

PORCUPINE PRESS

TRUTH, GRIT & GOLD

EDITION 3: PROGRESS AT THE VILLAGE

WINTER WORKINGS

LATEST PROGRESS AT PORCUPINE VILLAGE

As the days grow cooler, things are certainly heating up here at Porcupine Village.

Behind the scenes, exciting progress with the soon to commence major sewage infrastructure upgrade.

This essential work will take some weeks to complete and marks a significant step forward in preparing the village for its next chapter.

While works proceed, there is still plenty to see and enjoy both onsite and along Allans Road.

The surrounding landscape is now shifting into beautiful autumn tones, offering a really pictur-

esque backdrop to the steady transformation of the village.

Looking ahead, once the underground infrastructure is complete, we will be ready to install the 26 luxury cabins that we have been fitting out.

Each cabin has been thoughtfully designed to provide a comfortable and unique stay.

It's an exciting time at Porcupine Village as we continue bringing new life to this special place, blending history with fresh opportunity.

We look forward to sharing more updates with you as progress continues.



INSIDE THIS EDITION:

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- *Plan your next event at Golden Nugget Restaurant* • *Meet our Donkeys – Simpson & Joseph*
- *Maldon Events* • *Gig Guide* • *Pickles Puzzle Page*

PORCUPINE VILLAGE JOURNAL

A Glimpse into Maldon's Golden Past

As the seasons begin to shift and the air cools across the goldfields, it's a fitting time to reflect on the remarkable history that surrounds us here at Porcupine Village.

The land we walk on each day holds stories of determination, discovery, and transformation – stories that shaped not only Maldon, but much of Victoria itself.

It all began in 1853, when gold was discovered in the Tarrangower district. What was once quiet grazing country quickly became a hive of activity. Within weeks, thousands of hopeful diggers arrived, drawn by the promise of fortune.

In a matter of months, tents and timber structures spread across the landscape, and a thriving township emerged almost overnight. At its peak, Maldon was home to around 18,000 people – an astonishing number for such a remote location at the time.

Unlike many other goldfields, Maldon's riches were often hidden deep within quartz reefs. This meant that success did not always come easily. Mining here required persistence, ingenuity, and hard physical work.

Crushing batteries and mining equipment became a defining part of the landscape, marking a shift from simple prospecting to more complex operations.



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Yet despite these challenges, Maldon earned a reputation as the “poor man's diggings” – a place where even those with modest means could still find their share of gold.

Reminders of this industrious past can still be seen today. The towering chimney at the Beehive Mine Chimney stands as a proud landmark, not far away, the lookout atop Mount Tarrengower tells its own story – constructed from a repurposed mining poppet head, it offers sweeping views across a landscape once filled with the sounds of digging, machinery, and bustling life.

As the gold began to dwindle, so too did the population. Many left in search of new opportunities, and the once-booming town settled into a quieter rhythm.

Yet in this slowing down came an unexpected gift. Because Maldon was not heavily redeveloped, much of its original character remained untouched.

In 1966, this was formally recognised when the National Trust of Australia classified Maldon as Australia's first “notable town” – a testament to its beautifully preserved streets and buildings.

Today, that sense of history is not confined to the past – it continues to live and breathe. The Victorian Goldfields Railway still runs through the region, its steam engines echoing the journeys of another era. Visitors and locals alike can step back in time, experiencing a piece of living history that connects generations.

Here at Porcupine Village, we are proud to be part of this ongoing story. As we continue our work restoring and developing the village, we are constantly reminded that we are caretakers of something much bigger than ourselves.

Each building, each pathway, and each improvement is another step in preserving the spirit of the goldfields.

The past has a strong presence here – but so does the future. And as Porcupine Village continues to grow, we look forward to sharing both with you.

PORCUPINE VILLAGE JOURNAL

Celebrating 60 Years of a Notable Town

This year marks a special milestone for the historic township of Maldon – 60 years since it was officially recognised as Australia’s first “Notable Town” by the National Trust of Australia in 1966.

It was a moment that quietly changed the course of Maldon’s future.

By the mid-20th century, many gold rush towns across Victoria had been reshaped, modernised, or lost altogether. Maldon, however, stood apart.

Its wide streets, solid brick buildings, timber verandahs, and miner’s cottages remained largely untouched – less by design, and more by circumstance. Where others moved forward rapidly, Maldon paused... and in that pause, it preserved something rare.

When the National Trust made its classification, it wasn’t just acknowledging architecture – it was recognising a living snapshot of the 19th century. Maldon became a place where history could still be experienced, not just remembered.

Walking through the town today, that decision continues to resonate. Shopfronts still echo the gold rush era, cottages sit quietly beneath established trees, and the rhythm of the town feels grounded in another time.

The past here is not hidden away – it is part of everyday life.

And yet, Maldon is not simply a town preserved in time. It is a community that has embraced its heritage while continuing to evolve.

The continued operation of the Victorian Goldfields Railway, the care taken in maintaining historic buildings, and the passion of locals all contribute to keeping the story alive.

Sixty years on from its recognition, Maldon remains a rare example of what can be achieved when history is valued and protected. It reminds us that progress does not always mean replacing the past – sometimes, it means holding onto it.

Here at Porcupine Village, this milestone feels especially meaningful. As we work to restore and reimagine our own corner of the goldfields, we are guided by the same principle that shaped Maldon’s recognition: respect for history, and a commitment to preserving its spirit for generations to come.

Celebrating 60 years as a Notable Town is not just about looking back – it is about continuing the story. And it is a story we are proud to be part of.



 **GOLDEN NUGGET** 
R E S T A U R A N T

— **CHRISTMAS IN JULY DINNER** —

Things are heating up in the restaurant. Fires are on, mulled wine to warm your soul and comfort food to fill you up. **Make a booking for the 17th July 6pm.**



DINNER MENU – FRIDAY 17TH JULY 2026

\$60.00 per head

Starter: Prawn and avocado cocktail spoons (GF)

Entrée: Christmas spiced pumpkin soup with garlic bread.

Main Course (GF)

Roast Breast of Turkey | Honey baked Ham | Roast Loin of Pork with crackling

With Roasted Rosemary salt Potatoes, Maple baked Carrots and Pumpkin,
Steamed seasonal Greens, Tarragon Gravy, Cranberry and Apple sauce.

Dessert (with alternative drop)

Individual Plum Pudding with Brandy Custard,
Mini Pavlova, Cream, Berries, Passionfruit (GF).

Drink Special \$14

Mulled Wine Cocktail

Please note: This menu can be GF, all dietaries will be catered for
with 3 days' notice or when reservations are made.

— **FATHER'S DAY** —
SEPTEMBER 6

Mark it in your diary/calendar now
and don't forget to book ahead for our
Father's Day Lunch on September 6.

— **SATURDAY LUNCH** —
& TAKEAWAYS

Did you know that Lunch is always
here on Saturdays, and don't forget
our **Takeaways.**

PORCUPINE VILLAGE EVENTS

Plan your next event at Golden Nugget Restaurant

**Weddings, Birthdays, Baby Showers, Corporate Events
or Workshops.**

Looking for a unique and unforgettable venue for your next event? Porcupine Village is the perfect destination for:

- Weddings,
- Trade Shows,
- Intimate Gatherings,
- Work Functions,
- Conferences,
- Expos,
- Baby Showers and more.

With stunning historic charms, modern amenities and flexible spaces, we cater to events all sizes and styles.

Why Choose Porcupine Village

Spectacular Photo Opportunities:

Set across 15 acres of an authentic 1850's Gold Mining Village, featuring historic buildings, wildlife displays, bush trails and beautifully maintained gardens.

Charming Golden Nugget Restaurant:

A cosy yet versatile space featuring an intimate dining area, a large alfresco zone with an open fireplace – perfect for 10-100 guests.

Tailored to your needs:

Whether you're planning a grand celebration or a casual get-together, we offer customisable setups, catering options and professional service to bring your vision to life.

Let's help you create a memorable and seamless event at Porcupine Village.

Contact us today to start planning your next Function on **03 4417 5900**.



BEHIND THE SCENES WILDLIFE

Meet Our Donkeys – Simpson & Joseph

Did you know donkeys are incredibly intelligent and have excellent memories? They can recognise places and other animals – even after many years apart!

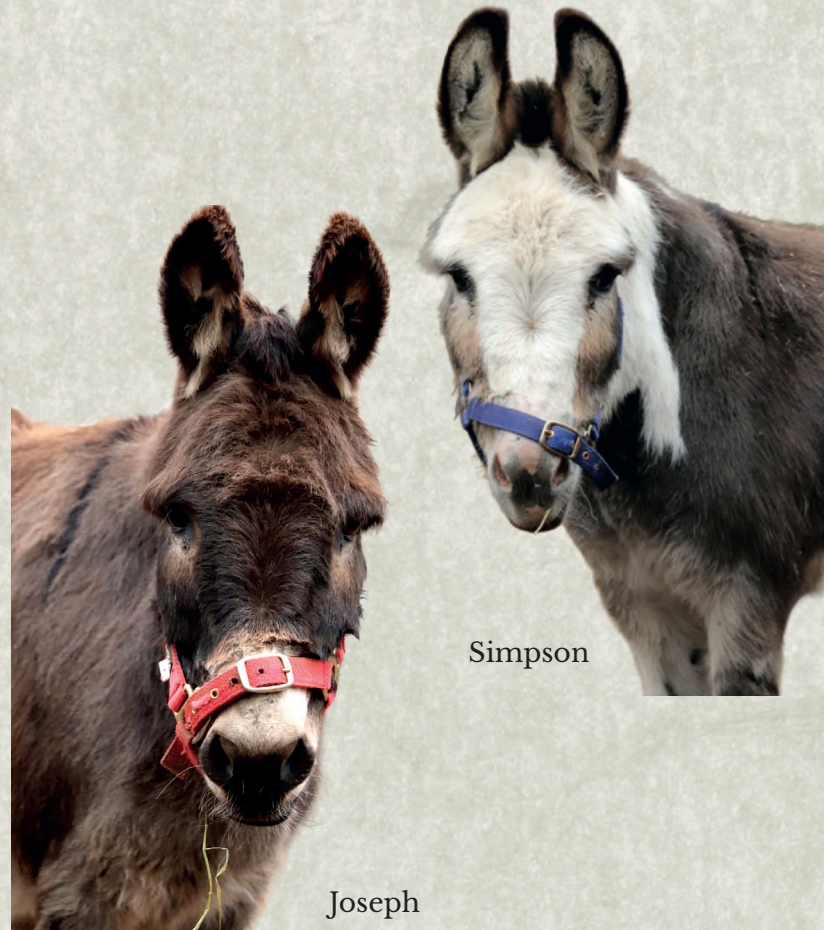
Here at Porcupine Village, our two resident donkeys, Simpson and Joseph, are as adorable as they are playful. A typical day in the life of a donkey is wonderfully simple and relaxed. They spend around 14–18 hours browsing and grazing, enjoying their food at a leisurely pace.

But it's not all eating! Donkeys are very social creatures who love companionship. Simpson and Joseph spend their time grooming, playing, and interacting – with each other and with visitors.

They thrive on routine and enjoy familiar faces, often showing affection in gentle and curious ways.

Known for their cautious nature (often mistaken for stubbornness), donkeys actually take their time to assess situations. It's part of what makes them so clever and endearing.

If you visit, don't be surprised if Simpson and Joseph come over to say hello – they're always up for a bit of attention and a scratch!



Simpson

Joseph

GOLDEN NUGGET RESTAURANT
AT PORCUPINE VILLAGE

— will be —

CLOSED

for dinner **SATURDAY** & all day **SUNDAY**
13TH JUNE & **14TH JUNE**

FOR *Private Functions*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING

GOLDEN NUGGET RESTAURANT
at Porcupine Village

CHRISTMAS IN WINTER

FRIDAY 10th JULY FROM 6PM

4 COURSE SET MENU
\$60.00 per person

8 Allans Road, Maldon

MALDON EVENTS

In June to August 2026, Maldon, Victoria features that atmospheric Goldfield Gothic Festival (late July – early Aug), the cozy Winter Festival, and the King’s Birthday Swap Meet (June) Visitors can also enjoy monthly Maldon Markets, scenic steam train rides on the Victorian Goldfields Railway, and cold-weather dining in the historic town.

8th June Kings Birthday Long Weekend
Maldon Vintage Machinery Swap Meet

19th June – July Maldon in Winter –
Maldon comes alive for the Winter Solstice, with bonfires, music events, art and more.

14th June Market Day

12th July Market Day

31st July – 2nd August Goldfield’s Gothic Festival
A weekend of events exploring the dark side of the goldfields.

9th August Market Day



The Maldon Market Day.



The Goldfield Gothic Festival.



The King’s Birthday Swap Meet.

SUNDAY SESSIONS LIVE GIG LIST

Every Sunday the Golden Nugget Restaurant host our Sunday Sessions. Featuring delicious eats, live entertainment, Happy Hour from 2-3pm and Free Entry!

JUNE	7TH <i>The Martini Set</i>	14TH <i>CLOSED</i> <i>Private Function</i>	21ST <i>Crumpled Gypsies</i>	28TH <i>Karlo Arcinue</i>
JULY	5TH <i>Matt Basic</i>	12TH <i>Vida Jazz</i>	19TH <i>Johnny Valentine</i>	26TH <i>The Loud Shirts</i>
AUGUST	2ND <i>The Martini Set</i>	9TH <i>The Complete Unknowns</i>	16TH <i>Jessey Jackson</i>	23RD <i>Luke Owns</i> 30TH <i>Marlee Grace</i>

PICKLES PUZZLE PAGE

EDUCATIONAL CORNER

“Potato Diggings”:

One area was nicknamed “potato diggings” because many gold nuggets found were similar in size to potatoes.

The Doctor on a Pushbike:

The town of Laverton was named in 1896 after Dr. Charles Laver, who rode a pushbike into town to serve as the doctor.

Knucklebone Jacks:

Children on the goldfields made with simple, non-battery-powered toys. A popular game similar to jacks used knucklebones from sheep.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

There are 12 words about and around Maldon. See if you can find these:

- blacksmith
- cradle
- gold
- horseshoe
- lantern
- maldon
- nugget
- panning
- pick
- rope
- shovel
- tent

K	Y	P	B	G	Q	Q	K	N	P	N	O	X	B	C
E	G	A	J	Y	E	X	W	R	A	D	I	S	T	C
H	E	T	Z	A	X	F	E	E	N	C	U	N	N	F
N	Q	P	B	C	Z	F	L	T	N	H	E	X	C	B
U	S	M	O	P	L	A	D	N	I	T	V	A	L	D
C	E	H	B	R	Q	C	A	A	N	F	E	A	T	G
L	K	W	O	T	X	I	R	L	G	O	C	W	R	R
S	T	W	I	V	Y	S	C	L	H	K	V	E	U	L
T	N	Y	A	U	E	P	J	S	S	F	F	W	H	Y
Q	Z	Z	S	O	Z	L	E	M	F	O	D	M	S	N
R	N	J	R	B	F	S	I	L	I	L	A	A	K	U
Z	B	H	D	W	R	T	T	O	L	O	V	U	G	
P	I	C	K	O	H	P	H	G	D	S	T	A	D	G
E	I	Q	H	A	Q	P	W	O	J	Z	K	O	L	E
V	W	V	N	G	Y	P	N	D	H	A	N	J	F	T



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