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# Traf News



PRICELESS



## Ships win first and third grade premiership in truly bizarre fashion



Trafalgar Cricket Club players celebrate their unique premierships won last month. The Ships were crowned Latrobe Valley and District Cricket League first and third grade premier after the grand final was cancelled due to coronavirus

Trafalgar Cricket Club players, members and supporters were left astounded last month when its first and third grade team was awarded the premiership in the most unique of circumstances.

As the coronavirus pandemic continued to escalate, the decision to cancel Latrobe Valley and District Cricket League grand finals meant that the Ships A and C grade team were deemed premiers for season 2019-20 for being the higher ranked team at the end of the home and away season.

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## TRAF SHOPPERS GO MAD OVER CORONAVIRUS

Liam Durkin

Fear of a local coronavirus outbreak caused panic buying in Trafalgar last month, as people stockpiled food and cleaning items, stripping the local IGA supermarket shelves bare.

Just 24 hours after it was announced that the first human-to-human transmission had been confirmed in Sydney, supermarkets and suppliers around Trafalgar were depleted of toilet paper, hand sanitiser, bleach and some non-perishable foods.

Most supermarkets struggled to restock before shelves were emptied again, forcing chains like Woolworths, Coles and Aldi to implement a quantity limit to ensure more customers had access to products.

The sight of supermarket shelves completely bare resembled something one would nor-

mally associate with a doomsday film, with stories of panicky shoppers even wielding knives on people doing the rounds.

In Trafalgar, the local IGA sold as many as three pallet loads of toilet paper daily, and had to enforce a limit to one pack per customer.

Many non-locals were also happy to drive to Trafalgar to get supplies, making it harder for local shoppers to buy what they need.

The disease has gained notoriety and familiarisation in popular culture due to the name of the beer which bears the same name, although interestingly enough, Corona beer sales have not suffered due to coronavirus.

Coronavirus has joined the Ebola outbreak of 2013 and the swine flu pandemic of 2009 as the latest major worldwide health concern, although noth-

ing in recent memory has caused as much global shutdown as what we are currently seeing.

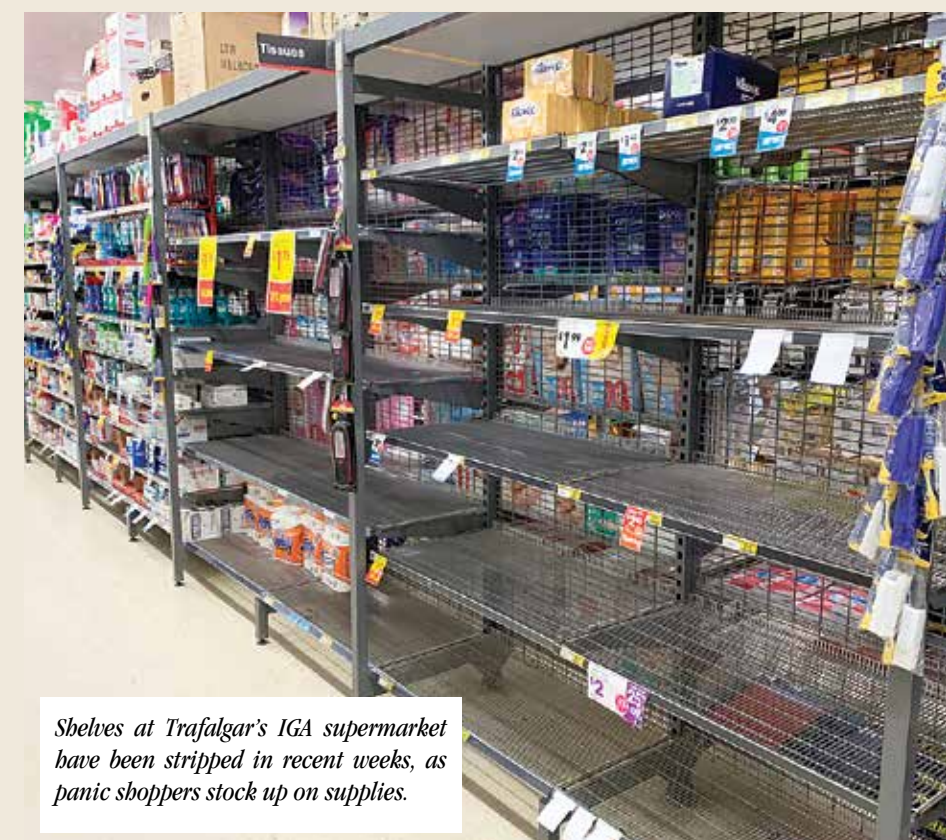
The World Health Organisation has recommended people have two weeks of medicines and food available at home.

President of the Australian Medical Association, Dr Tony Bartone, and Prime Minister

Scott Morrison have urged people not to panic about the coronavirus outbreak.

Australian toilet paper manufacturers have also said there is no need to stock up on rolls, as many of the brands sold here are manufactured in Australia and supply will not be affected by import bans.

The panic shopping sparked an array of online memes, creative puns and general head shaking from many local residents.



Shelves at Trafalgar's IGA supermarket have been stripped in recent weeks, as panic shoppers stock up on supplies.

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## Results are in on local roads survey

In August 2019, Baw Baw Council invited the community to review the service levels and response times for all road maintenance activities, including pothole repairs, grading, road inspections and more.

Face-to-face engagement sessions, online surveys and written submissions provided a detailed picture of the community's views on the current service levels.

More than 80 people were invited to forums in Trafalgar and Drouin in September 2019. Attendees included residents who made S223 budget submissions, and those who routinely interact with Council regarding road maintenance matters.

The Baw Baw Safe Freight Network was also specifically engaged to provide road maintenance feedback.

A total of 330 survey responses were received, revealing the following information:

- 61 per cent said potholes should be repaired in less than a week.
- 63 per cent said unsealed road grading frequency

should be greater than twice a year.

- 82 per cent said reported issues should be inspected within five days.
- 42 per cent nominated 'fixing isolated defects such as potholes/corrugations' as the top priority.

- 88 per cent said Council should expand use of alternative methods to fast-track repairs.

- 37 per cent said cyclic inspections on urban road should be carried out four times a year, 29 per cent said more than four times a year.
- 38 per cent said cyclic inspections on rural roads should be carried out more than four times a year.

See more road maintenance survey results at [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/RoadMaintenanceSurveyResults](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/RoadMaintenanceSurveyResults)

The findings of the community road maintenance review have helped inform the preparation of a new Roads Maintenance Contract.

## Changes to aged and disability services in Baw Baw

Council has made the decision to cease delivery of direct care aged and disability support services from 30 June 2022.

Support services that Council will cease include domestic assistance, personal care and respite care.

From 1 July 2022, these services will be delivered by other providers and no client will be left without a service.

Council will continue to support existing clients to understand the choices available and to transition service arrangements when required. Impacted clients will be contacted by Council, well in advance of any changes to services.

The decision to withdraw from these services has been made due to significant reforms in the aged and disability sectors by the Australian Govern-

ment. The reforms involve major changes to the way home support programs are funded, planned and delivered to increase the number of service providers, providing more choice and flexibility for consumers, which limits Councils ability to continue to deliver quality aged and disability services.

Council currently subsidises aged and disability services by approximately \$1.8 million per annum. It is now understood that Council will not be able to compete effectively or viably in the changing marketplace, and that these aged support services are better suited to operate independent from Local Government.

The decision impacts approximately 50 Council staff members, each to receive relevant redundancies and leave

entitlements. The decision now provides clients, staff, volunteers and the community with a level of certainty to enable people to make informed decisions about their future and access to services.

Other aged and disability services will continue to operate as usual, including Meals on Wheels, property maintenance, social support groups, carer support, community transport, senior citizen club support and volunteer programs. These services are subject to further review and trial of op-

tions to optimise service sustainability in a competitive market.

Council's decision to withdraw from these services mirrors that of other Councils in Victoria and Gippsland who are going through or have gone through a similar review process.

For more information please visit: <https://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Our-Community/Changes-to-Aged-and-Disability-Services>

## Wally's Words



*The most common name in China is Chang, correct me if you think it's Wong.*  
— Wally

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**Gary BLACKWOOD** MLA  
Member for Narracan  
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3/24 Mason Street, Warragul 3820  
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### Editor's note

*When submitting letters to the editor please include full postal address, email address and contact number. Your privacy will be respected, your details won't be printed in the paper.*

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## State grants to store solar energy

Local households will be able to store cleaner, cheaper rooftop energy, following an expansion in the state government's Solar Homes battery rebates.

An extra 143 postcodes across the state are now eligible to apply for a Solar Homes battery rebate of up to \$4838, including many in Gippsland.

Households with an average 11 kilowatt per hour battery can expect to save about \$650 a year on their electricity bills, in addition to savings they are already making with solar panels.

More than 70 per cent of the new post codes are in regional

Victoria, including in the Goulburn Valley, north-east Victoria, Gippsland and Barwon south-west regions.

The expansion will include regional centres such as Bendigo, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Yarrowonga, Mildura, Port Fairy, Traralgon, Sale and Bairnsdale, and reach about 50 per cent of households that have a pre-existing solar panel system of at least 5kW.

There have been more than 359 approved applications for solar batteries since they became available in July 2019, with 219 of those systems already installed.

There will be about 550 rebates for solar batteries available from March 2.

The state government is planning to expand the battery rebate program to controlled batteries, microgrids and virtual power plants from July 2020.

To be eligible for a rebate, householders must obtain approval to install a battery from their distribution network service, have an existing rooftop solar system of five kilowatts or more, and meet other eligibility criteria.

Full eligibility details are available via [solar.vic.gov.au/solar-battery-rebate](http://solar.vic.gov.au/solar-battery-rebate)



## Trafalgar Chamber asks for community feedback on CBD plan

The Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce is seeking community feedback on the Baw Baw Shire Councils adopted plan for the Trafalgar CBD area.

The Chamber is seeking community input that they can then go back to the Council with, on the communities' thoughts.

The Settlement Management Plan (prepared in 2013) predicts that most of Baw Baw's fu-

ture population growth is likely to be focused in the six major towns of Warragul, Drouin, Yarragon, Longwarry, Neerim South and Trafalgar. The Plan noted that there was little or no strategic guidance for the town centres of Trafalgar, Neerim South and Longwarry. The Urban Design Frameworks for Trafalgar, Neerim South and Longwarry protects and enhances the role and function of these towns,

while recognising and protecting significant features, historic rural character and pedestrian scale.

An Urban Design Framework (UDF) is a document which provides a strategically justified plan for how an area will develop and change over time in physical terms. It includes things like building heights, new street tree plantings, town entrances and pedestrian path improvements.

A UDF enables everyone (e.g.

community groups, Council departments, government agencies, local developers) to follow the same plan. From community feedback and existing feedback from the Settlement Management Plan we have developed Key Directions for Longwarry, Trafalgar and Neerim South and a plan on how we might achieve it.

The current key directions for Trafalgar are:

- Activate and enhance the Council owned car park spine

through the town centre

- Improve pedestrian and vehicle access to Trafalgar Station from Contingent Street & highway frontage
- Implement design guidelines outlining preferred development potential for the future mixed-use precinct
- Establish 'green streets' along key access routes to the town centre and incorporate public art
- Establish a community cor-

ridor implementing strong pedestrian and cycle links to each node

The plan and amendment C131 can be found on the Baw Baw Shire website:

[www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au) and search for 'Urban design framework'

Please send your feedback to the Chamber, prior to Monday April 6, 2020 via email at: [president@trafalgarchamber.com.au](mailto:president@trafalgarchamber.com.au)

## Trafalgar projects gain budget boost

Trafalgar will be the beneficiary of Baw Baw Shire's mid-year budget review with council allocating \$355,000 to two projects in the town.

The internal fit-out of Trafalgar's new early learning centre and additional car parking at the site, in excess of the right spaces that are being proposed by the Victorian School Building Authority.

Council will also provide \$850,000 towards the fit out of the kindergarten. The fit out for a dual room centre is estimated to cost \$120,000. The VSBA provided \$35,000 for fit out.

Cr Mikaela Power said the Trafalgar community would be please council was committing \$150,000 to develop extra parking at the new kinder.

Cr Power said council would also provide \$85,000 for the in-

stalled at Trafalgar Recreation Reserve until the Trafalgar Recreation Precinct Multi-Use Pavilion is constructed, against long term hire," the report said.

The report to council said \$150,000 was needed to cater for additional car parking at the site, in excess of the right spaces that are being proposed by the Victorian School Building Authority.

Council will also provide \$850,000 towards the fit out of the kindergarten.

The fit out for a dual room centre is estimated to cost \$120,000. The VSBA provided \$35,000 for fit out.

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Cr Power said council would also provide \$85,000 for the in-

ternal fit out of the kindergarten.

"They (they VSBA) are providing a building and we are fitting it out," she said.

Cr Power said it was also pleasing to support the soccer club.

She said there was a lot of people using the recreation reserve and council and the community had put a power of work into the project.

Cr Michael Leaney said if anyone had seen the changeroom facilities at the soccer ground they would know how much money will help.

"It's not even a tin shed. It's woeful," he said.

"The user groups have been lobbying for a long time and these groups should be congratulated for their advocacy."

## Traf News

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## Trafalgar Lions welcomes guest speaker Marcus Barker

Trevor Byrne

Trafalgar Lions were recently privileged to be entertained at an evening talk by Guest Speaker Mr Marcus Barker.

Marcus who was born in Kenya and came to Australia with his parents when he was 10 years old took himself and his wife Pauline on an epic journey back to his homeland driving in his four wheel drive vehicle and towing an off road caravan.

While crossing the countries through East Africa; starting at Durban, he hoped to find and photograph the hospital he was born in.

The farm that his parents owned, now a game conservatory, his incredible continent its inhabitants and wild life, duplicating a journey his mother had taken many years before.

Lions and guests were enthralled as he took us on his journey with magnificent photos and incredible stories about the wild life, he also explained that halfway during the journey he decide to ship his caravan back to Australia due the soft sand that he would be traversing and continue their journey with their tent and camping equipment.

Admitting to several rookie mistakes, which found them surrounded by a herd of sleeping elephants, around their tent, when they woke up in the morning. Also not to light a fire when there was a pride of lions close by.

However all went well and they arrived safely back in Australia where Marcus was immediately involved in fighting fires with the Trafalgar CFA crew.

Throughout his talk he was

inundated with questions and many folk felt they could have listened to his stories all night.

### Encouragement Award Winner Returns

Nick Porter asked President Trevor if he could address the meeting to show Lion members how his winning of the Thousand Dollar Russ Turner Encouragement Award last year, enabled him to purchase very expensive Aeronautical headphones, to assist in his commercial pilot license.

### New Member Inducted

President Trevor had the pleasure of inducting Pauline Wheller as a new Lions member, Pauline was sponsored by Mr Graham McKenzie and in

her acceptance speech Pauline said how thrilled she was that Graham had offered to sponsor her into such a worthwhile community and it is her hope that she will become a well valued member.

### Past President Lion Bob Hoare

Well respected Lion Bob was presented with a Birthday Cake on the occasion of his 90th Birthday. Lion Bob was a very large supporter of the Youth Exchange Program run by the Lions Club for many years. Although not now in the best of health Bob and his wife Dorothy are highly valued members of the Club and Lions wish them well.



Guest speaker Marcus Barker enthalls Lions members and guests with his story of crossing Africa



Birthday boy Bob Hoare had to wait several months before he could celebrate with a birthday cake



Proudly wearing his new Wings, Nick Porter addresses the Lions Club meeting



Sponsoring Lion Graham McKenzie, New Member Pauline Wheller and Trafalgar Lions President Trevor Byrne

## Willow Grove Lions moving hay

John Brasher

On February 16 & 17, 2020, Willow Grove Lions ably assisted by a number of locals, put together

100 square bales donated by Lion Peter Connolly and 32 rolls of hay donated by David & Jill Jessop of Moe, using a tractor loaned by Ron & Barb Cameron. The hay was taken to Omeo

on a semi and a trailer supplied by Chris Jordan and Peter Nation.

A big thank you to the above and those who did the long drive, David Williams, Peter Na-

tion, Chris Jordan, Mark Spillman and Ron Cameron.



Loading donated hay at Peter Connolly's farm



Peter Nation all loaded for the drive to Omeo with the donated hay



# Easter Trading Hours

**Good Friday**  
8am – 6pm

**Easter Saturday**  
7am – 9pm

**Easter Sunday**  
7am – 9pm

**Easter Monday**  
7am – 9pm

**Anzac Day**  
7am – 9pm





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 Facebook.com/TrafalgarIGA  Instagram.com/TrafalgarIGA

## Koala mapping in Trafalgar area

Anthony Amis

Currently a mapping exercise for Friends of the Earth regarding koala surveys in the South Gippsland/Strzelecki Ranges regions is asking for the public help. The koalas in the region are the only endemic koalas in Victoria and South Australia and as such the genetics of the animal have not been compromised by Victoria's

translocation program.

We are interested to know if there have been any recent sightings of koalas in the Trafalgar/Yarragon regions. Some of the trees in the area are known as preferred koala trees eg: Mountain Grey Gum, Blue Gum and Strzelecki Gum.

Currently the community is being asked to provide information, on any sightings. There has

been a couple of searches in the Trafalgar region, but have had no luck so far.

The results of the surveys so far can be found at this website: <https://strzkoala.australianmap.net>

Koala sightings can be reported to Anthony Amis via email [ajamis50@gmail.com](mailto:ajamis50@gmail.com)



## Trafalgar Men's Shed enjoys BBQ

Frank Gridley

The Men's Shed monthly meeting was held on Wednesday 4 March. We enjoyed a BBQ lunch featuring Graeme Thexton's curly potatoes.

The meeting welcomed more new members, making it a total of 40 members at the Trafalgar Men's Shed.

The new solar panels create interest as we have 8 kilowatts already. The shed used 3 and 5 kilowatts go into the power system. We will calculate the totals after 12 months use for the shed's savings. Again, we thank Latrobe Authority and Trafalgar and District Community Bank for financial assistance.

The dust extraction unit is in

operation and the shed is much cleaner and healthier for our members.

The Men's Shed welcomes any projects from the public. We have reformed many chairs and other jobs lately, so we are available for work to keep members busy and happy.

## Anzac day services without crowds

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, our sub-branch will commemorate our war dead at each of the cenotaphs in our area on ANZAC Day, however, it is expected that community members will not attend.

Based on advice received, the Trafalgar ANZAC Day March 2020 is cancelled.

Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL sub-branch will conduct a small service including flag raising, wreath laying, Last Post Silence, Rouse and the national anthem at Trafalgar, Narracan East,

Thorpdale, Aberfeldy, Erica and Willow Grove.

Trafalgar's Dawn Service will include Reveille.

Times are not stated as the general public is expected to stay at home. It is requested that community members "Remember them" at home at 11am.

The Hill End and Walhalla communities will conduct their usual service with an expected reduced number of attendees. Details on Yarragon's ANZAC Day services are not known as at the time of submitting this article.

The RSL's Appeals token-selling will also be modified, not cancelled, to raise funds for all veterans in need of assistance.

The Trafalgar Bowls Diggers Day has also been cancelled.

Details on the ANZAC Day services may change as the COVID-19 crisis continually evolves.

If any community member knows of a veteran in need of some form of assistance please contact president Ray James OAM: 0409 853 607 or secretary Paul Erbs: 0437 425 942

## Local RSL raising funds for our heroes

Mick Bourke

Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL is one of more than 200 RSL sub-branches throughout Victoria gearing up for this year's ANZAC Appeal later this month.

Trafalgar-Thorpdale RSL Sub-Branch president Ray James OAM said, "Every year our local community gets behind the ANZAC Appeal, buying an ANZAC Appeal badge. I am always so humbled and proud of the generosity our local community shows during the ANZAC Appeal"

"Our volunteers will be out and about selling ANZAC Appeal badges in April, please stop and donate to the ANZAC Appeal or buy an ANZAC Appeal badge. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go

towards supporting our veterans," Ray said.

"The funds raised through the RSL's ANZAC Appeal enable the RSL to deliver much-needed assistance to those men and women who have served our country and now need our support."

The way in which the RSL provides that support varies from case to case, but it can include such things as assistance with medical and other household expenses such as food and utility bills, education and employment assistance, and providing advice and support with claims through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Ray went on to say that the RSL is increasingly directing support towards a younger cohort of veterans.

"Traditionally we have been known to provide pension advice and advocacy on behalf of older veterans. But, more and more the RSL is being called on to support a new and younger cohort of veterans, those from the more recent conflicts and peacekeeping operations of East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. In this way, we are as relevant today as we were in 1916."

"Please show your support for our veterans, both young and old. Buy an ANZAC Appeal badge or donate to the ANZAC Appeal," Ray said.

You can purchase an ANZAC Appeal badge from Trafalgar's IGA supermarket from early April.



# Life in the COVID-19 Centre

Former local man working in Beijing is urging Australia and other nations to look at what China has achieved in slowing the spread of coronavirus, or COVID-19.

James (not his real name) went into lock-down about January 25, just before Chinese New Year, and was confined to his apartment for about two weeks — although he was allowed to go out to pick up supplies twice a week.

Now, as the spread of the virus has slowed in China, free movement is less restricted, although actively discouraged.

"The government has asked everybody if you don't need to be outside, then don't go outside," James said.

"When I leave my apartment building I have to use a secu-

rity card and also have my temperature taken when I leave, and again when I come back.

"If your temperature goes up you are made to go into two weeks lock-down in your apartment.

"Medical staff or security staff will come to your house every day to check that you're home and that you're okay.

"If you don't get any better, you are taken to a flu hospital and looked after free of charge."

James said for those who were well, free movement was currently not restricted.

"But as a precaution, it's best not to spend a lot of time outside," he said.

"At the moment everything seems to be okay — the supermarkets are open, but most restaurants and hotels are closed.

"I would say at the moment about 70 per cent of all businesses are open or trying to open.

"But restaurants and hotels are definitely suffering — I would say 80 per cent to 90 per cent of those are closed."

James has been lucky as his employer has continued to pay his wages.

"At the moment people are still very careful about walking around," he said.

"Everybody here has face masks and everybody is washing their hands a lot.

"Every shop you walk into at the moment takes your temperature.

"But the rate of infection in Beijing at the moment is very, very low.

"Everybody is following government instructions to keep the

infection down."

James is not sure of the current effects on public transport.

"I don't personally catch public transport because I don't read or speak Chinese, and also because I'm only 10 minutes by bicycle from my work.

"But from listening to the local news I believe they are allowing a greatly reduced number of people to take public transport — to ensure that everybody is a metre away from each other."

He understands the metre rule also applies to the restaurants that are open.

James said he believed the measures the Chinese government had taken were the reason infection rates had fallen drastically in the past two weeks.

"But I also think that China would be probably one of the

only places where you could quarantine city of over 10 million people," he said.

"A lot of the European countries could really take note of what China has accomplished.

"I'd like to see Australia build hospitals in 10 days that can hold 4000 people."

James said right now new infections in Beijing appeared to be from people travelling in from overseas.

"I would rather be in Beijing than in Europe at the moment," he added.

He said confinement to his apartment had not been as bad as might be expected.

"I've been trying to keep myself busy, and of course I can do a lot of work online.

"I try to go out every few days for a walk.

"All in all, I think the Beijing government, and indeed the Chinese government, have done a pretty amazing job, considering how many people live in China."

James is not considering coming home to Australia any time soon.

"If I come home at the moment I'd have to go into two weeks lock-down to prove that I don't have coronavirus," he said.

"And if things get worse in Australia, I could possibly have to go into quarantine when I come back to China.

"Even in China we saw the video online of the ladies fighting over toilet paper — very embarrassing for us as Aussies living in China.

## Trafalgar writer Rodney Williams has a commitment to share some of his poetry

*Rodney Williams & Marge O'Donnell*

What can I say...so many stories! All from just one afternoon at the launch of Rodney's new poetry booklet at Trafalgar's Railway Station Arts Space Venue. With thanks to Baw Baw Arts Alliance who sponsored the afternoon launch.

The session was full of energy, fun, as well as also being sober and reflective. There was a variety of styles among the three adult presenters in the story-telling.

Published by Ginninderra Press, *Love Showing Here Now* reflects upon migration, human rights, youth, ageing, and creativity. Four of Rodney's ten poems from this work were accepted for publication in significant journals in the USA, mainly in New York.

The longer poem *Dogs of Australia* came from a play-script Rodney wrote in 2018 called *Café Australia*. One of the poems was written on a train going past Melbourne's Immigration Museum. So much more could be said about Rodney Williams, a retired English teacher who taught at Trafalgar High School and also at Warragul. Although the booklet is

small and has strong messages written with great insight.

Although always interested in poems and writing, Rodney's life-long passion and pursuit of writing and poems started at fifteen years of age when his grand-father would read poems while they warmed themselves by the fire. A couple of their favourite poets were Robert Burns *Auld Lang Syne* and Alfred Tennyson's famous *Crossing the Bar*.

Very pleasing for Rodney, within groups of the day's guests, were past students and parents from Trafalgar High School and recent students and parents from Warragul Regional College, as well as teaching colleagues from both schools. Also attending were people from the many local arts communities, including the old Baw Baw Writers' Network and members of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance.

Great background music came from Hedy and Peter Kirkbride with their flamenco guitar playing. They had previously collaborated with Steve Wiegink and Rodney in the Warragul Theatre Company's production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*.



Musicians Hedy and Peter Kirkbride keeping guests entertained



Rodney Williams and Steve Wiegink waiting for introductions from MC Yvette Stubbs



Trafalgar writer and poet Rodney Williams

## Strzelecki Bushwalking Club launches Try Bushwalking program

*By Robyn Shingles*

In 2019 funding from Latrobe Valley Authority was used by Strzelecki Bush Walking Club (SBWC) to launch a "Try Bushwalking" program aimed at introducing members of the public to walking with a group and discovering some of the beautiful walks around Gippsland.

It's on again this year with a series of introductory easy walks on offer throughout April, plus some more challenging options for the experienced hiker.

The Club's program encourages members to participate at a level to suit their interest and ability. This can range from comfortable day walks to

more challenging hikes and overnight pack carries.

Recently the club completed an overnight hike to Sealers Cove at the Wilsons Promontory.

Walks to suit all levels of fitness will be offered free throughout April and beginners and experienced hikers are invited to register.

Members and others interested in walking and increasing their activity are encouraged to register for the Premiers Active April program at [www.activeapril.vic.gov.au](http://www.activeapril.vic.gov.au).

Contact Robyn Shingles for more details on 0419 501666 or email [strzbwc@gmail.com](mailto:strzbwc@gmail.com)



A recent overnight hike to Sealers Cove at Wilsons Promontory, with an outstanding view

## Plan Now For COVID-19 – Health Dept

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services says with more cases and outbreaks of COVID-19 expected in Victoria as the illness continues to spread across the world, now is the time to sensibly plan for the possibility of transmission in coming weeks.

The department is urging people to protect themselves by washing hands regularly with soap and water, and try not to touch their faces, including eyes,

nose or mouth.

"As you may need to isolate at home if exposed to a person with confirmed infection, you could add a few more essential items to your regular shop now," it suggests.

"Check in on elderly friends, neighbours, and people with a disability in your community and think about how you would support each other.

"Make a plan on how you and your family (including pets)

would have to manage if you needed to stay at home for two to three weeks.

"Fill prescriptions of essential medicines so you have enough if you have to stay home for two to three weeks for any reason."

For up to date information and reliable advice, visit [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covi](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covi)

## Trafalgar Community Development Association moves to quarterly meetings

*Sue Jacka*

After the very successful Australia Day celebrations this year, TCDA has had a quiet agenda. Things seem to be going along quite well in the town. Issues like the need for more car-parking at the new Kindergarten site have been taken on board by Baw Baw Shire and we have been assured that the new fit out will take place over the coming weeks allowing the new Kindergarten facility to be used by our smaller community

members by Term 3 without local protests!

To this end, an executive decision was made to meet quarterly from now on with correspondence addressed as it arises. Things like letters of support can still be requested for grants without waiting for the quarterly meetings.

The easiest way is to contact Public officer Rod Boon on 0419 113 994 or secretary Sue Jacka 0409 757 170 and have a chat.

If you'd prefer to write, PO Box 40 Trafalgar or email [communitytrafalgar@gmail.com](mailto:communitytrafalgar@gmail.com)

Of course if a major issue comes up, we will swing back into regular monthly meetings. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 31 March, 2020 at 7pm at the Trafalgar Anglican Community Complex. Hope you can come along and find out what is happening in our local community.

## Vox Pop

*Marge O'Donnell*

If you were to travel in Australia, or overseas, where would you go and for how long?



**Dellas Edwards**  
Australia for what reason? Western Australia to Albany where the National ANZAC Centre is and to Esperance also, as well as the Margaret River Region.



**Kevin Laren**  
Australia for what reason? Exchange rate is good! Every-one travelling by caravan are mostly friendly and knowledgeable. There is lots more still to see.  
Overseas for what reason? Historical value. Australia is a young country compared to Europe. Singapore would be my favourite country as it is the cleanest city in the world.



**Marcus Barker**  
Australia for what reason? Arnhem Land to explore the areas natural beauty and learn more about the traditional owners of the land.  
Overseas for what reason? The Galapagos Islands because it would be like going back in time. The diversity of plants and animals have always intrigued me.



**Cr Darren WALLACE** East Ward Councillor Baw Baw Shire

Contact me for all your Local Government Issues  
Roads – Rates – Rubbish – Recreation – Planning  
ph. 0476 000 053 email. [Darren.Wallace@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:Darren.Wallace@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au)

Authorised by D.Wallace 3 Corymbia Crt Trafalgar 3824

## Alberts Corner



Once we accept our limits, we go beyond them.  
– Albert Einstein



# Uralla bush inspires

Lousie Kennedy Young

Uralla Nature Reserve, located along Giles Road on the road to Traf's transfer station (the Tip), is a place of exploration and adventure for many locals around Trafalgar.

Earlier this year during the summer months, a long-time Uralla committee member and volunteer, the late Fred Boreham, had some of his grandchildren visiting the reserve, to remember one of his favourite places.

Fred Boreham's daughter, Jacqui Thurgood (Boreham), sent some photos to another Uralla volunteer Nick, with the comment: "Hello, I was so happy to hear that you crossed paths with my family today at Uralla.

We would love you to share these photos of Fred's grandchildren (Will, Sophie and Delilah) and their grandma Cathy Hay as

they make their way to Fred's View.

We are so very grateful to you all for providing us with somewhere living and wild and peaceful to contemplate life after dad. Another grandson was born this year (Django), and it's so precious that we'll be able to take him to Uralla to talk about his Pa instead of to a gravesite."

After his death in August 2017, Friends of Uralla constructed this sign 'Fred's View' as a thank you to Fred Boreham for his commitment to a community managed reserve at Uralla.

Owned by Trust For Nature and managed by Baw Baw Shire, Uralla has a small team of dedicated community members who meet bi-monthly to plan for events and works at Uralla, and a Saturday morning working bee every other month.

We love seeing people spend-

ing time at Uralla – walking or driving up from Trafalgar, by themselves, with their families, friends, dogs and bikes!

We would also love to see more people joining us at working bees and to assist us to discuss projects and plans for Uralla. Do you have any ideas that you could see happening at Uralla?

If you have some ideas and are interested in coming along to a working bee or meeting, please call Carolyn Ferguson at Baw Baw Shire on 5624 2411. Our meeting dates during 2020 are: Tuesday 7 April from 7.30pm then June 2, August 4, October 6, and December 1.

Our working bee dates are Saturday 16 May from 8.30am, then July 18, September 19 and November 21.

## Probus Club AGM a great success

John Attwell

Our Probus Club celebrated its 27th Annual General Meeting with a full complement of members volunteering to take up positions on the committee. This is a credit to our members, as some clubs have difficulty filling their committee and some have actually closed down when they could not fill committee positions. Well done to Trafalgar and District!

We have 20 committee and office bearer positions.

We are all looking forward to the new year, with Carol Achterdenbosch as our new club President.

Many thanks go to Bob Jones for his very successful year as President as he brought many new ideas to the club and was very well noted for his keen sense of humour and a special talent for new thoughts in his monthly President's report.

### INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

On our last meeting for the year Bob Jones was pleased to induct Violet and Les Helmuth into the club, especially as they are neighbours of his. A big welcome to you both and we look forward to enjoying many Probus events

with you.

### CARAVAN/CABIN TRIP TO YARRAM

As I write this, many of our members are packing up to head off to Yarram Holiday Park for a few days of Fun, Friendship and Fellowship. With 8 Caravans and 5 Cabins booked, this is our biggest group heading off so there should be plenty of stories told of their daily adventures.

Trafalgar Probus meeting and activities have been suspended until further notice.




From the left at back are Barbara Butterworth, John Attwell, Joan Hobson, Glenda Mynard, Frank Achterdenbosch, Anne Brennan, Bob Jones, Deirdre Crawley, Ross Pethybridge, Ron Jones, Wayne Butterworth, Lyn Jones. Front from the left: Glenda Jones, Sharley Smith, Carol Achterdenbosch (New President) Elly Fallon, Tina Phipps, Peggy Fisher, Ros Mynard. Missing from the photo was Maggie Attwell



Bob Jones was pleased to induct Violet and Les Helmuth into the Probus Club



Will, Sophie and Delilah with their grandma Cathy Hay as they make their way to Fred's View.



### IT'S TRUE

Soap gets its name from the mythological Mount Sapo. Fat and wood ash from animal sacrifices there washed into the Tiber River, creating a rudimentary cleaning agent that aided women doing their washing.



## Trafalgar High School

### Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program

Part of the Victorian Academy of SEALP Schools

## Year 7, 2021

Book testing through Eventbrite  
<https://trafalgarhighschool-seal-testing.eventbrite.com.au>

Book one day for testing, from 9am—12pm on:

- Saturday, 2nd of May
- Monday, 4th of May

Further Enquiries:  
Amanda McQualter, SEAL Program Coordinator  
5633 1733



# Trafalgar Fire Brigade explains planned burning

Colin Proctor

Sometimes there is a lot of smoke in the air of West Gippsland from "planned burns" "prescribed burns" or "burning off". These all mean much the same thing, and happen mainly in autumn, but sometimes at other times of the year as well.

Much of the more or less natural bush and grassland remaining in Victoria has been managed by Indigenous people by low intensity burning for probably tens of thousands of years. Many of our native trees, shrubs and grasses need heat and, in some cases, smoke for their seeds to germinate.

Sometimes improving the conditions for native plants by fire can help them to compete with introduced weeds. Fresh green shoots after a low intensity burn can be valuable food for native animals. Bushland dominated by one species, such as tea tree, often has very low levels of species diversity.

After European settlement of Victoria there was a lot less burning off, and the amount of fuels increased greatly.

Black Thursday on 11 February 1851 less than twenty years after European settlement was a catastrophic fire that took many lives and destroyed numerous farms, mills and livestock. This was the first of the fire horror days in Victoria's history.

In many areas of northern Australia the Indigenous practice is to have low, cool fires on a third of the land each year. Many northern national parks now fol-

low this example. Such frequent burning would be very difficult to achieve in a lot of Victoria given the variability of the weather and may not be a good idea with the different ecological conditions here.

However, there are very high fuel loads in a lot of bushland around the state, and with severe summer weather there is the possibility of massive, unstoppable infernos.

Most experienced bushfire fighters can remember times when a huge fire has been running through the bush from the crowns of the trees all the way to the ground and the flames have dropped to controllable size when they get into an area that has recently been plan burned.

The photo shows an area of bush at high risk of catching alight easily and burning at extremely high temperatures. There is a lot of fuel at ground level. Taller shrubs and small trees will easily catch alight and add their energy to the inferno.

The larger tree on the left is a stringybark, and fire carries up these easily as the fibrous bark extends all the way up to the highest branches. The other large tree sheds its bark in ribbons which cluster around the trunk and provide a ladder into the crown.

Pieces of burning and smouldering bark, leaves and twigs are drawn into the air and can land from a couple of metres up to twenty kilometers and start spot fires. Firefighters can then be caught between two blazes.

Planned burns reduce the

destructiveness and ecological damage of wildfires, but also cause some problems of their own. Smoke particles in the air are irritating to many people and can cause worse symptoms for those with breathing complaints.

Traffic may need to be diverted or delayed and visibility on the roads can be reduced by smoke. It is sometimes difficult for land managers to decide to order the lighting of a planned burn on a particular day as the weather may change unexpectedly and the fire escapes and causes damage. The risks of conducting planned burns need to be weighed against the risks of not burning.

The perfect day for a prescribed burn would be a day in late March when there are light winds, the bush is fairly dry and the humidity is around twenty five per cent. Sufficient trained crew should be on hand to light up and suppress any excess fire activity.

Grass and leaves are scraped from a path around the area to be burned, and larger trees have the fuel removed from around their bases to prevent flames from running up the trunks.

When the burn is ignited, the fire should trickle along at no more than head height. After an area has been treated, there should be a mosaic pattern of burnt and unburnt areas. Tree dwelling animals should be unaffected and birds simply fly out of the area.

Wombats and other burrowers remain underground and reptiles shelter under logs. Soon

there will be fresh shoots for wallabies and other browsing creatures.

Seedling trees and shrubs appear in the ash bed. Contrast this picture with the devastation seen after an intense bushfire. Dead and dying possums are on the ground, birds have dropped

from the skies and even large trees can be killed.

Serious erosion often occurs with the next rain. There will probably be few seedlings, as seed in the soil has been roasted. The lives of civilians and firefighters have been at risk, and the costs of suppression and re-

building huge.

Planned burning is not without nuisance and hazards. People's health problems need particular attention.

However, if fuel loads are not reduced regularly and competently, then more and worse Black Saturdays can be expected.



This photo shows an area of bush at high risk of catching alight easily and burning at extremely high temperatures.

## Baw Baw Arts Alliance exhibition an inspiration to professional and amateur artists

Carol Monson

During March, 2020, the Baw Baw Arts Alliance presented an exhibition at the 'Station Gallery', Yarragon, titled, Draw the Line. The exhibition featured emerging artist, Dale Plew, whose detailed and meticulous pen and ink drawings were an inspiration to both professional and amateur artists.

In April Carol and Russell Monson will be exhibiting a range of photographs and textile works under the title of 'Beyond the Bitumen'. They will be accompanied by their daughter in law Anja Wondra who has small artworks and a picture book related to their travels in the outback.

This exhibition is inspired by recent trips to Central Australia, including the Old Ghan Rail line, Oodnadatta Track, and walking the Larapinta trail. Colour, space, isolation and the natural environment are all themes portrayed in the work on show. The framed photos and textile work complement each other. The exhibition runs for the month of April.

During May the 'Station Gallery' will have an open exhibition for artworks using recycled materials. Don't miss this opportunity to participate in an environmentally sound art experience. For further information see <https://www.baw-bawartsalliance.org.au>

Sadly the Arts Alliance has

made the decision there will be no Winter Arts Markets until further notice.

As a not for profit organization the Baw Baw Arts Alliance depends on community partnerships to continue to promote the Arts in the Baw Baw Shire. The Trafalgar and District Community Bank has long supported the Arts Alliance and this enables the Arts Alliance to provide quality exhibitions at The Station Gallery, Yarragon and exhibition and workshop spaces in the Artspace at Trafalgar Railway Station.

Such support facilitates the activities of a number of regular, small art groups in a wide range of media to meet each week. The list of these groups

is extensive covering such Arts as Music, Weaving, Writing, Drawing, Textiles including Felting,

Painting, Mixed Media, mosaics and clay. Visit <https://bawbawartsalliance.org.au> for more de-

tailed information.



Russell and Carol with the remnants of one of our wheels after a particularly bad section of the Oodnadatta Track; a very good reason one needs to travel with 2 spare wheels. Sections of our exhibition were previously at the 'Red Tree Gallery', Jindivick



# St Joseph's celebrates 90 years of education



School Leaders with Buddies from left to right: Asber Hicks, Adelle Sayers, Keiran Deegan, Isabella Brown, Ivy Allen, Jye Lister



Class F/1 R



Class F/1 BW



Grade 5/6

The Sisters of St Joseph established St Joseph's Primary School, Trafalgar, in 1930. Back then, classes were conducted in the church. Fundraising took place throughout the community to build a two room school. In 1932, St Joseph's school buildings were created. There were 8 grades of about 30 students. Needless to say, education, facilities and class grouping have changed over the 90 years. We now boast 6 classes of 122 and over 20 staff. Students celebrated the school's 90th Anniversary with a liturgy in classrooms, a celebratory cake and special sausage sizzle lunch.



Combined Grade 2/3 Classes



Grade 4/5

## St Josephs students enjoy Sovereign Hill camp



Lucy, Millie, Justyce and Alyssa panning for gold



Patrick, Arabella, Erin, Jason, Matthew, Jye, Lucy and Alyssa with a Trooper

## Traf High challenge stereotypes on International Womens Day



Jimi Hopkins, Assistant Principal and Jane Mersey, Principal, strike pose in recognition of International Womens Day

## Local legends humble Trafalgar CFA with donation

Belinda MacDonald

Macey and Piper MacDonald raised \$51.75 from selling plum jam they made with their granddad Keith Twedde.

They picked all the plums from their granddads yard and spent

hours making the jam to sell. On a Trafalgar Brigade training night, the girls attended to present the donation, with a humbling speech given. In return they were shown around the station, the fire trucks and took up the opportunity to squirt a fire hose.

Both young ladies would like

to thank all their family, friends and neighbours for supporting their aim to raise money for the Trafalgar Fire Brigade and they hope the money helps them continue to support the community and surrounds.

Taryn Maxwell-Garratt

On Wednesday 11 March, the Grade 5/6 students at St Joseph's School travelled to Ballarat to partake in a team building and history learning experience.

A paragraph from some of the students in attendance:

written by Ciele Towb

It was like stepping back in time. A horse and buggy passed me sending a sweep of dust into my face, blocking the view of all of the wonderful shops. One of the most popular parts was the Aura Light and Sound Show.

It was scary, exhilarating, exciting, tense, sorrowful and full of mystery. We were told the story of the Eureka Stockade, the battle that left a mark on Australian mining forever. It was an experience to remember

written by Ruby Francis

We took a tour of the Secret Chamber Mine. In the tour we watched a video which told the story of two Chinese brothers who decided to travel to Ballarat to find gold. They worked hard and did eventually find gold.

Unfortunately, soon after they found gold the mine collapsed

due to the explosives they used and only one brother survived. The brother that survived went on to have a family and become a prosperous miner.

written by Amelia Tunks

My favourite experience was panning because we got to try and find gold ourselves. We got very excited when I found my first speck of gold but then we realised it was just a hole in the pan. By then end of camp I had 8 specks of gold!



Lucy, Elias, Jason and Charlise dressed to impress



Stella, Charlie and Isabella checking the pan to see how rich they are

David (Wombat) Lyons

Trafalgar High School celebrated International Womens Day on 8 March, 2020, by striking poses demonstrating

their commitment to building a gender equal world by challenging stereotypes, fighting bias and broadening perceptions.

In a series of photos published on the Schools Facebook

page, they joined students from all year levels and classes to made the "equal" pose to send a message on International Women's day.



Example of a student photo is represented here with Lachlan Briggs and Sophia Coulson of Year 10 posing during a Science class

# Chance to recognise Trafalgar's school crossing supervisors with nominations

As part of our commitment to the ongoing safety of your students, School Crossing's Victoria, together with your local council, is looking for the 'Supervisor of the Year'

2019/20.

There are seven regions across the state. A winner will be selected in each region, and the overall winner, will be selected from the regional winners. The

winner of the 2017/2018 Supervisor of the Year is Margaret Coulson from the City of Greater Geelong and School Crossing's Victoria would like to enlist your help to boost this year's nominations.

It is our goal to reach as many parents, residents and school staff as possible and by involving them in the nomination process encourage all road users to think

about, and reward, the active role the Supervisors play in the safety of their children.

Nominations are open now, and close on Friday 8 May, 2020, go to the School Crossings Vic-

toria website [www.schoolcrossingsvictoria.com.au](http://www.schoolcrossingsvictoria.com.au) and complete an online nomination.



Macey and Piper MacDonald presenting the Trafalgar CFA with their jam donation



# Looking after your mental health

*Dr Sarah Ledger*

Mental health forms a large part of everyday life. General Practice, with GPs seeing mental illness in patients of all ages, genders and cultural backgrounds.

Statistics show us that 1 in 5 Australians will experience mental illness every year and nearly 50% of Australian adults will be affected by mental illness at some

point in their lifetime.

Let's compare this to the statistics of cardiovascular disease ("heart disease") where 1 in 6 Australians will experience heart disease across their lifetime.

That means that you are more likely to suffer from a mental illness than the much more talked about heart disease that so many people are worried about.

With recent events in our

country and around the world, talking about mental health is more important than ever. Our country is experiencing tragic consequences of climate change, from torrential floods to raging bushfires. Communities are being tested and individuals are being pushed to their limits, with events both here and abroad taking their toll on each and every one of us.

It is important, now more than ever, to be aware of the importance of mental health – of asking those around us "Are you OK?" and of course asking ourselves the same question.

It is not a weakness to admit that we are not coping or that we need some help dealing with our feelings and emotions. It is a sign of strength and courage that we take the steps needed to ensure

that we and those around us are seeking the help we need, in the same way that we would if we had a heart attack or diabetes.

The first step in getting help is seeing your GP. Make an appointment and talk to them about how you are feeling. We are a safe place for you to voice your concerns, your feelings and your worries. We are trained to help.

It is time to make mental

health a priority. We owe it to ourselves, our families and our communities to seek the help we need and deserve.

Trafalgar Medical has appointments available every day and are taking new patients. Please call 5633 2211 to make an appointment or book an appointment online via our website [www.trafmc.com.au](http://www.trafmc.com.au)



[www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au)

ACCC

## COVID-19 scam text messages targeting Australians

ASD's Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) is aware of a COVID-19 themed scam being distributed via text message.

We understand the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)'s Scamwatch has received multiple reports of COVID-19 themed scam texts being sent to members of

the public.

The text messages appear to come from 'GOV' as the sender and they include a link to find out when to 'get tested in your geographical area' for COVID-19.

The link in these text messages is not legitimate, and if clicked on, may install malicious software on your device, designed to steal your banking details.

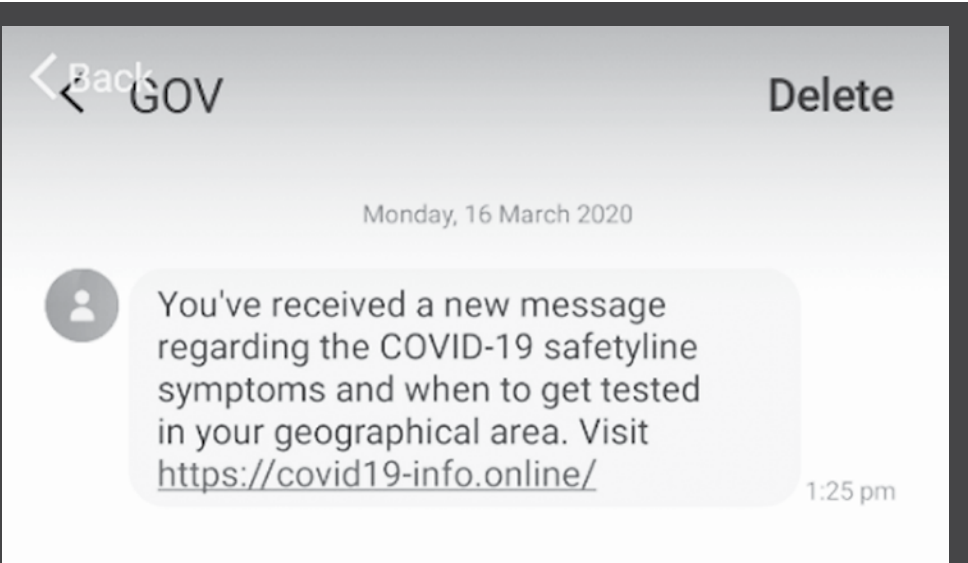
Example of fake COVID-19

message

### How do I stay safe?

If you receive one of these messages, delete the message and do not click the link.

Messages that pretend to be government and other trusted organisations are known as phishing scams. They often contain a link to a fake website, where you are encouraged to enter confidential details.



Screenshot of scam text message

To protect yourself from phishing:

Don't click on links in emails or messages, or open attachments, from people or organisations you don't know.

Before you click a link, hover over that link to see the actual web address it will take you to (usually shown at the bottom of the browser window). If you do not recognise or trust the address, try searching for relevant key terms in a web browser. This

way you can find the article, video or webpage without directly clicking on the suspicious link.

If you're not sure, talk through the suspicious message with a friend or family member, or check its legitimacy by contacting the relevant business or organisation (using contact details sourced from the official company website).

If you've received one of these messages and you've clicked on the link, or you're

concerned your personal details have been compromised, contact your financial institution immediately.

If you've suffered financial loss from cybercrime, report it to ReportCyber at [www.cyber.gov.au/report](http://www.cyber.gov.au/report)

To stay up to date on the latest online threats and how to respond, sign up to the Stay Smart Online Alert Service, [www.stay-smartonline.gov.au/alert-service](http://www.stay-smartonline.gov.au/alert-service)

AROUND THE  
HISTORICAL  
*Society*

*Di Ireland*

At the February meeting of the Trafalgar & District Historical Society the meeting schedule for the remainder of 2020 was drawn up as follows:

April, June and August meetings will be held at 2pm, with the October meeting at 7pm. The November meeting will as usual, be a dinner meeting at a local restaurant. Hopefully this will encourage some new members to attend.

Recent working bees have seen the vast collection of documents, minutes and memorabilia from the now defunct Trafalgar CWA being sorted and catalogued. Amongst the books was a catering book. Catering is a major source of fund raising for the CWA and the Trafalgar CWA was no different. In May 1975, a wedding for 92 adults at \$3.00 a head and 15 children at \$2.00 per head made a profit of \$322.69. Expenses included Ritz Poultry - \$30.60, Giles Meat - \$6.28, Groceries, vegetables, fruit - \$37.86, Crockery - \$12.92 and

CWA helpers - \$31.65, thus coming to \$119.31. No doubt other expenses were met by the wedding party! If you have any recollections or photos of the Trafalgar branch of the CWA, we would be most interested to see them.

The next meeting of the Society will be held in the front room of the Kindergarten building at 30 Contingent Street Trafalgar. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

*Reflection*

*Rev Sue Jacka*

**Remaining hopeful**

I am struck by the need to remain filled with God's Hope. It's easy to become overwhelmed by the problems facing the world, especially coronavirus and the possibility of recession.

We may be tempted to think that we are far removed from such problems. After all, we live in the clean air of Gippsland, surrounded by friendly people. And yet many of us will have superannuation or other shares which will be vulnerable to the dramatic falls on the stock market. You may have tried to purchase staples at the local supermarket only to discover that others had done some panic buying fuelled no doubt by the fear of what would happen if they had to self isolate.

Fear is insidious. It creeps up on us and we may find ourselves acting quite irrationally when faced with the unknown. What else can explain the fear that drives panic buying? Intellectually, we know that much of our food comes from Australia and that if we all bought supplies normally, there would be no problem. Yet when such a crisis comes, some people will operate out of their innate desire for self-preservation. Let's be community minded instead. May we each decide to make choices that benefit our community! If the problems surrounding the corona virus shortages and closures become greater, let's choose to look out for others who need our help and to check on elderly neighbours. We can show our Hope through acts of compassion and thoughtfulness.

# Council News.

To keep our community up to date, we're bringing Council News to you online, on air and in print. For more information and updates, visit our Facebook, Instagram and website.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Community Update

### Where to find information

For the most accurate information and guidance about the current outbreak of the coronavirus disease, please go to The Department of Health and Human Services website [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus).

### Local updates

For local information for residents, including event cancellations, community impacts and advice please visit the Council website.

This is a rapidly changing situation and these measures are subject to change as per advice from State and Federal agencies.

We thank everyone for their patience and understanding while we continue to work together for the health and safety of our community and staff.

### Council Customer Service Centres

Our Customer Service Centres in Warragul and Drouin are closed for face-to-face service to the public. Our call centre will continue to operate via phone, email, social media and Live Chat on our website.

### Local facilities

A number of local facilities, including the West Gippsland Arts Centre, libraries and YMCA managed facilities are currently closed.

### Council meetings

Until further notice, members of the public will not be permitted to attend Council Meetings in person. Instead, the meetings will be available to view via live streaming.

### Public events

Effective immediately, all non-essential Council run events scheduled to take place over the next four weeks are cancelled or postponed. This includes Council pop-ups and public consultation sessions.

### Subscribe today!

Want more news? Sign up to receive this bulletin and Council Meeting Snapshots straight to your inbox at [bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Subscribe](mailto:bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Subscribe)

## Changes to aged and disability services

### Which services will Council continue to provide to the community?

Meals on Wheels

Social support groups

Property maintenance

Carer support

Community transport

### Which services are changing?

On 11 March 2020, Council resolved at a Council meeting to cease providing direct care services effective from 30 June 2022. The services include:

- Domestic assistance (includes unescorted shopping support)
- Personal Care (includes escorted shopping support)
- Respite Care.

These services will be delivered by other service providers from 1 July 2022

### Australian Government Reforms

The decision to withdraw from these services has been made due to significant reforms in the aged and disability sectors by the Australian Government.

The reforms involve major changes to the way home support programs are funded, planned and delivered to increase the number of service providers, providing more choice and flexibility for consumers, which limits Council's ability to continue to deliver quality aged and disability services.

### Our commitment

Council is fully committed to making sure residents have ongoing access quality aged and disability care providers and services.

We will continue to work closely with impacted clients and staff to ensure everyone is informed about the decision and changes along the way, and that appropriate transition plans are in place.





# “BREATHTAKING VIEWS” 140 PRISTINE ACRES

**This spectacular property owned by Jim, who also owns our local Spud shed here in Trafalgar, has been home for his family for 60 years. After some thinking they have decided to keep the homes and sell of this pristine 140 acres (approximately).**

The land has rolling green hills, with fertile soil, that have many flats nestled in-between the amazing tree lines where your future home could be built. There is a building permit included. The natural assets include spring water that runs all year round and there is a beautiful dam. There are sections of natural bushland which provides shelter for animals and firewood for those cold nights. The land would be ideal with another 25 – 30 % being revegetated with natives.

New tracks have recently been added to make access to the property easier. There is also fencing on the property.

This picturesque land is ideal for livestock to roam and building your dream home with the incredible views across the valley to the Baw Baw Ranges. It is located at 275 Rogers Road, so you get to be close to town but feel like you live on top of the world. Asking price for this magnificent piece of paradise is \$1.1 million but Jim has also stated there is an option for lease back at \$20'000 per year for 3 years.

**For further inquiries please contact Jim Abrecht on 0447 331 762**



# Farming News

## Better for the environment and hip pocket

Farmers from across central Gippsland are showing their commitment to a better environment by signing up to a new round of funding of the Fert\$mart program.

The program assists farmers to better manage their use of fertilisers and effluent to produce more on-farm profit and reduce nutrient run off into local waterways.

The current funding will see farmers in Corner Inlet, Gormandale and the Macalister Irrigation District work with agronomists and attend workshops to gain greater insights into how they are using fertilisers and how to reduce the run-off into creeks, streams and rivers.

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority land team leader Shayne Haywood said more than 50 farm businesses had signed up to this round of funding, adding it was encouraging given the strain that some of these businesses have been under over the past 12 to 18 months.

“The basic doctrine of Fert\$mart is that, by getting soil and fertiliser management ‘right’, farmers should be able to produce more feed at no extra cost,” Mr Haywood said.

While the Fert\$mart program has been around a few years and the positive outcomes for participants are reasonably well

known, new recruits to the program can sometimes feel reluctant to sign up.

Toora dairy farmer Andrew Bacon had done plenty of homework on his fertiliser regime and didn’t think there was much improvement to be found.

But what he found by doing a Fert\$mart course helped him save thousands of dollars.

“I was very sceptical, I’ve done a lot of courses and background work to get my knowledge to where it is now and I didn’t feel that it was going to greatly enhance anything that I have already done but we think we will save at least \$40,000 this year,” Mr Bacon said.

Mr Haywood said Andrew’s story was not uncommon.

“Farmers have many years of experience managing their properties, applying fertiliser, managing

stocking rates doing all the things they need to do to make a profit,” he said.

“So, when someone comes along and says, ‘hey guys, we can help you save thousands of dollars!’, it’s not surprising that they are sceptical.

“But what they see is a program that brings an industry body in GippsDiary, a state government organisation in the CMA, the federal government through the NLP and the private sector through the agronomist input, to come up with really positive results for the farmer as well as the environment.”

The program, delivered by local agronomists and funded by the Australian government’s National Landcare Program, is supported by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Gippsland Water and Gipps-Dairy.

Updates and case studies from the 2020 Fert\$mart program will be available in coming months at [wgcm.vic.gov.au](http://wgcm.vic.gov.au)

## Prevent organic pollution in farm dams

Fire affected farmers are being encouraged to consider long-term strategies to prevent organic pollution entering farm dams, as thunderstorms become the latest threat. Fire, combined with dry conditions, have left pasture cover at critically low levels, making it easier for dung and other organic materials to blow into dams and putrefy.

Now with thunderstorms forecast, Gippsland farmers may find themselves having to deal with dam pollution due to flash flooding.

Land Management Extension Officer Brad Costin said long-term management was key and would prevent farmers having to clean out dams multiple times. “It’s important to remove organic material from the water as soon as possible, as it usually saturates and sinks within 48 hours, so skimming the surface of the water is the most effective short-term method,” he said.

“The palatability of the water can be improved by aeration and or chemical treatment, which may be done simultaneously. “On smaller catchments other sediment control measures may be an option, such as sediment fences or barriers, so seek advice when deciding how to respond.

“Otherwise prioritising water storages and allowing for contingencies should dams become unavailable may need to be considered in the short-term.

“The best long-term prevention is to maintain an adequate vegetative cover around the dam or where this is not possible establish protection with netting or corrugated iron or earth banks.”

For more information visit: [agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/managing-dams/organic-pollution-in-farm-dams](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/managing-dams/organic-pollution-in-farm-dams)

## Bee connected

Agriculture Victoria is encouraging chemical users to actively engage in BeeConnected - a national database and app that connects registered beekeepers with registered farmers and contractors, enabling two way communication on the location of hives and crop protection activities.

Agriculture Victoria statewide specialist of chemicals Steven Field said the app was one of a number of tools available to chemical users, to help them follow the highest possible

safety standards for the benefit of consumers, the environment and especially manage any risks to pollinators.

Mr Field said the timing of chemical use can sometimes coincide with when bees are actively foraging for pollen and nectar, particularly in the spring and summer months. “The risk of chemical use to pollinators is shared between the chemical user and the bee keeper,” he said.

“Chemical users, including aerial operators and ground-based sprayers, have a responsibility to conduct an on-ground inspection of paddocks to determine whether there are bees foraging on flowering plants, or bees in flight before applying chemicals.”

He said commercial and hobby beekeepers should register their hives on BeeConnected, to enable chemical users to easily identify and notify beekeepers when and where they are going to be spraying.

“Chemical users must read and understand the product label, paying specific attention to ‘do not’ statements that appear under the Protection of Livestock section of a chemical label. “These ‘do not’ statements are enforceable, and constitute an offence if they are disregarded.

“Spraying early in the morning when bees are less active or spraying on cooler days when bees are less likely to be flying

and foraging are further strategies chemical users can adopt.”

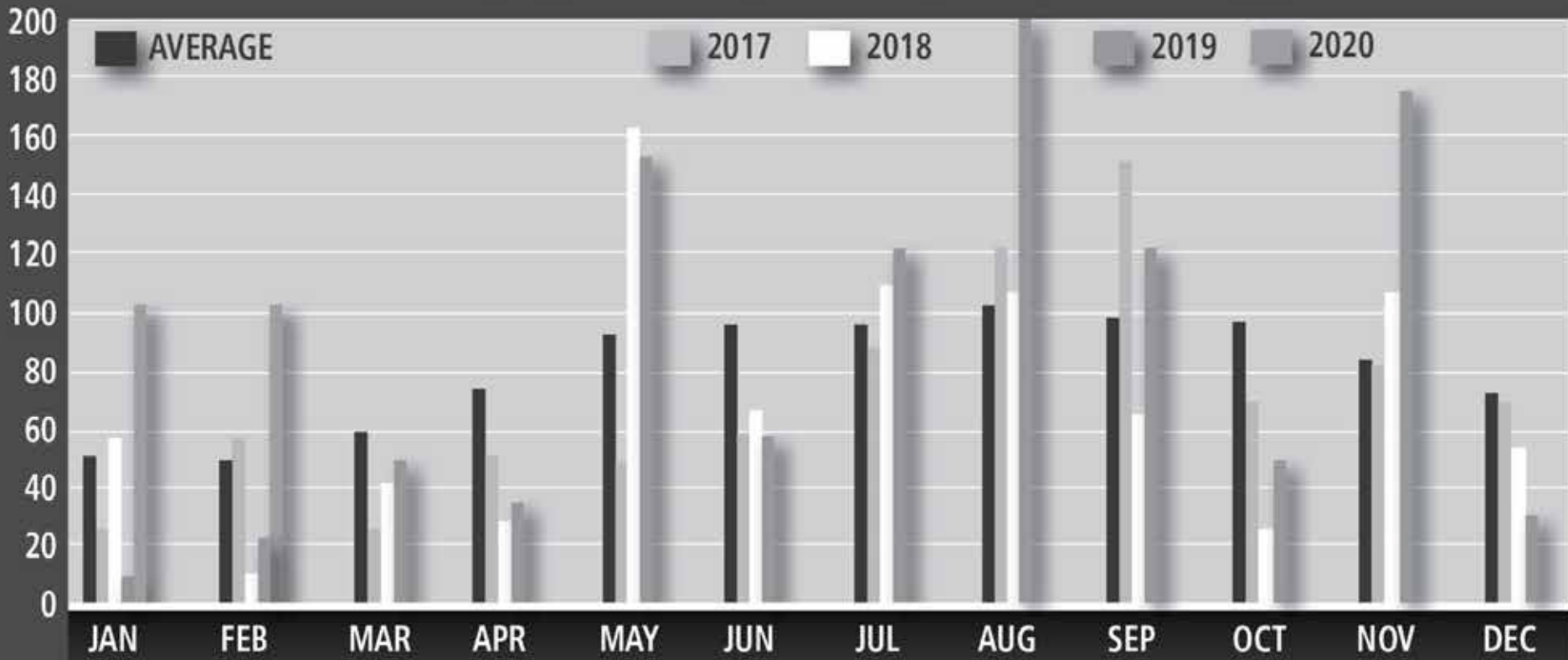
Mr Field said pollination from honey bees was a critical element of agricultural and horticultural production in Australia, increasing yields and seed production for growers of a variety of different commodities.

“Cooperation between chemical users and beekeepers is critical for the success of industries and survival of bee populations,” he said. The BeeConnected database can be found at [beeconnected.org.au](http://beeconnected.org.au) For more information, visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/chemicals](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/chemicals), or phone 136 186.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*It’s dead easy to die; it’s the keeping on living that’s hard - Douglas Mawson - Scientist and polar survivor*

## TRAFALGAR MONTHLY RAINFALL



This graph compares the monthly rainfall received in Trafalgar in 2020 with, 2017, 2018, 2019, and average monthly rainfall since records began. The monthly rainfall for February 2020 was 102 mm





Compiled By Jack McDonald from newspapers held in the Trafalgar and District Historical Society Archives

### The Trafalgar & Yarragon News, April 1930

### 3 April – Radio 3FB Trafalgar

The station transmission last Sunday was perfect, according to reports received. Mr J. Barry has offered the loan of over 200 gramophone records, which offer has been accepted with appreciation. Even Queensland takes a great interest in 3 FB Trafalgar. Mr Gillespie, of Dalby, sends reports of good transmission.

### Methodist Church Opened at Childers

Childers was the centre of widespread interest and the scene of much activity over the last week-end, the hopes of half a century having been realised in the building of a Methodist Church. Jubilee celebrations were held, including a fair on Friday, a concert on Saturday, and the official opening of the Church on the Sunday.

### 17 April – Presbyterian Flower Show

The annual flower show conducted by the Scotch folk at Trafalgar was held last Thursday. The display of flowers has probably never been surpassed locally – the radiant blooms vying for pride of place and a pleasing aroma which emanated from all – justly deserving the eulogium of the public.

### 24 April – Trafalgar East School Sports

The Trafalgar East State School committee held their annual school picnic on Easter Monday. Mr J McCrorey's paddock on the Meadows being the spot chosen for the meeting. Trades-people and district residents contributed liberably with cash etc. and thereby helped materially in the success of the picnic. After justice had been done to the good things provided in the way of refreshments, etc., a lengthy program of sports was gone through.

### The Gippsland News, April 1960

### 7 April – Gunn Families Re-Union

About 200 members of the Gunn families met for their third annual re-union at the Thorpdale Recreation Reserve on 20 March. More than 40 came by bus from Melbourne as did many by car. All were impressed by the lovely scenery and the fertile farms in the district. Games were played by the younger members on the picturesque Thorpdale oval, while the older ones talked over the past. Many life-long friends joined the re-union.

### 14 April – “Princesses” Raise Money For Pool

The magnificent sum of £1500 (\$44,440 today) was the result of the “Princess” competition which was finalised at the Trafalgar hall on Wednesday night, 6 April, with a dance and crowning ceremony which was witnessed by over 200 people. The committees and the two candidates, Miss Shirley Petch and Miss Beryl Turner, are to be congratulated on their fine effort in raising such a large sum of money in such a short time for the towns' swimming pool.

### Tin-Kettling Party

Friday night last witnessed one of those old-time events with which the pioneers of the district enlivened the hours and honoured their friends when about 10 car loads of district residents descended upon the home of recently married couple, Mr and Mrs Herbie Hotchkin, of Childers. The blaring of car horns, rattling of tin cans and other instruments of torture announced to the young couple that they had visitors and that a party was about to commence.

### 21 April – Gas “Turned On”

On Tuesday, 12 April at the Narracan Shire Council Chambers at Trafalgar,

Cr G M Brown (Shire President) officially “turned on” a reticulated gas supply for Trafalgar. With this ceremony, the Shire Council Chambers became the first Trafalgar contact to the Lurgi gas mains which carry brown coal gas from Morwell to Melbourne.

### 28 April – Marching “Midgets” Win

Twenty-two teams participated on Sunday last in a grand marching competition sponsored by the Moe Youth Club at the Vale Street oval. In the “Midget” section of the competitions Trafalgar gained honours in “Fall In and Inspection”. Miss Sally Laybourne was judged best “Midget” Leader and Miss Kay Parke best Marker. Congratulations go to the Yarragon Youth Club “Wrens” led by Miss Pat Standing, who shared the honours in the senior section with Melbourne “Pioneers”.

### Beware Of “Snow-Droppers”

The old-fashioned term of “snow-droppers” was revived in Trafalgar last week when thieves stole clothing to the value of £30 (\$900 today) from a clothes line at the rear of Mr and Mrs Jack Cook's residence. District residents should take care to remove any clothing of value from their cloths lines before retiring.

### Traf News, April 2002

### April – Shave For A Cure

On Friday, the 15th of March fourteen of Trafalgar's finest had their heads shaved, and one, (the Weakest Link) had his hair dyed, for the Leukaemia Foundation's 'Shave for a Cure'. They were Marcus Barker, Kevin Carmody, Peter Dart, Graham Davey, Sharon Duncan, Greg Evison, Grant Fowler, Deirdre Griffin, Peter Griffin, Greg Lincoln, Rick Martin, Terry O'Meara, Stella Polo and James Heland while the 'Weakest Link' Brendan King-will had his hair dyed. A total of around \$7,000 (\$103,20 today) was raised on the night from a good cross section of the community, so give yourselves a big pat on the back Trafalgar, you've done it again.

### Trafalgar Rural Fire Brigade

The Trafalgar Rural Fire Brigade again competed at its Annual Regional Fire Brigade Competition at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve on 11 March 2002. This year marked the region's 50th year of competition. Ten senior

and ten junior teams travelled to Trafalgar from as far away as Melbourne and Bairnsdale to compete on the day. Trafalgar succeeded in winning five out of the six senior events which demonstrate their fire-fighting skills using hoses, pumps and ladders.

### Lions Ride For Sight

Four Trafalgar cyclists were part of the 24 registered riders and eight support crew on the annual Lions 'Ride for Sight' ride, which commenced on 14th March and concluded at mid-day on 17th March. The ride, organised by Lions District 201 V3, commenced at Nyora. The 430-kilometre ride finished after they had travelled over a large part of Gippsland. The last day concluded with a leisurely ride from Paynesville to Lakes Entrance. Trafalgar riders were: Rod Dixon, James Brown, Brian O'Connell, Mick Bourke and Helmet Klrab (an honorary Trafalgar rider from Moe). Kathy O'Connell also puts in a great deal of time and effort into each ride. This year she had the difficult job of driving the lead vehicle keeping an eye on approaching traffic.

### Community Bank

Thank-you to everyone who completed a survey form and sent it in. The committee had some concern at the end of the second week when only 354 forms had been received, but due to an incredible last week; when an extra 320 forms came in, we reached the level of data to prepare a business plan. A full report can now be done.

### Uralla Nature Reserve

Following the successful application for a Green Corps project at the Uralla Nature Reserve, a Green Corps team worked in the Reserve recently. During this period the group undertook a variety of tasks including track maintenance and drainage upgrades. Following inquiries, it appears that a second Green Corps project in the coming months is now possible.

## CHURCH SERVICES

### CATHOLIC PARISH

Father Bernie Krotwaar, Phone 5633 1166



### St John's Trafalgar, 54 Waterloo Road

**Vigil Mass:** 6pm (Saturday)  
**Saturday Night Mass:** 6.00pm  
**Sunday Mass:** 10.00am (2nd/4th Sunday)  
**Weekday Masses:** 9.30am (Tuesday to Friday)

### St Jarlath's Yarragon, Rollo Street

**Sunday Mass:** 10.00am (1st/3rd/5th Sunday)

### Transport availability, Neighbourhood Outreach, Home visiting

Please phone Julianne now at the parish office on 5633 1166

## UNITING CHURCH

Rev Helen Prior, Supply Minister  
Phone 0401 911 124



### St. Andrew's Uniting Church, Trafalgar

**Service times** 9.15am Sunday, 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month  
**Sunday School** 9.15am 2nd Sunday of the month  
**Coffee & Chat** Thursdays 10.00am

### St David's Uniting Church, Yarragon

**Service times** 9.15am Sunday - 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month  
**Contemporary** 5.00pm on the 4th Sunday of each month with shared tea to follow

### St Stephens Darnum

**Service times** 11.00am on 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month

Please direct inquiries to Dee Crosby Phome 0409 933 104

## ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rev Sue Jacka, Phone 5633 1021  
0409 757 170 or tullicavan@dcsi.net.au



### St Mary's Church, Trafalgar

**Sundays:** Holy Communion and Sunday School 9.30am  
**Wednesdays:** Holy Communion, a quiet service 10am  
Cuppa and conversation 10.45am  
JAFFAS after school program 3.30 - 5.30pm

### St Mark's Church, Thorpdale

**First Sunday of the month:** Breakfast after service 8am

### St Mark's Church, Yarragon

**First Sunday of the month:** Service 8.30am

**Other Sundays:** Holy Communion 8.30am

**Tuesdays:** JAFFAS after school program 3.30 - 5.30pm

## THORPDALE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

Rev Frank Lees,  
Phone 5634 6413 or 5633 2758



**Every Sunday:** 10am  
**Sunday School:** (During service)  
**Bible studies:** Thursday evenings

# Junior cricket concludes

Another season of junior cricket has been completed at Trafalgar Cricket Club, with all players putting in a solid effort in their cricketing endeavours.

Players, parents and supporters had the opportunity to see out the season at last month's junior presentation night, which gave all in attendance a chance to congratulate each other on their performances.

Here, junior coaches Zack Brown (under 16), Billy Pace (under 14), Liam White (under 12) and Jess Scouller (Cricket Blast) share their thoughts on their team's seasons.

### Under 16

The 2019-20 season for the under 16s was quite successful.

As the season approached, team manager Brent Claridge and I were unsure on the numbers for the side for the upcoming season. With some of the current players going to Traf High, they dragged along a few of their mates to come and try cricket, along with some under 14s and even under 12s continuously putting their hands up to play.

We managed to fill a full side every game whilst being very competitive. Billy Claridge, Joshua Cope, Kaleb Chapman, Dylan Gauci, Trent Burgess, Ruben Rouillion, Owen McLeod-Aglad, Joe Stewart, Blake White, Mitchell Claridge, Louis Hennessy, Oliver Hennessy and with the occasional help from Oliver White and James Pace were all able to represent the Trafalgar Cricket Club in season 2019-20.

The fixture looked a little different in season 2019-20 with twenty20 games on Friday nights and 40 over one day games on Sundays, which made it hard on player availability all throughout the league.

With the under 16s age group being cursed with bad weather we had two washouts and one game heated off, which left us without playing the top side Willow Grove throughout the year.

Our season started with a

great win in a twenty20 up at Walter Tuck Reserve (Mirboo North) with players all having fun and working as a team along with a great bowling performance from all. There was a stand out with Owen McLeod taking 5-14 off four overs with a great spell of bowling outside the off stump. First year players Joe Stewart and Riley Thomas both claimed their first ever wickets, taking 1-4 respectively.

As the season went on we were able to hit our straps and claim vital wins leaving us sitting fourth coming into the last home and away round against second placed Morwell.

We were able to rattle the experienced Morwell side for 74, with Blake White taking three wickets in one over and in return Kaleb Chapman retired after bringing up 30 runs. This win pushed us up into third spot on the ladder resulting in a rematch with Morwell in the semi final.

A great bowling performance in the semi was met with confidence and excitement of what we could do with our batting. A shaky start with the bat saw Billy Claridge and Dylan Gauci enter. They steadied the ship with Dylan making 17 and Billy making 50 not out, coming back in at the last wicket. We unfortunately couldn't get over the line with a runoff off a great throw from the Morwell fielder ending our hopes of playing off in the Grand Final.

Overall a great team performance and the boys should be really proud of even making it so far.

Notable performances during the season included:

Round 1 v Mirboo North – Owen McLeod-Aglad 5-14.

Round 7 v Centrals – Dylan Guaci 5-6.

Semi Final v Morwell – Billy Claridge 53 not out.

Thanks to all players, parents and supporters for their efforts and assistance this season, especially Brent Claridge, whose work as team manager was enormous.

### Zack Brown, Under 16



Trafalgar Cricket Club under 12s enjoy a Saturday morning middle session with coach Liam White.

### coach

### Under 14

Trafalgar under 14s had a competitive season in what turned out to be a very tight competition.

The team ended up winning as many games as it lost, whilst three matches were abandoned due to one of the wettest seasons in recent memory.

Trafalgar finished the regular season in sixth position, missing a place in the finals by only half a game.

Needing to win the last home and away game to make the playoffs, Trafalgar unfortunately came up short, however, this did not detract from other positives throughout the season.

Two wins over neighbouring rivals Moe, as well as wins over the two Morwell based teams were the occasions the Ships celebrate victory in season 2019-20.

James Pace, Mitch Claridge, Oliver Hennessy and Louis Hennessy all scored more than 100 runs for the season, whilst Andy Daly led the bowling with eight wickets.

Individually, there was two main highlights that stood out.

Mitch Claridge's unbeaten half century in the last round had everyone cheering, whilst Angus Carlson's direct hit run out brought a smile a mile wide for all players.

From a coaching perspective it was pleasing to see all players enjoy the achievements of teammates.

A number of players in the under 14s also played senior cricket during the season, which should hold them in good stead moving forward.

James Pace, Louis Hennessy and Liam Coulthard also played representative cricket with the leagues under 13 team.

Ultimately it proved hard to get a gauge on where the side was situated in the scheme of things, as the fixture was somewhat lopsided, with Trafalgar playing some teams twice as often as others.

In all, 13 players represented

the club at under 14 level this season: Aaron Aloyts, Beau Asmussen, Angus Carlson, Mitch Claridge, Liam Coulthard, Andy Daly, Riley Hammond, Louis Hennessy, Oliver Hennessy, Oliver McQualter, James Pace, Toby Radford and Juddson Ryan.

Well done to all players for their efforts this season.

My thanks go to all parents and volunteers for their assistance. We have some great kids coming through the ranks and hope to see them all continue with their cricket

### Billy Pace, Under 14 coach

### Under 12

Trafalgar fielded a young but competitive team in the 10 team Latrobe Valley and District Cricket League under 12 competition. Games were played on a Monday night, with all matches being played as a twenty20 match.

Most of the Traf kids were new to the under 12s format, as once you're out, you're out! There is also the competition of finals as well, with the top four teams qualifying.

Trafalgar had a solid season, with all players improving tremendously with this new format, to finish in seventh position. The team won five games for the season, lost seven games and one game was washed out. However, one of these losses was by forfeit due to kids being on camp, while four other losses were by less than 10 runs, demonstrating the competitiveness of the team. Next season, with age and experience, these small losing margins will become small winning margins and will help this under 12s team push higher up on the ladder.

We were lucky enough to have 10 regular players for the season: Lucy Coulthard, Zak Larkin, Charlie Hennessy, Jasper McQualter, Oliver White, Jaxx Ryan, Bridee Clymo, Izaiah Sutherland, Max Giles and Sam Jones. This is one extra than the required nine players, which

### Liam White, Under 12 coach



Mitch Claridge is congratulated by under 16 coach Zack Brown at the junior presentation night.

### Cricket Blast

In term four of 2019 I had the pleasure of coaching a new Cricket Blast program at Trafalgar Cricket Club.

Mel White, who was the coordinator of it all was a great support and was the one who reached out to me initially to do the program. We received a great amount of fantastic new equipment including large oversize cricket balls and rope, which are great recourses for introducing kids to the sport of cricket.

There was also a resource of about eight lesson plans which had some great ideas in there which I was able to adjust according to the kid's ability, numbers and mix with some of my own ideas on cricket coaching from a PE teaching perspective.

The average age of the participants was unexpectedly young (from around kinder to year two), so I had to balance the focus of activities between introducing cricket skills, and maintaining their interest by keeping it fun with modified games.

We had great involvement and help by some of the parents, Mel kept maintaining a sense of community by offering the kids some icy poles on the warm days, and finishing the program with a sausage sizzle.

I believe the total number of enrolments was around 10. This was a good number seeing as I was the only coach/volunteer. However due to poor weather for a few weeks and other various reasons, a couple of times the number of kids attending was low. This meant that those who were present were able to benefit from a lot of one on one coaching, however many other planned activities were difficult to run.

Overall, we had positive feedback from parents (and kids) about the program.

It is a great program to introduce cricket in a fun and engaging way, providing a clearer pathway into junior club cricket.

### Jess Scouller, Cricket Blast coordinator



# Ships win first and third grade premiership in truly bizarre fashion

Here, club secretary and senior player Liam Durkin reflects on a truly remarkable few days in the clubs history.

## Well it certainly was a strange way to end the season.

Having earned the right to play in the grand final in two grades it was just a huge feeling of anticlimax when the news came through. Everyone dismissed coronavirus when it first came out but now look at it. What we are seeing at the moment is beyond unprecedented.

## We won the semi final on the Sunday and one of the senior players, Ryan Bishop, mentioned in our group chat as early as Monday morning that the grand final might be called off.

At midday on the Sunday of the semi-final a state of emergency was declared so by Monday the chance of the grand final getting called off became a real possibility. After the Latrobe Valley and District Cricket League cancelled its presentation night that was going to be held on the Wednesday I thought there was a good chance the grand final wouldn't go ahead.

## On the Tuesday the discussion just took off.

Cricket Australia released a recommendation in the morning to cease all competitions immediately and from there league after league started cancelling grand finals. First it was the Sheffield Shield, then Victorian Premier Cricket. When Premier Cricket was called off I thought there was a 90 per cent chance

ours would get canned.

## We trained on the Tuesday night but you could tell everyone wasn't entirely focused on playing.

When I arrived the first two people I saw were Brodie Burgess and Daniel Heathcote. We all just smiled wryly at each other as if to say "they have to call it off". Our captain Rhys Holdsworth and coach Jackson Noonan did their best to quell any conversation about it but there was no escaping the reality. By that stage it was a foregone conclusion. Everyone knew what was going to happen. Some of our blokes started drinking Coronas in the rooms that night.

## I received an email at 9pm that night saying that we had won the A and C Grade flag.

I messaged the group chat and said "boys, we just won the mother-expensive flag". Once we found out it was just absolute mayhem. No one knew quite how to feel, whether we were entitled to celebrate or if we could really claim it. It was really weird. There's no other word to describe it. It was truly extraordinary. My phone did not stop pinging or ringing for two days afterwards.

## The semi final the week before was a great game in itself to be involved in.

We chased the highest total in a first grade semi final for 15 seasons. We very nearly torched it late on day two but got home with two wickets in the shed. Once the winning runs were hit it was a huge sense of relief because traditionally the semi final

is the hardest game to win. There was a huge crowd there as some teams had finished their finals early and came to watch us. It was probably as big a crowd I've played in front of. There would have been at least 200 people there.

## We were going to play Moe in the grand final which would have been huge.

Everything was set up to be a cracking game as the two teams have a very passionate supporter base. We had defeated them in all three games during the regular season but a cutthroat final would have brought things back to a level playing field. Everyone wanted to play, it would have been the biggest game some of our guys had ever played in.

## The Thirds winning the premiership was remarkable in its own right.

They had finished third and beat Moe (second) in the semi. Jeeralang-Boolarra (fourth) defeated St Vincent's (first) in the other semi. So when the grand final was called off Traf was awarded the premiership as it had finished above Jeeralang-Boolarra. The Thirds had gone through a frustrating season as it seemed every second week was either washed out or another team forfeited so them winning the flag was a bit of a right-place-

right-time sort of situation.

## It is so conflicting to win a premiership the way we did.

Obviously a lot of people will say we Steven Bradbury-ed it but we finished the season 10 points clear on top of the ladder and won 13 of 15 games. Not many cricket teams win that many games during a season so to maintain that level of performance across six months is a fair achievement.

## You could not even make a movie out of what happened it is that unbelievable.

One of the blokes from the league said the day of the announcement was the worst day he had experienced in 20 plus years of sports administration. You can only imagine how many phone calls they would have fielded.

## They had to call it off.

They had no choice. If they had of gone ahead and played games and someone caught the virus the spin off effects would have been astronomical. It was a classic case of heart says yes, head says no. Local footy was also postponed until May on the same day the announcement was made and once the Cricket Australia recommendation came out I think the decision was pretty much taken out of the leagues

hands.

## We were in the same boat from a club admin point of view after they called the grand final off.

There was no way known we could open the club rooms and we had to cancel presentation night as well. It would have just reeked of double standards if we didn't play the game because of the threat of the virus and then went out and had x amount of people in the rooms. The risk involved was just too dangerous.

There is a degree of irony attached to the result as well.

In 2014-15 we made finals by 0.6 per cent and went on to win the flag. This time around we did the complete opposite.

## I doubt we'll get to have a premiership reunion.

Although a few guys did joke about getting tattoos! I liken it to graduating university - you slog your guts out for however long and all you get is a piece of paper and five seconds of fame on stage at the end.

## Obviously it's not the same as actually winning it on the day but I think we were entitled to celebrate the season as a whole.

You play sport to play finals

and crave the opportunity to experience the exhilaration of running onto the ground on grand final day after the winning runs are hit or the winning wicket is taken, but for reasons bigger than cricket, this was not possible this season.

We didn't celebrate the fact we won a flag by technicality, we celebrated the fact that we were rewarded for clearly being the best team in the competition and rose above every challenge that confronted us.

When you take into consideration the fact we had the hardest draw out of any team by far, had to travel away every week, had no frontline wicket-keeper and that 10 of the 11 players that played in the first grade team during the semi final were from Traf, it was a remarkable effort to do as well as we did.

At the end of the day there are rules in place in case there is a washout in a final so had it rained for two weekends we would also have been awarded the flag in a similar way.

It is something that is going to go down in Traf folklore - it will forever be remembered as the 'Corona Cup'.

There is an element of it being a hollow victory but we felt we deserved it. No one can say we weren't the best team in the competition.

# New league for Traf Victory

Trafalgar Victory sought a transfer from the Latrobe Valley Soccer League last month.

The Victory told the IVS L it intended to seek affiliation with the Gippsland Soccer League.

The Victory has been a member of the IVSL since its inception, but the committee felt the club's "best future endeavours now lie within the Gippsland Soccer League".

"Trafalgar and surrounds are growing communities, competing with significantly larger clubs in the main townships of Moe,

Morwell and Traralgon and the club's current status of being without appropriate facilities has made it increasingly challenging to maintain a healthy player base across all age groups which we must make a priority," the club committee statement read.

The GSL consists of clubs across south and west Gippsland.

The IVSL offered support to the Victory to help it stay in the league, which was not seen as a viable option for the club.

"The IVSL board wish is reassure our remaining 12 clubs that we will be working over the

weekend to remediate our fixtures and planning for the 2020 season and that our competitions will start as planned on the weekend of March 14, 2020," league president Allan Roberts said in a statement last month.

Eleven clubs will now contest the senior grade, with the club originally fixtured to play Trafalgar now having the bye.

It is relatively assumed that having Trafalgar Victory's senior and junior sides play in the GSL will better serve the club moving forward.

# Is basketball in Trafalgar to foul out ?

Frank Gridley

The Trafalgar District Amateur Basketball Association (TDABA) executive committee have called two meetings in December and January to reform basketball in Trafalgar.

Both meetings were unfortunately poorly attended. After 55 years of district basketball played in Trafalgar and Mirboo North public halls along with Newborough and Yallourn Youth club courts and Trafalgar E.C.A Hall, it

is hard to believe basketball may end in Trafalgar District.

The executive committee believes there are over 2000 juniors playing in Moe and other associations. Trafalgar secondary school has a new full-size court with all accessories. Parents and players interested in basketball in Trafalgar have until Wednesday 20th of May 2020 to contact our Facebook page; Trafalgar and District Amateur Basketball Association Inc, phone 5633 1803 or call in at 15 Chapmans

Rd Trafalgar to assist in keeping basketball in Trafalgar.

If there is no contact, our committee will call a meeting after 20 May 2020, to close the TDABA and distribute all funds accordingly to our rules of constitution. There is currently a five-figure finance for any committee willing to continue basketball in the Trafalgar District.

# Trafalgar Bowls Club bowls out in competition

Graham Hill

With our pennant season now completed. Traf Bowls had no success in any competition, however this is probably due to the shall

low depth of players at our club.

But next season, with a few more of our existing players available and hopefully some new recruits, we should be more competitive.

If anyone out there has ever

thought of playing lawn bowls or joining a very social and family orientated club, now is a good chance to come and have a go as new players and good club members are always needed.

Over the winter (starting in

April) our grass greens are to be renovated by Scotty Jones, our very dedicated green keeper, so that we can keep our very good reputation of having the best grass greens in the West Gippsland Bowls Division, so

we will have excellent greens next season and many seasons to come.

On the social front, we have had a couple of successful Sunday afternoons with "The Badgers" and "The Good Old Boys"

bands.

Unfortunately due to the current COVID-19, we have had to postpone our social activities until further notice.

Hope to see you at the Traf. Bowls Club. (03) 5633 1274

# Recreation reserve again broken into

For the second time in three months, the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve was the target of mass vandalism.

Hooligans ransacked the local cricket, football-netball and boxing clubs, leaving behind another trail of destruction.

Windows were smashed, alcohol stolen and locks broken, with club members and volunteers left livid with the repeated

offence.

Having still been in the recovery phase from December's break-in, another similar episode was another dagger into the hearts of those working hard behind the scenes at various clubs.

For some unknown reason, thieves stole a framed bat from the Trafalgar Cricket Club that would have been of no street value. The bat was the one used by

Rhys Holdsworth during his record setting innings of 228 – still the highest individual first grade score in Warragul and District Cricket history.

If anybody knows of the whereabouts of the bat, the Trafalgar Cricket Club would be very appreciative of any leads.

Please phone club secretary

Liam Durkin on 0402 556 338 if you have any information.

Trafalgar Recreation Reserve user groups had some consolation in the days after the break

in, as the perpetrators were caught.



The doorway to the change rooms at Trafalgar Recreation Reserve had to be boarded up after vandals again broke in last month.

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Trafalgar Cricket Club first grade players prepare to take the field for the semi final. Little was anyone to know the bombshell that would drop just 70 hours later.



Trafalgar Cricket Club's first and third grade premiership cups for season 2019-20



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# Trafalgar Tennis Club Championships sees a great turnout

Colin Maney

Trafalgar Tennis Club's Championships ran on Sunday 23 February 2020 and delivered a day of entertaining tennis across the age groups. The day was a beautiful and sunny 30 degrees, however the tem-

perature on court tested players stamina. There was a great turnout with 7 juniors and 9 senior players entering.

Junior players started early and played a round robin competition within their usual sections, then a knock out compe-

tion to sort out of the overall Boys and Girls Champions. Baxter Hankinson (Section 9) and Sarah Seddon (Section 5) took the honour of winning the section medals.

Sarah also won the Girl's championship with a win over

Lillee Thomas in the final. David Brand won the Boys championship against Baxter Hankinson.

In the Men's Championship, there was 5 competitors on the day and Luke Bryant took the honours beating Lincoln Weymouth 6-4 in the final. Amy

Chaplain beating Crystal Tang in the final; won the Ladies' championship.

Players at both Junior and Senior levels demonstrated a high standard of skill, stamina, friendly rivalry and good sportsmanship. Thanks go to commit-

tee members and parents for assisting on the day and supporting all the competitors.



Ruby Bryant, Caitlin Seddon, Josh Hearn and Baxter Hankinson (Section 9 Champion)



Luke Bryant (Men's Champion) and Amy Chaplain (Ladies' Champion)



Lillee Thomas, David Brand (Junior Boys Champion) and Sarah Seddon (Section 5 and Girls Champion).

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## Trafalgar Holden Museum car of the month...

Bob Moss

### 1997 Holden VT Commodore Sedan

Other VT Models: - Commodore Executive Wagon—Commodore S and SS sedans—Commodore Acclaim Sedan and Wagon—Berlina Sedan and Wagon—Calais Sedan.

When Produced:- August 1997 to October 2000

Number of all VT models produced:-303,895

Holden invested deeply in the VT. \$275 million went to upgrading the Elizabeth plant alone, including 130 new robots. Computer-controlled jigs automatically adjusted size and shape after scanning a car's ID tag, allowing the VT sedan and wagon, VS utility and Statesman/Caprice to be built on the same line at the same time.

The VT was totally new, the all Australian result of a \$600 million investment. The largest and most advanced program that Holden had ever undertaken. It sported many firsts

for an Australian-built car (such as more advanced electronic systems), improved dynamics and increased crash safety. It had a larger crash energy absorbing body, a new heavy duty braking system with a traction control system and advanced electronics.

This was the last Holden to have the locally manufactured V8 engine fitted (1999) in some models. The Aussie 5.0-litre was given a stay of execution via a chump-change \$2 million upgrade. A compression increase, lighter pistons, thinner rings, trick hydraulic lifters and a new EFI system ensured the V8 complied with incoming emissions requirements, as well as keeping ahead of the super-charged V6 at the drag strip.

Backing up the three launch engines and later LS1 was GM's US-sourced 4L65E four-speed slushbox, while self-shifters got a Getrag five-speed replacing the old BorgWarner T5.

Its rounder exterior design (with a 63 degree rake for the front windscreen, made it more attractive to buyers.

When the third-gen VT Commodore was finally released it bagged the "Wheels Car of the Year" award for 1997 and sparked a renaissance within Holden. For the next decade, Holden would dominate local motor shows with an array of dazzling concept cars, apply various body styles to the VT platform – including the new Monaro coupe and the return of the One Tonner – and introduce a robust export scheme.

EXPORTSMajor interest from Buick saw Holden engineer the VT Commodore for left-hand-drive. Seen as a replacement for the Buick Century, Plans called for 45,000 kits per year to be exported to the USA. Wagons would be sent over completely built up, with numbers projected at around 16,000 per year. The arrangement was to last until at least 2004, and at around

\$3 billion it would be Australia's largest export deal.

The Yanks even designed a concept car; the XP2000 which was built in Australia straight off LHD VT architecture, albeit running an experimental 3.5-litre quad-cam V8. The concept was shown to enthusiastic Buick dealers at a convention in late 1994, but by then the program had al-

ready been cancelled, a victim of US unions and GM's need to streamline operations.

Holden's project was not in vain, though; a tiny article in Wheels March 1997 revealed a 'secret deal' to send 10,000 VT Commodores per year to the Middle East As a direct consequence of Buick's brief flirtation with Holden, Middle Eastern markets received the VT, VX, VY

and VZ badged as the Chevrolet Lumina, with variations ranging from base-model sedans to Monaro-sourced V8 Lumina coupes. Brazil also received Aussie Holdens, this time as the Chevrolet Omega.

Note:- Some parts of this article have been extracted from other publications

