

JULY 2020  
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# Traf News



PRICELESS



**REMEMBERING  
KEITH SEWEL**  
P8



**YOUTH**  
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**WINNING THE  
BATTLE**  
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## MEN'S SHED BACK IN ACTION

Frank Gridley

**T**rafalgar Men's Shed has reopened after a 12 week break. Thanks to John Mai at Office Choice Warragul for a donation of sanitizer and Ian Ramsey for putting sanitizer around the shed.

We can now open for 20 members at one time. Not since their young days have our shedders been so polished and sanitized.

Thanks to some members who took home jobs to finish i.e. reface chairs, tables etc and returned them to their owners. A project also completed was restoring a trophy won by a local resident's great grandmother. The trophy was for a horse riding event many years ago, maybe in

New Zealand.

Our solar panels are working well putting power into grid during lockdown. Finance committee is very happy. The dust extraction unit is keeping workshop clean and much healthier for members. Thanks again to Latrobe Authority and the local Trafalgar and Districts Community Bank for assistance.

The Men's Shed would welcome any community jobs or projects to work on. We welcome any visitors on Monday's or Wednesday's to the shed on Wellington st Trafalgar, behind the public hall. From approximately 9:30am to 3pm for a cuppa and a chat.



A donation of hand sanitiser to Trafalgar Mens Shed from Office Choice, Warragul helps the shed members get back in action

## Trafalgar intersection a major safety concern

The intersection at Davey Drive and the Princes Hwy is a notorious accident prone or near miss intersection to locals. On the long weekend in June, another vehicle accident saw the air ambulance called in.

Late in the afternoon on Monday 8 June, as weekend revellers whom have been couped up for months due to COVID 19 flooded the highway returning from their vacations, another accident occurred.

One patient was evacuated via air ambulance, and others were treated at the scene. Traffic diverted from the highway onto Waterloo road for all east bound traffic, whilst the west bound traffic were delayed passing by

the accident scene.

This has prompted numerous local complaints on social media, stating that the intersection is a major hazard, and needs to be fixed. Some mentioned that the 110 km speed limit to an abrupt 60 km an hour is not feasible as people do not or cannot slow down in time until the second 60 km sign, which is near Hardy Drive.

Some mentioned that there should be an 80 km buffer back up to Kenneys Road in Trafalgar East.

Other suggestions on social media included fixed speed cameras, a roundabout or traffic lights a better option.



The air ambulance landed on the east bound lanes of the HWY near Hardy drive, to evacuate a patient after an accident

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## Keep Traf News Alive

Tina Hambleton

While so many local papers have been forced to close due to the current crisis, Traf News is pleased to be able to continue production.

Your support by either joining or renewing membership will help us survive. The current fee is only \$5 per annum which is due in the new financial year. This fee contributes to the cost of running the publication.

New memberships can be

arranged through contacting Reagan Montgomery via finance@trafnews.com

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM for Traf News will be held on Tuesday 11 August at 6.30pm. The venue is the Trafalgar Business Centre 107 Princess Highway, Trafalgar. All members welcome. Social distancing will be practised.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Trafalgar in Covid 19 has been teddy bears in windows of every street, its been business that never had thought of making the move to other styles of retail from the brick and mortar stores, its DJ and family at the post office who dispatch hand-fuls of parcels.

Its the high school posting a skipping rope to every Year 7 to make sure they have a way to have physical fun when PE classes and school sports have been missing.

Trafalgar in COVID 19 was rainbows and other chalk art, with some amazing pop up creativity that appears one day and nature washes away, but not before its put a smile on walkers faces.

COVID 19 in Trafalgar has been our Mobile Library team for West Gippsland Libraries reading children's stories online and doesn't Phillip look great in those costumes, the library team has also been phoning library

users over 70 and offering them connection, posting them boxes of books.

COVID 19 has been our Scout Group running fun programs on ZOOM, and when small groups outdoors was allowed on day activities, taking kids on local hikes.

Its been our churches and the RSL learning the art of live streaming, these skills I am sure will be here to stay to compliment the face to face programs of these community institutions when the 'new normal' sets in.

COVID 19 in Trafalgar has been much more than some unhappy voice's, with 5G theories in our train station car park.

I hope people can share their teddy bear windows and chalk art of the last few months with the Traf News, so that historians in years to come can see how positive and community minded this town was during a world wide health crisis.

David "Wombat" Lyons  
Trafalgar, 3824

## Community feedback sought on revised community local law

An amended draft community local law with proposed changes and improvements has been prepared and community feedback is now being sought to ensure it aligns with community expectations.

Originally adopted in 2016, the Community Local Law is a requirement under the Local Government Act to guide council's compliance, regulatory and enforcement activities for car parking, property amenity, animal management and building/construction sites – among many others – for a 10 year period (until 2026).

To ensure that Local Law is meeting current expectations and requirements, council is conducting a review of its current Community Local Law with the purpose of:

- Ensuring the Local Law remains consistent with its objectives;
- Amending existing Clauses to ensure clarity and enforceability;
- Insertion of additional Clauses to address emerging issues, and;
- Removal of Clauses that are ambiguous, in conflict with state legislation or no longer relevant.

This review is intended to

amend and improve identified areas within the existing Community Local Law but is not a full review or re-write.

Proposed changes and improvements in the amended draft Community Local Law include:

- Open air burning: Restrictions to be based on Bushfire Prone Area (BPA) rather than property zone types.
- Increased vegetation protection: Increased protection for trees identified on the Significant Tree Register and increased penalties for offences.
- Unightly properties/noxious weeds: Amended to provide a clearer definition of unsightly, provide consistency in grass length allowances, and provide allowances for grass and weeds used as fodder.
- Noise and construction related issues: Removed the Buildings and Works Code of Practice from the Local Law; inserted new Clauses to simplify requirements in relation to construction and building sites, and to provide controls on site access and hours of operation to minimise noise related issues.
- Permit requirement: Permit required for livestock droving, grazing and livestock

crossings.

- Permit requirement: Permit required for shipping containers or relocatable buildings on any land.
- Permit requirement: Permit required for driving or parking on a public place or reserve (other than a public road).

- Waste management: Prescribed times for leaving bins out after collection; specifications around types of waste for bins.
- New definitions: Introduction of numerous definitions including Bushfire Prone Area (BPA), fire break, fodder, nuisance, recreational vehicle, significant tree and unsightly, among others.

- Prior to the preparation of the amended draft Community Local Law, initial community consultation was sought in 2019 and included internal and external stakeholder consultation workshops, as well as online surveys and extensive media and social media coverage. Feedback received was used to inform the amended draft document, which has further been reviewed by a legally qualified entity.

Community feedback is being

sought to finalise the amended draft Community Local Law before it is considered for adoption by council.

Full project details, including a copy of the revised amended draft Community Local Law document are available at [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay)

This consultation opportunity is now open until Wednesday, July 22 2020.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Cr Danny Goss encouraged people to get involved.

"Through this review, we're proposing several changes and improvements to our local law to ensure we're delivering the best level of service in our community compliance and regulatory sector," he said.

"We highly encourage everyone to have a look at the proposed amendments and have their say."

Following the consultation period, council officers will consolidate comments and feedback and consider all submissions to assist in making further recommendations to council.

Any enquiries can be directed to council's community compliance team on 1300 229 229 or by email at [Compliance.Review@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:Compliance.Review@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au)



**Gary BLACKWOOD** MLA  
Member for Narracan

*Contact my office for assistance with any State Government issue*

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### Editor's note

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

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## Trafalgar CFA may lose volunteers

PROPOSED legislation now expected to go before State parliament in August would, if passed, push the Trafalgar and Westbury volunteer fire brigades into secondary roles in their traditional areas of responsibility.

Member for Narracan Gary Blackwood said the primary firefighting response would be handed to the full-time professionally staffed Latrobe West brigade, based at Moe.

From July 1 the full-time components of the CFA and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade will be amalgamated by the State government to create a new Fire Rescue Victoria service.

The legislation would give the fully staffed stations priority to attend fires within eight minutes of their bases.

The Trafalgar and Westbury stations have now been deemed, according to the proposed Bill, to be within that time frame of Moe.

The volunteer brigades could be called on if it was deemed additional firefighting units were needed.

Mr Blackwood claimed that the CFA was initially told that

boundaries of the FRV would not encroach of those of the volunteer brigades but that advice would be over turned if the legislation passes.

He said he'd been contacted by Trafalgar and Westbury brigades as well as several long-serving volunteers concerned the government's action was "diminishing their long-held role of protecting their communities".

He said a number he'd spoken with feared many volunteers would resign as a result.

The Trafalgar brigade was established 93 years ago and currently has 60 volunteer members; Westbury was formed 75 years ago.

Mr Blackwood said the Bill to be presented to parliament "was tacked onto" one dealing with the state's Protective Services Officers.

The Opposition will move to split off the sections related to CFA boundaries and then considered independently of those concerning PSOs.

Member for Morwell Russell Northe said in parliament last Thursday that despite assurances by the government that CFA members had not been treated

with the respect they deserved and a number of commitments to them had been broken.

With the creation of FRV only days away he said there were many questions unanswered including what happens with tankers, breathing apparatus vans and CFA stations.

Mr Blackwood said other concerns raised by the brigades were the loss of local knowledge, fire ground experience and leadership and the sustainability of their brigades as well as severely affecting their communities' safety.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services Lisa Neville on Thursday announced the appointments of FRV's commissioner Ken Block and six deputy commissioners to lead the organisation from July 1.

The deputy commissioners are Kenneth Brown and David Bruce, both currently with the MFB; current assistant commissioner of Queensland's fire and emergency services Michelle Young; Gavin Freeman, who has served with the Tasmania fire service and the CFA; Martin Braid, and Brendan Angwin.

## Chemical free park maintenance trial extended

Baw Baw Shire Council has extended its chemical free park maintenance trial for another 12 months across three parks.

Originally the 12 month trial took place from April 2019 to April 2020 at Warragul's Queen Street Park, Trafalgar's McGregor Park and Drouin's Alex Goudie Reserve to better understand maintenance costs and service level standards between chemical and chemical free maintenance practices.

Alternative weed control method trials include weed

steaming, flame control and organic products such as pine oil and vinegar concentrates, as well as manual and mechanical processes.

The trial extension will take place from June 2020 to June 2021 at the same parks in Warragul and Trafalgar, however Drouin's Alex Goudie Reserve will be substituted for Hearn Street Park, as it is more comparable in size and maintenance requirements to the other parks.

"Council has heard community concerns about the use of chemicals to control weeds and

pests in our open spaces. By extending this trial, we'll be able to gain more data and explore further opportunities to minimise the use of chemicals such as glyphosate across open spaces. Through this trial extension, we are striving for the best possible outcomes for our residents and our environment" said Mayor Cr Danny Goss.



**IT'S TRUE**

**There are no ants in Iceland, Greenland and Antarctica**

## Off-leash dog park open in Trafalgar

Baw Baw Shire's fully-fenced dog parks are now open, offering dogs with a chance to enjoy some off-leash adventures.

A new fenced off-leash dog park is at Hollydell Park in Trafalgar, located on the corner of Edward Crescent and Rose Court.

The project has been five years in the making, beginning with a 12-month trial of off-leash areas throughout the Shire in 2015, followed by community consultation to determine the success of the trial.

The new park features premium dog park infrastructure including air lock entry/exit gates, dog litter bags, bins, drinking water stations and seating. The surrounding footpaths and landscaping have also been upgraded.

New permanent signage outlining dog-owner rules and responsibilities will be installed shortly.

In May 2018, Council decided to make seven of the off-leash areas permanent and committed to

introducing three premium dog parks. The project formed part of the 2019/20 Capital Works Program, with a total budget of \$120,000.

Baw Baw Mayor Cr Danny Goss said "Baw Baw Shire is home to thousands of dogs, and we hope they'll get to enjoy this fantastic park for many years to come, offering a safe place for exercise, socialisation and training."

I'd like to encourage the community to maintain dog park etiquette and take note of the rules and responsibilities before using the park for the first time to make sure they remain an enjoyable place for everyone."

Pet owners are urged to take note of the dog park rules and responsibilities before entering to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all visitors.

- Clean up after your dog
- Supervise your dog at all times
- Obedience train and socialize your dog before coming to the park

- Ensure your dog is vaccinated
  - Have your dog on-leash when entering/leaving the park
  - Keep your dog under effective control
  - Ensure the gate is closed behind you
  - Ensure all dog handlers are over the age of 16
  - Do not allow dogs in the park without a person present inside the fenced area
  - Do not bring puppies under 4 months of age into the park
  - Do not allow your dog to rush at, worry or jump on other dogs or people
  - Do not allow your dog to bark excessively
  - Do not use the park outside of daylight hours
  - Do not bring dogs into the park that are on heat
  - Do not allow children under the age of 8 into the park
- More information about the new dog park can be found at [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/dogparks](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/dogparks)



Community members and their dogs enjoy the Hollydell Park fenced dog park.

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**CNAV**  
COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA  
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# Fines for farm trespass

THOSE caught trespassing on farms in the name of animal activism will be handed on-the-spot fines, when new legislation is introduced.

The state government says the fines are “among the heaviest in Australia” for such behaviour. Agriculture Minister Jaclyn Symes tabled the government’s response to the inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture report in parliament last month, after considering recommendations published in February.

The government’s response supports 13 of the 15 recommendations in full, one in principle, and did not support one recommendation.

Recommendations supported include incorporating on-the-spot fines for biosecurity breaches caused by trespassers in legislation.

Ms Symes said farmers and agricultural businesses should be free to do their work without fear of being targeted by animal activist groups, “who put hard-working farming families, biosecurity and the animals they pursue to protect at risk”.

“These recommendations are not just about deterrence, but also education the public deserves to know just how hard farmers and agricultural businesses work to keep their animals safe and well looked after,” she said.

Other supported recommendations include working with farmers in developing biosecurity management plans and actions on animal welfare complaints for better public education, and the consideration of implementing closed-circuit cameras in abattoirs.

Victorian Farmers Federation was pleased the government had accepted a recommendation to introduce on-the-spot fines, but vice-president Emma Germano said the proposed changes did not do enough to protect farmers.

“A farmer’s farm is their home,” she said.

“We want the laws and penalties that apply to a home invasion

in Melbourne to apply to our homes in the country.

“Everyone deserves to feel safe in their home, and the government should respect and protect this.

“We want the Victorian government to implement what they have done in New South Wales by issuing \$1000 on-the-spot fines for activists illegally entering farms, and penalties up to \$440,000 for groups and corporations.

“Currently, it’s entirely possible, even likely, that trespassers could still be issued fines as low as \$1, just as we saw occur last year at the Gippy Goat Café and farm.

“We need to safeguard our farmers by ensuring our current laws are preventing and deterring activists from trespassing on farms.

“As long as we have such trivial penalties, the laws won’t be having the desired impact.”

Eastern Victoria MLC Melina Bath said the legislation was “a small win in the fight against animal activism and illegal farm trespass”, and pointed out allowing secret surveillance by animal activists had finally been ruled out by the state government.

Ms Bath said serious concerns had been raised by the farming community that the committee report recommended to codify public interest surveillance, and she vehemently rejected any moves to allow public interest surveillance on farm by activists.

“Farm trespass is illegal and there are no excuses for breaching the law, harassing farmers or breaching biosecurity,” Ms Bath said.

“Victoria’s 50,000 farmers can finally breathe a sigh of relief.”

Ms Bath called on the government to quickly implement on-the-spot fines for law-breaking activists.

“Farming is fundamental to our regional, state and national economy, and supporting the agriculture industry must be a priority,” she said.

“Victorian laws were clearly

inadequate and not providing acceptable protection to our law-abiding farmers.

“Overwhelmingly, Gippslanders were calling for farm trespass laws to be fixed.

“The public outrage following the invasion and subsequent harassment of the Gippy Goat which resulted in \$1 fines for activists, clearly articulated public sentiment.”

The inquiry was conducted by the Victorian Parliament’s Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee in 2019, following several illegal activities in the name of animal activism.

It was informed by 506 submissions, seven days of hearings held across country Victoria and Melbourne, and three site visits by committee members.

The 2019-20 state budget included a \$142.5 million boost to the state’s biosecurity system — the largest investment of its type in the history of Victoria.

Aussie Farms animal activist group executive director, Chris Delforce, said the inquiry lacked transparency.

“The government’s response does touch on this lack of transparency, but it’s a shame to see that their priority appears to be boosting consumer confidence in the industry, rather than doing anything to actually address the underlying concerns of those

consumers,” he said.

“They’ve supported the recommendation for CCTV in slaughterhouses, but as we pointed out in our submission to the inquiry, unless that CCTV is publicly accessible it’s effectively useless as a means of boosting transparency, and in practice will only serve to limit the ability of activists to capture and expose footage publicly,” Mr Delforce said.

“Several of the 24 Australian slaughterhouses that have been exposed for cruelty in the last nine years already had CCTV cameras installed.

“It’s in the best interests of slaughterhouse management to not report themselves for breaches of animal welfare laws, but even if an independent body were to be formed who could access the footage, they’re still only able to work within those very weak laws that allow for cruelty far beyond what the average Australian would consider acceptable.”

Mr Delforce said the \$710,000 consumer-focussed communications and engagement campaign to back farmers in Victoria was a propaganda campaign, rather than acknowledging the cruelty inherent to the industry.

## Peaceful demonstration for Black Lives Matter held in Trafalgar

By Liam Durkin

PASSING motorists in Trafalgar tooted their support for the Black Lives Matter movement on Saturday, echoing the sentiments of much larger gatherings that took place in capital cities across the country.

Standing at the Princes Highway pedestrian crossing, demonstrators held up signs for people travelling in either direction to see as drivers passed through town.

Horns were sounded and waves were shared in what was a peaceful demonstration that lasted around an hour.

In what was a good show of tolerance in people’s right to freedom of assembly, the demonstration did not receive any heckling or abuse from passers-by.

One of the participants, Helen Smith, said it was encouraging people were supportive of their campaign.

“It gives you an understanding of what sort of support you do have and that there is wide spread support in the community,” she said.

“Not everyone goes out and demonstrates, but as you hear from people tooting and cheering, there’s support there.”

The group, who claimed to be locals, chose Trafalgar simply for reasons of convenience and due to potential problems related to joining in mass gathering in Melbourne.

“We thought there would be sufficient amounts of traffic so we came down (to Trafalgar),” Ms Smith said.

“I would have really liked to go to Melbourne. I thought it might be worth as much to be here as down there. Normally I would have gone had it not been for the virus.”

City demonstrations had been called out for hypocrisy in some quarters given gathering restrictions were still in place.

Some 30,000 people took part in the Melbourne demonstration.

A demonstration outside state parliament just four days earlier opposing a planned brumby cull offered a stark juxtaposition.

Ms Smith, who has spent a number of years working with Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory, hoped the movement would lead to greater action.

“I think what it’s done is crystallise the racism that’s been going on for hundreds of years,” she said.

Historically the state of Florida has had a say in determining the election of President, as it is the country’s largest bellwether state. So, whoever wins Florida could well become President.

“While this is very welcome news, we will continue to call on

“It’s been very emotional.

“I made the mistake of watching the footage of George Floyd when he died and I can’t express what it made me feel, it was just horrific beyond belief.

“To be honest our record’s not much better, since the release of the black deaths in custody report, it’s a reminder that we’ve got nothing to be proud of and we have to stand up.”

With the situation in America reaching catastrophic levels, Ms Smith said things were slowly pointing in the right direction.

“There’s all sorts of encouraging signs, like in Tennessee when they approached the National Guard they said ‘would you like to lay down your shields in a show of solidarity?’ and the National Guard did,” she said.

“The power of what’s happening there now is that the violence is diminishing and the community solidarity is happening.”

In Washington DC, a street leading to the White House was renamed ‘Black Lives Matter Plaza’, and had the slogan painted in huge yellow letters on it.

The Black Lives Matter movement may have a huge bearing on the impending US presidential election in November.

Democratic frontrunner Joe Biden now appears in the box seat to take the position he was unsuccessful in gaining previously in 1988 and 2008.

Such an outcome looked unlikely a few months ago, as many pundits predicted a landslide Trump victory.

Continual outrage at the current US President’s handling of the situation could pave the way for Biden to move into the White House early next year.

Given that a major bearing on Trumps 2016 victory was the amount of free media coverage he received, the onus could now be on those educated enough to not be brainwashed by certain news corporations to head to the polls.

Arguably the main lesson from 2016 was ‘don’t patronise the silent majority, or else they will rise in terrible revolt’. Those hoping to see the Democrats get back in will be hoping its members have taken this thought on board.

“I would like to congratulate the government on this announcement which will encourage businesses to invest during a time in which our economy will need it.

“I would urge eligible businesses looking to invest in a vehicle to do so before the end of the financial year as there are some very good deals to be had.

“While this is very welcome news, we will continue to call on

## Brewers seek cap on beer tax

THE Brewers Association of Australia has called on governing authorities to put an end to the increase of beer tax.

Beer tax in Australia is automatically increased by CPI every six months, and had been since August 1983.

Brewers Association of Australia chief executive Brett Hefferman said a further increase would be a crippling blow to many pubs, clubs and other hospitality establishments.

“With more and more Aussies out of work and everyone counting their pennies, jacking up beer tax would be another blow to punters and publicans, alike,” he said.

“August 1 is the deadline for averting the next hip-pocket slug to Australians doing it tough.

“The price of a beer in Australia is already over-the-top.

“Tax accounts for 42 per cent of the price of a stubby.

“On a typical \$52 carton, \$22.05 goes to the taxman. When it comes to taxing a drink, Aussies pay the fourth highest beer tax in the industrialised world.

“We’re not asking for a tax cut at this time...just don’t increase the tax. That would spare punters further pain, take pressure off

hospitality venues and, because it’s revenue neutral, won’t cost treasury a cent.

“Putting up the tax in August would be another hit to pubs, clubs and the hundreds of thousands of Australians they need to re-employ once they can re-open in full.

“Higher taxes will only make that challenge harder when so many are on their knees.

“Pleasingly, freezing excise has the full support of Australia’s peak producer groups (the Brewers Association of Australia, Spirits and Cocktails Australia, and Australian Grape and Wine), though it benefits none of our members.

“Having beer, wine and spirits all on the same page on tax has got to be a first. This is about supporting people having a drink with mates without additional hardship, so they can support their local pubs, clubs and the jobs they provide for a return to normality.

“Australians have endured 71 consecutive beer tax increases since 1983. We don’t need to make it 72.”

Last year, beer taxes reaped the Australian government \$3.6 billion.

## Extension welcomed by new car dealers

THE industry body representing new car dealers has welcomed the extension of the expanded instant asset write-off until the end of the year.

“This is very welcome news for car dealers and we hope that this will help our industry recover from the significant downturn we have experienced in new car sales,” Australian Automotive Dealer Association chief executive James Voortman said.

“I would like to congratulate the government on this announcement which will encourage businesses to invest during a time in which our economy will need it.

“I would urge eligible businesses looking to invest in a vehicle to do so before the end of the financial year as there are some very good deals to be had.

“While this is very welcome news, we will continue to call on

the government to remove the car limit of \$57,581 which applies to the instant asset write-off. There is no justification for a car limit. There are no limits on other goods and we’ll be asking the government to review this.

“The AADA has been calling for the extension of the instant asset write-off along with a number of other measures to help the industry through this difficult time.”

New car sales have been falling for 26 months in a row and sales figures in April and May saw some of the biggest declines on record due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

New car dealers are located in cities and country towns across Australia, where they employ around 60,000 people and are responsible for more than \$55 billion in sales.

## Burning off? Don’t toss any old waste onto the fire, says EPA

WITH landholders making use of cooler weather to get some burning done, Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is warning that the mistake of tossing waste into the flames when burning off can be costly for farmers and the environment.

EPA Gippsland Regional Manager Jessica Bandiera says many waste items turn toxic the moment they go into the fire.

“Farm waste items like silage wrap, chemical containers and

old tyres don’t burn properly, but it will produce toxic smoke, and can send residue into the atmosphere, waterways and create chemical contamination that persists in the soil. Send it to landfill or a recycling facility,” she said.

Silage wrap, some chemical containers and tyres can be recycled into building and fencing materials and floor matting. There’s information on waste disposal and recycling at sustainability.vic.gov.au or on council website.

Fallen trees or other natural wood being burnt should be as dry as possible to keep down the volume of smoke, and farmers should make sure they have any relevant council or CFA permits. Timber from buildings, furniture or other manufactured products must not be burnt because it has probably been chemically treated.

The EPA can fine offenders more than \$8000 for burning anything other than vegetation-sourced matter like timber and crop stubble.

“Most farmers understand the importance to their livelihood and their community of preventing contamination of the soil, water and air around them, and EPA uses a fine as a last resort,” Ms Bandiera said.

“By thinking twice about what goes onto the pile when burning off, you can protect the environment and the wellbeing of your farm, your family and your neighbours,” she said.

## Dads’ sleep deprivation and fatigue at ‘pathological’ level

ANew and comprehensive review of sleep, mental health and wellbeing among fathers of infants finds new dads are enduring “concerning” levels of sleep deprivation and fatigue.

Dr Karen Wynter, from Deakin University School of Nursing and Midwifery, conducted the review with colleagues from Deakin’s School of Psychology and other Australian universities.

The review included 30 studies finding substantial sleep disruption exists among fathers - sleep complaints that can go unrecognised by professionals and impact fathers’ mental health, relationships, and workplace safety.

Dr Wynter, a founding member of the Australian Fatherhood Research Consortium, said sleep deprivation and fatigue was clearly interfering with fathers’ psychological wellbeing and daily functioning.

“There are some really significant problems with sleep among fathers,” Dr Wynter said.

“Most fathers are in the clinical range for what doctors would describe as pathological sleep deprivation.

“Looking at average time spent in bed versus time spent sleeping, studies have even shown that many fathers are in the range for what would be considered a clinical level of insomnia.

“This level of sleep deprivation is quite concerning.

“When people are sleep deprived to that degree, their functioning and safety is quite heavily impacted.

“There’s a real safety implication here for fathers, particularly as we’ve seen this can impact their safety procedures at work and their psychological wellbeing.”

Dr Wynter said there was a “significant association” between fatigue and mental health issues such as depression and anxiety, as

well as relationship problems between fathers and their partners.

“The more fatigued the father, the poorer the relationship with their partner,” she said.

“Sleep deprivation and fatigue have been shown to lead to poor impulse control, including becoming angry and easily irritable.

“A big gap in the research at the moment is the impact that poor sleep could have on the relationship between the father and the child, which needs to be explored further.”

Dr Wynter said health professionals consulting with families with young infants could improve fathers’ mental health as well as family functioning by including father’s sleep in their assessments of family needs and treatment plans.

“Nobody is actually checking in with the fathers at the moment,” she said.

“There’s a need for better screening tools, and health pro-

fessionals need to check in with the father as well as the mother.

“They have the perfect opportunity to do this when fathers are available at consultations with their partners and infants. “

“Fathers might not respond to questions regarding their mental health or emotional state, as they can experience this stress in different ways.

“Checking in could be as simple as asking how they’re sleeping. Once these problems have been identified, there are programs we can use to address the root causes, first and foremost through programs to help if the infant is unsettled.”

Dr Wynter’s full scoping review on sleep, mental health and wellbeing among fathers of infants up to one year postpartum has been published in the Midwifery journal.

## Instant asset write-off extended

THE Federal government recently announced that it will extend the \$150,000 instant asset write-off for six months to 31 December 2020.

Australian businesses with annual turnover of less than \$500 million will be able to take advantage of this extended timeframe to invest in assets to support their business as the economy reopens and coronavirus health restrictions continue to be eased.

These measures will support over 3.5 million businesses.

They are designed to support business sticking with investment they had planned, and encouraging them to bring investment forward to support economic growth over the near term.

The instant asset write-off also helps to improve cash flow

for businesses by bringing forward tax deductions for eligible expenditure.

The threshold applies on a per asset basis, so eligible businesses can immediately write-off multiple assets provided each costs less than \$150,000.

The extension will also give businesses additional time to acquire and install assets, as they will now have until the end of the

year.

Assets can be new or second hand and could include, for example, a truck for a delivery business or a tractor for a farming business.

Legislative changes will be made to give effect to this measure, which is estimated to have a cost to revenue of \$300 million over the forward estimates period.

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Demonstrators Helen Smith and Clive Stuart bold up a sign at a demonstration near the pedestrian crossing.



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## Giving thanks for Aboriginal service

THE state government paid tribute to the thousands of Aboriginal men and women who served in the Australian Armed Forces during last month's Reconciliation Week commemoration.

The Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Service has been held since 2006 to formally recognise and honour the service of Aboriginal Victorians throughout history.

This year's event was held online for the first time, in keeping with the directives of the Chief Health Officer.

It was also the first time the event has been held without the late Auntie Dot Peters, who was instrumental in establishing the service in honour of her father, who died as a prisoner of war while working on the Thai-Burma Railway.

She died last year, and her son, Andrew Peters, spoke at the service.

Many thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen and women fought for Australia, but it took many years for their contributions to be formally acknowledged and honoured.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Gabrielle Williams said the strength and resilience of the Ab-

original servicemen and women must be acknowledged.

"To have offered service to a country that did not recognise you as one of its own is a mark of true selflessness, and we honour that remarkable commitment," she said.

Veterans Minister Robin Scott said nearly 4000 Aboriginal Australians officially served in World War 2 alone, although the number is probably much higher.

The Lovett brothers became the first family group to be inducted into the Victorian Indigenous Honour Roll in 2013, with Alfred, Leonard, Frederick, Edward and Herbert all serving in World War 1.

It would begin a family legacy that has so far seen 21 Lovett family members serve their country.

Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation also commemorated this year's National Reconciliation Week via a number of smaller groups and online platforms.

Restrictions on outdoor gatherings limited what ceremonies would have normally taken place, but people still took the opportunity to recognise and reflect on the reconciliation journey.

National Reconciliation Week

was held from May 27 to June 3, and is a time for all Australians to learn about shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how everyone can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey — the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision.

A live-stream of a concert by well known indigenous artist Uncle Kutcha Edwards was shared in the Ramahyuck community.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the reconciliation walks of 2000, when people came together to walk on bridges and roads across the nation to show their support for a more reconciled Australia.

The theme for 2020 was 'In this Together'.

Reconciliation has been a feature in many art forms over the decades, including the poignant Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody song 'From Little Things Big Things Grow'.

Those needing to reach Ramahyuck can do so by phoning 1800 001 25

## Local resident seeks information on postal and telephone history

By John Hanley

THE article and photographs of the Trafalgar South School in last month's issue was timely for me in that I am presently researching Trafalgar South postal and telephone history, together with others in the district.

I am in the throws of completing the 'Moe Swamp', Yulungah and Trafalgar East, and hoping to publish in a few months.

This will soon be followed by Trafalgar West and Yarragon South which I have well under way.

Through your pages I would like to appeal to the Traf News readers for any information they may have or know of relating to history in our area.

I am particularly writing a little about the respective families with the histories as these services which were predominantly conducted from private homes.

The majority of the former postal and telephone people are long gone, however if readers know of their descendants I would ask they either put me in

touch with them, alternatively familiarise them with my project and the information I am seeking.

I am also interested in photographs of the respective families, the Yarragon South I have listed below.

As a courtesy I will acknowledge all contributions in the books, as I have done in those nearing completion.

The areas I am writing of in addition to those mentioned above are: Willow Grove, Hill End, Trafalgar and Railway, Al-lambee, Yarragon (Waterloo), Childers, Thorpdale South, Thorpdale and Railway, Narracan East, Narracan West and Narracan including the Narracan Railway Township.

I am supporting another writer in undertaking Fumina South.

I worked as a telephone technician on all the exchanges in these locations and maintained the phones in the district between 1959 and 1978.

I am writing these histories, which I am quite passionate

about, for our historical society; prompted initially by Jack McDonald some years ago when I was composing for the paper, which I did from 2003 to 2012.

### Trafalgar South – in charge people

1917, Miss Eileen O'Brien – opened as a 'Receiving; Office'. Closed after a couple of Years;

1923, opened as a telephone office;

1926, George Tarrant;

1932, John Douglas (died 1932);

1948, Mrs Eileen Katherine Malady;

1951, transferred to Joan Ryan;

1958, transferred to Mrs Marion Joyce McColl.

Closed permanently 1958.

I hope you can make sense of above, feel free to ring or email John Hanley on 0456 600 706 or at trafpmg@gmail.com if you have questions.

## Thorpdale Potato Festival planted until 2022

Barbara Butterworth

It is with disappointment that an announcement was made that the Thorpdale Potato Festival, which was to be held in March 2021, will be cancelled due to considerations of health and welfare, sponsors, com-

munity and hardship which has been caused by the COVID-19 virus.

The Committee came to this decision after considerable debate and all aspects were discussed at depth. It was not an easy decision.

Festival spokesperson Barbara Butterworth said "we are sure that the Thorpdale Potato Festival will bounce back on the Sunday of the Labour Day weekend in March 2022, with much more to tempt people from far and wide."

## SCAMWATCH

www.scamwatch.gov.au

ACCC

Scammers are trying to take advantage of the Government's recent announcement that people suffering financial hardship can have partial access to their superannuation from mid-April.

"Scammers are cold-calling people claiming to be from organisations that can help you get early access to your super," ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard said.

"For most people, outside of their home, superannuation is their greatest asset and you can't be too careful about protecting it.

"The Australian Taxation Office is coordinating the early release of super through myGov and there is no need to involve a third party or pay a fee to get access under this scheme.

"Never follow a hyperlink to reach the myGov website. Instead, you should always type the full name of the website into your browser yourself."

Since the Government's announcement in March, there have been 87 reports of these scams, but no reported losses.

In most cases the scammers are seeking to obtain personal information, including information that will help them fraudulently access the victim's superannuation funds.

"While older people are more commonly affected by superannuation scams, the new early-access scheme means a range of age groups are now experiencing these scams," Ms Rickard said.

"We also have reports of scammers offering to check

if a person's super account is eligible for various benefits or claiming the new scheme will lock people out of their accounts."

In 2019, Australians lost over \$6 million to superannuation scams with people aged 45–54 losing the most amount of money.

"Never give any information about your superannuation to someone who has contacted you. Don't let them try to pressure you to make a decision immediately, take your time and consider who you might be dealing with.

"Be wary of callers who claim to be from a government authority asking about your super. Hang up and call the organisation directly by doing an independent search for

their contact details," said Ms Rickard.

If you have provided information about your superannuation to a scammer, immediately contact your superannuation institution. If you have provided personal or banking details, you should also contact your financial institution.

You can also contact IDCARE on 1800 595 160, a free Government-supported service which will work with you to develop a specific response plan to your situation and support you through the process.

More information on coronavirus scams is available on the Scamwatch website, www.scamwatch.vic.gov.au

# Creative arts alive and well in Baw Baw

By Carol Monson

WELL known local painter and member of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance, Ingrid Thomas, has recently hung a number of her vibrant acrylic paintings in the premises of 'Through Life Physiotherapist' in Warragul.

In a collaborative relationship with the Physiotherapist's the Arts Alliance provides a constantly changing variety of artworks on a two monthly basis. The public are welcome to drop in to see the art but will be asked to observe social distancing guidelines.

The Baw Baw Arts Alliance now has its creative drop in groups commencing with limited numbers due to social distancing regulations. These groups use Artspace one and two at Trafalgar Railway Station that has re-opened to enable the regular Thursday mosaic group to practise.

Mosaic members have managed a number of Zoom ses-

sions to keep in touch but now, because of the lessening of some restrictions they are able to meet in two smaller groups at Trafalgar.

All other groups are slowly reconvening as they manage the social distancing requirements. Meanwhile Janet Wylie, also a member of the mosaic group, is organising small workshops to complete the coat of 'Pat', the dog. This community arts project commenced last year and is supported by a grant from Regional Arts Victoria.

Janet directed a number of workshop sessions held at the Warragul Arts Markets and the Warragul Community House to create and produce individual mosaic squares for the dog's coat.

The basic mosaic panels for Pat's coat are now complete but artists have to create more complex curved pieces to fit in and finalise the garment.

Exhibitions can be viewed on

www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au.

Each exhibition directs viewers to an artist's profile providing information of artistic experience, background and processes involved in the creation of their work. Future exhibitions will be online and pending further lifting of restrictions will be in the Yarragon 'Station Gallery'.

Coming up this month will be the photographs of local couple Peter and Pam Boyes in the main gallery and 'On the Wall' Donna Mitchell will exhibit her eclectic paintings.

Don't miss the 'Station Gallery' once it reopens because it has had a fresh coat of paint in a colour very different from the previous one.

If you visit the online shop you can see a small sample of the works for sale in the gallery as well as being able to purchase online at www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au.



Gallery manager Sue Murphy and drawing teacher Dale Plew in the Trafalgar Art spaces at the railway station. The Art spaces are open to the public but with strict observance of the social distancing and hand hygiene regulations. Some art groups have recommenced in the two Art spaces.

# Walhalla Railway back up and puffing

By Stephanie Paul

WALTHALLA Goldfields Railway train services recommencing its spectacular rail journeys recently, Trafalgar and District Community Bank is delighted to welcome its return following assistance from the Bank during a challenging period for the community.

The Walhalla Goldfields Railway provides a tourist train ride experience on part of the former Victorian Railways narrow gauge line that ran between Moe and Walhalla, and closed in 1954. The railway is operated and maintained by volunteers who give their time, effort and expertise to allow everyone the chance to enjoy one of the most spectacular rail journeys in Australia.

Phil Drummond, branch manager of Trafalgar and District Community Bank said it had worked hard over recent months to proactively support the Walhalla Goldfields Railway, its customers and the entire community through what has been a uniquely challenging period for everyone.

"For more than 162 years, Bendigo Bank has been committed to our customers and communities through good times and tough times," Mr Drummond said.

"Whether you're a homeowner, business owner, retiree, casual worker or a student, we work hard to deeply understand your situation and deliver value through our unique relationship banking model which is underpinned by strong customer and community connection, and specialist expertise.

"We have worked closely with the Walhalla Goldfields Railway for many years and we are delighted to be in a position to continue to support this great Australian organisation, which is so fundamental to the economic success of our community."

Phil Milbourne, president, of the Walhalla Goldfields Railway, said it is delighted to be finally resuming services after a long shut down period and is looking forward to a bright future.

"The Walhalla Goldfields Railway is extremely grateful for

the level of care and concern Trafalgar and District Community Bank has shown to our organisation, particularly in recent months. We don't feel like a number, we feel that they are our friends," Mr Milbourne said.

"Thanks to a Victorian government grant, we are constructing a brand-new, self-propelled railcar which will eventually enable us to run a seven-day service and provide a great boost to tourism in the region.

"The railmotor construction has been challenging, and has

consumed more money than originally budgeted for. Branch manager, Phil Drummond responded when we approached him and after careful consideration he provided us with an overdraft facility just in case we needed it. This positive show of support lifted our volunteers' spirits and allowed us to continue construction knowing the safety net was available.

"Fortunately, through this additional support, frugal spending and the commitment of our volunteers, we are making good progress."



The historic Walhalla Railway is back on track. Pictured are train driver Andrew Hough, Walhalla Goldfields Railway president Phil Milbourne and Trafalgar and District branch manager Phil Drummond.

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## Trafalgar Pony Club celebrates 50 years

Julie McCulloch

An advertisement was placed in the Trafalgar News of 20 May 1970, for the first meeting of the Trafalgar Pony Club.

16 people attended that meeting held on Monday 25 May, and the Trafalgar Pony Club was formed. Activities began immediately and the first rally, a ride from the recreation reserve, was held on 31 May.

The remainder of 1970 was filled with many "firsts" for the club:

- 6 July First committee meeting held at the State Savings Bank
- 12 July First working bee organised
- 11 October First rally held at Polocrosse grounds
- 7 December Trafalgar Club

accepted for annual IVPK camp at Moe

- 13 December First gymkhana held for Trafalgar members only

"The first 21 years", meticulously compiled by Susan Bechaz and published in 1991, celebrates the 21st Anniversary of the Club. The book outlines the origins of The Pony Club in Britain in 1928, the formation of the Pony Club Association of Victoria in 1954 and then the formation of the Trafalgar Pony Club in 1970. The Club became known as the Trafalgar Pony Club Incorporated on 24 September 1985.

Source: "The first 21 years", compiled by Susan Bechaz and published in 1991.

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# Trafalgar mourns loss of local identity Keith Sewell

*Amy Chaplain, Keith's Granddaughter*

On the May 10, 2020, Trafalgar lost a wonderful citizen, Keith Sewell, who's spent many years of his life contributing to the community.

Keith Sewell was born at Talangatta on June 7, 1939 and in 1972 Keith with wife Betty and children Debbie, Gary and Jenny moved to Trafalgar.

Many of us in Trafalgar knew Keith through his contributions to the community. Some of us may have known him through his work in the Trafalgar ANZ bank; where he worked from 1972 to 1977 and later became the Relieving Manager for Gippsland for many years after.

Keith then became the Senior Leading Manager based in the head office at Traralgon and, later spent his final four years in the bank as the Manager of the Moe Branch where he retired in June 1994.

Others around Trafalgar may have instead known Keith through the Trafalgar Hot Bread Bakery that his family purchased in 1985 to provide employment for Debbie and Jenny. Keith worked in the shop for two years after he retired, before the shop was sold in 1996, after running it for eleven years. Then in 2014 onwards, Keith worked in Deb's Bakehouse for his daughter Debbie.

Those who didn't know Keith directly may have instead known him through his contributions to the community through the Trafalgar Lions Club. Keith joined the club during 1972 and was always an active and hands on member.

He operated the club's highly successful Football Tipping Competition for twelve of his seventeen years. He also introduced the Trafalgar Lions Club Fun Run, which ran for seventeen years; beginning and ending in McGregor Park.

Keith also helped run the 2005 Battle of Trafalgar Anniversary. In 1997, Keith earned the high honour of becoming a Twenty-Five Year Monarch of Lions International. On July 2, 1997, he was the recipient of the James D. Richardson Honour Award in Recognition of Dedication to Lions Service. Keith served three years as Secretary of the Trafalgar Lions Club and he was the Club President during 1995-96 and finally resigned in 2001.

If you haven't made a connection to Keith just yet, you may have known him through Football. Keith coached the Trafalgar Juniors to three premierships in 1973, 1974 and 1979. He was also the Captain of the ANZ Bank Football team when they played social matches against other banks during the 1980s. Keith has been a Carlton barracker for

all his life.

Those from surrounding towns of Trafalgar may know Keith through his years of playing tennis. Keith first took up tennis in 1973 when he joined the Trafalgar Uniting Tennis Club which was then known as the Trafalgar Presbyterian Tennis Club. Keith won the Tanjil Valley Tennis Association Best and fairest Awards in 1981, 1982 and 1987.

He also won the Tanjil Valley Men's Doubles with his son Gary in 1979, and the Tanjil Valley Mixed Doubles with his daughter Debbie in 1980. In March and November 1999, Keith won the Melbourne Park Masters Tournament and Men's Doubles when partnered with Colin Sandow and Ivan Ward. Keith played in the Tanjil Valley Association A grade Singles Competition for a record 25 consecutive years.

He was captain of the Trafalgar Uniting Tennis Club team for 24 years and was Secretary of the Tanjil Valley Tennis Association in 1998/1999 season. After Trafalgar Uniting Tennis Club disbanded in 1999, Keith started playing for Trafalgar Tennis Club. at age 60 and continued playing across different sections for Trafalgar until age 80 (2019). Keith also did the draws for the Riverside Tennis Association and conducted the Annual Riverside Championship at Trafalgar from 2004 to 2017.

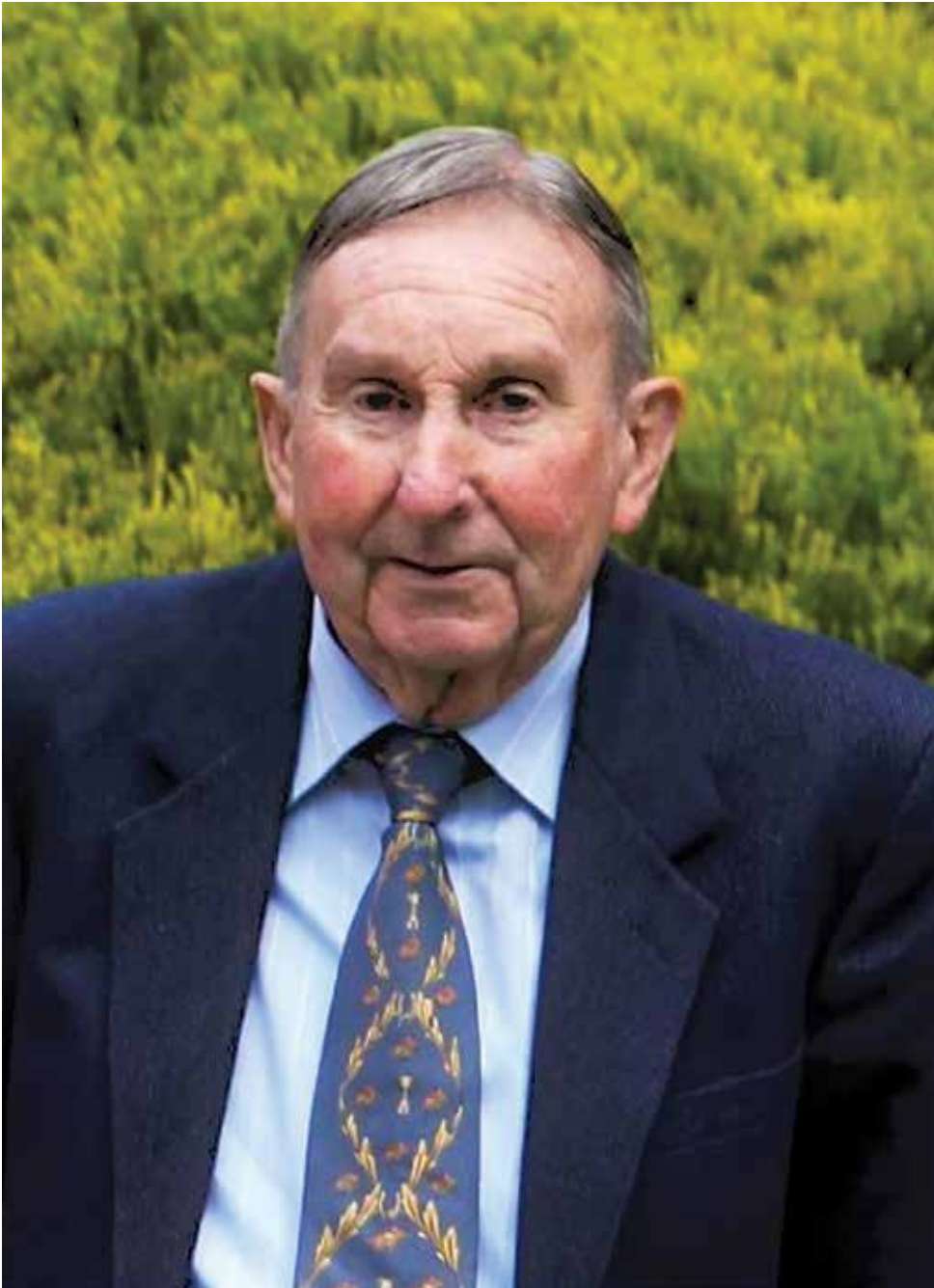
Local greyhound and horse

racing fans may have known Keith. He was a member of Moe, Sale and Pakenham racecourses and attended them each regularly along with Stoney Creek, Traralgon, Caulfield racecourses and even went to the Melbourne Cup and Oaks Day every year for 25 years.

He also enjoyed going to the Warragul greyhound racing; where he'd only bet \$1 each way per horse or dog. Keith and Betty's love of dogs also lead them to walking with the monthly Moe rail-trail dog walking group for many years.


Since 1995, many people would have met Keith through playing for Trafalgar Park Bowls Club. He ran every tournament for over ten years. He also organised the annual presentation nights for many years and ensured to support many local entertainment acts by having them perform for the Trafalgar Park Bowls Club players and families.

Most people will remember Keith through his years of hard work and true commitment to the community. Others will remember him as the man who walked his greyhound down Trafalgar's streets every day to buy his newspaper. He will be sadly missed around Trafalgar and surrounding towns; and I feel so lucky to have had him apart of my life for 21 years.



Keith Sewell

## Wally's Words



*Relationships are a two way street navigated by women who are backseat drivers and men who refuse to use maps*  
— **Wally**

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# Senior Pathways

## Facebook - Live

# Online Information

## Tuesday 18th August

Subject Fair from 6pm  
Information Session from 7pm

Current Trafalgar High School Year 9S & 10 students and prospective Year 10 & 11 students

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## Anglican Church services to resume services online and in person

*Sue Jacka*

Over the lockdown, the Anglican Church held their services entirely by Zoom and those who don't have computer access were provided with a paper copy of the service.

Moving forward, they are now doing a hybrid, with some people gathering at church and others joining in via Zoom. If you'd like to come in person at 9.30am, you are very welcome.

Like everywhere else, we have to take names and contact numbers and use the hand sanitizer etc. If you'd prefer to stay at home, the Zoom link is available by emailing: [trafalgarangli-](mailto:trafalgarangli-can1@gmail.com)

[can1@gmail.com](mailto:can1@gmail.com)

The Mainly Music program for preschoolers and the parents/carers will resume on Tuesday 14 July. Each session provides a fun, interactive and educative time with craft, a structured music session of about half an hour, morning tea and a time for free play.

Sessions run from 9.30-11am at the Trafalgar Anglican community complex, 40 Contingent Street. For more information, please call Sue Jacka 0409 757 170

Jaffas after school program will resume on Wednesday 15

July after the COVID restrictions. This popular program for primary school children includes active games, craft, cooking, stories, music and lots of fun.

It runs from 3.30-5.30pm each Wednesday during school term at the Trafalgar Anglican community complex.

All the leaders and volunteers have the appropriate checks and participants need to register and sign in and out each week. For a registration form please email [trafalgarangli-can1@gmail.com](mailto:trafalgarangli-can1@gmail.com) or call Sue Jacka

## Strzelecki Bushwalking Club back on the track

*Joanne Leviston*

Good news! Strzelecki Bushwalking Club is back on the track with a number of day walks being held since the recent easing of restrictions. Although initially limited to 10 participants per group, the Club has welcomed the increase of walkers to 20 and the all clear to include overnight hikes.

Walks have been very popu-

lar as members are more than ready to stretch their legs and share their walks with others. Our interest from visitors has also increased significantly with a number becoming members and benefiting from the 2 months free initiative recently introduced.

Our recent club meetings have been hosted via the Zoom

app with the June meeting featuring a presentation on the McMullan track.

If you would like to learn more about the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club and their activities check out the SBWC Facebook page or contact Jo at [publicity@sbwc.org.au](mailto:publicity@sbwc.org.au).




Long time club members Julie and Wendy with club visitor Kerry at the Wirilda Track in Tyers Park during June.


# Vox Pop

*Marge O'Donnell*

If the Battle of Trafalgar starts again what type of activities would you like to attend or take part in?



**Belinda Parise**  
Mari Gras type event (at footy ground). Fun Run. Chip drop over the footy ground (light plane). Old fashioned burger or hot dog eating competition!



**Donna Noonan**  
Bring back the way Battle of Traf used too be! Block off main St. (Contingent St). Local stalls. Boat races (make your boat). Pancakes in the park. Fun runs. Town Crier. Garage sale day back to Saturday so Traf families can enjoy the Sunday activities.



**Rhonda Crooks**  
Big Band = Traf Town Hall.

## Superload headed towards Loy Yang

*Kathy Geisler*

During June, another super load had the highway to itself, destined for Loy Yang Power. Over the course of the last couple of years, these

super loads have been a bit frequent, but still attracts a crowd with awe.

The massive load departed Yarragon weigh station around

10pm on June 3, 2020 with a very minimal top speed.



The super load parked at Yarragon weigh station Photo: Kathy Geisler

## Probus Club to decide on post Covid-19 return

*John Attwell*

Probus members are very patiently waiting for the time when it is safe for us to get together and have "FUN, FRIENDSHIP and FELLOWSHIP" We have not had a meeting for three months and it will be some time before we can get together with our normal activities.

Our Committee is planning a meeting in late June to discuss what activities we could start up and when. Some have suggested that we could start our walking group or dine outs in a limited way.

Unfortunately this is a changing environment and there are

changes every day. As we are all Seniors we have to be very mindful of what is right for our members.

We did have nine locals who were ready to join our club when the restrictions hit and I hope that they can formally join soon as we can move into a safe future.

Our monthly Newsletter is still being put together by Barb Butterworth and is being distributed by email or direct to the letterbox and this is really good to keep the communication lines open to all members. Well done Barb!

In these times we are fortunate to have so many ways to keep in touch whether by phone, email, zoom etc. and I know members have all been busy keeping in contact with others and sharing their achievements and stories.

Wayne Butterworth has established a Facebook site just for Trafalgar and District Probus members. This is a good development for our Club to keep members in touch. Well done Wayne.

Looking forward to getting back together soon.



# Scouting Builds Resilience for Life

Dr Michael Kunze- Scout Leader  
1st Trafalgar

Wombat Lyons, State Commissioner  
Diversity and Inclusion,  
Scouts Victoria

New National research confirms what the town of Trafalgar has always known; Scouts develop some important skills for young people particularly resilience.

For over 110 years 1st Trafalgar Scout Group has been part of the offerings for young people in town, providing Joey Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scout programs for youth aged 5 to 15 in Trafalgar, and Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts programs to the age of 26 in the West Gippsland area.

The new national research is being branded as 'The Scouting Effect' and has been prepared by Resilient Youth Australia and Uni-SA Justice and Society at the University of South Australia in 2019.

"The 'Scouting Effect' is real and measurable. In partnership with Resilient Youth Australia, Scouts Australia surveyed youth members and found that they consistently report higher levels of wellbeing, resilience and life satisfaction than their peers." Said National Commissioner of Scouts Australia Phil Harrison and locally this is seen in Trafalgar with the many generations of residents who are past members of 1st Trafalgar Scout Group.

Resilience has become a major focus in recent times across the community, with Schools, youth groups and sports clubs focusing on how to support its development within young people.

As a skill it is highly valued as it enables people to thrive and take on all that life has to offer, including the inevitable challenges. It's about knowing our strengths and calling on them when needed.

1st Trafalgar Scouts and Scouting across Australia has become well known for the skills it offers to young people though methods like empowering young people to make decisions, take the lead and learn by doing.

Scouting gives young people a safe space where they can work with others to plan and embark on their own adventures, indoors and out. By building resilience in young people, Scouts is empowering youth to be able to learn from their mistakes and to understand that failing is okay. It's an integral part of the learning journey.

In 2019, Scouts Australia partnered with Resilient Youth Australia following work by Victorian Scouting in 2018 to explore the impact of Scouting on young Australians. Youth members across the country participated in the Resilience Survey including many current members of 1st Trafalgar, and after months of analysis, the results are in.

Some examples of the data are:

- Scouts are more likely to hold more hope for a positive future than non-Scouts (78.8% v 69.4%)
- Scouts are more likely to trust others (81.5% v 68.5%)
- Scouts are more likely to feel good about themselves (81.8% v 70%)
- Scouts are more likely to read for fun (60% v 45.9%)
- Scouts are more likely to know they can solve a problem

when others want to quit (66.8% v 58.7%)

- Scouts are more likely to feel they make a positive contribution to their community than non-Scouts (58.8% v 43.4%)
- Scouts are more likely to give time to help others (81.3% v 73.2%)

From being able to find ways to solve a problem, to being more likely to forgive themselves if they make a mistake, the resilience survey found Scouts demonstrate a far wider range of resilient behaviours than their peers.

In fact, the findings show that young people participating in Scouts report to demonstrate higher levels of resilience when compared to their non-Scouting peers, and this is consistent across a number of elements of resilience, including positive relationships, social skills, understanding oneself, healthy mind and body, positive learners, positive identity, positive values and positive contribution.

And that's not all, the resilience survey also revealed that Scouts report to have an overall better life satisfaction than their peers, and that the longer they stay in Scouts the more resilient they are likely to be.

As stated at the opening, these findings aren't new, it's something Trafalgar has known about the role of its Scout groups for a long time, but through the resilience survey the community now have concrete proof that participating in scouting gives young Australians the unique tools to thrive and take on all that life has to offer.



Group Photo of 1st Trafalgar 2018



Group Photo of 1st Trafalgar 1994 (Source 1st Trafalgar Scout Group Centenary Booklet, page 17)



Group Photo of 1st Trafalgar 1947

## Smooth Return to the Classroom

LAST month, about 400,000 students returned to classrooms across the state, as part of a staged return to classroom teaching.

School yards that have sat empty for weeks were busy as Preps, Year 1 and 2, Year 11 and 12s and specialist school students arrived back to school.

Locally, most students were grateful to see their friends and teachers, and get stuck into some face-to-face learning again.

Education Minister James Merlino congratulated principals, teachers, school staff, students and families for their efforts in making remote learning work, and announced a summit to discuss lessons learnt and investigate what improvements could be made to the education system as a result of the remote learning experience.

The summit was held recently, following an independent analysis

of the experience at schools across the state, bringing together education leaders from the government, Catholic and independent school sectors.

The government is also spending up to \$45 million on increased daily cleaning at government schools for the remainder of term two and three.

# Trafalgar Primary School students take online classes

School Council President (Trafalgar Primary School)

Over the last couple of months, I've rarely had a conversation with someone caring for school-aged children, without the topic of remote learning coming up. I'm sure you've experienced the same thing.

Unsurprisingly, peoples' experiences have differed vastly, with many I've spoken to across the state and in different parts of the country bending under the strain of not only adapting to life in lockdown, but also the added responsibility of facilitating their children's remote learning with programs delivered in an array of formats from school to school.

So, I (with the help of Daina – my better half) offer these reflections, painfully aware that the experience of remote learning for parents and carers has been an extremely varied one.

The beginning was somewhat haphazard, and it took us a few weeks to get into a new routine. One of the first challenges to navigate was who would use what device, in which space, at what time.

It was a miracle that our internet held up to the task.

The early phone calls from the teachers were greatly appreciated. We were very aware that teachers were not only connecting with our kids but also planning work, monitoring class chat online, teaching, and often juggling multiple kids in their homes at the same time. The reassurance that the kids would not be relying solely on us, as parents, for their learning was a big weight off our shoulders.

The joy and relief that we experienced when our son joined his first 'Google meet' was unquantifiable!

Our son was overjoyed to receive postcards from his teacher, and proudly posted a letter back. I don't think he even knew that the mail could contain anything other than boring bills or Dad's Ebay purchases!

It was apparent (and appreciated) that teachers focused mostly on wellbeing and developing new routines in the first few weeks of term two, rather than jumping straight into more challenging curriculum. In a time of great change and uncertainty, it was important that our kids felt safe and new routines helped promote

this. The last thing we needed in the home was [any more] unnecessary stress.

The most valuable thing for us was the interaction that the kids still had with their teachers and classmates. This looked different depending on which child. For one, the teacher was directly teaching content via video conference call, and students could hear each-other's answers; and for our oldest child, the Google classroom environment in conjunction with direct teaching gave them a chance to ask questions and clarify the tasks that they had been given to then work on independently. It was really special and enlightening to be allowed a 'window' into the classroom. The positive relationship that each teacher had with the children was obvious.

With technology forming the backbone of the remote learning program delivery, it goes without saying that the kid's tech-proficiency has grown exponentially. Trafalgar Primary School was in a much better position than many other schools to facilitate online delivery due to their implementation of a Chromebook program (requiring all students from grade

3 to purchase their own device for use at school) in 2019, and the subsequent effort in bringing curriculum online to support that program. Not only did this give the school a head-start, but also staff and students were not grappling with the additional stress of adjusting to unfamiliar technology.

As School Council President, I'm also very proud that the school was able to support families by loaning around 100 Chromebook devices for students below grade 3, as well as pre-paid 4G wireless broadband for families without access to the internet.

By the end of remote learning we had a seven year old who could get up of his own accord, get ready for the day, get his device and workstation in order and be on a Google meet by 9am without any adult intervention. It was also interesting to see how the children chose to manage their school-work time, their breaks and their day.

Our oldest child chose to forgo their first break, preferring to work a solid 3 hours and complete most of the core subjects, whereas our youngest needed breaks on the hour or we would see his interest and motivation

fade.

Even with all the resources, Google meets and support, the reality was that remote learning required one parent to be supervising, if not sitting side by side with one child. This was often mentally exhausting. I've seen more than a few observations online lately to the effect that 'maybe it wasn't the teacher's fault after all...', or 'what do you do when you can't ban your kid from tech when they misbehave as that is the equivalent to giving them a day off school!' Having said that, for our family, the experience has been an overwhelmingly positive one. It gave us a deeper insight into our children's personalities, their education, their strengths and weaknesses, and the forced confinement brought us closer together - but that's not to say that there weren't a few days that ended in tears or a large glass of wine!

Despite the challenges, it needs to be acknowledged that all members of the school (and broader) community have made a phenomenal effort in making remote learning work; from teachers having to transform their classroom delivery methodology overnight, to parents and carers

doing their best to help facilitate their children's ongoing education in the midst of these unprecedented circumstances; to many employers who have extended additional flexibility to workers, and of course, especially to the students – caught in the middle of the storm – but who just did their best to keep on keeping on. Perhaps that's what it really boils down to in essence: the sheer determination and resilience of the human spirit in adapting to and overcoming adversity time and time again – this never ceases to amaze me.

If 2020 was a movie, I think it would be a box office flop. Nobody in their right mind would buy the story-line.

Mark Twain once made the observation that "Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; Truth isn't."

Certainly so far, this year seems to have thrown most reasonable possibilities out of the window – let's just hope 2020 part 2 has a more believable plot!

## Traf High School supports student hydration

David "Wombat" Lyons

Trafalgar High School welcomed its students back with a practical gift. Drink bottles with "welcome back 2020" and the school logo have been issued to Year 11 and 12 students currently and Year 7 to 10 students after their return on June 9, 2020.

As well as a thank you to the students for their approach to remote learning, the gift has a practical purpose. With Government Covid 19 restrictions, closing drinking taps on sites, the drink bottles are a practical way to support students to stay hydrated over the course of the day.

In a time when so much of the high school experience has been changed for students, with opportunities for events such as camps and excursions postponed, students have shown great resilience and earned all the thanks that the school and community can offer.

David "Wombat" Lyons

Trafalgar High School VCE Year 12 students had a lecture by Ross Huggard, a VCE English Teacher & Exam assessor, during June, 2020.

Normally an experience only

accessible by a small group of students whom are able to travel to a masterclass in Melbourne, all three classes of Unit 3 VCE English in this 'new normal' Covid 19 world, were able to have the pre-

sender streamed into our classrooms to a much larger group.

The session looked at essential elements of analysing texts and how to capture these into essays.

## St Pauls Year 12 students back to school

After weeks of remote learning from home, Year 12 students at St Paul's Anglican Grammar School are grateful for and enjoying the face to face contact with friends and teachers.

Stacie Myers said "I think it is just great to get back to school into

a learning environment instead of being stuck at home and you can work alongside your friends and just really bounce off each other, which makes it a lot easier."

Max L'Hotellier said "It's great to see all my friends again, although I must say I do miss sleep-

ing in and only waking up five minutes before class starts!"

Sophie Kovac said "I really do love my pyjamas and staying in bed but I really do love coming back to school and seeing all my teachers and friends."



St Paul's Year 12 students happy to be back to face-to-face learning: L-R Stacie Myers, Sophie Kovac and Max L'Hotellier.



Favour Ijiyera with her drink bottle



Azabra Mitrovic and Abigail Baker show off their new drink bottles



Streaming allows a large group of Traf High VCE students to access lecturers, usually experienced by only a small group of student



# Farming News

## New National Road Train Network to increase Victorian freight efficiency

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) welcomed the new National Road Train notice last month, which promises to improve cross-border road freight movements and reduce red-tape for growers in Victoria's North West.

VFF Grains Group President Ashley Fraser said the notice paves the way for a simpler and more efficient road train network.

"The new National Road Train Notice will include a road network in North West Victoria for 36.5m A-double trucks and introduces simplified, nationally consistent conditions for road trains," he said.

"This is fantastic news for transport operators and farmers in the North West and is a great step towards increasing freight productivity across Victoria."

Mr Fraser said the drought and COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical importance of securing our food supply chains.

The VFF has been strongly lobbying for a permanent network in Victoria following the success of the temporary Drought Road Train Network in delivering hay and grain to drought affected farmers in New

South Wales and Queensland over the past 18 months.

"The recent Drought Road Train Network has highlighted the benefits of how increasing access for high productivity freight vehicles can reduce supply chain costs for farmers," Mr Fraser said.

The VFF will continue to work with the Department of Transport and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) to improve the efficient movement of hay and grain.

## Disappointment at quad bike manufacturers

THE VFF said it was disappointed by the announced withdrawal of a number of quad bike manufacturers from the Australian market last month.

The VFF said it cannot, and will not, back away from its stance that there is nothing more important than the safety of farmers, families and farm workers.

The decision to withdraw products from the Australian market, rather than adhere to Australia's new safety regulations, has caused significant angst in the farming community.

Victorian farmers have enjoyed mutually beneficial relationships with manufacturers and their dealers for decades.

The new safety regulations, including the mandatory fitting

of Operator Protection Devices (OPDs) from October 2021, are designed to address the 15 deaths and 650 hospitalisations per year caused by quad bike accidents, according to Safe Work Australia.

More than 5000 Victorian farmers have participated in Victoria's quad bike rebate scheme, demonstrating their commitment to farm safety.

The VFF said whilst Australia may be a small portion of the international quad bike market, it also understands that it is not the first country to mandate roll over protection, and that we will not be the last.

Rollover protection has been mandatory in Israel since the early 1990's, yet Israel still enjoys a competitive market for safe, compliant quad bikes.

Despite the original withdrawal of some manufacturers from the Israeli marketplace their quad bikes are still available for sale there.

The VFF commended the manufacturers that have committed to remain in the Australian market for demonstrating the workability of Australia's laws and for putting safety first.

The VFF said it hopes that other manufacturers also choose to stay, retaining the mutually rewarding relationships members have with them and their dealers.

The new safety regulations, including the mandatory fitting

## ADF welcomes Woolworths' extension of milk levy

PEAK dairy farmer group Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) has supported a recent announcement by supermarket retailer Woolworths to extend its 10 cent per litre levy on discount milk.

"We're pleased that Woolworths has made a public commitment to continue distributing an extra 10 cents per litre on its Home Brand milk back to farmers, but in the long term we want to see this initiative built into the farm gate milk price," ADF chief executive David Inall said.

Woolworths said in a statement that the retailer expected to contribute another \$30 million to dairy farmers over the next 12 months, on top of the \$50 million already delivered.

The retailer first raised the price of its generic milk line by 10 cents per litre in 2018, with the full increase going back to dairy farmers who were coping with the devastating impacts of drought.

Woolworths later committed to continue the arrangement in February 2019.

"We are now looking for Coles, ALDI and other retailers to follow Woolworths' lead and publicly state their commitment to continue their arrangements," Mr Inall said.

ADF, in a submission last year to the Senate inquiry into the performance of the dairy industry since deregulation, recommended that the price of generic milk brands be raised to \$1.50 per litre until changes are made to the Food and Grocery Code to establish appropriate value distribution up the supply chain to dairy farmers.

"If we are to stop farm exits and hardship, then all retailers need to increase the price of their store brand retail fresh milk to \$1.50 per litre with the increase going back to farmers via their processors," Mr Inall said.

Mr Inall said ADF also looked forward to working with Woolworths on future initiatives to maintain a sustainable dairy industry, including a new \$5 million fund to provide infrastructure and technology grants to dairy farmers to help improve on-farm efficiency and profitability.

"This new fund is obviously welcome and Woolworths has committed to engage with dairy industry stakeholders on the design of the new program, so we look forward to working with them wherever we can," he said.

## Further VFF grants for bushfire impacted farmers

THE VFF recently announced

a further \$3000 grants for farmers impacted by this summer's bushfires to be allocated through the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF).

The limited funding is additional to that which has already been allocated through the Fund which launched in early April 2020 and is a result of the DRF Committee making additional funds available to fire impacted farmers from the Disaster Relief Fund's reserves.

VFF President David Jochinke said the grants will continue to make an important difference to farmers who are still rebuilding their businesses.

"The recovery process for fire affected farmers will continue long after the flames were extinguished and these grants will help Victorian farmers get back on their feet," he said.

"The additional \$3000 grants will continue to support farmers to replace or fix farming infrastructure such as fencing, pipes, troughs, seed, fertiliser and stockyards."

Farmers can access the application form and review the criteria on the VFF website at <https://bit.ly/2ZKNBXo>

Applications will only be accepted via email and previous applicants will be reconsidered and do not need to re-apply.



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 ordinary Council Meeting will be held from 5.30pm on **Wednesday 11 July** at the West Gippsland Arts Centre.

**Members of the community are welcome to attend, however, registration is required. All meetings are live streamed via the Council website.**

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

## Careers

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

## Contact us

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

## Chemical free park maintenance trial extended

Council has extended the trial for another 12 months at the following parks:

- **McGregor Park, Trafalgar**
- **Queen Street Park, Warragul**
- **Hearn Street Park, Drouin**

A further 12-month trial extension will give Council clearer data to better understand long-term cost differences and the standards of maintenance achievable by omitting chemicals from weed control practices in designated townships across the Shire.



# Council News.

Have your say

## Have your say, Baw Baw!

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

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



## Four ways you can support our local businesses

**Buying local:** Shop online with local businesses. Lots of our local businesses have a website for shopping online and lots of great products on show via their Instagram and Facebook pages.

**Buying a gift card:** Buy one now and enjoy it later. It helps businesses keep cash flowing and it'll be a great reason to get out and celebrate.

**Showing love:** Send your favourite local businesses a message, or leave a review and show our businesses how much they mean to us.

**Treating yourself:** Never has there been a better time to order takeaway from your favourite place – give them a call, many places are offering pick up or delivery.

## COVID-19 Community support hub

Council is committed to looking after the health and wellbeing of our community, taking proactive measures to slow the spread of coronavirus.

A dedicated online information hub has been established on Council's website to house all useful COVID-19 related information including changes to Council services and information to access support.

## Swimming pool and spa registration deadline extended

The Victorian Government has extended the deadline for the mandatory registration of private pools and spas due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Private pool and spa owners now have until **1 November 2020** to register their pools and spas with Council.

For more information about how to register your swimming pool or spa visit the **Swimming Pool and Spa Barrier Registration** page on the Council website.



## Baw Baw Business Recovery Service available

Council has introduced the Baw Baw Business Recovery Service in response to COVID-19. The service offers a dedicated resource to help you navigate through all the information available to ensure you obtain the right assistance.

To contact the Business Recovery Service, email [economic.development@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:economic.development@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au) or call 1300 BAW BAW.



## Dog parks now open in Trafalgar, Drouin and Warragul

Three new fully fenced dog parks are now open at the following locations

- **Bellbird Park, Drouin**
- **Brooker Park, Warragul**
- **Hollydell Park, Trafalgar**

Each park features:

- Air lock double gate entry with landing area.
- New footpath connections to improve access.
- Signage outlining user rules and responsibilities.
- Doggy drinking fountains.
- Doggy waste bag dispenser and bins.
- Seating for dog owners to use and enjoy.
- Tree plantings.
- Maintenance access gates.

For more information about off-leash areas in Baw Baw Shire, including dog park rules, go to [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/)

## Your East Ward Councillors

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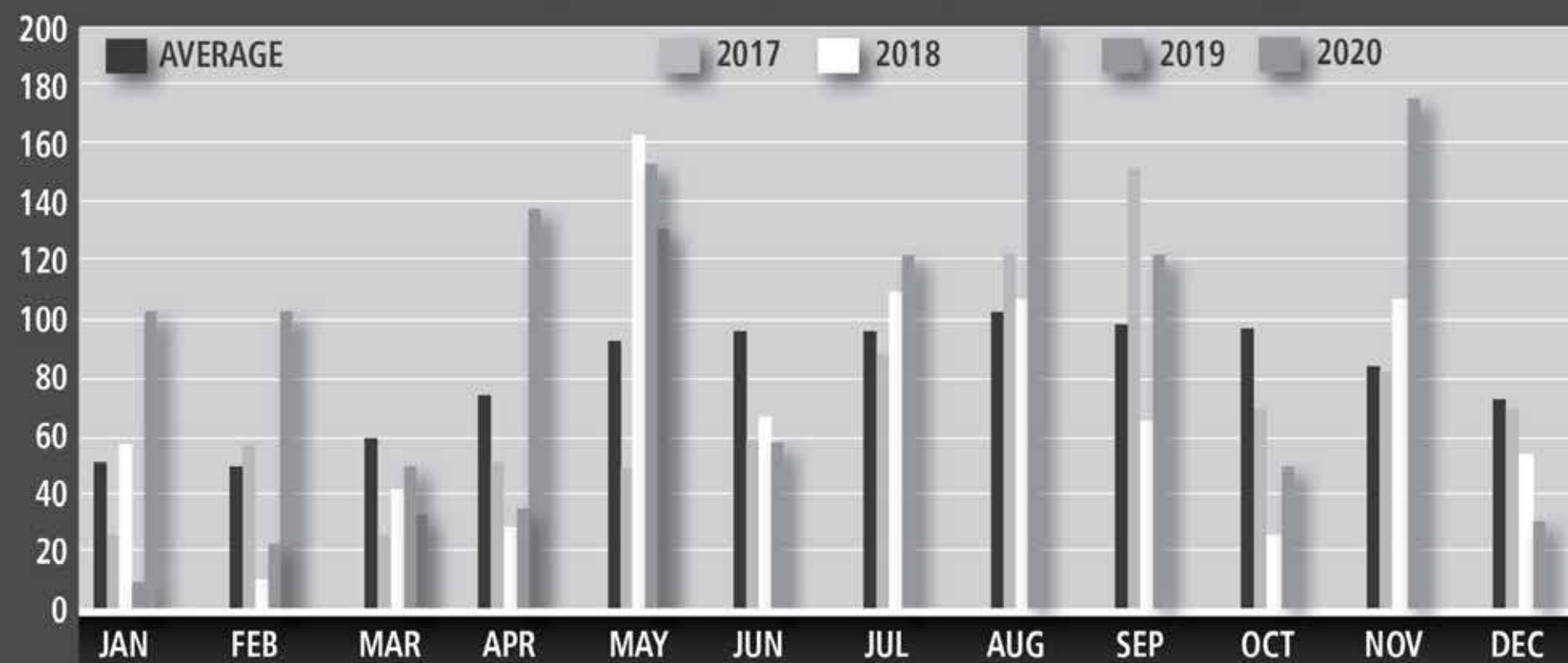
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# TRAFALGAR MONTHLY RAINFALL



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 May 2020 was 128.5mm



# Alcohol and Lockdown: Let's Talk about The Quarantini

By Caitlin Bialy

Alcohol is an intrinsic part of Australian culture. Globally, we are known as a nation who likes an ice-cold pint at the pub or a cheeky little chardy with dinner, but our fondness for booze has sometimes led to concerns about the effects of excessive alcohol use on our physical and mental health.

It is medically well-documented that excessive alcohol use leads to increased risk of heart disease, stroke, dementia, liver disease, and worse mental health outcomes. Currently, Australia's National Guidelines for Alcohol Consumption recommend that adults drink no more than two standard drinks per day to cut the lifetime risk of harm, and no more than four standard drinks on a single occasion to reduce the risk of alcohol-related

injury.

There is a clear correlation between traumatic experiences, such as natural disasters, terrorism, and economic crises and an increase in alcohol use and abuse. So, with the COVID-19 health crisis still battering Australia, it is little wonder that some of us are using alcohol to help cope with the fear, uncertainty, boredom and frustration all of us are feeling.

On an individual level, we are assailed by personal stressors such as the risk of unemployment, financial pressures, and fear for the health and safety of our loved ones. As a nation, we have uncertainty about the safety of reopening businesses, ensuring adequate medical services and supporting those affected by unemployment or pay cuts.

With our usual support systems drastically reduced and our judgement potentially clouded by fear or apathy, it is tempting to have a few glasses of wine to unwind. Drinking alcohol to get through isolation is becoming somewhat of a joke, with unscrupulous retailers using coronavirus themed marketing to boost sales. There has been an 86 per cent rise in spending at liquor stores compared to last year. A recent survey conducted by the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education in April found that seventy per cent of Australians were drinking more than usual since the COVID-19 outbreak, and 32 per cent are concerned about the amount of alcohol they or a loved one is consuming.

There are many safe and effective methods for manag-

ing stress and anxiety. We can improve our physical health by maintaining a healthy diet, exercising regularly, doing yoga or tai chi, and ensuring adequate sleep. Our mental health can achieve a boost through strategies such as mindfulness or meditation, and maintaining routines. And, our psychosocial health is benefitted by staying connected with friends and family. Many of these strategies can be initiated at home, but we can also seek advice and support from health professionals.

In terms of reducing alcohol intake, some useful strategies include counting your drinks and sticking to a pre-set limit (DrinkWise has a good online calculator), limiting your alcohol purchases so there is less of it in the house, and choosing a few alcohol-free days throughout

the week. You might also like to consider signing up for Dry July, which, in addition to supporting a good cause, can be a great way to see that a night out with mates can be good fun whether you're downing pints of beer or pitchers of lemonade – it's the friends who make the good times, not the booze.

If you would like to talk more about strategies for managing stress during the COVID-19 crisis (or beyond), or have concerns about your or a loved one's alcohol use, we are here at Trafalgar Medical to discuss this further.

In addition to your friendly local GP, some other sources you can use for more information include: <https://drinkwise.org.au/>, <https://au.reachout.com/tough-times/addiction>, or call DirectLine on 1800 888 236.

The Department of Health also provides a great list of support services and resources: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/alcohol/alcohol-contacts>

Trafalgar Medical is locally owned and managed, we have appointments available every day and are taking new patients. We are again offering face to face consulting for those who do not have any symptoms of COVID-19 or you can have the option of a telehealth consultation. Please call 5633 2211 to make an appointment or book an appointment online with Hodoc or via our website [www.trafmc.com.au](http://www.trafmc.com.au). We also have a Facebook page which provides updates.

# Trafalgar Holden Museum

## car of the month...

Bob Moss

### 1932 VX VAUXHALL COUPE

In 1925 General Motors acquired Vauxhall (Luton) England. The merger of General Motors and Holden took place in 1931.

This car was one of five bodied by Holden during 1932. It was the year of the great depression and during that year only 500 vehicles were bodied by Holden; a far cry from the 30,000 undertaken in 1929.

The vehicle pictured is owned by Pam and Ken Dicks and was originally registered on the 6 September 1932 to Elizabeth Moss of Numurkah. In the 1960 to 70s Percy Hicks of St Arnaud was the owner. In 1965 the back of the body was cut off and it became a utility with a home-made tray on the back.

In 1977 to 78 the ownership changed again. It was still a utility and was painted blue. It stayed in the same family only changing from grandfather to son in-law to son, its home then being Bendigo. In the 1980s the start was

made to restore it back to the original coupe form and colour.

It now sits in the display area of the Holden Museum as a fully restored vehicle back to its original condition. This car has a six cylinder Overhead Valve with a compression ratio of 5.2 to 1 developing 26.3 Horse Power. It drives through a three speed Synchro Mesh Gearbox.

On its release in England the Vauxhall Company made these remarks: "The six-cylinder engine has been especially designed for use in such countries as Australia which aren't hampered by a heavy horse-power tax. Its lines are long and graceful, and at a comparatively slow speed of 2800 revolutions a minute the engine develops 47 h.p. and careful attention to comfort has been made".

The Museum has one other GMH Vauxhall car on show, a 1959 Cresta sedan.

The Trafalgar Holden Museum is now open and operating seven days a week from 9am to 5pm



1932 Vx Vauxhall Coupe

# The importance of health checks for your senior pet

Dr Gee Taufik



SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE.  
EXPERIENCED ENOUGH TO TRUST

While our fur-babies getting older and developing that silver fox beard can be a significantly fulfilling moment in our lives, it is also an important wakeup call.

Instead of bolting through the yard in a vigorous game of fetch, our pets start to prefer snuggling in for a nice mid-morning and afternoon nap. This is when we know that they need a little extra TLC and help from you.

Our pets are considered a senior at seven years of age. Some of the behavioural changes to look out for include:

- Discomfort or trouble rising from lying down or after exercising
- Weight loss or weight gain
- Loss of house training
- Change in appetite
- Bad breath, plaque or bleeding gums

- Changes in sleeping patterns
- Persistent cough
- Confusion or disorientation
- You can help keep your senior pet in ideal shape by:
- Ensuring they have six monthly health checks: These checks are recommended to monitor any changes in your senior pet's health.
- Healthy teeth and gums: Maintaining impeccable dental health is
- vital to your pet's overall well-being.
- Observation: Keeping an eye on any appearance, behaviour or appetite changes in your pet.
- Tailored diet: With the help of your vet, you can create a tailored nutrition plan to satisfy your pet's needs.
- Regular exercise: This is important in keeping your pet active and healthy, especially in their senior years.
- Routine: Maintaining a routine prevents your pet from feeling anxiety and stress.
- Patience: As their hearing and sight starts to decline, it is important to stay calm and

patient with your senior pet.

- Make eating and drinking easy: Especially for arthritic pets, elevating their food and drink bowls can make this a comfortable experience. This also prevents neck and back stiffness.
- Combating the stairs: It could be worth installing a ramp or middle step for your senior

pet, as this can help aid their joint pain when taking the stairs.

This time in their lives means that regular health checks are vital to know if there are any health problems that could be developing. At home, you will be able to observe any of the behavioural changes listed above in your pet. This works perfectly

with the senior pet health check that can include:

- Weight check
- Arthritis grading
- Dental assessment
- Physical check, including annual blood test
- Cardiac monitoring
- Eye examination
- Nutrition plan that is tailored to your pet's needs

As you would know, preventative health care is very important to keep an eye on any health issues that commonly develop at this age. If you would like to book your pet in for a senior health check or speak to one of our nurses about your senior pet's health, please contact our clinic.



Pablo, Lagotto



**Councillor Michael LEANEY**

*"I'm here to assist you with any council matter, simply call me or send an email"*

**Baw Baw Shire • East Ward** (Note list of most towns & localities in East Ward below)

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**0476000119** [michael.leaney@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:michael.leaney@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au)

Authorised by M. Leaney, 130 Main Rd, Walhalla 3825

## AROUND THE HISTORICAL Society

Di Ireland

The Trafalgar & District Historical Society is slowly coming back to life, and with our Annual General Meeting scheduled for August 20th we hope to soon resume business as usual. Working bees have been on hold, so there will be plenty of cataloguing and filing to be done. Hopefully you have found us on Facebook and seen the photos. We are looking for names of the 1985 footballers and the names or any information for the members of the Ladies football team. These

can be left in Comments on our Facebook page.

The next edition of the Gazette is underway so expect to see that soon.

Thanks to Julie McCulloch for her piece on the Trafalgar Pony Club which is celebrating 50 years this year.

Contact for the Historical Society can be made on email to [historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com](mailto:historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com) and on Facebook Trafalgar & District Historical Society. Telephone numbers can be found in the Gazette.

## Alberts Corner



*Only one who devotes himself to a cause with his whole strength and soul can be a true master. For this reason, mastery demands all of a person. – Albert Einstein*

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*We are not so much as disillusioned but illusion free – Miranda Devine - journalist*

## Reflection

Rev Sue Jacka

### Respectful conversations

Our world seems to be increasingly polarised on many current issues. How do we move from a cut and dried understanding of a particular issue to one that enables us to grasp the intent and meaning of other viewpoints? I've been thinking about this: it

seems that positive communication is a valuable tool within our families as well as on a national or even global level. It's true for disputes in families and for improving race relations.

Real communication happens when on one hand there's a preparedness to listen and an openness to learn, and on the other, there's a willingness or ability to speak about one's experiences or observations. Often, we need to ensure that the voices of those

who are marginalised are heard, and to seek out fresh perspectives to help understand and address the important issues of our time.

By doing this, we can seek to start and nurture conversations on how together we can build a better world. We need to be open to think about perspectives that are different from our own or we will never grow. And in our often divided world it is all too easy for dialogue to be replaced by shouting or even violence and under-

standing overtaken by fear.

Let's choose to create a place where respectful conversation can take place in the grey area between polarities, and where differing perspectives can be articulated without fear or favour - to move us forward in terms of awareness, understanding and action to create a better tomorrow.

# 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.

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6		8	5					





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

### The Trafalgar & Yarragon News, July 1930

#### 3 July – The Precious Metal

More than 15 tons of stone has passed through the battery at the Camp Creek mine at Hill End during the past few days. 50 ounces of gold was extracted. The shaft, a new one, is now down more than 80 feet (24.4 metres). The company is delighted with the results. The gold is now an exhibit in the town.

#### 24 July – Enlarged Premises

Many business houses in Trafalgar have been enlarged to cope with increased business, but the latest move in this direction should prove interesting to all motorists.

Situated on Princes Highway to the west of the town, are a row of petrol bowsters that serve as a fitting frontage to one of the most up-to-date garages in Gippsland. The proprietor is Mr Arch. McDonald, of Trafalgar. He is ready to demonstrate the famous Whippet and Essex cars.

#### 31 July – Trout Ova To Trafalgar

A consignment of 30,000 trout ova from the Ballarat hatcheries to Trafalgar will be a welcome addition to the local hatchery boxes.

#### Donations To Hospital

The Matron of the West Gippsland Hospital at Warragul desires to acknowledge the following donations from local people: Three cases of apples, reading material, six Turkish towels, six huckaback towels, one pair pyjamas, four nightdresses (ladies), two nightgowns (men's), and one binder.

#### The Gippsland News, July 1960

#### 7 July – “Five In One” Weather

The past week has given the district a most varied mixture of wintry weather which culminated in a light fall of snow in the township on Monday.

Frost, fog, rain and hail preceded Monday's fall. In the Thorpdale area on Monday, residents were greeted with wet conditions, and

when the snow began to fall soon after 7 am the hills were soon covered with a white mantle.

Last week the district was blanketed in fog with visibility limited to less than 30 yards (27.4 metres).

#### Methodist Church Appeal

Our four Churches are appealing for clothing for our various City Missions. Many folk in the inner suburbs are in desperate need of warm clothing.

If you have clothing for which you have no further use will you please bundle it up and forward them to a representative of our Church.

#### 14 July – RSL Social Evening

Many residents have greatly assisted the Trafalgar RSL sub-branch in various ways from time to time, but we doubt if anyone has done more than Mr Jack Rogers.

This is a recognised fact within the sub-branch, and as a result, a certificate of merit is to be presented to Mr Rogers at an evening in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday night.

Mr Rogers, (a farmer and musician) has played the “Last Post” at the RSL services for over 20 years.

#### Successful Mud Scramble

A much improved public appreciation, together with reliable machines and a slippery but good smooth track, was the essence for a most satisfactory day of ‘mud scrambling’ at the Trafalgar Car Club's second race meeting for the season.

A very good field of cars, numbering well over 20, took part and very few failed to complete the course.

#### 21 July – Fun Night For “Midgets”

Another highly successful “Fun Night” was held by the Trafalgar “Midget” Marching Girls on Saturday last.

These nights are planned mainly for girls and boys of school age to allow them to mix freely in organised games, dances, etc.

It is a tonic to the parents also who make the effort to accompany their children to see the enjoyment

derived from such evenings.

#### 28 July – Trafalgar State School Appeal

During the past few weeks at the Trafalgar State School, the children's social service activities have been centred on the World Refugee Year Appeal.

On Friday, July 16, a very successful doll show was arranged with approximately 80 dolls entered. Last Friday, despite very unfavourable weather conditions, the children were very excited as they brought their pets to school for a Pet Show.

Pets included dogs, cats, fowls, birds, a goat, tortoise, rabbits, gold-fish, a sheep, a horse, guinea pig, white mice and cockatoos.

#### Traf News, July 2002

#### July – Trafalgar High School

Outstanding VCE results in 2001 saw Trafalgar High School recently listed among the dozen best-performed Government Schools in rural and regional Victoria.

This shows our own local High School as defying strong recent publicity to the effect that non-government schools seem to give their students a far greater chance of gaining University entrance.

A Monash University report shows Trafalgar as one of the only twelve country High Schools in the whole State to have year 12 students achieve a Medium Enter (or tertiary entrance) score of 70 or more.

#### Community Bank

The submission for a Community Bank for Trafalgar and District has now been presented to Bendigo Bank for formal approval.

As indicated previously the feasibility study indicated a successful outcome once we got the Branch up and running. On Approval from Bendigo we will then move into the next phase.

#### Achievements In Trafalgar

Trafalgar and the surrounding area should be very proud of their achievements over the last few years.

A lot of positive things have been put in place such as: The Youth Resource Centre and the

programs that have been run there. Traf News and the improved community communications. Establishment of a vibrant Town Committee. The Community Bank Project. Program-Partners in Community Building.

There are now new challenges ahead of us and it is critical that we continue in our push and desire to build on past successes. – Cr Michael Fozard.

#### Trafalgar Freemasons (Lodge No. 497)

The Basis of Freemasonry. – Freemasonry is founded on the purist principles of piety and virtue and teaches its members to have faith in God and to be in Charity with all men.

Some other qualities taught by Freemasonry include: Brotherly Love, Truthfulness, Benevolence and Charity, Prudence, Temperance, Fortitude and Justice, Fidelity, Virtue and Honour, Honesty and Quality. - Hatred, Cruelty, Lust, Selfishness, Dishonour or Crime have no place in the teachings and standards of Freemasonry.

#### Safety House Program

The Safety House Program is a community-based program to assist our children's safety while they are travelling to and from school.

It involves establishing a network of Safety Houses that are easily identifiable to children. The letter-box, front fence or shop window of a Safety House displays a bright yellow sign of a smiling house.

This means that if a child feels unsafe they have a safe place to go for help – a Safety House.

#### Lions Club – Russ Turner Award

A record number of eight young people applied for the sixth annual Russell Turner Encouragement Award for Apprentices and Trainees which was presented at a recent dinner meeting of the Lions Club of Trafalgar.

It was won by Justin Tylee, an apprentice diesel mechanic at Swinglers Rural Machinery in Trafalgar. The award of \$1000 (\$1475 today) and certificate is in memory of Lion Russell Turner.

## CHURCH SERVICES

### CATHOLIC PARISH

Father Bernie Krotwaar, Phone 5633 1166



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

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

#### St Jarlath's Yarragon, Rollo Street

**Sunday Mass:** 10.00am (1st/3rd/5th Sunday)  
**Transport availability, Neighbourhood Outreach, Home visiting**  
Please phone Julianne now at the parish office on 5633 1166

### UNITING CHURCH

Rev Helen Prior, Supply Minister  
Phone 0401 911 124



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

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

#### St David's Uniting Church, Yarragon

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

#### St Stephens Darnum

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

Please direct inquiries to Dee Crosby Phone 0409 933 104

### ANGLICAN CHURCH

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



#### St Mary's Church, Trafalgar

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

#### St Mark's Church, Thorpdale

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

#### St Mark's Church, Yarragon

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

**Other Sundays:** Holy Communion 8.30am

**Tuesdays:** JAFAS 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

## Cohan Comes Back to Win Greatest Battle

ON any given Saturday, former Trafalgar resident Cohan Lee would cross the white line to enter the field of battle.

With the words 'dare to win' and 'dare to struggle' tattooed on either foot, Lee appeared every much the stereotypical hard man.

But in recent years there was a secret battle he was facing, unbeknown to most, which was the one playing out in his head, as he grappled with the challenges beset upon by mental health.

Thankfully, Lee found the pathway back to the light, and was good enough to open up and share his story.

(Questions by Liam Durkin).

**Firstly, thanks for agreeing to do this as I'm sure it hasn't been easy. Is there a key message you want to get out there?**

Gone are the days where the “men are tough, men don't cry or suffer” agenda is pushed. We all have our battles and we are allowed to be vulnerable.

Don't be like me and keep it all in because eventually you explode.

**You don't have to go into too much detail but would you say your life went off the rails?**

Off the rails certainly isn't the explanation I'd use.

I went through some life changes as many people do unfortunately and it took its toll.

I didn't seek help for it and I just dealt with it my own way.

It later in life blew up and my life came crashing down.

**So what are you up to these days?**

I've moved down to Melbourne for work. Certainly a drastic change to sleepy old Traf.

**The bulk of your footy career with Traf coincided with a very successful period for the club with senior premierships in 2009, 10 and 12. How do you look back on it all?**

I'm lucky to have been a part of what turned out to be a dynasty.

**It definitely wasn't all roses though as you were one of a few who missed out in 2009. How deeply did that cut?**

As basically still a kid that all I lived for was footy that was one of the worst moments of my life.

**How did you approach the back half of the**

**next year when it**

**appeared a certainty you were going to miss out again?**

You can't get picked if you don't put your hand up.

I played in the reserves semi final and after they bowed out there was nothing else to do but turn up, train hard with the seniors and see how the chips landed.

I wasn't named on the Thursday night before the grand final but I was given a final hour reprieve and found out at 11am Saturday morning in the line for the bar that I was in.

**The history books will say you're a 2010 Trafalgar senior premierships player but how did it feel?**

That flag felt empty. Although I may have deserved to be there I still feel like it wasn't earned the right way.

A mate from a family I have known most of my life missed out. I'd give it all back if he could have played.

**You won another flag in 2012 and then played two more full seasons and came and went for the next few. Was it mainly work that stopped you playing?**

Yes work put a stop to maybe getting in range of the 200 game milestone.

**Would the 2012 premiership be the highlight of your time at Traf?**

Yes. That's the only one that hangs on my wall. Came back a very different player and was rewarded for it.

**A couple of years ago, seemingly out of nowhere, your name popped up on a Stratford team sheet in 2018. How did that move come about?**

It was a shock to most but I promised my best friend I'd play a year with him being his last year and we took home a premiership. Great club and great group of blokes. Extremely talented senior team.

**Somewhat fittingly Stratford wear the same jumper as Traf, so you've played in premierships for different clubs but in the same colours. I'm sure The Stratford flag was another memorable day for you in footy?**

Couldn't have asked for a better end to my dedicated football

career. Now it's a bit of fun.

**As well as Traf and Stratford you also played in the Alberton league when it was probably at its strongest, what are your memories there?**

My first year in the Alberton league playing for Devon-Welshpool-Won Wron-Woodside was such a big step up from Mid Gippsland with powerhouses like Foster, Korumburra and Wonthaggi throwing big cash around. We nearly went all the way with a home grown DWWWW team.

**You also played in North Gippy for the other Woodside club, Woodside and District?**

Yes just the one year though. We ran eighth of 11 teams.

**The general consensus is that East Gippy is about the same standard as Mid Gippy. Is that a fair comparison?**

The East Gippsland league top three would be neck and neck with the equivalent Mid Gippsland teams.

The Stratford team I won a premiership with would have pushed any Traf team I played in.

**How about the Gippy League? Did a career there ever get close to happening?**

Certainly did. Few talks over the years but eventually work gained priority and maybe the fear of not being good enough played its part.

**On a lighthearted note, you were the unfortunate runner-up in a reserves league best and fairest the year it was later discovered the votes had been tampered with. How crazy was that?**

Oh wow that's a night I'll never forget. I remember going to vote night, not that I was invited I just had the day off the next day and got asked to make up numbers on the table.

I think I only played under 10 games that year for the twos on the back of doing my knee early in the season. I remember thinking I was a shoo-in for three votes against Mirboo North only to have Bordonaro's name pop up that round and he couldn't get a kick in a martial arts tournament.

It was quite the saga when it all came out, with phone calls from The Footy Show and the paper informing me of what had happened.

**Did you have any involvement with the investigation?**

Disappointingly the league never contacted me about it. I think he took it to court and won. Still unsure what the exact outcome was.

**And you have yet to be given the award retrospectively?**

Correct. Can I claim a league best and fairest still you think? I'd hope to see one day my name etched in history as a league best and fairest winner. He can keep the trophy.

**To finish off, a lot of people are dismissive about mental health but as you can vouch for, we really do need to encourage anyone that might be struggling to talk to someone?**

There's no need to fight it alone. Grab a mate, sit them down and let them in.

Young people have to seek help if they're feeling down. One in three people will suffer from depression or a mental illness these days sometime in their life.

Go and seek help and get a better life, don't suffer like I did.

Tough is not just how hard you go at the footy. Being able to accept something is wrong and letting those that love and care for you in so you can battle whatever it is together to me is the pure example of toughness.

**If you or someone you know is suffering, call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or BeyondBlue on 1300 22 4636.**



Coban Lee speaks to a group of students about his mental health battle.



Coban Lee during a recent outing on the football field

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# Hill End FNC begin football training

Hill End FNC welcomed back their football players to training during June. With operations being different to normal due to the Covid-19 epidemic, the club adhered to all Government and AFL Victoria guidelines.

With precautions put in place such as, smaller training groups, using sanitised equipment, non-players to remain in vehicles, and socialising measures.

The club has appointed a Covid Safety Officer, Clinton Morello, whom can address all your

Covid concerns.

Hill End FNC also received a much appreciated donation of hand sanitiser from Office Choice in Warragul, which helps improve the safety of the players at training.



Covid-19 Safety Officer Clinton Morello and young player Bayley Paul practising safe distancing and hand sanitising with the donation from Office Choice, Warragul

# Trafalgar Golfer Hitting Them Well

Tessa Randello

DESPITE two months away from the green, Trafalgar golfer Jeff Hasthorpe has shot his age twice recently.

Hasthorpe, who turns 73 next month, won the A Grade stableford at Trafalgar on May 30 and June 6 with 39 points after carding rounds of 72 off the stick.

He shot better than his age for the first time in December last year and on current form looks likely to do it again.

“Once you get to my age it starts to enter your mind that the next major accomplishment is to try and beat your age,” he said.

“It’s a matter of finding your rhythm again (after the break)...sometimes you come back and feel good and other times you can start off after a break and you are struggling.

“Having not played for a couple of months I did not really know how I would go, but I got out there and my swing felt good and my chipping felt good, in golf if your putting or chipping is off it is not going to be a good game.

“There is no set reason that you do better after some breaks than others, as long as you don’t have too many expectations and go out there and enjoy it you’re quite often going to do well.”

Hasthorpe loves the game and has been playing for about 60 years because he “was never big enough for football”.

Whilst in lockdown he even set up some tees on his property.

“In the end it was not very successful, it has been so wet that I could not play often. I only hit around 30 or 40 golf balls in the space of a couple of months,”

Hasthorpe said.

“You miss the camaraderie with your mates, playing golf gives you a chance to catch up again, even if we can’t have a drink after the game at the moment.

“We take our golf seriously but we like to have a chat afterwards, it’s exercise and competition that is great. I still really like the competitive side of golf.”

Trafalgar Golf Club is nestled in a picturesque location five kilometres north of the township.

The course is often rated among the best in country Victoria.

Editor’s note: Thanks to Tessa Randello from the Latrobe Valley Express for this story and Hayley Mills for the photograph.



Trafalgar golfer Jeff Hasthorpe has been in form recently.

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**Funny Sign**

# When Gippsland Almost Stopped Bodyline

By Liam Durkin

DID you know that a Gippsland cricketer way back in 1932 was only one inch away from stopping Bodyline dead in its tracks?

The countless number of cricketers that play on Bundalaguah’s Colin Wrigglesworth Oval every Saturday between October and March may be unaware of the historical tie the ground has to one of the most famous series in test cricket history.

While it is inconceivable in today’s world that an international cricket captain would visit local cricket grounds during an Ashes tour, it did actually happen nearly 90 years ago when English captain Douglas Jardine came to Gippsland. Jardine was in the middle of leading England during the infamous ‘Bodyline’ series of 1932-33, and made the trip down from Sydney three days after leading England to victory in the opening test match of the series.

Unbeknownst to locals at the time, the ‘Bodyline’ series would go on to be the most controversial in cricket history. Jardine’s connection to the area was through Frederick Gilder of Maffra, who owned the Powerscourt homestead. The pair struck up a friendship during their days at Oxford University, and Gilder invited Jardine to stay in early December 1932.

Jardine had a near three week break between his Gippsland visit and when he was required to play again in the second test match in Melbourne.

On December 10, 1932, Jardine toured a number of sport-

ing clubs in the Sale-Maffra area, including Maffra Bowls Club and the Maffra, Stratford and Bundalaguah cricket grounds.

While in Maffra, Jardine watched a cricket match between Maffra Diggers and Boisdale-Bushy Park. Before leaving, he marked the occasion by signing the Maffra Diggers’ scorebook.

A little while later at Bundalaguah, Jardine was coerced into batting against a local bowler. He agreed to face one over and went out to the middle with no gloves on.

The ball was given to Maffra fast bowler Emmett Lanigan who delighted in the opportunity to bowl to the England test captain, and had no hesitation in sending down a thundering bouncer first ball. The ball was said to have missed Jardine’s nose by a fraction. Jardine uttered, “that will do, gentlemen” and walked off.

To think if that ball had of been one inch closer to Jardine’s face, ‘Bodyline’ may not have escalated and the whole course of cricket history would have been changed forever.

After the Gippsland visit, Jardine went on to lead England to a four tests to one series victory. Jardine devised tactics that were to become known as ‘Bodyline’, whereby he instructed his bowlers to deliver sharp, rising deliveries at the batsman, who were not equipped with anywhere near the amount of protective gear seen in today’s game. The series reached boiling point in the third test at the Adelaide Oval, when a number of Australian players suffered repeated blows to the body. The atmosphere

became so tense, those there at the time believed if one spectator jumped the fence, 50,000 would have followed. It was there that

Australian captain Bill Woodfull pontificated the immortal words: “There are two teams out there. One is playing cricket and the

other is not.”

In the years following ‘Bodyline’, Jardine was largely ostracised by the cricket world after

the practice was outlawed in 1935.



England captain Douglas Jardine visited Gippsland during the Bodyline series.

# Writing About The Game

By Liam Durkin

ORDINARILY this page, or indeed any page toward the end of the paper throughout all of winter would be filled with a story detailing what has or what is about to happen in Gippsland football.

Like Jack Dyer’s commentary, in which listeners were never exactly sure which team was winning or losing, the idioms attached to local sports writing mean that it is virtually impossible for there to be any ‘bad team’ - despite what the ladder says.

The team that is in the midst of an 11 game losing streak and just lost by 135 points “put in another disappointing performance”, and you can bet that said team “will be eager to make up for last weeks effort” in its next outing.

Conversely, the team that is miles in front is “looking ominous”, whilst those in the middle that generally finish the regular season with as many wins as losses go through cycles of “get-

ting back on the winners list”.

Those looking for a narrative on their team may be continually disappointed when they read a local sporting review, as what is written is generally an extended version of the quarter-by-quarter scores.

“Trafalgar started the opening term strongly, kicking four goals to one to take a comfortable lead into quarter time.”

That line has been used a few times. Virtually cut Trafalgar and insert any other team that starts a game well.

This isn’t done on purpose - it is simply because at rural level the personal is not available to provide minute detail on everything that happens during a day at footy.

And frankly, no one really cares what the weather was like or how cold it was. It’s a game of football, played in winter, of course it’s going to be cold.

Players who think they warrant a mention need to remem-

ber there are only three ways to do so: get in the best, kick some goals, or do something spectacular that is relayed back to the person writing the story in time.

If you get four kicks for the day but provided ‘plenty of voice’ then you aren’t getting a mention. Sorry, but you had four kicks.

Goal kickers can be tricky as often they get more credit than perhaps they deserve. If someone has a purple patch inside 50 and finds themselves with three goals in five minutes but only has six touches for the game, the match details aren’t going to show the player only had six touches - it is going to show the three goals.

The person writing the story doesn’t know this, and if the player has kicked three goals it might be the most of anyone in the team, so “Smith was productive up forward with three goals.”

An interesting account on something similar happened a few years ago when a Warragul

player in a Gippsland League game kicked nine goals for the match.

Normally that many goals by an individual would suggest a dominant performance, however, the player kicked all of his goals in the first and final quarters.

After kicking five in the first quarter the player was well held for the next two before adding another four in the last when the game was well and truly over.

Despite this, it went down in the books as nine goals, and to the uninhibited nine goals means the player was “the star of the show”.

One could draw parallels to a century maker in cricket. The scorebook will never say how many times they were dropped or given not out, a ton will always be described as “a great innings”.

With more than one game to cover the author has to also be cautious of superfluous rep-

etition, becoming something of a live thesaurus as phrases are typed onto a page.

One cannot always refer to football as a ‘game’, it can also be a ‘match’, a ‘contest’, or a ‘battle’. ‘Quarter’ is another word that cannot be overused, so ‘term’, ‘stanza’ or ‘the next 20 minutes’ are inserted.

Careful consideration also has to be given to make sure common football clichés are not used. Saying that a team ‘came to play’ is just stating the obvious, as even if the game is one sided the teams literally ‘came to play’, unless of course they didn’t pack their boots, jumpers and socks and the umpire walked out without the ball - then no one came to play. Buzz words can generally disguise a football story enough to make it sound like someone was actually there watching.

If the game is high scoring then the match must be “highlighted by good offensive transi-

tion”, or if it is a blowout then the victors “played the game on its terms with a strong brand of attacking football”.

Modus operandi is a favourite noun that is normally used just because it sounds impressive and also because it is Latin.

Team nicknames can also be a useful way of adding colour to a story, such as “the Saints marched to victory”, or “the Swans wings were clipped”.

Sports writers previewing or reviewing matches essentially regurgitate the same thing in a different order depending on who played or is scheduled to play who.

There is a degree of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder in sport when you consider the fact people perform repetitive tasks for months and years on end to achieve automation.

The same applies to the people who write about it.



# Cricket Club AGM Postponed

By Liam Durkin

THE 124th Annual General Meeting of the Trafalgar Cricket Club scheduled to be held last month was postponed following the extension of Covid-19 restrictions by the state government.

After it was envisaged restrictions would be eased on June 21, a spate of positive tests across the state prompted health officials to delay increasing gathering limits in businesses and community facilities.

Given the Trafalgar Cricket Club needs at least 12 people present at an AGM to make a quorum as per its rules, the restrictions put in place would not have allowed this.

The club had envisaged a meeting would take place, and had installed social distancing markers in the clubrooms. The markers themselves were actually fielding discs used to mark the 30 yard inner circle in one day matches. Interestingly, the

leg of the bowling machine is exactly 1.5 metres, which acted as a measuring stick when the markers were put out.

The 2020-21 AGM will be rescheduled to a later date to be announced.

Latest odds show the secretary from the previous season is paying \$1.01 to be re-elected unopposed.

The Trafalgar Cricket Club looks forward to the season ahead, and will aim to build on its achievements in 2019-20.

The start of the season will creep up before too long, with the first lot of matches taking place in October.

The Trafalgar Cricket Club fields senior and junior teams and always welcomes new players. For more information phone Liam Durkin on 0402 556 338, email [trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com](mailto:trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com) or connect via Facebook by searching Trafalgar Cricket Club.



The Trafalgar Cricket Club looks forward to welcoming people back into the clubrooms in the near future.



The AGM of the Trafalgar Cricket Club was postponed last month. Fielding discs acting as social distancing markers had been put in place.



Taking pride of place at the work desk of one local player

## Game Over for Local Football and Netball this Season

By Liam Durkin

DESPITE this writer going down the dangerous path of submitting this article before an announcement is officially made in order to meet Traf News print deadlines, at time of writing (Monday June 22) there appears to be a 99.95 per cent chance local senior football and netball competitions will not go ahead in 2020.

The author will be happily proven wrong but surely it was a foregone conclusion once the State of Emergency was extended.

Amid growing impatience

from players, coaches and club administrators, there had been calls for Gippsland based leagues to follow suit from a number of regional and metropolitan leagues across Victoria who had already cancelled seasons.

Leagues were hoping for good news from the weekend starting June 20, and clarity on the number of spectators allowed at matches, but instead Premier Daniel Andrews announced a tightening of restrictions on gatherings.

The tightening of restric-

tions was ultimately the final nail in the coffin.

In the eyes of many there was never going to be any local footy or netball this season, and it got to a point where the majority of people were well and truly over the uncertainty.

Clubs will now be faced with the challenge of picking up the pieces and reconnecting later down the track in preparation for season 2021.

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