

FEBRUARY 2021
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Traf News



PRICELESS



2020
CAROLS

P4



AGRIBUSINESS
AWARD WINNER

P19



ALL GO
AT THE GROVE

P25

TRAF'S CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Trafalgar's 2021 citizen of the year is Peter Farmer and Cooper Burgess is its youth citizen of the year.

Peter has been a valued 'behind the scenes' volunteer on a number of Trafalgar community organisations for the past 65 years.

Peter joined Trafalgar Cemetery Trust with his father in 1977 and held the position of Trust chairman from 1983 to 2020. He has been an excellent

trust member for 43 years, achieving many goals for the cemetery along the way.

He joined the Rotary Club of Trafalgar in 1978 and was an active member for 10 years and a chairman of the Community Services committee. Whilst in Rotary, Peter and his wife Jean hosted exchange students from Japan, Sweden and Indonesia.

Peter has been strongly committed to Trafalgar Park Bowls Club. In addition to being

a two-time bowls champion, a life member and a holder of the Service Award, he was also the club's treasurer for 30 years.

Peter (in concert with the late Frank Haldane), was the key instigator in setting up Trafalgar Probus Club in 1991, and the club has been very successful and is still going strong today. Peter has been a committee member and an indispensable member of the club for 30 years.

When Trafalgar Park Bowls

Club went into decline in 2019, Peter very quickly assisted in the setting up of Trafalgar Croquet Club at the site of Trafalgar Park Bowls Club on Ashby Street, thereby retaining a valuable sporting asset for the community.

In addition to his contribution to the Trafalgar community, Peter played football for Trafalgar, and was playing coach in 1955 and 1956. He was also a committee member at Willow Grove Junior Football Club in 1960. Peter has

held the position of selector at both clubs.

Trafalgar's youth citizen of the year, Cooper Burgess, is recognised for his leadership, inclusiveness and sporting achievements.

Cooper began last year as a strong example to fellow students, as one of the 2020 Trafalgar High School captains, with students extremely challenged with COVID-19. Cooper set an example as a peer by creating

content for social media and arranged student participation online for Anzac Day, representing the students in regards to school assessment and study arrangements and represented the students for a potential uniform change.

» CONTINUED PAGE 4



Peter Farmer, Trafalgar's 2021 citizen of the year.



Cooper Burgess, Trafalgar's 2021 youth citizen of the year.

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A note on this issue

By Liam Durkin

With no January issue of Traf News, there has obviously been a fair amount of time since the last paper was distributed.

Given article deadlines are the 14th day for each month, many stories in this issue may well be 'old news' by the time they appear.

That is simply because we have not had an opportunity to run any stories submitted from late November through all of December.

Readers may come across events in this issue that happened two months ago, as well as some Christmas related stories that

might look strange being in a February paper.

These stories have been included to make sure community groups are recognised and to also ensure events that happened throughout December are not forgotten.

Furthermore, the paper also serves as a historical document, so it is important to have an up-to-date chronicle of what has taken place.

We hope you enjoy reading Traf News throughout 2021, and be sure to email any stories you might have to articles@trafnews.com

Local consultation for former Yarragon Primary School site

Council is engaging the local community to help develop a masterplan for the site at 3-5 Rollo Street in Yarragon (formerly Yarragon Primary School).

From Monday 18 January through to 19 February 2021, Yarragon residents and the wider community will have the opportunity to share their view on the best use for the site via an easy-to-complete survey, available both in print and online via Council's website.

"It's so important that Council listens to local voices." Said Deputy Mayor Cr Michael Leaney.

"The people living and working in a community know

what is needed and what will work to benefit them. We listened to the Yarragon community to ensure that this important public space was not lost to development and then acted to purchase the site. Now we need the Yarragon community to advise on how this space will best serve the community and visitors for years to come."

Potential uses identified in early consultation with a local Project Reference Group include (but are not limited to) playgrounds, recreation spaces, community gardens, sporting areas or mixed use.

Ultimately, the use of the site will hinge on the preferences

of the local community and so all residents are urged to get involved in the consultation.

The feedback gathered during this January-February consultation will directly inform the draft masterplan for the site.

Once drafted, the masterplan will then go back to the community for further feedback and approval in May 2021.

With that secondary round of community feedback received and incorporated, the masterplan will then progress to Council for adoption in mid-2021.

Mayor Cr Danny Goss stated "We know how important this site is to the Yarragon community. It clearly has great potential for a

number of different uses, but what really matters to Council is that it gets used in a way that best benefits the local residents. To make sure that happens, I'd like to encourage everyone in and around Yarragon to share your thoughts and tell us how you want the site used. It's your views that will determine the outcome of this project."

To get involved, please visit the Have Your Say section of Council's website. This initial round of consultation will close at 5pm on Friday 19 February 2021.

New bike for Jack

Local business John Brown For Tyres wanted to wish local identity 'Jack' a Merry Christmas by buying him a new bike to ride around town.

The boys in the workshop fixed his old bike every week with minor repairs so all the staff decided to put in for a new bike. Jack was very thankful and is

sure to be enjoying his various trips around town!



Jack is all smiles after receiving his new bike.

Wally's Words

I'm sick of following my dreams, man. I'm just going to ask where they're going and hook up with 'em later'.



Funny Sign



It's True



Eight of the ten largest statues in the world are of Buddhas.

Alberts Corner



Tru not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value.
— Albert Einstein

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TRAF'S CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cooper has joined peers from across Years 10, 11 and 12 to participate in student forums for the Department of Education's review of the school, and has represented views on topics such as the school's curriculum and student well being.

A strong history of activity by Cooper includes: form captain in Years 8 to 11, participation in an international aid trip to Fiji in 2018 by fundraising in order to donate much needed equipment and books to the village which needed help, plus spending time building a water tank and garden area for this village. As a Year 11 student

in 2019 he attended the Year 8 camp to Tasmania as a peer leader.

Cooper also assisted with student management and co-ordination and was highly regarded and congratulated by staff, students and the public for undertaking this role.

Outside of school, Cooper has always played football and cricket for Trafalgar, playing in many premierships teams in both sports, as well as serving a number of teams as captain. Cooper also represented Central Gippsland Cricket Association and Mid Gippsland Football League, and has also coached the Trafalgar under 12s cricket team.

Trafalgar ended 2020 with annual community carols

Sue Jacka

This year, with the changing limits on the number of people allowed to gather we had only about 10 days to get the event finalised and COVID safe approved. Fortunately, the Latrobe Community Concert band had already been booked and were able to bring more of their members. Trafalgar High School principal, Jane Mersey welcomed us into the bigger space on the front lawns which allowed for social distancing. Kirrily Howden and Vanessa Horny a local mother/daughter musical partnership were happy to lead the singing which enabled

the crowd to enjoy this tradition of Christmas carols while not singing out loudly. Local musician Chris Newman sang Blue Christmas by Elvis Presley and one of his own composition. The St Joseph's school children sang a Christmas song as well as performing an item on the meaning of Christmas and lots of children participated in the dress up Nativity play narrated by Prue Cavanagh, the Anglican youth and children's worker. The local Scouts sold cold drinks and packaged snacks. And to top it off, Rosemary O'Shannon's donkey and sheep added greatly to

the memorable occasion.

A big thank you!

The Anglicare giving tree was again supported generously by the people of the Trafalgar community. Two carloads of gifts were donated and were sent to the Morwell Anglicare office. We all know that it has been a tough year for many with families who have never needed assistance before suddenly having greatly reduced incomes as the COVID restrictions bit hard. It is so good to know that the gifts that were given by locals were able to bring some joy to fellow Gippslanders.

Trafalgar Kids Holiday Club

The popular kids program continued again this January with local children enjoying craft, woodwork, games, stories and water activities. With the support of a good number of volunteers, the Anglican church was able to again provide this community service for two sessions each, free of charge in Thorpdale, Trafalgar and Yarragon. It's wonderful to see the children enjoying fun activities, being creative and getting along so well with each other.



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Rob is young agribusiness leader

By Yvette Brand

While farming was in Rob Bayley's genetics, as a teenager he wasn't convinced he would become the fifth generation of his family to carry on the farming tradition.

But, after completing business studies, the lure of returning to the family's Blackwood Piggery at Trafalgar had some appeal.

Eight years on, Rob loves the diversity of his daily workload – "I get to work with animals, work with people, I do financials, genetics, nutrition and have a good grasp of all of them."

Introducing a bio-energy system for the farm and shed operation also was a major initiative that Rob took on and caught the attention of Food and Fibre Gippsland when he was named Young Agribusiness Leader of the Year in November last year.

Judges said Rob had displayed "impressive leadership at a local, state and national level for the pork industry and agriculture as a whole."

For Rob, it's all part of modern farming and being a good operator and neighbour in a farming community.

The Bayley name is synonymous in the Trafalgar and Yarragon area. Blackwood Piggery, began when the Bayley family took up a lease in 1901.

The bush block supporting a dairy in Yarragon was later cleared to become the base for Blackwood Piggery and a productive beef farm.

Rob's parents, Ian and Robyn, manage the Angus beef operation which includes breeding and growing them out as grass fed steers before selling the cattle to a finisher who takes them to sale weight.

The piggery was established in the 1980s by Rob's father Ian and grandfather Ralph who wanted to diversify the family dairy in Yarragon.

"Dad and grandpa had an interest in pigs and saw an opportunity in the market and an opportunity to diversify," he said.

Rob has been managing the piggery operation for the past eight years, supported by his wife Eliza.

He was attracted to the diversity of pig farming with its high-tech diets, nutrition and genetics.

Piggeries are not common in Gippsland, being too far from the grain growing regions for traditional diets but the Bayleys adapted their operation to what worked best in a dairy dominated region.

"Instead of relying solely on grain we have developed our system to utilise dairy bi-products. Historically, there were a significant number of dairy factories in Gippsland but now we also receive bi-products from the east-

ern suburbs of Melbourne.

"We mix the dairy product with a balancing diet and feed the pigs through an automated computer and valve system.

"This food source is highly nutritious and would have to be treated as waste if farms like ours didn't utilise it," Rob said.

The 550-sow farm produces 270 bacon pigs per week, sold direct to Auspork, a Melbourne based wholesaling company which distributes pork throughout Victoria to butchers and independent supermarkets.

The company is predominately farmer owned, with the Bayleys being shareholders and Rob on the board.

With power and gas a huge expense, Rob was keen to introduce a bio-energy plant.

"The sheds are climate controlled to ensure an optimal environment for the animals throughout the year. These heating and cooling systems utilise a significant amount of energy.

"Piggeries emit a lot of greenhouse gases, so we built a bio-gas energy plant to produce our own energy," he said.

All effluent and waste from the farm is pumped into a six megalitre dam daily. The dam is covered to capture the methane emitted from the pond, and a generator converts it into electricity.

The bio-energy plant generates enough power to supply the site, and excess energy is sold back into the grid. Waste heat from the generator is used to heat water which in turn is used to heat some of the sheds.

They are able to claim renewable energy credits and carbon credits for the destruction of greenhouse gas emissions.

As an added benefit, burning the methane destroys up to 80 per cent of odour emitted from the farm, which has improved the environment for staff and neighbours.

All effluent is then used to fertilise pastures for beef production.

Rob said bio-energy systems were common in European pig farming operations and he was keen to establish the project that delivered a win-win of cost savings and reduced odours.

As well as on-farm work, Rob is engaged in the national industry through Australian Pork Limited and at state level through VFF Pig Group.

He also is involved in several benchmarking programs with other farms which drives him to continually improve practices to ensure they remain competitive.

"Farming in West Gippsland is challenging given the rapid urbanisation of the region.

"My hope is that there will continue to be support to farm

in this region into the future as it is very productive agricultural land.

"Agriculture is sometimes not a career commonly considered by young people, although farming practices are rapidly

changing and I believe there is huge career opportunities in the industry.

"Organisations like Food and Fibre Gippsland are helping to promote the importance of agriculture in Gippsland and

improve the profile of the region.

"The awards have provided a great opportunity to identify and celebrate the great agribusinesses operating throughout Gippsland," Rob said.

Source: Warragul Gazette



A bio-energy system at Blackwood Piggery won Rob Bayley the Young Agribusiness Leader of the Year award

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Opp Shop record sales despite COVID-19

Trafalgar Opportunity Shop volunteers achieved record sales in 2020 despite being closed for several months due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Opp Shop presented \$45,000 to West Gippsland

Healthcare Group's Andrews House aged care, Trafalgar and \$5000 to the Trafalgar Youth Resource Centre.

Trafalgar Opp Shop president, Glenys Brennan, said volunteers were delighted to have raised the money through the sale of pre-

loved items.

"It was a most pleasing result considering the Opp Shop was closed for some months during the restriction period," she said.

"Some of our volunteers worked quietly and safely behind the scenes to assist the

community during lockdown and when the shop opened again, they worked above and beyond to meet demand."

WGHC, acting manager Andrews House director of clinical operations, Trish O'Kelly, said it was an incredible result.

"This donation will benefit residents at Andrews House with the purchase of equipment and items to improve safety, comfort and quality of life," she said.

"We thank the Trafalgar Opp Shop committee and all volunteers for their commitment

and passion to support their community.

"We also thank the community members and organisations who support the Opp Shop through donations and purchase of goods."



Trafalgar Opp Shop vice president Sue Murphy and president Glenys Brennan present a cheque for \$45,000 to West Gippsland Health Group operations manager Tess Schreyer and acting manager Andrews House, Lucy Lewis.

By John Attwell

Probus out of hibernation

I wrote an article in March last year that Probus had gone into hibernation so it has been a long time between meetings to hold a successful meeting last month.

Yes, it was a COVID compliant meeting, and a bit of a different program and morning tea arrangements, but at least we could get together and catch up as a group.

Just as importantly as being able to catch up on inductions COVID style that were made during our hibernation, as well as presentations to members who had passed milestones in

their membership of Probus.

We had over 50 members as well as 10 visitors attend this first meeting which was a great turn out.

It's great to be back and ready for more 'fun, friendship and fellowship'.

It was good to see Beverley and Otto Nielsen receive their 20 years membership awards from president Carol Achterdenbosch. They are great members and rarely miss a meeting. Well done!

Awards were also given to Leonie and Ross Pethybridge, past president as at June, and Maggie, past president, and

John Attwell, as at October, for their service to the club with many committee/volunteer roles undertaken over the last 10 years.

Our monthly walks have continued over the last part of the hibernation and this month is at the Botanical Gardens in Moe. Wayne Butterworth has done a great job keeping this going and it is well appreciated by those members who can participate and join in the physical activity and a cuppa and chat afterwards.

Probus is looking forward to a good year ahead!



Beverley and Otto Nielsen with their 20 years membership awards to Trafalgar and District Probus Club.



New Probus club members Wen and Bob Venables, Merv Moon, Kaye Moore, Pam Pinkerton, Pam Moore, Tom Pinkerton and Mick and Carol Bourke after their induction.



John and Maggie Attwell and Leonie and Ross Pethybridge were recognised for 10 years service to Probus.

Swimming pool and spa owners take note of new registration rules

More than 1150 swimming pools and spas have been registered in Baw Baw Shire since the introduction of state government regulations in December 2019.

The regulations required

property owners to register private pools and spas that are capable of holding water to a depth greater than 30 centimetres with council by November 1 2020.

Property owners who haven't registered their swimming

pools and spas will receive a letter from council reminding them to register to avoid a non-registration infringement of \$330.44.

Owners are also required to have a registered building surveyor or inspector certify that

their pool or spa safety barrier is compliant every four years.

Pool and spa owners in Baw Baw Shire are encouraged to visit the council website for more information, including the safety barrier inspection process, certificate requirements,

guidelines and the registration form.

The one-off registration fee for pools or spas constructed before November 1 2020 is \$79, which is payable at the time of registration.

New pools and spas

constructed after November 1 2020 also need to be registered at time of completion, further details can be found on the council website.

Thorpdale community funds free swims for everyone

To lift the community's spirit following a challenging 2020, the Thorpdale Swimming Pool Committee worked with Baw Baw Shire Council to provide a donation to allow the community to swim for free during the 2020-21 summer.

The generous donation covers the entry cost of the Thorpdale Primary School's swimming program and annual swimming carnival.

The Thorpdale Pool was previously managed by the community-led committee until changes in legislation resulted in council taking over the operations of the pool in 2006.

All funds raised by community volunteers continued to be held in the committee's bank account and have remained unspent. The committee recently reformed to find a way to invest the remaining funds back into the facility.

Since December 1 the pool has been open on days where the temperature is forecast to reach or exceed 25 degrees celsius.

Open days are determined at 5pm for the following day using the Warragul forecast data provided by the Bureau of Meteorology. This format allows pool-goers more time to plan their summer fun earlier than ever before.

Speaking when the news was announced, Thorpdale Pool Committee chair Natasha Hammond said it was a huge boost for the community.

"For many years the committee has held funds that were generated by community volunteers in the operation of the pool prior to Baw Baw Shire taking on the responsibility for this service," she said.

"The committee has considered options for expending these funds on improvements to infrastructure at the site. However, due to several factors and as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we now believe there is greater potential community benefit that can be derived from these funds.

"We believe by offering to donate to council to provide free swimming at Thorpdale would offer an exceptional opportunity to improve the utilisation and maximise the community benefit of council's support towards the pool."

The pool is open Monday to Friday from 3pm to 7.00pm and on weekends, school and public holidays 1pm to 7pm.

A range of safety measures are in place for all visitors, including temperature checks, check-ins and social distancing.

Pools may close prior to or during thunderstorm activity or in extreme weather conditions.

Outdoor pools in Trafalgar,

Thorpdale, Rawson, Drouin and Neerim South will be open until March 31.

More information about

council's swimming pools, including full entry pricing, locations, operating hours, and conditions of entry can be

found on council's website by searching 'swimming'.



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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Blackberry spraying blitz for Trafalgar and surrounds

Baw Baw Shire Council will spray more than 440 kilometres of local roadsides for noxious blackberry weeds this season.

Council contractors will spray 446 kilometres of council-managed roadsides until April thanks to a \$49,359 grant from

the Victorian government's Roadside Weeds and Pest Program.

Blackberry is a highly invasive weed that spreads rapidly. It is an environmental threat, crowding out native vegetation, and has significant agricultural and economic impacts.

The majority of the selected roadsides have been targeted for follow-up control from the 2017-18 roadside weed control program. This targeted approach results in a larger area being treated annually, using less chemicals.

Ragwort will also be

controlled along roadsides in the hill areas.

Roadsides around Trafalgar to be targeted this year include, but are not limited to: Giles Rd, Sunny Creek Connection Rd, Sunnyburn Rd, Williamsons Rd, Araluen Rd, Yulungah Rd, Andersons Rd, Cummings Rd,

Embletons Rd, Nine Mile Rd, Ten Mile Rd, Gibson Bros Rd, Roches Rd, Wiktor Rd, Goodings Rd and Telephone Rd; Narracan and Allambee region, Falls Rd, Lilleys Rd and Allambee Sth Rd; Willow Grove, Fumina and Tanjil; Duggan Nth Rd, Ashdown Rd, Blue Rock Rd, Cheesemans Rd,

Grays Rd, Hasthorpe Rd, Ortons Rd, Knights Rd, Laidlaws Rd, Ranch Rd, Tanjil River Rd, Staff Rd, Thalloo Rd and Hunter Rd.



Heteronyms of February

They were too close to the door to close it
The bandage was wound around the wound

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Embrace what you don’t know, especially in the beginning, because what you don’t know can become your greatest asset. It ensures that you will absolutely be doing things different from everybody else.”
--Sara Blakely

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Local podcast episode update

Liam Durkin

A couple of new episodes have been released on local journalist Liam Durkin's podcast series.

Latest episodes are with

Maffra Football-Netball Club senior coach Wayne Butcher and Trafalgar local Rhys Holdsworth talking about his cricket and football career.

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

THE ORIGINAL GO-GETTING PODCAST

WITH *Liam Durkin*

Uralla among most popular walking tracks

Step counts were high in Baw Baw Shire last year, with Trafalgar's Uralla Nature Reserve among the most frequented.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Baw Baw Shire residents have been pounding the pavement in force, using council's walking tracks and pathways at the highest rate ever recorded.

While community sport was sidelined and gyms, fitness centres and leisure facilities were closed during various stages of the pandemic, it was recommended that people take up regular walking or running to maintain their physical and mental health.

Based on council's usage records collected last year, it's clear that the community was one step ahead.

Taking in the Baw Baw scenery and getting some fresh air turned out to be the best way to get a break from the home office, classroom or gym for much of the community, with usage records being broken repeatedly since March, and over 148,000 uses captured on the recorded pathways from July to the end of September.

This recorded quarterly figure shows an increase of 88,000 uses when compared to the average figure for the same period in each of the previous three financial years. The new figures also trump the record set during April to June 2020 of 129,423.

Baw Baw Shire Director Community Infrastructure Cohen Van Der Velde said the numbers were pleasing.

"It's fantastic to see that

our community has been able to adapt and respond to the challenges the pandemic has thrown at us all by keeping active and putting one foot in front of

the other," he said.

"These record numbers highlight the importance of quality infrastructure and it's benefit to the community."

As well as Uralla Nature Reserve, council has data loggers located at various points along the following walkways and trails throughout the shire, including:

the Two-Towns Trail, between Warragul and Drouin, the Linear Trail, Warragul, between Queen St, Warragul and Nilma, the Neerim South Wetlands and Rokeby-Crossover Rail Trail.



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Water groups partner to protect Blue Rock Lake

Gippsland Water has led a joint project planting native shrubs and grass at Willow Grove to protect Blue Rock Lake from pollutants.

Managing director Sarah Cumming said the project would improve the water quality of the lake, while also benefitting the local environment.

"Visitors will notice that a section of a gully near the Blue Rock walking track at Willow Grove has been fenced and planted with native shrubs and grasses," Ms Cumming said.

"The newly planted area is designed to catch pollutants brought in by stormwater – such as rubbish, garden pesticides and grease and oil from roads – reducing the amount that enters the lake.

"This plantation improves water quality while making the process of treating it for drinking water more efficient."

Ms Cumming said the project was part of Gippsland Water's commitment to maintaining the local environment for future generations to enjoy.

"This is an effective and sustainable solution to improving raw water quality, supporting the natural environment and increasing efficiency," she said.

Gippsland Water draws from Blue Rock Lake to supply drinking water to Trafalgar, Willow Grove, Moe, Newborough and Yarragon.

The lake also supplies water to power generators, regional businesses, agriculture and the environment and is a popular

recreational boating and fishing destination.

The project was delivered in partnership with Southern Rural Water which manages Blue Rock Lake; Tanjil Landcare and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, who assisted with design and plant species selection; the graziers who lease the land; and Baw Baw Shire Council.

It is one of six Gippsland-based projects to come from the Gippsland Integrated Water Management Forum, a state government initiative as part of Water for Victoria, the strategic plan for the water resources of Victoria.



Grand Ridge Propagation's Rob Waddell assists in the ongoing management of the gully at Blue Rock Lake.



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Landslip repairs have been completed along Sunny Creek Rd, Trafalgar South.

Aggravated burglary in Traf

Police are investigating an aggravated burglary in Ward Street, Trafalgar on Monday, January 4.

The victim told police he answered a knock at the front door at about 9.50pm.

He found a man who was asking where a particular person

lived. Two other men allegedly appeared from bushes and pushed their way into the house.

The victim alleged one man held him on the ground while the other two ransacked the house while seeking the location of a safe.

Police said the offenders

stole the victim's wallet, mobile phone, cash and a safe. All three men were described as wearing dark coloured clothing and masks.

Source: Warragul Gazette

Community sponsorship program open for applications



Community Financial Assistance Program
Community Sponsorship 2020-21

The second round of Baw Baw Shire Council's 2020-21 Community Sponsorship Program will close Sunday, February 7 2021.

This year three rounds of funding are available across two categories – community events and ambassadors.

The ambassador category supports groups or individuals in representing the shire in achievements in their areas of interest, which could include arts, sporting, academic or environmental endeavours. Up to \$500 is available for individuals and \$1500 for teams.

The community event category supports the delivery of youth events and programs, one-off events and new and existing events in Baw Baw Shire, with up to \$5000 available. Potential applicants are encouraged to think creatively about how they can engage the community

with their events while society continues to be impacted by COVID-19.

In 2020 many community events were impacted by COVID-19, some events were cancelled, modified or rescheduled. In 2021 events expected to be delivered include the Gippsland Pride Gala, the Rokeby Twilight Trail Run and the Yarragon - Past, Present and Future Expo.

As part of the application process, community groups are required to get in touch with council's Events Coordinator for guidance on event planning and public event permit and insurance requirements.

To be eligible for funding, applications must be presented by not-for-profit incorporated organisations that are delivering activities in Baw Baw Shire, or are supporting an individual/team member who are residents

of Baw Baw Shire.

Community events will be assessed for achieving connectedness and inclusion, leading towards positive social outcomes and overall merit.

A third and final round for the 2020-21 financial year will open in April 2021.

Community events may still be 12 months away but can still be planned for and are eligible to receive funding.

Activities can also be delivered through an auspice arrangement, providing the eligibility criteria is met and a separate auspice application is made to council. This information is available on council's website.

For more information or to apply for sponsorship funding, visit www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/CommunitySponsorship



1
BAW BAW AMBASSADOR
up to \$500 individual
up to \$1500 group/team



2
COMMUNITY EVENTS
up to \$5,000
youth events and programs, one off events, new and existing events



www.scamwatch.gov.au

ACCC

Current COVID-19 (coronavirus) scams

Scammers are using the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus) to take advantage of people across Australia.

Scamwatch has received over 5170 scam reports mentioning the coronavirus with over \$6 280 000 in reported losses since the outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Common scams include phishing for personal information, online shopping, and superannuation scams.

If you have been scammed or have seen a scam, you can make a report on the Scamwatch website, and find more information about where to get help.

Scamwatch urges everyone to be cautious and remain alert to coronavirus-related scams. Scammers are hoping that you have let your guard down. Do not provide your personal, banking or superan-

uation details to strangers who have approached you.

Scammers may pretend to have a connection with you. So it's important to stop and check, even when you are approached by what you think is a trusted organisation.

Visit the Scamwatch news webpage for general warnings and media releases on COVID-19 scams.

These are a few examples, but there are many more. If your experience does not match any of the examples provided, it could still be a scam. If you have any doubts at all, don't proceed.

Scammers are pretending to be government agencies providing information on COVID-19 through text messages and emails 'phishing' for your information. These contain malicious links and attachments designed to steal your personal and financial information.

In the examples below the

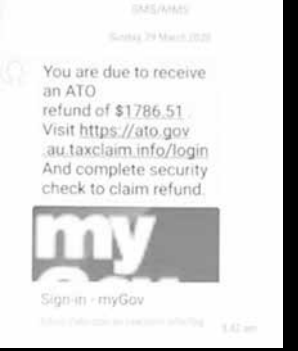
text messages appear to come from 'GOV' and 'myGov', with a malicious link to more information on COVID-19.

Tips to protect yourself from these types of scams:

Don't click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.

Go directly to the website through your browser. For example, to reach the MyGov website type 'my.gov.au' into your browser yourself.

Never respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for personal or financial details, even if they claim to be a from a reputable organisation or government authority — just press delete or hang up.



High school celebrates Val

By Wombat Lyons

Trafalgar High School held its annual valedictory dinner in early December in a smaller than normal function held on the school grounds with students only to meet due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Families and staff joined the ceremony by a live stream.

External catering from local business Silvers Bar & Grill provided the meal for the night while families, students and staff had collected native flowers and greenery from their gardens to make the room look special for the students at their final school function.

During the night, a range of awards were presented to the class of 2020 including:

2020 Koorie Education Excellence award to Charmaine Robson. Charmaine received the award as an indigenous student who had maintained high standards and achieved a high level of success as she completed her senior studies. Speaking as she received the award, Charmaine expressed thanks to her peers for their support over the year, stating she was “glad we all made it”.

2020 VCAL award to Luke Balfour. The VCAL award is given to a student who is conscientious, committed and dedicated to their studies. Luke received this award for his strong work ethic seen both in his commitment to both his VCAL subject studies as well as his commitment to the Head Start careers program which progressed in September 2020 into a full-time apprenticeship with Luke’s employer noting his excellent team work and fantastic time management.

2020 Principal award to Megan Gridley. This award is given by the school principal “to acknowledge a student who kept trying their hardest no matter what” said Principal Jane Mersey. “We have talked a lot about resilience this year, and this student has demonstrated ongoing resilience in 2020.” Ms Mersey also noted that this student applied their maximum effort at all times. Megan thanked her parents, teachers and fellow students. After Megan accepted the award, Ms Mersey also acknowledged that Megan had been offered an early university offer to the University of Tasmania to study Marine Biology in 2021.

The 2020 Valedictorian was Ethan Bertoli.

This award is given to the student with the highest marks over all subjects over the whole year, and in receiving the award, Ethan said he had planned for this from 2018. “2020 has been a year to remember, for us (class of 2020) it was always going to be a year to remember as the end of our 13 years of school education but for better or worse

all of us will remember 2020 for a long time” he said.

Ethan thanked all the school staff and noted the additional

responsibilities they picked up to support students this year. Ethan

said he was grateful to Trafalgar High School and the people in it

and that he was “excited to see where we all end up”.



Trafalgar High School principal Jane Mersey with 2020 award winners Ethan Bertoli (Valedictorian), Megan Gridley (Principal award) and Luke Balfour (VCAL award).



Charmaine Robson, pictured with Trafalgar High School principal Jane Mersey, won the Koorie Education Excellence award.

Walking against family violence

By Wombat Lyons

Trafalgar High School again took part in the Walk Against Family Violence “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” campaign late last year.

The Walk Against Family

Violence was different in 2020, where as in past years the school has taken students to the event in Melbourne’s central business district or to local government events in Warragul and Morwell, due to COVID-19 this was not

possible.

So, Trafalgar High School raised awareness of family violence and violence against women in our communities by participating in a “walk from home” event on November 25.

A group of students from Years 7, 8 and 9 and staff joined this important walk. Staff and students left the school at 12pm, walked along School Rd and Ashby St to McGregor Park, then returned to school along Church

St and the ANZAC Rd gate, returning at 12.30pm for class.

Joining students and staff in the walk was principal Jane Mersey who said “as a respectful relationships school this event shows our support for victim-

survivors and helps send a message across the community that family and domestic violence is never okay.”



Cooper Walsh, Belinda Pugliese (school chaplain), Cyntbia Grima (English teacher), Mitchell Sexton, Connor Raines and Connor Seymour during the walk.

Community service award for Ellie

By Wombat Lyons

Trafalgar High School awarded its annual community service award to Ellie De Van Der Schueren, a 2020 Year 11 student for her consistent contribution to the school community, especially in the performing arts communities.

Ellie was presented the award as part of the school senior awards presentation assembly in early December, held in the school gymnasium.

Ms Dorothy Hoare OAM was unable to present the award in person due to COVID-19 restrictions, so announced Ellie as the recipient by video message.

The award carries Ms Hoare’s name as recognition of her massive contribution to the community of Trafalgar.

Dorothy was a foundation member of the Lioness Club of Trafalgar in 1980 and over her time in the club served in roles including president and secretary.

Dorothy was the inaugural chairman of the Trafalgar Youth Resource Centre and now 23 years later remains an active

committee member. She spent two years on the Trafalgar Community Development association and after retiring

from the nursing profession in 1992, returned to the health sector as a volunteer on the Baw Baw Latrobe primary care

partnerships community advisory committee for four years. Each year, Trafalgar High School presents the community

service award in her name.

Ellie’s contributions included running a lunchtime and after school drama club

and supported fundraising for international student trips in 2018 and 2019.



Trafalgar High School student Ellie De Van Der Schueren is presented the Dorothy Hoare OAM Award from principal Jane Mersey.

Students ready to lead in 2021

By Wombat Lyons

Trafalgar High School has announced its 2021 house and club Captains. These senior students will join the student leadership team in arranging activities for their peers.

The house captains have a focus on sports and social activity, while the arts and science captains will focus on these key areas of community life.

House captains are: Ali Luders, Harry McCabe, Charli Rohde and Meg Macumber (Nelson), Zara Pettifer, Hardy Kenny, Amy Cameron and Eloise Fischer (Hawke), Owen Zimora,

Jordan Garrat, Ruby Brand and Ayla Dwyer (Jervis), and Hannah Bonnici, Campbell Dastey, Teesha Stewart and Chloe King (Drake).

Club captains are: Vanessa Hornby, Alan Valenzuela, Steven

Vans and Nicola Yfantis (arts), and Liam Luke and Ewan Jarvis (science and environment).

The successful applications for these roles were announced

by the student leadership team of Oscar Robinson, Dylan Gauci, Chloe Rees and Rori Koppen at the final senior school assembly last year.



Nelson captains Harry McCabe, Charli Rohde, Ali Luders and Meg Macumber.



Hawke captains Zara Pettifer, Eloise Fischer, Amy Cameron and Hardy Kenny



Drake captains Hannah Bonnici, Campbell Dastey and Teesha Stewart (absent Chloe King).



Jervis captains Ruby Brand, Owen Zimora, Jordan Garrat and Ayla Dwyer.

Cubby corner brings school community together

By Taryn Maxwell-Garratt

late last year, St Joseph's Primary School was gifted a grant from the Bendigo Bank aptly named 'The Cubby House Creates Creativity Project'.

The grant enabled the school to purchase two cubbies and two tepees which has turned an unused area into a vibrant play

area for all.

The cubby corner is a wonderful addition to the outdoor learning space, with the vegetable patch and citrus grove nearby.

The cubby corner has helped to stimulate many student's imagination and help them to socially engage with other

students whilst developing their communication skills.

The cubby corner has allowed students to learn how to work in groups, share, negotiate, resolve conflicts and learn self-advocacy skills.

Play allows children to use their creativity while developing

their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive and emotional strength.

Through play, children develop new competencies that lead to enhanced confidence and resilience. The cubby corner is a space teachers utilise during outdoor learning in addition to

their classrooms.

St Joseph's has a wonderful school community spirit where a sense of belonging and involvement is encouraged and promoted.

The vibrant cubby corner has enhanced the school grounds and student's creativity and learning

has flourished with this extra outdoor learning play space.

The school wishes to thank Roman Cathomen, Jason, Kai and Ben for constructing the cubbies and tepee. Your work is very much appreciated!



St Joseph's Primary School students Jason Blacksaw, Ben Plozza and Kai Paul in the new cubby house.



The new cubby house and tepee amid other school yard attractions.

A day in Japan in Trafalgar

By Susan Taylor (Japanese teacher at St Joseph's Trafalgar)

In a year when travel overseas is off the table, the language and culture of Japan came to us.

Students and staff at St Joseph's Primary School, Trafalgar dressed up in the colours of the Japanese flag (red and white) and enjoyed a variety of Japanese cultural activities such as manga drawing (Japanese cartoons), origami, reading Japanese books, and

games. Setsubun, a Japanese tradition of throwing beans to send away the bad spirits and invite good spirits in was celebrated with mask making.

The most popular activity of the day was "Sumo Socks". Only lightly related to the culturally revered traditional Sumo wrestling, in sumo socks the aim is to pull a

sock off your opponent.

The day concluded with the whole school dancing "Tokyo Ondo", a traditional festival dance. Teachers were the first to learn and do the dance, with each grade level joining our circle until the whole school was dancing together on the basketball court.

We were a micro-climate of Japanese culture for the day.



Students partake in "Tokyo Ondo" during their Japanese themed day.

Companion animal socialisation

By Dr Kerrie Piper



Many Australians welcomed a new pet to their homes over the last year and we're getting a lot of questions regarding socialisation of these new animals.

Everyone seems to know they should socialise their pet,

but most people actually don't really understand what it means to have a socialised pet or how to achieve it with their pets.

Socialisation is a process where we introduce our pets to the world around them, and to our lifestyle. Socialisation is not a place or event or even a thing we do to our pets - we don't do it 'to' our dogs and cats, we do it 'with' our dogs and cats.

Socialisation has already started by the time you pick up your puppy or kitten from the breeder. Selecting a knowledgeable breeder can be an important factor in helping

your new companion becomes well socialised.

For many dogs, some amount of socialisation is ongoing throughout their life, although for puppies it is critically important. Socialisation is the learning process which helps your dog feel comfortable and safe in the world they must live in. A socialised dog can be in a busy environment and let it pass by without becoming overly excited or fearful - picture a Guide Dog.

These are some of the most well socialised dogs we encounter, but they pass

people without acknowledging them, and they don't seek out interactions with other animals.

Typical dogs are designed to become used to everyday things until they reach a certain age (usually around 14 weeks of age). After this age, dogs become more suspicious of things they haven't yet experienced. This ensures that the developing juvenile dog has a healthy caution to new things, some of which may in fact pose a risk to them. For cats, the socialisation period ends earlier, usually around eight weeks of age.

It helps to know not only what socialisation is, but also what it is not.

Socialisation is not making your dog or cat want to always go out with you, to go everywhere all the time. A socialised pet is not a pet who wants to meet or play with other animals all the time. Socialisation does not mean you make your pet love everything and everyone, only that they are content and comfortable amongst a variety of events.

The ultimate goal for socialisation is to have a dog or cat who is comfortable and not unreasonably anxious, fearful

or stressed in day to day life and easy to enjoy spending time with no matter where you go in life.

To find out more about socialisation, you can phone the clinic on 5633 1327.

We are now taking new enrolments for puppy school. Our Catch Up Socialisation Course for dogs who may seem boisterous or nervous is also still available for older puppies or dogs.



Photo by Mia Anderson on Unsplash

By Jules Rogalsky

New Doctor joining Trafalgar Medical



With the start of a new year, Trafalgar Medical welcomes Dr Tom Kefford to the clinic and town.

Dr Kefford is another local doctor. He was born in West Gippsland Hospital and has lived in Warragul most of his life. He left Warragul for a brief time to study in the city at Melbourne University and Monash University, and has now settled in the area.

For the previous four years, Dr Tom has worked at the West Gippsland Hospital and

more recently Gladstone Street Medical Clinic. He is especially interested in preventative health care, emergency medicine and children's health. Dr Tom also likes education and training, and will spend some of his time with Eastern Victoria GP Training, educating GP registrars.

When not at work, Dr Tom loves to play sports, such as running, swimming and surfing. He was even a member of Trafalgar Victory for a season a few years back. Tom is looking

forward to working in Trafalgar, becoming involved in the community and celebrating an Essendon premiership!

It is also pleasing to note that doctors Ben Tang, Vidhya Subramaniam and Caitlyn Bialy are staying on at Trafalgar Medical to finish their final stages of general practice training. Doctors Gemelle Spriggs and Irene Chong also return from maternity leave. These doctors are all offering face to face and telehealth consultations.

Dr James Brown said it was great to welcome new and returning doctors to the Trafalgar Medical team.

"We are starting to prepare ourselves and the clinic for the COVID vaccination program and a more proactive approach to chronic disease management. We acknowledge our role in the National response to the COVID pandemic," he said.

"More doctors will increase appointments and ensure our patients and the greater Trafalgar community can see a clinician in a timely basis, without leaving the town.

"We are fortunate in having health professionals who have excellent skills and expertise who are committed to rural health care."

Trafalgar Primary Care located opposite Trafalgar Medical continues to grow and expand. This month, we will be running general practice and nurse practitioner sessions from this location. This is in addition to the current suite of services that include: X-ray, ultrasound, echocardiographs, psychology, telehealth, audiology, mental health nursing, podiatry, osteopathy and paediatric continence nursing.

Call 5633 2986 to make an appointment or drop in to Trafalgar Primary Care to find out more about the different allied and ancillary services.

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.



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

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 February at 5.30pm in Fountain Room at the West Gippsland Arts Centre.

All community members are welcome to attend. Bookings are required due to COVID-19 restrictions and can be made via the Council website.

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, on social media or via Live Chat on our website.

Community to help decide use for former Yarragon School site

What do you want to see happen at 3-5 Rollo Street Yarragon, the former Yarragon Primary School Site?

Council is engaging the local community to help develop a masterplan for the site.

Potential uses could include playgrounds, recreation spaces, community gardens or sporting areas.

Do you have ideas you want to share? Go to bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay and complete the survey before 19 February.

Subscribe today!

Want more news? Sign up to receive this bulletin and fortnightly Council Meeting Snapshots straight to your inbox at bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Subscribe



Have your say on changes to waste and recycling

Major changes are coming to how we handle waste and recycling in Victoria. So, we're putting together a new Waste Management Plan for Baw Baw and we want your help to make some important decisions as a community.

In February 2020, the Victorian Government released its new *Recycling Victoria* policy. It introduces some key changes to statewide waste management aimed at making Victoria cleaner and greener and keeping waste out of landfill. Key changes include:

- **Food scraps into green waste bins** (also known as FOGO - Food Organics and Garden Organics).
- **A statewide container deposit scheme** (so you can swap empty cans and bottles for cash).
- **Separation of glass** from other recyclables.

To implement the changes here in Baw Baw, there are some important decisions for waste and recycling that we'll need to make together as a community. And that's what our new draft Waste Management Plan is all about.

How to have your say

To find out more and get involved in the decision making process to help us get our new Waste Management Plan right for everyone visit www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/wmp2020

Make a splash this summer at your local pool

Our seasonal pools in Drouin, Neerim South, Rawson, Thorpdale and Trafalgar are open to enjoy all summer long.

Seasonal pools will open when the temperature is forecast to reach or exceed 25 degrees Celsius (except Rawson and Warragul which are not weather dependent). Open days will be determined at 5.00pm for the following day using the Warragul forecast data provided by the Bureau of Meteorology.

More information, including full entry pricing, locations, operating hours, and conditions of entry can be found on Council's website.



What's coming up at West Gippsland Arts Centre

West Gippsland Arts Centre is *back to live*, bringing you a range of shows to enjoy in 2021.

Upcoming shows

- **Rabbit Hole performed by Off the Leash Theatre** Thursday 25 February to Sunday 28 February
- **Cadd & Morris** Thursday 4 March
- **The Travelling Wilburys Sessions** Saturday 6 March
- **Elvis - If I Can Dream** Saturday 20 March
- **Beauty and Beast performed by the Victorian State Ballet** Sunday 21 March
- **Jimeoin** Saturday 24 April
- **Wicked performed by Warragul Theatre Company** Friday 21 May to Saturday 29 May

For more details and to book tickets visit www.wgac.com.au



Let the Hidden Treasures Hunt begin

Baw Baw is home to many different pieces of public art and we want you to help us locate them all.

We've launched the Hidden Treasures Hunt to encourage community and visitors to Baw Baw to identify pieces of public art all across the Shire, from sculptures and statues to murals, paintings and any other artistic form.

The hunt aims to broaden Council's public art register, which allows us to assess the condition of each piece of art and develop an ongoing inspection and maintenance program.

All you need to participate is your smart phone, the Snap Send Solve app and a keen eye.

The hunt will run until 31 March, with the prizes awarded to whoever records the most pieces of artwork - but remember, all public artwork must be within Baw Baw.

For more details visit bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/hiddentreasureshunt

Immunisation session times

Warragul
Monday 1 February
9.30am - 11.00am

Wednesday 10 February
4.30pm - 6.00pm

Saturday 20 February
9.30am - 11.00am

Trafalgar
Tuesday 26 February
5.00pm - 6.30pm

Tuesday 26 March
5.00pm - 6.30pm

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

Farming News

Foot-and-mouth preparations

Working on the principle that 'prevention is better than cure', a group of dairy producers in the Macalister Irrigation District have lobbied to prepare for a possible outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

A passion to protect the industry and region from emergency disease outbreaks brought MID farmers, private veterinarians, rural banks and researchers together.

They have worked collaboratively in the past three years as part of a national stakeholder emergency disease consultation group.

The group is part of a larger research project to improve Australia's preparedness for animal disease outbreaks — with foot-and-mouth disease at the forefront.

Foot-and-mouth disease, (not to be confused with foot-rot), is a highly contagious virus, and one of the most serious livestock diseases.

It is easily transmitted through the air and in food scraps, and causes cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep, goats and pigs to suffer severe swelling and frothing at the mouth before dying.

An outbreak in the United

Kingdom in 2001 led to a crisis in British agriculture and tourism, with more than six million cows and sheep killed.

By the time the disease was halted, it was estimated to have cost the UK eight billion pounds.

Local farming stalwarts Jakob Malmo, Jeannette Howie, Hans van Wees and Anthony Cliff worked with Robobank rural manager Tony Platt, Pat Kluyer from the Victorian Farmers' Federation and Michael Roberts from Agriculture Victoria have been working to consider what could be done at a regional level to reduce the chance of a disease outbreak.

The group also included veterinarian Mark Nielan, GippsDairy representatives and researchers from Charles Sturt University.

Ms Howie said the research had been a thorough undertaking.

"We've met monthly for three years developing what were the current responses within the local area should there be a major disease outbreak," she said.

"We developed through the program with input from farmers and veterinary experts as to the most appropriate way to manage a foot-and-mouth breakout within the district.

"It was a project launched

by Charles Sturt University — it was a national project and they had decided that the Macalister irrigation area and surrounds would be where they would have their dairy focus."

The group has advocated strongly to have all stock properly identified, which Ms Howie said was vital to ensuring animal movements were traceable.

"It safeguards all of our livestock in Australia," she said.

"One of the concerns was the fact now that we see so many small holdings, hobby farmer-type people — lots of those people might have a couple of sheep or a couple of cows ... you'll swap your sheep for some meat off a fella who has a couple of cows, that sort of thing," she said.

"So you're getting movement of animals between smaller holdings and the animals not identified in many cases, so one of the targets we came to reinforce to them is just how important as a disease control method it is to have your stock registered and identified."

Taking on the name 'FMD Ready', the group has sent recommendations to government officials to address issues that have the potential to affect local biosecurity.

These issues have included the decline in animal disease

information being collected at knackeries, as well as the regulatory appearance of the uniforms worn by state government vets and biosecurity officers, contributing to a perceived lack of approachability.

The group has also prepared a flyer, which was mailed out within the MID region recently.

VFF backs ACCC report into unfair trading environment

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) welcomed the recommendations of the ACCC's recently released Perishable Agricultural Goods Inquiry Report and supports calls for new fair trading law to address harmful practices arising from bargaining power imbalance.

VFF Chicken Meat Group president Vince Croston said the chicken meat industry in particular has been subjected to unfair contract laws for far too long.

"Australians on average consume almost more chicken products per capita than any other country, but many growers simply aren't seeing any benefit at all from this local demand," he said.

"We've known this has been a huge problem for farmers for many years and we hope this power imbalance they

face against the retailers and processors in the supply chain is rectified.

"For the viability of the industry, it's critical farmers receive a fair and balanced price for the world-class product they deliver."

Mr Croston said the VFF had been advocating for a review into competition failures negatively impacting farmers and was looking forward to key aspects of the Report being adopted.

"We strongly support the introduction of an economy-wide unfair trading practises prohibition to address conduct that causes enormous harm to businesses," he said.

"It's also essential that the current voluntary Food and Grocery Code becomes mandatory to set standards and benchmarks for grocery retailers and wholesalers.

"All we are asking for is a fairer system and one that tips the scales of balance back towards our farmers."

VFF new president has a local connection

Mirboo North's own Emma Germano was elected president of the VFF late last year.

Ms Germano is managing director of her mixed-farming operation, growing premium quality fresh vegetables for local

and export markets, as well as running sheep and beef cattle.

She previously held the role of VFF vice-president and is the current VFF Horticulture Group president and was acknowledged as a Nuffield Scholar in 2014 for her research examining global export opportunities for Australian primary producers.

Ms Germano is passionate about building on the legacy of the VFF by evolving and modernising the organisation, utilising assets responsibly and effectively, fostering a connected and engaged regional and rural farming community.

Ms Germano succeeds David Jochinke who served as president since 2016.

VFF returning officer and chief executive Stephen Sheridan welcomed the next generation of leaders poised to be the voice of the VFF and Victorian farmers.

"I congratulate Emma on her appointment and look forward to working with her and the wider VFF team to deliver the best possible outcomes for our members and regional Victorians over the coming years," Mr Sheridan said.

Farewell to local Parish leaders

Deirdre Crawley on behalf of Parish Council.

She and Ross Jacka have been with us for nearly 12 years, now, and they have shared an extensive ministry among not just our Parish family, but also the Community.

It has come time, now, to say farewell, and wish them well as they are called to their new Parish, at St Marys, Morwell.

We would like to invite you to a celebration of Ministry at St Marys, Anglican Church On Sunday 14 February, 2021

Holy Communion Service is at 0930, and morning Tea / light lunch is from 11.00am in the adjoining Community Church Hall.

We look forward to the pleasure of sharing this time with you. We are a Covid Safe Community.

Please RSVP via safminst-marys19@yahoo.com, by Friday 12 February, 2021.



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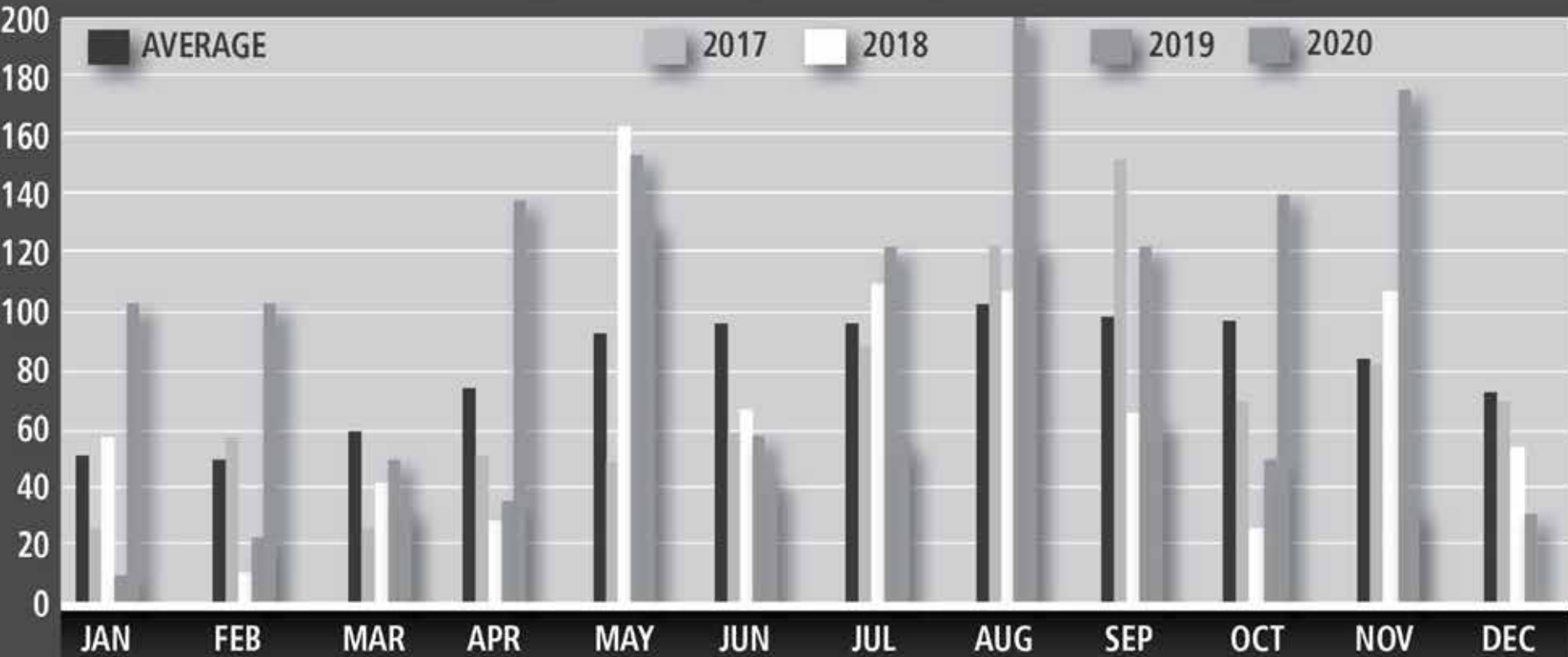
TRAFALGAR HOLDEN MUSEUM

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Ph: 5633 1684 74 Waterloo Road Trafalgar

TRAFALGAR MONTHLY RAINFALL



This graph compares the monthly rainfall received in Trafalgar in 2020 with, 2017, 2018, 2019, and average monthly rainfall since records began.
The monthly rainfall for November 2020 was 32.5mm

Trafalgar Holden Museum driving into 2021 at full noise

Bob Moss

At last the museum has been able to reopen again, all be it under new rules and with some restrictions.

Although the museum has been forced to shut down over much of the 2020 year, some good has been made of the time. One by one each display room has been emptied of display items and the floors and walls washed down and repainted. Displays were moved into different areas and some new displays were installed. With the closing down of General Motors Holden, and their dealers, many items from them have found their way to our Museum

Meanwhile the Holden built tram is in place and a crew of locals have volunteered to do the restoration. You will see that the colour has changed from green to the original brown colours that it was originally painted. The interior has been re-varnished and the seating reinstalled.

In the workshop a 1942 Chevrolet sedan from WW2 is being completely restored bodily and hopefully it will be on display by the middle of the

year.

Mick Brennan has nearly completed the restoration of the 40FT Holden workboat from WW2, and it also will be on show by mid year

Also the big event of this year will be the opening of the new building featuring the early history of Holden. The building is a copy of the original Holden and Son building in Adelaide and will contain all the various shop fronts of the different Holden businesses from the 1850s to the start of Holden Motors Body Builders in 1914.

Along with these tasks the reviewing of the future exhibitions are to be carried out. These include the display area in the old Gym area, after the articles presently in there are moved into the new Holden and Son building. This area is where the equipment produced by Holden for the Boer War, WW1 and the WW2 display will be displayed. This will include many artefacts such as uniforms, weapons, artillery, vehicles and a plane

Also the Museum has plans to make the Museum more visible from the Highway by

installing, elevated on steel poles, a Holden car at the front display yard.

In line with museum conditions every article owned must be catalogued, labelled and photographed. This task is now in the process of being done with overseeing from the Melbourne Museum

One other need is to obtain grant money to build another display area on the site of the old run down factory building. This area is presently used to store the excess materials that we have no show room area available or is not in a satisfactory condition to use as a display

All and all this past year has been mixed one, with having to shut the doors to the public. But on the other hand it has given the volunteers time to carry out much needed maintenance ready for the following years and the growth of this museum.

We give our thanks to all the volunteers who gave of their time and labour throughout the year to make this museum the success it is, and will continue to be in the future.



Front of the Holden Museum



Trafalgar Holden Museum's new building

AROUND THE
HISTORICAL
Society

By Dianne Ireland

Let's hope 2021 will be a much kinder year for us all. The Historical Society has been in recess for much of December and January but hopefully now we can resume our work.

In time for Christmas, the December issue of the Trafalgar and District Historical Society Gazette was released. In this issue, number 97, articles of interest include Trafalgar's changing face, school pupils and teachers, and 2020 and the virus. For \$4, you can purchase this at the newsagency, the post office and EdComp.

Another publication which became available just before Christmas was the summer edition of Gippsland Lifestyle magazine. This is a commercial publication which includes a feature on Trafalgar. Many of the photos and notes are the product of many years of research undertaken by the Trafalgar and District Historical Society and Mrs Jean Huffer the current archivist in particular.

These provided much of the information for the historical component of this feature and are an indication of how extensive our holdings are. Also in this magazine we read about John Handley and his soon to be published book called The Moe Swamp, Yulungah and

Trafalgar East: A Story of the People, Postal and Telephone Services. John has spent many years researching and writing of the postal history of our area. There is also an article on the Holden Museum. It seems history in Trafalgar is alive and well, despite all 2020 has thrown at us.

All going to plan, the first meeting of the Society should be held Thursday, February 18 at a time yet to be determined.

For further information, please phone Jean Huffer on 5633 1960.

How to prepare for a will

By Trafalgar solicitor Jade Macgregor

Here are some things that you should consider before attending your appointment to make a will:

Executors: who will you appoint as your executors? I always suggest that there be at least two people appointed. They need to be over the age of 18 and someone that you trust.

Most often they are your adult children who are generally also the beneficiaries of the estate. If your children are not over the age of 18, or you don't have children, then you can appoint a sibling, parent or even a family friend. In some instances, a solicitor or accountant can also be appointed.

Specific gifts: Do you have any specific items that you want to leave to specific people? If so, it

is best to make a list of the items and who they should be given to. Specific gifts can include items such as heirlooms, jewelry, cars, boats etc. They are generally items that have significant sentimental or monetary value.

The estate: who would you like to benefit from your estate? This can be a simple, "all to my children in equal shares" or a more complicated arrangement where different people are receiving different assets. You do not need to provide an inventory of every bank account or asset that you hold, unless you are planning on leaving specific assets to a variety of different people.

Guardian for infants or minors: who do you trust to raise your children? This is generally a sticking point for most parents,

and a circumstance that they don't want to consider. However, if the worst does happen, and both parents do pass away, having a guardian appointed can give a lot of peace of mind. It is not absolutely necessary to appoint a guardian in the will, but for a lot of people it gives reassurance that their children will be in good hands. If no guardian is appointed under the will, the Family Court will make the decision as to who will be the guardian.

If you have been considering having a will prepared, appointments can be made via the website www.jmacgregorlegal.com, by emailing jade@jmacgregorlegal.com or calling Jade on 0421 467 270.



J MACGREGOR
LEGAL

JADE MACGREGOR
PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR

E: jade@jmacgregorlegal.com
P: 0421 467 270
W: www.jmacgregorlegal.com



Farewell to friends

The following list is of people whose death was recorded by Trafalgar Historical Society during 2020. Due to the timing of the publication of the society's official publication, some of

those recorded may have died in late 2019.

Traf News thanks Trafalgar Historical Society for providing the following information.

We apologise if the list is not complete

Allan Maxwell (Max) Roberts
Alexander Reginald (Alec) Monteith
Angela Minichiello
Barry John Duncan
Beryl Holdsworth (Herweg)
Betty Irene Kennedy (Smith)
Betty Lorraine Bayley (Boyles)
Christine Makin
Clare Gatti
David Mickle
David Stanley O'Hara
Dominic Flores

Late of Willow Grove
Formerly of Trafalgar
Formerly of Yarragon
Late of Trafalgar
Formerly of Trafalgar
Late of Trafalgar
Formerly of Trafalgar
Formerly of Trafalgar
Late of Willow Grove
Formerly of Trafalgar

Donald Clifford Johnson
Donald James McCulloch
Donald James Webb
Dorothy Helen (Dot) Heard
Dorothy Jean Fleming
Elizabeth Jane Collins (Kingsley)
Elva Jenner (Hocking)
Fred Warren
Gabrielle Louise Lincoln (Durkin)
Gloria Margaret Wallace (Parke)
Gregory John Harding
Harvey Poole
Hazel Trigg Carne (Erbs)
Isobel Shirley Robins (Hallyburton)
Ivan Clifford Edgar Hull
Ivan Reginald Eagle
Jeffrey Campbell Pearson
John Robert Murphy
John William Sullivan
Kathleen (Kath) Sim (Elliot)

Late of Trafalgar
Formerly of Trafalgar
Formerly of Trafalgar
Late of Trafalgar
Andrew House
Late of Narracan
Formerly of Trafalgar
Late of Shady Creek
Late of Thorpdale
Late of Trafalgar
Late of Hill End
Formerly of Thorpdale
Formerly of Trafalgar
Late of Trafalgar
Formerly of Trafalgar
Formerly of Willow Grove
Late of Trafalgar
Late of Trafalgar
Formerly of Trafalgar
Late of Trafalgar

Kathleen Joan Carswell (Rankin)
Keith John Sewell
Myles Francis Kelly
Paul Anthony Erbs
Peter Lance Hill
Peter O'Hern
Raymond George (Digger) Fowler
Richard Noel Smithett
Robert (Bob) Stone
Robert Keith Pickering
Robert Sapkin
Ron Russell
Ronald Henry (Ron) Smith
Ronald Reginald Paynter
Ruth Jeanette Fozard (Brown)
Shirley Rodda
Terrence John (Tezza) Geary
Theresa May Rizzetti

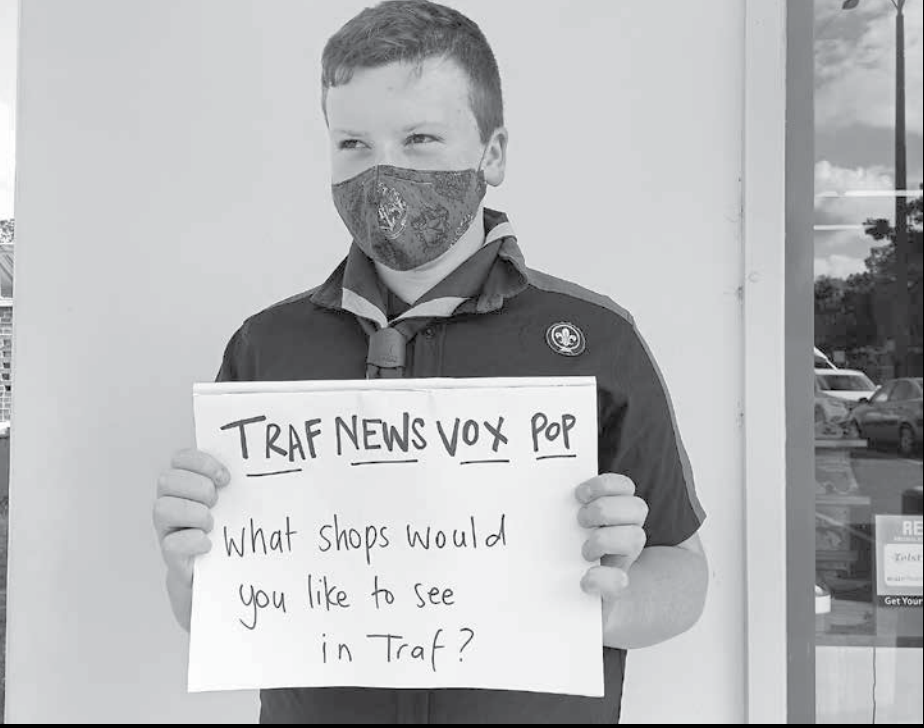
Formerly of Trafalgar
Late of Trafalgar
Andrew House
Late of Trafalgar
Late of Trafalgar
Formerly of Trafalgar
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Formerly of Trafalgar
Late of Trafalgar
Formerly of Trafalgar
Late of Trafalgar
Late of Yarragon
Formerly of Trafalgar East
Late of Trafalgar
Late of Trafalgar
Late of Yarragon
Formerly of Trafalgar




VOX-POP

"What shops would you like to see in Traf?"


1st Trafalgar Scout: Matthew Porter






Jamie Boyles of Trafalgar

"Shops of interest that will bring people to the town"



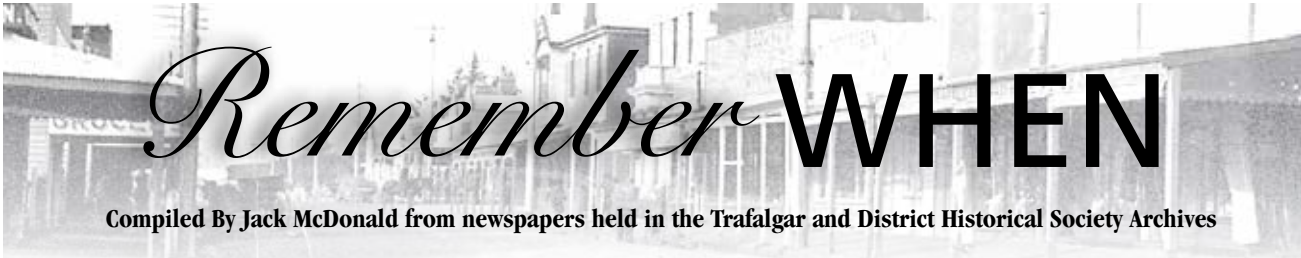
Becca Crane of Trafalgar

"Things aimed at teenagers, somewhere they could hang out"



Matt Muscat of Trafalgar

"Another supermarket to offer variety and competition"



Trafalgar, Yarragon & Yallourn News, February, 1931

February 5 – “Summerlea”

The well-known guest house, “Summerlea”, situated on the Prince’s Highway just east of Trafalgar, is under new management and can now give patrons the very best of service – both in regards to living quarters and the dining table. Spacious rooms, hot and cold water and first class meals, etc., cater for all. Ed. note – This Trafalgar landmark was burnt down in 1941.

Local Harmony

In the early part of Sunday evening last, during the children’s hour for listeners-in to the local Trafalgar radio station 3TR, the Trafalgar Presbyterian children sang various items – Miss Fitzgerald conducting and officiating at the organ.

February 19 – Yarragon Cycling Club

The formation of a cycle club at Yarragon will be of great benefit, not only to the young fellows who have joined up, but to the district generally. This district was renowned in pre-war days for its cycling, which was a feature of sports meetings. The Yarragon club is sure to get good support from neighbouring towns.

February 26 – Choral Choir Pleases

The Methodist Choral Society made their first stage appearance at Trafalgar last week and achieved a distinct triumph. With the eager anticipation of hearing a large trained choral choir in action, a big crowd assembled in the hall.

Trafalgar Memorial Hall

The property surrounding the Trafalgar Memorial Hall is being improved and a hedge and flowers are to be planted. This handsome building will thus be situated in an appropriate setting.

Write In To Paper

We want all the people to write into this paper. Send in jokes, short stories, little interesting incidents that happen in your daily lives – anything that you think would be of interest to other people. Don’t think that you are too young, or too old, because we want this paper to be as interesting as possible to everybody.

Gippsland News, February, 1961

February 2 – Trafalgar Marching Girls

At the Marching Girls contest held at Maffra on the 29th January the Trafalgar “Latroettes” (midget team), won the Fall-in and Inspection over teams in all sections, the March Past over all teams; second over all in Own Choice Display and second placing in the aggregate, whilst young Sally Laybourne was judged best leader of the day.

Asian Students Enjoy Trafalgar

Eleven Asian students (6 boys and 5 girls) were guests last weekend of members of the Rotary Club of Trafalgar. The visitors were met in Melbourne and transported to Trafalgar by car. They were accommodated in the homes of club president Harold Bayley, Wal Mathews, Jack Cook, Russ Jolly, Peter Carter, Colin Flood and Alan Johnson. During their stay the students were shown all over the local area and a visit to the S.E.C. works at Yallourn.

Cows Killed By Lightning

A freak storm struck in the Thorpdale district last week with tragic results for one farmer who lost two milking cows and a heifer when they were struck dead by lightning. Another Thorpdale resident, Mr Dick Parkes, had a narrow escape from serious injury when lightning struck in the vicinity of his cow shed and hurled him to the ground.

February 9 – Ex-Residents Wanted

Arrangements for the Trafalgar and District Ex-Residents re-union and beach picnic at Mordialloc on March 5, are now complete, and all that is required is a fine day. All ex-residents are requested to make a special effort to attend this picnic as there are over 600 ex-residents residing in the metropolitan area and this could be one of the biggest country re-unions ever held.

February 16 – Rev. Father Daly Celebrates

On Thursday last, February 9, Rev. Father J. D. Daly, Parish Priest of Trafalgar, celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Ordination to the Priesthood. Father Daly was born in Cork, Ireland, and was educated there by the Christian Brothers. Upon Ordination he came to Australia where he was Curate at Warragul, Yarram, Sale and Bairnsdale, and then Parish Priest at Orbost and Trafalgar. During the war he was a Chaplain with the R.A.A.F.

Death Of Boer War Veteran

Gradually the veterans of the Boer War are departing. With the death of Mr Francis Byford, of Thorpdale Road, Trafalgar, on Friday last, yet another of our stalwarts passed to his reward. He was 84 years of age, and the end came peacefully at the Yallourn Hospital.

February 23 – “Princess Of Flowers” Contest

The “Princess of Flowers” competition conducted annually by the Narracan Shire Garden Club to select a representative to contest the title of “Latrobe Valley Princess of Flowers”, attracted four entrants, and was judged at McGregor Park on Monday evening last. The four charming entrants were: Misses Lynette Eades, Beryl Turner, Carole Dillon and Gail Ryan.

Apex Carnival

The three-day carnival staged at McGregor Park in Trafalgar last weekend by the Trafalgar Apex Club proved a great success. It is estimated that over one thousand people enjoyed the fun. The club hopes to be able to hand over a substantial sum of money to the swimming pool committee.

Traf News, February, 2003

February – Australia Day Celebrations

The members of the Lions Club of Trafalgar catered for breakfast at the Australia Day celebrations held in the Community Centre. Organiser of the catering staff, Graham McKenzie had every last detail down pat, with the 12 Lion members there to assist. Eighty people turned up to hear Dr. Milosh Ivanovich, a multi talented recipient of the Victorian Young Achievers of the Year (2000), who spoke on his life since arriving in Australia at the age of nine, with no English, and how he had gone on to gain his PhD and become one of Australia’s leading authorities on telegraphic engineering and network modelling.

Telephone Survey

“Traf News” will be undertaking a survey of approximately 100 residents in the next month or two to gain an understanding of whether or not it is meeting your needs and expectations. If you receive a telephone call asking if you wish to participate in the survey, I encourage you to give frank answers so that we can improve the paper.

More Beds For Andrews House

A desperate need for aged care beds at Trafalgar has finally been met with the Federal Government’s announcement to fund 20 high care beds at Andrew House. The State Government announced at the 1999 election that \$4 million (\$5.8 million today) would be made available for building works associated with the expansion of Andrews House.

Car Park Completed

The car park behind the Baw Baw Technology Centre is now complete, with lines and all! It’s a pity though that five of the trees planted in the strip in the middle have been “vandalised” – they were all broken off. The next stage of the streetscape for Trafalgar will be starting on the Princes Highway. The council is also looking at a replacement for the toilet block at the Contingent Street entrance to the car park.

Trafalgar Cubs And Scouts

The Cubs and Scouts are combining for a pool night next Monday (10th Feb.) where they will improve their water skills and have some fun. A big year is envisaged, as both groups will be working towards badges. The Cubs will start work on earning their Bronze Boomerang badge during first term and the Scouts are halfway through working on their Pioneer badge.

Trafalgar Park Bowls Club

The club Singles Championships have now been completed and the number of entries in both categories was excellent, with almost every member of the club competing for the right to represent the club in the Gippsland Champion of Champions. Mark Chaplain is the Club Champion for the year. Pearl Lenz is the Lady Champion, while Peter and Daniel Farmer won the Men’s Pairs Championship. The Ladies Pairs Championship was won by Pearl Lenz and Rae Brown.

Golf Champions Display

A Champions Gallery using the Champions Trophy as its centrepiece, flanked by photographs of the Pro-Am winners for the past 11 years now stands proudly on display in the Trafalgar Golf Club’s Spike Bar. Each year the new champion will be added.

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
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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
	Cuppa and conversation
	JAFFAS after school program
	10.45am
	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

Story behind mysterious church song

By Liam Durkin

Parishioners to St Johns, Trafalgar in years gone by may recall long time parish priest Father Tom O’Connell reciting a certain patter song during his services.

The song detailed the journeys of a poor and rich man, with both enduring different fates in the afterlife.

It was categorised by a fast moving tempo and nonsense words in the chorus, as well as use of the syllable ‘um’ tacked

onto the end of each line.

In order to ensure this song isn’t lost to time, Liam Durkin, with the help of Julianne Keily, have found the lyrics and origins of the tune.

Some research indicates the song was penned in the mid-1950s by American folk singer Sam Hinton.

The song is titled ‘Hi Ho Jerum’ and was included on Hinton’s 1956 album ‘Family Tree of Folk Songs’.

Over the years various adaptations have been created, and numerous versions are believed to be in use.

While these may not be the full and concise lyrics, they are as close as this writer can recall during his time at St Joseph’s Primary School from 2000 to 2006.

There was a rich man and he lived in Jerusalem,

Glory hallelujah bi-ro-je-rum.He wore a silk bat and his

coat was very sprucium, Glory hallelujah bi-ro-je-rum.

Hi-ro-je-rum, bi-ro-je-rum, Skinamalinkadoolium Skinamalinkadoolium Glory hallelujah bi-ro-je-rum.

And at his gate there sat a human wreckium,

He wore a bowler bat and the rim was round his neckium.

That poor man asked for a

piece of bread and cbeesium, The rich man answered, “I’ll call for a policeium”.

The poor man died and his soul went to beavium, And be danced with the saints ‘til quarter past ellevium.

And there be dwelt in Abraham’s bosium,

Fraternising there with scores of other Jouseum.

The rich man died but he didn’t fare so wellium,

He couldn’t go to heaven so be bad to go to bellium.

The rich man asked for to have a consolium,

The devil only answered, “come shovel on the coalium”.

The moral of this story is that riches are no jokium,

We will all go to beaven because we are stony brokium.

Reflection

Rev Sue Jacka

Finishing the race

I have found the metaphor of life as a long distance race, rather than a sprint to be helpful as I have paced myself in work and in relationships. In my experience, a long cross country race would be even more precise as there are certainly times when life demands more from us- those rocky uphill patches- while there are other periods when things go smoothly and we can coast along for a bit. The perennial favourite Shepherd’s Psalm 23 reminds us that

God is with us in the ‘valley of the shadow of death’ times and if we are open, will lead us to those sometimes elusive green pastures by the still waters of peace and divine presence. I am honoured when people share their own personal challenges with me and I love how we can celebrate the wins together.

This is my last reflection as Ross and I are moving to the Morwell Anglican parish. We have enjoyed our 12 years in this beautiful area and have made so many friends. It has been a

pleasure to work in different ways amongst various community groups, to see the community grow in particular ways as it responds to the changing needs and opportunities. We humans need each other! During the COVID lockdowns, we realised how those conversations with loved ones gave us hope and brightened our days. May we continue to reach out and encourage each other! God bless you and your community now and in the future



Bishop Greg Benet leaving St Mary’s Cathedral Sale following the ordination.

Trafalgar Lions fund new club shirts for Tennis Junior teams

Trevor Byrne

Shirts for Juniors

Late last year the Lions Club of Trafalgar received a request from the Trafalgar Tennis Club for financial assistance to supply Club shirts to their junior teams. The Lions Club duly provided funding for 16 shirts supplied by local business, Sport 2 Street.

Christmas Raffle

Many thanks to all who supported the Trafalgar Lions Club Christmas Raffle. A special thanks to Dom and the staff at IGA for their continued support. The raffle was drawn by Trafalgar IGA manager Dom Griffin on Wednesday 15th December with the 1st prize of a \$600 Visa Card won by Robyn Archer, followed by the 2nd prize of a \$300 Visa Card won by Ryan Morello and 3rd prize of a \$150 Visa Card won by Max Wright. Congratulations to all of the winners.

Catch-up/Break-up

The Lions Club of Trafalgar, like every club or organization, has been severely impacted

by the restrictions of Covid19. Finally we took the opportunity before Christmas, to have a catch-up at the Trafalgar Bowls Club.

Past District Governor Neil Wingrave made several long awaited presentations.

Two of the clubs Charter members, Lions Bob Hoare and Graham McKenzie were presented with their 50 year medallions, with the other Charter member Lion Max Erbs unable to attend.

Two other Lions, Marianne Tyler and Ian Bosma were honoured with the prestigious Melvin Jones Honour Award.

Andrews House Christmas BBQ

Each year the Lions Club of Trafalgar provides a Christmas BBQ for the residents and staff of Andrews House. Each resident received a card and a small gift from Santa. Thanks to Santa and his Fire Brigade Elves. Your appearance makes the day extra special for the residents.



Trafalgar Lions President David Koschade at rear with some of the Traf Tennis Juniors and their new shirts.



Winner of the \$600 Visa card first prize in the Christmas Raffle Robyn Archer, is presented with her prize by Vice President Wendy Moon.



Trafalgar Lions 50 year members Graham McKenzie and Bob Hoare were presented with their medallions by Past District Governor Neil Wingrave.



Santa stepped out of his workshop to visit Andrews House with two of his Trafalgar CFA elves.

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Community Bank invests in junior tennis development

By Steph Paul

The Trafalgar and District Community Bank is proud to have supported the Trafalgar Tennis Club's junior tennis program. The program was aimed at primary school aged children interested in having fun and learning the rules of tennis, encouraging children to return to play competition tennis with the club.

Through Community Bank sponsorship of \$1700, the Trafalgar Tennis Club has increased access to experienced junior tennis coaches for young and upcoming players.

The junior tennis program commenced in November and ran for six weeks at the local

courts in Trafalgar with the aim to teach children the basic concepts of the game.

Debbie Di Sisto, deputy chair of Trafalgar and District Financial Services Limited, said investing in local youth through these programs is extremely important, as children are the future of our community.

Phil Drummond, branch manager of the Trafalgar and District Community Bank, said it was great to see the number of children on the court and that opportunities like this program are only made possible through the support of our customers.

Luke Bryant, president of the Trafalgar Tennis Club, said that the

community welcomed the junior program, with all available spots being filled quickly.

"Our tennis club is currently in the process of increasing junior numbers and we hope that by providing opportunities like this at a discounted rate, we will be able to do so," he said.

Community Bank representatives attended the program and were thrilled to see how happy the children were to be playing tennis with their friends. Programs like this demonstrate the commitment of Community Banks to their local areas and the impact customers can have locally through their everyday banking.



Junior numbers have increased significantly at Trafalgar Tennis Club, with the help of the Trafalgar and District Community Bank. Pictured are Trafalgar and District Financial Services deputy chair Debbie Di Sisto, Trafalgar and District community branch manager Phil Drummond, young tennis player Coen Jennings, Trafalgar Tennis Club president Luke Bryant and community bank chair Christine Holland.

All go at the Grove

For a speck of a town, Willow Grove has a thriving cricket club, with two senior and three junior teams taking the field every week.

The Wolves not only have healthy numbers, but have also been very successful on the field, winning premierships across the grades in recent seasons.

It is certainly a far cry from the same club that was on life support only a decade ago, which found itself seriously contemplating shutting up shop for good.

With the threat of extinction real, Brody Hams and a group of dedicated volunteers banded together to bring the club out of the darkness and into the light.

Here, Brody talks about how they managed to pull it off.

(Questions by Liam Durkin).

They say Rome wasn't built in a day. Would that be how you've gone about getting Willow Grove Cricket Club to where it is now?

That was definitely the approach that needed to be taken. Some clubs are able to fix problems with money but we didn't have that luxury, so we needed to build from the ground up which obviously takes time.

So 10 years ago you only had a third and fourth grade, now you have seconds, thirds and three junior teams. You must be extremely proud of where the club is at from where it's been?

Pride is the emotion that best sums it up. I was lucky enough (or unlucky depending on how you look at it) to be a part of the very unsuccessful senior side that we were fielding years ago. Watching us go through the journey, with the help of so many amazing individuals and families, has been really special.

For the first time ever recently we had all five of our life members in the same room and hearing all of their stories about the club was humbling.

As well as yourself there must be a lot of people who have worked hard behind the scenes that deserve credit?

The amount of people that have put their hearts into the club is amazing. It all started with the difficult decision to drop back to a third grade side. It was met with a lot of trepidation but Shane Paynter and Brad Dunstan did a great job leading the push.

Rob Tulloch was the main reason we were able to stay

financially viable as treasurer and he has put more blood, sweat and tears into the club than anyone.

The Blackshaw, Jarvis, Coulter and Grima families have worked tirelessly to make sure we have a town full of young stars that love playing cricket.

Josh Coombs came in during the rebuild and fell in love with the club. He is now working flat out making sure we are still heading in the right direction.

I could name 20 other people but the credit well and truly deserves to be shared between everyone that has picked up a bat, driven their kids to a game or supported the club in any sense over the past few years.

Can you describe just how dire the situation was?

Financially we were in a lot of trouble as there weren't a lot of players paying fees and the costs were building up.

We also weren't winning games. A club with no money and no success isn't exactly a destination club. All of this contributed to a culture that wasn't overly positive. We had some really good young players that had no access to coaching and not many positive role models to learn from. Essentially, we weren't making money, we weren't retaining players and we weren't winning games. Not a great platform for a rebuild.

Am I right in saying players were turning up to games afraid they were going to have to bat twice?

It was just expected that we would be on the receiving end of a belting. We were all pretty resilient but after a while you lose a bit of the competitive fire.

How do you think it got to that stage?

Bit by bit the financial situation didn't improve, the lack of success drove away good players and we were left in a bit of a hole.

I don't think it was anyone's fault but there were people that were put in extremely challenging situations with very little support that had to try and make the best of those situations.

Was there a key moment where you went "if something isn't done there might not be a Willow Grove Cricket Club in a few years"?

I remember very clearly we had a 'meeting' in the footy canteen. Basically the writing was on the wall and a few of us at the time had to decide whether to push through or fold the club

and play elsewhere.

There had been too many good players and good people associated with the club to let that history go down the drain, so we all agreed to take on various roles within the committee and start from scratch. The people I previously mentioned were all (and still are) instrumental in that process.

How did you go about building the club back up from scratch?

The first step was establishing a winning culture. We decided to drop back to C Grade to learn how to win, become financially viable and get the town enjoying cricket again.

The next step was developing a group of juniors that loved cricket and this was done through the hard work of so many parents.

Pauline and Steve Blackshaw were, and still are, incredible with the work they do for the kids. The Grima's also started running a successful junior blasters program that was so popular with the young kids starting up. Having a ground full of kids playing cricket three-four nights a week is a beautiful sight.

Once we had established a winning culture it was all about progressing at the right time. We moved up to B Grade, had a tough first season and then made finals the next season. We then moved into B Premier when the leagues merged and fielded a second senior grade to help bridge the gap between under 16s and senior cricket.

Each move was made when it was sustainable and practical to do so.

Did you have any idea how long it was going to take?

We really didn't. The plan was always to build back up to a higher grade of senior cricket and we knew it would take some time. The juniors were getting great numbers pretty quickly which was really encouraging. A couple of those players came through and helped strengthen our senior team so the path was always visible.

You were club president in your early 20s which is just remarkable. Surely you never could have envisaged that?

I definitely didn't envisage anything like it. At the time we were all very clear in the direction we needed to take the club and we all jumped in to help that vision take shape. Luckily enough the right people came in at the right times to support and the momentum has continued growing.

What have been some watershed moments along the way?

The early meetings where some tough calls were made were key moments in the rebuild. We could have kept losing in B Grade and chasing players on a Saturday morning but something had to change.

Losing two C Grade grand finals in a row helped our own growth as players and kept us keen.

The moments of pure joy watching your mates succeed were the golden moments though. Rob Tulloch making 111 not out at Newborough, Josh Coombs making his first ever 50, Nathan Wheildon taking five wickets in a senior grand final, and Luke Tumino taking his first five wicket haul. They are the moments you don't forget along the way.

We had an incredibly special moment at a recent function where an absolute legend of the town and club, Bill Taylor, presented the Joey Needham trophy. Joey was a much loved member of the community and club years ago who was tragically killed as a young man. Bill shared stories of his on field and off field memories of Joey and there weren't too many dry eyes in the building.

The trophy had previously been lost in the archives so it was really special being able to bring it back. Reconnecting with our history in ways like that has been incredible.

You are now fielding two senior teams and three junior teams with ease. For a town of only 200 people, how have you been able to make it work?

Very simply it all comes down to the people we have at the club. Most of our senior team travel over 45 minutes to play, with no financial incentives. It's the love for the club and the enjoyment we get playing with each other.

Our junior teams are producing such great numbers because of the tireless work that the junior coaches and parents put in to ensuring their children are active and happy. It is honestly amazing the amount of time some of these families spend at the club.

Plus looking over the Blue

celebrations are the best part. Having Bill Taylor back at the club with a few past players celebrating well into the night was great. Then walking down to the shop the next day for chips and gravy and the girls there took some photos and posted it on the shops Facebook page. It was an awesome community feel.

You somehow defended 82 in that grand final. Deep down what was your gut feeling at the innings break?

We were actually feeling pretty good at the innings break. Although when I was in the middle at 5-17 having just ran the last two bloses out, I wasn't feeling too crash hot. When I was walking to meet the next batter, I was in a terrible headspace but I kept hearing my uncle (and WGCC life member) shouting encouragement and that helped a lot.

I remember at the tea break there was a really positive energy. We got kitted up early and had a good warm up. The energy was perfect right from the start. Batting second in a grand final is very difficult so no matter what you make batting first, you're always in the game.

Rock Dam, Baw Baw Mountains and mums famous sausage rolls every Saturday is pretty tough to beat.

I guess Willow Grove's success, particularly in juniors, has proven that small town clubs can thrive regardless of population?

Without a doubt. It isn't easy by any stretch but if you can create a club environment that people enjoy being around, a little bit of extra travel doesn't seem so bad to players that aren't local. Small town clubs always have a certain warmth about them that I think is unbeatable.

Does the criticism about you blokes being B Grade bullies really cause much angst?

None at all. Everyone is entitled to an opinion. Only people that have been through the internal journey with the club have all of the information required to make decisions as large as where we should be playing our cricket.

We have made very deliberate decisions at very deliberate times and we aren't going to change or rush that process because of outside noise.

My personal view is that you should be fielding an A Grade team, surely challenging yourself in the highest grade is the ultimate goal?

The goal is absolutely to continue developing. We are all building towards playing a higher grade. It's all about making sure our team is strong enough and confident enough to take the next step. The decision won't be made for the benefit of one or two players, it will be made at the right time for the team and the club.

We are recruiting for a senior coach to help with this process. The journey so far has been one I, and all of us, are really proud of. It certainly isn't over though.



Willow Grove Cricket Club players celebrate after winning the premiership last season. Brody Hams, pictured bottom row second from right, has been instrumental in getting the Wolves up and running again.

Plenty of action at cricket club

By Liam Durkin

It has been a productive time at the Trafalgar Cricket Club on and off the field for the last two months.

The club is enjoying strong numbers and is easily filling its three senior teams, whilst the three junior sides are also taking to the field with plenty of enthusiasm.

Training sessions have been well attended, and players have been working hard. The longest training session in living memory was held recently, with more than two hours devoted to honing all facets of the game.

There was a number of good team and individual performances across the grades throughout December and January.

The firsts played a thrilling match against Churchill, which came down to the last over.

Bowling first, Trafalgar took wickets at semi-regular intervals, as the Cobras were bowled out for 161.

Daniel Heathcote took his 200th senior wicket for the club on route to match figures of 4-34. Riley White (2-22) and Zack Brown (2-31) also picked up multiple scalps.

Trafalgar took the game deep with the bat, with runs coming to Brendan Dawson (26), who played sensibly through the middle.

Heathcote backed up his bowling efforts to score a run-a-ball 27, as the Ships got it down to needing two to win off three balls.

A well directed lofted on drive for four secured the winning runs and set off a celebratory lap for the ages.

Jackson Noonan produced ball of the century in the next match against Morwell Tigers Yinnar Raiders, clean bowling former Trafalgar Football-Netball Club senior coach Jason MacFarlane with a delivery that pitched well outside off stump and decked back in sharply.

Trafalgar successfully chased against Morwell, getting the runs thanks to a Brodie Burgess 59.

Earlier, Heathcote took 3-9 and received good support from Rhys Holdsworth (2-15), Liam Durkin (2-24) and White (2-28).

Dawson used his chest to good effect in this match, which may have been in the mix to receive a vote after it was responsible for two dismissals.

The first chest dismissal came when a half tracker was hit to Dawson at 45, who took a genuine chest mark on the lead. A loud 'thud' noise could be heard from the boundary whilst an inspection took place to see if there was a seam mark on flesh.

Not to be outdone, a little while later, the man known as

Bricka, (who was keeping by this stage), nabbed a stumping when the ball ricocheted off his chest and literally fell onto the bail to see the batsman short. Such was the minimal force of ball rebounding off chest that it was only strong enough to take the bail and leave the stumps standing perfectly vertical.

Those reading the scorebook would be none the wiser, as it still says: 'caught B Dawson' and 'stumped B Dawson'.

The Ships got the points against Centrals, dismissing them for 107 and chasing it five down.

Durkin took 4-15 and Noonan 3-24.

Against Callignee and Traralgon South, Trafalgar posted 7-200 in a smart display of batting.

Aydan Connolly scored 49 and Holdsworth 37. Dawson and Billy Claridge also got amongst the runs, each making 25.

Some key breakthroughs by Noonan put the Ships on a path to victory, as he finished with figures of 4-34.

Todd Mann came into the team and grabbed 3-26, whilst Heathcote took 2-28 including a one handed caught and bowled.

Long form cricket returned after Christmas, and Trafalgar was able to hang on for a gutsy draw against Churchill.

After losing the toss in perfect batting conditions, the Ships held firm and ended day one positively.

Ryan Bishop got his name on the honour roll with 5-40, and White showed a lot of maturity in his 13 overs to take 4-56.

With thunderstorms on the Friday night before day two, conditions changed dramatically, to the point where the Ships had to play for a draw, which it was able to do in a pulsating finish.

Holdsworth batted for two and a half hours for an unbeaten half century, which in the context of the match was probably worth triple figures.

A proud Trafalgar held on with one wicket in hand to split the points on a day where every advantage went to the bowling team.

The Seconds racked up a huge total of 5-207 against Centrals, highlighted by Cooper Burgess making 68 not out.

It was a coming-of-age innings for the youngster and arguably his best knock.

John Asmussen also got amongst the runs with 48, as did skipper Mark Wynne who made 29.

Wynne's new eyes enabled him to see the ball, making a marked difference.

Trafalgar got home in a high scoring game on a pitch that offered little for the bowlers.

Durkin was the multiple

wicket taker with 2-31.

The match against Latrobe saw the Ships put in a complete performance.

Opposed to a highly fancied team, Trafalgar could not put a foot wrong with the ball as Latrobe was skittled for 62.

Lucas Kilday and Damien Mann were the destroyers with figures of 3-7 and 3-14 respectively.

Owen McLeod-Agland also bowled well, taking 2-21.

Kilday then scored 31 to make sure of the points.

In another match against Latrobe, runs went to Matt Hives (30) and Antony Devassy (30), while Fred Dyke took 2-22.

A tie of all results happened in a previous game against Centrals, with scores deadlocked on 194 at the close.

Mann clobbered 51 opening the batting to set the game up.

Others to get runs were Brent Claridge (38), Devassy (34) and Jarrod Kilday (30).

Wicket takers against Yallourn North were Kilday (3-6), Jack Hurst (2-15), Christian Burgess (2-15) and Dyke (2-21).

Cooper Burgess made 25 in the middle.

McLeod-Agland took 3-30 when he took on Traralgon West, and Kilday chipped in with 2-25.

Kilday completed a good day out when he compiled 60, while Burgess made 42.

The Thirds had a good showing against Willow Grove, with Devassy scoring 67 on debut.

Dyke (3-13), Brent Claridge (2-12) and Devassy (2-14) took wickets.

Claridge whacked 54 against Yallourn North, sending balls

flying all over the Rawson ground.

Paul Connolly snared 6-27 when the Ships took on Churchill, and Kingsley Rajasingham took the Richie Benaud figures of 2-22.

Bill Pace made sure of the result with 43 from 59 balls.

Connolly smashed a game high 80 against Morwell, with wickets going to Steve Asmussen (2-12) and Blake White (2-32).

Pace brought up a century in a run fest at Callignee, finishing unbeaten on 124, while Anthony Faltum made 57 as Trafalgar chased 247.

Kevin and Olly Hennessy took two wickets each.

A superb spell from Darren Brown saw him take 5-9 against Yallourn North, after Kevin Hennessy (29) and Ramesh Nadarajah (26) made some runs.

The under 16s defeated Morwell Tigers Yinnar Raiders, with Owen McLeod-Agland taking 2-10.

Runs to Billy Claridge (31 not out), Joe Stewart (23 not out) and Mitchell Claridge (19 not out) ensured the points.

Wickets to Callum Nash (2-8) and Louis Hennessy (2-12) were seen in the game against Mirboo North, while Olly Hennessy (31 not out) and Billy Claridge (27) got the win.

An unbeaten half century to Billy Claridge highlighted the match to Moe, with wickets shared between Jordan Chapman (2-2), Mitchell Claridge (2-3) and Louis Hennessy (2-4).

James Pace took 2-13 against Centrals, as Trafalgar won with contributions from Billy Claridge (30 not out), Owen McLeod-

Agland (22) and Mitchell Claridge (17).

Olly Hennessy made 25 and Billy Claridge 31 when Traralgon West came to Trafalgar. Claridge then took 3-13 and Louis Hennessy 3-10 to lead the way with the ball.

Lucy Coulthard took 2-16 for the under 14s against Willow Grove, while a win against Morwell saw runs to Louis Hennessy (31 not out), James Pace (31 not out) and wickets to Olly White (2-17).

Olly White was again amongst the wickets, taking 2-16 against Latrobe, before his great spell of 5-12 against Mirboo North saw him chaired from the ground.

Runs again to Louis Hennessy (30 not out) were seen against Latrobe, and figures of 2-12 from Charlie Hennessy opposed to Mirboo North.

The under 12s season saw a week that returned a win and another result.

Against Latrobe, Trafalgar kept the Sharks to 2-56 from their 20 overs. Dante Mosquito was the sole wicket taker for the Ships. Charlie Hennessy and Sam Jones each retired with scores of 13 and 12 respectively, whilst a few other players retired in the successful chase — Trafalgar finishing at 4-80.

The team got a win against Raiders out at Yinnar. Batting first, Trafalgar made 3-106. Top scorers were Charlie Hennessy (24 not out), Olly White (22 not out) and Dante Moscato (14 not out). Trafalgar took five wickets with the ball, with wickets shared. All bowlers kept things relatively tight, with no one going for more than four an over.

Playing Churchill captain

Oliver White won the toss and chose to bat.

The Ships were reeling at 6-20, however, Sam Jones, Oliver White and Bridee Clymo were able to steady things and allow the Ships to bat out the overs. Sam did well to retire on two, facing some tight bowling, while Bridee and Oliver put on a great partnership at the end as Trafalgar finished 6-48 off their 20 overs. Oliver top scored with 14 not out and Bridee made eight not out. Oliver and Sam then both bowled economically and took two wickets each. Jasper McQualter also took his first wicket of the season, while Dante Moscato took two excellent catches in the field.

The match against Willow Grove, proved to be a fantastic game of cricket. Captain Quinn Asmussen won the toss and chose to bowl first. Sam Jones was the only wicket taker, with Blake McDermott taking a nice catch with the gloves. James Burke also completed a run out in the closing stages of the innings. Jasper McQualter and James Burke were the standout bowlers, bowling very tightly and consistently. With the bat, the Ships got off to a shaky start but Sam Jones batted extremely well, hitting the first two sixes of his career as well as multiple fours on his way to 32 not out. He was well supported by Charlie Hennessy who made 15. Brodie Gauci did well batting with Sam.

To connect with the Trafalgar Cricket Club, follow the club on Facebook, or email trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com.

Very belated cricket presentation

By Liam Durkin

The Trafalgar Cricket Club was finally able to hold its presentation night for season 2019-20 last month.

It was a case of third time lucky for the event, which had been postponed twice before due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In any case, the club was glad to finally be able to formally recognise the achievements of the 2019-20 season, highlighted by the winning of premierships in first and third grade.

Distinguished guests gathered at the club rooms, where award winners for the season were given their mementos.

Christian Burgess acted as master of ceremonies, while

junior cricketers James Pace and Liam Coulthard did a great job serving food.

The rooms were decked out, with club memorabilia back on permanent display following capital works in the last 12 months, thanks to Craig and Melanie White, Mark Wynne and Brent Claridge in setting up and ensuring the night ran smoothly, along with current club president Daniel Heathcote who served behind the bar.

Congratulations to all award winners: Craig and Melanie White (Ray Burgess Perpetual Trophy for best club person/s), Rhys Holdsworth (George Browne Memorial Trophy for

club champion, Alan Rankin Memorial Trophy for first grade batting aggregate, Richard Errington Medal for first grade best and fairest), Zack Brown (first grade bowling aggregate), Christian Burgess (second grade best and fairest, second grade bowling aggregate), John Asmussen (second grade batting aggregate), Billy Pace (third grade best and fairest, third grade batting aggregate), Brent Claridge, Craig White and Darren Brown (third grade bowling aggregate), Liam White (senior coaches award) and Aydan Connolly (best junior in senior cricket).



Trafalgar Cricket Club was finally able to hold its 2019-20 presentation night last month. Pictured are award winners Rhys Holdsworth, Aydan Connolly, Christian Burgess, Billy Pace, Craig White, Melanie White, Darren Brown, Brent Claridge, John Asmusse, Liam White and Zack Brown.

Cricket milestones for Rhys and Daniel

By Liam Durkin

Trafalgar cricketers Rhys Holdsworth and Daniel Heathcote celebrated milestones last month.

The pair brought up the achievements in the first game back after Christmas against Churchill, with Rhys playing A Grade game number 150 and Daniel first grade game number 100.

In careers spanning many seasons, the duo have won virtually every on field award at the club, and more importantly, served a number of leadership roles as well.

Rhys' career includes: A Grade premierships: 2006-07, 2014-15, 2019-20. Senior coach: 2012-16, 2018-19. A Grade captain: 2009-10, 2011-2016, 2018-present. Club champion: 2012-13, 2013-14, 2018-19, 2019-20. Firsts best and fairest: 2012-13, 2013-14, 2018-19, 2019-20. Firsts batting: 2006-07, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2019-20. Firsts bowling: 2013-14, 2018-19. A Grade premiership captain-coach 2014-15, captain 2019-20. All Gippsland one day premiership captain 2010, committee member for many seasons and highest ever individual A Grade score in Warragul and District Cricket Association history with 228.

Daniel's highlights include: A Grade premierships: 2014-15, 2019-20. Club president: 2020-present. Senior coach: 2018-19. Club champion: 2010-11. Firsts best and fairest: 2010-11. Firsts bowling: 2010-11, 2012-13. A Grade premiership assistant coach 2019-20. All Gippsland one day premiership 2010 and committee member

for many seasons. Rhys, a left hand top order bat, sits third on the clubs all

time first grade batting aggregate with nearly 5000 runs. He has also taken more than

150 first grade wickets. Daniel has taken more than 130 A Grade wickets as a fast-

medium bowler, and is currently inside the top 10 on the clubs all time list.



Trafalgar cricketers Rhys Holdsworth and Daniel Heathcote, pictured after the 2014-15 grand final, celebrated milestone matches last month.



Trafalgar players celebrate a wicket earlier this season.

Contract awarded for multi-use pavilion

Construction works for the \$2.8 million Trafalgar multi-use pavilion has begun, after council awarded the contract for the works late last year.

Local company Kubale Constructions was awarded the \$2,491,970 (excluding GST) contract for the works following a tender process.

The project will see the construction of a new multi-sport pavilion at Trafalgar Recreation Reserve with female-friendly change rooms and amenities, umpire facilities, new storage facilities, dedicated first aid room, a boxing gym and a multi-use space.

Externally the pavilion will feature public toilets, a veranda with outdoor spectator viewing space, a canteen, accessible car parking, connecting pathways and landscaping.

The pavilion will address the immediate lack of facilities with participation tracking at 3.5 times the Victorian average (before COVID-19). The design has been developed with true multi-use flexibility and future planning in mind to service the five sporting clubs from different codes including soccer, cricket, football and boxing.

This project is jointly funded by a \$500,000 grant from Sport and Recreation Victoria's Female Friendly Facilities Fund and the \$2.3 million balance by Baw Baw

Shire Council.

Baw Baw Shire West Ward councillor Tricia Jones said the new pavilion was an exciting prospect for Trafalgar.

"This is a long-awaited project for the Trafalgar community and will deliver the change facilities our local players desperately need," she said.

"Council will continue to look for further funding opportunities to deliver more facility upgrades at our recreation reserves to support our growing community and encourage greater levels of participation."

Council has developed a Project Reference Group (PRG) for this project to provide important stakeholder input and ensure the new multi-use pavilion meets user group and community needs. The group provides a structured communication channel between council and key user groups throughout the delivery of the project.

A total of \$3,200,000 was originally allocated in the budget, with the tender process creating savings of \$433,030 that will be reallocated to cover council's contribution to the new Longwarry Early Learning Centre.

Work is due for completion by mid-2022.

Temporary changing facilities will remain on site until the project is complete.



A new multi-use sports pavilion is under construction at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve, to be built on land to the north of the current soccer facility.



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