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Traf News



PRICELESS



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THANK YOU**

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BUILDS CASTLES**

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**A DEE-LIGHTFUL
WIN**

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COUNCIL ENDORSES NAMING OF TURRA PAVILION

By Liam Durkin

Years of lobbying paid off when Baw Baw Shire council officially endorsed the naming of 'Turra Pavilion' to be displayed at the new multi-use pavilion at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve.

The decision was reached at Baw Baw Shire council's meeting on Wednesday, October 13.

Council, having considered the submissions received from the community and feedback from the Place Names Advisory committee, endorsed the name of 'Turra Pavilion' for the Trafalgar Multi-use Pavilion and approved council officers to arrange for the installation of appropriate signage at the pavilion.

The naming of the pavilion after Turra brothers Jim, Frank and Dominic is especially significant, as they decided to sell their family farm next to the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve many years ago at the same time the Trafalgar community was negotiating with council to adopt a master-plan for the reserve.

The Turra family had opportunities to sell the land at a higher price than that eventually offered by council, but declined such offers as it wanted to see the land used by the community.

They did this without knowing whether or not council would eventually purchase the land.

The Trafalgar community is indeed indebted to the selflessness and generosity of the Turra family.

In getting the Turra family formally recognised, the main users of the precinct - the Trafalgar Football-Netball Club, Trafalgar Cricket Club, Trafalgar Boxing Gym and Trafalgar Victory Football Club, all agreed in principal

to a proposal put forward by Mick Bourke OAM that a portion or significant building within the precinct be named after the Turra family for their community mindedness in making the land available for the Trafalgar community which had resulted in the potential for the enormous expansion of the recreation precinct.

A number of individual patrons also submitted letters of support to have the Turra name enshrined on the new pavilion.

Mr Bourke OAM, who worked on the proposal for the best part of two years, said it was fitting the Turra name would stand as a permanent reminder to all who were bound to use the new facility in years to come.

"It is good that council has recognised the contribution the Turra family has made not just to the recreation precinct but to Trafalgar and surrounds," he said.

"The Turra family are rapped that it has happened."

The pavilion is expected to be completed in coming weeks.



The Turra brothers, Jim, Frank and Dominic, at their farm's clearing sale in late 2006/early 2007 after they had sold their farm to Baw Baw Shire Council. The Turra name will take its rightful place in the new multi-use pavilion at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve.



The new pavilion under construction earlier this year.

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Importance of mental health in regional areas highlighted

Live4Life, in collaboration with local communities in rural and regional Victoria launched the 'Give Mental Health Stigma the Flick' campaign for Mental Health Week last month.

A year and a half into a global pandemic and a lot of focus has been placed on the importance of mental health of young Australians.

A key barrier to seeking help is the negative stigma surrounding mental health, especially in rural Australia.

With the help of comedian Hamish Blake along with previous Live4Life participants Kyle, Laura, Matty and Sally, Live4Life launched the 'Give Mental Health Stigma the Flick' campaign for Mental Health Week, which ran from Saturday, October 9 to October 16.

The campaign highlighted

the impact that negative stigma around mental health has on young people seeking help and invited everyone to be courageous enough to create a new narrative and eradicate negative mental health stereotypes.

With suicide being the leading cause of death of Australian young people, accounting for 40 per cent of all deaths of young people aged 13 to 18 years, and with suicide rates reportedly 40 per cent higher in rural communities it is vital that people open up a constructive conversation around mental health in regional communities.

Live4Life is the only youth mental health and suicide prevention initiative designed specifically for rural and regional communities.

Live4Life builds young people, and the local rural

community's, capacity to recognise mental health concerns and seek and offer help.

"Live4Life has taught me how to look out for myself, and it teaches you how to look out for others, it's about how you treat yourself and others, and it's had a big impact," said Chris, a former Live4Life Crew member.

Live4Life ran in six LGAs throughout regional Victoria including Baw Baw, Benalla, Glenelg, Moira, Southern Grampians and the Macedon Ranges, where Live4Life began.

"It is really important for the young people in our communities to know that they have the support of the local community behind them," Live4Life chief executive Bernard Galbally said.

Nominate a local legend for a 2022 Australia Day Award

Nominations for the 2022 Australia Day Awards are now open. The awards are an opportunity for the community to acknowledge an individual or group for the noteworthy contributions they have made to Baw Baw Shire.

There are three award categories this year:

- Citizen of the Year - a person who has made a noteworthy contribution during the previous year, and/or given outstanding service to the community over a number of years;
 - Young Citizen of the Year - a person aged under 25 years who has given outstanding service to the community, and;
 - Community Organisation of the Year - an organisation or group that has performed a service to the community, or raised funds for a charity, event or project.
- Those in the community who know an individual or group within Baw Baw Shire deserving of special recognition can nominate them now in one or more of the categories listed above.

To make a nomination and to find out more, visit the Australia Day Awards page on council's website.

Nominations will remain open until 5pm on Monday, November 22.

Winners will be selected by a panel consisting of the Mayor, councillors and council officers. They will consider all eligible entries against the assessment criteria and select the most outstanding nominee in each category.

Award recipients will be announced at the annual Baw Baw Shire Council Australia Day Awards ceremony in January 2022.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Danny Goss encouraged those who knew of someone deserving to nominate them.

"Each year the Baw Baw Shire Council Australia Day Awards give residents the opportunity to recognise outstanding community contributions," he said.

"Over the past year alone we

It's True



The world wastes about 1 billion metric tons of food each year.

Pending lockdown status in Victoria...



Baw Baw Arts Alliance 'Station Gallery', Yarragon, open 10.30 am to 4.00pm, Wednesday to Sunday. 'Artspaces' at Trafalgar Railway Station, open 10.30am to 3.00pm, Tuesday to Friday, closes 12.30pm on Wednesday.

Saturday, November 20, Arts Market, 9.00am to 1.00pm, Civic Place Warragul. 45 Artists' stalls. Buy unique Artwork ready for Christmas. More details on <https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au>

Editor's note

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

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

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

GRAPHIC DESIGN Sarah Mangion
FINANCE Reagan Montgomery
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Trafalgar then and now



A section of Trafalgar's Main Street on May 2 1934. (Photo from the Melbourne Leader and part of the State Library Victoria's Collection).



A more recent photo of the same section of road.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

John F. Kennedy



Wally's Words

Halloween is the beginning of the holiday shopping season. That's for women. The beginning of the holiday shopping season for men is Christmas Eve.

Traf News

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OFFICE
Phone 5633 2591
107 Princes Highway, Trafalgar VIC 3824
Traf News, PO Box 25, Trafalgar, 3824
Email: admin@trafnews.com
Website: www.trafnews.com

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Trafalgar

Probus remembers when

By Elly Fallon

I'm sure you are all wondering where the past year has gone.

We seem to have spent the year busy, doing not much.

At present time, we have quite a few cases of COVID in the Baw Baw Shire and in adjoining shires

which makes many nervous.

Hopefully Trafalgar Probus can meet at some stage in November, as I know people are longing to see their friends again and wanting to go back to some sort of normal life.

We have managed to have a

few gatherings of 10 with morning teas and some managed the walk in Warragul.

This month I thought I would remind people of Probus times they enjoyed with a 'Remember When' section of photos.

We look forward to the time



Probus trip to Yarravonga.



Lyrebird walk in Mirboo North.



Trip to Flemington Race Course.



Trip to Marysville.



Trip to Parliament House.



Trip to Tyabb Packing House.



Caravan trip to Phillip Island harmonica lesson.



Dine out at the Italian Club, Morwell.



Annual meeting lunch at Probus.



Santa Frank at Christmas lunch.

St. John's Catholic church says thank you

By Elly Fallon

St John's Church is looking wonderful after undergoing a significant restoration.

The floor has been concreted, new carpet has been laid and a lot of the electrical work replaced, so that once again we have heating in the church.

The church was destroyed by white ants earlier in the year.

What a difference it has all made thanks to the work of locals Brett Smart and Bill Holdsworth, but more importantly thanks go to our generous parishioners, the children and staff of St Joseph's Primary School, who held so many fundraisers and the donations from the wonderful people of Trafalgar and the wider community.

There has been many donations by individuals but also many from the local businesses. It has been overwhelming the kindness that has been shown to our Parish and your donations have helped to save our church for future generations.

When COVID eases we hope to hold some form of thank you function, when St. John's will be open to the general public so you can all see the results of your donations towards our restoration.

Meanwhile we at St John's will continue with our fundraising as we seek to repair the church spouting, roof, general paintwork and also make repairs to the Presbytery.

Thank you everyone!



Community support has helped repair St John's Catholic Church.

Community-informed approach to strategic planning

Baw Baw Shire Council is actively engaging with residents to gather their input on guidelines that will protect Baw Baw's rural character and ensure future developments match the community's vision for the region.

For example, following extensive community consultation Council recently adopted the Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) review for Warragul and Drouin. The review recommended that Council should develop neighbourhood character guidelines, clearer requirements for lot sizes, and put a greater emphasis on the preservation of natural environments.

Council is taking steps to implement that review right now. As a direct flow-on, draft Warragul and Drouin Preferred Neighbourhood Design Guidelines have been developed with initial public consultation.

These important community-informed guidelines aim to ensure that developments in new residential neighbourhoods, as well as in-fill residential developments, will reflect the preferred local character as defined directly by the people who live and work here in Baw Baw Shire.

Baw Baw Shire Council, one of the fastest growing regions of Victoria, is taking proactive steps to align Planning outcomes with the needs and desires of the local community in the face of unprecedented rates of development.

Situated attractively on the M1 corridor just 60 minutes from Melbourne, Baw Baw Shire

is experiencing extraordinary residential growth. The current estimated population of approximately 55,000 is forecast to grow by more than 50% by 2041, to nearly 85,000.

To put that into perspective, most of the growth is expected to occur in Warragul and Drouin where the Precinct Structure Plans are guiding the development of almost 20,000 lots over the next 30 years

For more information about any of the projects above or about Council's continuous dedication to service improvement, please visit the Baw Baw Shire Council website or contact Council directly on 1300 229 229 or at bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au.

Council to pursue funding support for landmark community precinct

Baw Baw Shire council will pursue state and federal government support for the development of a landmark multi-use community precinct including a state-of-the-art library, community hub, cultural space and plaza in the heart of Warragul.

The \$30 million project is phase one of the Baw Baw Civic Precinct Masterplan adopted by council earlier this year. Its purpose is to address growing community infrastructure needs in the face of Baw Baw Shire's rapidly rising population.

Among the issues it will address are a badly needed replacement for Warragul's aging and undersized library, the provision of community meeting and co-working spaces, and better connected and more accessible public amenities.

The project's full scope includes: Underground parking, a community library, including a children's library, maker's space, video gaming, reading, collection and study areas, a gallery and cultural space, community meeting rooms, consulting rooms, a

café, plaza and pedestrian connection to the West Gippsland Arts Centre, co-working spaces, a rooftop garden and public amenities such as parent's room and changing places facility.

Council has pledged a \$10 million investment towards the project, \$5 million of which has already been allocated in council's Long Term Infrastructure Plan.

With multiple funding streams available at state and federal level, council will now turn its full advocacy efforts towards securing \$10 million contributions from both the state and federal governments to deliver this vital and regionally significant community infrastructure.

If the funding arrangements can be secured, council plans to develop full designs with community input this financial year. Procurement and project commencement will then progress in the 2022-23 financial year, with 2024-25 the aimed-for completion date.

Baw Baw Shire mayor Danny Goss said it was an exciting time for Warragul and surrounds.

"This is a multi-generational project. It's not just needed for today. This is for our grandchildren's grandchildren," he said.

"We've watched neighbouring councils with smaller populations receive funding for projects like this one. It's our turn. This is badly needed infrastructure. It's not fair that in such a large council, the fastest growing council outside of Melbourne, that we continue to miss out.

"As a council we're making the investment. We're committing \$10 million to this project for the benefit of the entire region. It's time the state and federal governments did the same. We are vigorously advocating for this much needed infrastructure for our community.

"We're asking the state and federal Governments to step up to the plate and back this project. This community needs it and this community deserves it. As a council, we are committed to making it happen."

Alberts Corner



The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious.
— Albert Einstein

Smelly stockpiles attract a fine from EPA

Complaints about smelly chicken manure, two excessive stockpiles and a missed deadline have cost a Willow Grove company a fine of more than \$8,000.

EPA Gippsland Regional Manager Jessica Bandiera says the investigation started with members of the public reporting an unpleasant odour via EPA's pollution reporting hotline.

"EPA officers inspected the site on Old Sale Road, Willow Grove, and found two large stockpiles of chicken manure mixed with feathers and wood chips. One stockpile was more than 60 metres long, 20 metres wide and five metres high," Ms Bandiera said.

"Both stockpiles exceeded the size limits set out in EPA's management and control of combustible waste guideline, designed to protect the environ-

ment and the community, and there was a strong, acrid odour," she said.

EPA issued the company, CD & AM Schmidt and Sons Pty Ltd (operating under the name South East Organic Fertiliser), with a Pollution Abatement Notice (PAN), a legally enforceable instruction to bring the stockpiles within the allowed limits.

"The company was given two chances to comply – the original notice set a reasonable time limit, and EPA allowed an extension of time at the company's request, but when officers returned after the extended deadline, the stockpiles still did not comply," Ms Bandiera said.

"The size limits and other rules for stockpiling combustible and recyclable waste materials (CRWM) are easily available on the EPA website, and they are there to protect the public and

Victoria's environment," she said.

"The message to all businesses in this case is that any member of the public has the power to report pollution, and EPA will investigate and enforce the law."

"As well as paying a fine of \$8,261, the operator of the site must still meet the requirements of the Pollution Abatement Notice," Ms Bandiera said.

Under the Environment Protection Act 1970 and the Infringements Act 2006, the operator has the right to have the infringement notice reviewed or be considered by a court.

Members of the public can report pollution by calling EPA's 24-hour hotline on 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842) or providing details online at epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution/reporting-pollution

Trafalgar Holden Museum

Bob Moss

The Opel Built 2020 Holden VXR

You all thought that the last sold Holden was the one built in 2017, however then this car arrives on the scene.

This is the car that was built in the Opel factory in conjunction with General Motors Holden.

While the bulk of development on the VXR has been conducted by Opel at the brand's Nürburg testing facilities in Germany, Holden had been involved in the development of this car from the beginning.

More than 100,000 kilometres of real-life testing had been conducted here in Australia at Holden's proving grounds in Lang Lang.

Holden's Australian engineering work has influenced a number of characteristics of the VXR. They include the suspension setup, the adaptive dampers - a first for Commodore - the steering feel and the transmission.

Even the availability of a 3.6-litre V6 as the performance engine is a decision that Holden strongly fought for. The VXR's equivalent in Europe and America will be receiving a turbo four-cylinder.

The reaction to the ZB was never going to be pleasant. Not only was it not built in Australia, there would be no rear-drive option, and the most powerful variant would be fit-

ted with a thirsty and somewhat torque-shy V6 235kW engine.

To its credit, Holden attempted to make the best of a bad situation with the ZB. Before it was announced that local manufacturing would come to an end, Holden was considering building the next Commodore locally.

However, even if the local car industry had survived, the follow-up to the VF was always going to use Opel's global Front Wheel Drive/All Wheel Drive and transverse engine E2 architecture as its base.

When it became an inevitability that the next Commodore after the VF wouldn't be built at Elizabeth, Holden (along with Buick) began lobbying their GM counterparts in Europe, that were leading the ZB's development, for a V6 engine option to fit to the VXR flagship at a bare minimum.

Eventually the Insignia's German engineering team conceded and included a V6 engine option. But it wasn't be enough. 'No V8, no Commodore' was the

battle cry from the keyboard barrage.

The blow may have been softened if Holden had received its first preference, the 300kW/540Nm twin-turbo 3.0-litre V6 from the Cadillac CT6. Instead, its most powerful engine was the 235kW/381Nm 3.6-litre HFV6. Ouch!

Ultimately, the ZB would be the shortest lived generation in the Commodore badge's history, completing less than two years of service, with the announcement of its demise hidden several paragraphs deep in a late 2019 press release.

It wasn't even given the dignity of a proper farewell.

Its dimensions were: Width: 1873, length: 4857, wheelbase: 2829, weight: 1737, height: 1455. Engine: V6 cylinder, capacity: 3649cc, 3.6 litre. Transmission: nine speed automatic floor shift all wheel drive.

At this time we have a 2020 VXR Holden/Opel on display in the show room.



The 2020 VXR Holden Opel.

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Op-Shop benefits

By Shona Vines

The Travellers Rest Hotel is currently serving patrons on Friday and Saturday's, but all going well, will open its doors for more days in coming weeks.



A red and white advertisement for Trafalgar Self Storage. The top half has a red background with the text 'Trafalgar Self Storage' in large, white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, on a white background, is a black bullet point followed by the text 'Open 7 days a week, 365 days a year' in bold black font. Underneath that, in a smaller black font, is '2 Sale Yard Road, Trafalgar'. To the right of the address is a green line-art icon of a house with a chimney and a window. Below the icon, the text 'Strzelecki Realty' is written in a green, serif font. At the bottom, the phone number 'Ph: 5633 2858' is displayed in a large, bold, black font.

By Trafalgar solicitor Jade MacGregor

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Meet the man who builds castles

By *Liam Durkin*

They say a man's home is his castle, but for Willung South man Reg Fazzani, his home is actually a castle.

Situated off the Hyland Highway, just a short drive from Gormandale, Mirabilia Castle sits on five and a half acres overlooking bushland below.

Traf News readers might recognise Mr Fazzani. He is the man who built Mirador Springs in Trafalgar South.

The castle boasts everything from the movies, from arched windows to parapet towers, as well as a great hall.

There is even a dungeon and a secret escape - although only one man knows where it is.

That man is Mr Fazzani, who not only lives in Mirabilia, but built it all on his own - stone by stone.

Mr Fazzani estimates he used some 10,000 bluestone blocks, equating to five household bricks each, to construct his castle, which has stood since 2009.

While building a castle is no small feat, the man himself insists there is not much to it.

"It's just like building a giant LEGO set," he said.

"I tell everyone that comes

here: 'Don't praise me because I'm no different to you'.

"Whatever I do, you can do if you want to do it.

"Just determination is all you need.

"I'm not trained at anything; it is all self-taught.

"I say to people 'show me your hands', they show me theirs, I show them mine and go 'they work just the same'."

The two-storey castle boasts six bedrooms, a private lounge and an outdoor courtyard.

Understandably, Mr Fazzani is rather particular about his castle, and has an array of antiques and artworks - all meticulously positioned throughout the rooms.

Pre-COVID, Mirabilia Castle was a great tourist attraction, and also hosted themed medieval dinners in its great hall, with Mr Fazzani fittingly taking the role of king.

Some 5000 people have toured the castle, its name roughly translating to 'reflections of the past'.

Visitors will also notice the Fazzani coat of arms and family motto 'Facta Non Verba' inscribed at the castle's entrance.

The motto means 'actions, not words' and is symbolic of the way

in which Mr Fazzani has lived his life.

Astoundingly, Mirabilia is in fact the third castle Mr Fazzani has built.

He built Avalon Castle at Gookatoo in the Dandenong Ranges - and rebuilt it after the devastating Ash Wednesday fires of 1983.

It is now one of the state's most sought-after wedding locations.

On the question of why he builds castles, Mr Fazzani said it stemmed from his childhood days.

"Coming from England, I use to play in Henry VIII's hunting lodge, which was the remains of a castle," he explained.

"As a young boy growing up thinking about Robin Hood, I've always loved things from the past ... I'm still a child at heart."

Mr Fazzani's foray into castle building came soon after he arrived in Australia in 1961 with his wife and five-month-old baby.

He came with nothing, except a steely resolve from his experiences living through a war-torn England with an Italian surname, time in the Royal Air Force and experience as a boxer.

He found work as a welder in

Melbourne and soon became attracted to the idea of being a land owner in return for a 10 pound deposit.

Taking the deal to buy land in Cockatoo without quite knowing what he was getting himself into, Mr Fazzani was greeted with dense bush and not much else.

After drawing a rough sketch of what he wanted to build, the design ended up looking more like a castle than a house.

Mr Fazzani took his design to a council office in Pakenham, and in a sign of the times, was given the all clear provided he wrote 'fly screens on all windows' on the building plan.

He was given a quick tutorial in bricklaying from a friend, and then set about building his castle.

Incredibly, Mr Fazzani would work as a welder during the day, knock off, and then toil away at building the castle - surviving on three and a half hours' sleep for seven years until his project was completed in 1972.

Years of slogging it out creating the castle at Cockatoo eventually paid off in a big way.

The castle became a booming restaurant that took in more than \$10,000 a week in cash.

Close to 50 years and three castles later, Mr Fazzani is still actively working on maintaining his castle in Willung South.

Although his balance is slightly off, his fitness has stood the test of time, something he attributes to an active lifestyle and a diet of raw vegetables and nuts.

This active lifestyle has enabled him to take a previously uninhabitable piece of land at Willung South and transform it into the Mirabilia Castle that stands today.

The only thing missing at Mirabilia is a moat and drawbridge, although Mr Fazzani said he had no intention of digging one out.

"I get pleasure out of people enjoying it," he said.

Like all great thinkers, innovators and inventors throughout history, Mr Fazzani could perhaps be labelled as quite eccentric.

He has never valued money all that highly, giving most of what he has earned through hosting weddings and running a restaurant away to charity.

The 86-year-old pensioner confessed he didn't see himself living out his final days at Mirabilia, and has previously put the property on the market.

If any readers so desire to live

like a king or queen, it is tipped they will need to fork out at least \$1.5 million.

For someone who left school at 15 and is still yet to read a book, Mr Fazzani's castle stands as testament to just what can be achieved if someone truly sets their heart on something.

"Most of the experiences I've had in life have been quite unreal," he said.

"I've been close to death several times, but I always just keep going because I'm a positive thinker.

"Remember there is no one out there better than you - anybody can do anything if they just try.

"Just do it ... just believe in yourself and do it."

Those wanting to visit Mirabilia Castle, pending restrictions, can do so by entering 2638 Hyland Highway.

In true Italian fashion, Mr Fazzani always has a glass of wine ready for visitors on the dining room table.

Playgroup is meeting again

Sbona Vines

The Trafalgar Playgroup is a vital part of our community and can be a place for local mums, fathers and/or carers to get together. The group offers a place for support and a chat, while the children learn social skills and have fun in a different environment.

Playgroup have a large array of toys and equipment, with art and craft activities available as well. Currently (writing this on 24 October 2021), playgroup is meeting at McGregor Park on Thursdays 9:30am to 10:30am, due to covid restrictions. Outside of pandemic

rules, playgroup usually meets at the Scout Hall on Kitchener Street.

For enquiries, you can follow on Facebook by searching Trafalgar Playgroup or email trafplaygroup@hogtmail.com



At Playgroup you can be anything! An artist, a doctor, or even a builder. Let your imagination run wild.

Trafalgar's Adele talks environment

Sbona Vines

Adele is one young girl who we can look for in our news headlines in the future. At 12 years old Adele, who is can already write with such maturity, will surely become a journalist.

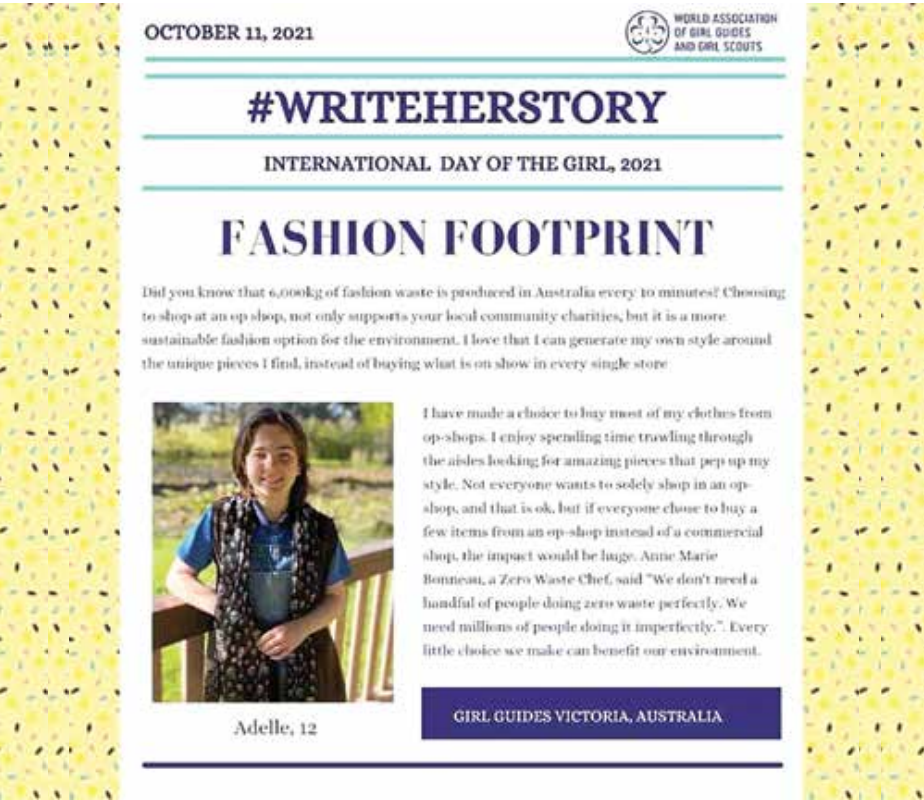
With a love of Girl Guides and

a passion for the environment, her voice is sure to be listened to and commended.

As Adele speaks about, we have Op Shops in Trafalgar, worth giving this a go and support harities at the same time.

Reading this article, makes you realise the impact that a simple daily requirement could have.

Thankyou Adele for making us aware of this.



Adele with her writing for the Girl Guides on the environment



Reg Fazzani built Mirabilia Castle, near Gormandale, with his bare hands.

 **OBrien Real Estate** | **CLARK**

Transfer your investment to us... it's easy.

We understand that the decision to lease your investment property must be carefully considered, especially before choosing a property management team to represent you. It's common that investors fear that transferring their management is difficult and therefore could be missing out on truly maximising their properties' full performance.

At OBrien Real Estate Clark, our team of experienced professional Property Managers have the systems, processes, and skills to make this step easy for you.

Transfer to us in 4 steps.



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Simply call and speak to one of our experienced managers who will review and assess your current situation, collecting some information to commence the hand over process.



Step 2

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At this stage, we will gather all required documentation authorising our team into action, and begin an in-depth performance analysis to ensure your property is on track.



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We take it from here, contacting all parties involved and arranging full assessment and file hand over. All while communicating with your tenant scheduling an onsite inspection and/or introduction.



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Desexing dogs and cats

By Dr Kerrie Piper



It was almost 100 years ago when desexing surgeries for cats and dogs became routinely available across veterinary practices.

The desexing procedure had long before that been available for farm animals and horses. Dogs and cats prior to this time were desexed primarily with the aim to treat select health conditions.

Animal welfare groups began promoting the routine desexing of pet dogs and cats in the 1930s due to the number of homeless animals. Today the community considers owning a pet who is desexed as a responsible decision.

The benefits of desexing have long been promoted and include:

- Benefits to the individual animal such as the prevention of reproductive tract cancers and infections;
- Benefits to the owner including reduced masculine behaviours in males (such as urine marking and seeking to roam) and increased affection towards people in cats, and;
- Benefits to the community

including fewer pets at large and fewer unwanted litters of puppies and kittens, taking the pressure off shelters.

But does the age at which an animal is desexed make a difference at all? Veterinary science is like every other branch of science, knowledge changes over time.

Both male and female cats will have the same benefits from desexing no matter the age of the cat at the time of the procedure. But dogs are different. There has been some correlation between certain health conditions and the timing of the desexing procedure in dogs.

We currently know that the recommended age to desex your dog depends on the breed and

gender of the dog. To generalise, in large breed dogs we know that hormones of the reproductive tract play an important role in bone growth - so for large and giant breed dogs like Labradors, Mastiffs, Rottweilers and Rhodesian Ridgebacks we usually recommend that the desexing procedure is performed after 18 months of age when the skeleton has almost completely formed. For other breeds there may be an increase in the chance of urinary incontinence if the female is desexed very young.

Your veterinarians are the best people to talk to about the timing of desexing for your dog. It may be a complex decision for your family and there are many factors to consider, including:

- The cost of the procedure (it costs less to perform the procedure on a younger dog; more if the dog is in season or pregnant);
- Council registration requirements and costs (entire animals can cost a lot more than desexed animals to register);
- Current health of your dog and any known health statistics of the dog's family;
- Which other dogs your dog has access to (are they likely to fall pregnant too young or have an unwanted or high risk litter?);
- Who is living in the family home (can the family safely manage the behaviour of the adolescent entire animal as they navigate puberty and so-

cial maturity?), and;

- Social dynamics of the dog's regular doggy friends (entire males are more likely to find themselves in trouble in multi-dog families).

There isn't a 'wrong time' to desex your pet, however for some dogs, delaying the procedure may bring some benefits. Although we no longer routinely recommend pediatric desexing in dogs, and the old fashioned 'desex at six months' rule of thumb has long been debunked, we try to recommend desexing at the time which is going to work out best for the dog and the whole family.

Are you at higher risk for Pneumonia?

By Dr Lisa Gilbert, GP and Monash University Lecturer

Trafalgar Medical

So, you've had your COVID vaccinations, or are planning to, and you probably think you are up to date with all the immunisations that you need, right?

Did you know, that many Australians are at an increased risk of developing what we call 'Invasive Pneumococcal Disease', and we have a job to help reduce this risk.

One of most common causes of bacterial pneumonia in the community is caused by a bug called Streptococcus pneumoniae also known as pneumococcus for short.

It can cause of host of illnesses including ear infections, or more severe infections such as blood sepsis, meningitis and pneumonia, that we collectively call 'Invasive Pneumococcal Disease'.

The bacteria may be found in the nose and throat of five to 90 per cent of healthy persons, so they are around us all the time.

Infants and elderly people have the highest pneumococcal disease burden, and it also disproportionately affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and adults.

Pneumococcal disease is more common in people with certain risk conditions.

Some people are at higher risk of severe disease.

The list of those that may be at higher risk of these severe infections or death is extensive, so you should talk to your GP about your personal risk, but in general terms you may be at higher risk if you have:

- A previous episode of invasive pneumococcal disease, immunocompromising conditions, including medications that suppress immune responses and loss of or no spleen;
- Brain shunts or cochlear implants that may cause leaking of cerebrospinal fluid;
- Chronic respiratory disease including COPD or severe asthma;
- Chronic kidney disease;
- Chronic liver disease;
- Cardiac disease including heart attacks and heart failure;
- Extremely premature birth;
- Down syndrome;
- Diabetes, and;
- Are a smoker or drink more than four to six standard drinks of alcohol per day (depending on your sex).

What can I do to protect myself?

The federal government offers some pneumococcal vaccinations to all Australians under the National Immunisation Program and are provided at no cost to you through GP clinics, schools and community centres.

This can vary in certain states, but in Victoria this includes childhood vaccines at two, four and 12 months, and a single booster dose offered to Indigenous Australians at age 50, and non-Indigenous Australians at age 70.

What has changed?

The rules around who needs what vaccinations changed in 2020. So, you may have previously been up to date, but now are recommended for further

vaccination.

If you are in a higher risk category, you will need a total of three lifetime doses of pneumococcal vaccine (in addition to the usual childhood vaccines) and these may occur much earlier than other people get later in life.

What vaccines are available to me?

There are two pneumococcal vaccines available in Australia - Prevenar 13 (known as 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine or 13vPCV - protects against 13 types or 'Valents' of pneumococcus) and Pneumovax 23 (known as 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine or 23vPPV which protects against 23 types).

These vaccines vary in the way they are made, and the way they stimulate the immune system, so a combination of both works best.

Usually, when you are found to be at higher risk, you can be offered a single dose of Prevenar 13, and then one year later a dose of Pneumovax 23. Five years after that you can have a second dose of Pneumovax 23 and this the full lifetime doses required. It doesn't matter if you have these in a different order.

How do I know if I am up to date?

Best to chat with your GP about your personal circumstances to see if you need anything more.

These vaccines are safe and effective and have been around for a long time.

Additional doses may incur out of pocket costs depending on your personal circumstances and risk factors. You may find

record of previous doses on your MyGov account in your immunisation record.

With many states looking at

easing restrictions soon, rates of COVID and pneumonia are expected to rise, so, next time you visit the doctor, make sure you

ask "have I had my pneumonia jab?"

VOX-POP

By Kyen Jenkins

What has been the best part of a tough year for business in Trafalgar?



Alley from Gracies Bakery

The support from the community.



Ben from Murphy Meats

Local support, our customers have been really good.



Gary from Home Timber & Hardware

The level of support from our community, and the way our Trafalgar locals are really trying to support all of Trafalgar's small businesses.



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.



Nominate a local legend for a 2022 Australia Day Award!

Each year, Council's Australia Day Awards program shines a light on the unsung heroes and organisations who selflessly give their time and expertise to help others and make Baw Baw a better place.

Nominations can be made in three categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Organisation of the Year

Entries are now open until Monday 22 November 2021.

For more information or to nominate go to www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDayAwards.

Your East Ward Councillors



Cr Michael Leaney
Deputy Mayor
0476 000 119
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



What's most important for economic growth?

Council is seeking input on the draft Economic Development and Visitor Economy Strategy 2022-2025.

The draft Strategy seeks to develop and deliver sustainable economic growth and a bright, thriving future for the region and its businesses.

Feedback received will directly inform a range of Council actions over the next three years aimed at driving Baw Baw's economic development.



Tell us what you think!

Scan the QR code above or complete the survey on Council's website.

Make sure to have your say before time runs out!

This consultation will close on **Monday, 15 November 2021.**

To complete the survey online go to www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay



Over \$100,000 in Community Development Grants Awarded

Council is set to deliver more than \$143,836 in Community Development Grants to 34 non-profit organisations and associations across the Shire.

Grants were awarded to a diverse group of applicants including community groups, historical associations, sporting clubs and playgroups.

Grant funding will go towards projects, programs, equipment or events that have a positive impact on the whole community.

Applications were received across three categories:

- Environment Grant - up to \$5,000
- Equipment Grant - up to \$5,000
- Minor Capital Works - up to \$10,000

Further information can be found at www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/CommunityDevelopmentGrants

Congratulations to the Early Bird Prize Draw Winner!



Congratulations to the Longwarry couple who have won the \$1000 Early Bird Prize Draw for paying their rates in full by 30 September.

This incentive has been run in accordance with the Declaration of Rates and Charges.

For more information on Council's rates services visit www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/rates

Book your COVID-19 vaccination.

Residents can book to have their vaccine at the COVID-19 vaccination centre at The Goods Shed, Warragul by:

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

You can also book at a participating GP clinic. Check your eligibility and a list of participating GP clinics at www.health.gov.au.

To find your nearest COVID-19 testing site please visit www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/covid19.



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

Trafalgar, Yarragon & Yallourn News, November, 1931

November 5 – Pantomime For Unemployed

The eagerly awaited Pantomime in aid of Trafalgar's unemployed, took place last Thursday before a "bumper" house. The colouring effects, clever acting and smooth unwinding of the show, aroused unstinted approbation from all who were fortunate to witness it. To mention every part of it would be impossible, for all were very good, but the ballet girls are deserving of special praise for their part. Mrs H. M. Campbell was producer. This district is indeed fortunate in having a lady of her ability who is at all times ready to assist a worthy appeal.

Big Sports Meeting At Yarragon

On New Year's Day the usual big sports meeting is to be held on the Yarragon race-course. For this meeting the program consists of four trots, two woodchops, a tug of war, motor cycle race, and other novelties. The Trafalgar brass band will be in attendance and render items during the afternoon.

November 26 – Girl Thrown From Horse

A young lady at Thorpdale was fortunate to escape serious injury as a result of an accident. Miss Thompson was thrown from a horse and came down heavily on a barb wire fence. Her face and head were torn by the barbs and bled a good deal. Dr. Swain attended to Miss Thompson at his surgery in Trafalgar.

Rechabites Meet

At a recent meeting of the Trafalgar Rechabite Lodge the question of the proposed second hotel at Trafalgar was the first item of interest. It was decided to co-operate in any move to prevent any extra hotel being erected at Trafalgar.

Gippsland News, November, 1961

November 2 – Opening Of Park Bowling Club

Saturday, 28th October, 1961 was a memorable day for members of the Trafalgar Park Bowl-

ing Club, for this day marked the official opening of the club house and green. Mrs Bloomfield, president of the V.L.B.A. spoke of the very fine achievement which necessitated so much love and labour that had been made by the T.P.B.C. members in completing the green and clubhouse.

Car Club Scramble

On Sunday last the Trafalgar Car Club conducted its annual marathon event for the last scramble of the 1961 season. This event was won by Hayden Somerville in his Hudson-Terraplane. The first event was held in thick dust and the track had to be watered for the rest of the day. Ed. note: The club track was adjacent to the Trafalgar cemetery.

November 9 – Bakery Gutted By Fire

The old established bakehouse situated in Waterloo Road, Trafalgar, was on Saturday night gutted by a fire which caused damage estimated to be over 12,000 pounds (\$353,100 today). The fire created terrific interest and many people had a birds-eye view of the conflagration from the vantage point of the near-by overhead railway bridge.

Guy Fawkes Night

On both Saturday and Sunday evenings last week bonfires were ablaze in all parts of the township, and for the most part crackers of all types and descriptions could be seen and heard exploding. Fortunately no unforeseen incidents concerning exploding crackers have been reported.

November 16 – Holiday For Junior Legatees

Legatee Wal Tanberg, of Trafalgar has been entrusted with the task of obtaining hosts and hostesses for 27 junior Legatees from the 6th to 20th of January, 1962. Wal has already placed 17 of these children but there are still ten boys and girls for whom hosts are sought. Very few of these children have ever enjoyed a holiday in the country, so if you can help you will be greatly assisting the work of Legacy.

A Grand Day

The 1961 Diggers' Golf Day conducted by the Trafalgar R.S.L. sub-branch on the local links on Saturday last, must surely go

down as one of the most successful and enjoyable yet held. At 11 a.m. a siren hushed the proceedings whilst those assembled at various points on the course observed the two minutes silence as a tribute to those of their comrades who did not return.

November 30 – Honour To Thorpdale Scout

On Tuesday night the 21st inst., history was made at Thorpdale in the R.S.L. hall, when the District Commissioner for Scouts, Mr Russ. Savage, of Moe presented the Queens Scout Badge to Derek Blackshaw, a Thorpdale Scout. He then gave him the traditional left-hand shake – the handshake of friendship.

Apex Helps Trafalgar Scouts

Trafalgar Apex Club began work on Sunday last on its latest civic project – A new brick toilet-block and storeroom for the Trafalgar Scouts.

Traf News, November, 2003

November – Saleyards To Be Sold

The disused Trafalgar saleyards will be sold. Baw Baw Shire last week agreed to advertise its intention to sell the property in Saleyards Road. Cr. David Balfour said there was no further use of the site and he believed it could be sold to an industry that could use the site for future development. Ed. note: This action ended a long history of saleyards in Trafalgar.

Railway Station Toilets

It is very disappointing to see that Council has had to barricade the entrance to the toilets due to the ongoing and mindless vandalism to the toilet block. As reported in earlier editions, more vandalism takes place at the Trafalgar Railway Station block area than anywhere else in the Baw Baw Shire, a record we should not be proud of.

Traf News Editor Speaks

Traf News editor Mick Bourke spoke at the recent Victorian Small Rural Committees Health Conference at Omeo on 15 October. The "health" aspect of the

conference relates to how well communities are functioning, but not from a medical perspective.

Mick spoke on the history of the Traf News, the issues generated by publishing a community paper and the vast benefits that the community gets out of having its own paper.

The common theme that emanated from each speaker was the importance of a local paper for the community and for the community to be involved in that paper, whether as a volunteer, a contributor of articles, an advertiser, or as a reader.

St. Joseph's School Activities

In recent weeks the children have received a certificate of participation from the Tidy Towns Organisation. At the end of term three, a representative committee of the Tidy Towns Organisation came to visit the classrooms and were shown around the school by our school captains. They were very impressed with the enthusiasm of the children and the commitment they demonstrated in keeping our school tidy.

Frank Gridley – Quiet Achiever

Baw Baw Shire honoured a number of community members on 14 October for achievements in community service, youth and sport. Trafalgar's Frank Gridley received a "Recognition of Achievement" award for community service. Frank was described as a reliable and committed inspiration in the Trafalgar community. He has been a significant support to the Trafalgar Basketball Association for over 35 years and more recently has volunteered twice a week for the local senior citizens.

Record Breaking Angels

Guardian Angels in Trafalgar have helped break all records in this year's Guardian Angels World Vision program, having already donated 549 knitted garments for children and women in developing countries around the globe. Special congratulations should go to Carol Bourke, who was the main coordinator of the Guardian Angel project at the Trafalgar Pharmacy.

CHURCH SERVICES

CATHOLIC PARISH

Father Bernard Buckley, Phone 5633 1166



St John's Trafalgar, 54 Waterloo Road

Saturday Night Mass: 6.00pm
Sunday Mass: 10.00am 2nd & 4th Sundays
St Jarlaths Yarragon
10.00am 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

UNITING CHURCH

Rev Moira Dodswoth
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 Phone 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

Farming News



VFF requests urgent support for agricultural freight workers

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) requested urgent support for agricultural freight workers to comply with COVID-19 interstate border crossing requirements in the lead up to harvest recently.

With limited access to freight-friendly testing and vaccination sites in regional Victoria, the VFF was deeply concerned by the impact the cross border requirements would have on the significant additional movements of freight workers required to cross state borders.

This included impacts on contract harvesters, farmers delivering grain and machinery across borders and heavy vehicle operators transporting grain to stockfeed mills, bulk handlers or port for export.

The VFF was calling for: Increased opening times for existing freight-friendly testing sites; Additional freight-friendly testing sites in regional Victoria; Targeted vaccination for agricultural freight workers in regional areas, including the provision of Pfizer vaccines for freight workers under 60; Extensions to the

frequency of testing for freight operators who have visited red zones from every three days to every seven days in line with the National Freight Code if freight operators have been vaccinated.

VFF president Emma Germano said there was a number of concerns that needed addressing. "Currently, the majority of freight-friendly testing and vaccination sites are concentrated in metropolitan Melbourne which isn't feasible for agricultural freight operators to access during harvest time," she said.

"There's only five freight-specific testing sites within Victoria, none of which are in Northern Victoria, and these are only open during limited times of the day. Our industry doesn't just operate from 9am to 5pm and it should be a no-brainer to expand the number of sites and make them open 24 hours a day.

"We need freight-friendly vaccination centres in regional Victoria near key agricultural freight routes, instead of mostly within metropolitan Melbourne.

"Every day we wait to implement these changes, the harder we make it for people to follow the rules.

"These workers have helped keep our country moving and fed throughout the pandemic and it's

time they are looked after."

The VFF recently wrote to Victorian Minister for Health, Martin Foley to convey their concerns.

The VFF has continued to champion public health measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the community, however it says it is crucial that the agricultural freight industry is given the appropriate support it requires to comply and continue providing essential services in the delivery of essential goods.

Industry groups want urgent vaccine mandate clarification

Leading agriculture advocacy groups including the Victorian Farmers Federation, AUSVEG VIC, Fruit Growers Victoria, Food & Fibre Gippsland, GrainGrowers, Citrus Australia and Melons Australia called on the state government last month to urgently clarify the confusion around unfair dismissal, privacy rights and employer and employee obligations ahead of the looming mandatory vaccine deadline.

While recent briefings between industry representatives and Agriculture Victoria were reported as constructive, there remained crucial missing information on the vaccine mandate.

"We are also seeking urgent

clarification on the types of exorbitant penalties and exactly who can issue them," Ms Germano said.

"It's well known the agriculture industry is currently facing severe labour shortages. Are we staring down the barrel of further reducing our already dwindling workforce?"

"In parts of Victoria harvest is here and this is the busiest time of the year. Our farmers' job is to help put food on the table and the less workers we have to do this, the harder this becomes.

"The Victorian government must publicly release further information and they need to do it immediately."

"Industry groups have been talking to farmers non-stop since the announcement was made and all of us just want to be able to pass on accurate information and support our growers in a timely manner."

Questions raised by agricultural industry representatives were: Will employers be left in the lurch about whether their workers can work? Are employers going to be at risk under industrial relations laws? And how do we avoid breaches of worker's privacy and who can request this personal information of vaccination status?

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"The Victorian government must publicly release further information and they need to do it immediately."

Take stock of your assets before the fire season arrives

A good insurance policy is important when it comes to preparing for the fire season, but just as important is knowing exactly what you have on your farm and in your shed.

Insurance and risk adviser Michael Myers said spring was the perfect time to review your insurance policies, and part of this review is making sure you have a good asset inventory.

"An asset inventory doesn't have to be longwinded or difficult," he said.

"It can be as simple as taking pictures or a video of your shed or house, so you have a clear record of your assets.

"Often when people experience theft, they know something

is missing but they don't know what it is. It's the same with tools and equipment if your shed has burnt down. You won't even know something is missing until you go to use it again."

Mr Myers said along with a current asset inventory, it was also important to have a clear understanding of the replacement value of the assets.

"Typically, most farmers will think about what it will cost to rebuild the fence themselves. They will calculate the material costs but won't factor in labour costs. We try to tell them that if a fire does go through their property, the last thing they will have time for is fencing," he said.

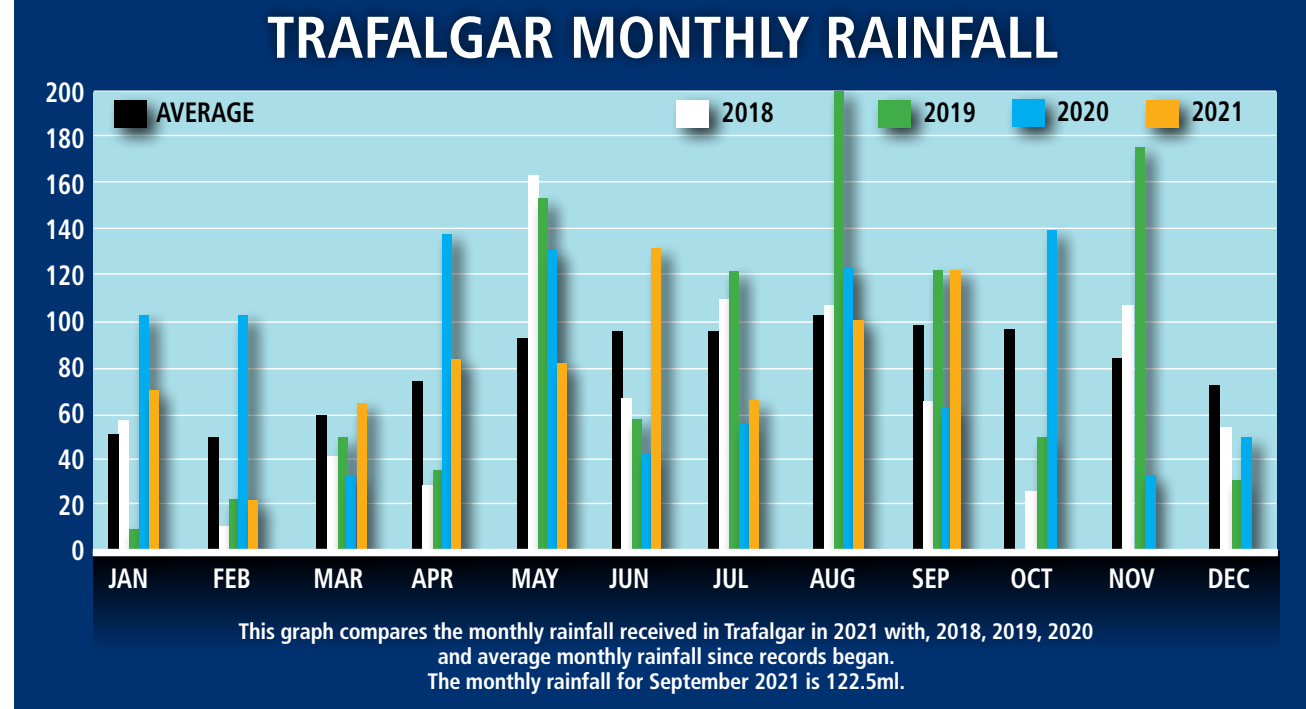
Mr Myers said spring is the perfect time to review insurance policies.

"Often people won't take the time to review their insurance. They will pay it year after year, and they'll compare the price but they need to review the details to make sure they have adequate insurance," he said.

"Farmers need to look at things like hay value, stock value and stock numbers to make sure they are accurate.

"Farmers should make sure they are not necessarily getting the cheapest insurance but getting the cover that is going to do what they expect it to do when it comes time to put in a claim."

For more information phone Paul Simpson, North East Agriculture Recovery Extension Officer on 0455 750 605 or email paul.simpson@agriculture.vic.gov.au.



TRAFALGAR TILT TRAY HIRE

Email: traftilttray33@outlook.com
MARINO: 0408 342 401

TRAFALGAR HOLDEN MUSEUM

Telling the complete
"HOLDEN STORY"
Open 10am - 5pm

Like us on Facebook - Trafalgar Holden Museum

Ph: 5633 1684 74 Waterloo Road Trafalgar

SUNNY CREEK ORGANIC™

Berry pickers needed over Summer

Are you 16 years or older and looking for seasonal work or a Summer holiday job?

No experience needed other than a 'can do attitude' and availability December through to late January.

Please contact the farm to register your interest on **0428 626 932** or email info@sunnycreekorganic.com

69 Tudor Rd. Trafalgar Sth. VIC

AROUND THE HISTORICAL *Society*

By Dianne Ireland

Time, age and the pandemic takes it toll on all our voluntary organisations, not least the Trafalgar & District Historical Society.

The first and third Fridays of the month are designated working bees but with the volume of work to be done, a small band of the most dedicated workers can be found at the old kinder on most Friday afternoons. We can certainly find a job for anyone with time on their hands.

Recently the major focus of our work has been on collecting articles from previous Gazettes for publication in the 100th edition of the Society's Gazette which is due in time for

Christmas.

Even the workers are amazed at the wealth of information which has been published since the very first edition in 1985.

Family histories abound, and anyone researching a local family or organisation would be pleased at the extent of information held by the Society.

Among the family histories published are the Marino Family, the Jolly Family (five generations), the Rankin Family and numerous others.

Should you wish to investigate this further, please phone the society's archivist Jean Huffer on 5633 1960 or 0438

090 338.

The recent annual meeting of the Trafalgar & District Historical Society agreed to keep fees and subscriptions at existing rates.

The Gazette costs \$4 per copy, \$20 for an annual posted subscription.

Membership of the Society is \$15 annually. Phone the treasurer, Glenys Ralls on (03) 5633 1594 or address mail to 17DHS, PO Box 128, Trafalgar 3824.

The November general meeting of the society will be a dinner meeting, COVID restrictions permitting, held on Thursday, November 18.

Reflection

By Moira Dodsworth

Moving

I have moved house, into my own place and I hope I won't move again for a long time.

There are challenging things in moving, however hard I try to be organised, when I get to the new place, somehow there is always chaos.

I know that I like order in my home, so do my animals. They do not like my moving furniture or their beds as I work out how things fit in this new house.

The cat spends his time climbing into boxes and shredding them and the paper - more mess.

The dog is just glued to my ankle. There will be a time when

the house is my home, as I want it, a familiar comfy place.

COVID has made our lives like this. Our world and lives are not in order, patterns have changed and our behaviour has had to do the same.

Perhaps some of us hide in boxes like the cat and shred the edges to peep out.

Others, like the dog, hang on to the familiar, her person has not changed, so she needs me to be near.

I keep trying to make order out of the chaos, moving things like the furniture to make life fit better with me, making structures that I hope will not move.

Although it does not feel like

it, life with COVID will become familiar, there will be comfortable structures and stable rules. We must hold on to the certainty that uncertainty always ends.

I don't find this easy, living in the moment is not my usual practice, I keep a diary and write lists, I envy those who just take things as they are and are content in that place.

However you see life, I'm sure like me, you long for the end of COVID, let's hope the light at the end of the tunnel keeps getting brighter.

Keep safe, seek contentment.

Maskiell's feature success

Trafalgar jockey Jason Maskiell celebrated a major success when he partnered Bon's A Pearl to victory in the \$300,000 Thousand Guineas Prelude (1400m) at Caulfield recently.

The three-year-old filly belied her \$31 starting price after producing a slashing finish to run down favourite Heresy (\$3.60) in the Group 2 feature.

"I really liked this horse before she went to the races," Maskiell said post-race.

"I've believed with her a lot and I'm happy to get the result.

Maskiell, 31, has had his share of off-track challenges during his career, most notably a drug addiction which he has overcome with the support of his family.

His wife Candi and son Colt

watched the race on the phone from the Caulfield car park due to COVID-19 restrictions, but they were front and centre of his mind post-race.

"This is really up there, everyone knows about my downfall, but to come back in a big way - my wife is out in the car park with my son - it is the biggest race I've won since I've been back, it's a great thrill," he said.

He credited his move to Gippsland in recent years as an important factor behind his career renaissance.

"I'm in a really good headspace," he said.

"I've got a new manager, Rob Kingston, he's been doing a fantastic job. I've just felt, mentally and physically, I'm in a really good space and I think going forward, my weight's getting better, I

can ride a bit lower.

"I live in Trafalgar. It reminds me a lot of back home in Tassie, it's quiet, everyone knows everyone, it suits me, it suits the whole family, it's a really lovely town."

Maskiell had to get down to 56kg to ride Bon's A Pearl, a daughter of Bon Hoffa, a Group 1 winner during his own racetrack career.

Trained by Kevin Corstens at Cranbourne, the bay filly first came to wider attention when she won a 1400m Maiden at Sandown on September 1.

Maskiell has been aboard in all four career starts, with the Caulfield success her second and the \$180,000 first-prize cheque lifting her earnings to just shy of \$250,000.

McGrath among award winners

By Liam Durkin

Former Trafalgar junior footballer Jess McGrath was named Gippsland Power's most professional player for 2021.

McGrath benefited from time in the VFL this season, playing with Richmond.

Other award winners included Traralgon's Luis D'Angelo who came runner-up in the best and fairest, which was won by Phillip Island's Mitch Moschetti.

Nathan Noblett, from Morwell, won the goal kicking award. Taking into account the shortened season, Noblett's return was modest compared to previous winners, although he did manage a four-goal haul against Western Jets.

Traralgon's Chance Doultree

was named most determined. Gippsland Power only got on the park 10 times in 2021, winning three games.

Things were not looking good early days, as the side lost its first six games. However, a late season rally saw them string some good performances together, and they were able to win three of their last four games.

Ultimately, the stop-start nature of the COVID season derailed any chance of continuity, but a win over second-placed Greater Western Victoria proved Gippsland Power's worth and standing against some of the country's best young players.

Most Gippsland Power players also returned home to their local club at some stage in the

season, slotting into various senior teams.

Other award winners were Yarram's David Brinker-Ritchie who was judged most improved, Warragul's Rhys Gavin (best first year player), Drouin's Tom Evans (support staff award) and Phillip Island's Max Walton (coaches award).

The Gippsland Power women's team best and fairest was won by Traralgon's Matilda Van Berkel.

Joint runner-up was Yasmin Duursma (Foster) and Grace McRae (Wonthaggi).

The Power women's team didn't have much to crow about this season, winning just one game.



Ray Pickering will again coach Thorpdale next season.

Phoenix to play in the Valley

By Liam Durkin

The Gippsland Regional Indoor Sports Stadium is set to play host to a National Basketball League regular season match featuring the South East Melbourne Phoenix.

The 3000-seat Traralgon stadium will welcome the Phoenix, who will make the journey down for a marquee fixture on Australia Day.

A motion that Latrobe City Council fund the game by providing \$50,000 in cash and \$5000 in-kind was moved unanimously at the most recent council meeting.

This motion followed a recommendation and strong support from the Tourism and Major Events Advisory committee to bring NBL games to the region.

The motion was moved by Cr Dale Harriman and seconded by Deputy Mayor Cr Darren Howe.

Speaking at the council meeting, Cr Harriman said there was bound to be other benefits as well.

"The bonus we've got with this is to begin developing a relationship, which I have to say a number of local basketball associations have already done, with the Phoenix," he said.

"They are situated on the south-east of Melbourne, they see this (Latrobe Valley) as their home territory and again it gives us an opportunity to reignite and redevelop those relationships.

"We've seen before in the past we've had a number of National League basketball teams come down, and this goes back 20 years when we had both the Melbourne Tigers men's and

women's teams playing pre-competition games, we've had Melbourne United come down and play pre-competition games.

"A huge advantage of that has been that they've come down in advance, they've run training clinics, not only for players, but also for coaches and we've also had access to high level referees training our junior referees as well.

"What we are going to be getting with the South East Melbourne Phoenix is they are actually going to come down for an in-season game.

"This is absolutely massive. This will bring people from across Gippsland and also bring people from Melbourne down to Latrobe City's Gippsland (Indoor) Regional Sports Stadium.

"If you're going to get tickets you'll want to get them early."

Cr Harriman said there was bound to be other benefits as well.

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"They are situated on the south-east of Melbourne, they see this (Latrobe Valley) as their home territory and again it gives us an opportunity to reignite and redevelop those relationships.

Not only are our elite players but also our domestic players are being exposed to high level play-

ers, having that drive to promote an active lifestyle.

"It's also going to bring down those high level off-court officials and open that training up to those kids who might not be driven to play on-court but driven to be involved in basketball off-court.

"I think anything that gets our kids involved is great."

While all signs appear to be positive, Cr Graeme Middlemiss said it was important the Latrobe Valley weren't the ones doing all the giving in this instance.

"I'd be looking to see their supporter base coming from Melbourne and bringing their wallets with them (to support local business)," he said.

"I look forward with interest to see if we get the support that this report (from the Tourism and Major Events Advisory committee) points at."

The South East Phoenix has already reached out to local basketball associations, and is expected to hold any number of coaching and school clinics once COVID restrictions ease.

The regular season NBL match is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, January 26, 2022.

The Phoenix's opponents was not known as the fixture has not been finalized when Traf News went to press.

Funny Sign



Blues lock in coaches for 2022

Ray Pickering will again coach Thorpdale Football-Netball Club in 2022. Pickering has coached the Blues senior team for the last three seasons.

Although 2019 was more or less a write-off, and the 2020 season did not eventuate, Thorpdale showed promising signs this season, winning three of 11

games.

The Blues ran ninth of 13 teams in the new-look Mid Gippsland Football-Netball League, and took it up to some of the competitions better sides.

Wild celebrations erupted in early May when Thorpdale notched its first win in 1001 after defeating Tarwin by 17 points.

"It felt like we won a grand

final," Pickering said at the time. The Blues will be hoping there is even more reason to celebrate next season.

Joining Pickering on the coaching front is long time club person Daryle Brennan who will call the shots for the reserves and will be assisted by Simon Lawson and Nick McIntosh.

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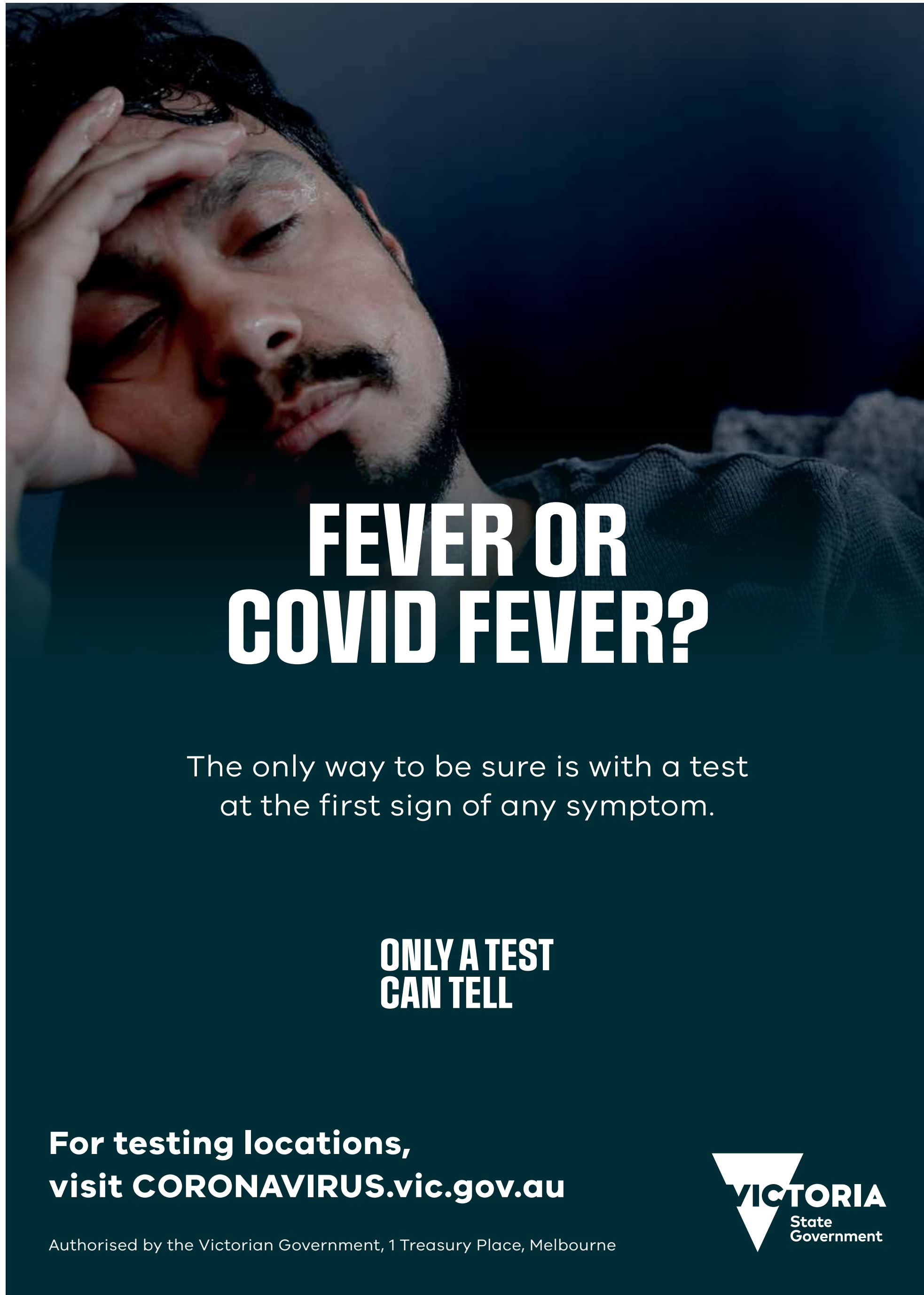
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Celebrating the Dee-lightful Demons

Melbourne supporters across the Traf News readership no doubt screamed, cheered and probably even shed a tear when it became clear their team was going to win the AFL premiership.

After 57 long years, the Demons finally gave those supporters something to crow about, as red and blue diehards witnessed something they perhaps thought they would never see in their lifetime.

With the dust settled since that momentous victory, former Melbourne player Declan Keilty was good enough to provide some thoughts on the Demons triumph.

Keilty played for Melbourne between 2017 and 2019, a time that paved the way for the glory of 2021.

(Questions by Liam Durkin).

Has it sunk in yet that Melbourne are AFL premiers?

It has now. It took me a couple of weeks. It was amazing to watch, I did get a bit nervous in the third quarter.

How was it watching the game as an ex-player?

It was exciting. I did get a bit emotional towards the end. I've spoken to some of the guys since, it is pretty special for them to be able to win the flag after so long. It was special for me to be able to watch it because I played with most of them. There was a little bit of me that wished I was still there but at the same time I was just thrilled they won.

What were you thinking when Bontempelli kicked that goal in the third quarter to take the Dogs lead to 19 points?

I thought that momentum shift the Bulldogs had in the second quarter might have put Melbourne in a position where they wouldn't be able to come back. There was probably that defining moment when James Harnes won on the wing, kicked it to Bayley Fritsch who kicked a goal from the pocket. From there they just piled the goals on. That was probably the defining moment, if they had of lost that contest they potentially could have lost the game.

It was like a tsunami came in off the Swan River toward the back end of the third quarter. Melbourne kicked seven goals in under nine minutes. Could you honestly believe what you

were seeing?

It was amazing. It was really interesting to hear Petracca talk about it after the game when one of the coaches grabbed him and said 'you have to take hold of this moment'. Instead of them going safe with the way they were playing their footy they really attacked and that was the main reason they won, they weren't afraid to put it to the Bulldogs. Because they were down by 19 points it was basically the only option they had, they stuck with it and it worked out.

The last quarter turned into a formality. When did you call it?

I'm always a bit sceptical. It was probably about five minutes left when I saw Goody (Simon Goodwin) start shaking everyone's hand and giving big hugs that's when I was like "we've won it, we've definitely got it in the bag now".

What was your overriding emotion when the siren sounded?

I was just happy. Joyful, a bit relieved, I was pretty nervous during the day. I did get a bit teary watching everyone celebrate and the boys running onto the ground.

Who did you feel happiest for? Nathan Jones surely?

Simon Goodwin. The way he presents himself in the media that's exactly what you get as a person. He's a genuinely nice guy, he sacrificed a lot for the club. There was a tipping point where they almost got rid of him once we finished 17th in 2019 I think a lot of people wanted him out. To the clubs credit they understood his importance to the group, I was just happy for him that all his effort showed through.

Jones will have to unfurl the flag next year. There is that great photo of you running alongside a shirtless Max Gawn. He just looks like a country footballer who hasn't forgotten where he's come from and now he's the best ruckman in the AFL?

He is unbelievable. His character, he is an amazing person, a great leader. I was really excited for him when he was named captain, it's in his nature to lead, he's so passionate about the club. He was probably the second person I was most happy for.

It really was a watershed moment

for Melbourne considering everything they've been through. I don't think any other club has tormented their supporters for so long?

It is a tough business. They had a period of time where they struggled as a club. Culturally they had to fix things up. I'm sure every club has gone through that stage, probably not to the extreme that Melbourne had to go through. It almost takes the club to get to the bottom to be able to turn around and get to the top.

Was the drought spoken about during your time at Melbourne?

It was mentioned. Goody was big on the idea of a higher purpose. That is something that stuck with me. It is the reason why we play footy and one of those high purposes was ending the premiership drought.

I liked Goodwin at halftime, there is some audio of him speaking to the players and he says "put a smile on your face". Is that positive nature just part of his mantra?

It is. He's in a position where if he is doubtful that they are going to win then that carries through the whole group. If he showed signs of negativity that would have taken onto the field. That's what I like about Goody, the type of vibe he creates is compelling and you take that energy out onto the ground.

Away from the emotional side have you been able to piece together how Melbourne won the flag?

Their game style has changed since I was there. I was intrigued by that. Their biggest thing now is their ability not to cough up the ball. To be able to under pressure, just to be able to keep the ball alive and keep it in their possession. In earlier years Melbourne had a tendency to just give up the ball to the opposition.

Heading into this year most of the talk was around who can stop Richmond. How did you honestly think Melbourne would go?

My hope was just Melbourne would finish top eight. I honestly didn't think they would have won the grand final. I probably would have put my money on someone else.

Granted Melbourne

was on top of the ladder for most of the season but was there a moment you thought they would be good enough to win the whole thing?

It was actually the second time they played Adelaide (Round 22). Throughout the year they were beating a lot of teams but they weren't flogging teams, but then when they versed the Suns, belted them by 98 points, and Adelaide, belted them by 41. It was probably at that point I thought they were in a really good spot.

That preliminary final was just breath-taking. I said afterward Melbourne could have walked on water that's how well they played. Have you ever seen a Melbourne side play that well?

No. It was unbelievable. It just seemed like no matter what they did it would work and vice-versa anything Geelong did they couldn't do anything right. I think it was just one of those days.

Your own Melbourne career, just the two games, but two more than most people will ever play. What's your enduring memory of your time in the AFL?

The thing I'm most proud of is being able to share the first game with mum and dad. That was pretty special. I had some family and friends out in the crowd. To be able to see them after the game and share that experience with them made it all worth it. That was definitely number one. It might have only been two games but to me it was everything.

You beat Hawthorn by five points on debut

in 2019. What are your memories of the game itself?

I was pretty nervous. I was okay leading up to the game but running out onto the MCG and just before the bounce the nerves started kicking in. The game itself I thought I did alright, the nerves got me a fair bit, I didn't think they would get me that hard but I still enjoyed the day. I played up forward and switching into the ruck. In my first ruck contest Jarryd Roughhead gave me the biggest corky in the quad of my life. I think I beat McEvoy once so I'll claim that.

Every AFL first gamer says the speed of the game is what stands out. Was that the case for you?

Yes, 100 per cent. If you try to react you are too slow, you almost have to predict where the ball is going to go. If you are watching the ball your defender or the opposition is already on the move. It was lightning quick. I played in a couple of VFL grand finals before, I thought they were quick, but this was on another level.

You played with Jordan Lewis, who had won four flags at Hawthorn before joining Melbourne. Was there anything he demonstrated that showed what it took to get to that level?

Just his ability to understand different situations, most of the time to be able to make the right decision without even blinking an eye and calmness under pressure. He just seemed to have all the time in the world. It was unbelievable to watch.

Who is the best player you've played with?

Christian Petracca. Playing Collingwood in the VFL one day there was a three on one, Pe-

tracca was the one and he managed to win the ball and hit this beautiful lead up inside 50. I remember standing there thinking 'this kid is going to be something special'. The reason he is such a good player is he works hard, regardless of how talented he is he wouldn't have got anywhere near the calibre of player he is without the hard work that he's done.

And the best player you've played against?

Dustin Martin. I played a pre-season game against Richmond, he stiff armed me once and I felt it for about a week. Just the X-Factor, you know when he's got the ball something special is going to happen. It's almost that David and Goliath situation, he makes you feel small.

I take it 2018 was your most enjoyable year at Melbourne? The AFL team made the preliminary final and the VFL team made the grand final?

That was a great year. The club was successful, obviously ended not the way we wanted to in both regards. The Hawthorn and Geelong final had 90,000, they were unreal.

The best on ground for Casey in that VFL grand final was Bayley Fritsch. Goes from playing in a reserves grand final to kicking six goals in an AFL grand final three years later. Maybe there is a lesson there.

To listen to the full interview with Declan Keilty, visit the Original Go-Getting Podcast on Spotify.



Declan Keilty runs alongside future Melbourne premiership captain Max Gawn during his time at the Demons.

Bloods appoint coaches

The Trafalgar Football-Netball Club has made a number of announcements for the 2022 Ellinbank and District League season.

Megan Howes has been appointed A Grade netball coach.

Howes takes over from Belinda Parise, who steered the Bloods to the 2017 premierships in the Mid Gippsland Football-Netball League.

Fellow premierships coach Alesha Hallinan has been reappointed to her role as B Grade coach.

It will be a coaching household at the Hallinan's, with Alesha's husband Tom the new Trafalgar senior football coach.

Club legend and former senior captain Fred Dyke will coach the under 16 football team, and will be assisted by Matt

Devon.

Dyke played 221 senior games for Trafalgar from 1989 to 2003, winning four premierships along the way.

Devon was an assistant coach for the under 15 team in 2021 and his move to the next age group will ensure players have a familiar face again on the sidelines.



Trafalgar Football-Netball Club legend Fred Dyke will coach the Bloods under 16 team next season.

Cricket forced to play the waiting game

By Liam Durkin

The Trafalgar Cricket Club is still waiting for the 2021-22 season to begin.

While ordinarily the season would be well and truly underway, COVID has put a stop to that.

There appears to be light at the end of the tunnel however, and all going well, cricket will begin on the weekend of November 13.

As with all things COVID, the cricket world has had to adapt, and the incredibly shortened season has meant all A Grade games will be played as one dayers.

Despite the delayed start, numbers look to be very healthy for the Ships three senior grades, as people are keen to get out and enjoy the great game that cricket is.

Junior teams are also looking strong, with ample players making up the Under 16 and Under 14 teams.

Senior training has commenced, with an array of regular and new resources now at the clubs disposal.

The nets have received a huge upgrade, and the addition of an automatic feeder on the bowling machine has been a very good investment.

The club also has access to outdoor turf wickets just a short drive down the road in Moe and will be aiming to make the most of these this season.

There is no doubt not having any exposure to turf at training harmed Trafalgar last season, and the more practise players can get on grass the better.

Players should also have enough time to blow out the cobwebs given the five week lead-in to the season starting in mid-November.

Junior teams have started training, and coaches Zack Brown and Billy Pace have been pleased with how things are going.

Some new and returning players will also be seen in action this season. Brett Tonkin is on board, as is Col Parnell who will add some experience to the senior squad. Jack Hart and Kaleb Chapman have returned, while the first grade team is also hopeful of having 2014-15 premierships player Aiden George available for as many games as possible.

Departures are Blair Clymo who has joined Morwell and Ryan Bishop who has gone fishing.

Off the field the club is fortunate to have senior players putting their hand up to take on committee positions.

Daniel Heathcote is into his second term as president, with Brendan Dawson serving as vice.

Other office bearers are Billy Pace (junior co-coordinator), Liam Durkin (secretary), Reagan Montgomery (treasurer), Brent Claridge (grounds manager), Rhys Holdsworth (sponsorship director), Scott Moorhouse (recreation and council liaison), Zack Brown (social coordinator), Jackson Noonan (merchandise coordinator) and Jeff Thege (general committee).

The club receives great support from local businesses and spectators who follow the teams around the district for which it is extremely grateful.

Sponsors and supporters allow the club to execute its core business which is to provide a place for people to play and enjoy cricket.

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 Facebook page.



Much like a rain delay, the Trafalgar Cricket Club has had to wait for the season to start due to COVID.

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