley, which is home to eucalypts and tree ferns over two hundred years old. The picnic area has pleasant lawns within a bush settings, with unique views of the reservoir and surrounding landscapes.

Tarago Reservoir Park, Neerim South VIC 3831

8. Hit the Trail Bike paths

Located on Latrobe River Road east of Neerim South, the Latrobe Trail Bike Visitor Area is central to a large network of forest roads and tracks which are ideal for trail bike riding and provides riders with a range of facilities to make riding in the area more enjoyable.

9. Explore breathtaking waterfalls

Follow a pleasant 3km circular track through the Toorong Falls Reserve that take you to the spectacular viewing platforms for Toorong and Amphitheatre Falls. The mountain ash forest is towering and lush, the falls are gushing. Observing cool mountain water cascading is an awe inspiring sight in such dry times.

Toorong Falls Reserve, Noojee VIC 3833

10. Discover the State Forest on horseback

The favourite horse riding areas open to the public are the Neerim East State Forest, The Bunyip State Park, the Rokeby-Crossover Rail Trail and Tarago State Forest which offer beautiful natural terrain and views.

11. Brunch at the Jindivick Harvest Kitchen

A standout option for brunch and lunch, plonk yourself fireside with the weekend papers or take in the gorgeous views as you enjoy excellent 5 Senses coffee. The truffle and thyme-infused scrambled eggs on local sourdough are mentioned in The Age Good Food Guide and there's a well-stocked provedore with all of the best local cheeses, too.

1070 Jacksons Track, Jindivick VIC 3818 - <http://www.jindivickharvestkitchen.com.au>

12. Lunch at an Iconic Aussie Pub

Famous for its corrugated iron bar, massive open fire place and surrounding beer gardens, you could spend hours in the Toolshed Bar examining the paraphernalia hanging from the walls, an amazing tribute to the history of Noojee. The Toolshed Bar is well known for its big hearty meals like the massive Parma board with 12 parmas, the famous billy burger and lamb pot roast.

38 Loch Valley Rd, Noojee VIC 3133 - <http://www.theoutpostretreat.com>



13. Drop a line in

The Neerim District offers prime stream brown and rainbow trout fishing suitable for fly, bait and lure anglers. The key waterways are the upper Bunyip, Tarago (below the Tarago Reservoir), Latrobe, Toorong, Loch and Tanjil Rivers. Trout in this region commonly grow between 400-600 grams and are great fun to catch on light gear. It is not unusual to come across bigger specimens over 1 kilogram.

14. Taste local wines

Piedmont Wines is a family owned boutique winery specialising in regional wines from Victoria, Australia. The vineyard produces shiraz, merlot, sparkling pearl, sauvignon blanc and chardonnay grape varieties.

3470 Yarra Junction - Noojee Rd, Noojee, VIC 3833 - <http://www.piedmontwines.com.au/>

15. Get your caffeine fix

A newly renovated coffee shop in Neerim South, the Country Bean Café offers great coffee and treats. A cafe with a difference where you can experience the freshest local produce and sensational service and coffee.

119 Main Neerim Road, Neerim South VIC 3831

16. Visit the Gracefield Cottage & Venison farm

Nestled within the hills of West Gippsland, Gracefield Venison Farm has extensive acres for the animals to roam freely and happily. The owners, June and Graham Edyvane have been deer farming for over 23 years and have a hands-on involvement with day to day activity, making sure the livestock feel comfortable and ensuring they are at ease in natural surroundings.

135 Latrobe River Road, Neerim South. VIC 3831 - <http://www.gracefieldcottage.com.au/>

17. Shop Locally

From retro knick-knacks, to ski gear and sports equipment, speciality advanced trees and pub paraphernalia and games, Neerim District offers a wide range of speciality shops that are sure to tickle your fancy.

- **Junction Box:** Selling Retro, Deco and Art Nouveau ceiling lights, telephones, radios, furniture and a café on site.
2965 Main Neerim Road, Neerim Junction VIC 3832
- **Baw Baw Sports and Outdoor:** Snow sports equipment hire and sales, and snow chain hire.
135 Main Road, Neerim South VIC 3831 - www.bawbawsports.com.au
- **Blerick Tree Farm:** An award winning nursery with over 4000 advanced trees. Expert knowledge and advice. Ornamental trees, Fruit and Citrus, Hedges, Shrubs and Natives.
55 McDougal Road, Neerim South VIC 3831. www.blerick.com.au
- **Pub Art:** Manufacturer of bar wares, games and accessories.
1345 Main Neerim Road, Neerim South VIC 3831 - www.jdpubart.com.au



18. Visit the Candalaraine Alpacas

Candalaraine Alpacas is a National Award winning, working alpaca farm with an alpaca product shop displaying this treasured fibre and is exclusive to Neerim South. Candalaraine Alpacas portrays the passion and "attention to detail" this treasured animal commands.

2035 Main Neerim Road, Neerim South VIC 3831 - <http://www.candalaraine.com/>

19. Catch and cook your own trout

Bring the kids along and drop a line in and fish for your own trout or salmon at the Alpine Trout Farm, then make use of the on-site BBQs to cook up your fresh catch or purchase smoked trout from their friendly staff..

115 Yarra Junction - Noojee Rd, Noojee VIC 3831 - <http://www.alpinetroutfarm.com.au/>

20. Wander through Janalli Gardens

On a long spit of land going out into Tarago Lake the ten acre gardens and Bed & Breakfast of Janalli sit in a protected valley surrounded by the hills and pastures of West Gippsland. The garden is now fifteen years old and maturing into one of Australia's major gardens.

285 Wagners Rd, Neerim South VIC 3831 – www.janalli.com

##ENDS##

Information for the editor:

Neerim South is one of five towns to receive a 2013 Regional Arts Victoria Small Town Transformations grant on behalf of the Victorian Government worth \$350,000, open to small towns with a population of up to 1500.

The funding will enable people of all ages within the community to take part in several arts projects based around the concept of the bower bird. These include Artist in Residence School Projects, Community Workshops, a major Acquisitive Art Prize, and Community Art Prizes. Some of the art acquired through all these projects will be used to enhance the town and district and attract visitors.

"Mating rituals of the Satin Bower Bird were inspiration for designing the Neerim Bower and the "Inspired by Birds" concept, developed by artists Phil Henshall, Christine Cochran and Keith Graham, with the Neerim District Progress Association. The Neerim Bower, located at the southern end of Neerim South, West Gippsland, will be an entrance to the Neerim District." It is hoped that upon completion these initiatives will help stimulate economic growth within the town and surrounding areas.

Site visits are available, don't hesitate to get in touch.

For more information visit: <http://neerimbower.com.au/> www.neerimdistrict.com.au
[facebook.com/neerimbower](https://www.facebook.com/neerimbower)

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