

JULY 2021
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Traf News



PRICELESS



**CHANGE OF
SPEED LIMITS** P4



YOUTH
P11-14



**LIFE MEMBERSHIP
FOR FERGUSON** P23

COMMUNITY DIGS DEEP TO HELP REPAIR CHURCH

THERE has been an outpouring of community generosity to help repair St John's Catholic parish Trafalgar.

The historic church has been literally eaten alive by termites in recent months, leading to a hefty repair bill.

Locals and church officials have rallied around the churches plight, and so far have raised closed to an astonishing \$80,000 in a relatively short space of time.

Parish council member Jean Huffer said her fellow parishioners had been blown away by the support.

"We are overwhelmed by the generosity and level of support from all directions and are

deeply grateful for the response so far," she said.

"We have several fund raising projects ongoing, large and small, and all are helping to reach the \$100,000 goal."

The church has received a great deal of support from the neighbouring St Joseph's Primary School, with schoolchildren eagerly colouring in a tally-thermometer out the front of the church as money comes in.

"The school children have been busy running a cake stall and their parents supporting the Go Fund Me page advertised on the large poster in the church grounds," Ms Huffer said.

"We have a few more fund

raising projects in mind but are hampered by the COVID restrictions, so will have to wait a while to start them."

Progress on the repair has started, with the gaping hole extending from the original altar rails to the doors of the confessional booths concreted.

There has been a Catholic church in Trafalgar since 1889, with the current building standing since 1955.

To make a donation, visit <https://au.gofundme.com/f/qwk5y-save-our-church>.



White ants totally destroyed parts of the church.



St Joseph's Primary School, Trafalgar students have been working hard to help repair their parish church.

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Baw Baw councillor resigns after charges laid

A Baw Baw Shire councillor took a leave of absence after being charged with a number of traffic offences, including reckless conduct endangering life last month.

Ben Lucas, 34, had his driver's licence immediately suspended on Saturday, June 5 after allegedly speeding and recording a blood alcohol level almost four times the legal limit.

Dandenong Frontline Tactical Unit (FTU) officers charged Mr Lucas, 34, after he allegedly sped at 150kilometres an hour at Koo Wee Rup in the early hours of Saturday morning.

In a statement, Mr Lucas said he had been involved in an alleged incident that he "must take some time to address and personally seek some help and

support for."

"It is with this, and with a heavy heart that I must announce that I will be taking a leave of absence from my duties as a councillor, whilst I seek this further help and support," he said.

"Whilst I am not in a position to comment further on the specifics, I understand that this will come as a shock and disappointment to many. Being open and transparent is a value that is important to me, and once I am in a position to provide more specific details, I will make a further statement."

Police allege they saw a black Mitsubishi Pajero travelling on the wrong side of the South Gippsland Highway at 12.45am on Saturday, 5 June.

Officers intercepted the driv-

er a short time later near the Pakenham bypass.

Police said the driver underwent a preliminary breath test indicating alcohol in his breath and he accompanied police to a station for an evidentiary breath test where he returned an alleged reading of 0.193.

His licence was immediately suspended for 12 months.

Police later interviewed Mr Lucas and charged him with reckless conduct endangering life, speeding in a dangerous manner, manner dangerous and other traffic offences.

He has been bailed to appear at Dandenong Magistrates' Court on September 8.

His car was immediately impounded for 30 days at a cost of \$1050.

Police said Mr Lucas was also found to be in breach of directions issued by the chief health officer and is expected to be issued with a penalty notice.

Speaking as Cr Lucas, he thanked community members who voted for him at last year's election and supported his journey to be "a leader in the community."

"Being a councillor and having the privilege to represent the community in which I live, have been one of my greatest achievements. It is an absolute honour, to be elected to the Baw Baw Shire Council," he said.

Days later Mayor of Baw Baw Shire, councillor Danny Goss advised that Cr Ben Lucas submitted his resignation to Baw Baw Shire Council's chief executive officer

on June 18. The Ceo and mayor accepted Cr Lucas' resignation, which is effective immediately.

"I would very much like to commend Mr Lucas for his work on Council. He has been an effective advocate for the West Ward, bringing passion, energy and fresh perspectives to the table. He is an active member of his community, liked and respected by many", said the mayor.

"The allegations against Mr Lucas are of a serious nature and do not meet the standards expected of elected representatives. Mr Lucas recognises this and understands that he must now take some time to seek some appropriate support.

"My fellow Councillors and I would like to emphasise that we do not condone behaviour that

puts others at risk. This includes actions such as drink or dangerous driving.

"The ceo and his team will work with the Victorian Electoral Commission to progress a replacement representative in the West Ward.

"It has been a great pleasure working with and getting to know Mr Lucas over the last few months, and I wish him well. I ask that people respect his privacy at this difficult time", the mayor concluded."

Source: Warragul Gazette

Feeding the Mob program receives significant boost

The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation will share in a funding program for Aboriginal communities, receiving \$280,000 to continue their Feeding the Mob program, providing meals and connection to vulnerable community members.

This program, which operates out of the Bush Café, strengthens community and provide an opportunity for Gunaikurnai culture and

Indigenous foods to be showcased.

The funding is part of the state governments COVID-19 Aboriginal Community Response and Recovery Fund ' that is deliv-

ering 35 local initiatives to empower Aboriginal communities to deliver a range of Aboriginal-led initiatives and programs supporting local communities.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Gabrielle Williams announced Aboriginal organisations would share in \$4.6 million through the fund.

The programs will support locally designed initiatives that provide emergency relief, outreach and brokerage for at-risk groups, cultural strengthening, and social and emotional wellbeing.

Other recipients include the Dhauward-Wurrung Elderly and Community Health Service who

have received \$85,000 to provide emergency relief to community members experiencing hardship following the coronavirus pandemic.

This emergency relief will address the immediate needs of community and offer further supports in addition to their current men's and women's support programs. In addition, the Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association have received more than \$67,000 to run a Women's Empowerment Program, offering a path of healing for women through arts and crafts, yarnning circles, coping skills workshops, cultural activities, and emotional wellbeing workshops.

More than 80 local initiatives across Victoria have shared in \$10 million since the fund was established in July 2020.

For more information about the fund visit aboriginal.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-community-response-and-recovery-fund.

Ms Williams said Aboriginal people were best placed to identify the need within their communities, and have the skills to drive the best possible outcomes.

"We're supporting Aboriginal organisations to build strong communities as we continue our commitment to self-determination for Aboriginal people," he said.

Shortest day of the year

June 21 marked the winter solstice in the Southern Hemisphere.

That means it was the shortest day of the year and the longest night of the year when the sun is at its lowest maximum elevation in the sky.

The winter solstice occurs twice in a year, once in the Southern Hemisphere and

once in the Northern Hemisphere, in December.

Sunrise was 7.31am and sunset arriving at 5.01pm.

Despite June 21 being the shortest day of the year, it is not the day with the latest sunrise or earliest sunset.

The latest sunrise is on June 30.

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and see where
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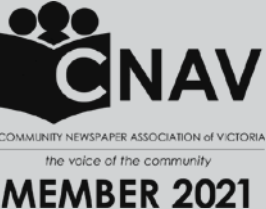
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Changes to speed limits: But where is the strategy?

VicRoads is making some speed limit changes within Trafalgar to make it safer and to keep traffic flowing, some now and some in the future. While this is to be commended, there appears to be no overall strategy behind the changes.

On its Facebook page, VicRoads says that it has heard concerns from the local community and is taking steps to improve safety in Trafalgar.

It acknowledges that Trafalgar is growing, with more road users entering the highway from side roads. As areas change over time, infrastructure and the way people move around also change.

After completing a technical review, as well as discussing the road environment with key stakeholders and residents, whoever they may be, VicRoads says it is clear the current speed limits on several roads are not suitable.

It says speed plays a part in every crash; it isn't always the

cause, but speed does change the severity of the outcome in a crash.

In a Gippsland first, VicRoads will install closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras for monitoring traffic conditions at the intersection of Ashby Street and the Princes Highway.

The equipment will be managed remotely by traffic signal engineers in VicRoads' Traffic Management Centre (TMC).

If an incident occurs, the TMC is alerted and can remotely change the traffic lights and prioritise the flow of traffic, helping drivers to move smoothly and safely through the intersection.

When something goes wrong, VicRoads advises that it will tell road-users how to avoid the incident and keep traffic moving. It says this will also prevent further bottlenecks and crashes.

VicRoads is also introducing, what it calls, safer speeds in Trafalgar, keeping local families safe. It is implementing a speed

limit of 60kph on Princes Highway within the town boundary, as well as 40kph speeds near the primary and high schools and kindergarten, and where school children walk to and from school.

To improve safety along Princes Highway, VicRoads will be applying a safer speed limit of 60kph on the Princes Highway through the town. This will apply in the Moe-bound direction between Anzac Road and just past Davey Drive, and also Yarragon-bound before Davey Drive.

It is also exploring options to improve safety at this intersection. VicRoads says that it will closely work with the Trafalgar community, and provide more information in the coming months. The safer speed is in response to crashes near Davey Drive. The new speed will help people to turn out of the side road more safely.

This writer suggests an 80kph speed zone prior to the 60kph

zones would further slow traffic down as it approaches the lower speed zone.

VicRoads will install 40 kph school speed zones on Ashby Street, Anzac Road, and Contingent Street.

It will also extend the permanent 40kph on School Road by a further 200 metres to the east to include the residential area.

Electronic Speed Limit signs have already been installed on Ashby Street to remind drivers of reduced speed limits when entering a school zone. These will be switched on soon.

The Ashby Street signs are jointly funded by the Victorian and Australian governments as part of a road safety stimulus program that supports jobs across Victoria.

VicRoads says it is also currently undertaking further planning to improve safety in Trafalgar. This includes investigating options to improve pedestrian safety to cross Princes Highway

at the traffic signals near Contingent Street in Trafalgar; and safety improvements at the intersection of Davey Drive and Princes Highway.

VicRoads advises that further community engagement will take place on this later in 2021, although it doesn't say how, and who within, the Trafalgar community will be advised of the consultation.

However, much more needs to be discussed. For example:

- What is needed at the Princess Highway/ Contingent Street intersection area is not just improved pedestrian safety, rather improved pedestrian and vehicular safety at the intersection;
- The service lane running parallel with the west-bound highway traffic, developed as part of the duplication process in the 1990s, has long outlived its purpose and has long been a major safety issue as trucks, buses and cars veer

in and out of the service lane. Increased traffic both on the highway and on the service lane is a disaster waiting to happen;

The impact on Trafalgar's residents resulting from the two new residential developments will also have significant impact on local traffic movement to and from the highway and within the township itself.

That is, an overall strategy is required, involving VicRoads, the Trafalgar community, Baw Baw Shire Council, and possibly VicTrack, so that it will centre on a long-term approach to improve traffic and pedestrian movement and safety, both on the major roads within VicRoads' responsibility and the secondary roads within council's jurisdiction.

VicRoads was approached to discuss this article, however, did not return the call.

Traf priest assaulted at home

A man accused of assaulting and robbing a Trafalgar priest has been remanded in custody.

Thomas Vandersluys, 31, of no fixed address, made no application for bail during a hearing at Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court on 3 June.

He was charged with more than 20 offences including aggravated burglary, burglary, theft, assault, theft of a car, possessing a drug of dependence and committing an indictable offence whilst on bail.

St John's Catholic Church priest Fr Bernie Krotwaar, 64, was making his breakfast on 1 June when the accused allegedly smashed a window, broke into his home and assaulted him before stealing his car.

Police described it as a "very violent aggravated burglary and assault."

Sale Diocese Bishop Greg Bennet said the traumatic incident had left Fr Krotwaar understandably shaken.

"Fr Bernie Krotwaar is very grateful for the support he has received from members of his

local parish community, family, friends, and the clergy of the Diocese of Sale.

"He has taken a period of respite and rest and continues to recover. Fr Bernie and the diocese are very grateful for the wonderful support of Victoria Police and those who have assisted him in these days," the Bishop said.

Baw Baw CIU detectives arrested the accused in Traralgon on 1 June.

Detectives charged Mr Vandersluys with a string of offences relating to a number of burglaries in Warragul before the aggravated burglary in Trafalgar.

It is alleged he broke into the presbytery, adjacent to the Waterloo Road church, at about 6.30am.

Detective acting sergeant Ashley Bell said the man allegedly assaulted Fr Krotwaar and demanded cash and the keys to his car, before stealing his Nissan.

Fr Krotwaar suffered minor injuries. He was admitted to hospital traumatised by the in-

cident.

The aggravated burglary followed several burglaries in Warragul which he also has been charged with.

Detectives allege Mr Vandersluys stole computers from Marist Sion College in Burke Street and from an administration building at West Gippsland Hospital in Landsborough Road.

He allegedly also smashed a window to the Nielsen Funerals chapel and broke into the building causing damage and stealing an I-pad.

He also was charged with stealing a car from Fenton Street, Warragul.

The priest's car was found dumped at Lake Narracan yesterday morning. The vehicle had been damaged and vandalised.

Mr Vandersluys was remanded to reappear at court on 2 July.

Source: Warragul Gazette

Probus club busy despite restrictions

By Elly Fallon

COVID took over our monthly Trafalgar and District Probus meeting in the first week of June but our members, along with all Victorians, will be relieved if once again we can beat this virus. We can then hopefully meet again this month.

Luckily we managed to get in our bus trip to Marysville. Some of our Probus friends from Dr-ouin Hills Club joined us for our journey through the cool, temperate rainforests, so lush with beautiful ferns, to the hills of Marysville. It's hard to believe that 12 years ago all was burnt with only 12 buildings remaining. It's a credit to the strength of this community that Marysville is once again a thriving town and holiday destination. We visited Steavenson Falls and enjoyed the walk to the viewing area to see water cascading 122 metres into the river below. We also visited Bruno's Art and Sculpture Gallery and Gardens and learnt first-hand from artist Bruno Torfs, the story of the fire that wiped out his town. Bruno lost his home, gallery and much of his sculpture gardens. His story of trying to save a few art works and fleeing to safety was vividly told. An incredible amount of work has gone into the restoration of his gallery and gardens, so once again it's a must see if you visit Marysville any time.

The Probus walking club braved the cold and managed an enjoyable walk at the Old Mill Site in Boolarra, despite the lack of signage and the mix up of directions. Maybe clear signage and a board with the story of the mill will come in time, so more people can enjoy this historical area. A cuppa after a trek is always an enjoyable way to end the morning.

Our garden group met for the first time with nine members

meeting. Six others have also expressed interest so that's a great start for those with green thumbs among us. It's a chance to enjoy being able to swap cuttings, bulbs, ideas and maybe visit some local gardens in the spring.

Meanwhile we can once again meet for coffee on our coffee mornings as they are held in cafes in town. Just remember the second and fourth Thursday of the month. This is a good way to meet on a smaller scale and get to know some Probus members. If you are feeling a little shy about joining it's a great step on the road to Probus. We are a friendly bunch.

For enquiries about our Probus club phone secretary Tina Phipps on 5635 2432.



Joan Hull in Bruno's Sculpture Garden.



Elly and Geoff Fallo at Steavenson Falls.



Trafalgar Probus Club members enjoy morning tea.



Walking club at the old mill site in Boolarra.



Probus Club members on their bus trip to Marysville.

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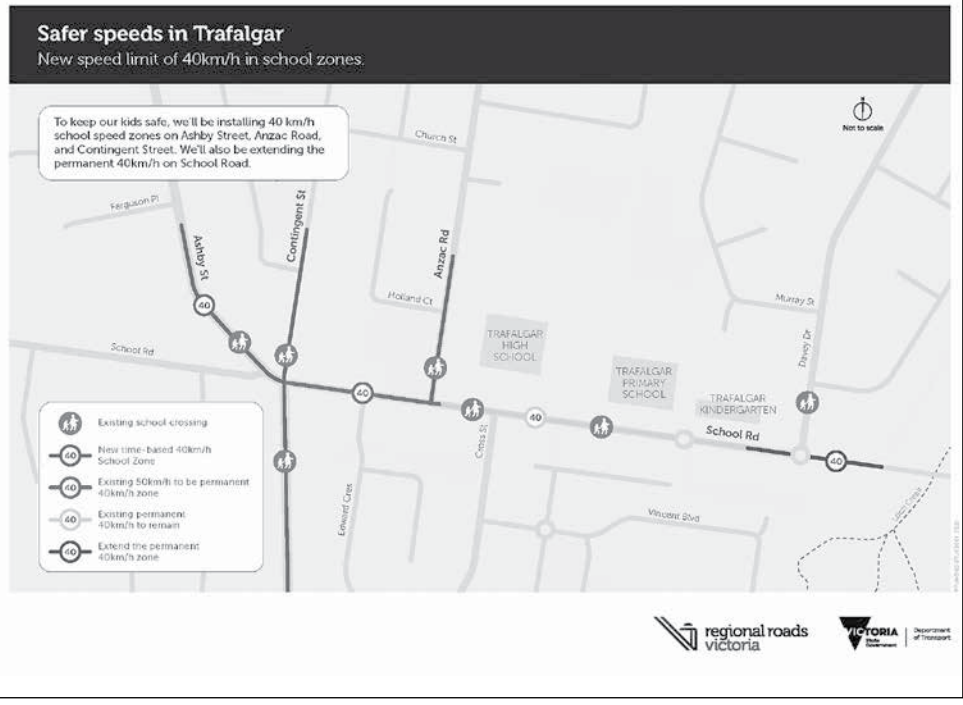
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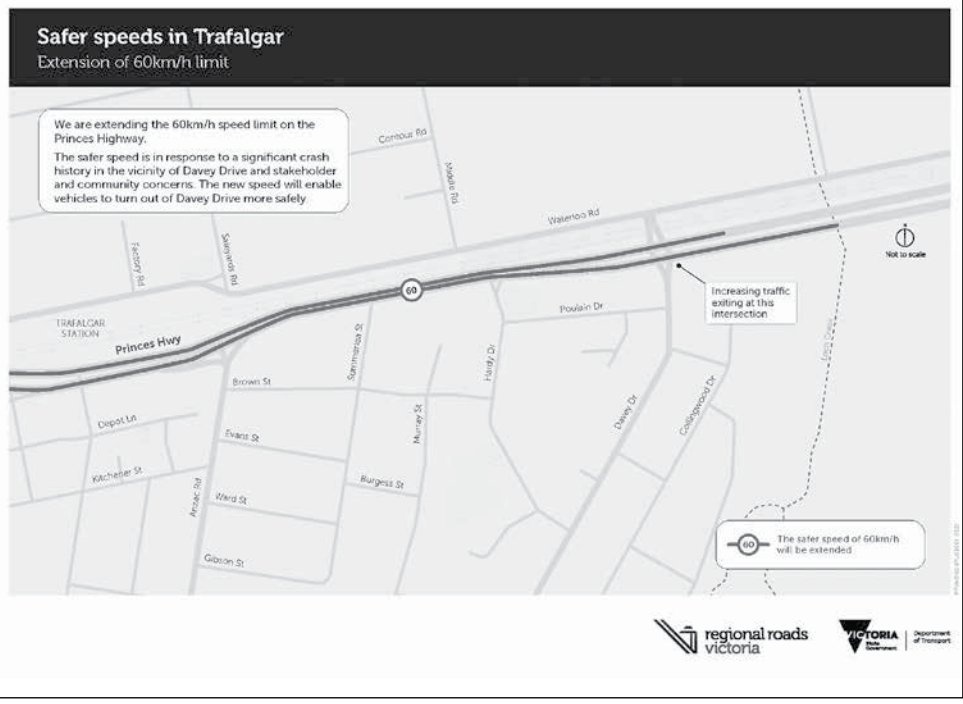
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VicRoads' map showing the new extended 40kph zones around Trafalgar's high and primary schools.



VicRoads' map showing the extended 60kph zone along Princes Highway through Trafalgar.

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GERF launches appeal to support flood-affected Gippsland communities

The Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF) has launched an appeal for financial donations to provide flood-affected Gippslanders with immediate support.

GERF spokesperson Barry Whitehead announced the appeal last month following confirmed reports of multiple property evacuations and damage in the Latrobe City and Wellington council areas.

Councils have activated emergency relief plans and already know of a number of people in need of immediate help. Mr Whitehead said “it is likely that many Gippsland residents will be affected by flood waters.”

Funds raised by GERF are distributed quickly to impacted Gippslanders for discretionary use while insurance and government claims are being processed, helping give access to emergency resources like food and temporary accommodation.

Mr Whitehead said the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund, which has been helping locals impacted by natural disaster since 1978, had always received strong support from community and businesses, both from within the region and further abroad.

“Unfortunately, Gippslanders are all too familiar with the devastating impacts fire, flood and other natural disasters can have on our region,” he said.

“That said, we’ve always been able to rely on the goodwill of locals and friends from other communities to dig deep and give what they can during these trying times.

“So we’re asking local community members and corporate citizens, neighbours and friends from other communities to think about the plight of flood-affected Gippsland communities and give whatever they can.”

Donations can be made via direct transfer - BSB 083 932 AC No

- 740196862, paypal at www.gerf.org.au, or at any at any branch of the NAB across Australia. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Residents affected by the floods should phone their local council municipal recovery manager, who will assess the applicant’s situation and make a referral to GERF where applicable.

Mr Whitehead said that any Gippslander whose principal place of residence is affected by floodwater, along with farmers experiencing loss of fencing, fodder or livestock may be eligible for payment.

The Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund is operated by local volunteers for Gippsland communities.

Further information is available at www.gerf.org.au. Mr Whitehead can be reached at 0418 594 175.

AstraZeneca advice

THE AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine is no longer recommended for people aged under 60 after new expert immunisation panel advice.

Health Minister Greg Hunt last month confirmed new recommendations from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation about extremely rare but serious blood clots.

“We accept the advice and accept that Pfizer is the preferred vaccine for under 60s. AstraZeneca is recommended for over 60s,” he said.

For people who have had a single dose of AstraZeneca, health authorities have given the green light for the second jab.

The decision puts further strain on the federal government’s vaccine rollout which will now have to rely more heavily on imported Pfizer doses. Access to Pfizer will be expanded to all Australians aged 40 to 59.

AstraZeneca was considered the backbone of the immunisation strategy until Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation recommended in April the vaccine be used for over-50s.

Millions of doses of AstraZeneca are being produced in Melbourne but Australia has no capacity to build mRNA vaccines such as Pfizer and Moderna.

Two people in their 50s who received AstraZeneca have died in

Australia after developing blood clots.

More than 3.6 million doses of AstraZeneca have been administered nationwide since the rollout kicked off in February.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said the federal government was seeking access to other vaccines.

“Obviously our success as an economy to keep the momentum going will depend on our ability to suppress the virus,” he said.

“That means following the health restrictions, but it also means rolling out the vaccine.

“That is what we are seeking to do as more supply becomes available.”

Disaster assistance available

DISASTER assistance has been made available for households who continue to be affected by prolonged power outages from the extreme weather event in Victoria last month.

Assistance is being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Federal Emergency Management Minister David Littleproud said the DRFA will assist households who remain without power and may do so for some weeks to come.

“A Prolonged Power Outage Support Payment of \$1680 per week, for up to three weeks, has been extended to all eligible households without power,” Mr Littleproud said.

“The Payment will support families buy necessities, source other forms of fuel/power or find alternative accommodation.

“The Australian Government is working closely with the Victorian Government and stands ready to provide further assistance as re-

quired.”

State Acting Police and Emergency Services Minister Danny Pearson said that the prolonged power outages may last up to three weeks and will cause significant hardship to many households even though there may be no physical damage to homes.

“The Australian and Victorian governments are helping communities who continue to be impacted by the aftermath of the severe weather event,” Mr Pearson said. “We know that being without essential power is incredibly difficult and we want to help people obtain the support that best suits their circumstances, whether that be to stay at home or seek alternative accommodation.

“These payment are in addition to the range of supports available that are being delivered through our relief partners locally. We urge those who require additional support such as food or access to showers to contact their local council.”

Customers whose power remained out to Thursday, June

24 will be entitled to the second week’s payment, and customers whose power remains out at Thursday, July 1 will be entitled to the third and final payment.

The funding package is being administered by AusNet on behalf of the Commonwealth and State governments to provide direct assistance to support residential customers dealing with prolonged power loss.

Eligibility criteria can be found on AusNet’s Storm Event webpage at www.ausnetservices.com.au/en/About/News-Room/News-Room-2021/Storm-Update

AusNet has established a dedicated claims process for customers impacted by the storm, which can be accessed on its website or by calling 13 17 99.

Information on disaster assistance is available on the Australian Government’s website at www.disasterassist.gov.au, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at www.delwp.vic.gov.au and the Vic Emergency website www.emergency.vic.gov.au/relief.

Walhalla Railway flood recovery

The Walhalla Goldfields Railway has been a favourite attraction in Gippsland tourism for over 25 years, bringing joy to passengers of all ages.

We are a not-for-profit organisation that exists thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and the public who support us.

However, like so many others in Gippsland we have suffered extensive storm and flood damage resulting from the recent storms and ensuing flooding.

President Phil Milbourne stated “Our recovery process

will be difficult with the cost and the full extent of the damage being an unknown quantity at this stage”.

Unknown extent of damage to the critical infrastructure and maintenance facilities has not yet been able to be fully assessed; with this brings doubt to the ability to recover swiftly and continue to provide people with the enjoyment they experience in this unique part of the world.

“Whilst we have begun the recovery process, there is still much to be done. We are pro-

gressing in the right direction though we do still need the public’s help if we are to get through this” said Marketing & Events Manager Mark Livesay, when referring to the recent volunteer/donation drive.

If you would like to assist in any way please contact us on:

Phone: 03 5165 6280 or Email: wgrmarketing66@gmail.com, office@walhallarail.com.au

Residents urged to drive with caution as Council assesses storm damage

Council staff and contractors have worked around the clock to reopen local roads and assess damage to Walhalla and Noojee following significant storms last week.

Walhalla has seen significant damage to public infrastructure, including the North Gardens campground. Further assessments will be conducted in both Walhalla and Noojee this week to determine the extent of the damage and required repairs to Council assets.

Baw Baw Deputy Mayor Cr Michael Leaney said “Walhalla experienced flash flooding and significant damage to public infrastructure. Thankfully, few private assets were damaged. Regional Roads Victoria has closed Walhalla Road to the public as damage is assessed and slips repaired.

We are calling on Regional Roads Victoria and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority to prioritise repairs to their assets so that Walhalla can reopen and welcome visitors again after a difficult year of fires, pandemic restrictions and now floods.”

Council’s road maintenance contractor DM Roads has priori-

tised safely opening roads, which will be followed by an extended clean-up over the next few weeks. Inspections are now taking place across the road network with any repairs to be scheduled in addition to the routine maintenance program.

Some local roads remain closed due to flooding. These closures will continue to be monitored over the coming days as the water level drops and assessors can determine if repairs are required.

“While our urban areas were relatively unscathed, Baw Baw’s rural communities have been significantly impacted by the storms. I encourage everyone to reconsider any unnecessary travel and drive safely as Council continues to clear roads and assess damage” said Baw Baw Mayor Cr Danny Goss,

We are aware that some roads will have been damaged by scouring or potholes. Larger scale repairs will be carried out on a priority basis over the next few weeks.”

Residents are urged to never drive through floodwaters and to proceed with caution elsewhere as many roads may still be impacted by trees, branches, and

debris. Residents without power can access hot showers free of charge at the Warragul Leisure Centre.

If you would like to assist those impacted by the storms, financial donations are the quickest and most effective way to lend a helping hand. The Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (www.gerf.org.au) and givit.org.au are taking donations now.

Whether you donate through GERF or GIVIT, 100 per cent of donated money is used to purchase exactly what’s needed – operational costs are covered by government contracts and corporate partners.

Authorities are encouraging people not to send unsolicited donations of goods or services into impacted areas at this time. If you’d like to make a non-financial donation, please visit www.givit.org.au, they capture all donation offers online, removing the need for impacted communities to receive, sort, store and dispose of donations they don’t need.

Gippsland Water looks to community for customer insight

Gippsland Water is recruiting a customer reference group to help plan for the future.

Managing director Sarah Cumming said the group would help to make sure customers remain central to Gippsland Water’s plans and actions.

“This is a great opportunity for community members to get involved in our work and to help us ensure that customer insight is part of our decision making,” she said.

Ms Cumming encouraged

Gippsland Water customers to apply to become part of the reference group and gave assurance that the group would be made up of diverse members of the customer base.

“We want to make sure that each member of the group can contribute their diverse insight and experience,” she said.

The customer reference group will play a key role in assisting Gippsland Water to prepare for their 2022 Urban Water Strategy and 2023 Price Submission.

Members must be Gippsland Water customers and will be appointed on their ability to represent broad customer views.

The group will meet approximately four times a year with additional attendance at forums and site visits possible from time to time.

These are volunteer positions, however reasonable expenses will be covered.

For more information or to apply to be on the customer reference group visit www.gippswater.com.au/crg



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Customers are invited to play a key role in helping Gippsland Water plan for the future.

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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Council to reinvest sustainability savings to fund future projects

Cost savings from Baw Baw Shire council’s energy-efficiency initiatives will now be reinvested in sustainability projects following council’s adoption of a Revolving Sustainability Fund (RSF) Policy last month.

The RSF will ensure future cost savings are reinvested into the delivery of new sustainability projects, guaranteeing further savings and environmental benefits to council and the community.

Cost savings from delivered sustainability projects will be transferred into the RSF for a period of three years after the project’s completion.

Over the past decade council has implemented several sustainability projects to combat rising energy costs, including the installation of over 70 solar panel systems on council and community buildings and the change-over of thousands of streetlights to energy efficient LED lights.

It is estimated that council’s energy efficiency initiatives delivered between 2013 and 2020 have saved council and ratepayers \$1.3 million.

The establishment of the RSF is a key action of council’s Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2018-2022). It was developed

in consultation with Council’s Environmental Voice Advisory Committee.

Baw Baw Shire mayor Danny Goss welcomed the news.

“Introducing a Revolving Sustainability Fund makes sound financial sense and ensures council can deliver further cost savings to ratepayers,” he said.

“The benefits of the RSF will be seen for years to come as council is able to invest further in energy efficiencies, reducing its carbon footprint and increasing sustainability in Baw Baw.”

AROUND THE HISTORICAL Society

By Di Ireland

Can you help?

Recently the Historical Society received an email from Paul Hill who is interested in finding information about the Thorpdale district around 1935 to 1945. His request is as follows:

“My father Thomas Hill lived in Thorpdale from about 1933 until he enlisted in the army in 1940. His stepfather George Thomson and his mother Margaret owned the blacksmith shop in Thorpdale until around 1945. George and Margaret Thomson also had an 81 acre farm half a mile from Thorpdale called ‘Noble View’ which had previously been owned by Richard and Delcie Noble”.

We were saddened recently by the death of long-time member of the T&DHS Mrs Betty

McCulloch. We extend our condolences to the McCulloch family and will retain many fond memories of Betty, a most gracious lady.

Don’t forget to buy the latest Gazette which contains articles about the Moe-Coalville-Narracan-Thorpdale Railway Line, a brief history of the RSL in Trafalgar and an article on the early days at Allambee.

Working bees are held on the first and third Fridays from 2pm till 4pm and the next meeting will be our annual general meeting, details of which will be available next month.

Blake Radford presented with Trafalgar Lions Russ Turner Encouragement Award

Blake Radford, an apprentice at Trafalgar Auto Electrics was awarded the prestigious Russell Turner Encouragement Award at a recent meeting of the Lions Club of Trafalgar.

Blake was presented with a cheque for \$1000 by Trafalgar Lions Club President David Koschade

This year there were five other applicants for the award Corey Hender and Jackson Smith, both

apprentice diesel mechanic's at Traf Tractor (TMI), Brodie Marino a hairdressing apprentice at Hair and Make Up by Joey, Shelley Brown, completing a Traineeship in Avionics at West Sale and her twin brother Peter Brown an apprentice carpenter working for Merlot Homes based in Waragul. Special thanks to Lions Tony Mitchinson and Alan Smith for their efforts in canvassing businesses, interviewing the candidate's and judging this award.

The award is in its 24th year and has been presented to commemorate the memory of former Trafalgar Lions Club member Russ Turner who died tragically as a result of a fall from his bicycle while training for the Lions Ride for Sigh in 1996. He was a club member for 25 years, serving as club president in 1982-83 and was a wonderful worker for the club and the community.

To quote from the club newsletter, Feb 1996 "He was one of

the most caring and thoughtful persons that you could ever hope to meet. Russ had served his community all his life in so many different ways, never seeking the spotlight or the glory.

He was the innovator, the organizer, the mediator, the doer.

He was very involved in the setting up of Trafalgar's annual mardi-gras and swap meet."

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Finalists from left Corey Hender, Brodie Marino, Blake Radford, Shelley Brown, Peter Brown, Lions President David Koschade, absent due to work commitments Jackson Smith

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Blake Radford receives his Award certificate and a cheque for \$1000 from Trafalgar Lions President David Koschade

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As a TDFS Board Director your expertise and demonstrable skills in the following areas will be highly regarded though not essential:

- contemporary governance principles, or
- legal qualifications, or
- financial expertise, or
- communications and marketing

It is equally important that applicants have a keen interest in and strong connection to their communities.

For further information, or to apply, please contact Rosie Carroll at secretary@tdfs.com.au

The Do's and Don'ts of Purchasing Property

The enticement of government grants and schemes has seen the property market rise quickly. With 30 June 2021 being the final day to enter into a contract and secure the government concessional waiver to duty, many are looking to secure property fast.

Whilst there is a sense of urgency to purchase real estate before the cut off date, it is important that you still complete your own investigations to ensure there is nothing at the property or in the contact that will negatively affect you down the track.

To assist you, we have created a list of the most important items you should be considering when looking to purchase a property. We note this list is not exhaustive and will change based on the property:

DO
Inspect the property yourself. Become familiar with the history of the property. Become familiar with any current and future developments in the surrounding area. Check the boundaries for the property are the same as what is

in the plan of subdivision.

Check if there are any building or development restrictions on the land (e.g estate guidelines or covenants).

Arrange for a soil test, building and/or pest inspection – all to your satisfaction.

Speak with your broker/bank about financing the property.

If you are obtaining finance, make the contract subject to you receiving formal finance approval (note this is different from pre-approval).

Arrange for our office to re-

view the contract and section 32.

DON'T

Ensure all negotiations with the vendor are in the contract. Make an offer without inspecting the property.

Make an offer without knowing what your borrowing capacity is.

Sign the contract based on promises or warranties from the vendor or their agent.

Make an offer without first speaking with a builder about the development restrictions (if block of land).

Make an offer unless you are completely satisfied with the property.

Sign the contract without our office reviewing it first.

If you are looking to purchase a property and need assistance, please reach out to one of our friendly solicitors on (03) 5644 0000 or jade@jmacgregor-legal.com or katherine@jmacgregorlegal.com



Drug action team for the Latrobe Valley is established

A local Drug Action Team is being established in the Latrobe Valley to prevent and minimise alcohol and other drug-related harm in the community.

The LDAT will tackle concerns that Latrobe Valley residents are at a higher risk of long-term harm from alcohol.

The program is being run by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation and federal government to target and provide prevention services, education and information to young people from 16 to 25.

There are 65 Local Drug Action Teams in Victoria, and 280 teams nationally.

The program supports local organisations to build on, or extend, partnerships to deliver evidence-based harm prevention activities tailored to community needs.

The LDAT will work with the Alcohol and Drug Foundation to develop a community action plan and carry out harm prevention activities.

Primary prevention initiatives include peer support, mentoring, education in schools, support for young people and resources to reduce alcohol harms in pregnancy.

Local Drug Action Teams receive an initial \$10,000 to develop these action plans and can apply for further funding to deliver the activities.

Alcohol and Drug Foundation

chief executive officer Erin Lalor said a high number of community partnerships had applied to join the Local Drug Action Team Program.

"Strong demand from communities across Australia has meant the number of Local Drug Action Teams is higher than originally planned, giving us the opportunity to now work with 280 passionate community partnerships," Dr Lalor said.

"More than 1300 organisations are now part of Australia's extensive Local Drug Action Team Program network.

"This shows how determined community organisations are about building healthier and more connected communities."

Dr Lalor said the tailored community-led initiatives were vital to prevent and minimise harms caused by alcohol and other drugs.

"The Local Drug Action Team Program recognises that every community is unique and there's no one-size fits all solution to addressing alcohol and other drug issues," Dr Lalor said.

The Local Drug Action Team Program is part of the \$450 million federal government investment under the National Ice Action Strategy.

Alberts Corner



Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding
– Albert Einstein

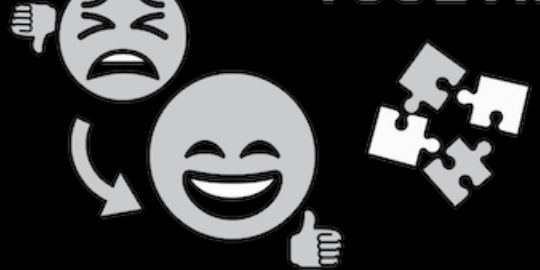
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BETTERMENTALL TOGETHER



Better MENTall hub launched

By Kerry Rantall

Our BetterMENTall men's group (secret men's business) has started with lots of interest which is fantastic, this is happening weekly.

The men catch up, chat and plan about what this is going to look like moving forward. For those that are interested there

are only two rules: do not talk about men's club and do not talk about men's club.

Our monthly support group was great with Ty from Better Today all the way from Newcastle coming in to share his story and what helps him now stay well and live a happy, healthy fulfilling live. Come in and check out his workbook for improved health and well-being.

We have had Peter from

BetterLives in helping people with their NDIS plans and how to get started.

We have our desktop computer set up for anyone that needs help with internet, Centrelink, printing forms etc.

Our website is nearly ready to go live.

We have had a very generous donation of new winter clothing, sanitary items and food for anyone in need.

We have welcomed lots of

new faces in the door for a coffee and chat which is awesome to see. People coming in to check out what we do and share the word with the community.

Keep a look out on our facebook community page - Bettermentall, for what's coming up.

Better Together.



The Better MENTall Hub Club has started at Bettermentall, Trafalgar.

Pat the Dog's new home at Yarragon station

Carol Monson

Members of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance's Mosaic group and management committee recently watched enthusiastically as the concrete plinth for 'Pat the Dog' was poured right next to 'The Station Gallery' in Yarragon.

The plinth will be 90% dry in two weeks and 100% dry in a month at which point the beautifully mosaicked 'Pat' will be craned in. A 'naked' Pat weighs 500 kilograms but with the completed mosaic coat will obviously weigh far more; calculations are yet to be completed.

Pat's stunning and brightly coloured coat of tiles has been created by members of the public at various venues, including the Warragul Arts Market, over a period of approximately two years. Members of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance Mosaic group have overseen the construction of this coat. The Arts Alliance looks forward to the official 'opening' of Pat on August 6, 2021.

Meanwhile do not miss the regularly changing Baw Baw Arts Alliance exhibitions at the

'Station Gallery', Yarragon. All exhibitions commence at the beginning of each month. Coming up in July are two exhibitions by well-known artists Cathy Smith and Ross Jacka. Cathy's work called 'The Year of the Ox' will be displayed in the main gallery space.

The primary subjects in this exhibition are bovines explored through a range of media from sculpture, painting, drawings and embroidery. Ross' work will be hung in the space known as 'The Wall'. His abstract works in acrylic will brighten your day.

Following the artwork of Ross Jacka and Cathy Smith during August, the Baw Baw Arts Alliance's biennial printmaking exhibition will take place. 'Yarragon Print' is designed to showcase the work of novice and established printmakers in Gippsland. The previous exhibition in 2019 attracted a large number of entries, highlighting the need for such a display to take place.

This is an ideal opportunity to celebrate and support the art of printmaking. Online entries

close on July 28, 2021. Further information can be found on the website <https://bawbawartsalliance.org.au>

While static exhibitions are a feature of the Arts Alliance's

work every now and then a special event takes place. In order to celebrate the tenth birthday of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance the Alliance is working in conjunction with the West Gippsland Arts

Centre to present 'Past and Present', an exhibition of work from both past and present members of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance.

The exhibition will run at the West Gippsland Arts Centre

from September 7 to October 29, 2021. Details of how to enter are on the organisation's website <https://bawbawartsalliance.org.au>



Jessie and Janet supervise the concrete pour



The Plinth being poured for Pat's new home

Exhibition of quality work

By Liam Durkin

This year's Tanjil Valley Art Show proved it can overcome just about every obstacle thrown at it.

Uncertainty surrounded how the show would be conducted, as the state was plunged into lockdown just two weeks out from opening day.

Once the lockdown lifted another challenge came by way of a huge storm which knocked out power and made transporting artwork to the shows base at the Hill End Community Centre a challenge.

Despite this, Tanjil Valley Art Show chair Michael Dempsey said the work of all involved was praiseworthy in getting the show up and running.

"We have a brilliant committee, no two ways about it," he said.

"We didn't know the show was going ahead until one week (before), but luckily everything happened and we got it together."

"It was frantic, from 11.15 Friday morning until 7pm we had to get everything finished,

that included the purchase of food, signs up everywhere, but we did it."

This year's show was highlighted by more than 110 entries in the under 13 category, to go with close to 300 entries all up.

The show took in a number of paintings and photographs, with the quality of work at a high standard.

Drouin artist Samantha Milne took out the top prize for her painting of a lyrebird. The painting was easily mistaken for a photo such as the dexterity of her brushwork.

Mr Dempsey said each artwork on display held some significance.

"The stories of some of the paintings ... a 16 year old fella stood in the ring to take a photo of a bucking horse," he said.

"One of the great things doing the show is that you see children start in primary school, go to high and then work and watching the progress of their art."

Now in its 14th year, the Tanjil Valley Art Show has put Hill End

on the map.

"It always astounds me, every year it always seems to be better than the last," Mr Dempsey said.

"You get people who have never come here and they are just blown away because they don't expect it."

Money raised from the show is used to help the community. Willow Grove CFA was the beneficiary of a \$6000 contribution from the show, while the show also buys art supplies for local schools.



Drouin artist Samantha Milne with her winning painting at the Tanjil Valley Art Show.



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Tanjil Valley Art Show chair Michael Dempsey and committee member Alene Bonser welcomed another strong submission of works for this years show.

Traf High supporting fight MND with AFL day

David 'Wombat' Lyons

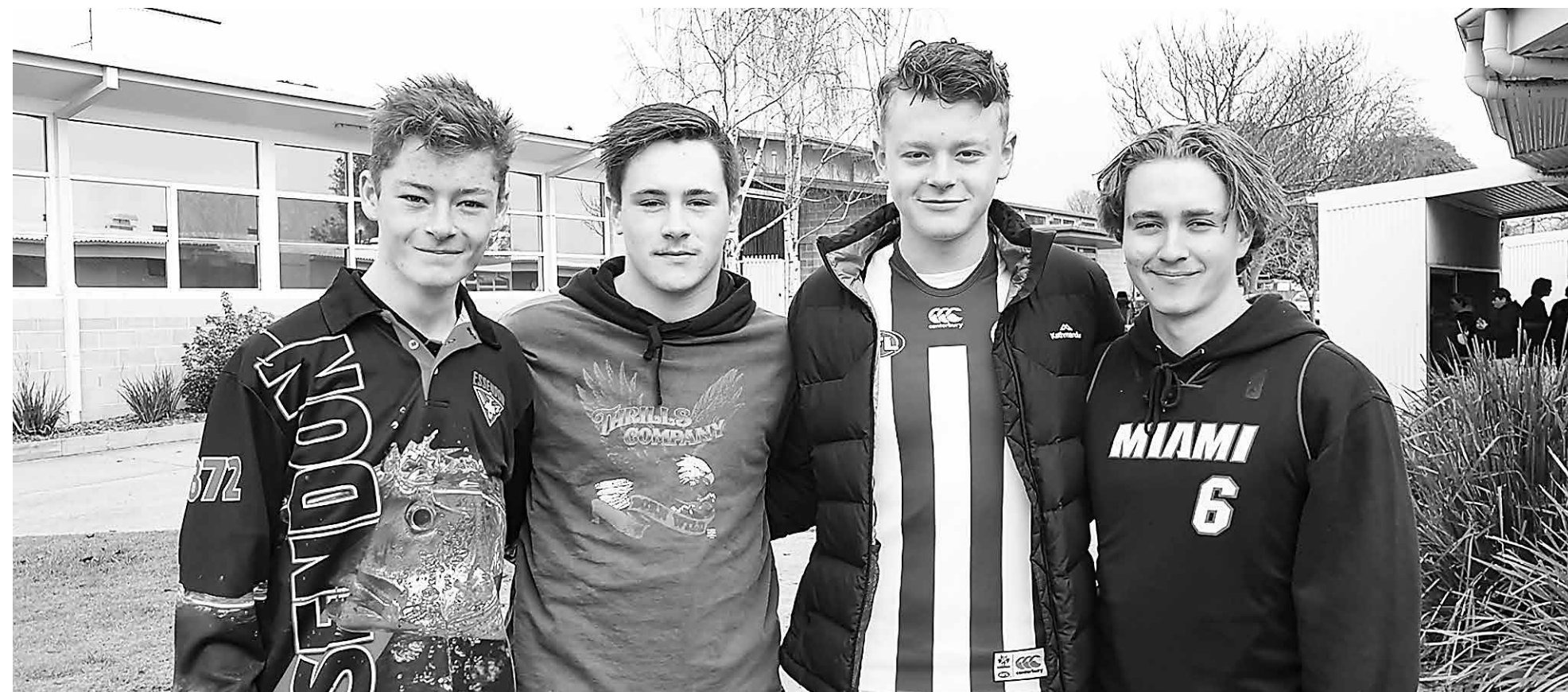
Trafalgar High School sports Captains ran a sports colours day where students were invited to wear their favourite sports teams clothing to school in return for a gold coin donation.

Among the AFL team jerseys was also a mix of local football team colours, American basketball, NRL and even a jersey from Australian ice hockey team Melbourne Mustangs.

Staff joined the students in showing their colours. \$250 was collected in coin donations and will be donated to FightMND campaign that supports research and patient treatment for those with Motor Neurone Disease (MND).



Aidan Lawless, Julia Bates, Natalie Bills, Victoria Luque, Kayalviti Gubadas, Kate Hagley



Harry McCabe, Billy Claridge, Jaryn Makepeace, Jordan Clancy



Leo Kusuma the Indonesian teacher showing his Geelong colours



Noah Meredith and Jack Johns enjoying the day

Stop-start term at Traf High

Students endured remote learning recently at Trafalgar High School, as the state was plunged into a week-long lockdown at the end of May.

On-site learning returned a week later, although students were still required to wear face masks.

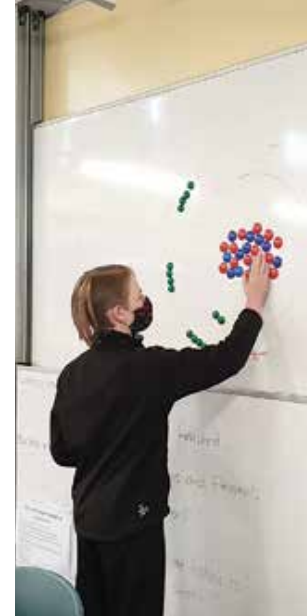
With the events of the past 14 months, those in the education sector have shown great resilience to adapt at incredibly short notice to the way in which learning is delivered and received.



Josh Garratt (Year 8) and Billy Claridge (Year 11) give the thumbs up to the return of on-site learning.



Chelsea Somerville, Siena Plavins and Shanyyn Marx enjoy being back on campus.



Malakye Chappell (Year 8) uses the whiteboard to explore the periodic table.



David Brand (Year 8) during a science class.



Trafalgar High School students Seth Damschke and Dane Jarvis in an ironic photo showing students in front of a computer screen after remote learning finished.

IDAHOBIT celebrated

On May 17 the student community of Trafalgar High School came together to celebrate IDAHOBIT. IDAHOBIT stands for International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia.

The day was an opportunity for students to confirm their commitment to Trafalgar High School being a safe and inclusive space for students of all genders and sexual identities.

"Proudly the school flies a

Pride Flag every day as a visual representation of safe and inclusive environment," said manager student welfare (David) Wombat Lyons.

"So for IDAHOBIT day the students found another way to celebrate a creative and tasty activity."

Students iced biscuits with combinations of colours that confirmed their own identities including rainbow for LGBTQIA+ in general and light blue, pink, and white for gender diversity.

Other activities at the school included a reading display of books on LGBTQIA+ topics in the library and a screening of a local documentary at second lunch.

"IDAHOBIT Day is one of a number of opportunities our stu-

dents mark at school to celebrate diversity in our community," said principal Jane Mersey.



Charli-Anne Garratt with her biscuit creation.



Patrick Davies creating his biscuit.

St Joseph's celebrates Catholic Education Week

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Trafalgar, along with other Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Sale recently celebrated Catholic Education Week.

"It was an opportunity for all Catholic Schools to celebrate our distinctive mission and to share things that are special about our schools with everyone," said principal Mrs Trish Mulqueen.

"We celebrated in a number of ways. Our leading teachers attended a special mass of thanksgiving with our Bishop Greg Bennet and other school leaders from neighbouring Catholic schools."

The school also celebrated relationships in the community by enjoying a special morning tea with the senior students and staff.

The shared morning tea was a huge hit and further reinforced the strong and vibrant community at St Joseph's.

Grade 6 student Charlise said "I've waited my whole life for this (referencing the staff waiting on the Grade 6 students for morning tea). It's so much fun being a Gr 6 student!"



Mr James Simon and student Coben Paul chat at St Joseph's.



Teacher Mrs Janet Poelsma and student Ben Plozza enjoy Catholic Education Week.



Jason Blackshaw, Mrs Sonia Lombardo and Owen Landmeter are all smiles at morning tea.



Grade 6 student Charlise Eerhard, teacher Ms Catleen Ryan and Erin Kondo during Catholic Education Week.



Staff and students at St Joseph's celebrate Catholic Education Week.



Grade 6 students Stella Chapman and Erin Kondo with Mrs Katie Balfour.



Coben Paul, Mr Will Troy and Ms Catleen Ryan have morning tea together.



Jen Gavin, Shelby Malady, Ruby Francis and Carmen Farrell.

State volleyball finals for Traf High

By David 'Wombat' Lyons

When you think boy's sport, volleyball is not one that immediately comes to mind, however, the Trafalgar High School Year 8 volleyball team is on its way to the state School Sports Volleyball final in November after winning the recent Gippsland Final.

The team competed in Morwell against Maffra Secondary College and Korumburra Secondary College. Discussing their first game against Maffra, Toby McCabe said it was "tough at first" and it was "slow to get the energy for the game" with James Pace adding

that this was a result of "a mix of nerves and being rusty". The team had formed with reduced training due to COVID-19 health measures. Despite this the boys were able to secure the win.

In the game against Korumburra the boys reported finding their strength with Memphis McQualter saying "we were playing our game" and the win was achieved with "no third set needed".

The state finals will be held in November in Melbourne.

To have a team from Trafalgar represented at state finals is par-

ticularly noteworthy, especially for a sport such as volleyball, a game in which most players in the team would not have known a great deal about before stepping in.

Trafalgar High School will compete at the state School Sports Volleyball final in November. Pictured are (back) sports teacher Ms Kristy Dunstan, Riley Payne, Juddson Ryan, James Pace, Memphis McQualter, Angus Carlson, (middle) Toby McCabe, Brook Gill, (front) Louis Hennessy, Harrison Pirie and Tom Matthews.



Athletics carnival at Traf High

Trafalgar High School held its athletics carnival at Joe Carmody Athletics Track, Newborough recently.

As well as traditional event activities from running races, shot-put, long jump and high jump, the 2021 event also included a tug-of-war and sack race.

Students of all ages gathered together for the first athletics from 2019 after COVID-19 sent students into home based learning programs in 2020.

Jervis house were the run-away winners of the carnival on 1600 points. Drake (1351 points), Hawke (1205) and Nelson (1175) followed.

Age group champions were: Heath Kamphuis (12-13 year boys), Olivia Ambler (12-13 girls), James Pace (14 boys), Rebecca Geisler (14 girls), Blake White (15 boys), Poppy Susa (15 girls), Eric Porigneaux (16 boys), Katherine Hagley (16 girls), Jarryn Makepeace (17 boys), Maddison Rossi (17 girls), Drew O'Brien (18-20 boys) and Hannah Bonnici (18-20 girls).



Jordan Munoz-Downie with his first place ribbon for a 100 metre event.



Riley Tolley approaches the finish line.



School captain Dylan Gauci ready for the action of the day.



John Brand and Jack Bond celebrating their results.

Educators come together to rally for new agreement

Trafalgar High School and Trafalgar Primary School joined forces during an Australian Education Union (AEU) week of action recently.

On Thursday May 6 school staff were asked to wear red to school, take and post photos on social media with the #sup-

portschoolstaff and to also tag their local member to build awareness that the Victorian Government Schools Agreement expired on April 30.

"The government needs to hear our cry for help and meet our needs while negotiating the new one," said AEU Sub Branch

president Trafalgar High School head of science Ashley Bannister.

"Teachers, principals, and education support workers need workload relief now, and many education support workers urgently need a fair wage that recognises their value and professionalism," said AEU Victorian

Sub Branch president Meredith Peace.

The results from the AEU's State Of Our Schools Survey, which over 11,000 members completed, show that school staff are overworked and underpaid and that schools are incredibly under resourced due to lack of

funding.

"The campaign slogan 'It's About Time' highlights the importance of giving school staff more time to do their jobs properly and to do it within their paid hours," Ms Bannister said.

"Our students deserve the best teachers and the best edu-

cation possible but with current workloads, stress levels and expectations at an all time high, it is simply impossible.

"We don't want this, we need this! For all school staff but especially for our students!"



Local educators campaigned for a new Victorian Government Schools Agreement recently.



The #supportschoolstaff banner proudly on display.

Pregnancy Care at Trafalgar Medical

By Elle Crighton, nurse practitioner and midwife



At Trafalgar Medical we offer a range of pregnancy care options for the women of Trafalgar and surrounding areas. The World Health Organisation recommends a women-centred model of care, offered as close to the women's home as possible.

Trafalgar Medical can support women and offer this choice as we have a number of GPO's (general practitioner obstetrician's) being Dr Briohney Klason, Ben Tang, Pete Verbeek and myself - an endorsed midwife.

The GPO's and midwife have completed further training to support women through their pregnancy journey, birth and post birth experience. The evidence shows better outcome for women and their babe when they have a consistent carer and regular antenatal reviews. Seeing the same clinician for each pregnancy visits, ceases the need for a pregnant woman to repeat her pregnancy journey. We encourage women and their partner to be part of the pregnancy journey.

The woman's lead carer at the first pregnancy check-up usually discusses health and wellbeing during pregnancy and post birth.

Nutrition and healthy eating during the pregnancy is discussed, which includes safe foods and those to avoid to reduce the risk of listeria infection. Immunisation is also discussed, along with smoking and alcohol cessation and physical exercise.

Physical activity is often an area that is confusing for pregnant women as the guidelines have significantly changed over time. Exercise is not associated with negative outcomes, it in fact has numerous benefits during the pregnancy and post birth. Being active is important for women and babe.

Current pregnancy exercise guidelines state women who habitually engage in vigorous-intensity aerobic activity (eg running) or who are highly active can continue physical activity during pregnancy and postpartum period provided that they remain healthy and discuss with their healthcare provider how and when activity should be adjusted over time.

Healthy pregnant women under the guidance of their healthcare provider can participate in moderate-intensity both aerobic and muscle conditioning activities for up to 150 minutes per week,

spread across the week.

It is recommended to undertake pelvic floor exercises daily.

Potential benefits of exercise while pregnant: preparing for labour and recovery, limits weight gain, lower risk of gestational diabetes, lower risk of back and pelvic pain, lower risk of incontinence, improves sleep, better mental health, lowers risk of anxiety and postnatal depression, social connection, particularly with social isolation, connect with friends while following COVID guidelines for exercise and can lead to long term change in lifestyle.

The talk test is the current guideline for intensity of exercise. You should be able to carry on a conversation while participating in moderate activity. If you are unable to talk the intensity of exercise might be greater than moderate.

Barriers to pregnant woman engaging in exercise include: unsure of the exercise pregnancy guideline and what exercise is safe to participate in while pregnant, fatigue, lack of time and physical discomfort.

If these barriers are an issue, aim to move more by walking to maintain an active lifestyle.

Type of exercise or activities that pregnant women can continue to participate in or commence:

walking, swimming, stationary cycling, low-impact aerobic yoga modified, pilates modified, running or jogging and strength training.

Exercise to avoid include contact sports such as ice hockey, boxing, kick boxing, soccer and basketball.

Activities with high risk of falling or collision (ie skiing).

Activities that have significant

change in pressure such as sky diving or scuba diving. Hot yoga and hot pilates.

Women who have complications of pregnancy should always discuss their exercise plan with their lead carer. Being active while pregnant is very important for good health and wellbeing of the pregnant woman and babe.

Trafalgar Medical is locally owned and managed, we have

appointments available every day and are taking new patients.

Please call 5633 2211 to make an appointment or book an appointment online with Hotdoc or via our website www.trafmc.com.au. For regular updates follow us on Facebook.



Trafalgar local Melissa White and daughter Murphy, who is helping midwife Elle Crighton with a pregnancy check-up.

Trafalgar Holden Museum car of the month

By Bob Moss

1946 OLDSMOBILE 'ACE' COUP

When WW2 ended, General Motors Holden resumed the manufacture of cars and commercial vehicles. The Oldsmobile name reappeared when the first 'Series 66', available only as a four door sedan, rolled off the assembly line at Fishermans Bend on December 18 1946.

Using drawings supplied by General Motors America, GMH designed a body, and manufactured the tooling to press, assemble, and prime the bodies at the Woodville plant in South Australia. The completed bodies were then sent, by rail, to the Fishermans Bend plant in Melbourne

The chassis components arrived in Melbourne from the USA in a totally unassembled state. Once the chassis was assembled the body from Woodville was fitted onto the chassis and all the other components installed, the car was then primed and painted.

From 1924, Holden Mo-

tor Body Builders became the exclusive supplier of car bodies for GM in Australia, with manufacturing taking place at the new Woodville plant. Bodies were also made to suit a number of chassis imported from other manufacturers including Austin, Buick, Chevrolet, Cleveland, Dodge, Essex, Fiat, Hudson, Oakland, Oldsmobile, Overland, Reo, Studebaker, and Willys-Knight.

This is a good example of how Holden Motor Body Builders built cars for many manufacturers until 1931 when General Motors joined with HMBB and became General Motors Holden. After this only General Motor products were built and sold.

The Series 60 was produced from 1946 to 1948 by General Motors-Holden's in Australia, where it was marketed as the Oldsmobile Ace. Local bodies were fitted and these cars are completely different from the scuttle back and were the last GM cars to feature 'suicide doors' (hinged at the back). Given the delays in availability

of chassis and components from the USA, GMH produced at least one display car (a 1946 model) which sported a coupe body which is largely identical to the American 'Fisher' bodied Club Coupe. This car is known to have toured Victoria, South Australia and Southern New South Wales promoting the upcoming release of the 1946 model.

This car, which unfortunately suffered from some substantial rust problems, still survives today and has been restored. The car in our Museum is that car, the only right hand drive Oldsmobile Coupe body made by Holden. Our car is a two door four seater sedan with a 3.9 litre six cylinder engine and a three speed synchromesh manual gear box.

As prices increased the less popular brands such as Buick, Oldsmobile, Mercury and DeSoto disappeared from Australian showrooms. 1948 was actually the last year that Holden built bodies for Oldsmobiles here in Australia, as in its last two years of 1949 and 1950 GMH imported

completely knocked down models. Sales of the Australian made Oldsmobile ceased on the re-

lease of the 48-215 (FX) Holden car in 1948.

Price as new: 986 pounds

(The Holden was priced at 820 pounds).



The 1946 Oldsmobile two-door Coupe.

Farming News

VFF Horticulture election results

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) recently announced Nathan Free as the successful candidate for the role of Horticulture president and Katherine Myers as Horticulture vice-president.

VFF returning officer and chief executive Jane Lovell welcomed and congratulated Mr Free and Mrs Myers on their appointment.

"I congratulate Nathan and Katherine on their appointment and look forward to working with them to help progress the future of the Victorian horticulture industry," she said.

Mr Free previously replaced the casual vacancy left when Emma Germano took over as VFF president in December last year.

"I look forward to continuing to advocate for better seasonal workforce access, streamlining quality assurance programs, advocating for greater biosecurity funding and helping to build a Victoria that values the great work our farmers do," Mr Free said.

Mrs Myers has been involved in the opposition to AusNet's Western Victoria Transmission Network Project that threatens potato farming around Ballarat.

"I look forward to engaging with horticulture farmers around the state to ensure that their land and farms are protected from the kind of issues I've been fighting locally," Mrs Myers said.

Mr Free is a fourth generation farmer and the managing director of Wattle Organics based in Lake Boga, near Swan Hill. He grows a mix of organic fruit, vegetable, and cereal. Nathan has a history of leadership in the horticulture industry as a former nuffield scholar and Rabobank emerging leader. Before taking over as horticulture president, Nathan served four years as VFF horticulture vice-president.

Dairy vice president named

United Dairyfarmers of Victoria (UDV) recently announced Mark Billing as the successful candidate for the role of UDV

vice-president at the online UDV annual meeting.

VFF returning officer and chief executive Jane Lovell welcomed and congratulated Mr Billing on his appointment to the key role within UDV.

"I congratulate Mark on his appointment and look forward to working with him to help progress the future of the Victorian dairy industry," she said.

"I would also like to thank and acknowledge Ian Morris for his interest in the role and to the many UDV members who voted and ensured their voice was heard."

Mr Billing replaces outgoing UDV vice president John Keely who has been in the role since 2018.

"John has contributed a huge amount whilst in the role of UDV vice-president over the past three years, and before that in his nine years on UDV policy council. I would like to thank him for this and the positive impact he's made on the Victorian dairy industry during this time," Ms Lovell said.

Mr Billing lives near Colac in

Victoria's south west where he operates his dairy farm with his wife, Sam, and their four kids.

He has been involved with the UDV as a member for over 35 years and recently as the policy councillor for UDV Region 8 and sits on the UDV executive committee.

He is passionate about the Victorian dairy industry, particularly how it plays a crucial role in everyday life in many local communities and utilising UDV members to help position the industry for the future.

State budget light on regional road funding

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) said the recent State Budget failed to invest in regional freight routes, but includes some key investments for agriculture.

VFF president Emma Germano said the state government has missed an opportunity to drive growth in the regions by investing in freight routes and regional road maintenance.

"Regional communities and

farmers will be disappointed that just weeks after calls for the lowering of speed limits on regional roads, the government has failed to adequately invest in the maintenance and upgrades required to make rural and regional roads safe," she said.

"Last year \$6.9 billion was invested in regional Victoria, a strong signal of the importance of our regional economy to the state's prosperity. This year that number is \$3.7 billion."

Ms Germano said there was some welcome investments in areas including regional mental health services, traceability and emergency services.

"Farmers are uniquely vulnerable to many factors that contribute to poor mental health and the VFF look forward to seeing this funding flow through to improving rural and regional mental health outcomes," she said.

"The important investment into traceability and product integrity will support the future of Victoria's food and fibre industries and the VFF looks forward to working with the government in

implementing this program.

"The Black Summer bushfires demonstrated the vulnerability of our regional communities to the threat of fire. It's a vital investment in our emergency service capabilities in this budget with the \$71.2 million CFA digital radio upgrade, investment in the replacement of CFA stations at Serpentine, Metcalfe and Irymple and \$104 million for recovery initiatives including financial counselling and mental health support."

The VFF is disappointed the budget does not include funding to provide Victorian farmers access to the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme, but understand the state and federal governments are in discussions on the matter.

Ms Germano said the introduction of new taxes could stymie growth in regional areas.

"The government has introduced new taxes that could stifle agricultural investment and housing stock growth in regional Victoria," she said.

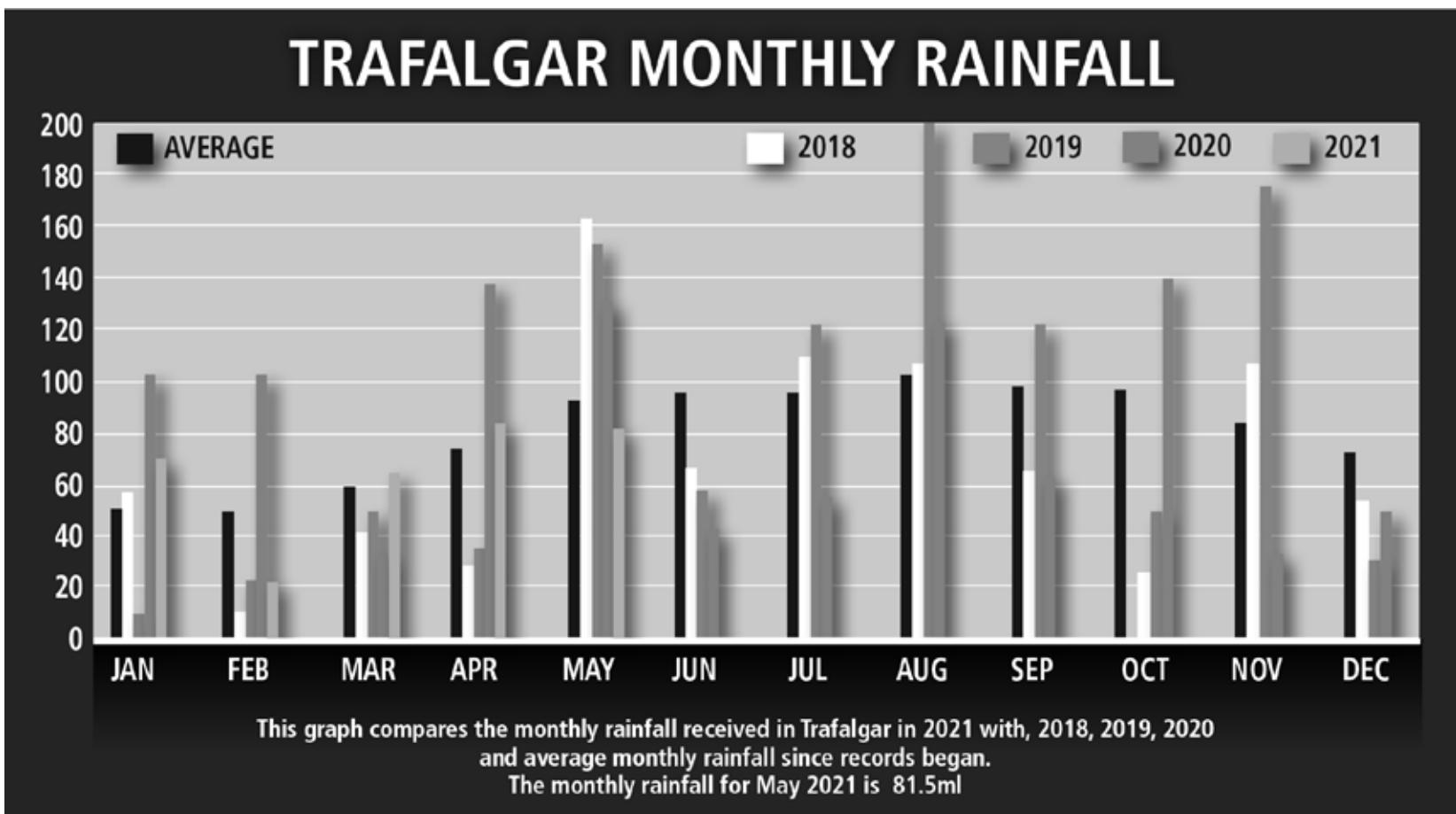
"The stamp duty increase and windfall tax will all hit farmers

and regional developers. Combined with the failure to fund the \$20,000 first home-owners grant, this will seriously impact the development of desperately needed new housing stock in regional Victoria.

"It's tough enough to find a house in regional Victoria and, unfortunately, this budget is only going to make it tougher."

Key budget investments include:

- \$3.6 million to fund the operation of the Mode Shift Incentive Scheme for one year;
- \$15.9 million for Murray River bridge crossing upgrades;
- \$41.6 million to improve heavy vehicle road access and priority bridge upgrades;
- \$20 million for the agriculture climate change pledge announced before the budget;
- \$5.8 million for the Rural Financial Counselling Service;
- \$6.3 million for Victoria's fruit fly strategy announced before the budget, and;
- \$1.4 million for the Victorian Rural women's Network.



Reflection

Taking Care

By Moira Dodsworth

The past week has seen us all listening to the radio and watching for warnings – storms, flooding, power outages, all soon after another COVID lockdown. We all enjoy the advantages of living in the twenty-first century and find it hard to accept when things don't work. We rely on mobile

phones, not only for phone communication but also as a torch and radio. It is a very real problem when we can't charge the phone. How many of us no longer have a battery powered radio or torch? We forget the advice to have an emergency kit with water, food, clothing and other emergency supplies just in

case there is a natural disaster.

I think back to the time, soon after my family and I moved to North Queensland and heard the siren and radio warnings telling us to get ready. I asked a long time resident what I really needed to get and she said raincoats for the children as her children had previously been evacuated

by helicopter in garbage bags to keep them dry. We survived the cyclone without major damage but were without power for a week, I will never forget washing children's undies by hand and emptying the freezer and so I sympathise with families without power.

But we forget quickly, for

a few years we religiously had our emergency kit prepared and had what we needed but then it got forgotten. Supplies seem to always be in easy reach, and we think it won't happen to us, emergency services are there for us, we like trees close to our homes, to live close to nature.

Last year, we started to think

more about community, helping and supporting our neighbours as we were locked down and scared of catching the virus and consciously considered the good of all rather than just ourselves. I wonder if we can make this a longer term attitude and if we can consciously take more care so we don't put others at risk.



Council News.

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

Council Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 July at 5.30pm in Fountain Room at the West Gippsland Arts Centre.

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

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

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

Careers

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

Contact us

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

Your East Ward Councillors

Cr Michael Leaney
Deputy Mayor
0476 000 119/5165 6263
Michael.Leaney@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Cr Peter Kostos
0438 570 304
Peter.Kostos@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Cr Darren Wallace
0476 000 053
Darren.Wallace@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

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How to book a COVID-19 vaccination in Baw Baw

Eligible Baw Baw Shire residents can now book their COVID-19 vaccination on the phone or online.

Residents can book to have their vaccination at the COVID-19 vaccination centre at The Goods Shed, Warragul (located at the Warragul Railway Station car park off Alfred Street) by:

- Calling the Department of Health Vaccination Hotline on 1800 675 398
- Visiting the website www.portal.cvms.vic.gov.au

The Warragul COVID-19 vaccination centre is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9am to 3.30pm.

You can also book to have your vaccination at a participating GP clinic. You can check your eligibility and a list of participating GP clinics at: www.health.gov.au

Find out what roadworks are happening near you

Would you like to know where the latest roadworks are taking place in Baw Baw Shire?

You can track the progress of maintenance works across the Shire via an interactive dashboard on the Council website. It provides real-time progress reports on what's happening in your area, as well as details of previous works in the past few months.

For more information, visit www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/OurRoadsYourRoads



What's coming up at West Gippsland Arts Centre

West Gippsland Arts Centre's July to December program features a diversity of performances including:

Love Song Dedications (without Richard Mercer)
Tuesday 6 July

Vivaldi's Four Seasons performed by Melbourne Chamber Orchestra
Friday 23 July

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Tuesday 24 August

Animal Farm
Tuesday 31 August

Ochres performed by Bangarra Dance Theatre
Wednesday 8 October

To see what else is coming up and to book visit wgac.com.au

Make a donation to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund

Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF) has launched an appeal to raise emergency funds for our fellow Gippslanders impacted by floods. They act quickly to distribute funds to those needing help, so they can access emergency resources like food or temporary accommodation. To donate or register for a GERF grant, visit: www.gerf.org.au

Please note, GERF only accepts financial donations, being the quickest and most effective way to lend a helping hand. While they love seeing your generosity, they're not equipped to accept goods or services – for this please visit: www.givit.org.au



Council Pop-up is coming to Yarragon

Council's Rural Outreach Program will visit Yarragon on Thursday 8 July, giving you a chance to chat with Councillors and staff about matters that are important to you.

You are invited to drop into the Yarragon Public Hall between 4pm and 6pm.

No appointments are necessary, however you will need to sign in for contact tracing purposes. We look forward to seeing you there!



Looking for a new four-legged family member?

Did you know Council's Municipal Animal Pound regularly has pets looking for a loving home?

All animals available for adoption are desexed, microchipped, vaccinated, wormed, health checked and registered with Council.

To view a register of available animals and complete an expression of interest, visit the *Animals for Adoption* page on the Council website.

Lost your pet?

Council maintains a lost animal register on the Council website to help owners find their pets and ensure their prompt return.

The report a lost animal, visit the *Lost Animals* page on the Council website or contact Council on 1300 229 229 to let us know.



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

Trafalgar, Yarragon & Yallourn News, July, 1931

July 2 – Social and Concert

A social and concert was held in the Trafalgar Scout Hall last week under the auspices of the Scotch Club. The proceedings were conducted with a swing, every minute of the evening being of an interesting and enjoyable nature. A novelty game ensured – a “Mystery Girl” appeared and caused quite a flutter amongst the lads; with a prize offered to the one who guessed who the little dear was – ‘she’ was later found to be Mr Arthur Pattle.

Friday Night Music

Friday night shopping in Trafalgar is brightened up with music by the brass band, under the baton of bandmaster D. Baillie. The band plays from the balcony of the Criterion Hotel, and the harmony is appreciated by all.

July 16 – Shire of Narracan

P. G. Connelly, Trafalgar, again drawing attention to the impossible state of the road leading from his place (Blairs) to the main Trafalgar-Thorpdale road. He had kept his children away from school since 1st June. If councillors had nothing better to do, he invited them to inspect the road, which most tradespeople will not travel over in its present state. – No money.

July 30 – Dogs Poisoned

The poison fiend is getting busy again in Trafalgar, and lately several good dogs have been destroyed. We shudder to think what will happen if the poisoner is caught.

Popular Euchre Parties

The popularity of the fortnightly euchre parties in the Trafalgar Scout Hall, in aid of the district Convent has not waned, in fact they seem to be getting more popular. At the euchre party held on Wednesday, there was a good attendance and keen interest displayed by those who took part in the contest.

Gippsland News, July, 1961

July 6 – New Catholic School Opened

On Sunday last, July 2, a new Catholic School was Blessed and

opened at Trafalgar by most Reverend P. E. Lyons, D.D., Bishop of Sale. It consists of four well-lit classrooms and office block, with separate cloak rooms for boys and girls. The cost of the completed school will be in the vicinity of 20,000 pounds (\$588,500 today).

Charming Yarragon Debutantes

Debutantes and partners taking part in the Yarragon branch of the C.W.A. Ball on June 30 were: Misses Gwen Heywood/Max Roberts, Lorraine Rankin/Ted Ireland, Margaret Grant/Cyril Chaproniere, Robyn Somerville/John Thurlow, Colleen White/Stan Crole, Rejetta Hams/Alan Lawler, Elaine Knight/Kevin Penny.

July 13 – Methodist Church Bathers

Last Friday night saw one of the largest gatherings of district Methodists ever seen in Trafalgar. Approximately 300 persons attended a variety concert in the Public Hall. The occasion was a Methodist Family Night to initiate the “Forward in Faith” Program.

July 20 – Dog Pound For Trafalgar

After a letter had been read in reference to a dog pound for the Shire, councillors decided at last Monday’s meeting of the Narracan Shire Council at Trafalgar that a dog pound be erected at the Trafalgar sale-yards.

Trafalgar Swimming Club

The committee of the recently formed Trafalgar Amateur Swimming Club met on Wednesday night of last week to draw up their club constitution. This will be submitted to the Victorian Amateur Swimming Association with application for membership. An appeal goes out to all enthusiasts to join up and help the club get away to a good start.

Trafalgar Golf Club

With the “blue ribbon” events of the district being staged at Trafalgar on July 27 and 29 the attention of members and associates is again drawn to the deterioration of the fairways through failure to observe one of the basic courtesies of golf – “replacing of divots”. As well as replacing your own divot would you please do all you can towards smoothing out existing divots and help keep our course in good condition.

July 27 – Trafalgar Girl In Miss Australia Quest

Carol Dillon, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Dillon of Church Street, Trafalgar, is an entrant in the Miss Australia Quest. She is an apprentice hairdresser. She has won the title of “Princess of Flowers” 1960; the Princess of Wool 1961, and also the Miss Trafalgar Car Club title for 1961. Her interests are golfing, swimming and dancing. There are six entrants from the Latrobe Valley region. Each girl must raise 50 pounds (\$1470 today) before she is eligible. The Quest is in aid of Spastic Children and the Heart Campaign.

Apex Children’s Playground Sunday, July 30 will mark the completion of the first stage in the building of the Apex playground near Murray Street in Trafalgar. At 2.30 p.m. on that afternoon the playground will be officially opened to the children of Trafalgar by the Shire president Cr. J. C. Balfour, M.L.C.

Traf News, July, 2003

July – Community Bank For Trafalgar

Trafalgar is set to become the latest town to get a community branch of the Bendigo Bank, with a share offer open to the public and a site secured for the bank. Bank chairman Frank Hernadi said: “We are excited at the prospect of having a new purpose built bank constructed on the Princes Highway in a position which will optimise the redevelopment of the Trafalgar CBD currently being undertaken”.

Russell Turner Award

Apprentice hair stylist Prue Beck has won the seventh annual Russell Turner Award for Apprentices and Trainers which was presented at a recent meeting of the Lions Club of Trafalgar. The award commemorates the memory of former long-serving club member Russell Turner who died tragically as a result of a fall from his bicycle while training for the Lions ‘ride for sight’ in 1996. Prue was presented with a \$1000 (\$1460 today) award and certificate.

Top Marks For Skate Park

Young skaters are eagerly awaiting the completion of the Trafalgar Skate Park, which is due to officially open on 25th July. “They’re keen as mustard”, said Thomson Ward Councillor David Balfour. Thumbs up was the gen-

eral consensus, with “100 out of 100” was the comment from one young skater.

CSIRO Visits St. Joseph’s

On Wednesday 18th June, we had a visit from the CSIRO “Labs on Legs” education unit. Simon and Andrea from the CSIRO worked with all children from Grade Prep to Year Six and then led a staff meeting after school. The topic of exploration was Magnetism and Electricity and great energy and excitement was generated as children and teachers explored the different activity stations. The teachers are now exploring ways of incorporating the concepts and teaching points they encountered into their classroom programs.

Uniting Church News

The family night at Yarragon on Friday 30th May was a terrific evening with our Anglican and Catholic friends joining us. Entertainer Paddy O’Dowd was wonderful involving young and old alike, singing and dancing. Folk travelled from Trafalgar, Thorpdale and Willow Grove. It was great to see our three Clergy, Rev’s Judy and Marilyn and Father Tom singing and dancing too – (by the way, Father Tom turns a mean heel on the dance floor).

Trafalgar Boxing Club

On 25th May, the Silver Gloves Olympic Style Boxing Championships were held at the Reggio Calabria Club in West Brunswick, and Daniel Smith from Trafalgar won the Middleweight Championship.

Trafalgar’s Old Grandstand

For those of you who were born after 1970, you are probably not aware that the Trafalgar Recreation Oval once boasted a superb grandstand. This two-storey timber structure was built by Trafalgar builder Oliver Anderson in 1924 and was located where the cricket club rooms now stand. It was subsequently destroyed by fire on the 12th January, 1971. The bottom section served as the football club rooms and most of the club’s memorabilia and records were lost in the fire.

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

Transport availability, Neighbourhood Outreach, Home visiting
Please phone Julianne now at the parish office on 5633 1166

UNITING CHURCH

Rev Moira Dodsworth
Phone 0447 957 772



St. Andrew’s Uniting Church, Trafalgar

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

St David’s Uniting Church, Yarragon

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

St Stephens Darnum

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

Please direct inquiries to Dee Crosby Phome 0409 933 104

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rev Anne Perryman, Phone 0493 088 370
or trafalgaranglican1@gmail.com



St Mary’s Church, Trafalgar

Wednesdays: 10.00am Quiet Service of Holy Communion by Extension 10.45: Cuppa n conversation
3.30 -5.00pm JAFFAS
Fridays: Youth Group is in recess.
Sundays: 9.30am Holy Communion & Sunday School on 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays Family Service on 3rd Sunday of month.
9.30am Combined Parish Service on 5th Sunday

St Mark’s Church, Thorpdale

Mondays: 3.30 -5pm JAFFAS
Sundays: 11.00am Holy Communion - 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month

St Mark’s Church, Yarragon

Sundays: 8.30 Holy Communion, 1st, 2nd, & 4th Sundays Prayer, Praise & Proclamation on 3rd Sunday
JAFFAS is in recess

THORPDALE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

Rev Frank Lees,
Phone 5634 6413 or 5633 2758



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

Nominate your local champion

The Community Achievement Awards for Regional Victoria have been launched for 2021 and the statewide search has begun.

Every town has:

- That inspiring individual, who we all wonder where they always find the time
- The local business forever supporting its community while running the best business in town
- The community group that is helping... well everyone and everything
- Nominations are open across a broad range of categories, some of which include:

- Regional Development Victoria Business Achievement Award
- Regional Development Victoria Leadership and Innovation Award
- Ricoh Australia Customer Service Award
- GOTAFE Community Education Award
- Awards Australia Community Group Award
- Southside Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Community Hero Award
- Category winners will receive \$2000.

One of the category winners will be named the “Westpac Regional Achiever of the Year”

and will receive an additional \$2000 and state trophy.

All nominees will receive a letter of congratulations and a certificate of encouragement for their nomination.

To submit a nomination, simply go online to www.awardsaustralia.com/vicrca and select ‘Nominate Now’.

Nominations close Friday, July 23.

For assistance, please feel free to call the Awards Office on 9720 1638 or email vic@awardsaustralia.com

Seasonal workers support

Farmers will continue to receive a boost to their seasonal workforce, with the state government renewing key programs across the state.

Agriculture Minister Mary-Anne Thomas announced earlier this week the government will extend its highly successful Seasonal Harvest

Sign-On Bonus and quarantine pathway for Pacific workers to boost harvest workforces.

The government’s quarantine arrangement with Tasmania will continue beyond June 30 to provide a secure pathway for up to 1500 Pacific workers.

More than 840 Pacific workers have arrived via a rolling schedule of flights driven

by industry demand to support agriculture businesses from East Gippsland to Sunraysia, with workers bringing their skill and experience to citrus, table grape, apple, pear and vegetable businesses.

The next flight will arrive in early July and remaining places will be filled over coming months as industry requires.

The popular Seasonal Harvest Sign-On Bonus will also continue, with more than 1800 workers already receiving their first \$810 instalment of the bonus for completing 10 days of work.

The Sign-On Bonus is attracting jobseekers to support farmers, with workers picking, packing and pruning in an ar-

ray of sectors including vegetables, fruit, olives, grapes, citrus and nuts.

The program is available to workers who are new or returning to agriculture after a three-month break and who have started a job after February 17, 2021.

New workers will receive \$2430 on top of their wages when they take on a harvest job for eight weeks.

The Seasonal Workforce Accommodation Program has provided more than \$3.1 million to support projects to assist workers in key horticulture regions, which will provide accommodation, transport and support services to more than 2200 workers.

SCAMWATCH

Losses to car ad scams climbing

Australians have already lost over \$288,000 to vehicle scams in the first quarter of this year, more than all losses reported to Scamwatch in 2019, and scammers have now begun impersonating defence personnel to con their victims.

In a vehicle scam, scammers post fake online listings offering to sell in-demand cars at well below market value to lure potential buyers looking for a second hand vehicle. Scammers seek payment to secure the car for the buyer but never deliver the vehicle.

Vehicle scams are commonly hosted on sites such as Facebook Marketplace, Autotrader, Car Sales, Cars Guide and Gumtree.

“As second hand car sales increased during the pandemic, unfortunately so did vehicle scams. If current trends continue, Australians could lose much more to vehicle scams this year than the \$1 million lost in 2020,” ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard said.

“We want to raise awareness of these scams to reduce the number of people who may be vulnerable to them.”

A new technique we are seeing is scammers pretending to be defence personnel. In 97 per cent of reports received this year, the scammer claimed to be in the military (navy, army and air force), or to work for the Department of Defence, and said they wanted to sell their vehicle before deployment. This sought to create a sense of urgency with buyers and explained the unusually low listing price of the vehicles and why buyers could not

inspect them prior to payment.

Email addresses that do not bear the legitimate defence email format of @defence.gov.au may be an indication of a scam, but even the correct email format does not guarantee the car ad is not a scam, as scammers are able to spoof email addresses. It is best to look for all warning signs to avoid being scammed.

“A price that is too good to be true should be a warning sign for potential buyers. If a classified ad offers a vehicle at a very low price, the ad might not be legitimate. For example, one Scamwatch report noted a listing that advertised a car for nearly \$10,000 below its market value to entice buyers looking for a bargain.”

Vehicle scammers often seek payment via a third party website. A large number of reports to Scamwatch mentioned the use of escrow agents, a third party who is supposed to ‘hold’ the money from the buyer until goods are received, before releasing the funds to the seller. Other commonly requested payment methods include eBay, direct bank transfer or international money transfers.

“If the seller claims to be unavailable and insists on payment before meeting the buyer or allowing them to pick up their new car, this should raise suspicions,” Ms Rickard said. “It is relatively common for scammers to claim that they are travelling or moving away to avoid meeting buyers before payment.”

“Always try to inspect the vehicle before purchase and avoid unusual payment methods. If you have any doubts, do not go ahead with the deal,” Ms Rick-

ard said. In addition to losing money to vehicle scams, around 20 per cent of consumers who reported vehicle scams have lost personal information, after providing their address, phone number and copies of their driver’s license to the scammer. To protect your identity, never provide your personal details to someone you have only met online.

“Fortunately, over 80 per cent of people who reported vehicle scams to us managed to avoid losing money by identifying the scam early. We encourage consumers to trust their instincts. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is,” Ms Rickard said.

Further help for consumers If you have been the victim of a scam, contact your bank as soon as possible and contact the platform on which you were scammed to inform them of the circumstances.

More information on scams is available on the Scamwatch website, including how to make a report and where to get help.

If you have experienced a loss online and believe the perpetrator is located in Australia, you can also report the scam to ReportCyber. ReportCyber triages reports and allocates them to the relevant law enforcement authorities for further action.

Victims of identity theft, or cybercrime can contact IDCARE, a free government-funded service that will work with you to develop a specific response plan to your situation and provide support. You can contact IDCARE on 1800 595 160 or visit www.idcare.org.

VOX-POP

What changes to road safety would you like to see in Trafalgar?



Murray Howden, Trafalgar

“People need to slow down. There definitely needs to be a set of traffic lights at the intersection of Davey Drive and the Princes Hwy. I have been sending feedback to VicRoads and Victoria Police about this intersection and I’m hoping we see changes soon, before another serious accident or a fatality occurs”



Kirrily Howden, Trafalgar

“I’m extremely concerned about safety on our roads in Trafalgar. We now have a Learner driver in our family and unfortunately we need to teach her to be careful and not to expect other drivers to be doing the right thing, as most do not obey the speed limit. Fixed speed cameras might help deter speeding drivers.”



Craig Moon, Trafalgar

“I would like to see a red light camera at the Ashby St and Highway set of lights.”

Information sessions on CarbonNet

The third information session on the CarbonNet project and carbon capture and storage took place on-line last month.

Anyone missing a session can visit earth_resources.vic.gov.au/carbonnet to watch them back.

Earth Resources executive director of policy and programs Jane Burton said the sessions

were an opportunity for those interested in learning about carbon capture and storage.

"Interest in carbon capture and storage is growing rapidly, with the project entering an important and exciting phase, we're keen to update the community about this work," she said.

"CarbonNet represents a fantastic opportunity for the de-

velopment of new industries in Gippsland, including commercial hydrogen production."

The first event, held in May, featured Chris Consoli from the Global CCS Institute and an overview of the technology.

Subsequent sessions have focused on CarbonNet's progress and why Gippsland is suitable for carbon capture storage.

Countries around the world are investing in carbon capture storage as part of their commitments to decarbonisation and emissions reduction, and CarbonNet is working towards establishing a commercial scale carbon capture storage network in Gippsland.

If implemented, CarbonNet will lead to a carbon transporta-

tion and storage network that will protect existing jobs, introduce new industries and employment opportunities to the Latrobe Valley and enable significant CO2 emission reductions.

The project will provide a CO2 transport and storage solution for the Japanese-led Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain Project in the Latrobe Valley should it be commercialised.

The CarbonNet project will commence an environmental effects statement process this year, and identify a preferred pipeline route, the engineering design process and legislative approvals.

Airport plays a vital role

By Tom Gannon

The Latrobe Regional Airport was put through its paces last month when it became a vital piece of the puzzle for the state's emergency service's response to the Gippsland floods.

The Latrobe City council-owned airport was a hub for several flood response services including the Police Airwing, Forest Fire Management, Ausnet Services, the Morwell SES Unit,

Traralgon West CFA and Ambulance Victoria's HEMS 2.

Latrobe Regional Airport Commercial and Operations manager Marc Grant said the airport had provided an invaluable service during last week's emergency efforts.

"Having the ability to base themselves at Latrobe during that extreme weather provided them with many operational benefits," he said.

"It's my belief it highlights just how important the airport is as a location for emergency services."

As well as flood rescue operations running out of the airport, it was also utilised by emergency services to repair downed powerlines and assess damage in places like Yinnar South, Budgeree, Boolarra South and Jeeralang that weren't accessible by road.

"A lot of emergency service missions were performed using Latrobe as a base, whether that's aircraft based at Latrobe or certainly utilising the airport for decamping, getting down, refuelling and using it as a base if they had come from other locations," Mr Grant said.

"There was obviously a lot of helicopter use in terms of providing support, that's also for powerlines as well, power line

replacement and checking for powerlines that were out."

According to Mr Grant, the airport will continue to play a role in future emergency operations.

"One of the key functions of that airport that I've said from the outset has been that it has a role to play in emergency services and that should be a major component of not only now but the future as well," he said.

Latrobe City Council Mayor Sharon Gibson said she was also impressed with how invaluable the airport was during the flood.

"It shows the value of the airport during such unusual circumstances," she said.

"By having that airport there it really provides significant safety and operational benefits across the whole city."

VicForests rejects Bunnings' claims

By Philip Hopkins

VicForests recently rejected claims by Bunnings and environmentalists that its native forest harvesting operations still breach environmental laws despite VicForests winning a landmark appeal in the Federal Court.

The full bench of the Federal Court last month overturned the decision last year by the Federal Court's Justice Mortimer that VicForests broke Commonwealth environmental laws because it's harvesting endangered listed threatened species - the Lead-beater's Possum and Greater Glider.

The full bench found that Victoria's native forest industry is covered by Regional Forest Agreements, which provide all the protections required by the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

The appeal set aside the orders made by Justice Mortimer.

"As all findings by Justice Mortimer that VicForests' operations were conducted unlawfully were based on her incorrect finding that the EPBC Act applied, any continued suggestion that this case has found that VicForests' activities are unlawful have no legal foundation," VicForests said in a statement on its website.

Hardware giant Bunnings, however, has reaffirmed its boycott of VicForests timber despite the Federal Court ruling.

Bunnings merchandise general manager Toby Watson said that Bunnings had reviewed the court decisions.

"Our timber policy requires our suppliers to source from legal, responsibly sourced and well managed forest operations," he said.

Mr Watson said the court had

only reversed a single finding relating to the EPBC Act and upheld the judge's 21 other findings.

"As such, Bunnings continues to lack confidence that VicForests' forestry practices meet the requirements of our policy, and we won't be reversing our decision at this time," he said.

In its online statement, VicForests said of its 23 grounds for appeal, Ground 1 relating to the EPBC act was the main ground.

"Most of the time spent in arguing the appeal was on this ground alone," the state's commercial forestry agency said.

Success on ground 1 decided the whole appeal, with all remaining 22 grounds alternatives in case ground 1 was unsuccessful.

"Public claims that VicForests was only partially successful because the Full Court did not 'reverse the trial judge's 21 other factual findings' misrepresent the nature of the appeal and the findings of the Court," VicForests said.

"There were 22 additional ground – and only four related to findings of fact on past timber harvesting by VicForests."

VicForests was unsuccessful on these four grounds, but "it is important to note that very little time was spent in court arguing these grounds", VicForests said.

"Further, the Full court itself noted that because of its decisions to uphold the appeal on the basis of ground 1, the remaining grounds of appeal were dealt with in a summary way.

Ultimately, VicForests' failure to succeed on the alternative 22 grounds is not relevant to the outcome of the appeal," it said.

VicForests said the RFA obligations did not mean that harvesting in State forests did not need to comply with environmental laws. "In fact, the legal requirements for forestry operations in Victoria are very strict and include the need to comply with a comprehensive set of rules designed specifically for timber harvesting, all overseen

by the Victorian Chief Conservation Regulator," VicForests said.

VicForests' chief executive officer Monique Dawson recently told the Senate that Victoria's strict code of forestry practice consisted of two documents 278 pages long.

Speaking to Senator Bridget McKenzie's private members bill on the Federal Court case, Ms Dawson said with audit compliance targets from the independent regulator at 60 per cent to 100 per cent,

"we're at 98 per cent or 95 per cent, so we do very well on our audits".

Ms Dawson said the Commonwealth had the capacity, through the RFAs' legal framework, to take action against Victoria if the state was not meeting its obligations.

"To the best of my knowledge," she said, there had been no dispute raised about prescriptions for the Leadbeater's Possum and Greater Glider.

Greens Senator Janet Rice

said the crux of the issue was whether the code of forestry practice, or compliance with the RFA, was not being met.

It appeared there was no ability, other than for the Commonwealth or the state, to take legal action under Commonwealth laws, she said.

Ms Dawson said that was correct.

"We would argue that's the intent – that the jurisdiction would quickly be the state Supreme Court. And certainly, there have been cases brought in the state Supreme Court," she said.

"In this case, it was no doubt brought in the Federal Court because there was very strong precedent for those cases lost in Victoria. So, I imagine the applicants realised they would be unlikely to be successful if they brought an action in the state Supreme Court."

Behind the lyrics - American Pie

Everyone knows the chorus, but will anyone ever really know the meaning behind Don McLean's cryptic lyrics from his signature 1971 song American Pie?

Fifty years on, the tune is still popular with listeners, and has come to act as a social commentary and linear narrative on events during the late 1950s and 1960s.

Here, Traf News editor Liam Durkin unpacks what he thinks the songs lines are referring to.

A long long time ago I can still remember how That music used to make me smile

American Pie was written in 1971 and the time the narrator is going to talk about here is the 1950s.

McLean's was a teenager in the 1950s, a time when music gave him the most joy.

And I knew if I had my chance That I could make those people dance And maybe they'd be happy for a while But February made me shiver With every paper I'd deliver Bad news on the doorstep I couldn't take one more step

McLean's hero Buddy Holly died on February 3, 1959 in a plane crash along with Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper.

McLean's only other job besides songwriting was as a paper boy and the loss of three young musicians in such tragic circumstances made him freeze with grief.

I can't remember if I cried When I read about his widowed bride

Holly's wife was pregnant when the crash occurred and soon after had a miscarriage.

Something touched me deep inside The day the music died

Following McLean's reference to the crash that killed Holly, Valens and The Big Bopper, February 3, 1959 has become known as 'The Day the Music Died'.

The music that died is considered the standard rock and roll songs. The crash was the final blow to this music because those three were the only major artists left as Elvis Presley was drafted, Little Richard turned to gospel and Chuck Berry was arrested.

Did you write the book of love?

The Book of Love was a hit in 1968 by the Monotones.

And do you have faith in God above If the Bible tells you so?

Into verse two and the swinging 1960s have arrived. Faith in the music now replaces faith in God.

The religious imagery that emerges in the second verse becomes a powerful and recurring symbol of loss throughout the song.

Do you believe in rock and roll? Can music save your mortal soul? And can you teach me how to dance real slow?

This is from the great song Do You Believe in Magic? by the Lovin' Spoonful, written by John Sebastian in 1965.

Well, I know that you're in love with him 'Cause I saw you dancin' in the gym You both kicked off your shoes Man, I dig those rhythm and blues I was a lonely teenage broncin' buck With a pink carnation and a pickup truck But I knew I was out of luck The day the music died

The fickle girl who McLean saw dancing in the gym no longer cares for his pink carnation and pickup truck, leaving him out of luck.

A pickup truck was a symbol of sexual freedom and Marty Robbins had a hit with A White Sport Coat (and a Pink Carnation) in 1957.

Now, for 10 years we've been on our own And moss grows fat on a rolling stone But, that's not how it used to be

The great Bob Dylan wrote Like a Rolling Stone in 1965. This was his first major change from folk music.

In late 1966 Dylan was involved in a motorcycle crash and hid in his house in Woodstock, New York, for a good year, hence the fat and moss showing the time change.

When the jester sang for the King and Queen In a coat he borrowed from James Dean And a voice that came from you and me

Dylan is the jester, the King is Peter Seger and the Queen is Joan Baez. These were the two big names in folk music in the early 1960s.

During the Newport Folk Festival in 1963, Dylan was honored to play his own set and then combine with Seger and Baez to sing his song Blowin' in the Wind.

The jacket Dylan borrowed from James Dean can be seen on the iconic cover sleeve of his 1963 album The Freewheelin'

Bob Dylan as well as the red coat Dean wore in the 1955 film Rebel Without A Cause.

Oh and while the King was looking down The jester stole his thorny crown

Dylan became the revolutionary leader of the 1960s generation, knocking Elvis, the King of the 1950s, off his pedestal while he was in the Army.

Pete Seger remained a traditional folk singer, while Dylan was constantly reinventing himself and therefore became unbelievably popular.

While Elvis was in the Army, Dylan took his spotlight and changed the whole music business. The thorny crown is the price of fame, and is referenced with Christ's thorny crown before he was crucified.

The courtroom was adjourned No verdict was returned

This deals with the Kennedy assassination. Lee Harvey Oswald was never convicted because he was murdered.

And while Lennon read a book on Marx The quartet practiced in the park

The quartet is The Beatles, whose music started to become political during the late 1960s. Songs like Revolution were much different from tracks such as Love Me Do.

Many American adults thought The Beatles were bad for the American youth, especially after John Lennon's remark in 1966 about Christianity when he said "Christianity will go. It will vanish and shrink. I needn't argue with that, I'm right and I will be proved right. We're more popular than Jesus now, I don't know which will go first rock 'n' roll or Christianity."

The park is Candlestick Park, the place of their last concert.

And we sang dirges in the dark The day the music died

A dirge is a funeral song. These songs were for the Kennedy's (John and Robert) and Martin Luther King, who all died in the 1960s.

Helter skelter in a summer swelter The birds flew off with a fallout shelter Eight miles high and falling fast

In the summer of 1968 one of the most dangerous serial killers ever, Charles Manson, massacred an entire family because of the Beatles song Helter Skelter, which appeared on the White Album.

Manson thought The Beatles were warning America about the racial conflict and the band was the four angels mentioned in the

Book of Revelation in the Bible.

The Byrds were a popular folk-rock group, with the huge cover of Dylan's Mr. Tambourine Man in 1965. One of the members was arrested for possession of marijuana and a fallout shelter was another name for a rehab program.

Eight Miles High was the first ever psychedelic song, with The Byrd's entering new ground with this genre.

The falling fast part is probably about the fact that The Byrd's abandoned folk-rock for country music with the album Sweetheart of the Rodeo in 1967.

It landed foul on the grass Foul grass meaning marijuana.

The players tried for a forward pass

Here the football metaphor starts. The players are the protesters in the 1960s demonstrating against things such as involvement in the Vietnam War and women's liberation.

The forward pass was their attempt at a movement.

With the jester on the sidelines in a cast

Dylan, the jester, is in a cast recovering from his before mentioned motorcycle crash, unable to provide any influence.

Now the half-time air was sweet perfume While sergeants played a marching tune

Sweet perfume is a euphemism for the smoke from drugs of the hippie culture that was starting to take off.

Sergeants relates to The Beatles album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band in 1967. Often cited as one of the most influential albums of all time.

It was the first ever concept album and first to have lyrics printed on the back, as well as the first to have a design on the protector of the record.

We all got up to dance Oh, but we never got the chance

The Beatles helped to start a new kind of music that was meant to be listened and not danced to.

'Cause the players tried to take the field

Players being the protesters. In 1968 at the Chicago Democratic convention, protesters rioted, and some were beaten by Police. It is now known as the Days of Rage.

Also in 1970 at Kent State University, four students were killed by the National Guard in response to their anti-Vietnam protests, which inspired the song Ohio by Crosby Stills Nash and Neil Young.

The marching band refused to yield

The Beatles had some anti-violence songs that made protesters think twice about the way they were acting. All You Need is Love (1967) says there is a better way than violence, and in Revolution (1968) one of the lines is 'but when you talk about destruction, don't you know that you can count me out'.

Do you recall what was revealed The day the music died? Oh, and there we were all in one place

The Woodstock Music and Arts Festival in 1969. 500,000 of McLean's generation was there.

A generation lost in space

David Bowie's Space Oddity was also released around this time, which sang about 'Major Tom' who gets lost in space.

With no time left to start again So come on Jack be nimble, Jack be quick Jack Flash sat on a candlestick

Jumpin' Jack Flash was a hit for the Rolling Stones.

'Cause fire is the Devil's only friend

Some believe the Rolling Stones sold out to the Devil.

Their only comeback to The Beatles Sgt. Pepper's was their album Their Satanic Majesties Request, which some argued was totally derivative of what The Beatles did with Sgt. Pepper's.

Oh and as I watched him on the stage My hands were clenched in fists of rage

In December 1969 the Rolling Stones attempted another Woodstock, this time at Altamont Speedway.

Jagger appeared on stage that night dressed in a flowing red cape.

No angel born in Hell Could break that Satan spell

It was a free concert, with the Hell's Angel's handling the security.

The biggest mistake was paying them in advance, but instead of money, they were paid in beer and handfuls of acid.

And as the flames climbed high into the night To light the sacrificial rite

While The Stones were singing Sympathy for the Devil, a black man was beaten and stabbed to death by the Hell's Angels.

The Stones were helicoptered out of Altamont as it became so crazy.

I saw Satan laughing with delight The day the music died

I met a girl who sang the blues And I asked her for some happy news But she just smiled and turned away

Janis Joplin is most likely the girl who sang the blues. Joplin died in 1970, a year before American Pie was released.

I went down to the sacred store Where I'd heard the music years before But the man there said the music wouldn't play And in the streets the children screamed The lovers cried, and the poets dreamed But not a word was spoken The church bells all were broken

In Dylan's A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall, he says 'I met one man he was wounded in love, I met another man he was wounded in hatred,' showing that love hurts sometimes as much as hate.

And the three men I admire most The Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost They caught the last train for the coast The day the music died

Time magazine featured a cover story in the early 1970s asking 'Is God Dead?'

So bye, bye Miss American Pie

Contrary to popular belief, American Pie was not the name of the plane that rock and roll legends Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper died in, but Miss American Pie is 'as American as apple pie,' and could also be a synthesis of this symbol and the beauty queen Miss America.

Either way, her name evokes a simpler age and the narrator bids her farewell.

Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry

The American automobile was the Chevy and the Levee was a bar in Purchase, NY near McLean's hometown.

Coincidentally, there is also a Levee, NY about 15 minutes from the school he attended.

And them good ole boys were drinking whiskey and rye Singin' this'll be the day that I die

This'll be the day that I die

The songs most recurring lyric is partly taken from Buddy Holly's song That'll be the Day, that concludes every chorus with the line 'when I die'.

Do you have any song suggestions for Behind the Lyrics? Email articles@trafnews.com with your contributions.

When Traf almost had a greyhound track

READERS of a certain vintage will surely be surprised to learn around 15 years ago a proposal was put forward to a group of Trafalgar locals that would have changed the face of the recreation reserve forever.

With countless footballers, netballers, cricketers, boxers and soccer players gracing the recreation reserve yearly, another sport was to be added to the list as Greyhound Racing Victoria planned to build a greyhound racing complex at the recreation reserve - essentially making Trafalgar the home of greyhound racing in Gippsland.

Former Traf News editor Mick Bourke OAM was in a key leadership position at the time, and has been good enough to provide the full story.

To think how different the course of history would have been had this got up.

(Questions by Liam Durkin).

It's probably the greatest 'what if?' in Traf history. Can you explain a bit about the background into the proposal at the time?

Back in 2005, based on a recreation precinct strategic plan developed the previous year by the Trafalgar community under the leadership of Peter Williams (then president of Trafalgar Recreation Reserve) and myself (then president of Trafalgar Community Development Association), we convinced Baw Baw Shire Council to purchase the Turra family farm adjacent to the recreation reserve. Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) approached Baw Baw Shire Council in early March 2007 proposing the concept of a new greyhound racing facility in Trafalgar.

The then shire chief executive officer, Glenn Patterson, met me so council could 'get a feel' of how the community would react. I was positive.

GRV's racing, integrity and infrastructure manager subsequently met with council officers and me in mid-March 2007 to discuss the proposal. The precinct steering

committee then gave its 'in principle' support to the concept.

What was your role and who else was involved locally?

I suppose I was the community 'link' between council and GRV to ensure that our needs were not unduly compromised by the proposal and that the benefits to the community outweighed any possible negatives. I had confidential meetings and numerous email and telephone conversations with council's chief executive and other officers, and with GRV's racing, integrity and infrastructure manager on the proposal.

The recreation precinct's steering committee, which had representatives from various sporting groups within the town, although not all as some either did not want to be involved in the process or were not to be impacted by the new recreation precinct, was part of the process and contributed much to cement the community's position on the GRV proposal.

As the discussions were confidential we could not go to the broader community with the proposal, however, we felt confident that the membership of our steering committee would represent the views of all organisations that would be impacted.

At its simplest, what was the proposal put forward by Greyhound Racing Victoria?

The proposal was that GRV wished to purchase approximately 10 hectares of the new recreation precinct area to build a new greyhound racecourse and 'retire' the courses at Warragul and Traralgon.

The latter was never documented, however, I was told by the GRV manager that the two local greyhound clubs were unaware of the proposal.

The racecourse would be basically the same design as the Shepparton track.

The GRV proposal meant considerable changes to the original recreation precinct concept, with the GRV having specific require-

ments, such as owning the land. The proposed facility was to sit on highway frontage and west-facing social facilities.

This meant significant compromise on behalf of the steering committee to its original recreational planning concepts and significantly delayed the precinct's planning process, which affected its subsequent implementation.

This had particularly affected sports such as soccer, which had no decent facilities to speak of.

Did the committee and other community groups support the proposal?

The precinct's steering committee supported the proposal, however, it could not go to the broader community as the discussions were in confidence.

This caused some friction and I copped a fair bit of flack from Trafalgar Victory Football Club in particular as it had standard conditions at the high school (through no fault of the school).

The soccer club's irritation in the delay to get things going was, and is, understandable as it was not aware of the GRV negotiations until after they had dissolved.

Traf back then was probably only a third of the size it is now. Do you know why GRV earmarked such a small town to be its Gippsland headquarters?

It's pretty clear in my mind that it wanted highway frontage. While it couldn't have direct frontage, the recreation precinct's frontage along Waterloo Road was almost ideal. I also suspect it was roughly halfway between the two current greyhound courses.

Just how much of a boost would it have been for the town in terms of employment, revenue and tourism?

The precinct steering committee was strongly supportive of the

GRV concept as it saw many benefits to the Trafalgar community, and in general to the broader Baw Baw community.

There would have been employment for local tradesmen in building the facility, and ongoing employment by people involved in the industry, whether in hospitality services, etc.

Personally, I think it would have provided a great financial boost to the community, jobs would have been created in the facility itself, most of which I believe would have been filled by local residents.

I think it would have provided additional employment and revenue to other local businesses both directly related, and ancillary, to the greyhounds.

Of course, Trafalgar would have been publicised whenever a race meeting was held.

And the greyhound track would have had space inside it for a second football oval or even a turf wicket?

I don't think so. Greyhound courses are inherently small. For example, the Shepparton greyhound racecourse, on which the proposed Trafalgar course was to model, has a circumference of 620 metres.

Having said that, it may have had some other use, however, as GRV wished to purchase the land, it may not have permitted that to occur.

So ultimately, why did it fall through?

I still don't officially know, although I have my suspicions. We did have some issues with the actual shape of the land GRV wanted to buy, and there was a discrepancy between land valuations between GRV and council plus some other, more minor issues, which were progressively being worked through.

Indeed, in October 2007, we thought things were progressing well, albeit slowly.

The Christmas break kicked

in, then in February 2008 GRV started to hit council with new proposals, such as buy-back deals if the proposed race track fell through.

This was something the steering committee strongly opposed.

As one steering committee member said at the time, it looked like GRV was looking for a way to opt out.

This was followed by a number of meetings arranged for February and March 2008 which were continually being deferred by GRV.

In late March 2008 I had a telephone conversation with GRV's board president, where I put the community's concern regarding the changed goalposts and suggested a timeframe be established to finalise the purchase of the land.

From that conversation it was agreed there would be a meeting between the GRV board, council representatives and the community steering committee.

This was held in April 2008.

Sometime after that, possibly within the month - I can't recall the exact date as nothing is in writing - GRV walked away from the deal, saying it was dissatisfied with the way we conducted the negotiations.

I think that left GRV in a position to blame us rather than itself.

Did it ever really get close to happening?

It looked like it was going very well up until October 2007, then GRV started changing its demands.

The proposals were, as I've earlier said, confidential. I think this was largely because GRV hadn't told the Warragul and Traralgon greyhound clubs that it was looking at a new facility which would have meant they would close.

I suspect that those clubs somehow became aware of the negotiations between GRV and us, and pressure was applied to GRV to keep the status quo.

While Traf might not have a greyhound track there are major developments going on at the recreation reserve as we speak. Given your involvement behind the scenes for many years how does it feel to see something finally come to fruition?

It's great to see things moving. Certainly nothing could have happened if the Turra family hadn't sold the land to council.

Our original community recreation precinct strategic plan, developed in 2004, and which has largely been ratified by at least two subsequent council-based plans, still holds up well.

I always knew not all within the original plan would get through, however, it appears most of the major ones will.

What is missing from the early plans are two significant parts, which I would like to see reinstated.

First is the wetlands area.

This has been discarded as not being able to provide sufficient irrigation to the various arenas.

That was never its purpose. It was to be primarily a wetlands area to attract appropriate flora and fauna. Secondary use was irrigation if sufficient water was available. Unfortunately the secondary purpose somehow became the main purpose.

The second feature missing is the adventure playground.

It was originally proposed that there be a large playground on about 2.5 hectares that would have flying foxes and such other adventurous activities. That has dropped off the radar.

Other than that, I can't complain.

Sport comes to a standstill

By Liam Durkin

LOCAL football and netball lost three rounds last month due to COVID related restrictions.

Sporting players across various codes in Gippsland went from eager anticipation to incredibly deflated on Thursday, May 27 after the state government announced a snap seven-day lockdown in light of rising coronavirus cases in Victoria.

It was the second time this year a snap lockdown has resulted in local sport being cancelled, after February's five-day lockdown saw summer sport abruptly halted.

Just when it appeared to be smooth sailing for winter sport, the clamps were put on to any activity.

Whispers of weekend sport not going ahead started to gather momentum on the Wednesday, although most were under the impression those in regional Victoria would be safe.

However, with case num-

bers increasing, by the time Acting Premier James Merlino formally announced the lockdown at around 11.15am Thursday morning, most local players were confined to the fact that they would have to give sport a miss.

Given the lockdown came into effect at 11.59pm, most clubs made the most of the time they had left to be together.

At football clubs, Thursday night is traditionally when selection takes place over a club dinner after

training, so sporting organisations across Gippsland still opened their doors to patrons for a last supper

of sorts before the lockdown took effect.

After dinner, many players ventured to nearby pubs for last drinks.

While it remains to be seen, the lockdown may actually prove beneficial to some clubs,

especially those with mounting injury tolls, as players feeling a bit ginger will be able to give themselves an extra week to recover.

Conversely, for teams who had matchups against opponents where a pasting could well have been

on the cards, the lockdown may well have enabled them to dodge a bullet.

Countless cricket teams have gotten out of jail over the years thanks to a second-week washout, with the result of those matches often having a drastic barring on final ladder positions - it is possible the same thing will be seen in football.

Trafalgar reinsman secures Warragul success

By Kyle Galley

TRAFALGAR horseman Glenn Hunter scored an upset victory on his home track at the Warragul trots meeting recently.

Deft Touch (\$15.20) enjoyed a soft run on the inside of horses during the Alby and Nell Quinlan Memorial Pace, before coming with a well timed drive by Hunter to wear down the short priced fa-

vourite Elleker Hanover (\$1.30) which had led throughout.

Deft Touch now boasts a record of three wins and seven placings from 39 starts and will be aimed at similar country races in coming weeks.

Hunter prepares a small team of horses from his father's property north of Trafalgar, and has driven many winners since

beginning to drive in races as a teenager.

He also prepares yearlings for other local trainers, teaching those young horses how to become

racehorses. Hunter has "broken in" numerous successful horses during his time in the sport.



Glenn Hunter in action at Warragul where he drove a recent winner in Deft Touch.

Life membership for Ferguson

By James Durkin

Late last month the Thorpdale Cricket Club held its presentation night at the Thorpdale Pub and among the award winners life membership was awarded to treasurer David Ferguson.

David is only the seventh person to receive life membership at the club and is a very well deserving recipient.

David came to Thorpdale in 1995 and has been involved at the club ever since. Some of our favourite memories of David on the field include 'the time Laurie Poole went to England and brought back a heap of Duncan Fearnley bats and he said whoever gets the next hundred for the club can have a bat for free' - David went out the next week and made a hundred and still uses that bat to this day. In a true testament to Fergs batting ability one of the premier bowlers from Morwell in the 1990's/early 2000s said the best batter he ever bowled to was our very own Dave Ferg.

As well as doing it with the bat David could also do it with the ball as in late 2014 B Grade was short a player and David said he would come up and play but he would be running late. Mirboo North won the toss and batting first. It looked a long day for Thorpdale as Mirboo North raced to 4-144 after 22 overs. David Ferg took the ball after drinks and bowled nine overs straight to finish with figures of 5-10 to bowl Mirboo North out for 172.

Not only is David treasurer he is also responsible for maintain-

ing the mowing of the recreation reserve during cricket season. He makes sure the bar is always well stocked and as well as playing a few games during the last few years he was also coach of a lot of junior teams at the club and mentored a many current day players and turned them into the players they are today.

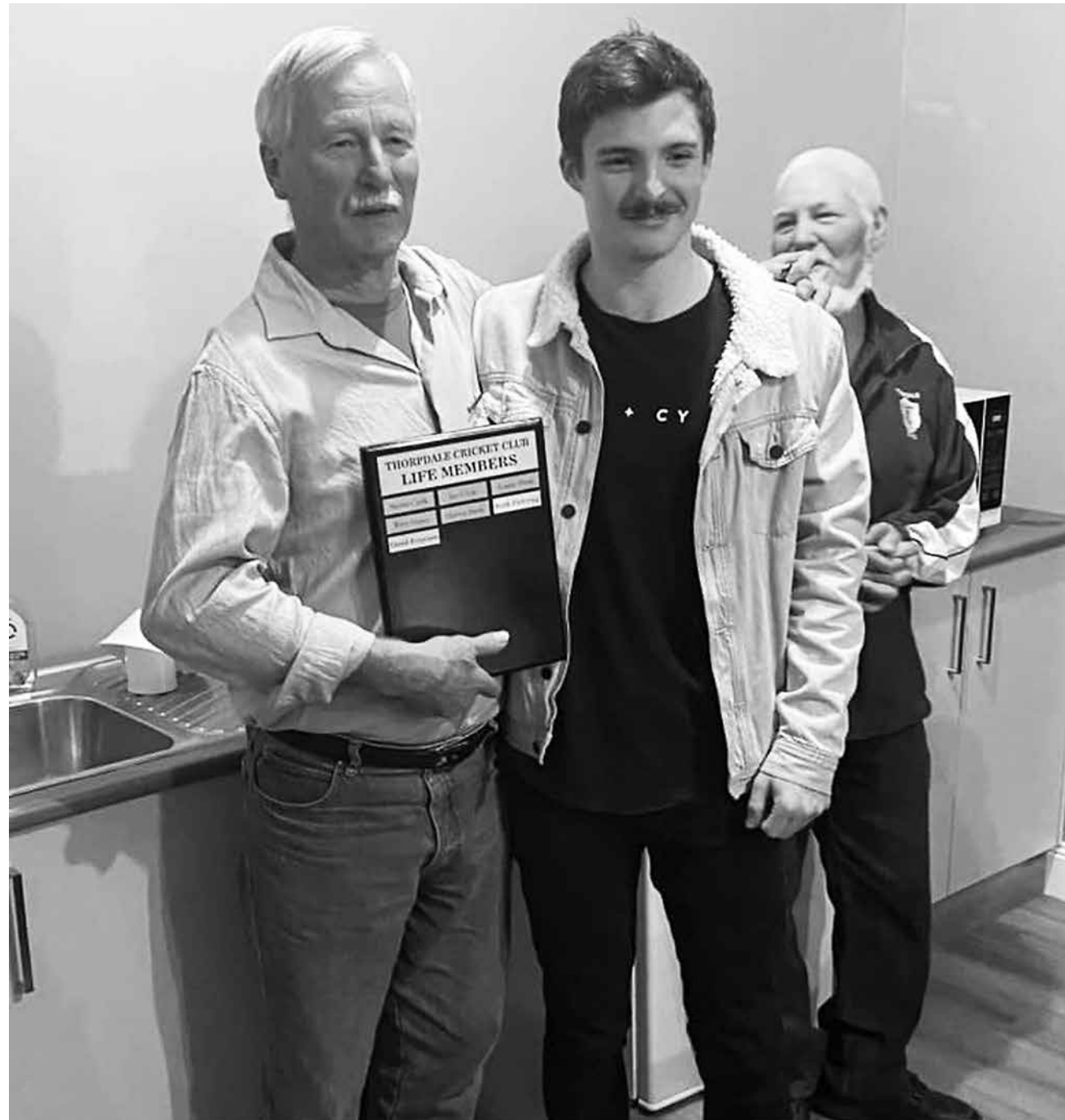
So thanks for everything Ferg, a very deserving recipient and we can't thank you enough for all the hard work you do.

The other special award that was awarded was the new Harvey Poole champion batter award which was donated by Harvey's family and is actually one of Harvey's very own cricket bats.

The award is given to the player who scores the most runs for the club for the season. The bat will be displayed in the club rooms and the winner will receive a plaque as well as having their name on the bat. The winner of the inaugural Harvey Poole Champion Batter Award was Kayne O'Connell.

A special thanks to Graeme O'Connell for organising the award along with Harvey's Family.

Other award winners on the night were: Matt Powell (champion player, bowling average and aggregate), Boyd Bailey (batting average), Zack O'Connell (player of the finals), Cougar Millson (C Grade bowling average and aggregate), Ray Pickering (batting average), Allan Mackie (encouragement award).



Thorpdale Cricket Club's newest life member David Ferguson, pictured with son Heath.

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Due to the position of the recreation reserve next to the Princes Highway, Trafalgar was identified as an ideal location to build a greyhound track facility in the mid 2000's.

Cricket club elects office bearers

The Trafalgar Cricket Club held its annual general meeting recently.

The meeting saw a number of committee members reelected for the 2021-22 season and also welcomed some new faces.

Zack Brown acted as returns officer for the annual meeting, and called on nominations for the position of president.

Daniel Heathcote accepted a nomination and was elected president for a second term. Assisting Heathcote will be Brendan Dawson who returned to the role of senior vice president - a position he has held previously. Heathcote and Dawson will surely make for the tallest president-senior vice president combination in local sport history.

Billy Pace was reelected junior vice president and will oversee the underage teams involved at the club.

Liam Durkin will again be secretary, in keeping with his vow to do the job until the club wins all three senior flags in one season.

Trafalgar has been fortunate to have stability in the secretary's role for the last 16 years, as only three people have held that office, which has no doubt helped the clubs on field fortunes.

Returning general committee members are Brent Claridge, Scott Moorhouse, Rhys Holdsworth, Zack Brown and Jackson Noonan.

Leading the senior coaching group will be Heathcote, Holdsworth and Noonan.

The meeting wished to acknowledge the contributions of Craig and Melanie White, who indicated before the annual meeting a desire to step away from official duties. Both have given the club tremendous service over many years, highlighted by stints as president and treasurer respectively. The club will feel their loss greatly at committee level but look forward to still seeing them around the club.

All eligible members of the Trafalgar Cricket Club interested in joining the committee are always more than welcome. Some may find it surprising to learn

just how much goes into getting teams on the park every week.

Senior Trafalgar teams will again be out to display the trademark fighting spirit synonymous with Ship teams across the gen-

erations this season.

Trafalgar also has a strong junior cricket program and will field teams across various age groups for the season. Last season Trafalgar fielded under 16s,

under 14s and under 12s.

The Trafalgar Cricket Club is expecting performances across the grades to remain strong as the club seeks further premier-ship glory.

If anyone is interested in joining a great family club, please phone club secretary Liam Durkin on 0402 556 338, email trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com, or visit the clubs public Face-

book page.



Trafalgar Cricket Club masterminds Daniel Heathcote and Rhys Holdsworth will again take on vital leadership roles for the upcoming season.

Tennis club AGM this month

The Trafalgar Tennis Club will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, July 20.

The meeting will take place from 7pm in the Trafalgar Tennis Club clubrooms, located on

Contingent Street.

For any queries please phone Luke Bryant on 0408 567 087.



The annual meeting of the Trafalgar Tennis Club is this month.

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