

Traf News WISHES YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

# Traf News



PRICELESS

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CLASS**

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## LUCY CALLS TIME ON STELLAR CAREER

By Katie Balfour

“Teaching is not my job, it’s who I am.”

This is the phrase Lucy O’Connell used when reflecting on her 45 years of teaching. At the end of this school year, Lucy will retire after a rich and rewarding career as a primary teacher in Gippsland.

Her career started in 1976 after graduating from Christ College (Catholic Teachers College) Chadstone. She was appointed to St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School in Trafalgar and her first class was Grade 3. Teaching was very different then. Students memorised lots of facts and figures and chalkboards were in every classroom.

The Josephite Nuns established and staffed this school in 1932 but lay teachers had been welcomed onto the staff as the school grew and Lucy was one of the lay staff members. Years earlier, Lucy was a pupil at St Joseph’s and she was taught by the nuns.

In 1987 The Sisters of St Joseph left Trafalgar and Lucy was the very first lay Principal, holding an interim role until a full-time Principal was appointed.

Lucy moved to St Joseph’s in Warragul in 1988 and spent 19 years there before returning to St Joseph’s Trafalgar where she has taught up to the present time. Lucy has taught every grade level and prepared students for each of the Sacraments during her career.

In her 45 year career Lucy has held every leadership position available: vice principal, curriculum leader and religious co-ordinator to name a few. Many colleagues admire Lucy for her leadership. When there’s a

job to be done Lucy’s philosophy is “let’s get started, get it done and move on”. When Lucy was presenting documents or reports she was very aware of her intended audience and would keep information simple, she often used tables to set out information and the use of colour was a trademark.

This style of presentation helped students, fellow staff members and parents to understand the information presented. One senior student contemplating transitioning to high school wanted to take Miss O’Connell and her charts with him. He valued the care she gave to all students and the many resources she made to support learning.

A professional work ethic was always displayed by Lucy but joy went with this. Almost daily, laughter and music could be heard coming from her classroom at some time. Students were expected to work to be the best learner they could be but successes big and small were shared and celebrated. Lucy was a talented musician. For most of her career she sang and played the guitar in the classroom, school assemblies and other important school events and liturgical celebrations. As technology has become wider spread, Lucy has swapped her guitar for computer presentations.

The classroom wasn’t the only place where Lucy spread joy. The staff shared this too and many social occasions were initiated by Lucy. One year Lucy instigated the idea for the staff to dress up for Oaks day at Flemington but we didn’t attend, we just taught our students in our glamorous outfits for the day. When a staff

member was getting married, Lucy enthusiastically worked with her colleagues to create a mock wedding. The Preps were delighted to have this celebration for their teacher and the whole school joined in this fun.

Among the highlights that Lucy recalled were the friendships made with colleagues as they became close friends and family. Another was being awarded a scholarship to study in Israel in 2011. Places in the Holy Land that Lucy had learnt about in her life and also taught her students about, were experienced in greater depth. Lucy was able to share this firsthand experience of the culture and traditions of Israel in the classroom.

Lucy has dedicated her entire career to Catholic education in the Sale Diocese, and has been inspiring the hearts and minds for many, many years. In 2016 Lucy was awarded a Catholic Education Service Award as she had completed 40 years of full time teaching. She had taught 40 full-time classes and a year as acting Principal. But she hadn’t finished inspiring hearts and minds.

A wonderful memory for her was being involved in a new enlightening approach to education, “The Performance Development Culture”. This was lead by Jo Osler and was a challenge to teachers to improve their practice. In today’s digital age computers are a common tool used by both teachers and students on their learning journey. Information is everywhere. Students are learning how to learn rather than what to learn. They are challenged to choose learning tasks within the curriculum

and the teacher equips them with skills and strategies to help them achieve their goals and become independent and collaborative learners. Lucy felt this new approach invigorated her career. She is a very successful and passionate teacher and embraced this new style of education. She was a role model for this new approach and gave a presentation about independent learning, at an exposition for Catholic teachers in the Gippsland area.

You may think this passionate teacher is taking it easy as she reaches this milestone, but

Lucy is a lifelong learner and this year remote learning and ‘Google classroom’ have been on her agenda, so she can now add these skills to her resume. She has also shared her experience and skills being a mentor to new staff members.

Lucy will leave the classroom with a feeling of pride and satisfaction of a job well done, but as she stated, “teaching is not a job it’s who I am”, so these skills and passion will be part of Lucy as she undertakes new adventures in her retirement.



Well known local primary school teacher Lucy O’Connell will retire at the end of the current school year after 45 years service to Catholic education.

## FAREWELL TO A TRAF LEGEND

The Trafalgar and surrounding community was in mourning last month after the passing of local legend Robert Sapkin.

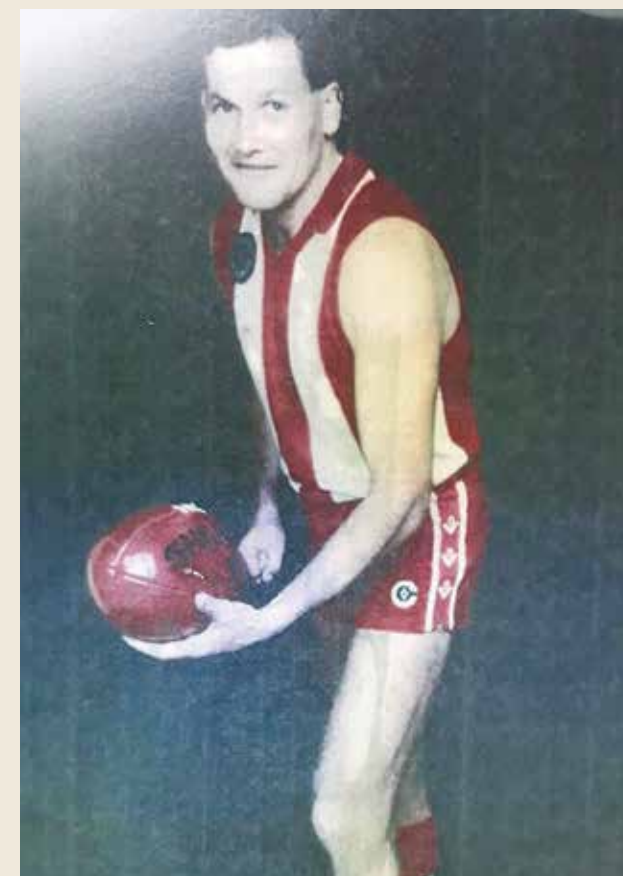
The man known as Sappy played a big part in the lives of so many, especially those in the sports therapy world, where his work was truly incredible.

His passion for fitness was legendary, and his knowledge of the musculoskeletal system was simply unparalleled.

He was the first point of call for many who needed help treating any injuries, getting advice on recovery, or facilitating running assessments, and his unique methods were often a topic of discussion.

When presented with an injury, Sappy had the distinct ability to know precisely what was wrong and how best to treat it, and in most if not all cases – he was spot on in his diagnosis and recommendations.

» CONTINUED PAGE 22



Trafalgar legend Robert Sapkin passed away suddenly last month.

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# Thank you to the great team that made it happen in 2020

John Freyne President Traf News

This year has been like no other in memory for most of our community. The restrictions imposed during the pandemic have challenged us all. In this environment, it has been more important than ever to stay connected as families, friends, neighbours and as communities. The Traf News has been an important part of this community for many years. In our history, we have never been challenged as we have been this year. Traf News is a community-based paper, largely reliant on the generosity of volunteers to oversee the management and operation of the paper so it can reach the people of Trafalgar and its surrounds. I want to acknowledge the tremendous work done by so many people in making sure that the paper continued to operate and produce quality product for our community this year.

Most importantly our Editorial Team have been outstanding. The capacity of Mark Walshe and Liam Durkin to ensure that each month we had a quality paper was incredible. Their work not only kept us up to date with the impact of the pandemic on the local community, but found ways to be positive and celebrate the people, businesses and community organisations that make our town tick.

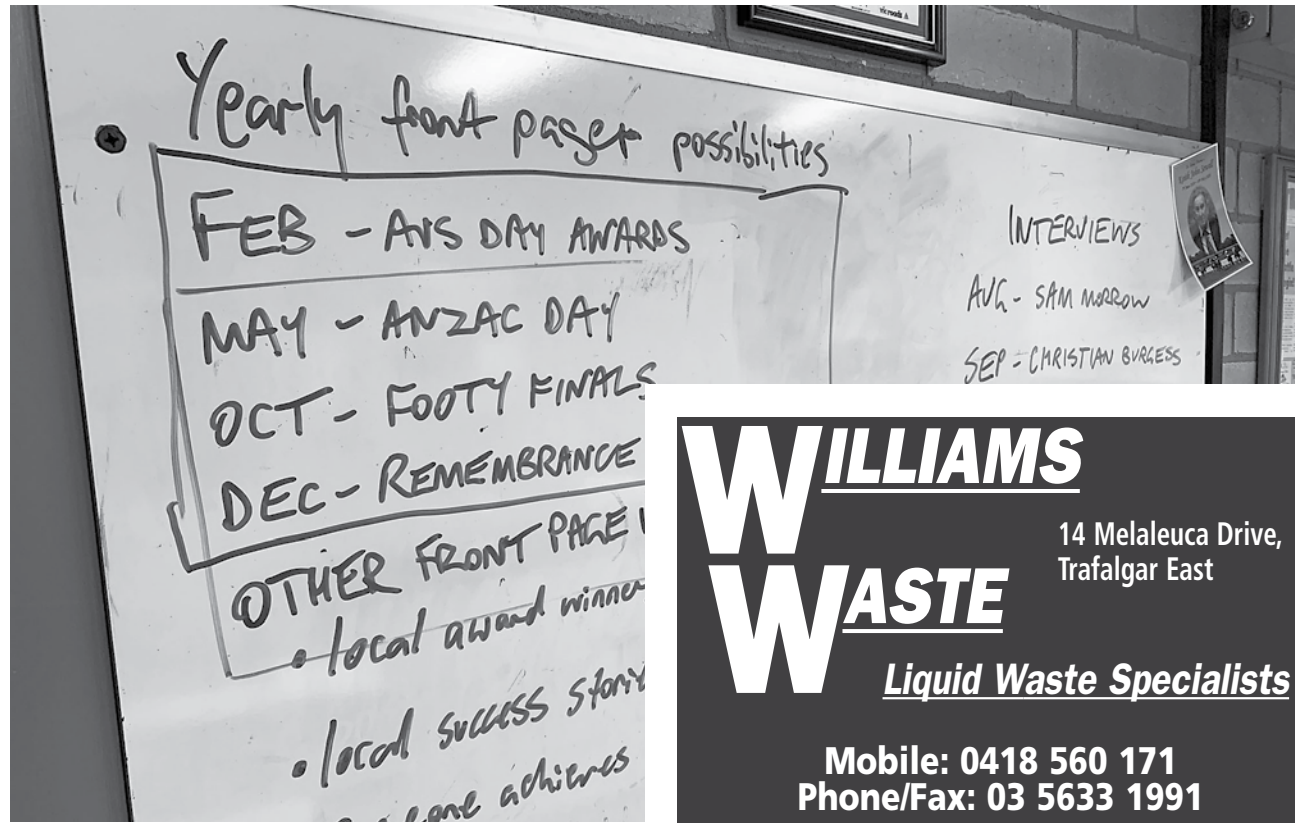
Their work was supported by a great team in Sarah Mangion, Shona Vines, Scott Draper and Reagan Montgomery. Their work in design, advertising and finance was critical to the ongoing success of the paper this year. Also, our wonderful news-

paper distribution team has been able to ensure the paper "gets through" in a time of physical restrictions, masks and physical distancing. Amazing!

In addition, I would like to thank my Committee of Management Team for their work and make a special acknowledgement of the work of Tina Hambleton and Rod Cheatley. Their constant communication with community members and other members of the team kept us going and ensured we remained viable as a community paper.

To all the businesses who have supported us, to our community members, to the local groups and individuals who continue to contribute to the Traf News, we say thank you. To the people who have made Traf News a stable and well managed paper in the past, we say thank you. Unfortunately, many local and community papers did not survive in 2020 and were unable to provide their necessary role in small communities, particularly country towns. Traf News, through some trying circumstances, has survived and delivered in this difficult time. Our writers and contributors have provided a living document of this incredible period in world history. And they have done so from a Trafalgar perspective. A great achievement.

Stay safe and well as we approach Christmas. See you in 2021.



*Behind the scenes at Traf News. It has been a pleasure to share local stories with readers each month.*

## IT'S TRUE



There are 6912 living languages. Of those, 516 are almost extinct.

### 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.*

**EDITOR** Liam Durkin, Mark Walshe  
**ARTICLES**  
**ADVERTISING: SALES** Shona Vines

editor@trafnews.com  
articles@trafnews.com  
0458 563 331  
advert@trafnews.com  
layout@trafnews.com  
finance@trafnews.com

**GRAPHIC DESIGN** Sarah Mangion  
**FINANCE** Reagan Montgomery  
**DISTRIBUTION/FOLDING**

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**FEBRUARY EDITION:**

**ADVERTISING CLOSES - 12 JANUARY 2021**  
**ARTICLES CLOSE - 12 JANUARY 2021**

## Landslip repairs for local roads

Baw Baw Shire Council is working to repair five landslips on local roads following heavy rainfall in early October.

High rainfall from October 7 to 9 triggered landslips along the following roads:

- Sunny Creek Road, Trafalgar South
- Warragul Leongatha Road, Seaview
- Yarragon Leongatha Road, Allambee
- Ferndale Strzelecki Road, Ferndale
- Allambee Estate Road, Seaview

Council has sought quotations for the repair works to

stabilise the roads, with reinstatement works expected to be completed prior to the end of the year, weather permitting.

Council has also submitted funding applications to both the state and federal government to offset the cost of the repair works.

The roads are remaining open, with some locations reduced to a single lane as required. Drivers are encouraged to approach the sites with caution and take note of any traffic control in place.

Director Community Infrastructure Cohen Van der Velde said all involved were working hard.

"Heavy rainfall combined with the natural geology of the Strzelecki Ranges increases the likelihood of landslips occurring," he said.

"Our priority is to keep these important local roads."

Council is continuing to carefully monitor each site and will keep the community informed as works progress.

For more information and updates please visit the Road Closures and Changed Conditions page on the Council website.

open and safe for all road users while we arrange crucial repair works."



Sunny Creek Rd, Trafalgar South, after recent landslide damage.

## Lovison murder investigation ongoing

Trafalgar and surrounding areas were in the news recently, as the investigation into the murder of Newborough man Jarrod Lovison continued.

Three people were charged in late October.

24-year-old Moe woman Samantha Guillerme was arrested at a Coalville Rd address after Missing Persons Squad detectives executed a warrant.

Ms Guillerme was charged with one count of murder, and a vehicle - a white Toyota - was also seized as part of the investigation to be forensically examined.

Police executed a further six warrants across the Latrobe Valley as part of the ongoing investigation.

The first warrant, at a property on Tooronga Rd, Willow Grove resulted in the arrest of 28-year-old Jake Brown.

The second, which was exe-

cuted on March St, Newborough, led to the arrest of 47-year-old Andrew Price.

Both men were charged with one count of murder.

Each appeared before the Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court via video link, in separate mentions lasting just minutes, where they were remanded in custody. Ms Guillerme, Mr Brown and Mr Price will all reappear in court faced with individual murder charges on January 7.

Police also executed warrants at addresses on Anzac Rd, Trafalgar, Princes Highway, Trafalgar, Adam View Court in Tanjil South and Haunted Hill Road in Newborough.

As a result two other people - a 44-year-old Trafalgar woman and 55-year-old Tanjil South man - were arrested and released without charge.

It came six months after Mr Lovison, 37, disappeared in sus-

picious circumstances on April 16.

After an exhaustive six-week search his body was located in bushland at Moondarra on May 23.

Detectives from the Missing Persons Squad returned to the region in early October, unearthing a new lead in the search for information about Mr Lovison's death.

They revealed he was last seen alive in the early hours of April 16 on Moe-Walhalla Road near the Latrobe River bridge with his green mountain bike after meeting with an associate.

Investigators are urging anyone with any information to phone Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential crime report at [www.crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://www.crimestoppersvic.com.au)

Source: Latrobe Valley Express.

## Alberts Corner



*Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one. Albert Einstein*

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## Traf News

Traf News is a monthly publication aimed at providing news, entertainment and information to the people of Trafalgar.

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### OFFICE

Phone 5633 2591  
107 Princes Highway, Trafalgar VIC 3824  
Traf News, PO Box 25, Trafalgar, 3824  
Email: [admin@trafnews.com](mailto:admin@trafnews.com)  
Website: [www.trafnews.com](http://www.trafnews.com)

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the voice of the community

MEMBER 2019



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Compiled by *Liam Durkin*

# Traf News year in review

## January

- The Trafalgar Lions Club bushfire appeal bucket at Trafalgar IGA raises over \$12,000 for fire-ravaged victims in East Gippsland.
- To help the fire recovery effort, TTMI Gippsland, along with Willow Grove and District Lions Club, deliver hay to Tambo Crossing.
- Trafalgar Fire Brigade members work to assist fire fighting efforts in areas around Swifts Creek and Omeo.
- Local couple Antonio and Giuseppina Schena (Tony and Josie) celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.
- The Trafalgar Recreation Reserve is heavily vandalised, with the local football-netball, boxing and cricket clubs broken into.
- Julianne Keily and Kieth Sewell are inducted as life members of the Trafalgar Tennis Club.
- The Trafalgar Cricket Club club rooms receive a significant upgrade.
- David ‘Wombat’ Lyons is awarded Trafalgar Citizen of the Year.

## February

- A horror vehicle collision near Sunny Creek Rd leaves the east and westbound lanes of the Princes Highway closed for hours.
- The state government announces \$1.8 million for the new Trafalgar Kindergarten, to be built next to Trafalgar Primary School on School Rd.
- Trafalgar Fire Brigade members continue their efforts in East Gippsland and New South Wales.
- Trafalgar and District Historical Society receive a letter from president of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Richard Broome.
- Trafalgar Polocrosse Club hosts a major women's competition and club tournament, welcoming players from interstate.

## March

- Coronavirus fears lead to mass panic buying in Trafalgar, with shelves at Trafalgar IGA stripped bare.
- The Trafalgar Cricket Club wins the A and C Grade Latrobe Valley and District Cricket League premiership.
- Koala mapping in the Trafalgar area takes place.
- Residents are given a May 20 deadline to show enough interest to keep the Trafalgar District Amateur Basketball Association going.
- Trafalgar Victory Football Club seeks a transfer from the Latrobe Valley Soccer League to the Gippsland Soccer League.
- The Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund's 2020 Gippsland Bushfire Relief Appeal closes, with a final total of \$10.4 million raised – the biggest in the company's history.
- Former Trafalgar resident Nick Gurney becomes an on-line sensation after a video of him smashing a ball into his mothers face in backyard cricket goes viral.
- Victorians enter the COVID-19 lockdown phase.

## April

- Trafalgar resembles a virtual ghost town during lockdown.
- Anti-lockdown protestors demonstrate in Trafalgar on ANZAC Day. The Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce and a vast majority of the community denounce the actions.
- Work-from-home becomes more commonplace.
- Students begin remote learning.
- Brian O'Connell and Kevin Dewsbury are inducted as life members of Trafalgar Lions.

## May

- A new medical centre in Trafalgar is opened on Ashby St.
- The first lot of easing of restrictions sees sit down meals return, subject to density limits.
- Uncertainly lingers about the return to play for local sport.
- A phased return to the classroom is planned for students.

## June

- A peaceful Black Lives Matter demonstration is held in Trafalgar at the Princes Hwy pedestrian crossing.
- A new fully fenced dog park is opened in Trafalgar on the corner of Edward Crescent and Rose Court.
- The Thorpdale Potato Festival is cancelled for 2021.
- Serious safety concerns are again raised at the intersection of Davey Rd and the Princes Hwy after the air ambulance was called in on the Queens birthday long weekend.
- A Trafalgar woman wins a

## July

- \$800,000 lotto draw.
- Trafalgar golfer Jeff Hasthorpe shoots his age in two separate attempts.
- Local footballers continue training while still unsure if the season will proceed or not.
- Baw Baw Shire receives funding to construct a new multi-use pavilion at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve.
- Cars driven by Peter Brock are put on display at the Trafalgar Holden Museum.
- Senior and most junior local sporting competitions are cancelled.
- Trafalgar Victory FC is officially entered into the Gippsland Soccer League.

## August

- Trafalgar twins Jim and Frank Turra celebrate their 80th birthday.
- Facemasks are made mandatory across the state as the second wave of coronavirus

## September

- A huge storm, possibly the biggest ever, hits Trafalgar, with winds averaging 70 kilometres per hour.
- Trafalgar Men's Shed stalwart Eric Johnson steps down after 12 years as president.
- Trafalgar's Seth O'Brien wins the hearts of the community for his efforts in bringing in the bins of his neighbours during the lockdown months.
- Local children establish a 'Spoonville' in Trafalgar.
- The International Space Station passes over Childers.
- Local council elections are held via post.
- The Trafalgar Football-Netball Club signal its intentions to move to the Ellinbank and District Football League.

## October

- Trafalgar celebrates 90 years as the birthplace of Gippsland radio.
- An extra two police officers are appointed for Trafalgar.
- Students return for take-two of on campus learning.
- Trafalgar's CALTEX service station is decommissioned.
- Trafalgar FNC moves to formally join the EDFL.

## November

- Former Trafalgar minister Reverend Bill Morgan turns 105.
- Coronavirus cases fall dramatically, with only three active cases state wide.



*The announcement of a new multi-use sports pavilion in July was a huge boost for the Trafalgar community.*

# Vaccine rollout hopes for March 2021

Australians could be receiving a COVID-19 vaccine from as early as March 2021.

Australian Health Minister Greg Hunt confirmed last month the country was “well ahead of expectations and on schedule”

for a vaccine roll-out.

“We have secured already a national cold chain distribution program as part of the agreement with Pfizer and in addition, we have the first two vaccines on the provisional determination pathway,” he said.

Us pharmaceutical giant Pfizer announced promising trial results earlier this week, claiming late-stage testing showed a 90 per cent efficiency in subjects. Australia has so far secured 10 million doses of the vaccine, to be delivered when it is ready,

but the vaccine requires two doses to be effective — meaning the initial delivery would cover five million people. The vaccine must be shipped at minus 70 Celsius, and Mr Hunt announced “sophisticated eskies” containing dry ice would

be used to keep the vaccine cold while it was transported from the US. The injection contains an mRNA vaccine, which trains the immune system to recognise part of a virus' genetic code and prompts an immune response.

Mr Hunt said health workers, aged care workers, the elderly and the vulnerable would be the first to access the vaccine. Australia's Therapeutic Goods administration is confident it will approve the vaccine by January.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*It is long accepted by the missionaries that morality is inversely proportional to the amount of clothing people wore - Alex Carey*

## Community bank scholarship applications now open

Trafalgar and district students will again benefit from a scholarship program, which will supplement their study costs in their first year of higher education. Community Bank Trafalgar and District Branch chairman Christine Holland said the Community Bank Branch Scholarship Program, which opened last month, was launched because the Branch believed local students deserved every opportunity to achieve their dreams.

“An investment in education yields great long-term dividends and by helping young people gain access to tertiary education, the returns to the student, their families and the local community are significant,” she said.

Applications will also be considered from students wishing to undertake study at TAFE.

“The Community Bank Branch Scholarship Program is a transformative undertaking that changes the lives of local students, strengthens communities for the long term and is a tangible example of the good that banking with us can achieve.

“Our young people are our future and we believe they deserve the best support possible to help forge their careers and

achieve their dreams.”

Successful Community Bank Trafalgar and District Scholarship applicants will receive funding for one year and depending on academic performance, the scholarship may be renewed to assist in the second year of their study.

Applications are invited from eligible students, starting their studies in 2021. Applications close on January 20 2021 and will be assessed in early February 2021.

Last year, the Community Bank Trafalgar and District Branch Scholarship supported local students Karla Hobson with her Bachelor of Nursing at Dea-

kin University and Grace Judd with her Bachelor of Fine Arts at Federation University.

The Community Bank Trafalgar and District Scholarship is part of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Scholarship Program, which partners with Community Bank branches, Rural Bank and The University of Melbourne.

The program has now supported over 981 students, with \$9.2 million in funding since its inception in 2007.

For further information please phone Community Bank Trafalgar and District Branch on 5633 2783 or visit [www.bendigobank.com.au/scholarships](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/scholarships).



*Local students Grace Judd and Karla Hobson benefited last year from the Community Bank Trafalgar and District Branch Scholarship to assist with their studies.*

## Traf cat shows class

Trafalgar local Kerrie Piper has been training dogs for over 30 years to perform almost anything from formal obedience and agility through to track and search, herding and even media appearances.

With the canine events shut down this year, Kerrie turned to virtual tests and competitions. Many of the virtual tests were open to ‘all breeds’ and in fact, several didn't even specify you need to compete with a dog.

So Kerrie picked up her cat

Binx and challenged him to step up to the show. Since March, Binx has been masquerading as an ‘Australian Long-tailed Hunting Terrier’. He has been awarded in Canine Musical Freestyle, Canine Parkour, expert Tricks, and Conditioning and Fitness events.

At 16 years of age, Binx has become the first non-canine in the world titled in the live event ‘Stunt Dog’. This gives Binx the internationally recognised Triple Crown Performer award. Binx

is currently the only cat in the world to claim the prestigious Triple Crown 1 award.

Binx was rescued as a kitten and given to Kerrie as a present when she moved to Trafalgar. Kerrie suspects that Binx has been paying attention to the dog training all these years and he was just waiting for his invitation to strut his stuff. Binx is a purrfect partner and Kerrie has taken great pleasure in debunking the myth you can't teach an old cat new tricks.



*Kerrie Piper and her award winning cat Binx.*



*Binx shows off the spoils of victory.*

Compound growth over 5 years  
Houses 6.2%  
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Rental Yields  
(Based on average prices)  
Units 5% pa  
Houses 4.3% pa

October 2020  
Average median house price  
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Information sourced from "The Australian Property Journal" Current as of 30 October 2020

## Good tidings we bring...

The team at John Kerr Real Estate Trafalgar would like to thank the residents of Trafalgar and surrounds for their ongoing support, through what has been a challenging year for a lot of people.

But it hasn't been all bad news on the real estate front!

Trafalgar has continued to see steady growth in property values and rental yields remain strong (especially when you consider just how low interest rates are at present).

A high demand for rental properties, with very few available in Trafalgar, has seen an increase on return and Anthea and Simone, with over 40 years of combined rental management experience, have a list of qualified tenants on a waiting list, ready to occupy your next investment.

As always, we are available for all of your real estate enquiries and needs.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable festive season.

*The John Kerr Real Estate Trafalgar Team*



# Lions club still active

By Trevor Byrne

## Firewood and kindling

During the COVID-19 restrictions some Trafalgar Lions Club members have been busy with ongoing firewood and kindling bagging and deliveries to the IGA Supermarket. The funds raised from the sales have allowed the club to continue to fund ongoing commitments.

## Annual Christmas raffle

Trafalgar Lions members have been selling tickets for their Annual Christmas raffle with first prize a \$600 Visa card, second prize a \$300 Visa card and third prize a \$150 Visa card. Tickets are only \$2.00 each and the raffle will be drawn on Wednesday, December 16, just in time for that extra Christmas present.

## Lions Christmas cakes

The famous Lions Christmas

cakes are available once again with the 1.5kilogram cake selling for \$17.00, the 1kg cake \$13.00 and 900g puddings \$13.00.

Cakes are available at the Bendigo Bank, Trafalgar True Value Hardware, the Anglican Op Shop, Trafalgar Pharmacy and the IGA supermarket. For any inquiries phone Rhonda on 5633 1729.

## Local school awards

Trafalgar Lions have once again presented awards to all of the local schools. St. Joseph's, Thorpdale, Narracan, and Trafalgar Primary each receive \$150 achievement awards while the Trafalgar High School receives a \$150 achievement award and the Dux of the school award \$500. Congratulations to all of the successful students.

# Men’s shed is back

By Frank Gridley

The Trafalgar Men's Shed returned to action on November 9 after many breaks due to virus lock ups.

A meeting held to explain new COVID-19 operating rules saw members turn up with beards and youthful day haircuts, however all members are pleased to

be back at the shed to return to mateship and community jobs.

The shed contributes greatly to men's health and mental peace. No doubt wives and relations will be happy the shed has now reopened. The shed has acquired a steel lathe vertical milling machine and we would

welcome jobs to be done by members at a reasonable fee.

The Men's Shed doesn't do garage sales but we have a table of clean goods and tools at best offer available for inspection any Monday or Wednesday between 9am and 3pm.

Thanks to our members who

have done community projects at home during the virus lockdowns. We are back for a cuppa and chat so welcome to everyone from members and the community.

# New defibrillator for Hill End

The Community Bank Trafalgar and District are proud to have again sponsored an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to be placed within the local community.

The Community Bank has been actively working with the Hill End Community Incorporated (HECI) over past months to ensure the Hill End community has access to an AED, if required.

Having access to AED devices within these rural and remote

communities will increase the chances of survival following cardiac arrest. Before the AED was sponsored by the Community Bank, the nearest AED was located over 10 kilometres away.

Phil Drummond, branch manager, Community Bank Trafalgar and District, said that the Community Bank is proud to be able to contribute the life-saving asset that will be highly accessible during community events.

The AED was installed by

members of the HECI group and will be accessible to the public during the many community events held at the Community Centre.

Debra Manning, president of HECI, said the community group runs a number of markets per year at the Hill End Community Centre and having access to an AED device at the site will ensure that they will be well equipped if an emergency occurs.

The Community Bank has

received positive feedback of the AED's presence at the recent market, where the local community came together to support small business during these tough times.

For further information please phone Trafalgar and District Community Bank on (03) 56332783 or visit bendigobank.com.au/branch/vic/trafalgar-district-community-bank-branch/

# Trafalgar community Christmas carols

By Reverend Sue Jacka

Plans are in place to hold an evening outdoor community carols in line with the COVID safe practices at the time.

We are planning to have a band and singers – solo or duet as allowed. There will be traditional carols too, but the audi-

ence will sing along quietly rather than have a choir due to the restrictions. Investigations are being made with local schools to ascertain the nature of their involvement.

Information will be posted on the Trafalgar Community Face-

book Noticeboard and there will be posters around town once more information is available.

Residents are asked to stay on the look out and let us celebrate Christmas as a community.

# Probians are getting out and about

By John Attwell

With some relaxation of restrictions it is good to see that Probians are getting around and visiting family and friends, meeting for a cup of tea or coffee and travelling, within Victoria of course.

I know that many members are ringing around to some of the single members of our club just to say "hello" and to have a yarn about whatever they can.

This is an important part about Probus as our motto is 'Fun, Friendship and Fellowship' and at least we can push the friendship and fellowship side along.

Congratulations to the Probus Club of Kapiti Coast in New Zealand which started up in 1974 and celebrated their 46th anniversary. They were the first club in the South Pacific Region and

were followed by Hunters Hill in New South Wales. Our club was a bit later in 1993. A great achievement.

By the time you read this our committee will have met in late November and we are hoping to be able to plan an end of year get together which may be a picnic or barbecue. This looks very promising at the moment. High hopes for next year.

Last the walking group went to the Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve with 17 members venturing out on a beautiful spring morning.

I think this is a record number for our walks which shows that people are very keen to get involved.

This reservoir originally had the same purpose as the Edward Hunter reservoir in Moe, which

we have also walked before, as a supplier of water to the railway steam engines. The Traralgon facility was started in 1883 and the water comes from the Traralgon Creek. It has 30 hectares of woodlands and wetlands as well as the reservoir and three kilometres of walking tracks. There is plentiful birdlife on the water with swans, water hens, coots and ducks and also turtles can be seen at times. The trees are mostly black wattle, which are flowering at the moment, Gippsland red gums and blackwoods and plenty of beautiful bird calls from above.

We finished off with our morning tea and a good chat beside the water where there was plenty of water birds to watch having fun.



Members of Trafalgar Probus Club during last months walk.



Probus club members enjoy a break.

# Local podcast episode update

Some new episodes have been added to the podcast of local journalist Liam Durkin since the last issue of Traf News. Episodes now available are:

## Manny Gelagotis

A lengthy discussion with the son of local icon Chicken Mick, who has gone on to become one of the most recognised faces in Gippsland business and racing.

## Dean Abbott

In this episode, Dean Abbott discusses how he went from reserves starter to senior enforcer in a near 200 game football career at Moe, as well as sharing a few anecdotes from his life's journey.

## Billy Pace

After flying under the radar for most of his Gippsland League career, Billy Pace delves into a multitude of topics, including

the secrets to becoming an ace wicket keeper.

## Matt Howlett

Readers have probably been privy to an acoustic session with the man known as Tezmo, and in this episode, Matt Howlett talks of the two worlds of music and football colliding.

Episodes are available on Spotify by searching The Original Go-Getting Podcast.

# Bushwalking club treks across Gippsland

By Joanne Leviston

With spring in the air Strzelecki Bushwalking Club members enjoyed another month of activities from the club's extensive program.

There were rides on the Gippsland Rail Trail and around the Yarragon flats and hills. Dining was enjoyed at Traralgon Vineyard and also at Smith and Albert in Warragul.

Lake Narracan was the destination for 'come and try' kayaking, as well as a scenic midweek walk. There were caves to see at Labertouche, O'Shea's Mill and Mormon Town at Walhalla, Lawson's Falls and Cape Woolamai to name but a few.

A week of hiking on the famous Great Ocean Walk and a three day hike in the Baw Baws

was also enjoyed last month.

In a few days the club will hold their Christmas breakup in Trafalgar.

Further information on the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club is available via the website sbwc.org.au, or by emailing Joanne Leviston at publicty@sbwc.org.



Hikers on a recent three day bike in the Baw Baws.

# Funny Sign



# TRAF NEWS SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each column, row and each of the nine 3x3 squares contain all digits from one to nine.

Easy

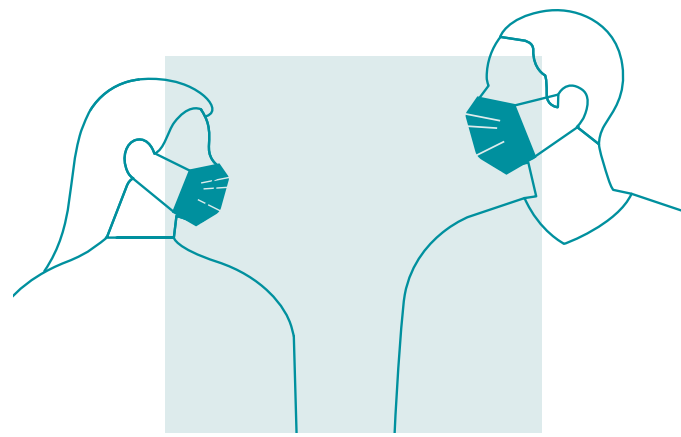
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# EVERYTHING WE'RE DOING IS KEEPING US ON TOP OF THIS VIRUS



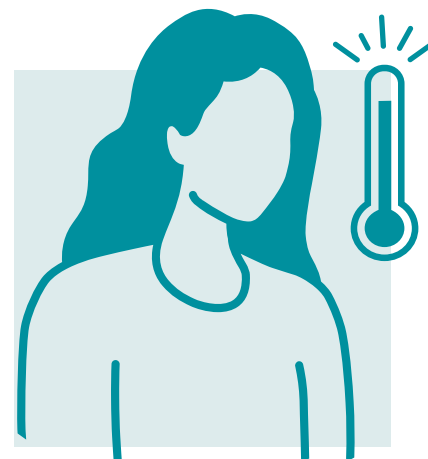
Keep our fitted face masks on and keep our distance.



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# Baw Baw Food Relief prepares for Christmas

Jan Morton

Christmas Season is upon us, and we are preparing our pantry with lots of goodies to give to recipients.

For recipients coming into the food relief centre for the first time it can be rather daunting; we only ask questions that will help us to assist you. Your answers enable us to make sure you receive the assistance you need. If you are needing help with counselling or have financial and accommodation queries, we can direct you to these agencies also; they are the experts and are there also to assist you.

During Covid-19 we have seen a larger number of people needing help with food, and this Christmas the need will grow as we are seeing more and more families going through hard times. Please come in and register with us for assistance.

For a \$10 donation you can receive a shopping trolley full of nutritious and good quality, healthy food which include: Cereals, pasta, bread, vegetables and fruit, frozen meals, dairy items, personal product, and baby items.

Our Op Shop is stocked with clean items of children's, ladies, and men's clothing along with blankets, coats, and kitchen items at reasonable prices.

Sales from the Op Shop go into paying our food accounts, petrol for our van and utilities to keep the centre operating. This ensures that we can always assist you with food supplies.

Each day we record how many kilograms of food we have provided to the community. This assists us in gathering statistics for each financial year. This past financial year shows we received over 78,510kg of food from Foodbank Victoria alone.

The food relief centre purchases food supplies from Foodbank Victoria, who deliver 2-3 tonnes of non-perishables and refrigerated goods food per week. Between 100-150 kg of

yogurt is picked up fortnightly by Cheffields in Warragul from Lionco in Morwell for us.

We pick up from Coles, Woolworths, and Aldi daily each week. These supermarkets generously donate surplus bread, vegetables, and other goods. Many schools, banks and real estate agencies run can drives during the year. Local suppliers supply us with eggs, potatoes, apples, and tomatoes.

All these wonderful local suppliers must be congratulated for supporting the food relief centre by paying-it-forward rather than throwing food out to waste. They enable our centre to support the residents of the Baw Baw Shire.

Each year we are receiving many more recipients and this year is busier than ever.

Our figures are up 15% on last year with more recipients needing assistance while they are suffering food insecurity. Food insecurity is not selective, it can happen to anyone.

People come in for many different reasons; no one is judged for wanting to feed their family. Here are some stories we hear every day:

(The names of these recipients have been changed to protect their identity)

## Tom's Story

Tom is a single Dad caring for three school aged boys. During our chat on his first visit, he tells about his daily struggles with raising his growing boys, their school needs and his day to day living demands.

Tom finds it hard to keep food in his cupboards as three growing boys are hard to fill up.

He struggles with health problems and just normal day to day chores. Sometimes brings him to tears, with the realisation that simple tasks of life are just too much for him.

Mary's Story  
One of the hardest things is to

take the first step to walk through the door of Baw Baw Food Relief.

Mary sat in her car sobbing trying to get the courage to come in. She sat with her sunglasses on to disguise the tears. She has six children ranging from 4 to 14 years of age. Due to unforeseen circumstances the family business went broke.

Mary was using her child family allowance to pay off business debts leaving little money to feed the family. She was worried about the mental health of her husband.

Mary has visited us six times and was very grateful for the food we were able to give her.

On her last visit we noticed the difference in her from her first visit.

She was happy to report life was getting back on track and thanked us for helping her in her time of need.

## Joan's Story

Joan has lived on a farm all her life. Farming was her life and caring for the stock was a priority.

After paying for stock feed and the overheads of running the farm, there was little to pay for food and life's necessities for the family.

Joan is a proud Gippslander, giving help to others in need never thinking she would require assistance herself.

Seeking help was very hard. This proud farmer told her story with a quiver in her voice, then tears fell.

We, along with each one of you helped Joan at her lowest time.

Baw Baw Food Relief has become the largest food relief centre in the Baw Baw Shire. We are an Emergency Food Relief Centre and are here for anyone in need to assist them with food insecurity.

As we have already said 'the hardest thing for people to do is walk through our doors' but once they do, the staff are there to assist them.

Please take that step and let us assist you or pass our story onto someone whom you know needs our help.



Staff with Foodbank Victoria Van doing a delivery of our Frozen food



Some of our lovely staff. In total we have approx 90 staffing on our books



Baw Baw Food Relief staff have a laugh

## Baw Baw Shire Council election

### Declaration of results

The following candidates were elected to the Baw Baw Shire Council at the general election held in October 2020:

#### Central Ward

GOSS, Danny (1st elected)  
TAURU, Jazmin (2nd elected)  
GAUCI, Joe (3rd elected)

#### East Ward

LEANEY, Michael (1st elected)  
KOSTOS, Peter (2nd elected)  
WALLACE, Darren (3rd elected)

#### West Ward

LUCAS, Ben (1st elected)  
JONES, Tricia (2nd elected)  
McCABE, Annemarie (3rd elected)

Further details about the results are available at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

**Phil Robinson**  
Election Manager

Thursday 5 November 2020

**[vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) | 131 832**

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

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# COVID limits Remembrance Day services

This year's Remembrance Day commemorations were different to previous years due to the restrictions placed on Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL by COVID-19 restrictions.

A short service was held at each of the Thorpdale and Trafalgar cenotaphs by local RSL representatives.

Trafalgar's service was conducted by acting president Jim Crowe in the presence of a small number of local residents and RSL members.

The service was live-streamed on Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL's Facebook page where residents can still view it.

Conducting the service, Jim said that he was proud to be conducting this year's service,

albeit with limited attendance from the community due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"It is on this day, the 11th hour of the 11th month for every year since 1918 that we remember those who gave their lives in the war to end all wars-World War 1", Jim said

"At 11am on that momentous 1918 day the guns finally fell silent, which bought an end to the terrible fighting that had been going on for four long years.

"The sacrifice made was truly unbelievable. Not only were thousands killed in action and died of wounds, but thousands suffered from their physical and mental wounds for many years thereafter.

"The sacrifice was made in Australia as well, with mothers, fathers, wives, girlfriends, brothers and sisters all worried about their loved ones, particularly when reports of large casualties were made from the other side of the world; all fearing the knock on the door for a telegraph delivery.

"So, today, we are gathered at this cenotaph to remember. We acknowledge and are thankful for the sacrifice of our servicemen and women. We stand and reflect on their devotion to duty, service to their country, and above all, the supreme sacrifice of their lives.

"May their sacrifice not be in vain", Jim said.

Jim then read out all of the

names on the cenotaph.

Wreaths were then laid on behalf of Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL by Matt Erbs, World War 1 veterans by Dellas Edwards, Trafalgar High School by Rory Kop-pin, Chloe Rees, Dylan Gauci and Oscar Robinson. Newly re-elected Cr Michael Leaney laid a wreath on behalf of Baw Baw Shire Council.

The service concluded with the Ode, followed by The Last Post, a minute's silence, Rouse and then the national anthem.

Following this service, due to COVID-19 attendance restrictions, a special one was held for Trafalgar Primary School students at which they also laid wreaths.

# Remembering sacrifices made during war

*By Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, Darren Chester*

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month each year, we pause to remember the service and sacrifice of our fallen men and women who gave their lives in wars, conflicts and peace-keeping operations.

Remembrance Day is one of the most significant days of our year, and for more than 100 years we have paused in silent reflection of the sacrifice of our service personnel.

It is a demonstration that we will not forget them.

Originally known as Armistice Day, this solemn day marks the day the guns fell silent on the Western Front during the World War 1.

Unknown to people at that time, this would not be the last war Australia would see.

Just 20 years later Australia was at war again, in the largest global conflict of the 20th century – World War 2 – which would result in some 39,000 Australian deaths.

It was after World War 2 ended that November 11 became known as Remembrance Day.

On Remembrance Day we commemorate our fallen by sharing one minute's silence in memory of the more than 102,000 Australian men and women who have died in more than a century of service in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

This time can be an emotional one for veterans and their families.

If you are a veteran or a family member who is struggling or in need of additional support, I encourage you to call Open Arms 24/7 on 1800 011 046 or visit [openarms.gov.au](https://www.bawbawart-salliance.org.au/) to find more about services available.

Lest we forget.



Trafalgar High School captains, from left, Dylan Gauci, Rory Kop-pin, Chloe Rees and Oscar Robinson, with the wreath they laid on behalf of Trafalgar High School



Trafalgar Primary School students with the two wreaths they laid at Trafalgar's cenotaph. From left: Marli Edwards, Shanyn Marx, Brodie Gauci and Sophia Davis



Lorraine James lays a wreath on behalf of all veterans

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# Station galleries welcome visitors

*By Carol Monson*

The Baw Baw Arts Alliance is excited about the new opportunities to explore artistic creation as workshops resume and visitors can once again be welcomed into the two galleries at Trafalgar and Yarragol.

The 'Artspaces' in the former Trafalgar Railways Station are open from 11am to 3.00pm Monday to Friday except for Wednesday when the gallery closes at 12.30pm. If you want to attend one of the many workshops you must phone the group before hand as numbers are limited according to current restrictions. Don't miss this opportunity to become involved in the creative arts such as painting, weaving, handbuilding in clay, mosaics, drawing, printing and fibre work. More details can be found at <https://www.bawbawart-salliance.org.au/>

The 'Station Gallery' in Yarragol has vibrant displays of new artwork ranging from 3D works in clay, mosaics, glass, natural materials to jewellery, fibre work in felt and silk and painted art on freshly painted walls in the shop area. During December and January a members' exhibition called, 'It's a Dog's World – A Welcome to Pat the Dog', will be the feature exhibition in the formal gallery space. Pat, the community mosaic project, is nearing completion and it is hoped that the official launch of this large, brightly coloured mosaic work supported by Regional Arts Victoria, will be presented to the public in time for the members' Christmas exhibition at the Station Gallery.

The Station Gallery is open from 11am to 3.00pm from Wednesday to Sunday.

Most importantly, after almost

a year in recess, the Warragul Arts Market is able to reopen just in time for visitors to purchase local works of art for Christmas gifts. The market subcommittee of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance has spent many hours of deliberations developing a COVID safe plan which involves traffic flow of pedestrians, location of stalls and most importantly wearing a mask. The market re-opened on Saturday, November 21 from 9am to 1.00pm and the next one will be December 19 from 9am to 1.00pm. On the third Saturday of each month the market will continue to run throughout summer as long as it is COVID safe to do so.

Members of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance look forward to welcoming new members and sharing their art with the public.



Warragul Arts Market subcommittee of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance Marlene Ogden and president Anita George review the site at Civic Place in terms of COVID safe regulations.

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# AROUND THE HISTORICAL Society

*By Dianne Ireland*

Although restrictions have eased slightly, the Trafalgar and District Historical Society is now facing a back-log of work. Whilst we were living under lock down conditions and working bees could not take place, recent donations have not been sorted or added to the catalogue. Hopefully this can be rectified before we resume in February after our summer recess. However, work has been taking place on a new Gazette which should be available soon in both the newsagency and the post office, as well as EdComp. Keep an eye out for this. Next year will see the production of the 100th issue of the Gazette.

An unexpected donation to our library was received recently from Mr Ivan Blitz. When he purchased a property on Melaleuca Drive, Ivan was fascinated by a memorial stone nearby which was erected in 1988 during the bicentennial celebration to mark the earliest white occupants of that area in 1859. This led to Ivan's research of the squatters Westrop William Waller and George Haxell who named their property Mountain Glen Run. They were followed by Dr F Lloyd in 1863 and R.M. Lloyd in 1872. Ivan has done an amazing amount of research and collected lots of information. As with all historians, he

is keen to learn more so if you have any information or photos relevant to his enquiries, he can be contacted on 5633 1262. Amongst his discoveries have been remnants of the Blue Metal Quarry which once operated in the area.

The society would like to thank Mr Ivan Blitz for the generous donation of his work.

As this will be the last publication for the year, the society would like to thank you for your support and wish you all a very happy Christmas and a much brighter and healthier New Year. Stay safe everyone.



The unveiling of the memorial stone in Trafalgar East in 1988 by Mrs Mary Tullo and Mrs Nina Ireland, daughters of an original selector on the Moe Swamp, Mr Thomas Gooding.

# Names sought from Traf Milk Supply

Do you know any of these men photographed at the Trafalgar Milk Supply in 1948?

Warragul resident Maureen Kittely said she recently uncovered this photograph and is eager to learn more about the men captured.

Her father, Arthur Carne,

worked at the depot and can be seen in the front row on the far right. However, he has so far been the only man identified.

On the back, it indicates the photograph was taken at a first conference held from June 7 to 11, 1948. It notes they almost won the cream grading competition.

Maureen believes all the men worked at the Trafalgar Milk Supply and hopes readers may recognise their father or grandfather in the image.

If you can help, call Maureen on 0488 172 111 or email the Warragul Gazette at [editorial@warragulgazette.com.au](mailto:editorial@warragulgazette.com.au).



Names are being sought for this photo of men at the Trafalgar Milk Supply.



# Student leaders at St Joseph's

By Sonia Lombardo

St Joseph's Primary School, Trafalgar celebrates all students and the strengths they bring with them to our school.

Senior students are encouraged to demonstrate leadership abilities and skills. Then students

are selected to be student leaders for a specific time.

Our proud term four leaders are Ciele Towb, Jamie-Lee Abrecht, Josh Upston, Marley Parise and Alyssa Shields.

Our leaders have certainly

been displaying our school values in both the classroom and school playgrounds.



St Joseph's Primary School leaders Ciele Towb, Jamie-Lee Abrecht and Josh Upston.



Marley Parise, Kody Budnik and Alyssa Shields have been leading by example at St Joseph's.

# St Joseph's says thank you to teachers

By Patricia Mulqueen

Last month, Victorians celebrated World Teachers' Day. The theme this year was 'Teachers: leading in crisis, reimagining the future', which reflects the commitment teachers have made as leaders particularly teaching throughout the coronavirus pandemic, in a range of environments.

World Teachers' Day is a chance to recognise and celebrate the incredible contributions teachers have made in Victorian communities, as they help to teach the future.

We all have our favourite teachers who have made an impact on our lives and at St Joseph's School Trafalgar, the students

thanked their teachers with flowers, chocolates and cards and letters of gratitude. One of the students even thanked his teacher with a treat of KFC for lunch because the teacher had used KFC in many maths problems.



St Joseph's Primary School teacher Miss Catleen Ryan is shown some love by her students Lilly Harvey and Sienna Jamieson on World Teachers Day.



St Joseph's staff were treated with gifts of gratitude on World Teachers Day.

# Local CFA assist with fire training at St Joseph's

By Sonia Lombardo

Readers may have seen smoke billowing from our school last month due to our wonderful CFA volunteers, Danny Mynard and Glenn Goodin answering the call to train local staff on fire safety procedures.

Bins were set alight outside in the playground and staff were able to view and participate in fire blanket training and extinguisher usage. Thanks to the carefully run demonstrations, staff were able to ask questions and extend upon

their prior knowledge. It certainly was a great opportunity to link our school with such experienced firefighters and we thank our local volunteers for their time and efforts.



St Joseph's primary school student Chloe Mynard with father and local CFA volunteer Danny, who came to teach staff and students about fire safety last month.

# High school celebrates teachers

By Wombat Lyons

Students at Trafalgar High School used the World Teachers' Day celebrations in 2020 to thank their teachers and recognise the important role they have played in keeping education on track in a year of remote learning.

The day also celebrated the ongoing role teachers have always played in supporting young people to reach their goals.

World Teachers' Day is celebrated internationally on October 5, but in Australia, to avoid the school holiday period, World Teachers' Day is celebrated on October 30.

For the 2020 event the Governor of Victoria the Honourable Linda Dessau AC and Mr Anthony Howard AM QC released a message in which they said "(we) know that the work of teachers cannot be underestimated and send their thanks and appreciation for the hard work done by teachers from right across Victoria, in difficult circumstances, in 2020. It is important to recognise the vital role that teachers have played during COVID-19, not only in terms of adjusting to teaching in a vastly different manner than they

were used to, but also in assisting students in retaining some feeling of normality, structure and routine during a time when it has been lacking from many other aspects of their lives."

Student messages of thanks were collated into a Facebook video shown to the school community and as an additional thanks, the leadership of Trafalgar High School worked with local business Eat Live Fresh to shout each teacher a free coffee for the day.



Trafalgar High School students Matt Devon, Miranda Chaplain and Kirra Gill show their appreciation for teachers.



Year 10 student Darcy Seccombe says thanks.

# Positive Education Day

By Wombat Lyons

Last month was Positive Education Day, and the 2020 theme was 'From Strength to Strength in Tough Times', something the students of Trafalgar High School have demonstrated over this unique year in education.

Principal Jane Mersey has led the school in understanding the tools and process of positive education, developed out of the science of positive psychology, and pioneered in Victoria at Geelong Grammar School and Victoria University with whom Trafalgar High School has worked with on professional development over the six years of use in the school community.

"At Trafalgar High School we use the tools of positive education including character strengths to assist our students achieve their full potential in secondary education," Ms Mersey said.

"Trafalgar High School works to raise awareness and understanding of positive education, and to encourage students, teachers, families, and the community to learn and talk about how to grow their own wellbeing and support the wellbeing of those around them.

"Trafalgar High School students have attended school wearing colourful clothes to make wellbeing visible in our school.

"The day reminds us of the importance of gratitude, understanding your own strengths and the strengths of those around you, and the importance of community which has helped us get through a difficult year and support one another."

The message of the Positive Education Schools Association, who coordinated nationwide celebrations of positive education was that "bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic have thrown some enormous challenges at us this year, through tough times we learn, develop resilience, and grow".



Griffin Stewart and Toby McEuan of Year 9 celebrating Positive Education Day.



Classmates Alexander Baker, Noah Meredith, Jaydee Kells and Owen McLeod-Aglard enjoy spreading positivity

# High school receives certificate

By Wombat Lyons

Last month, Trafalgar High School was given a certificate of appreciation from Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices for the school support to the community of Trafalgar to access the services of a Justice of the Peace.

David (Wombat) Lyons JP is employed full time at the school

and has offered an open door to the community for accessing a JP on its site and giving the community more flexibility about when it can access a JP.

When COVID-19 hit, the school followed the advice of the Department of Justice and Community Safety for whom Mr Lyons as Justice of the Peace

volunteers, and found ways that the service could continue in the open air at the sites boundary.

The Schools 2020 and 2021 student leadership teams, along with school principal Ms Jane Mersey accepted the certificate of appreciation by mail as COVID-19 restrictions prevented a more formal presentation.



Trafalgar High School student leaders Cooper Burgess, principal Jane Mersey, Oscar Robinson, (front) Dylan Gauci, Nyab Makin, Chloe Rees and Ellie Farmer.



## Kids holiday programs

By Reverend Sue Jacka

This January will again see a fun program for primary school students with indoor and outdoor games, crafts, woodwork, stories and more.

We will be following the Out of School Hours Care COVID guidelines to ensure a safe environment for all.

Dates have been set for January 14, 15, 19, 20, 21 and 22.

Each program will be run from 10am to 12pm with a team

of volunteers who have their Working With Children and other necessary qualifications.

If the weather is over 25 degrees there will be an option of water play, so bring a change of clothes if you think your child will choose to get wet!

The dates for each of the towns will be decided shortly.

Please invite your friends and family members.

## Snake Bite Envenomation

By Dr. Kerrie Piper



SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE.  
EXPERIENCED ENOUGH TO TRUST

Australia is home to over 190 species of snake, with 25 of those toxic, almost all of these are among the most venomous snakes in the world. Some of our snakes have small

fangs, but can still deliver large volumes of venom with a single bite.

Snake venom is designed to disable and digest prey. Our local snakes hunt frogs, mice, rats, birds and even other reptiles. The components in snake venom vary between types of snake and even through seasons, with local snakes capable of delivering a blend of enzymes designed to act on the nervous system to paralyse prey; alter blood clotting abilities; and break down muscle fibres.

With the warmer weather, our native reptiles become more active. Spring time is breeding time, so snakes will be out not only hunting, but also seeking other snakes. But all is not hopeless - snakes by their nature do prefer to go about their business without involving us or our pets.

When people encounter any type of wildlife, there is the potential for injury, and snakes are no exception. Heading into summer this year, be mindful that most people are bitten trying to kill or identify snakes they come across. It is always wise to leave the snake alone and seek professional assistance. Pets are another matter - they may mistake the snake as prey and attempt to kill it, or they may become overly curious and their close investigation leads to a bite. Some pets have been bitten by accident - for example while working stock or hunting game.

In order to stay 'snake safe' this year, you can ask yourself two questions: what encourages snakes to stay nearby? And what can I do discourage them?

Things that attract snakes include a ready source of food and shelter. Try to keep fish and frog ponds away from the house. Chicken enclosures should also be away from the house and yard. Aviaries should be kept clean, with rodent control programs implemented and regularly revised. Shelter which encourages snakes may include shrubs,

weeds and yard scrap - including corrugated iron which warms up readily.

In order to discourage them, minimise the availability of food and shelter around your house and yard. We can discourage snakes by blocking holes around the house and shed, ensuring the rats and mice are well controlled and the use of snake proof fencing around our bird enclosures. Wide, open spaces are not a welcoming sight for snakes, and this can discourage them from visiting as well.

For more information on how to control snakes around your home, you can refer to the DELWP website or see wildlife.vic.gov.au if you encounter an injured snake. Please remember that it is illegal to try to capture or kill a native animal species - including snakes.

Be safe this summer. If you have any concerns that one of your pets may have been in contact with a snake, we recommend a check-up by your nearest vet immediately. It is important to keep your pet still and if possible, you can apply pressure to the bite area.

Your vet will be best suited to knowing what treatment, if any, is required. Treatment for snake bite envenomation can be prolonged and expensive, however most pet insurance will cover the treatment for such an event.

## Bird of the month

Former Trafalgar resident and Trafalgar Cricket Club player Peter Gold-straw is also an avid bird watcher.

In this installment, we see the Scarlet Honeyeater.

Found in gardens, native trees and shrubs, the Scarlet Honeyeater is spotted occasionally locally in native trees and shrubs during the spring

and summer months.

It is easiest to find the Scarlet Honeyeater in places where abundant blossom offers a great food source, as it feeds on nectar.

Large numbers have been seen at Foster, and even more so further north.

The male is much more distinctive than the female of the species



The Scarlett Honeyeater.

## How did you do it Dr Kraan?

An interview by Dr Michael Kunze with Dr Mitchell Kran.



A lot of you have noticed the change in Dr Mitchell Kraan over the last few years, in terms of his efforts to lose weight. I've had lots of people ask how he's done it. Happily, he's agreed to being interviewed about what strategies he's used and what the experience was like for him.

**Firstly, Mitch, thank you for sharing your experience in losing weight with us. I'd like to start by clarifying how much weight you lost, and how long has it taken?**

Hi Michael, glad to be here. I started making changes to improve my health about two and a half years ago. I've lost 40 kilos across that time.

**Forty kilos is an incredible weight loss. Has it been a steady loss over these thirty months, or have you lost it in spurts?**

Definitely fits and starts. The first 15 kilos came off steadily over six months, but there were certainly some plateaus in the months to follow. My focus through COVID has been to try and keep stable.

**So tell us a bit about your journey. What motivated you to start losing weight?**

The health and practical implications had been on my mind for a while - I was starting to have troubles with low back pain and sore knees, my partner was complaining about my snoring, and I couldn't get around the indoor soccer court or sing and dance on stage for more than a couple of minutes without a breather.

The final straw was coming back from a holiday and looking over the photos - it was time to make some changes.

**What changes did you make? In particular, what did you find that worked really well?**

The biggest change for me was food based - I had no real plan for my eating before I got started, which often meant turning to fast food in a pinch. I began sitting down on a Sunday night and planning out what I would eat for the week, which helped improve my choices when I was tired or stressed.

My guides for eating were fairly simple - I monitored my calories each day, attempted to reduce carbs in favour of protein, and reduced my portion sizes.

Convenience was really important to me, so I swapped all my breakfasts (which I was often skipping before I made my changes) and most weekday lunches for meal replacement shakes. It took some experimenting to find shakes that I really liked, but once I got into a pattern, I found them filling enough to get through the day in combination with a few healthy snacks. Not skipping breakfast meant I wasn't hungry or reaching for something unhealthy by 11am, or totally ravenous by dinner.

With exercise, my buzzwords were consistency and accountability. I started to attend some weekly scheduled beginner's classes at a local gym. This helped me build both fitness and technique, and having a set 'start' time really encouraged me to get moving, as did getting to know a few of the friendly people in the classes. The foundation skills I picked up meant I was able to keep going at home throughout the COVID pandemic with only some basic equipment from Kmart.

Ultimately, I benefited from changes that fit in with my busy lifestyle, with a focus 'preparing for success'. It was much easier to make good choices when I already had a plan, whether for meals or exercise, set out beforehand.

**It sounds like planning and dedication were key elements to your success. What did you find difficult? And how did you address these challenges?**

There were certainly a few challenges along the way! In the early stages, trying to create plans to fit around my other commitments was a big hurdle - it's very easy to get behind on your day and need a quick fix. To combat this, in addition to my weekly planning, I organised a few 'get out of jail' quick snacks and meals (protein bars in the car and my desk at work, healthy frozen dinners at home) for those days when it didn't quite go to plan.

Managing social engagements was also an obstacle - I love a meal out with friends, and they always tended to be high calorie affairs. Generally, still going out, but picking healthier options was a winner for me here, often from the salad or entree menus. Additionally, recognising that a big meal out once or twice a month doesn't undo good work for the remainder of the time was valuable, and helped me get back on track the next day. This process got easier as I got further into the task. After a while, I started to find I couldn't finish the big pub dinner I once enjoyed (while discovering lots of smaller dishes I now like just as much).

Further down the line, I found a challenge in managing weight 'plateaus', those weeks where I ate right, worked out, and the scales didn't budge. Mercifully, these rarely lasted more than a few weeks, and I did my best to trust in the process and stick to the plan. I was always rewarded with good results in the long term.

**What have been some of the benefits you've now noticed as a result of your reduced size?**

Unsurprisingly, there have been lots of positives. I've got more energy through the day, and my snoring is all but gone. Improved fitness has allowed me to get back into bushwalking and

I'm champing at the bit to return to soccer as restrictions ease. I've really enjoyed updating my wardrobe with some slimmer clothes, and feeling the added boost to my self-confidence that goes along with it. I visited my GP recently and my blood pressure is also much improved.

**That's great to hear. It sounds like you've found the process to be challenging, but very rewarding in many different ways. Finally, would you like to give any key tips to people who might be looking to lose weight this summer?**

It certainly has been a rewarding journey. My best advice is simply to get started - many people have a solid idea of a few changes they could make to improve their diet or move more, but think they need to have it all figured out before getting going. Pick a start date and make a positive change, the results might surprise you.

My other takeaway is not being too hard on yourself. A meal out with friends or take-out on the weekend is still fine to do once in a while - just make sure you get back to the plan the next day!

**Thank you for sharing your experiences**

**Mitch. I continue to be impressed by your efforts and your results. I expect that you will keep inspiring us all.**

From everyone at Trafalgar Medical, we wish you a happy and safe summer.

Trafalgar Medical is locally owned and managed, we have appointments available every day and are taking new patients. Please call 5633 2211 to make an appointment or book an appointment online with Hotdoc or via our website www.trafmc.com.au. For regular updates follow us on Facebook.



Dr Mitchell Kran before.



Dr Mitchell Kran after dropping 40 kilograms.

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**SANTA in store Christmas Eve 24th Dec 11am - 12:30pm**



# Reverend still going strong

Readers will surely be amazed to learn that the Reverend Bill Morgan is still alive at the grand old age of 105.

Reverend Morgan was born in 1915 and ordained in 1944.

During his long career in the ministry, he served in parishes at Tongala, Dreeite, Clare, Malvern, Trafalgar, Shepparton, Scotch (Launceston) and Ormond and was the Uniting Church's mod-

erator from 1971 to 72.

Amazingly, he was still driving and enjoying a round of golf after he had turned 100.

Reverend Morgan also played cricket and football for Trafalgar during the late 1940s and early 1950s and, clearly, is the oldest living past player at either club.

Truly remarkable to think of the world events that have happened during his lifetime.



Reverend Bill Morgan, pictured far right back row, as part of the Trafalgar Cricket Club 1949-50 first grade premiers team. Note the old Trafalgar grand stand in the background.

## ON THE BEAT WITH TRAFALGAR POLICE

Sergeant Chris Nott – Trafalgar Police Department

The article is designed to assist the community with local issues and share our goals of community safety, well-being and working together to make Trafalgar and surrounding communities a great place to live, work and raise a family.

By developing our approach to community engagement Trafalgar Police aim to increase community participation, communication lines and create confidence in our community to report crime, incidents and unusual behaviour to police.

### FACEBOOK –

Did you know the Baw Baw Police Service have an EYE-WATCH page?

Can I please request people to like this page on their account so that the articles will appear on your social media feed. Articles help local police with investigations where the community can help solve crime and help locate any missing people. Community assistance is much appreciated. You can call Trafalgar police or crime stoppers with any information 1800 333 000.

### ROAD SAFETY- LEADING INTO THE FESTIVE SEASON- STAY SAFE

1. No drink driving, if you plan on having a celebration or a drink or are involved on work break ups, think about how you will get around in advance and make the necessary arrangements. Trafalgar / Baw Baw Police will be zero tolerance on this issue.
2. Fines- SLOW DOWN on the roads, don't make us issue you a speeding fine. With the increase in holiday traffic we will be enforcing speed, distraction and safety breaches. Zero tolerance on this issue.
3. Drive safely and consider others.

### HOLIDAY SEASON - SAFETY IN THE HOME

Our homes are our safe place, it's where we relax and unwind and feel comfortable. With school year ending and holiday season on us some households will leave children alone whilst parents are working or be away on holidays for extended periods. Living in a small community like ours

doesn't mean we will not be victims. If anyone feels threatened in their own home remember these steps;

1. Go to a safe place wherever you deem that to be.
2. Call 000 immediately
3. Do your best to Stay calm and think clearly
4. If you can keep a physical barrier between you and the threat

### BE PREPARED

1. Make sure homes are secured with locks that are working on all windows and doors
2. Don't be a stranger know your neighbours and work together to keep the neighbourhood safe.
3. Don't open doors to people you don't know, ask questions before opening.
4. Don't give out personal details to phone callers or door knockers
5. Check credentials of trades-people
6. Instruct kids to not answer the phone if home alone, let it go to message bank that way people won't illicit information about where the fam-

ily are or located

7. Trust your instincts if you arrive home to an intruder call 000 and maintain safe distance. Take note of appearance and car registrations
8. Discuss a plan with the family to do if a threat does occur.

### COVID 19

As I compile this article Victoria is getting back to some form of normality. Know your restrictions and carry a mask if needed.

### POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE (PAL)

For non-urgent crime and events, you can report using the PAL. Call 131 444 or go to police.vic.gov.au

The following can be reported, THEFT, LOST PROPERTY, PROPERTY DAMAGE, PARTY SAFE, ABSENCE FROM RESIDENCE. This gives our community another platform to report to police without feeling the need to speak directly with us at Trafalgar. All reports will come back to our station for actioning.

Stay Safe enjoy your time with family and friends.



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.

### Council Meetings

Council Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 5.30pm in the Fountain Room at the West Gippsland Arts Centre.

All meetings can be viewed via live stream on the Council website.

See what's on the agenda for the next meeting on Council's website.

### Careers

Working with Council offers diversity and inclusiveness, career development opportunities, and a flexible and satisfying work environment. See current vacancies on the Careers page on Council's website.

### Contact us

You can contact Council via phone on 1300 229 229, via email at [bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au), on social media or via Live Chat on our website.



### Book in your FREE annual hard waste collection

Each year, we offer each household one free hard waste collection – conveniently picked up from right outside your house or freely dropped off at a Council-operated transfer station in Lardner, Trafalgar, Neerim South and Erica only.

Booking can be made online at [www.hardrubbishmelbourne.com.au](http://www.hardrubbishmelbourne.com.au) or over the phone on 1800 969 278.

For full details and conditions please visit [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/HardWaste](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/HardWaste)

## Council News.

### Mayor and Deputy Mayor elected for 2021 term

Cr Danny Goss has been elected Mayor and Cr Michael Leaney elected Deputy Mayor following a Statutory Council Meeting last week. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will serve a full 12-month term in these roles.

### Upcoming green waste drop-off days

To help prepare your property for the upcoming fire season, Council is offering FREE Green Waste drop off days at selected transfer stations.

**Trafalgar Transfer Station**  
28 and 29 November,  
10.00am – 4.00pm

**Lardner Transfer Station**  
5 and 6 December,  
10.00am – 4.00pm

### Handy information

- Up to 3 cubic metres per household only.
- Available to all residents – property owners and tenants.
- Bookings not required – simply present proof of residency i.e. current driver's license or rates notice.
- Must be delivered in residential vehicles and trailers (commercial vehicles will be charged at the standard rate).

### Abestos Awareness Week 2020

Did you know that 60% of homes in Baw Baw Shire have asbestos?

Know the facts before doing any home improvement jobs.

To learn more about asbestos safety check visit [www.asbestos.vic.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.vic.gov.au).

### Nominate a local legend for an Australia Day Award

Nominations for the 2021 Baw Baw Shire Australia Day Awards are now open. This is a great chance to acknowledge those who go above and beyond to make our community a better place.

Nominations can be made in three categories:

#### Citizen of the Year

A person who had made a noteworthy contribution during the previous year, and/or given outstanding service to the community over a number of years.

#### Young Citizen of the Year

A person aged under 25 years who has given outstanding service to the community.

#### Community Group of the Year

An organisation or group who performed a service to the community, raising funds for a charity, event or project.

For more information and to nominate, please visit [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDayAwards](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDayAwards)

Nominations opened today and will close at 5.00pm on Sunday 29 November 2020.

Award winners will be announced at the Australia Day Awards Ceremony in January 2021.

### Have your say, Baw Baw!

Have Your Say is an opportunity to provide your thoughts, feelings and ideas on a range of Council projects, strategies, policies and activities.

Current consultation opportunities:

- Draft Tree Inspection Policy and Guidelines
- Yarragon Dog Park Design
- Howard Park, Yarragon – Playground Renewal
- Memorial Park, Longwarry – Playground Renewal

To view current consultation opportunities go to [bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay](http://bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay)

### Immunisation session times

**Warragul**  
7 December  
9.30am – 11.00am

9 December  
4.30pm – 6.00pm

19 December  
9.30am – 11.00am

**Trafalgar**  
22 December  
5.00pm – 6.30pm

For location information and what to bring to the session, please visit the Council website.

### 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)

## Enhanced Catholic services

By Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne

From the start of next year, the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the Diocese of Ballarat, the Diocese of Sandhurst and the Diocese of Sale will unite in common mission to advance the ministry of Catholic social services in Victoria.

This landmark endeavour for the Church and for the people of the state, particularly the most vulnerable, will see the merging of CatholicCare Melbourne and

Gippsland, Centacare Ballarat, and CatholicCare Sandhurst, to form a new entity: CatholicCare Victoria.

With a combined service of more than 180 years, the individual agencies have responded to needs in their communities with compassion and care.

As CatholicCare Victoria, there will be enhanced capability to respond to those in need, to sponsor initiatives at the

breadth and scale that are most effective, and to advocate about and address the root causes of poverty and injustice, thus fulfilling the Church's commitment to continue the mission of Jesus Christ by proclaiming God's love for each person and promoting their fullness of life.

Building and supporting individuals, families and communities in times of need, especially those who are most dis-

advantaged, vulnerable and/or marginalised, is key to advancing human dignity and to fostering the common good in society.

In coming together, we reinforce our shared commitment to social service ministry; offering works of mercy, charity and justice to meet the needs of the vulnerable and marginalised in Victoria, now and into the future.



First Trafalgar Scouts Reporter is five year old Joey Scout Nyah Hicks.



Sharon Kelly, Trafalgar

"Inverloch. I love Inverloch".



Chandelle Brien, Thorpdale

"Blue Rock, it has barbecues and a great new playground".



Noel Watts, Trafalgar

"Noojee. The drive out there is beautiful and they have a great pub and the Tool Shed Bar".

## Where is the best day-trip in Gippsland?

## VOX-POP





**The Trafalgar & Yarragon News, December 1930**

**4 December – Strawberry Fete**

A strawberry fete held in the Methodist Church grounds at Trafalgar last Thursday attracted a good attendance. Proceedings were enlivened by harmony produced by the local brass band. Midget golf, bowls and bridge were also attractions that kept patrons interested.

A Christmas tree, ice cream, fruit salad, and strawberries and cream were also in keen demand.

**11 December – Warning**

Complaints have been made lately by several young ladies attending dances at the Trafalgar Public Hall regarding a few course individuals (and one in particular), who on being refused a dance, make use of foul language.

A warning is given to these men (?) that any recurrence of this filth will be immediately reported to the police.

**25 December – Convents' Success**

The results achieved for the first year's operations of the Trafalgar and District Convent have exceeded all expectations, and should act as an inspiration to all concerned for the new year activities.

The pupils of the Convent have been studying theological and practical subjects assiduously throughout the term, culminating in the winning of scholarships and certificates of merit.

The three Sisters and Father Shanahan are to be congratulated on the splendid results.

**Merry Christmas**

The Proprietor and Staff of the "News" extend to all, their best wishes for a happy 1930 Christmas and a prosperous New Year. - W. G. Rolls, Proprietor.

**The Gippsland News, December 1960**

**1 December – Old-Time Tactics Needed**

Numerous holes in a number of shop windows at the west end of the Main Street in Trafalgar

appear to be the work of adventurous young motorists who race towards the shops and then turn sharply.

The resultant skid sends a volley of pebbles hurtling towards the windows and so the damage is done.

One shopkeeper has indicated that he would like to see some 'old time tactics', like the introduction of boot leather to a certain part of the anatomy by the proper authorities, which should have the desired effect.

**Trafalgar Apex Club**

Last Sunday, members of the Apex Club of Trafalgar commenced construction of the stone Alter and Lectern at the McDonald District Boy Scouts' Camp at Tyers Junction. The construction will form the facade point of an outdoor Chapel.

**8 December – "Back-To Yarragon"**

Tentative arrangements are being made to conduct a "Back-To Yarragon" during Easter, 1961. The first move has been made by the Football Club.

**15 December – Ex-Residents Happy Party**

As expected, the Christmas party held by the Trafalgar and District Ex-Residents Association in the city on Friday evening last was well attended and it seems certain that the committee will need to find a much larger hall for its party next year.

Quite a number of ex-residents attended for the first time and a couple of car loads made the journey from Trafalgar.

**"Jack-Pot" Winners**

Trafalgar's fortnightly Saturday night dances continue their successful run, and the winners of the recent "Jack-Pot" competition of 35 shillings (\$51.90 today) were Margaret Kent and Peter Dowie. These dances provide great entertainment for Trafalgar's teenagers and parents should be happy to know that their young people are so well behaved.

**Scouts 'Wind-Up' Camp Fire**

Saturday night last saw the 'wind-up' of Scouting activities for the year 1960 with a camp fire at the home of Assistant

Scoutmaster Jim Little, at Sunny Creek. Community singing around the camp-fire was enjoyed by Scouts, parents, and a large variety of uninvited insects.

Each Scout Patrol gave an item, which was greeted with cheers or jeers by their fellow Scouts, according to merit. Altogether, it must have been the noisiest evening that Sunny Creek has known for some time.

**22 December – Visit By Ex-School Teacher**

A really warm welcome was extended to a former Trafalgar State School teacher when she arrived in the town last week.

The teacher, Miss Ida Melmoth, who is on a twelve months holiday tour from England, was on the staff at the Trafalgar School in 1935, when the Head-teacher at that time was Mr Jas. Hambrook.

Whilst in Trafalgar she met many of her former pupils in the persons of Mrs Jim Kent (Jean Burgess), Russ Jolly, Mrs L. Price (Nancy Smith), the Brock Bros., Mrs J. Dusting (Elsie Atkins), George Thomson, Mrs J. Davey (Bonnie McDonald) and many others.

**Traf News, December 2002**

**December – Free Internet Training**

The Trafalgar e-gaps facility was officially opened on Friday 20 September, 2002, by the Minister for Information and Communication Technology Marsha Thomson, at the Baw Baw Technology Centre, and is open for use by members of the community every week-day from 9 am to 5 pm.

As part of this facility free Internet beginners training for adults was provided in December and due to popular demand the course is to be re-run in February. Training will be provided by Gippsland Community Training and the courses are designed for people just starting out.

**Water Restrictions**

Gippsland Water advises that Stage 1 Water Restrictions on properties in Trafalgar, Thorpdale, Yarragon and Willow Grove become effective from 1 December, 2002.

Gippsland Water Board Chair-

man Mr Richard Elkington said preventive measures needed to be taken in order to ensure that Central Gippsland had adequate water supplies available for the months ahead.

**Scouts And Cub News**

Sunday, 27 October was a fun day for Traf Cubs when they travelled to Caringal Scout Camp for the annual Mt. Baw Baw District Billy Cart Race.

The course for the Billy Carts included a river crossing and needless to say all team members got wet.

Although Traf Cubs didn't bring home the trophy, they all had a fun day with their families, and used heaps of energy pulling and pushing.

**Lioness Club Donation**

The Trafalgar Lioness Club recently donated \$1,450 (\$2130 today) to purchase a Respiration Monitor for the Midwifery Department at the West Gippsland Healthcare Group.

The monitor, commonly known as an apnoea alarm, quickly and reliably detects when a baby stops breathing in their sleep. The West Gippsland Healthcare Group acknowledges the tremendous work and support of the Trafalgar Lioness Club.

**Local Pharmacy Gains Accreditation**

Trafalgar and district residents will reap the benefits of a world-class pharmacy service with the Trafalgar Pharmacy achieving accreditation under the Quality Care Pharmacy Program (QCPP).

The program aims to raise the standard of customer service and care in pharmacies. More than just a regime of processes and audits, QCPP is about guaranteeing levels of professional practice, improving service delivery, boosting training levels for staff and streamlining business management so that the customer always comes first.

**Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year**

from all at Traf News.

**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  
10am  
**Wednesdays:** Holy Communion, a quiet service 10.45am  
Cuppa and conversation  
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

# Farming News

**Weed seeds spread by brought-in feed**

Farmers are being alerted to be on the lookout for potentially nasty weeds that have come into Gippsland with grain and hay.

Livestock extension officer John Bowman said over the past three years there has been an enormous amount of grain and hay brought into

Gippsland to supplement livestock feed, during the drought and after the fires.

"The need to buy-in grain and hay in central and east Gippsland due to the drought and fires has increased the risk of some nasty weeds being introduced to the region," he said.

"Among the common weed seeds that could potentially be brought in with feed are Bathurst burr, thistles, wild turnip, marsh-mallow, stinging nettles and barley grass.

"Farmers need to be particularly vigilant about Patterson's Curse, Heliotrope and Amsinckia. These three weeds are prolific seeding annuals and can have health impacts on stock grazing large quantities of these weeds."

Patterson's Curse, a broad-leaf weed which grows 30 to 60 centimetres high, forms a rosette then develops a main stem and branches and flowers in mid-spring with distinctive purple flowers.

If eaten in large quantities by

sheep or cattle, Patterson's Curse can cause liver damage. Amsinckia is an annual broadleaf plant growing up to 50cm and is listed as a declared noxious weed in Victoria. It has small yellow flowers on a long 10cm curved flower head, producing large quantities of seed in early spring and has reportedly poisoned livestock.

It is competitive in pastures and cereal crops and so often grows in areas where grain has been trail fed to sheep.

This plant is suited to dry or sandy soils in northern Victoria but has been known to grow in most Victorian soils.

Heliotrope, an annual broad-leaf plant, grows prolifically in northern Victorian grazing and cropping areas, to a height of 40cm, has small white flowers in late spring, and is palatable to sheep.

It can contain and accumulate elevated copper levels, which at high levels is toxic to stock.

Heliotrope can be transported in hay or grain and will germinate in the following winter or summer. It is often seen growing over summer on previous crop paddocks or where hay has been fed to previous season.

Mr Bowman said Patterson's Curse, Amsinckia and Heliotrope are prolific seed producers and should be controlled with a suitable herbicide registered for

their control, ideally in the first season to prevent establishment.

"When using herbicides, make sure you read the product label carefully and follow the instructions."

Those with livestock that become ill while grazing pastures containing weeds should phone a local veterinarian and isolate the livestock away from the suspect paddock.

The risk of weeds spreading across the farm can be managed by feeding stock in a sacrifice paddock or stock containment area, limiting the germination of weed seeds to a designated area

"Regularly inspecting areas of the farm which have had hay or grain fed to stock and acting quickly to remove unusual or unknown isolated plants will help to control infestations," Mr Bowman said.

"Widespread infestations will require further investigation to confirm the best control option."

For more information on farm biosecurity, weed identification or general pasture and livestock feeding advice, phone the Agriculture Victoria customer service centre on 136 186 or visit [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons).

For advice on animal health issues phone a local veterinarian or agriculture Victoria veterinary or animal health officer.

**Call to block harmful camping**

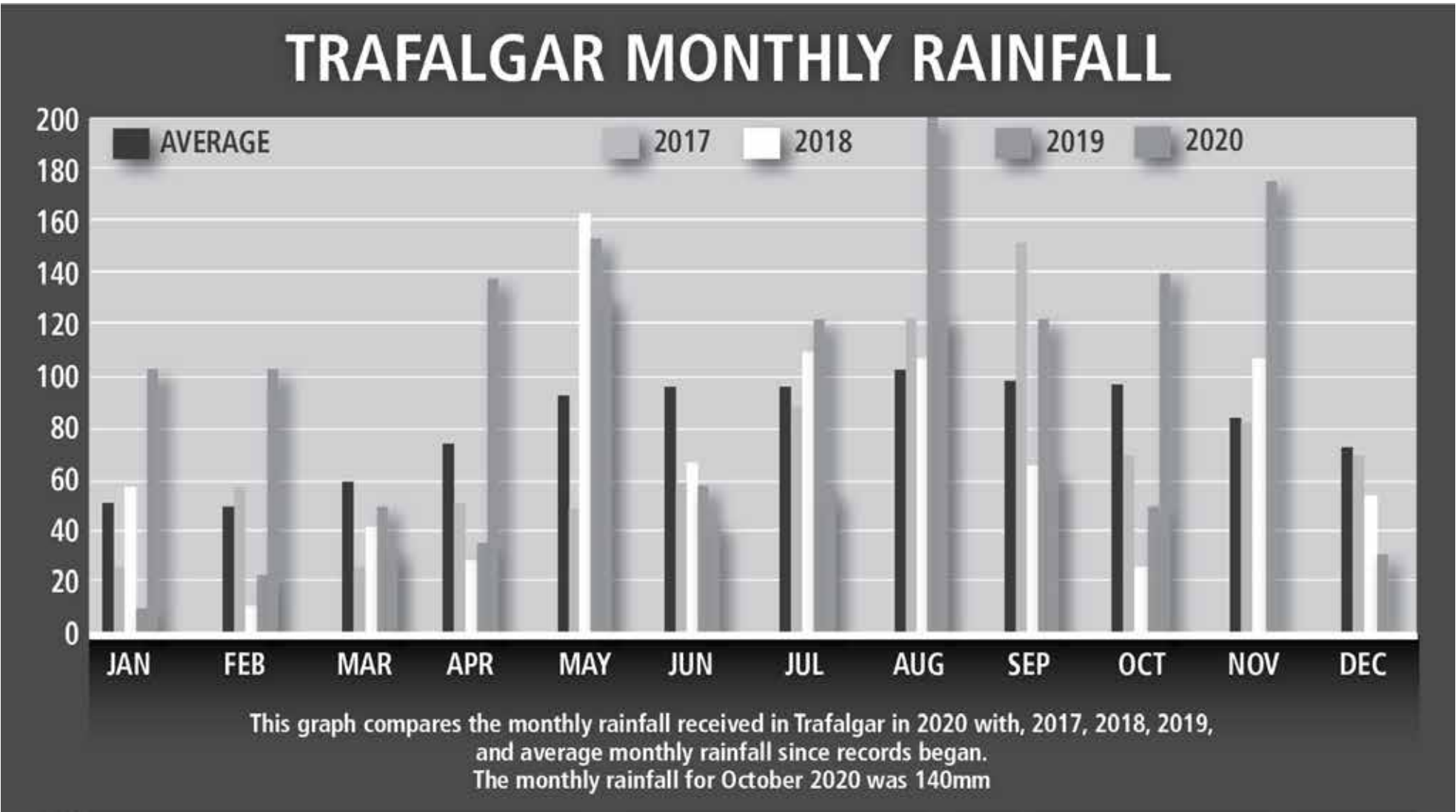
The Victorian Farmers Federation is urging Victoria's Legislative Council to block the harmful legislative proposal to remove the existing prohibition on camping on licensed water frontages. VFF president David Jochinke said the proposal was an ill-conceived election promise that has not been properly thought out and would have negative impacts on the environmental values of Victoria's rivers and streams, threaten farmers' livelihoods and create undue stress for landholders. "The government has failed to talk to farmers and landholders about the potential impact on them and the river environments," he said. "Put simply, this legislation is akin to letting people camp on someone's nature strip. "Farmers are at their wits' end because they are the ones that have been managing this licensed land for years, improving vegetation, protecting stream health and reducing grazing." Licence holder Angus McKinnon of Licola, who has led the petition that has attracted over 3000 signatures from concerned Victorians, said that licence holders had to be included in decision making. "There are serious biosecurity, workplace safety and environmental impacts from people entering farms and we need a regulatory

system that respects that," he said. "It comes back to making sure campers are accountable. We can't have a situation where landholders are left with rubbish strewn all over the place. "If cows are calving, dangerous weather is predicted or revegetation works have just been completed then farmers need to be able to say 'no, camping isn't appropriate at this time.'" Licence holder Stuart Gilmore of Thornton said it's vital camping is limited to regulated, approved zones to ensure the safety of campers and the community is maintained. "There's real concerns around emergency services and access to some of the proposed water frontage camping areas," he said. "Whether it be ambulance access in the event of a medical emergency or the ability of a CFA tanker to even get to the site of a fire, it only takes a small delay for a tragedy to unfold." "Add to the fact there are no proper toilet facilities, bins and fire pits, this proposal just makes no sense." "That's why we need to ensure camping only remains in regulated sites throughout Victoria."

**Refining capacity a concern**

The Victorian Farmers Federation is calling on the state government to provide financial support to protect the state's

domestic refining capacity in the wake of COVID-19 related lower fuel demands placing pressure on domestic refineries. VFF Grains Group president Ashley Fraser said reports of the future of Victoria's two remaining refineries in Geelong and Altona potentially being under a cloud is concerning for today's modern agriculture industry. "Everything from sowing crops to transporting food and fibre to market relies on a steady, affordable supply of fuel," he said. "Without government action, we could have a scenario where 100 per cent of our fuel is imported, which leaves Australia very exposed in the event of an emergency." Mr Fraser highlighted the 2012 Geelong Shell Diesel Refinery breakdown as an example of how vulnerable Victorian agriculture has been to fuel shortages in the past. "The fuel supply interruption we experienced in December 2012 came at an extremely bad time when many farmers were in the middle of harvest." "To not have fuel to power harvesting machinery and transport produce simply means production grinds to a halt. "Supporting local refining capacity is critical for mitigating risk of future fuel shortages." The VFF will continue to lobby the Victorian government to ensure domestic refining capacity remains in Victoria.





# Getting to know the Jade from J MacGregor Legal



Hi, I am Jade, the founder and principal solicitor of J MacGregor Legal. I am the youngest child of Tim and Karen MacGregor, former owners of MacGregor's Panel Works. I was born and raised in Trafalgar, where I attended Trafalgar Primary School and Trafalgar High School. Following high school, I moved to Geelong to study Law and Commerce at Deakin University. In my third year of study I gained employment at a boutique law firm in Geelong called Hill

Perkins & Co where I assisted in the preparation of wills, powers of attorney and retail leases.

Upon graduating from Deakin University in 2015 with a Bachelor of Commerce (majoring in finance) and Bachelor of Laws (honours) I was asked to stay on at Hill Perkins & Co as a solicitor. I worked predominantly in conveyancing and property transfers for the first couple of years and then into wills and estates. I then became an associate solicitor and was required to oversee the whole of the firm, as well as mentor two law students.

When the principal solicitor, David Perkins decided in late 2017 that he was going to retire, I had every intention of purchasing the firm from him (to be named Perkins & MacGregor) however, my husband and I (along with our one year old son

at the time) thought it would be best to move back to Gippsland to be closer to family.

After the birth of our daughter in 2019, I decided it was time to get back into the workforce and fulfill my dream of owning my own law firm, hence J MacGregor Legal was created. J MacGregor Legal can assist all clients in the areas of wills, powers of attorney, deceased estates, conveyancing, property transfers and retail leases and will be operating from 95 Princes Highway, Trafalgar (the old post office) from January 2021.

To get in touch, phone 0421 467 270 or email jade@jmacgregorlegal.com.

I look forward to writing a monthly article for the Traf News and assisting the wider community with their legal needs.



Jade MacGregor has returned to Trafalgar to start her own law firm.

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# Trafalgar Holden Museum car of the month...

Bob Moss

**Holden Magnum Ute**  
"Don't spend any money, only use the parts bin for upgrades and make these the highest-performance Commodores ever".

That was the brief the small crew of diehards who developed the special-edition MY17 farewell trio of locally-developed and built Holden Commodores had to work with.

Just 240 Magnums were built for Australian consumption, with 40 offered up front to Holden dealers and past and present employees. The other 200 are for public consumption.

New Zealand gets 51 examples of the Magnum Edition, a tribute to racing legend Greg Murphy who drove with that number throughout his career.

The Magnum picks up the same cross-drilled brake rotors, engine and transmission cooling packages, staggered 20-inch wheels and heated performance seats as the sedans and is powered by the same unchanged 304kW/570Nm LS3 V8.

It is available with either a six speed manual or a six speed automatic transmission.

The Magnum is SS-V Redline based, which means its gets a slippery diff, dual-zone climate-control, part-powered seats, a five-star ANCAP safety rating, six airbags, trailer sway control, satellite navigation, head-up display, reversing camera, front/rear park assist, forward collision alert, lane departure warning, blind spot alert, reverse traffic alert and remote engine start on the auto.

The Magnum's passive rear suspension's spring and dampers are softened significantly to Redline sedan FE3 tuning. To achieve that the payload was cut from 620 kilograms to 540kg and the dampers 10millimetres shorter. That results in a 15mm lower rear trim height.

Specifications: engine: 6162cc V8 (90 degrees), OHV, 16v max power 304kW at 6000rpm, max torque 570Nm at 4400rpm, fuel economy 12.8L/100km, manual price \$59,290, automatic \$61,490.

**Holden Museum**

The museum is always looking for people who wish to volunteer in the running of the museum, either at the front counter during the week or on weekends. But if you prefer to be involved in the workshop or the display areas there is a place for you.

You don't need to be a car enthusiast or mechanically gifted, just come along and be part of a crew from all backgrounds. Come in and have a good look around with one of the present crew and, if you like what you see, join up and be part of the Trafalgar Holden Museum volunteers.

For more information phone Neil Joiner on 0418 512 329.



This month's Holden car of the month is the Magnum Ute.

# Reflection

Rev Sue Jacka

**Christmas in uncertain times**

For many of us life's celebrations have been somewhat on hold this year. COVID-19 continues to stop large gatherings of people. We have been forced to either postpone cele-

bratory events or conduct them in very different ways. Yet, life doesn't stop: gardens continue to grow, babies are born, exams are taken and all sorts of milestones have been attained. If we don't celebrate these important occurrences, the moment passes and in some way we are all diminished.

As I have reflected on this I've realised that it's not only COVID that forces reconsideration of how to celebrate. An unexpected diagnosis can also make us adapt how we celebrate. Changing family shapes like a new child, death of a loved one or moving house will also modify how we celebrate.

It seems to me that it is better to make plans for celebra-

tions to suit the uncertainty we face, but to hold them lightly, prepared to modify as needed. And this of course includes our plans to gather for Christmas. While we don't know how many indoors or outdoors will be permitted this year, we still need to plan to make Christmas meaningful for our loved ones.

At the heart of Christmas lies the message of God breaking into our sometimes messy world with the message of love, joy and peace wrapped around the infant Jesus. God did not choose to wait until things were politically certain – Israel was occupied by the Romans at the time. May peace and love, joy and hope be with you!

**Keep your pets safe these holidays**

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# A lesson in persistence

Steven Bradbury glided into sporting immortality after all the other competitors in the men's 1000 metre speed skating final crashed in the last turn, leaving him the only competitor left standing – and therefore holding gold on the podium.

Traf News recently caught up with Steven Bradbury to talk about the events that led to his incredible gold medal win at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics.

(Questions by Liam Durkin).

**There is an element of Cool Runnings about the fact you were a speed skater from Australia, a country not many people would associate with success at the Winter Olympics. How did it all come about?**

I started speed skating when I was eight. I watched my dad who was a national champion and saw the passion he had for the sport and I thought to myself – 'I want to do this to'.

The first time I skated I got wet, I got cold and I bawled my eyes out, but once I got a bit older and wanted to share in what my dad was doing I started to go back.

I got a great feeling when I'd make my way across the ice and I'd love the speed because I've always loved stuff that goes fast and that adrenalin just kept me coming back for more.

**I imagine speed skating wasn't the most popular sport to be playing as a kid?**

I won the under 13 national speed skating championships when I was 10 years old. The kid who got the bronze medal also finished last.

**How does competition at speed skating events work?**

Thirty-two skaters, four guys in each race, finish first or second, skate your way through to the next round. Nine laps for the kilometre, top speed of 54 kilometres an hour.

**Can you explain just how much work you have to put in to prepare your body to compete at Olympic level?**

I trained 12 sessions a week, two and half hours in the morning, two and a half hours in the afternoon, six days a week with Sunday's off.

I rode 400 kilometres a week going up and down mountains on my bike, then spent heaps of

time in the gym pushing weights. I use to be able to squat 240 kilograms.

I spent heaps of time in a place I use to call 'The Big Fridge' in the western suburbs of Brisbane. I spent thousands of hours there doing sprint work, endurance work and technical work.

I use to have a sign stuck to the ceiling in my bedroom that read 'this is the Olympics – get up'. That was the first thing I saw at 4:30am when the alarm went off, I did that because I knew my competition on the other side of the world was doing the same thing.

**The common misconception is that you came from absolute obscurity when you won that gold medal but that's not the case is it?**

I was ranked in the top 10 speed skaters in the world for over a decade and was one of just four Australians to contest four Winter Olympics. In 1994 I was part of the Australian team that won our first Winter Olympic medal, a bronze in the 5000 metre relay.

**A lot of people probably wouldn't know some of the setbacks that you went through before the famous win. Can you take us through those?**

I was unlucky enough to get impaled on the back of another guys skate and lost three-quarters of my blood in 60 seconds.

I came very close to dying on the ice in Canada, but was able to find some power inside of myself that I didn't know I had, and tried to use that as a positive when I came back to the sport.

I said to myself 'you lose consciousness - you die'. It really is amazing the amount of power that any human can draw on when they are put in a life and death situation.

If I could have drawn on that sort of power every day in my training, I don't think I ever would have got beaten by anybody.

I limped out of hospital three weeks later after they'd taken more than 130 stitches out of my body.

I also had a crash in training in Brisbane, I went head first into the barrier and broke my neck, fractured the C4, C5 and C6 and was put in a halo brace, pretty much resembling a human building site.

**You were in that halo brace in the lead up to the 2002**

**Games. How was your headspace then?**

I had to wear it for a couple of months and had a lot of time to think about the big picture in those couple of months.

A lot of people were telling me it was time to quit.

I decided I was going to train the 16 more months I had until the next Olympics.

When you put a lot of time and energy into something – don't go back, see it through.

**Having qualified for the 2002 Games, how much of an underdog were you?**

I actually supported myself by making skating boots in a backyard workshop. I supplied the favourite at the Games with free boots and asked him to endorse them when he won gold.

**What happened in the rounds leading up to the final?**

In the quarter finals I beat a guy from Canada by the name of Marc Gagnon who was a four time world champion. I hadn't beaten him in eight years – but I got him on that day.

I skated really well in the semi finals too, and then I was in the final of the Olympics after training my guts out for 14 years.

**Can you take us behind the scenes before you walked out for the final?**

I was sitting in the change rooms and they handed me the draw of the other skaters I was about to race against and I thought 'I don't think I can beat any of these guys'.

I had a chat with my coach, a little Chinese lady by the name of Ann Zhang and she agreed with me.

We decided on percentage that my best chance of picking up a medal in the final was to stay out of the way and hope for a mistake. That took a bit of experience and judgement and knowing my own limitations and knowing I wasn't quite as good as the other guys in the final. We were pretty confident that we might pick up a bronze medal.

We concluded that none of the other four skaters were interested in finishing second. They all wanted gold and that meant a good chance of crash. The worst I could finish was fifth.

**Of course everyone knows what happened in the final. How did you feel when you crossed the line?**

That's the question I've been asked the most since I got the gold medal.

Straight after the race I was sitting back in the change rooms and I knew the first question they would ask me was how I felt when I crossed the line. I had to go to the medal ceremony and media conference and I wasn't sure if I deserved to go to either of them.

My brain was sure, it was already out there, it was my heart that wasn't sure. My brain was already at the second question at the media conference which was going to be 'the whole worlds about to ask if you think you deserved to win or not'.

There was even a television crew there from Pakistan. At that point I wasn't even sure if I was going out onto the podium to accept the gold.

During the few minutes in that change room I thought about what I went through my whole life. I had a skate go through my leg, I busted my neck, and I got taken out when I was number one in the world in this event two Olympics prior.

But in the final I'd just had all the other skaters fall over in front of me and that's what they want me to take the gold medal for.

I thought 'I can't take a gold medal for that'. But what I can go out onto the podium and take the gold medal for is the 14 years of hard work in the lead up to that final.

**The hoopla that followed the victory was extensive. How crazy did it get?**



Steven Bradbury glides into history at the 2002 Winter Olympics.



Steven Bradbury's gold medal.

I got to carry the flag at the closing ceremony which was a proud day to be an Australian. I then had a brief stint on Dancing With The Stars which wasn't such a proud day when one of the judges gives you a three out of 10 and you're the first one voted out. More recently I was on Survivor.

I joke that I can lick the back of my own head because they brought out a stamp with my face on it.

I got a congratulatory message from Russell Crowe and went to parties hosted by Hugh Hefner. I also got to meet Richard Branson and he gave me a phone that I got to make free calls on for four years.

**I think the point of your story is not how you won but what it took to win. What do you think the legacy is?**

When you talk about it to a group you can tell there are people sitting there thinking 'Steven Bradbury, what would he know? Only reason he won was because he was lucky'.

Well I can tell you one thing – you need a lot more than luck to get to the final of the Olympic Games.

I gave my heart, my youth and almost my life to winning gold and it wouldn't have come true if I wasn't the last man standing.

With anything in life, the more work that goes in behind the scenes, the greater the victory.

How does it feel to have something that has entered the Australian vernacular named after you?

I've had people tell me that race is the most Australian thing they've ever seen.

For me, I'm just incredibly proud that I've got an Australian saying that looks like it's going to last the test of time.

If that helps inspire people to try a little bit harder in what they do, then even better, because I understand the luck connotation that goes with 'doing a Bradbury'.

**What's the main message you hope to get across?**

I think Australians are quite well known for not giving up and we love the underdog victory.

A positive mindset is where elite level anything begins.

The question is – are you getting up? Not just in body but in mind, you have to put it on positive every morning, it makes the day go quicker and it'll get you better results at the end too.

I trained 14 years to become an overnight success. Whatever you do in life, if you work hard at it for a long time eventually you start to make your own luck.

Keep on trying, don't give up, and you too could be the last one standing.



» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

His quietly spoken manner and innate ability to just fix things instantaneously led to him becoming highly recommended in the local community.

Somehow, he found muscles most people didn't even know existed, and his effectiveness left a lot of people convinced his hands had magic in them.

If ever there was a local witchdoctor – Sappy was it.

A large part of Sappy's life was spent at the Trafalgar Football-Netball Club, where he had a stellar career and was inducted as a life member in 1996.

Sappy came up through junior ranks at Trafalgar and commenced with the senior club in 1978, playing the majority of his career in the forward line.

When he retired in 2003, he held the open age club games record, with 418 appearances, as well as the reserves game record with 379.

He kicked 248 goals in the reserves with a career high of 12 goals in a match.

Sappy played in seven reserve grade premierships for the Bloods from 13 grand final appearances, and won consecutive league best and fairest awards in premierships years.

He won a club best and fairest in 1997 and was acknowledged as best club person in 2002.

He first joined the committee

in 1986 and served many terms in the years following. It is estimated he has sold more raffle tickets for the club than anyone else before him.

Other roles he held at the club included senior runner, interleague runner, reserve captain and assistant coach, ground manager and trainer.

He was recognised for his service as the inaugural winner of the Mid Gippsland Football League Barry McKenzie memorial award in 2003.

He was also instrumental in organising preseason training camps to places such as Wilsons Promontory and Bear Gully.

After retiring from football in 2003, he took up triathlons and went on to complete 10 Ironman Australia races.

His achievements in Ironman events saw him bestowed with legend status for completing 10 or more races in 2014.

In his younger days he was a keen marathon runner and was a Spartan having completed 10 or more Melbourne Marathons.

He was also in the running team at the Trafalgar Urban Fire Brigade alongside Greg 'Bags' Lincoln, Geoff 'Spud' McMillian and Neil McCulloch.

In recent years he served both the Moe and Yallourn Yallourn North Football-Netball Clubs as a trainer, where he played an integral role in helping footballers

and netballers.

His professional career saw him start at Joe Verhagen Holden Moe as an apprentice panel beater.

From there he got work at the State Electricity Commission as a panel beater/motor body builder at the Yallourn workshops.

He then worked at Baw Baw Shire Council, first in an outdoor staff role and then as a council street sweeper operator, before moving to Fonterra at Darnum as a shift worker.

Sappy loved his fishing trips, especially to Tamboon inlet with Ray Wall, Bags, Spud, Bill Holdsworth Jr, Lochie McCoy and Neale McCulloch, who he went with multiple times.

Of all his achievements, perhaps his greatest was when he ran from Moe to Mirboo Nth and then ran the boundary for the reserves game. He well and truly deserved a lift home to Moe after the senior game.

Trafalgar sporting teams wore black arm bands in the week after his passing to pay their respects.

The Trafalgar and surrounding community extends its deepest sympathies to sympathies to Kristine, Milly, Rosie and Hugh.

(Writing credits: Paul Taylor, Ray Wall and Liam Durkin).



Robert Sapkin (centre), with Ian Gibson and Darren Brown at the Gippsland Corporate Games in 2016.



Trafalgar Football-Netball Club games record holders Paul Taylor and Robert Sapkin.



Robert Sapkin was a fitness fanatic.



## Wally's Words

*I could never cheat in a relationship, that requires two women to find me attractive.*

Source: Warragul Gazette.

# Cricketers enjoying season

By Liam Durkin

Following so much inactivity over the winter months, players at the Trafalgar Cricket Club have enjoyed the opportunity to get onto the sporting field with team mates recently.

Some good results and individual performances have featured in the early stages of the season, as the Ships look to forge their way toward greater things in the near future.

The first grade team recorded arguably it's best win since the Latrobe Valley and District Cricket League was formed three seasons ago, when it accounted for Mirboo North away from home.

Bowling first, Trafalgar reduced the Tigers to 5-14, before chasing the required total of 118 with six wickets in the shed.

All who were given the ball did a tremendous job, with five bowlers each taking a pair of wickets. Leo Connolly led the way with 2-8, whilst Zack Brown (2-15), Jackson Noonan (2-21), Rhys Holdsworth (2-22) and Daniel Heathcote (2-26) enjoyed some success.

Blair Clymo and Ryan Bishop, with unbeaten scores of 41 and 33 respectively, guided the Ships home.

Clymo also scored 60 in the match against Traralgon West, in the same game where Noonan took 4-17.

In the game against Moe, top performers were Heathcote with figures of 4-34, Holdsworth (2-24) and Liam White who scored 30 opening the batting.

The Seconds scored a big win over Morwell Tigers Yinnar Raiders, racking up a near-200 total.

Liam White batted through the innings to make 82 not out, and received good support from Christian Burgess (34) and Billy

Claridge, who made a quick fire 33.

The Ships bowled Raiders out cheaply, with White taking three wickets and Luke O'Neill chipping in with 2-7.

In the match against Traralgon West, Damien Mann had a productive day, making 48 with the bat and taking 2-21 with the ball.

Claridge was also effective, taking 3-34, whilst Leo Connolly nabbed 2-15.

Mann's efforts back up the game against Newborough, where he took 2-20.

The Thirds secured a thrilling win against Centrals, with Darren Brown the star of the show.

Entrusted with the responsibility of bowling the last over and keeping the opposition to less than six runs, Brown kept his cool and not only delivered the match winning over, but also picked up two wickets.

Before the Brown heroics, Trafalgar made 4-132, with Bill Pace top scoring on 43. Brown also contributed to the score with 27 not out.

Kevin Hennessy took 2-22 to help the team, along with Brown who finished with 2-27.

In the game against Mirboo North, Pace scored 42 and Louis Hennessy took 2-15.

The Under 16s started the season with victory over Centrals.

No player was really able to make an impression on the scorebook with the bat, but a five wicket haul to Louis Hennessy ensured Trafalgar came away with the points.

The Ships played through the rain in their next match against Traralgon West.

Owen McLeod-Agland (2-7) and Olly Hennessy (2-9) were

the pick of the bowlers, whilst Billy Claridge scored an aggressive 33 not out to see the Ships home.

McLeod-Agland was again in the wickets, with 2-4 against Moe, and Claridge was again in the runs with an unbeaten 57.

A strange match then occurred against Morwell, with scores locked at 76 apiece by the finish.

Trafalgar was 5-75 needing 77, but somehow lost its last five wickets for one run.

The scorecard showed seven ducks, as only Claridge (38) and Blake White (17) were able to reach double figures.

There was better news with the ball earlier in the game, with Olly Hennessy taking 5-4.

Joe Stewart took 2-4 and Claridge 2-19.

Trafalgar won the match against Willow Grove, with Claridge scoring 30 not out and taking 3-13.

McLeod-Agland (2-10) and Stewart (2-19) got in on the act with the ball.

Some good individual bowling performances and batting their allotted overs in a few games has so far highlighted the Under 14s.

Zak Larkin took 2-6 in the game against Morwell Tigers Yinnar Raiders and Aaron Aloyts 2-9 against Centrals.

Louis Hennessy (2-5) and Olly White (2-9) bowled well against Moe.

Tyler McDermott (2-2) and Charlie Hennessy (2-3) did likewise against Calligee and Traralgon South.

The Under 12s won their opening three games.

There was five new players in the team: Brodie Gauci, Dante

Moscato, Quinn Asmusen, James Burke and Blake McDermott, who joined last season's player's Charlie Hennessy, Jasper McQualter, Sam Jones and Oliver White.

The team had a convincing 50 run victory against an undermanned Centrals side in the first game, with lots of players showing promising skills and progress despite the lack of training preparation.

Dante Moscato got his first wicket for the club opening the bowling, with Sam Jones taking an excellent catch looking into the sun.

First time player James Burke got the next wicket for the Ships, clean bowling the young Central's batter.

The Centrals batters built a bit of a partnership before Brodie Gauci got his first wicket for the club.

Consistent bowler Charlie Hennessy also got a wicket and a runout by Brodie Gauci completed the Centrals innings.

Excellent keeping by Jasper McQualter restricted the runs and great chatter by Quinn Asmusen kept everyone entertained.

The Ships chased down the target with ease, led by Charlie Hennessy, who top scored with 23 including three excellent pull shots for four.

Sam Jones retired not out for an almost run-a-ball 17, hitting three magnificent boundaries.

Oliver White hit his first six of his career on his way to a quick-fire 14, before going out to an excellent catch.

Excellent batting by the likes of Jasper McQualter and newcomer Blake McDermott at the end of the innings helped lift the

Ships score to a very respectable total after it looked like the Ships were going to get bowled out.

Jasper McQualter made a patient five not out, hitting a cracking four and facing the most balls out of any batter on the day.

Blake McDermott was impressive on debut, bowling tightly and making four not out and picking up on a lot of excellent cricketing skills after just one training session.

The team backed up their performance with another convincing win against Yallourn North.

Captain Jasper McQualter lost the toss and his team was sent in to bat.

Excellent emphasis of putting high value on their wicket and great running between the wickets were key stand outs of the Ships innings, as the team finished 0-72 off their 20 overs.

It was the first time in coach Liam White's tenure that all of the kids managed to retire – a fantastic achievement.

Quinn Asmusen, James Burke and Brodie Gauci all made their first runs of their career, while Blake McDermott and Oliver White were both impressive with the bat and their powerful stroke-play.

The young Ships kept up their great work with tight and economical bowling to restrict Yallourn North to 7-32 after their 20 overs.

Charlie Hennessy was the pick of the bowlers, grabbing two wickets while only conceding one run off his three overs.

Quinn Asmusen and Blake McDermott claimed their first wickets for the club, while Oliver White and Sam Jones were the other wicket-takers.

Dante Moscato snagged an excellent catch behind the stumps, while Sam Jones completed the innings with a swift run out.

The team then made it three wins in a row against Moe in chilly conditions.

The Ships were sent in to field first, and bowled very tightly, limiting Moe to a score of 2-27 off their 20 overs.

The team was great in the field, with both of the wickets claimed being run outs by Oliver and Brodie.

Every bowler did a fantastic job, with Quinn, James and Charlie being the stand out bowlers.

The Ships got off to shaky start battling with Charlie, Jasper and Brodie all falling within the first two overs to see the team reeling at 3-7.

However, some magnificent batting from Oliver and fill-in Zak Larkin saw the Ships pass the Moe total in the sixth over.

Oliver top scored with 19 not out including a big six over square-leg and a couple of fours. Zak batted well for his 17 which included two sixes, one being over cover in what was the best shot many have ever seen from an under 12s player.

Sam Jones also batted superbly for his 14 not out, hitting multiple boundaries.

Blake and Quinn also stayed in at the end of the innings and scored a couple of runs to ensure that the Ships did not get bowled out.

In the end, Traf scored 5-76 after their 20 overs, winning by 49 runs.



It was a family affair at the Trafalgar Cricket Club in C Grade recently, as three sets of father and sons took the field. Pictured left to right are Craig and Blake White, Harry, James and Bill Pace and Louis and Kevin Hennessy.

# Bloods officially transfer

The Trafalgar Football-Netball Club moved past the final hurdle in their journey to move leagues, voted in by the Ellinbank and District Football League clubs in an email ballot recently.

A special general meeting was meant to be held at the end of October, however due to the continuing restrictions related to COVID-19, a face to face meeting was not possible.

In a vote of eight-two, Trafalgar landed in their new home as a club which EDFL operations manager Ken Moore described as strong.

"From a league perspective we are happy to have them, we are getting a strong successful club and they meet the criteria for our conditions of entry," he said.

"They will also bring in two strong junior teams which we place a big emphasis on."

The league sent out information on what the EDFL may look like if Trafalgar was accepted, including a possible fixture.

It is understood the EDFL are looking at a 20-round season which includes nine home games for each side and two byes within the season to begin on April 11.

Mr Moore said there are plenty of positives in having Trafalgar's presence in the league next season.

"Geographically they are a good fit and have proven to be a strong competitor in both juniors and seniors in the Mid Gippsland competition and will add value to our league in many ways," he said.

Trafalgar vice-president Brett Tonkin said it was great to finally hear the result of the process.

"We had gone through the appeal process, but until the league vote happened, we were always a bit wary, so we are really excited," he said.

The club are keen to keep their list for next season, one they thought could once again bring them success in the MGFNL in 2020. Now they are looking forward to the new challenge the EDFL brings.

"It will be good to see where we fit in with the seniors and reserves football, as well as the netball where we had all four grades play in the grand final in 2019," Mr Tonkin said.

"We think we can be a good asset for the league, and we look forward to creating new rivalries, as well as renewing our Waterloo

Cup rivalry with Yarragon."

Mr Tonkin also thanked the Ellinbank league and the member clubs for the vote and respecting the wishes of the members vote to move into the league.

The salary cap will be \$65,000 next season and AFL Gippsland have confirmed that new club Trafalgar will have a 45-point cap ceiling, one which Mr Tonkin said his side will be under thanks to the amount of home grown talent they have.

Another change voted on during the ballot was in the junior ranks. In a vote of seven-three in favour, the motion for the age groups to be changed from under 16s and under 18s, to under 16.5s and under 18.5s was passed.

With many players missing out on their final year of junior football in 2020, the motion was passed to give those an opportunity to play and further time to ready themselves for senior football.

AFL Gippsland later approved age group change for next season.



**TRAFALGAR  
GOLF CLUB  
INC**

**EXTRAORDINARY  
SPECIAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING**  
December 13th 2020  
4:00pm  
In the clubhouse  
To ratify an Updated  
Constitution  
(AGM to be held  
early 2021)

**POLISH N  
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Polishing**  
On Site  
Car Detailing  
Eden Haley  
polishnshine@dcsl.net.au  
**0403 136 566**

## Unique first AFL season

By *Liam Durkin*

Former Trafalgar resident Leo Connolly was back home recently, having just gone through a truly once-in-a-generation AFL season.

After being selected by St Kilda in last years draft, Leo's season saw him living in a Queensland hub and playing practice matches, sometimes with only 12 on a team, to try to stake a claim for senior selection.

Despite this, he took it all in his stride, as his Saints became one of the feel good stories of the year, making finals for the first time since 2011.

In describing his time in the hub, Leo said he was well looked after.

"Hub life was good, I got to know all my teammates a lot better," he said.

"It was pretty good living standards, they had people come in and do room service twice a week.

"It certainly wasn't horrible living in a five star resort."

Whilst there were many hygienic protocols to adhere to, Leo said these didn't really distract from the strict routine of professional sport.

"Day to day usually we had roughly two main training sessions a week," he said.

"Up at six, go and get breakfast and then get strapped.

"Then we'd have a team meeting at 8am before we got in

busses and headed down to Maroochydhore for training.

"We'd train for a couple of hours, come back, have lunch and then head to the gym that afternoon."

Given restrictions, those not selected in the senior squad were forced to play games against themselves and players from other clubs to stay match-fit.

As Leo explained, the makeup of the scratch matches changed weekly.

"It depended on numbers," he said.

"We had an 18-v-18 game which was good, it was just like a normal standard game of AFL twos.

"Then you'd have your 12-v-12 games. We had one against Melbourne on a ground a little bit smaller than Traf and everyone just blew up because there was no stoppages.

"The games were serious. We didn't have proper umpires but people were full serious – they were playing to get games."

In a strange way, the AFL scratch matches had some parallels to country football, as players often had to play for the other team when they were short.

"We had North Melbourne play with us against a couple of teams," Leo said.

"We had Jared Polec, Majak Daw, Jasper Pittard and Aaron Hall play for us because they

were dropped from the North Melbourne side – it was pretty weird.

"Majak Daw is possibly the biggest bloke I have ever seen in my life.

"He's the nicest bloke but he's scary as."

St Kilda didn't share a hub with another club, and spent more than 100 days together.

On his off days, Leo enjoyed playing golf at Noosa Springs.

The Saints exceeded most pundit's expectations this season, making a sharp rise up the ladder.

"It was a great vibe around the club all year," Leo said.

"To come from one of the worst teams in the comp to now being known as a threat is a good team to be a part of and hopefully I can get into the starting 22."

St Kilda won a nail biting elimination final against the Western Bulldogs by three points, with Leo watching tensely in the grand stand.

"That was a very nervous watch," he said.

"Coming into the last quarter we thought we had it in the bag, we were sitting there pretty confident.

"Then they got to within a few points with two minutes to go and Paddy (Ryder) does his hamstring and we thought 'this better not happen', when the final siren went it was more a sigh

of relief than celebration but obviously very happy."

In the semi-final the following week, St Kilda squandered some golden opportunities in the second quarter against eventual premier Richmond.

Despite the shortcoming, Leo believed the Saints weren't too far off the competitions benchmark, especially considering they went into that final without three key position players in Ryder, Jake Carlisle and Ben Long.

"I think the scoreboard suggests different to what the game was like," he said.

"We were so close to being ahead of them, if we had of just converted on a few shots and maybe stopped them scoring a couple of cheap goals."

In speaking of his coach Brett Ratten, Leo was full of praise.

"He is the people's man, he is a great man," he said.

"He gets along with everyone, has the time of day for absolutely everyone, always asks you how you are going and doesn't just chat to you as a coach he always chats to you as a mate.

"I love Ratts, I reckon he's awesome."

Moving into next season, Leo said his aim was to crack a senior game.

"Just one game would be nice," he said.

"It's something I want to happen, get there and then focus on

trying to get the second.

"This year wasn't exactly what I was expecting, but we had to deal with it.

"Hopefully next year is a little bit more normal."



*Former Trafalgar resident Leo Connolly during his first season with St Kilda earlier this year.*

## North East Victoria, you know fire.

North East Victoria was hit hard in the 2019-20 fire season. The 2020-21 season is coming and you know as well as anyone how important it is to plan and prepare. Ensure your home is fire ready, ensure your family knows your plan, and be ready to leave early.

### How well do you know fire?

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to [vic.gov.au/knowfire](https://vic.gov.au/knowfire)

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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne