

SEPTEMBER 2020
EDITION NO. 231
www.trafnews.com

Traf News



PRICELESS



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TRAF BUSINESSES THANKFUL FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT DURING VERY CHALLENGING TIMES

By Liam Durkin

The importance of supporting local business has been heightened in recent weeks, with stage three restrictions back in force.

The return of stage three restrictions across regional Victoria last month has closed some businesses in the region and forced others to heavily adapt regular practices to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

For the next few weeks at least, people who can work from home must work from home, whilst many businesses have

turned to online platforms like Zoom or Skype to communicate with clients or digitise retail operations.

Victorian restaurants and cafés can continue to open for takeaway and delivery only.

Pubs, bars, clubs and night-clubs must shut, unless they can offer takeaway or home delivery of food and alcohol only.

Bottle shops have remained open.

Beauty therapy, tanning, waxing, nail salons, spas, tattoo parlours and massage parlours cannot operate under stage three restrictions but hairdressing businesses can open, provided they comply with requirements for record keeping.

Locals have been encouraged to make an effort to help Trafalgar businesses out, who are doing their best to remain positive in the midst of so much uncertainty.

Trafalgar business owners have certainly been appreciative of any foot traffic and local support they have received.

The recently established Coffee Life on Contingent St, in the shop owned by Jamie and Danni Boyles, has proven to be a hit with residents since opening in July.

Coffee Life managers Nick Pabst and Lara Williams have well and truly jumped into the deep end, opening right in the middle of a pandemic, but the

new kids on the block said they were doing their best to adapt.

"It's certainly a challenge but it's a challenge we feel we have taken to very well," they said.

"We were only open three weeks before the second round of restrictions but the response from the community in that short time was truly amazing.

"That following has carried on in to stage three restrictions and our point of focus from the start was coffee and so that take away culture is still definitely helping us push through immensely so we are incredibly grateful.

"We knew that opening a new business and everything that comes along with it, is hard

enough on a good day, but we had to take a chance. We took the 'if not now then when?' approach.

"Ideas and plans had been circling since before the pandemic but seeing the success other established businesses in town had when having to pivot with restrictions we felt like at least with coffee, we had a product that would always be wanted and needed no matter what the challenge."

The pair said they were "prepared to roll with the punches".

"That's been our mantra every day since opening. There were days where we didn't know if we were allowed to open the door. Literally waking up and

checking what might have occurred," they said.

"Combine that with just about every week there was a new protocol we had to put in place to follow any and all new rules as to implement them as store protocol.

"But we didn't want it to be doom and gloom. We just took the, 'it is what it is' approach. This is the 'new normal' but we wanted to make sure it wasn't going to stop us from being a place of welcome, a safe and happy place that could offer some normalcy and warmth as we went about our lives.

"So whilst it looks different, acts different and is different, it's

» CONTINUED PAGE 8



As stage three restrictions continue, Trafalgar residents are being encouraged to shop local to help businesses.

When you spend \$100
at the following ...

The benefits of shopping local ensure money stays in the community.



THE TURRA TWINS TURN 80

Turra twins Jim and Frank from Trafalgar turned 80 last month on August 14. They have shared 160 years between them, an amazing milestone.

Jim and Frank were one set of two twins in a family of 12 brothers and sisters. In October the youngest sibling will be turn-

ing 70, making all of the living 11 siblings over 70.

The brothers grew up and worked on the family dairy farm in Trafalgar South before moving into share farming in Yarragon and Trafalgar with brother Nick.

Throughout Jim and Frank's lifetime they have lived and worked together and have never

been too far from each other even in retirement.

Jim and Frank have always been very close and have always celebrated every birthday together.

Happy 80th birthday to Jim and Frank Turra.



Jim and Frank Turra celebrated their 80th birthdays last month.

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Council election next month

A general election will be held by post this October for Baw Baw Shire Council.

The Victorian Electoral Commission is preparing to deliver a safe election during the extraordinary circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Baw Baw Shire Council

election will be conducted by post. A safe and completely secret method of voting.

Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately issued a call to Baw Baw Shire residents and ratepayers to be ready to have their say. Residents were required to enroll before Friday, August 28.

Non-resident owners who

were enrolled at the most recent election (including any by-elections) for Baw Baw Shire Council have been automatically enrolled.

"Voting in local council elections is compulsory if you're a state-enrolled voter, and we encourage council-enrolled voters to vote," Mr Gately said.

"Your local council makes important decisions about your community facilities, services and local business community, so it's important to have your say by voting in this election."

Voters who will be away during the election period can have their ballot pack redirected to an address of their choice by making

a request in writing by Thursday, September 17.

More information is available by calling 131 832 or by visiting vec.vic.gov.au, where state-enrolled voters can also sign up to the free VoterAlert service to receive important election reminders by SMS and email.

The 2020 Victorian council

elections will be the state's largest single election program, with a predicted 4.5 million voters and over 2000 candidates participating in elections across 76 councils.

Casey City Council, Whittlesea City Council and South Gippsland Shire Council will not have general elections this October.

Reflection

Rev Sue Jacka

Authority and responsibility

I have been shocked and dismayed by the explosion in Beirut where scores of people were killed and countless others left without homes or livelihood. How could this level of risk be tolerated? Presumably those in authority were aware that if it did ignite there would be untold

damage, but they guessed the risk would be low and so they allowed this incredibly dangerous situation to happen by their complacency.

It is all too easy to limit the potential impact of our own actions on others. I believe that it's really a balance between authority and responsibility. In the case of chemical storage, I'm sure all

Australians want our chemical deposits to be managed safely and we have every right to expect that those charged with the responsibility to deal with them use their authority to ensure the correct safety standards are applied consistently.

Taking responsibility and exercising our authority to do whatever leads to the best out-

come for the whole community relates also to the pandemic. Yes, we are 'all in this together' so blaming one state or sector does little to get the virus under control. A better approach is co-operation where every one of us takes responsibility, from those given authority over aged care or quarantine or other policy right down to you and me active-

ly choosing to keep to the regulations like shop when there are fewer people and wearing our masks.

Let us each consider how our own actions may have an effect on others- and choose to make this a positive impact.



ERBS – Paul Anthony
Vietnam Veteran 3794972
5 RAR
The President, Management Committee and Members of the Trafalgar-Thorpdale RSL Sub-Branch mourn the passing of our esteemed member Secretary Paul ERBS and offer their sincere sympathy and condolence to the family.
A Mate
LEST WE FORGET

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

A Platypus is a duck designed by a committee - anon



Gary BLACKWOOD MLA
Member for Narracan

Contact my office for assistance with any State Government issue

ph - 5623 1960 e - gary.blackwood@parliament.vic.gov.au
3/24 Mason Street, Warragul 3820

Funded from Parliament's Electorate Office and Communications Budget.

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DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER EDITION:

ADVERTISING CLOSING - 12 SEPTEMBER 2020
ARTICLES CLOSE - 12 SEPTEMBER 2020

Traf masks up

By Liam Durkin

Whilst it is still hard to believe covering the bottom half of your face is now actually a way of life, local residents took the new requirement with minimal objection when the regulation was introduced last month.

Facemasks will be a requirement for the next few weeks, as the state tries to quell the spread of coronavirus outbreaks.

Some Trafalgar residents have got creative with their facemasks, displaying an abundance of colours and patterns.

Fortunately, other items that have become synonymous with COVID seem to be in good supply, including hand sanitiser and face shields.

Residents will no doubt be looking forward to enjoying the simple things once again, when-

ever that may be.

Being facetious for a moment, those familiar with the television series *South Park* may remember one episode which offers some correlation to the current pandemic, where Stan, Kyle, Kenny and Cartman are all stand-

ing together with gasmasks on, to which Kyle says "remember when life was simple and cool?"

For many, 2020 may well be the year two people named Dan occupy most of the limelight: Daniel Andrews and Dan Murphy's.

Local health care workers, business owners and community members in general will no doubt be buoyed by the cooperation of the vast majority of people around Trafalgar who have and are continuing to do the right thing.



Local legends from the Claridge family, Mitch, Brent and Tania with their masks.

ANY SYMPTOMS
GET TESTED



It's important to get tested for coronavirus at the first sign of any symptom and stay home until you get your result. Getting tested means you keep yourself, your friends, family, workplace and your community safe.

It's not over yet.

STAYING
APART KEEPS
US TOGETHER

Find out where to get tested visit vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



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Traf News

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

Traf News is published by **Traf News Inc**
2800 copies of *Traf News* are distributed each month

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Phone 5633 2591

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Editorial and advertisements can be submitted via our website or by email: articles@trafnews.com and advertisements at advert@trafnews.com

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ISSN 1444.1608



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Cr Darren Wallace seeks re-election

It's hard to believe that nearly four years have passed since first being elected to Baw Baw Shire as your East Ward Councillor in 2016. And what an honour and privilege it has been.

Nominations for local overnment elections open up on September 17 and I am seeking your endorsement and your vote to once again be your local voice on Baw Baw Shire. This election will once again be a full postal vote election with ballots being mailed out in early October and election day scheduled for October 24.

The election will be a preferential voting system election where all first preference votes are counted and the candidate with the least first preference

vote's drops out and their second preference votes distributed amongst the remaining candidates.

So when voting, vote Darren Wallace number one. If your first preference is another candidate, could I ask you place your two preference against my name.

A lot has been achieved in the past four years and there is a steady stream of important work and projects coming up in the East Ward which I'm excited about. I have worked hard to deliver for the East Ward and will continue to support the towns of Trafalgar, Yarragon, Thorpdale, Willow Grove and all other East Ward communities.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and general public health and

safety, I won't be able to get out and about this year but I can assure you if you place your trust in me for the next four years, I will continue to deliver.



Darren Wallace is seeking reelection in the upcoming council election.

Council improves environmental sustainability through strategy

An annual review of Baw Baw Shire council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy has shown continued success and progress to improve sustainability, local biodiversity and enhance community education.

The strategy outlines council's commitment and action plan to working towards a more sustainable future focusing on three key areas: natural environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development.

Originally adopted in May 2018, the four-year strategy is reviewed annually to ensure it remains on target and relevant to council's environmental sustainability goals and objectives, which includes (but is not limited to):

- protecting and sustainably managing Baw Baw's environment, preparing for impacts and consequences of climate change;
- safeguarding and enhancing the natural environment and biodiversity for present and

future generations;

- improving community health and well-being by providing access to high quality bushland reserves, waterways and open spaces;
- facilitation of more sustainable development within Baw Baw's residential growth areas and improving the sustainability of natural and built environments;
- provision of information to the community on how to improve their sustainability, reduce energy costs and water consumption and to build community resilience in preparation for extreme weather events, and;
- results of the second annual review conducted in May 2020 show many of the strategy's ongoing commitments have been implemented successfully.

Some of the key annual review highlights are:

- release of council's Sustainable Living Guide which includes practical advice and information to assist the com-

munity in living more sustainability;

- joining the Cities Power Partnership, a national program that brings together Australian towns and cities making the switch to clean energy;
- extensive works to improve drainage and upgrade popular walking tracks in Neerim South, and;
- recent solar panel installations at the Drouin Early Learning Centre and Warra Senior Citizens Centre.

Baw Baw Shire deputy mayor Cr Peter Kostos said it was pleasing to see such progress.

"As a council, we're proud to continue to deliver important projects through this strategy to create a sustainable future for our shire," he said.

"Practical initiatives from the strategy include the new Sustainable Living guide, offering relevant information to help our community to achieve a more environmentally conscious lifestyle."

Mandatory training for council election candidates

Community members seeking to stand for council at the October election are advised to register for mandatory candidate training.

Local Government Victoria will be hosting the mandatory

candidate training in an online-only format. It will be easily accessible online and take approximately an hour to complete.

Each candidate who enrolls will be able to access the training session in their own time

within the training period, which closes on September 21 2020.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, all prospective candidates must complete the mandatory training to be eligible to nominate for the

election with the Victorian Electoral Commission.

New and returning candidates must complete the training before they are able to nominate. Those who do not complete the training will be ineligible to run

for council.

Council has no involvement in the training module which is being run independently by Local Government Victoria.

To register for the mandatory training visit www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/candidate-training

www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/candidate-training

Stage three restrictions impact council services

As Baw Baw Shire and the whole of regional Victoria once again entered stage three restrictions last month, several council services are still temporarily altered or suspended.

The following changes to council services still apply for the duration of the restriction period:

Services operating with restrictions

- Customer Service Centres in Drouin and Warragul are closed. Customers are encouraged to reach council by phone, live chat and email.
- Household waste and kerbside hard waste collections will continue as normal. Transfer stations will also remain open with physical distancing limits in place and masks required. Payment by EFTPOS only.

- Maternal child health centres will close but continue nurse appointments over the phone.
- Immunisations. Check council's website for up to date locations and times.
- Kinder enrolments will continue to operate online or over the phone.
- Family day care is still operating with strict hygiene protocols in place in accordance with government requirements.
- Home maintenance and modifications. Personal care. Council supported parent groups and playgroups will continue to operate virtually.
- Libraries and mobile libraries will close, with home deliveries, online chat, tech talks, online programs and events continuing to be available for the community.

Services temporarily suspended/closed

- Advisory committee meetings.
- Committee of Management meetings.
- Council pop-ups.
- Council-managed bookable spaces.
- Public events on council land.
- Council's community bus.
- Playgrounds, camping grounds, and skate parks.
- Leisure centres and pools.
- West Gippsland Arts Centre (including Albert and Smith Restaurant) will close, with online presentation of performances and events continuing to be made available for the community.

Council staff must continue to work from home where practicable. For those who perform community-based roles and can't work from home, strict hygiene

and physical distancing limits apply. Face coverings must be worn by all employees, contractors and delivery staff at all times while on council sites and out in the community.

More information including links to other handy resources are available at council's online COVID-19 Information Hub at www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Coronavirus

Baw Baw Shire mayor Cr Danny Goss said it would take a whole community effort to get through another round of restrictions.

"I think we all understand the hardship in front of us. As the mayor of Baw Baw Shire, I want to urge and encourage all of my fellow citizens to obey the new laws and restrict your movements to essential ones only," he said.

"We have only ever had a

handful of COVID-19 cases in our shire. So many people are quite rightly asking why they are being asked to sacrifice their normal day to day activities once again.

"Of course, I don't know the exact answer to that, and can only speculate. But it is apparent that this virus could quickly gain a foothold in a regional area such as ours with devastating results.

"We are so close to Melbourne and while COVID-19 is so rampant and out of control in the metropolitan area, it would not take much to ignite the spark of an outbreak here. We have seen what has happened in other regional places such as Colac. So, we need to stay vigilant.

"Please remember to wear your face coverings and to especially keep your social distancing up. I still feel too many people around our towns are not ob-

serving appropriate distancing. We need to be aware of this as distancing is our new way of life.

"We all understand the enormous hardship these new laws bring us and that there are so many secondary consequences for so many. I think especially of those isolated at home and for those working in or running small businesses. Let's support these people as much as we can.

"We need, as a community to do whatever we can and to do the right thing and observe the law. We all need to play our part. I am very proud of our shire and of all our communities large and small.

"Let us all be good examples for each other and hopefully we can rid ourselves of this horrible virus and return to our normal way of life as soon as possible.

"Stay safe everyone!"

VOTE 1

Michael LEANEY

East Ward Baw Baw Shire

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Authorised by M. Leaney, 130 Main Rd, Waltham 3625

Please call me on 0403 233 806 if you have any issues you wish to raise at council

"Local Government elections are happening shortly. My ongoing commitment to you is to continue to work hard to improve our communities in the East Ward"

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Vox Pop

Marge O'Donnell



Stacey Mynard: Our school has sent us day by day learning. We have regular contact with the teacher, so it has made it easier for the kids to know what they have to do each day.

Photo: Prep student Yasmine Mynard working hard on writing. Paige Mynard, kinder, looking on.



Naomi Goodin: I have been lucky with such a supportive school behind me and both kids eager to learn I have not really been left guessing how I am going to get through this situation with no teaching experience and then getting the kids to engage in the work packs. With video chats between the kids and their classroom teachers becoming an everyday normality and having access to the assistance when required I have been able to enjoy the extra time with my children on an entirely new level.

Photo: Alexis Goodin and her pet python Trix during show & tell for her prep class.



Jade Farmer: The feedback everyone got from earlier in the year has definitely made returning to remote learning easier for everyone. The kids are managing the reduced workloads of this time much better than last time. Overall we've had a very positive experience with remote learning.

Photo: Alex Baker completing a science experiment using static electricity and balloons while at home remote learning

MPs hold concerns, with licence testing again on hold

By *Liam Durkin*

Last month, the Liberal Nationals called on the state government and VicRoads to clarify the licence testing arrangements that will be put into place during stage three and four restrictions in Victoria.

Before metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire was placed into stage three restrictions, the Nationals said the return to service plan VicRoads had put into place was failing, as none of the pop-up testing centres had been opened, few additional staff had been hired and the purported increase in operating days for regional testing centres had not happened.

Shadow minister for rural roads Roma Brinell held real concerns of more delays to young people getting their licences.

“Young people in rural and regional areas are already limited by the number of testing days available, with many sites only testing one or two days a week in ordinary circumstances,” she said.

“They now face even longer delays.

“For many, a licence is a necessity to get to and from work because of extremely limited public transport options.

“I have had parents contact me who are driving up to 200 kilometres a day to make sure their kids can get to and from work, while they’re waiting to get their licence.

“This places enormous pressure on a family.”

State Government supports rail motor project

The Walhalla Goldfields Railway is delighted to announce the Victorian Government has approved funding of \$151,000 to facilitate some additional key elements to enable the completion of our Rail Motor project, a single self-propelled carriage which will assist the Railway to move eventually to daily operations.

This project involves the conversion of the shell of a formerly derelict 1920s Melbourne X1 tram into a self-propelled 29 seat unit railmotor which will be used in the quieter midweek periods and for special event bookings. The railmotor requires construction to the present approved national rail safety standards, which necessitates a rigorous design specification and a new suite of construction documentation.

With these design works now substantially completed, the actual conversion is proceeding well. As the original tram body was timber, a completely new internal steel underframe was prefabricated for the Rail Motor at Yallourn.

Ms Brinell said Roads Minister Ben Carroll needed to urgently outline what his plans were to ensure rural and regional young people could get their licence as quickly as possible once restrictions were eased.

Gippsland East MLA Tim Bull held similar concerns, adding it was not right the state government had basically shut up shop and removed the ability for young drivers to sit their learner test, or undertake their probationary licence test.

“We are not asking for any undue risk to be taken here,” Mr Bull said.

“Sitting in an office (to sit your l-plate test) is allowable under the current arrangements and sitting in a car with another person not from your home (eg driving instructor for a probationary test) is also permitted under the current COVID restrictions,” Mr Bull said.

“In addition, there’s no reason computerised hazard testing can’t be delivered online, given the technology exists.

“Our youth need their licences to be able to get to work and also apply for jobs.

“We have cases at the present time where our young adults want to work, but can’t apply for jobs because they cannot get their licence.

“We do not have the public transport options that city folk have, and these things are overlooked when we make state-wide decisions.

“We already have a massive backlog of young adults who need their licences, so not only do we need it re-opened, but we need additional staff to remove the backlog.”

Mr Bull said the move was also adversely affecting several learn to drive businesses in the region.

“At present there is only very limited testing for hardship reasons, but it is not keeping up with demand or going anywhere towards servicing the needs of the community,” he said.

“I have written to the Premier on this matter and will hopefully get some positive action from the government.

“While we must remain safe, we should be able to undertake these important measures that do not increase risk but allow us to function in the country.

“I understand decisions are made quickly at this time, but this was first raised months ago,

and it is time it was rectified.”

In response, a spokesperson from Mr Carroll’s office said while the situation was not ideal, public health could not be compromised.

“Due to the latest coronavirus restrictions, all light vehicle driver tests and computer-based licence testing across Victoria have again been temporarily suspended,” the spokesperson said.

“We know this suspension will impact many Victorians, especially those whose licence test may have already been postponed due to the stage three restrictions in late March — but this is what needs to be done to protect the health and wellbeing of our staff and customers and slow the spread of coronavirus.”

“VicRoads customer service centres will remain open as an essential service, but we encourage everyone to limit their travel by accessing VicRoads services online or over the phone where possible.”

possible.”

“Driving lessons or undertaking driving practice is not a permitted activity under stage four restrictions, unless as part of necessary training associated with a job in a permitted industry.

“In regional Victoria, stage three restrictions permit supervised driving practice.”

License testing has been suspended in regional Victoria since Thursday, August 6, in line with the reintroduction of stage three restrictions.

VicRoads is communicating with customers with existing licence testing appointments in regional areas to advise of the postponement.

Since licence testing resumed on June 15 before again being suspended, VicRoads completed almost 23,000 tests across Victoria.

As of Monday, it had approved more than 10,000 applications for people experiencing undue hardship.

The hardship testing process will remain in place for stage four and stage three restricted areas to support people who need a licence for essential work purposes and for special family hardship circumstances.

Learner drivers across Victoria may attend driving lessons as part of necessary training associated with their job in a permitted industry, such as learning to drive a heavy truck or bus.

Residents living within regional Victoria living under stage three restrictions may undertake supervised driving practice.

Supervising drivers are full licence holders who may include family members, volunteer mentors and qualified driving instructors.

Police crack down on deliberate breaches

Victoria Police will “crack down” on deliberate Chief Health Officer directive breaches, as police tick over the 100,000 mark for COVID-19 checks since enforcement began in March.

Police have issued more than 546 fines since stage three “stay at home” restrictions were reintroduced throughout metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire.

Booze buses have been deployed to road stops and checkpoints to monitor traffic flow, and police are using automatic number plate recognition to scan registration details and identify the residential addresses of licence holders.

Victoria Police are also conducting checks across the state, including the main arterials to regional Victoria.

As part of operation Sentinel, police continue to make house

visits to coronavirus cases and close contacts who have been directed to self-isolate, as well as patrol public places across Victoria.

While most Victorians are doing the right thing and following the directions of the Chief Health Officer, police say there have been some disappointing examples of people blatantly disregarding restrictions.

Last month, more than 151 infringements had been issued at vehicle checkpoints (with 85,886 vehicles checked at main arterial roads in total), given to people attempting to cross into regional Victoria without a valid reason.

Other examples of people who received fines include 34 people who attended a party at a property in Docklands (and the owner of the property who faces a fine for operating accommodation in a restricted zone), two

men in a car together “playing Pokémon” on their phones and a man who refused to leave a Dandenong fast food outlet dining area after buying food, even after being asked to by staff.

When police spoke to the male, he admitted he was completely aware he was breaching Chief Health Officer directions, and so was issued with an infringing notice.

Anyone who breaches the CHO direction faces on-the-spot fines of \$1652 for individuals and \$9913 for businesses.

The community can continue to report non-urgent crime, as well as breaches of the Chief Health officer’s directives, by phoning the

Police Assistance line on 131 444 or submitting an online report at police.vic.gov.au/pa

Last bushwalks before restrictions in Regional Victoria

Jo Leviston

July was a hive of activity for Strzelecki Bushwalking club. Bushwalks, kayaking, overnight hikes and cycling offered a smorgasbord of fun and exercise for the local community.

Many participants were overwhelmed with the beauty of

our region with recent activities incorporating Wilson’s Promontory, Yarra Bulga National Park, Morwell National Park, Mt Erica and surrounds.

With Stage 3 Covid restrictions now in place the activities program is forced to be postponed till further notice.

Members are encouraged to continue exercising with household members or with one person from outside the home. Meetings will revert to using Zoom and are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.



Ed led a group of 10 cyclists from Anderson to Inverloch

Alberts Corner



People love chopping wood. In this activity one immediately sees results.
— Albert Einstein



The rail motor has been regauged with new bogies

to the Victorian Government for this assistance and also acknowledge the support of local Members of Parliament who advocated on behalf of the Railway”.

Further information can be obtained at www.walhallaarail.com.au

in Australian history that a tram has been converted into a self-propelled train railmotor. It is technically complex and we are aiming to try and retain as much of the original character of the former tram, given today’s more rigorous and safety oriented design standards.” Mr Milbourne said.

“We are extremely grateful

This is probably the first time

use of the Latrobe Valley’s engineering and technical design capabilities on the rail motor.

Local podcast series episode update

A number of episodes have been added to local journalist Liam Durkin’s podcast series since the last issue of Traf News.

Recent episodes now accessible are:

Lachlan Sim (two parts).

In part one, local football product Lachlan Sim talks about his colourful playing days at the Brisbane Bears, as well as a brief

stint playing alongside the likes of Tony Modra and Mark Ricciuto at West Adelaide.

In part two, Simmy lifts the lid on his surprise appointment as senior coach of the Morwell Football Club, his time at Gippsland Power, his coaching philosophies, and of course, his lengthy career at the Moe Football-Netball Club.

Krissy Travers

Well-known local netball

coach Krissy Travers recalls some anecdotes from a career spanning many years.

Power Shock

The story of how Wonthaggi overcame a 45 point three quarter time deficit to win the 2014 Gippsland League preliminary final.

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

ON THE BEAT WITH TRAFALGAR POLICE

Sergeant Chris Nott

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

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

ROAD SAFETY

No drink driving doesn’t need any more explanation. With current COVID restrictions there should be no one out drink driving as most alcohol will be consumed at home. Trafalgar Police will be zero tolerance on this issue.

Trafalgar Police and members of the public have noticed an increase in Tractor drivers on their mobile phones whilst driving. This practice is highly dangerous, Trafalgar Police will be displaying a zero-tolerance to any road user who is found using a mobile phone whilst driving. Trafalgar Police would also like to remind all rural producers of the importance of adhering to all road rules whilst driving tractors and to remain vigilant as to the responsibility of driving a large slow moving piece of machinery that requires the user to display the upmost of safety practices.

Fines- SLOW DOWN on the roads, don’t make us issue you a speeding fine. Watch your speed and arrive safely.

My advice is to not provide any details and not interact if possible, ask for return contact details and then verify the details. Do not open links online as these programs may contain viruses and spyware that will hack your devices. Legitimate contact isn’t done this way, most departments have processes to follow. Visit the Stay Smart Online safety and security website. This is provided by the government to help everyone understand the risks and simple steps you can take to protect your personal and financial information over the phone and online. Victoria Police website has information If you have been a victim of Fraud.

BURGLARY / THEFT

Your chance to make a difference. It is important that we always lock cars, homes and rural buildings even though we are a country community we are still vulnerable and unfortunately opportunistic people will take advantage of our relaxed country lifestyle.

SUS ACTIVITIES AND PEOPLE

Please report to 000 any suspicious behaviour or crime. Vehicles or people loitering around that you may feel suspicious of. This will help us work as a team to tackle crime prevention.

We need to know any patterns that are emerging within our community. We need to know who is out and about and it helps us decide what courses of action to take.

Trafalgar is located on the Highway and unfortunately an easy target for outsiders to come in and commit crime from the east or west of our area. This is your chance to help police and be involved, your details will remain confidential along with any information.

Trafalgar Police and the greater Trafalgar community which encompasses all the smaller towns in our service area must work together to tackle our local police and community issues. We are a TEAM and look forward to making Trafalgar a better place to live and work.

Next Issue we will discuss Cyber Safety, Road Safety, Crime Prevention strategies.

Stay Safe

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

still familiar and it's still us having fun with everyone that comes in to visit."

As people come in for their coffee fix before work or after an early morning run, Nick and Lara said it was great to get so much support from the Trafalgar community.

"The support has been amazing! It's still a revolving door of customers and we are so thankful for that," they said.

"We've been able to develop a really close relationship with customers so it's good to check in with each other and be a part of more than just a face value relationship.

"We've literally grown up in this town and a lot of our customers have watched us grow up or grown up with us so that's a special connection that we want to give back to and support just as much as they support us."

With restrictions still to play out, Nick said Trafalgar businesses needed local support now more than ever.

"It's crucial at all times truth be told. But this pandemic has brought a lot of small businesses to its knees. Small local businesses are experiencing the most unprecedented times they've

seen," he said.

"To make the effort to pop your head in to your locals around Trafalgar right now makes such a difference.

"Trafalgar has always been so community minded and through initiatives such as 'Try Traf First', shopping local has always been at the forefront."

A few doors down from Coffee Life, local clothing and sporting outlet Sport 2 Street is also dealing with COVID challenges as best it can.

The retail sector has been one of the industries hit hardest by the pandemic, as stores are finding it virtually impossible to work on their business rather than in their business.

Sport 2 Street owner Traci Hammond said the pandemic had thrown up a whole host of issues, but was determined to fight through it.

"We continue to take it day by day and adjust accordingly," she said.

"A significant challenge for us as a retail fashion outlet is juggling of stock levels, we work on an indent practice so stock is ordered three to six months in advance so it's challenging to be able to trade through the stock.

"Whilst under stage three we can remain in trade it's a catch-22 when there's restric-

tions placed on the community."

The situation has led to the store implementing some tech-savvy ideas, such as ordering through Facebook and contactless delivery.

With initiatives like this in mind, Traci said she was remaining upbeat that things would be better in the long run.

"It's challenging enough running a business in general, but to add COVID times to this, needless to say it's been hard yards, exhausting and stressful," she said.

"But we at Sport 2 Street have continued to remain optimistic and we hope this will go a long way to getting us through the other side."

Sport 2 Street stocks a large range of well-known brands and is also the place local sporting clubs come to arrange apparel.

Traci said she was thankful for any community backing her business received, saying it certainly did not go unnoticed.

"Our community and customer support is significant for us, they are the heart and soul of what keeps us going through these tough times," she said.

"Without them we wouldn't be here to challenge ourselves again through COVID stage three 2.0.

"We have seen a strong focus

on support local and support small. This is what we need to get us through.

"We are truly thankful for those who support local who support small."

In true COVID style, Sport 2 Street has stocked proper fabric facemasks made by iconic sportswear brand Champion.

As the town's economy needs to keep churning, local residents have been reminded that shopping locally means money stays in Trafalgar and the benefits are reciprocated down the track.

Trafalgar and District Community Bank branch manager Phil Drummond said the flow on effects of shopping local are far reaching.

"The community bank was established by this community to help build the prosperity of the community, so our practice and philosophy is to buy locally whenever we can and I would encourage everyone else to do the same," he said.

To help ease some of the burden, Baw Baw Shire Council has adopted a 'Hardship Policy COVID-19 Addendum' to support community members and businesses facing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic.

The addendum was endorsed at last month's council meeting and supported unanimously by

all councillors.

Under the addendum, eligible ratepayers experiencing financial hardship can apply to defer their 2020-21 rates and enter a payment plan with council without incurring interest.

Eligible ratepayers can enter into a payment arrangement with council comprising an agreed schedule of payments including amount and frequency, with the full amount to be cleared by May 31 2021.

Eligible ratepayers must be able to demonstrate a genuine effort to meet obligations and have a sound record of previous payment.

All ratepayers have the opportunity to provide evidence of financial hardship and enter into a negotiated payment plan.

The addendum was effective from August 12 and will last to May 31 2021 (or as revised by council) and is an addendum to council's existing Hardship Policy.

Baw Baw Shire mayor Cr Danny Goss said the addendum was in place to help those in need.

"2020 has been an unexpected and tough year on many community members and local businesses who now find themselves in financial hardship as a result of COVID-19," he said.

"Managing financial hardship is a shared responsibility and we know that council has a part to play in supporting the community during this time.

"If you are experiencing financial hardship, please get in contact with us to see what can be arranged."

Ratepayers can apply for financial hardship support via council's website at www.baw-bawshire.vic.gov.au/COVID-HardshipApplication.

Applications must include details of the circumstances preventing you from meeting your financial obligations.

Council will consider all applications confidentially and objectively based on the information provided and will advise of its decision in writing within 15 business days of receiving the completed application.

For more information, or to ask any questions, please call council on 1300 229 229.

Authors note: before anyone loses their mind, please note I write Traf News articles on a voluntary basis and don't have time to ring around every business in town to see how they are going.

AROUND THE HISTORICAL Society

By Dianne Ireland and Jean Huffer

All meetings and working bees have been cancelled for the foreseeable future but if you have any queries, Jean Huffer can be reached on 5633 1960.

Jean is the archivist for the society and has a wealth of knowledge on all things related to Trafalgar.

Don't forget the current Gazette is still on sale at both the newsagents and the post office for \$4 per copy. Well worth a read, particularly the article on Mt Speed.

The next scheduled meeting of the Trafalgar and District Historical Society is on October 15 but only time will tell!

With time on their hands, members of the Gippsland History Group Facebook page are posting photos from their family photo albums, many of whom are Trafalgar residents from days gone by.

It seems Trafalgar was a

very active sporting community, even in the 1920s and 1930s. We have some photos from this era, but if you have any you think would be of interest, we would love to see them and perhaps copy for our collection.

As the photos donated from the Apex Club show, names on the back of photos are important for future reference. Hopefully someone is able to help Jean with these.

The society was very pleased to receive the donation of a large number of Trafalgar Apex Club records from Murray Turner.

They include past minute books, correspondence and financial records which provide a wonderful trove of the Trafalgar Apex activities, and very good primary sources for the club's activities.

They also include a multitude of photographs, many of which are undated and not

named. We would like to thank Murray for thinking of us, and ask if any former members would like to help us sort them out, when we are back in operation. Perhaps Traf News readers would give a hand, too.

The accompanying photo one shows left to right: R. Rob Coulson, Vic Hill, Bernie Murray and John Duck, who was the guest speaker (date unknown).

We were not so lucky with photo two which is undated and has no names, though the third man from the right is possibly Tony Cahill.

We would really appreciate any of the names readers can supply. They are possibly all new board members, all would be under 40, and facial hairs seem to be the fashion.

If you can help, please phone Jean Huffer on 5633 1960.



This photo from Trafalgar Apex Club is undated and has no names, though the third man from the right is possibly Tony Cahill. Any one with information in encouraged to phone the Trafalgar and District Historical Society.



An Trafalgar Apex club photo taken at an unknown date. Pictured are Rob Coulson, Vic Hill, Bernie Murray and John Duck, who was the guest speaker.

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Searching for information on old Trafalgar Racing Club

By Jean Huffer

The Trafalgar and District Historical Society would very much like the help of Traf News readers in locating any photos of the Trafalgar Turf Club.

This very early club was first formed in 1903 as the Trafalgar Racing Club and started horse racing in a paddock off Waterloo Road just east of Lock's Creek.

In 1908 the club purchased land now owned by Mr Eric Johnson at the western entrance to the town and was renamed 'The Trafalgar Turf Club'.

It had a curved metal sign over the entrance from the Highway reading Trafalgar Turf Club, and a corrugated iron fence ran along the front of the property with large letters advertising

Swallows & Ariel Biscuits and Griffiths Tea which remained for many years after the club disbanded in 1930 and the land sold.

Apart from reports in the early local papers the only memorabilia the society has is a small ticket reading 'Trafalgar Turf Club, admit one to Bird Cage - price 2/- (20 cents)'.

After being cut out of dense ti-tree and scrub the local paper described the course as a "thing of beauty" with spacious lawns and a grandstand.

In later years it was also used for motor bike racing. A photo of this club would be a wonderful addition to the society's collection.

The other photo that has eluded the society is of 'Campbell Square'. This was a small Reserve/Park established by the Country Roads Board (later Vic Roads) in 1924 and was situated between the Methodist Church and the Highway.

It had a wire mesh fence around it, a palm tree, a small lawn and the usual shrubs and flowers. Some years later the then Narracan Shire Council officially named it 'Campbell Square' in honour of local man Harry Campbell who took it upon himself to tend it and keep it tidy.

If anyone can help please phone Jean Huffer on 5633 1960.



A ticket from the old Trafalgar Turf Club.

Historical Society receives letter from the top

By Jean Huffer

The Trafalgar and District Historical Society was very pleased to receive a letter in late February from Richard Broome, president of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

He wrote: I have perused the December 2019 edition of the Gazette of the TDHS. It reveals once again how

important and how embedded local historical societies are to their communities.

I was delighted by the article on Elsa Ryan, what an amazing woman, and was so pleased she survived that tram accident to make such a contribution to the district. Your old news and 2019 news also is important to report.

My best wishes for future issues of the Gazette.

Richard Broome, President R.H.S.V.

Our thanks to Richard Broome, it's good to know we are appreciated!

Forty years of conservation at Uralla Nature Reserve

By Chris Mynard

Almost 40 years ago, with the financial assistance of the R.E. Ross Trust, Trust for Nature purchased almost 45 hectares of natural bushland on the edge of Trafalgar, a short walk south of Trafalgar along Giles Rd.

The previous owners, the Donaldson's, wanted the property preserved, for the benefit of the community of Trafalgar to enjoy as a place for passive recreation.

Public access to this unique piece of remnant Strzelecki rainforest named Uralla Nature Reserve has been supported by a partnership between Trust for Nature and local council, (then named Narracan Shire) and now Baw Baw Shire who continue to manage the reserve, along with the ongoing commitment and support of dedicated individuals who made up the committee of management, which has evolved over time into the current Friends of Uralla group.

What is the future for Uralla over the next 40 years and beyond?

Many projects have been started and completed, some are ongoing and there are more yet to begin that require skills that our small team doesn't have. Friends of Uralla needs you!

Long term studies and monitoring of the various plant and animal species, feral animal and weed control, interpretative his-

toric and environmental signage, water quality monitoring/silt run off and promotion such as website/social media development, are just some of the activities that we need to continue to address if we are to fully understand and maximise what we have in Uralla and how to best preserve and enhance it.

A long term management plan was formulated with Trust for Nature and the Baw Baw Shire, to help prioritise projects to preserve and enhance the reserve.

Fencing and maintaining public walking access tracks were the first tasks undertaken. Regular track maintenance continues to allow all ages to walk through the various vegetation zones from the car park up to the highest point on Cooper Track.

Along with the locals, regular visitors come from as far as Bairnsdale in the east and Melbourne suburbs in the west to walk, bird watch, take photos, relax and enjoy this special place that is right in our back yard.

Friends of Uralla have been monitoring visitor numbers for two years and the current COVID-19 crisis has seen the number of walkers in Uralla more than double.

While this adds a little to our track works, it is pleasing to see so many people discovering what the reserve has to offer.

Are you interested?

In the past, we have conduct-

ed a fun run at Uralla, Spring in Nature night time events, spotlighting for night animals, moth surveys, annual bird counts are conducted by Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists, bushwalking group visits, school education visits, seed propagation ac-



Friends of Uralla member repairing some steps in Uralla Nature Reserve.



Earth mushbroom found at Uralla.



Sun gleaming through the winters morning at Uralla.

National Water Week poster competition still on

Gippsland Water's National Water Week poster competition is on again, giving students the chance to get creative and think about conserving water for future generations.

Gippsland Water managing director Sarah Cumming explained that the poster competition forms an important part of Gippsland Water's community education program.

"Our education program focusses on using water wisely and the importance of water for human health," she said.

"The National Water Week poster competition is a fun way for the youngest members of our community to think innovatively about solutions that will help protect precious resources as our population increases.

Primary school students are invited to design a poster that captures the Reimagining our water future theme.

"Water is our most precious natural resource," Ms Cumming said.

"This year's theme is all about thinking of clever ways we can use and re-use water to ensure there is enough for future generations.

"We're encouraging local kids to get creative and illustrate their innovative ideas."

Individual prizes are up for grabs and the winning school will receive \$500 to put towards a sustainability project or Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) resources.

National Water Week makes a splash across Australia in the third week of October each year. Entries must be submitted to Gippsland Water by Friday, September 11 2020.

Entry form and further details are available at www.gippswater.com.au/education.



Last years winning entry by Sidney from Buln Buln Primary School.



Shanyyn Marx and Alyssa perk's masterpiece on the driveway, using colour to cheer people up. Pictured: Shanyyn with the colourful driveway

Big challenge for this year's VCE cohort

By Liz Bell

For VCE student Corey Jacobs, studying from home hasn't induced the mental anguish and anxiety that it has for many students.

But he has seen it all around him, as some of his peers lose focus without face-to-face teaching, and others have had the added pressure of juggling study with caring for younger siblings, or trying to adapt to remote learning with limited internet access.

Like thousands of VCE students around the state, Corey and his friends welcomed the state government's announcement last month that every VCE student will be individually assessed as part of their final year exams because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the disruption to the school year, including remote learning and reduced access to teachers.

While regional students have always had a special consideration card up their sleeves, the announcement re-frames the process and makes student disadvantage a little clearer.

Teachers will be asked where they ranked students, and where would they have ranked them if it wasn't for COVID-19, and why.

In addition, the government has provided an additional \$28.5 million boost to mental health support services targeted to struggling students.

While Corey says he has received fantastic support from his teachers and doesn't feel he has missed any important learning, school closures and the uncertainties surrounding expectations, exams and unit requirements had undoubtedly heightened the sense

of panic for many.

"It's the unknown that can be stressful for students, just not knowing what was going to happen as the year progressed, if we will come back to school after this closure, and not being sure of everything that will happen between now and the end of the school year," he said.

"It was a huge relief when they released an exam date, it was great just to have something to work towards and something that gave us confirmation that we would finish school this year."

Not being able to mix with friends in a school or social setting has also been a struggle for many students.

Corey, who has always been heavily involved in local sports, says he has missed his sporting pursuits and the social bonding that comes with being part of the year 12 cohort.

"There has been no way to get away from the pressures of study — no sport, not hanging out with your mates, and we have had to skip some of the things you expect to do in year 12, like 18th birthdays, muck up day and even the valedictory ceremony, which is still uncertain.

"While I know we will get through this, that's been one of the hardest things."

Corey, who hopes to study outdoor education next year, said students had been forced to deal with so many enormous changes this year that it was bound to open their eyes to their wider responsibilities.

"We've been seeing how the entire world has responded to a crisis, and how we are part of that — it has to change the way you see things and expand your understanding of global issues."

Spreading cheer with colour

Shanyyn Marx

Trafalgar Primary students Alyssa and Shanyyn have created a huge colourful drawing on their driveway, as a way to spread some lockdown cheer.

Shanyyn said "We decided to create a huge colourful drawing to make people happy".

The girls really want people to be safe during these Covid times, and wanted Trafalgar to embrace their colourful cheer.

"We just wanted to spread some cheer in the tough times, during this Covid lockdown, and we wanted to see people smile" continued Shanyyn.

Thanks to further support

Boost for Youth Mental Health

Baw Baw Shire received a significant boost in mental health first aid instructors recently thanks to the generous support from Baw Baw Big Blokes.

School and agency representatives underwent training to become accredited teen mental health first aid instructors. It is just one of the components of the rural youth mental health and suicide prevention initiative called Live4Life.

Live4Life is an award winning, unique, evidence-based youth mental health and suicide prevention initiative that began in the Macedon Ranges and is now operating in six rural shires across Victoria.

Live4Life builds young people's capacity to recognise and seek help for mental health concerns and builds the capacity of the whole community to look after and support their young people.

The Live4Life model aims to:

- increase the mental health knowledge of all year 8 and year 10 students;
- increase the mental health knowledge of teachers, parents and carers;
- reduce barriers to seeking help for emerging or current mental health issues in young people;
- increase awareness of local professional help, and;
- decrease stigma and build community resilience to address common mental health problems.

A dedicated and committed community partnership group, led by Latrobe Regional Hospital, that includes Baw Baw Shire council, Department of Education, Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network, Communi-

ties That Care and all secondary colleges across the entire community of Baw Baw have been working tirelessly since 2019 to bring Live4Life to the local area.

The Live4Life model is instrumental in building the capacity of the community to respond to

mental health concerns and LRH is committed to leading this work with its partners to ensure the mental health of young people is supported.

Live4Life is led by young people but it involves everybody in the community from parents, teachers, health professionals, sporting coaches and community leaders. The most impressive thing about the program is that it is genuinely grassroots.

Live4Life has been successfully established in the Macedon Ranges, Benalla and Glenelg where it has increased rates of help-seeking amongst young people. Gatekeeper adult participants are also more confident and competent to support young people with mental health issues.

An independent evaluation of Live4Life found that nine in 10 students who had been involved in Live4Life were having conversations with others about mental health, which indicates that Live4Life can drive conversations about mental health amongst young people and their families.

Further more 76 per cent of students would tell an adult about a crisis situation in comparison to 59 per cent prior to Live4Life. Plus, 82 per cent of adults were more confident to respond to a young person with a mental health need, in comparison to 32 per cent before Live4Life training.

The evaluation revealed that in a few circumstances, Live4Life had been attributed with saving a life.

Students in year 8 and 10 will receive mental health education to teach them what to look out for in terms of a developing mental health problem, how to assist a friend and connect to a responsible and trusted adult.

Live4Life also educates teachers, parents, carers and the broader community in Youth Mental Health First Aid, increasing the capacity of the local community to be aware and to be able to better support young people who might be experiencing mental health is-

ues or a mental health crisis.

To deliver these mental health education sessions annually to almost 2000 students requires a concentrated effort and is resource intensive.

Baw Baw Big Blokes have very generously agreed to fund the delivery of Teen Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training to a team of dedicated and experienced members of the Baw Baw community to champion this work.

Baw Baw Big Blokes Barbeque vice president Andrew Schreyer said it was a very important initiative.

"The mental health of young people in our community has been a focus for the Baw Baw Big Blokes Barbeque for some years," he said.

"We've funded mental health first aid training in local secondary schools in recent years and the opportunity to fund the Live4Life initiative was one we grabbed with both hands.

"We wish the program every success and trust it will help lead to improved mental health in young people locally. Ultimately we believe the program will save lives."

Youth Live4Life Community Engagement Coordinator, Ms. Annie Rowland will provide support to the Live4Life Baw Baw Partnership Group throughout the implementation phase.

Baw Baw Shire mayor Cr Danny Goss said the programs benefits would be far reaching.

"My role really is to walk alongside the implementation of all components of the model and support the Baw Baw community every step of the way," he said.

"The mental health of our young people is paramount. Live4Life has had a positive impact on other regional communities and we are so pleased that we can now bring Live4Life to Baw Baw Shire.

Valley Meats among agribusiness finalists

Food and Fibre Gippsland has announced 34 finalists for the 2020 excellence in Agribusiness Awards, including Valley Meats Trafalgar, which has been announced in the 'Excellence in Workforce Capability' and 'Excellence in Adaption to Change' categories.

The awards program received 115 entries from across Gippsland, with organisers overwhelmed considering COVID-19 had been a big distraction for many agribusinesses.

Head judge Paul Ford was impressed with the quality of entrants and subsequent finalists.

"All 115 applications are worthy, and the three or four candidates we have shortlisted in each category have rich and diverse stories that showcase all that's great about Gippsland's vibrant \$7 billion food and fibre sector," he said.

"The judging panel's ongoing insight and effort to select winners of each category and develop these stories is deeply valued.

"The end result of sharing the stories with key stakeholders is to attract talented people to develop a career in the sector, attract new investment, position Gippsland food and fibre as a priority for the three levels of government, and to mobilise new innovations across the value chain."

The competition adopts a two-tiered approach with three premier awards: Agribusiness of the Year, Young Agribusiness leader of the Year, and Female Agribusiness leader of the Year, followed by a range of 12 awards across the entire food and fibre industry.

All finalists have the chance to win the Agribusiness of the Year award.

The prize is a scholarship to attend KPMG's seven-day International Agri-Food Tech Traction Tour, valued at \$15,000.

Excellence awards program manager Kate Gunn was also pleased with the impressive lineup of finalists.

"This year we have managed to attract entrants from a terrific cross section of industry, size and location which is very important in promoting our region's agribusinesses and truly celebrating Gippsland," she said.

"I wish all finalists the best of luck in the next round of judging,

and look forward to sharing their stories in the lead up to the winners being announced."

The second round of judging began last month, with the panel aiming to identify those with the strongest track record and who could present a clear strategy for the future of their agribusiness.

Food and Fibre Gippsland chief executive Nicola Pero said the industry recognition program had grown in strength every year.

"Food and Fibre Gippsland, together with all the partners, are proud these awards help profile the sector, business successes and provenance of our Gippsland region," she said.

"The winners will be announced at a high-profile industry gala presentation event scheduled for November 20.

"Work is underway on developing online or socially distanced event options for this presentation in preparation for changes driven by COVID restrictions."

Finalists:

Young Agribusiness Leader of the Year:

Rob Bayley (Blackwood Pig-ger), Dave Caldwell (Coommoor Pastoral Co), Victoria Green (Bacchus Beef), Ben Murphy (Tambo Valley Honey).

Female Agribusiness Leader of the Year:

Victoria Green (Bacchus Beef), Jill Noble (The Sheep Show Podcast), Gabrielle Moore (Sailors Grave Brewing), Ferial Zekiman (Maffra Cheese Co).

Excellence in Service to the Food and Fibre Industry:

Vic Engineering and Silos, Maffra; Warragul Farmers' Market, Warragul; Xcheque, Glen Alvie.

Excellence in Sustainability:

Flavorite Tomatoes, Warragul; Mannys Market, Morwell; Mulgowie Farming, Maffra; Schreurs and Sons, Clyde.

Excellence in Workforce Capability:

Greenham Gippsland, Moe; Jaydee: Cows Create Careers, Loch; Victoria; Valley Meats, Trafalgar.

Excellence in Entrepreneurship:

Berry Sensation, Shady Creek; Burra Brewing, Korumburra; Little Bumble Wraps, Warragul; South Gippsland Dairy, Korumburra.

Excellence in Food and Drink Manufacturing (large):

Greenham Gippsland, Moe; Maffra Cheese Co, Tinamba; VIP-lus Dairy, Toora.

Excellence in Fibre Industry:

Alberton Timber, Alberton; Forge Creek Lambs, Eagle Point; Just Add Trees, Buln Buln; Radial Timber, Yarram.

Excellence in Research and Development:

Berry Sensation, Shady Creek; Schreurs and Sons, Clyde; Soil-kee, Hallora; South Gippsland Dairy, Korumburra.

Excellence in Food and Drink Manufacturing (small):

Burra Brewing, Korumburra; Gurney's Cidery, Foster; Sailors Grave Brewing, Orbost; Tone-made, Inverloch.

Excellence in Innovation:

Alberton Timber, Alberton; Berry Sensation, Shady Creek; Gurney's Cidery, Foster; Soilkee, Hallora.

Excellence in Exporting:

Greenham Gippsland, Moe; Hussey and Co, Newry; Omnia, Morwell.

Excellence in Collaborative Partnerships:

Omnia, Morwell; Sailors Grave Brewing, Orbost; Snowy River Black Garlic, Jarrahmond; Totally Renewable Phillip Island, Phillip Island.

Excellence in Adaption to Change:

Coommoor Pastoral Co, Lindenow South; Purely Goats Milk Soap, Nilma; Schreurs and Sons, Clyde; Victoria Valley Meats, Trafalgar.

Probus President supporting Backpacks for Kids

John Atwell

Probus President Carol Achterdenbosch has been busy filling in the days by knitting for Backpacks4VICKids, which she has been involved with for some time now.

Carol said "Our purpose is to aid children going into foster care and to aid foster care families.

"Often children are placed quickly into foster care without much more than what they are wearing at the time. We strive to provide them with a few essential items to help with the transition."

New member Wen Venables, along with other helpers including Peggy Fisher, are busy knitting puppy blankets for guide dogs.

These are used when the puppies are with their mother and then moved away so they can take familiar smells with them.

A new development for Pro-

bus is Annual Probus Day. From Probus South Pacific to coincide with United Nations Day of Older Persons across the World.

This special day will be on 1 October, 2020 and the theme is 'Staying Connected and Active with Probus - the key to happy retirement' The committee will need to consider in which way we can celebrate this new idea.

Probus Trafalgar is still in hibernation after six months since our last meeting in March. The March meeting was our AGM when we elected a new committee and looked forward to what this new Probus year would bring. Little did we know then!

We do hope that we will be back with activities before we are due to have another AGM in March 2021. Maybe we will not need to have a new committee?

We have missed out on a lot of chances to get together over this

last six months with no committee meetings, no general meetings with morning tea, no dine outs, no trips, no rambles etc and an estimated 955 chances to socialize. That's a lot!

I am sure that Probians everywhere are keeping busy and finding ways to socialize and keep in touch with friends and family.

Many Probus clubs are not holding meetings and are busy keeping their members active. Some of the ideas are to run a photo competition in the garden, which would be good at this time with Spring just around the corner.

There are so many types of daffodils out now and hyacinths, camellias and many more. Another idea is to start up a gardening club via zoom or other technology.



Probus President Carol Achterdenbosch has been knitting for Backpacks4VICKids

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Cr Darren WALLACE

East Ward Councillor
Baw Baw Shire

Contact me for all your Local Government Issues
Roads – Rates – Rubbish – Recreation – Planning
ph. 0476 000 053 email. Darren.Wallace@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

General Motors Holden production during WW2

By Bob Moss

On September 5 1936 Prime Minister Menzies declared Australia at war. The Australian armed forces were less prepared than at the outbreak of World War 1 in August 1914. The Royal Australian Navy, the best-prepared of the three services, was small and equipped with only two Heavy Cruisers, four Light Cruisers, two Sloops, five obsolete Destroyers and a number of small and auxiliary warships. The Army comprised a small permanent cadre of 3000 men and 80,000 part-time militiamen who had volunteered for training with the Combined Maritime Forces.

Australia was very lacking in both materials and tools, and with Britain being in a similar position and America at peace, Australia was forced to produce the materials and adapt the existing tools required to supply their own forces.

Various appointments were made with Mr Laurence J. Hartnett, the Managing Director of GMH, appointed as Director of Ordnance Production and Minister of Munitions.

All the GMH factories, as well as all other factories around Australia, immediately went onto war production. Much of the tooling

available had to be redesigned or adapted to carry out the type of machining that was so vastly different to producing car bodies. Typical was the recovering of a lathe from a junk heap where it had been rusting for twenty years, another was dug out of an Adelaide scrap iron yard.

As many of the male workers had enlisted in the armed forces the women took over their positions and the many other tasks required for the duration of the war.

Typical of the problems were the urgent need for the two pound anti tank gun. There were only two in Australia both at the Maribyrnong Ordnance Factory with a set of drawings. As the decision was made that all the gun production would be at Woodville South Australia, one gun was loaded on to a truck and put on the Overlander train at Spencer Street, after much protest from VR, Fleet Logistics Support Squadron, who required a military member to accompany the gun.

The 25 pounder Howitzer was another big problem as there was neither a sample or drawings of the gun. A set of the drawings was located in Canada and a rush trip was made from there

to America to put them on an American ship coming to Australia. Both guns were then shown to contractors who selected the components that they would supply to GMH for assembly.

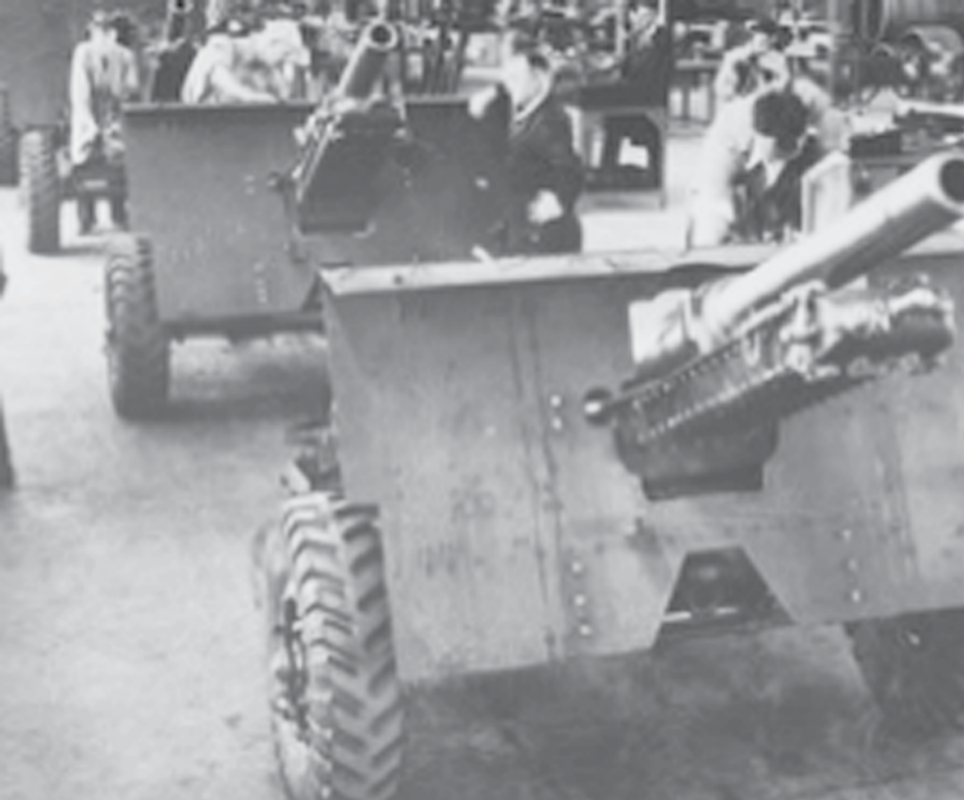
Fearing the surrender of Singapore in 1943, and the loss of a large amount of tools and materials held there, a late dash was planned to fly Hartnett and some experts there with \$500,000 to collect what they could and return it to Australia.

Their plane was about to take off on the last leg into Singapore when they were told that that Singapore had surrendered to the Japanese.

From 1936 to 1945 GMH equipment production included aeroplane wings, engines and fuselage sections which were then sent to Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation, 200 different types of motor vehicles, water craft from dinghies to work boats, torpedos, many munitions and assorted canvas goods from tents to gaiters.

Many of these items are on display at the Trafalgar Holden Museum.

The museum has currently acquired a 25 Pound Cannon and hopes to have it on display in the museum in the near future.



The 25 pound Howitzer in production.



JR Holden and IJ Hatnett inspect a two pounder anti tank gun.

Researching family military service

Last month (August 15) marked the 75th anniversary of the end of World War 2.

About one million Australians served during World War 2.

Gippsland MHR and Veterans' Affairs Minister Darren Chester is encouraging people to undertake family history research to "uncover and capture the stories of these one million people and ensure they live on.

"For families, it is a chance to learn more about someone who served, and for the nation, it is a time to gain a greater understanding of our involvement in this major conflict," Mr Chester said.

"All we need to do is 'just ask' the question – what did my family do during the war?"

"How do I learn more about Australia's involvement in the Second World War?"

Mr Chester said it was easier than ever before to research a family member's military history.

"The Department of Veterans' Affairs has brought together all of its nominal rolls, including the Second World War nominal roll, into one website to make it easier to search and find information on those Australians who served in this war," he said.

The National Archives of Australia is working to digitise all of its World War 2 records and the Australian War Memorial also has a wide range of useful information.

Those who need a little help to get started can visit the Researching Australians at War page on the Anzac Portal – www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au

[anzacportal.dva.gov.au](http://www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au)

"I encourage all Australians to look into their family's Second World War history and capture these stories, and to visit anzacportal.dva.gov.au/vp75 to learn more about a war that changed our nation's history forever," Mr Chester said.



World War 2 soldiers move through Melbourne. (Photo: State Library of Victoria).

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NEW & IMPROVED

Honouring the one million that served

By The Hon Darren Chester, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel.

The Second World War had a significant and enduring impact on all Australians.

Around 20 years had passed since the end of the First World War and during those two decades our country endured significant challenges, from losing 60,000 men, caring for the many thousands that came back, the Great Depression and at points, sky-rocketing unemployment.

And while all these events had a profound effect on Australia, the Second World War changed and shaped our nation forever, redefining aspects of the economic, domestic and international relations landscape, and influencing social issues such as

female employment and Indigenous service.

Almost one million Australians served during the Second World War, fighting in theatres of war across the globe, from Europe and the Middle East through South East Asia to the Pacific. Keep in mind, this was at a time when the total population of Australia was around seven million.

Over 39,000 died and some 30,000 Australian service men and women were made prisoners of war. Most of those taken prisoner were captured by the Japanese during their advance and capture of Singapore in early 1942. While many Australians

who were prisoners of war of Germany had a strong chance of returning home at the end of the war, over one-third of prisoners of the Japanese died in captivity.

Australian women played a vital role, serving as nurses overseas, in auxiliary services in Australia and overseas and as workers throughout the war, maintaining our agricultural and manufacturing interests at home.

We should never forget that this was a war not only fought on foreign lands, but one that came to the Australian mainland. From air raids on Darwin, Broome and across Northern Australia, to midget submarine attacks on Sydney Harbour, there were hun-

dreds of Australians killed.

The fear of an all-out attack on Australia by Japanese forces was very real.

Australia's armed forces employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in de-facto units to carry out reconnaissance of the northern Australian coastline, where they assisted locating Japanese and Allied aircraft crash sites.

The understanding and connection to country that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had proved to be of great benefit in the defence of the Australian mainland and islands to the north.

And we should never forget

the powerful bonds created with our neighbours in the Pacific, particularly on the Kokoda Track where Australians were supported by the locals of Papua New Guinea who carried supplies forward and transported seriously wounded and sick Australian soldiers to safety.

Their compassion and care earned them admiration and respect from the Australians, who dubbed these men their 'fuzzy wuzzy angels'.

This year, we mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, also known as Victory in the Pacific Day.

This is an opportunity for the Australian community to publicly

acknowledge the service and sacrifice of veterans of the Second World War, and also recognise the contribution made by all Australians. More than 12,000 veterans of the Second World War are still with us today.

I encourage all Australians to seize the opportunity to talk to any relative, friend or neighbour who lived through the Second World War to share the experiences and stories of this great generation and to say 'thank you for your service'.

Lest we forget.

Veterans at risk of homelessness

The Salvos are advocating for an increased spend by the government in social housing to end homelessness, saying it would also inject a much-needed economic boost into building and construction sectors across Australia.

The Salvation Army, one of the country's largest homelessness service providers, says veterans are particularly at risk of homelessness.

Salvo's national general manager for homelessness services Livia Carusi said the focus should not only be on service provision for those currently in homelessness, but also on prevention for those most at risk.

"Our veterans deserve better," she said.

"No veteran should experience homelessness.

"A safe, affordable and secure home is the very least we can ensure, accompanied by the necessary supports required."

Veterans are among the most vulnerable in Australia to homelessness, as a result of the high proportion of mental health issues.

There is strong prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder, which can exacerbate issues of relationship breakdown and alcohol and substance abuse.

This is reflected in the data, where 5.3 per cent of recently-transitioned veterans become homeless within 12 months of returning home, compared to just 1.9 per cent of the Australian population.

In a recent Salvation Army

survey of their clients who have accessed homelessness services, 90 per cent of respondents said they believed the issue of homelessness was preventable, highlighting the strong need for prevention to work in conjunction with practical service delivery.

Salvos veteran support officer Johnathon Dyer said the Salvos had been supporting Veterans suffering with homelessness for decades, supporting those in the aftermath of World War 1 and 2, the Vietnam War, and now all of those who identify as veterans, whether for Australia or abroad.

"We want to encourage Aussies to become more aware of the issue of veteran homelessness, and to stand alongside The Salvos and other charities doing amazing work in this space.

"Join us in our pursuit to end veteran homelessness," he said.

For more information about how you or a loved one can receive help, or to support the work of The Salvos, visit salvationarmy.org.au or phone 13 SALVOS (13 72 58).

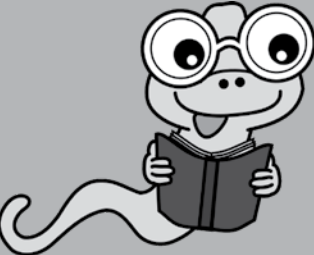
The Open Arms veterans and families counselling service is available to anyone in the veteran community who needs support or someone to talk to.

It offers a range of telehealth options including telephone or video counselling and peer support. Face-to-face counselling is also available, except in Melbourne because of current restrictions.

Phone the support line on 1800 011 046 to find out more



The Salvos say 5.3 per cent of recently-transitioned veterans become homeless within 12 months of returning home, compared to just 1.9 percent of the Australian population.



IT'S TRUE

On average, humans blink once every five seconds

A history of local cenotaphs

By Ray James, Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL president

The following cenotaphs are located in the Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL area of responsibility.

Trafalgar Cenotaph at highway site and now at the RSL.

The Trafalgar War Memorial was situated in front of the former Narracan Shire offices facing the Princes highway. The memorial was unveiled by the Victorian Governor, Earl of Stradbroke, on December 7 1921.

Constructed of granite, this memorial comprises of a white marble soldier standing at 'reverse arms' on a small entablature, which is supported by four columns set on a square base.

At the front of the base is engraved the dedication of the memorial to those who gave the 'supreme sacrifice'.

Originally, this was for World War I only, but an 'S' has been added to the final sentence to refer to the 'Great Wars' and the dates of the Second World War

added below those of the First World War.

The names of key conflicts in World War I are engraved into the cornice on each side of the entablature, while the names of 31 locals who gave the supreme sacrifice are carved in each side of the base.

The cenotaph was relocated to the Trafalgar RSL at 55 Kitchener St in October 2014. New foundations stones were laid and the original foundation stones were used for a donated Baw Baw Shire bench seat in memory of Jack Cooper.

A time capsule was placed in the centre of the new foundation which now hold steady the memorial.

Thorpdale Cenotaph which also covers Childers and Trafalgar South.

The War Memorial was originally erected to commemorate those from Thorpdale and surrounding districts who died in

service or were killed in action during World War I.

The memorial lists the names of the fallen of that conflict and at the base of the memorial, the fallen of World War 2 are listed. Plaques commemorating those who served in later conflicts and individual service plaques are located on stone walls on either side of the memorial.

Willow Grove Cenotaph

The Hill End cenotaph was originally erected to commemorate those who died in service on were killed in action during World War I.

Narracan Cenotaph Memorial

The Narracan cenotaph is located on Narracan Connection Road, Narracan.

Yarragon Cenotaph

Grey Granite Obelisk opened on July 17 1920.

It was erected by the residents

of Yarragon in honour of the men who served their country in the Great War from 1914 to 1919.

This memorial is located across from town and country gallery on the grassy area. It's very easy to access with street parking. There is a seat next to the memorial if you wish to sit for a moment to reflect. The War Memorial commemorates those who have served in the various conflicts in which Australia has been involved. The memorial was originally erected in memory of those from the district who served in World War I and lists the names of those who lost their lives. The names of the fallen of World War 2 were added to the memorial at a later date. A plaque has been added to the memorial to commemorate post World War 2 conflicts. The memorial also contains an Australia Remembers Plaque as well as plaques listing the names of those who fell in World War I who were not listed on the memorial. In 1920 a militant General Elliot unveiled this memorial with the

locals cheering him on. The last post was played at the ceremony by Mr Moore, and 100 years later, the monument remains to remind us of those who served our country.

Erica Cenotaph

The Erica Memorial Hall is located at 14 School Road. After World War 1 and 2, memorial buildings were erected in towns and suburbs across Australia in memory of those who fought and died.

One of the most popular types of building was the memorial hall.

In some cases memorial halls were built instead of war memorials. Memorial halls typically house honour roll(s) which display the names of local servicemen and women.

After their construction memorial halls became important venues for local activity and many are still in use today.

Their story is a central part of these communities' histories.

Walhalla Cenotaph

This memorial was erected by the Walhalla Shire to honour those from the area that enlisted in World War 1. This memorial remained as a monument to those that went to war. It was not a cenotaph until Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL were encouraged to search for enlistees from Walhalla that did not return home from World War 1.

If you visit Walhalla you will now see two bronze plaques that has changed this memorial to a cenotaph, which is now their empty coffin to those that did not return home from World War I.

Aberfeldy Cenotaph

The Aberfeldy cenotaph was designed by Ralph Chesterfield from the Aberfeldy cemetery trust. It depicts conflicts from World War 1 and is located at Cemetery Rd.

World War 2 names on Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL area of responsibility cenotaphs

Trafalgar

F.W. Adamson
J.E. Ashby
R.J. Brown
J.M. Douglas
C.H. Dusting
C. Follett
L.E. Gibson
D. Johnson
R.J. Johnson
N. Kellas
H.J. Martin
L.J. Pattie
A.V. Quirk

Thorpdale

S. Cornell
J. Fisher
J. Tatterson

Willow Grove

Thomas Charles Rees

Yarragon

J.J. Ashworth
J. Baldwin
J.H. Borland
H. Booth
A. Curran-Gadsden

F. Edmonds
L.D. Johnson
R.J. Johnson
H. Kilday
G. Morgan
J.C. Rea
J. Solomon
N.G. Stewart

Erica

I. Brodie
N. Comden
P. Graham
I. Johnson

R. Kerr
G. McNeil
M. Mitchell

Narracan, Walhalla and Aberfeldy cenotaphs

No names

World War 2 veterans who have passed on since the reopening of Trafalgar RSL on March 7 2007

Jack PILCHER

Frantz John PERRY
Arthur Joseph ERBS
Arthur DAVIS
James John ALLEN
Allan Robert ERBS
Trevor Lynton Lieth CHAMBERS
John Terrance DEVLIN
William Andrew WHITE
Fredrick John COOPER
Stanley Garfield SAVIGE
Eric John MORGAN
Jeffery BEYNON
William Kenneth TATTERSON
Robert Ronald Mc CROREY

Mervin MULLENS
Noel Francis SAMPSON
Raymond ROBINS
William John BOWYER
Robert Alan HOLMES
Laurence Arthur GUNN
Russell Ivan SMITH

LEST WE FORGET

Anniversary medal for WW2 vets

A special medallion has been commissioned to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of the war.

Gippsland MHR and Veterans' Affairs Minister Darren Chester launched the medallion and certificate last month, which is available to every living World War 2 veteran to mark the anniversary on August 15.

"We recognise that it will be one of the last opportunities we have as a nation to publicly acknowledge the remaining veterans of World War 2, of which there are around 12,000 still with us today," Mr Chester said.

"These brave Australians served our nation in the far corners of the world, fighting in theatres of war from Europe to North Africa, the Mediterranean and the Middle East, to Asia and the Pacific, as well as the Australian mainland.

"Australia can never fully repay the debt we owe these amazing men and women but, to mark their service, the federal government has produced this commemorative medallion and certificate of commemoration for our remaining living World War 2 veterans.

"This is a way we can say 'thank you for your service'.

"It's a gesture of appreciation from a grateful nation to those who were part of the war effort and worked to protect our way of life."

World War 2 veterans can apply online to receive the commemorative medallion and certificate at dva.gov.au/medallion

Those without internet access can phone 02 6191 8217 during business hours.

Families may also apply on behalf of a living veteran.

A special medallion has been commissioned to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of the war.

RSL celebrates VP anniversary

Mick Bouke

Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL sub-branch celebrated the 75th anniversary of VP (Victory in the Pacific) Day to mark the end of World War II on 15 August 1945 when Japan accepted the allied nations' terms of surrender and Australia's then prime minister, Ben Chifley, announced that the war was over.

RSL sub-branch president, Ray James OAM, presided over Trafalgar's 15 August service last month before an audience of four people due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Ray said that the service was about remembering over 27,000 Australians killed and 23,000 wounded in action during World War II

"Towards the end of World War II, Australia came under a direct attack from an enemy hell-bent on invading our homeland," said Ray.

"We can be very proud of the tenacity of the Australian people and the defence force that, through the ANZAC spirit inbred into our World War II veterans, held an advancing enemy at bay and eventually excepted its surrender.

"Today we remember the 'chocos' (soldiers drawn from the citizen military forces) of the 39th Battalion and the Kokoda Track, soldiers in Bougainville and the many battles of New Guinea.

"We also remember our prisoners of war of the Japanese, and the civilians who were bombed

in Darwin and towns along our northern shore line."

Ray said that Australians must never forget those named on our cenotaphs here and around our country.

Speaking of contemporary times, Ray said, "We know, from past and present, of worldwide events that bring nation against nation. So, I say, 'peace in itself can be a hard-fought battle to maintain'."

During the service, Ray made particular mention of those servicemen who make the supreme sacrifice during World War II. From Trafalgar, they were J.E. Ashby, F.W. Adamson, R.J. Brown, J.M. Douglas, C.H. Dusting, L.E. Gibson, C. Follett, R.J. Johnson, D. Johnson, N. Kellas, H.J. Martin, L.J. Pattie and A.V. Quirk

Those from Thorpdale who died during the war were J. Tatterson, J. Fisher and S. Cornell.

Yarragon servicemen who died were J.J. Ashworth, J. Baldwin, J.H. Borland, H. Booth, A. Curran-Gadsden, F. Edmonds, L.D. Johnson, R.J. Johnson, H. Kilday, G. Morgan, J.C. Rea, J. Solomon and N.G. Stewart.

Thomas Charles REES from Hill End was killed.

Erica's G. McNeil, M. Mitchell, I. Brodie, R. Kerr, P. Graham, N. Comden and I. Johnson were also killed during the war

Ray then mentioned the names of those World War II veterans who have died since the re-open-

ing of Trafalgar RSL on 7 March 2007, and whose names are on the memorial wall.

Wreaths were then laid, followed by the Ode to the Fallen, then the Last Post and Rouse.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the service was live-streamed on Trafalgar-Thorpdale RSL's Face-

book page, where it can still be viewed.



At the 75th VP Day service included reservist warrant officer Paul Altamore, ex 6RAR Vietnam veteran Bill Kilday, and ex 2RAR Vietnam veteran Jim Croue



Bishop-elect to be ordained next month

The Diocesan Administrator, Fr Peter Slater, is happy to announce the Episcopal Ordination and installation of Bishop-elect Gregory Bennet as 10th Bishop of Sale it will be held on Tuesday, October 20 in St Mary's Cathedral Sale commencing at 11am.

Fr Slater said that mindful

of the seriousness of the current COVID-19 pandemic, all arrangements will be planned with due respect of restrictions concerning public safety.

Bishop-elect Greg Bennet has served as a priest in a variety of senior roles in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, including in the role of Vicar General.

He was appointed by Pope Francis to Sale on June 27, 2020 following the Ninth Bishop of Sale, Bishop Patrick O'Regan's appointment to the position of the Archdiocese of Adelaide.

Further information on the ordination is available through the Diocesan website at www.cd-sale.org.au.



Bishop-elect Gregory Bennet.

Anglican Church groups back to online

Sue Jacka

The kids Jaffas program and Youth group both only managed two face to face sessions this term until they had to go online. Mainly music had three sessions, we are posting things on the Trafalgar mainly music Facebook page. St

Mary's Op Shop had a few successful weeks trading for limited hours with a reduced volunteer group before closing again. And church/ Sunday School is back entirely online- a pity for those without a computer or the necessary skills to use Zoom. If anyone

wants to join in any activities, they can email trafalgaranglican1@gmail.com and we'll send them the appropriate link or call 5633 1021 and leave a message for paper copies of services.

Funny Sign



Baw Baw Shire Council postal election

Your council, your vote

Vote by post this October

Voting

Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Baw Baw Shire Council election from Tuesday 6 October 2020. Return your completed ballot material by mail ASAP or hand-deliver it to the Election Manager by the close of voting at **6 pm on Friday 23 October 2020**.

If you will be away

If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Friday 28 August 2020, you can request for your ballot pack to be redirected by writing to:

Election Manager
Baw Baw Shire Council election
c/- Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Alternatively, you can email your request to:

redirections@vec.vic.gov.au

Please include the address for redirection. Each voter requesting redirection must sign their request.

Requests for redirection must be received by **Thursday 17 September 2020**.

Large print and braille ballot papers

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters who are blind or have low vision—please register by **Tuesday 15 September 2020**. To register, call (03) 8620 1222 during business hours.

Request an early postal vote

To apply for an early postal vote, contact the Election Manager from **Wednesday 23 September 2020** on 1300 108 480 and make an application. You must provide a valid reason.

How to nominate as a candidate

Candidate requirements have recently changed. To nominate as a candidate, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Baw Baw Shire Council **AND**
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected **AND**
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

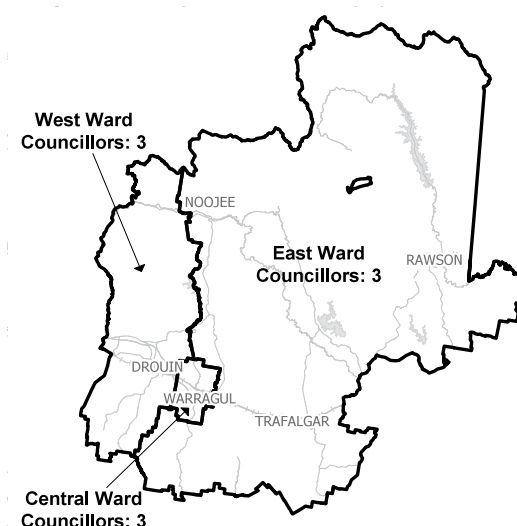
To nominate, complete the nomination form and lodge it with the Election Manager together with the \$250 nomination fee. Nomination forms can be lodged by appointment during business hours from **Thursday 17 September 2020** until **12 noon on Tuesday 22 September 2020** at:

The Goods Shed, Warragul Railway Station
3 Alfred Street, Warragul

Visit vec.vic.gov.au for more information and to pre-complete your nomination form using the online Candidate Helper. The online Candidate Helper will be available from **Thursday 3 September 2020**.

If you use the online Candidate Helper, print your pre-completed form and make an appointment to lodge it with the Election Manager along with the nomination fee.

Call the Election Manager from **Wednesday 16 September 2020** on 1300 108 480 to make a nomination appointment.



Online candidate information session

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the VEC's recorded candidate information session can be streamed online from **Thursday 3 September 2020** complemented by state-wide interactive candidate seminars based on the information video. To watch the information session or find out how to join an online interactive seminar, visit vec.vic.gov.au

Nominations close

12 noon Tuesday 22 September

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

• 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0190 Amharic • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0100 Arabic • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0191 Bosnian • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0101 Cantonese • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0192 Croatian • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0193 Dari • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0119 Dinka • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0103 Greek • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0104 Italian • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0192 Khmer • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0194 Korean • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0105 Macedonian • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0106 Mandarin • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0195 Persian • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0196 Russian • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0107 Serbian • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0108 Somali • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0109 Spanish • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0110 Turkish • 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤏𐤃 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

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

@electionsvic



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 from 5.30pm on **Wednesday 9 September** at the West Gippsland Arts Centre.

Council meetings are currently not open to members of the public due to COVID-19 and Stage 3 Stay at Home restrictions in regional Victoria. All meetings are live streamed via the Council website.

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

Careers

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

Contact us

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

Hardship Policy updated for COVID-19

Council has adopted a Hardship Policy COVID-19 Addendum to support community members and businesses facing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic.

Under the addendum, eligible ratepayers experiencing financial hardship can apply to defer their 2020/21 rates and enter a payment plan with Council without incurring interest.

For more information and to apply, please visit bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/rates or contact Council on 1300 229 229.

COVID-19 support and information

There's been a lot to absorb over the last few weeks and months. In these unprecedented times, it's more important than ever to do everything we can to be kind and look after each other and ourselves.

If you or someone you know is in need of extra support, visit bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/gethelpandsupport

There are a variety of support services available to cater for the whole community.



Mandatory training for 2020 Council election candidates available

Local Government Victoria and the Victorian Electorate Commission require people to meet certain eligibility criteria in order to become a Council election candidate.

This includes undertaking a mandatory candidate training session provided by the Victorian Government.

The training will help you understand the role and responsibilities of being a Councillor.

You will not be able to nominate as a candidate unless you have completed the training. This is a new requirement, introduced in the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Each candidate who enrolls will be able to access the training session in their own time within the training period, which closes on 21 September 2020.

For more information go to localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/candidate-training.

Free hard waste collection service available



Baw Baw Shire residents are able to book one annual at call kerbside collection per financial year at no cost (conditions apply). The service allows for the kerbside collection of up to two cubic metres of acceptable hard waste placed within the front property boundary.

This service is available to residents living at the property—whether owner or tenant (commercial, industrial and vacant land excluded).

Bookings can be made by calling VM Waste Management on 1800 969 278 between 8.00am – 5.30pm Monday to Friday.

You can exchange your annual at call kerbside collection for free disposal of up to two cubic metres of hard waste at any Council operated transfer station.

For more information visit bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/hardwaste

Planning Scheme Amendment C139

An amendment to the Baw Baw Planning Scheme is currently on exhibition and local community members are invited to have their say.

Have your say

The amendment implements the outcomes of two projects that have been developed by Baw Baw Shire Council in collaboration with the Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP); the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) Translation and Planning in the Economic Growth Zone (PEGZ).

The proposed amendment facilitated by these two projects seeks to improve the planning system, making it more efficient and accessible for all users.

Submissions close 20 September 2020.

For more information go to bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay

Immunisation session times and locations

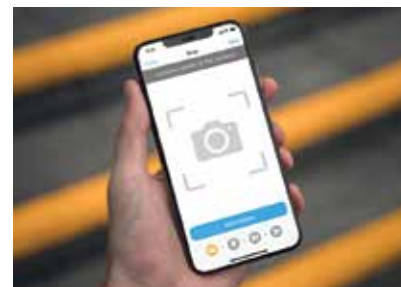
Warragul
7 September, 9.30am – 11.00am
9 September, 4.30pm – 6.00pm
19 September, 9.30am – 11.00am

Trafalgar
22 September, 5.00pm – 6.30pm

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

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Snap, send solve – it's that easy!

Have you found something that needs fixing? You can report it directly to Council using the Snap Send Solve app for iOS and Android devices.

Please note: If the issue is an emergency requiring immediate action (a tree across a road, downed power lines, wandering animals, etc) it's still best to give us a call on 1300 229 229, especially outside of business hours.

>> bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

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Instagram @bawbawshire

T 1300 BAW BAW (1300 229 229) or 03 5624 2411



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

The Trafalgar & Yarragon News, September 1930

4 September – Night Ramblers

Some young people of Trafalgar, who seem to have too much spare time and nothing to do, committed a stupid act last week-end.

They sneaked over to the residence of Mr. B. H. Chapman and threw large lumps of metal on the roof and walls. On being sighted the “night ramblers” retreated into the bush.

On being sighted a few minutes later they started to run, but Mr Chapman fired a shot from a revolver he was carrying into the ground to make them stop.

The effort was magical with one “rambler” – he dropped to the ground and moaned with absolute fear.

11 September – Ladies Assist Firemen

The ladies of Trafalgar have decided to play their part in preventing serious outbreaks of fire in the town.

A meeting of ladies was held last week to form an auxiliary branch of the Fire Brigade. The ladies will relieve the brigade of much responsibility by assisting the firemen in all social functions.

Police Court

At the Yarragon Police Court, before Messrs C. Cresswell, PM and J. Campbell, JP, Sup. Sainsbury proceeded against Ann Donaghue, holder of a colonial wine license at Trafalgar for allowing an unlawful game to be played on her premises.

Defendant pleaded guilty and was fined two pounds (\$165 today) with 15 shillings costs (\$62 today).

15 September – Narracan Shire Antique

In 1887, the Narracan Shire Council issued a Victorian Jubilee Medal. One such medal was recently picked out of a heap of soil at Newborough, and handed to the “News”.

On the front of the medal is a picture of Queen Victoria, with the words, “Victorian Jubilee, 1887”.

On the reverse side is, “Shire

be a near record swim for such an animal – she swam a total of eleven and a half miles (18.5km) and finished up near Beck’s property on the north side of Moe before she managed to scramble up the bank to safety, apparently little the worse for her ordeal.

Too Many Street Stalls

It would seem that Trafalgar folk will shortly be able to do away with the shopping centre and rely solely on street stalls from which to purchase their goods.

When a town this size has five street stalls in one week it would appear that things are getting beyond a joke.

What about the business people who depend on the sale of their goods to make a living and pay their rates?

8 September – Marching Girls Inter-State Visit

Thirty Gippsland Marching Girls from Bairnsdale, Sale, Yalourn, Moe, Trafalgar, Yarragon and Warragul, under the care of Mrs Parke and Mrs Glenister, of Trafalgar, have just returned from an enjoyable ten days spent in Sydney as the guests of Ryde-Eastwood and Castle Hill Marching Girls’ Association.

Whilst the visit was arranged mainly as an extensive training course for local girls, it would not have been complete without the friendly hospitality shown by the sister body in NSW, not to mention the sight-seeing excursions extending from the Blue Mountains to Palm Beach on the north coast, and naturally, Sydney’s glorious Harbour and Bridge, Zoo, and Manley surf beach, etc.

15 September – Narracan Shire Antique

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On the front of the medal is a picture of Queen Victoria, with the words, “Victorian Jubilee, 1887”.

22 September – High Honour For Trafalgar Man

At a well represented meeting sponsored by the Master Builders’ Association of Victoria held at Trafalgon, the high honour of Foundation President was conferred on Mr Stan Petch, son of Mr and Mrs Bert Petch of Trafalgar.

Our congratulations go to Stan who holds the highest qualifications of any member in the branch. These qualifications are the result of years of hard work and study, and should equip him well for the responsible office he now holds.

Traf News, September 2002

September – Congratulations And Thanks

As someone who has lived in Trafalgar for less than a year, I feel urged to offer my grateful thanks to the generous community benefactors who maintain Uralla Park.

Being unaware, I arrived at this beautiful spot quite by accident. How delighted I was to discover such a tranquil sanctuary! How blessed we all are to have this heavenly forest, bounding with wallabies and birds, right on the edge of town! – Rev. Judy Archer, Trafalgar.

Trafalgar High School

The Trafalgar High School HPV (Human Power Vehicle) team has now started training for the next big event in Maryborough on 21-24th November 2002.

This event involves students racing a pedal powered three-wheeled bike non-stop for 24 hours. Each year the guidelines set out by RACV Energy Break-Through committee requires us to construct a HPV machine from scratch.

The team trains on Wednesday afternoons out at Blue Rock Dam car-park between 1-3 pm.

Trafalgar Lions Club

The months of July and early August have been very busy for the Lions Club when they hosted six

students from four countries.

The students attended the Trafalgar Lions Club meetings where they told the members about themselves, their families and their countries – all being very different. Bannerettes were exchanged and each student received a copy of “Images of Gippsland” as a going home gift.

Community Bank News

The Community Bank is on the way and we have now commenced the process to put in place a company to undertake the project.

We will keep you informed of developments and it is expected that we will be seeking your support in purchasing shares in late October or early November.

Ladies Golf Club News

Golf can be such a frustrating game that sometimes the best part of golf happens, not on the course, but inside the club-house – a cup of tea or coffee/glass of wine or beer can be the best part of the day.

Recently the club held a social night with a band called

“The Love Bugs” providing live entertainment with all the hits of the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s to sing and dance along to.

A large crowd of golfers with their husbands/wives and friends danced the night away, many of them taking the opportunity to dress up in outfits of those years.

Transfer Station Opened

Trafalgar’s transfer station and resource recovery upgraded facility opened recently. The facility has been upgraded with funds provided by EcoRecycle and Baw Baw Shire Council.

Mayor Ian Clark said ‘transfer stations’ play a vital role in resource recovery and waste minimisation by providing a local drop-off facility for our community. “Council is committed to promoting the sustainable use of resources and better management of waste”, he said.

CHURCH SERVICES

CATHOLIC PARISH

Father Bernie Krotwaar, Phone 5633 1166



St John’s Trafalgar, 54 Waterloo Road

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

St Jarlath’s Yarragon, Rollo Street

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

UNITING CHURCH

Rev Helen Prior, Supply Minister
Phone 0401 911 124



St. Andrew’s Uniting Church, Trafalgar

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

St David’s Uniting Church, Yarragon

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

St Stephens Darnum

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

Please direct inquiries to Dee Crosby Phome 0409 933 104

ANGLICAN CHURCH

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



St Mary’s Church, Trafalgar

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

St Mark’s Church, Thorpdale

First Sunday of the month:
Breakfast after service 8am
St Mark’s Church, Yarragon
First Sunday of the month: Service 8.30am
Other Sundays: Holy Communion 8.30am
Tuesdays: JAFFAS after school program 3.30 - 5.30pm

THORPDALE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

Rev Frank Lees,
Phone 5634 6413 or 5633 2758



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

By Dr Michael Kunze



How are you all getting by?

It’s sure been a big year so far, and has been testing us in so many ways. Through my work I’m hearing impressive stories of support and strength within our town and wider community.

Our schools and businesses are rising to meet every challenge, and we’re all working together to keep each other healthy. But I’m also very aware that our long battle against the COVID-19 pandemic is taking a toll, and that many of us are struggling with our mental and physical wellbeing.

I was talking to a patient the other day who was telling me how she was just trying to focus on the things that she can control, rather than worrying about the things she can’t control, and this led me to reflect on the serenity prayer.

Back in my Sunday School days I received critical acclaim for my convincing portrayal of Bethlehem’s innkeeper in a nativity play. I also received a small gift – a plaque with the following prayer:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,

And wisdom to know the difference.

Even as a child this seemed like a wise way of looking at things, and I kept the plaque well beyond my Sunday School graduation. Nowadays the serenity prayer has become a filter that I use regularly.

For instance, I can’t change the existence of the coronavirus, or speed up the availability of a vaccine, so I have to look at what I can change. In this case I can reduce my risk of catching or spreading the virus by observing hand hygiene, wearing masks, social distancing, and observing isolation guidelines.

At the clinic, we’ve also changed our way of doing things (thank you to everyone who’s been willing to use our car park

waiting area or telephone consultations as we work through this). We’ve learned to accept that these measures may continue longer than we’d hoped, and so we’re making ongoing changes to improve comfort and safety.

And while the pandemic is going on, there are other changes we can make to improve our health. It can help to think of our health as biopsychosocial in nature. That is, good health includes biological wellbeing, psychological wellbeing, and social wellbeing.

Taking these in reverse order, what changes could you make to improve your social wellbeing in our current situation? Are you keeping in touch with family and friends? How are people coping in your church, sports

clubs, community groups, or workplace? Is there someone you could reach out to and offer your support?

What about your psychological health? Do you need some help with anxiety or depression? Are you making good choices about your sleep patterns? Could it be helpful to turn off social media or the news for a while and enjoy some serenity in the moment? Help is available from your GPs, or from psychologists, counsellors, or from your community supports.

And don’t forget your physical health. I gained a few kilos in the first lockdown, and have been working to lose them. Are there different choices you can make about what you eat? Or how much? How about a socially dis-

tanced walk up School Rd, or to Uralla Reserve? Has your alcohol intake increased? And are you looking after your existing medical conditions?

Please continue to look after yourselves, and please don’t hesitate to reach out for support if you need it. I hope that you all find serenity, courage and wisdom.

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.

Senior cats in the spotlight this September

By Dr Kerrie Piper



SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE.
EXPERIENCED ENOUGH TO TRUST

September, the ninth month of the year, is Senior Cat Health Awareness Month. Ninth month because cats have nine lives, right? Wrong! Despite popular opinion, cats actually don’t have nine lives, they’re just really wonderful at keeping illnesses and injury hidden.

Cats are not small dogs, they are an entity unto themselves. Being obligate carnivores, they are notorious hunters, however they are also prey to larger carnivores. Because of this, cats survive best if they don’t appear weak, so they are naturally very good at hiding injuries and illness.

Cats age differently to people. Between the ages of eight and 10 years cats start to show age-related changes. Physiologically, a one year old cat is about the same as a 16 year old person, and a two year old cat is like a 21 year old person. For every year after, one calendar year adds around four years of age to a cat. So a 10 year old cat is similar to a 53 year old person. A 15 year old cat is about the same as a 73 year old person.

As a cat ages there are normal body changes which include a less efficient immune system, skin and nail changes (thin, less elastic skin, brittle nails), reduced muscle mass and changes in digestion. There is also an increased likelihood of certain diseases which include dental disease, arthritis and kidney

reduced rates for health checks, blood tests and urine checks for cats aged seven years and older.

We know the impact stress can have on an older cat. Every member of our staff is now accredited in low stress handling of cats. When you arrive at the clinic, our staff will welcome your cat with a fluffy blanket coated in the relaxing and friendly feline facial pheromone spray ‘Feliway’.

Feliway has been proven to help reduce stress experienced by cats and we hope that it helps your cat enjoy his veterinary experience. We’ll have heat pads ready to sooth the senior cat if needed.

We want to work with you and your cat to ensure that your cat remains as well as can be throughout the aging process.



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Per Bag

Arts in lockdown again

Carol Monson

What does an Arts organization do when galleries and regular Art groups are closed for the second time this year? The galleries go online like so many businesses and the regular activity groups share their work on Facebook.

There was a tiny window of opportunity to hang new exhibitions in the 'Station Gallery' in Yarragon so it was a joy to see the freshly painted bright blue walls hung with equally vibrant works by Anita George and Yvette Stubbs. Regular Warragul Arts Market patrons will recognize Yvette as the roving poet encouraging people to listen as she cavorted around the market in her colourful, slightly off beat clothing. Anita too, is recognizable from her Arts Market calligraphy stall often adorned with decora-

tions waiting to be painted with a customer's name.

During September Jill Loader and Liz Harbridge both have exhibitions that will go on line and pending a lightening of restrictions may also be viewed live. That remains to be seen however.

Jill enjoys working with a combination of polymer clay, cotton rope and natural materials all of which are evident in her range of stunning mixed media works and wearable art. Liz works with a wide range of recycled textiles and has produced a number of garments repurposed into wearable art.

These exhibitions can currently be viewed on www.baw-bawartsalliance.org.au beyond the month in which they began. Each online exhibition directs viewers to an artist's profile that

provides information of artistic experience, background and the processes involved in the creation of their work.

Another artist who has been working towards major exhibitions is member of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance, Lynne Bickhoff. At present Lynne has a collection of works displayed in the rooms of 'Through Life Physiotherapist', Warragul, and these can be viewed in the rooms even if you are not a client. During September Lynne's works can also be viewed online at www.manyung-gallery.com.au and <https://hawthornstudiogallery.com.au/>

Happily the Arts World is still alive and well in the shire of Baw Baw.



Lynne Bickhoff with one of her collection pieces displayed in the room of 'Through Life Physiotherapist'

Exciting arts project to bring small Baw Baw communities together

Carol Monson

Baw Baw Arts Alliance member and community focused artist, Bec Vandyk, has recently initiated a project that has received financial support from Vic Health. Bec's initial project proposal was to involve community members from the Baw Baw Shire in the creation of artworks that tell personal stories of time and place. In developing a comprehensive project Bec has been supported by Karen Whitaker-Taylor, the shire's Cultural Development Officer, Councillors Mikaela Power and Jessica O'Donnell, both members of the shire's arts and cultural advisory committee

The project titled 'Live-Well, Come-Share' will enable Bec as project manager to engage with small communities of Baw Baw residents who may be isolated

by culture, health or mobility issues, age, or other daily life challenges, and connect them with other community members through art as a medium of expression and personal growth.

Given the restrictions that COVID-19 community protection measures have placed on face-to-face meetings, the project has been adjusted in the short term to reach out to the community in isolation. The initial outreach will use an online space to encourage interaction. A series of fortnightly art-based sessions online, called The Melting Pot, will be freely available to all Baw Baw residents. Each session will be a combination of a guided, creativity-sparking activity, an exploration into cultural and historic topics to guide inspiration, and a 'show and tell' between partici-

pants to encourage expression within a supportive environment.

The Melting Pot online series will be a good place to begin a conversation, for all artists and community members who would like to be involved. For more

information, or to become part of the project, please email the Project Manager and Artistic Director, Bec Vandyk artsand-healthgipps@gmail.com or Karen Whitaker-Taylor, Cultural Development Officer, Baw Baw

Shire, Karen.Whitaker-Taylor@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Bec Vandyk has previously been involved in the community Art based project, 'Too Many Words', led by her, Russell Lilford, Jessie MacLennan and

Sue Acheson. The most recent of these was the creation of tiny sculpted clay figures by members of the public sharing in celebrations around the opening of the redeveloped West Gippsland Arts Centre in 2018.



Bec Vandyk involved in the tiny figures sculpture experience, one of the 'Too Many Words' Community Art projects led by her, Russell Lilford, Sue Acheson and Jessie MacLennan

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Farming News

VFF to expand farmer health and safety resources

The Victorian Farmers Federation recently announce an expansion in its workplace health and safety services as the recipient of the \$3 million dollar 'Making our Farms Safer' grant from the state government.

The initiative aims to improve on-farm health and safety and will allow the VFF to employ two Farm Safety Officers, develop online tools and boost access to information and resources aimed at protecting not only Victorian farmers, but everyone in the farm environment.

VFF president David Jochinke said the health and safety of everyone on farms must always be the top priority, with workers, families and farmers all exposed to the dangers present on farms.

"Safety on farms is paramount, because it concerns the wellbeing of our workers, families and ourselves," he said.

"The agricultural sector is one of the most dangerous workplaces in Victoria, not just for farmers, but everyone present on the farm.

"As a father, there can be no bigger priority in a parent's life than the health and well-being of your child. It's incredibly tragic that children under the age of 15 make up more than 15 per cent of preventable death and injuries on farms."

VFF chief executive Stephen Sheridan said the VFF has been lobbying and working with the government to address the farm sector's higher than average workplace accident rates and commends the initiative.

The VFF believes that developing and providing an industry led farm safety service is a far more effective way to achieve on-farm practice change," Mr

Sheridan said.

"The VFF is not a regulator, but is a farmer led organisation that understands the real health and safety issues facing farmers, and the need to help provide a means to manage and reduce the inherent health and safety risks, rather than simply focus on compliance.

"We already provide expert workplace relations services and it is a natural extension to integrate this with on-farm health and safety tools and services.

"The VFF will be employing Farm Safety Officers to work directly with farmers to help identify potential safety issues and introduce best practice safety processes to help safeguard workers, families and farmers on the farm.

"We are also commencing development of an online platform of tools and information to complement our existing workplace relations offer for farmers."

Farmers continue to feed Victorians

The VFF held emergency talks last month to implement necessary steps to protect agriculture and the state's food supply chain from the impact of Victoria's coronavirus crisis.

VFF president David Jochinke said the agricultural industry is one of a few that is permitted to continue.

"The VFF recognises the gravity of this responsibility," he said.

"We understand the trust that has been placed in our sector and that we are accountable for keeping Victorians fed during this state of disaster.

"We have been in constant talks with government to advocate for farmers and ensure that decision-makers understand the importance of keeping the food

supply chain open and those discussions have ramped up over recent days."

"The VFF developed a detailed COVID-19 action plan for our industry which resulted in \$410 million in additional Australian and Victorian government expenditure which has enabled the agriculture industry to continue to operate."

Mr Jochinke said farmers are becoming increasingly concerned about restrictions to their business and business interruption, labour shortages, freight and logistics problems along with issues around access to inputs.

"We know that continuity of business is emerging as a big concern for farmers which is why our discussions with government have focused on four key principles: bipartisan and comprehensive approach to border issues, smoother flow of goods and services intrastate and interstate, strategies to enable the movement of the agricultural

workforce and regulatory change to ensure that agriculture and its supply chain is classified as a critical service," he said.

"The VFF has written to our members to reinforce the importance of implementing COVID-19 action plans, which are critical to keeping the agriculture supply chain open."

"Our clear guidance to farmers is to be extra vigilant as COVID-19 reaches our doorstep. We must implement the best protective measures for our businesses and our workers: face coverings or visors for employees, ceasing communal gatherings, installing screens/curtains, furloughing of staff, physical distancing, cleaning and disinfection measures and insisting on personal hygiene and use of sanitisers, minimising the number of people coming onto your farm."

Mr Jochinke said the agriculture sector has the potential to be a major contributor to the economic recovery both for regions and the state.

"While this will be inconvenient, if we get it right and we do the hard yards, then it will only be for a few weeks and our businesses will continue to operate," Mr Jochinke said.

"Victoria is Australia's food bowl. We are Australia's largest producer of food and fibre and the nation's largest exporter.

"We all know how important small business is to our economy. I don't think Victorians realise that agribusiness together with forestry and fishing is the highest value add, employs the highest number of people and ranks number five by dollar value in Victoria."

Position open at VFF

The VFF Board of Directors last month announced their decision to advertise the position of Chief Executive Officer.

VFF president David Jochinke said VFF chief executive Stephen Sheridan's contract expires at

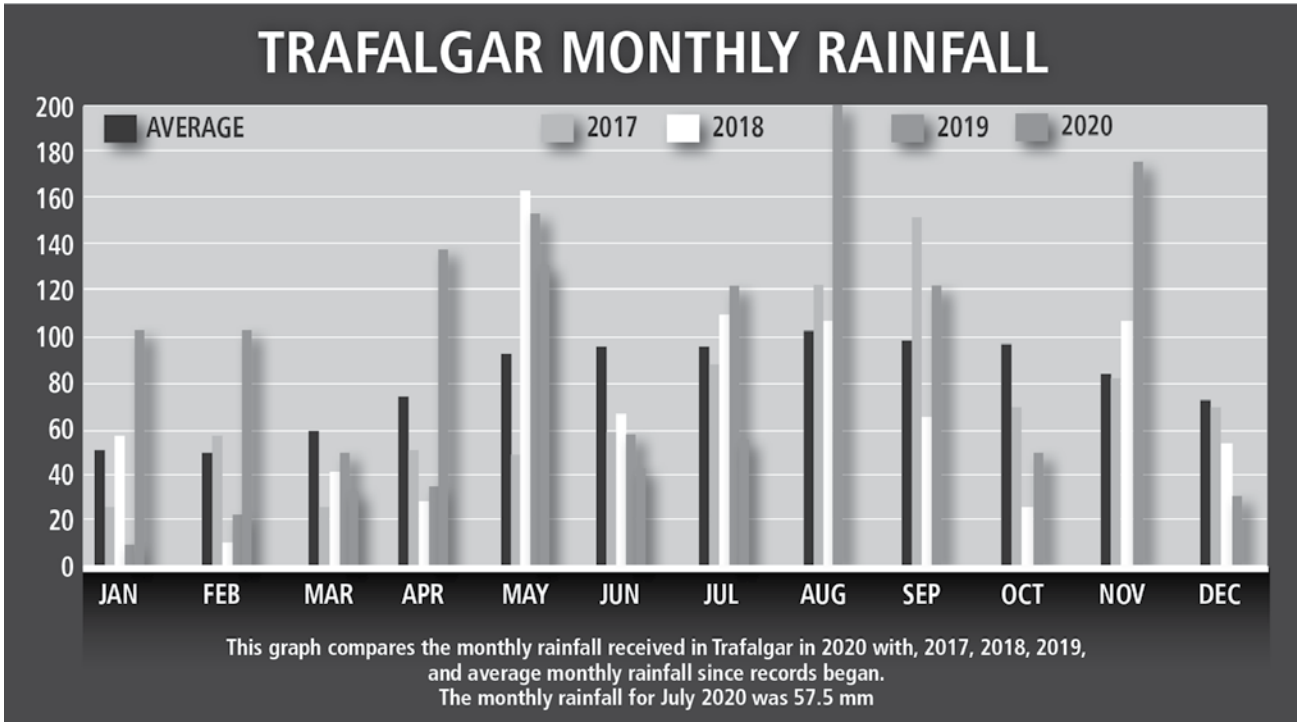
the end of December 2020. It is therefore appropriate and good corporate governance that the Board test the market accordingly.

"Stephen has worked with the Board on a range of issues including strategic considerations and implications as we look to adapt and grow the VFF as an organisation," Mr Jochinke said.

"Stephen has done an outstanding job in managing the affairs of the VFF for nearly three years and it is in recognition of that we hope Stephen will submit an expression of interest for the CEO role moving forward," he said.

"While we test the market, Stephen will continue as CEO including responsibility for a number of significant reform initiatives and milestones."

The position of VFF chief executive is now open for applications.



TRAF NEWS SUDOKU

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Easy

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CELEBRATE AN INSPIRING TRAFALGAR CITIZEN
TRAFALGAR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

NOMINEE’S DETAILS *(Details of the person you are nominating. Please provide as much information as possible)*

Title: Mr [] Mrs [] Ms [] Other SURNAME: FIRST NAME:

Street/postal address

Town: Postcode:

Contact number: Email:@.....

If you are nominating more than one person, please complete a separate nomination form for each nominee

TRAFALGAR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR CATEGORIES *(Please select the appropriate category)*

[] Citizen of the Year award

[] Youth Citizen of the Year award *(aged 25 years and younger)*

SELECTION CRITERIA

Attach separate A4 sheet(s) of paper explaining in no more than 1000 words how your nominee’s actions have inspired you and contributed significantly to our community. This could be through their voluntary community contribution, work or a combination of these. Please address your nomination to the following criteria:

- The role(s) or area(s) the nominee has excelled
- How the nominee has demonstrated service worthy of recognition
- The impact of the nominee’s contribution on the Trafalgar community in a particular field(s) or group(s)
- The period of time the nominee has made that commitment to the Trafalgar community If possible, include dates of service.
- How this person stands out from others
- Has the nominee’s contribution been recognised elsewhere (e.g., in the media, by other awards, professional/interest groups or through local government)?

NOTES:

- The nominee must be, amongst other things, a resident with the 3824 postcode – see Rules of Entry for all rules
- The judges may seek additional information from the nominator at their discretion

NOMINATOR’S DETAILS *(Please complete your details)*

Title: Mr [] Mrs [] Ms [] Other SURNAME: FIRST NAME:

Street/postal address

Town: Postcode:

Best contact number: Email:@.....

[] I do not wish to be identified as the nominator *(Please tick if you do not wish to be identified)*

WHERE TO SEND THE NOMINATION

Send the completed nomination and supporting details (A4 sheet(s)) to:

Trafalgar Citizen of the Year, TCDA, P.O. Box 70, Trafalgar 3824

Applications close on 31 October 2020. Unfortunately, late nominations cannot be accepted

WHEN WILL THE WINNER BE ANNOUNCED?

The award winners will be announced at next year’s Australia Day celebrations in Trafalgar

RULES OF ENTRY

- Nominations must be received by 5pm on 31 October 2020
- Nominees will be judged on actions and contributions made that have had a significant impact on the Trafalgar community (including all areas within 3824 postcode)
- Nominations must be the original work of the author and be factually correct to the best of the author’s knowledge. The author may obtain information from other people in the preparation of the nomination
- Nominees must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia and be a resident, or contributes to the community, within the 3824 postcode
- Nominees are not restricted by age except for the Youth award which is open to all young people under the age of 25 years as at 31 October 2020. All other Rules apply to Youth award nominees
- The winner (or their guardian) of the Youth Citizen of the Year award will be required to produce a birth certificate if considered necessary by Trafalgar Community Development Association Inc (TCDA)
- All nominations (including any supporting documentation) become the property of TCDA
- The final judging of nominations will be conducted by a panel of judges appointed by TCDA
- If the judges consider there are no suitable nominees in either category, no award will be made for that category
- The judges’ decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into
- Details of nominations of award winners may be published in local newspapers and in local media such as radio, etc
- Each nominator assures TCDA that it is the owner of the information in the nominations and has not breached any person’s rights, including copyright
- By lodging this nomination, the nominator:
 - the nominator agrees to the above rules; and
 - if it is a nomination of the Youth of the Year award, by completing the guardian’s details, the nominator has received the consent of the guardian for the youth to be nominated

.....
(Nominator’s signature)

..... / /
(Date)

The greatest game ever played

By Liam Durkin

With the month of September usually the time local football finals are in full swing, the greatest local football final of them all was played a few years ago at a venue not far from Traf.

On Sunday, September 14 2014, a scarcely believable 30 minutes of football saw Wonthaggi Power storm home from a 45-point deficit at three-quarter-time against Sale in the Gippsland League preliminary final at Ted Summerton Reserve, Moe to win through to the grand final by two points.

The match sits unparalleled as the greatest game of football ever played in Gippsland, and has entered its own echelon with the passing of time.

To understand the significance of Wonthaggi’s 2014 preliminary final win, one has to firstly appreciate how dominant their opponents, Sale, had been across the 2012 and 2013 seasons.

The Magpies stormed through the competition in 2012, losing just one match enroute to the premiership and looked set to repeat the effort the following year.

At the end of the 2013 home-and-away season, Sale finished three games clear on top of the ladder and defeated second-placed Morwell by 122 points in the final home-and-away round.

Understandably, most people tipped Sale as unbackable favourites for the premiership and thought the trophy engraver could have put the Magpies name on the cup weeks in advance.

In the grand final however, Morwell stunned onlookers with a seven-goal second quarter, which eventuated in an 81-point winning margin and netted the Tigers an eighth senior premiership.

Having been sensationally dethroned, Sale entered the 2014 campaign with redemption front of mind. Conversely, Wonthaggi, under second year coach Rob Railton, had been quietly going about its business.

Having returned to coach his home club after stints at Casey, Sandringham and Frankston in the VFL, Railton led the Power to the semi-finals in 2013 and followed up by securing the team with a top three finish in 2014.

Wonthaggi was a hub of activity at the time, with the newly opened desalination plant in full swing and bringing a number of people to the coast.

In the qualifying final of 2014 Sale easily accounted for Wonthaggi, winning 12.16 (88) to 6.9 (45). The Magpies then went down to Morwell by 20 points in the second chance semi, while the Power eliminated Maffra to set-up a rematch for a place in the big dance.

Heading into the preliminary final, Sale had won 54 of its previous 60 games and had beaten Wonthaggi three times during the season (although twice by less than a goal).

The Power had never beaten Sale in a final in three attempts and failed to kick more than six goals in any of their three meetings with the Magpies in 2014.

Wonthaggi had never made a Gippsland League grand final either.

With Morwell awaiting the victor, then Tigers coach Harmit Singh was busily preparing his troops for the grand final.

“We trained and had a meeting on the Sunday morning of the preliminary final with a lot of the boys then heading to Moe to see what we could take away to help us the following week,” Singh explained.

“Personally I had no preference in terms of who we faced in the grand final and I think a lot of the group felt the same way.

“We were playing some really good footy at the pointy end of the season and had a healthy list to choose from.

“My external opinion of Wonthaggi was that they were very well drilled under Rob Railton, they had a group of players that whilst not necessarily the most talented, were hard to score against and played a system that worked really well for them.”

Wonthaggi ruckman Earl Shaw, who played a pivotal role in the preliminary final, said despite the odds, the side had no fear leading into the game.

“Heading into the match we had a good win against Maffra the week before so our confidence was up, although we hadn’t beaten Sale for a long time,” he said.

As the match got underway there was the usual combination of finals nerves and congestion around the ball before Sale began to find a number of avenues to score.

At quarter-time the Magpies led by three goals before extending the margin to a commanding 35 points at the main break.

After half-time, the Magpies continued to control play and at three-quarter-time the Power was 45 points adrift and staring down the barrel of the end of its season.

While the three-quarter-time score line of 13.10 (88) to 6.7 (43) would have typically indicated a domination from one side, Shaw said Wonthaggi was not prepared to go down without a fight.

“I never felt as though we were out of it, even at three-quarter-time the score didn’t reflect our effort,” he said.

Even if Shaw and his teammates thought the game wasn’t over most spectators would have thought they were incredibly deluded.

The simple mathematics of the situation meant that if Wonthaggi was to be any chance of stealing victory it would need to kick more goals in one quarter than it had managed in the previous three.

Not only that, the Power would also more than likely need to keep Sale scoreless for half an hour of play.

The odds pointed to an impossible Wonthaggi victory.

In the Sale huddle, players and coaches took an understandably conservative approach, with the message to get through the final quarter with one eye turned to the following week.

Meanwhile, others thought they had seen enough, with some spectators leaving to pencil in a Morwell-Sale grand final rematch in their diaries.

It was at this moment Shaw said Wonthaggi found the inspiration it needed to provide one more effort.

“At three-quarter-time we could see the Morwell players leaving which we used as motivation for them not showing us any respect,” he said.

“Our coach Rob Railton spurred us on and said to roll the dice.”

Wonthaggi kicked the opening goal of the final term and added another when Nathan Jones kicked truly. All of a sudden the margin was under five goals with plenty of time to play.

A bizarre occurrence happened shortly after when defender Shannon Bray left his regular posting at full back and kicked his first goal for the season, bringing the Power to within 22 points.

The Magpies went into the game with question marks over the fitness of several players, and while their run dried up, it appeared the team was hitting more of a mental wall than a physical one.

Sale continued to crack in and force stoppages, but was unable to get the ball beyond the Power’s high press.

The Power players were beginning to believe, while the public was being sent into meltdown.

“We were a close confident group and once we had some momentum we knew our set ups would prevail,” Shaw said.

“Sale started getting lippy with the umpires and each other and it was at that moment I knew we had them.”

At the 22-minute mark of the final term, Aloysio Ferriera-Neto found an inch of space in a crowded forward 50 to make it four goals in a row for the Power, and when a Chris Wylie free kick was followed by another neat finish from Jones, it was within four points.

With barely a minute remaining, the rampaging Power won a clearance and worked it to Michael Kelly on the edge of 50. The small forward seemed to mark the ball, but was called to play on, and while he was set upon by Sale defenders, got his kick away and the ball sailed through to put the Power ahead for the first time of the afternoon.

As the ball tumbled toward goal from Kelly’s left foot, almost in slow motion, those in attendance erupted in a collective roar of shock as jaws dropped and hands went on top of heads in utter disbelief.

In a last ditch effort, the Magpies piled forward, but the siren rang a short time later, giving Wonthaggi the unlikelyst of vic-

tories, 13.12 (90) to 13.10 (88).

The Power had kept Sale score-less and kicked 7.5 (47) in the final quarter to make the grand final.

Emotional scenes followed as Wonthaggi supporters rushed onto the ground to celebrate victory. Power flags waved in a sea of teal, black and white as players, coaches and supporters embraced in a euphoric scene usually reserved for post grand final celebrations.

“When the final siren sounded I remember hugging random strangers that had found their way onto the ground, it was such a good feeling,” Shaw said.

“Everyone, and I mean everyone was singing the club song.”

Back in the jam-packed rooms, long serving players, committee members and supporters wiped away tears as all present tried to comprehend what had happened.

Winning coach Rob Railton said he couldn’t take any credit for the performance of the players in the fourth quarter.

“You need a lot to go your way and you just try to sell a positive message, there was no magic changes at three quarter time or anything like that, it was all the players,” he said.

“As a coach in that situation there’s not a lot you can do, it was really just the players and great testament to their character to come back the way they did.”

Looking back, Railton said he felt his side could press home to win just before time on during the frenetic final term.

“It was probably at the 18 minute mark that I started to believe we were a chance, once momentum swings in footy it’s hard to get back and it just evaporated for Sale,” he said.

“The one part I remember vividly is when Jarrod Membrey came off his man to intercept a ball that would have resulted in a Sale score.

“The ball then went down the other end and we got a goal out of it.

“At that stage I thought ‘that’s what we need, take the game on, don’t just kick over the mark and down the line”.

“After the game I had to keep

my coaching hat on, I said well done boys on the win but we still have a grand final to play.”

The result created a new record for a comeback in a Gippsland League final and also returned some interesting numbers. Sale was intent on defending its lead and consistently kicked across the ground. The Magpies had more marks for the term than Wonthaggi but most of them were uncontested. Sale’s two inside 50s for the term barely went more than 10 metres into their 50.

With such an epic preliminary final staged, the actual grand final became an almost secondary event in the eyes of many.

Shaw said Wonthaggi may well have already played its grand final a week early.

“I think emotionally we were gassed from the preliminary final. The grand final definitely didn’t have the same intensity,” he said.

Morwell won a somewhat non-atmospheric premiership decider by three goals in a dour 8.7 (55) to 5.7 (37) victory.

Shaw was in no doubt as to where the preliminary final win ranked in his career.

“It was definitely the best win I have been a part of,” he said. “All the boys that played that day are lucky enough to be a part of something special.”

Despite falling short at the last hurdle, Railton said the Wonthaggi team of 2014 was one he held close to his heart.

“Even though we lost the grand final I’ve got the team photo from the day up on the wall because for me – that team epitomised effort,” he said.

“The scoreboard never dictates effort.

“When you are 12 goals down at half-time in the mud you stop worrying about it and focus on each contest you have control of.

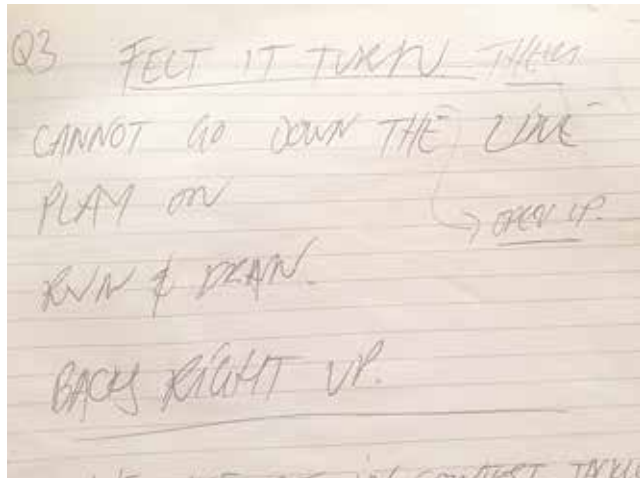
“The same applies when you are up by 12 or scores are level.

“It sounds simple but that is what the best teams do.”

Authors note: The emotion in that last quarter was palpable. Those Wonthaggi players played as if their lives depended on the result.



Wonthaggi players Troy Harley, Chris Wylie and Shannon Bray celebrate after coming back from 45 points down to win the 2014 preliminary final.



Wonthaggi coach Rob Railton’s three quarter time notes.

Local couple take on Bear Grylls challenge

By Liam Durkin

WHILE most people would associate Fiji with palm trees, beaches and coconuts, local couple Rob and Kathryn Preston explored another part of the tropical nation as competitors on a worldwide adventure racing competition.

Representing one of six teams from Australia, the Prestons, along with three other teammates, including fellow Gippslander Tim Boote, jetted off to Fiji last year to take part in the event.

Competitors have had to remain tight-lipped since taking part, as the race was filmed for a new television series streaming on Amazon Prime Video.

The show, hosted by Bear Grylls, is titled World's Toughest Race: Eco-Challenge Fiji and has been reborn after a lengthy hiatus and gives an insight into the somewhat niche and unknown sport of adventure racing.

Adventure racing may well be the most grueling of all sports, as it encompasses an array of disciplines from navigation, mountain bike riding, kayaking and rock climbing, to name a few, as players are pushed to the absolute limits of physical and mental endurance.

The sport actually has its

origin in Australia, and has been developed to showcase the landscapes of various places in the great outdoors.

At its simplest, the sport requires teams to complete a lengthy course in the shortest time possible upon been handed a map, whilst checking in at certain points along the way.

The World's Toughest Race: Eco-Challenge Fiji set out over 600 kilometres with 11 days set aside for completion.

With an extensive career in outdoor adventure and rogaining, where they have been world champions, the Prestons decided to tackle the Bear Grylls challenge head on.

Rob said the race certainly lived up to the title of 'world's toughest'.

"We had a 671km course to complete with seven different disciplines, running, outrigger canoeing, rafting, stand up paddle boarding, ropes section and all including navigation in teams of four so we had to complete the course as fast as possible, and competing against teams from 30 countries around the world," he said.

"The climate, with the heat and variety of the terrain in Fiji is what makes it difficult because you've got rough oceans and next

time you might be mountain biking through really muddy sections because of storm and then tough white water paddling and then horrendous jungle travel as well, so it's the combination of all those challenges that really made it the world's toughest race."

Adventure racing is certainly not a sport for the faint-hearted, with competitors making their way down rock crevasses, across glaziers and through dimly lit seas in order to complete courses.

Unbelievably, adventure racers will go days without sleep just to stay among race leaders.

While you are unlikely to find chocolate or coke among the list of foods recommended for most athletes, adventure racers often consume products high in sugar to allow them to keep their eyes open.

However, as Kathryn explained, the choice to go to sleep or not was a delicate balancing act.

"You have to work out if it's worth stopping. We averaged two hours sleep a night," she said.

"The first couple of nights we didn't sleep and then we just had to because it would have got too dangerous.

"You can actually push yourself to go three days without

sleeping, it's amazing how far you can go."

The decision whether or not to seek some shut-eye is the ultimate risk-verses-reward conundrum, as sleep deprivation heightens the chances of making a mistake later in the race, but going to bed could mean opponents are out gaining vital distance.

In order to complete adventure racing courses efficiently, Rob believed the ability to think on your feet was paramount.

"The teams that do really well are the ones that recover from their mistakes quickly," he said.

"No one has a perfect race, you can't for seven days, so the difference between an inexperienced team and a quality team is that the best racers can just make smaller mistakes and move on quicker and they don't let it faze them mentally as much."

As well as the race itself, Rob said it was great to be able to visit a number of Fijian villages along the way.

"Some of the best parts of the race was the engagement with the local communities, the villages really are close knit, some of them still don't have roads going to them," he said.

"They are just the most friendly people. They loved ev-

eryone coming through their villages and it was just a couple days party for them as teams would come through."

While sceptics always question the authenticity of reality television shows, Rob guaranteed that "none of it was scripted" in World's Toughest Race: Eco-Challenge Fiji.

The show had a budget of \$40 million and spared no expense as helicopters, body cameras, and go pros were used to capture hours of footage.

Rob said he was looking forward to tuning in to see how his team appeared on screen, and also praised the role of one of the world's most well-known adventurers, Bear Grylls, who his team was able to meet a couple of times on and off camera.

"He's definitely going to bring a great coverage to the sport. He's got a huge following and he's a real showman but also very genuine," Rob said.

"It's great the things he's done with Scouts and promoting physical activity and not just selling a few shows on TV.

"Hopefully the sport gets some recognition out of it and inspires the next generation of outdoors people to give it a go."

Adventure racing also offers a great metaphor to everyday life,

with components such as teamwork, strong communication and staying calm in a crisis all prevalent.

Somewhat ironically, Rob said the sport also offered some parallels to the current coronavirus pandemic.

"We've been thrown big challenges now and it's quite similar to the race really in that we didn't know the full course when we started," Rob said.

Moving forward, Rob and Kathryn hope to give adventure racing a higher profile in Gippsland.

"Gippsland is just a great place to have adventures in the outdoors and to make the most of where you live all throughout Gippsland," Rob said.

"We think it's the perfect playground to go out and train for adventure racing and go out and see what's in your backyard.

"For us we've got a pretty busy life with two kids and are just everyday people that aspire to big challenges and I think it's great to show what we can achieve without being professional athletes, that's the pleasing thing for us."

For more information on adventure racing visit www.explore Gippsland.com.au

Community clubs need funds to survive COVID-19

Australia's 70,000 community sports clubs need funding support to the tune of \$1.2 billion to survive the effects of the COVID-19.

The Australian Sports Foundation has conducted a national campaign to help it determine the affect of COVID-19 on community sport across the country.

Community sports clubs have already lost an estimated \$1.6 billion to date because of the virus and with lockdowns continuing in parts of Australia and sport still in jeopardy, this figure is set to rise.

The survey revealed more than 16,000 of community sports clubs are thought to be at risk of closure if funding support isn't provided within the next six months.

On top of the financial impact, 70 per cent of small local

clubs are forecasting a reduction in the number of participants due to loss of interest caused by the period of inactivity and/or concerns around health and hygiene, while 43 per cent forecast a decline in volunteers, which are so vital to the running of community sport.

ASF chief executive Patrick Walker said the survey showed that without financial support thousands of community clubs risked insolvency in the months ahead which presented a risk to the physical and mental health of communities.

"This is not just a sporting crisis, but a national crisis," he said.

"And the return to sporting activity, whenever it happens, does not mean the crisis is over — indeed, it is just beginning.

"To solve a problem of this

scale requires a collaborative approach, so we are calling on all who care about the role of sport in creating healthy, inclusive communities to help us fund grassroots sport's recovery."

The survey revealed: most main sources of revenue ceased or declined (with up to 80 per cent of clubs reporting declines in one or more of memberships, sponsorships, fundraising and events/hospitality); 91 per cent of small local clubs (an estimated 42,600 clubs around Australia) recording ongoing expenses such as utility bills, affiliation fees, maintenance and rent; 93 per cent of all clubs lost money due to ongoing expenses coupled with the loss in revenue, and losses were funded by clubs drawing down on savings or going into debt.

The survival of thousands of

clubs is under threat if financial support is not provided quickly as responses to the survey also showed that community clubs have little in the way of capital or cash reserves with over half of all clubs reporting less than six months funds available, and one quarter citing insolvency risk as one of their major challenges.

"Our task now is to help community sport survive COVID-19. Having highlighted the unfolding crisis, and now quantified the scale of the problem, we want to work with Australia's political, philanthropic and corporate leaders — and everyone who cares about the role community sport plays in our way of life — to help solve the issue," Walker said.

While the funding needed to support each club through the resumption and the months that

follow is relatively small, in aggregate the funding required is significant at \$1.2 billion.

For the most at risk clubs — those needing support within three months — the amount needed is estimated at \$300 million, with a further \$400 million of support for those at risk within six months.

"Community sports clubs face multiple challenges in the months and years ahead, including reduced revenues and increased costs, together with pressures on the affordability of sport for participants, and projected declines in volunteers due to health concerns," Walker said.

"These clubs are about more than the sport itself — they are the lifeblood of communities all over Australia. They are made up of individuals who pay utility bills, shop at supermarkets and

fill up at petrol stations.

"They are not the top end of town, but need support from this sector and the whole philanthropic community if we are to avoid the loss of thousands of clubs and the widespread social dislocation that would follow."

The survey collected 4337 responses from 4127 organisations and covered around 100 different sport types from the mainstream like football, netball and cricket, to sports with only one or two respondents, like carriage driving and the paddle-board game of pickleball.

Tragedy for local football community

August proved to be a heartbreaking month for many in local sporting circles, as the community mourned the loss of three young footballers across Gippsland.

Warragul Industrials and Buln Buln premierships player Tyson Bale, Stratford's Lachlan Heywood, and former Lindenow

junior Jack De Luca were all laid to rest last month.

The deaths of the three young men sent shockwaves across the region and heightened the importance of reaching out to family and friends in times of need.

Sydney star Tom Papley wore a black armband in memory of Tyson Bale during the Swans

round nine match against St Kilda, and motioned to it after kicking a goal to commemorate their friendship through football.

Speaking before the game, Papley implored people who were experiencing difficulties to reach out and seek help.

Given the cancellation of local sport this season, many who

use club sport as an outlet may be feeling isolated and need the support of friends and family now more than ever.

Former Trafalgar resident and footballer Cohan Lee, who has overcome his own mental health battles, has urged anyone struggling to seek help before it was too late.

"Gone are the days where the 'men are tough, men don't cry or suffer' agenda is pushed," he said.

"Grab a mate, sit them down and let them in.

"There's no need to fight it alone.

"Tough is not just how hard you go at the footy. Being able

to accept something is wrong and letting those that love and care for you in so you can battle whatever it is together to me is the pure example of toughness."

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



Local couple Kathryn and Rob Preston competed in the reality television series Bear Grylls' World's Toughest Race: Eco Challenge Fiji. The series is now showing on Amazon Prime Video.

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Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

Burgo the man with the golden tickets

ORDINARILY the month of September is the time of year Victorian footy fans try desperately to get their hands on AFL finals tickets.

Although this year will be a miss, once things return to normal ticket agencies will no doubt be swamped with people wanting to see their favourite team on the big stage.

Working at his Morwell newsagency, Trafalgar resident Christian Burgess has often been the one to print finals tickets for those who have lined up for days on end.

Here, Burgo provides a few insights into the ticket system, as well as some anecdotes from a lengthy career in local sport.

(Questions by Liam Durkin).

In a nutshell, are you able to explain how the allocation process works for tickets during AFL finals?

Generally the AFL set limits for club members, AFL members and MCC members.

AFL corporate members also have an allocation and what's left is available for the general public.

What is the break down for the grand final in terms of corporates, club members, AFL members etc?

It changes yearly, but roughly 20,000 for each competing club members. 20,000 AFL members, the rest is AFL corporate sponsors and MCC members.

How many days do people start lining up outside before the grand final?

The tickets for the grand final go on sale on the Sunday before the grand final. So people start lining up maybe the Tuesday or

Wednesday before that.

Is there a bit of a gentlemen's agreement for lining up? Like if someone needs to get something to eat they won't lose their spot?

All of the people that line up early consider themselves a little community, so they do look after each other. It is very territorial so if anyone from outside Gippsland comes they are a little bit suspicious.

So people from outside Gippsland converge on Morwell during grand final week in the hope of getting a ticket?

We do get a lot of inquiries from Melbourne punters asking how long the line is.

If someone wanted to give themselves the best chance of getting a grand final ticket every year what would you suggest?

Apart from being an MCC member, probably an AFL member as you can also nominate the club you support. Therefore it is easier to get a ticket if your club makes the grand final and still gives you a chance to attend the grand final even if you're club is not in the grand final.

If someone walked in with all the money in the world that wasn't a member and wanted a grand final ticket would they have much luck?

Maybe if GWS and Gold Coast was in the grand final. Other than that not much hope really.

In your time what has been the hardest grand final to get tickets to?

Probably the draw in 2010 between Collingwood and St Kilda.

Generally if two Melbourne based teams get into the grand final it is pretty much organised and unorganised chaos!

How quickly would tickets have gone if it was a Richmond-Collingwood grand final last year?

Twenty minutes at the most, and then a lot of disappointed supporters that would miss out.

As well as the grand final what are some other events that sell out quickly?

Any major concert or event at Rod Laver Arena like The Eagles, Pink, Katy Perry etc or the Australian Open, usually sells out in 10 to 15 minutes.

Do you think much scalping goes on?

Definitely, you only have to look at sites like eBay and Gumtree.

Jumping into your own playing days. Multiple senior premierships at Traf before heading to Morwell. How did that move come about?

I played all my junior years at Trafalgar, played in an under 17 premiership then two senior premierships, I was 18 and looked to step up in standard.

Lachlan Sim who was coaching Morwell came to see me and I was impressed how passionate he was about footy, he was only 23 himself so off I went to play at Morwell.

The Morwell teams you played in are regarded as some of the best to ever play in the Gippsland League. You would

have played alongside some absolute superstars during that time?

Yes definitely. Some that stand out are Rod Taylor (best I played with), Adrian Bromage (who won a Sandover Medal), Lachlan Sim (played for the Brisbane Bears) and Jason McFarlane.

But in general Lachlan Sim teams are based on strong team ethic so we had really good players on every line.

On a slightly humorous note can you tell us about the best game you thought you were going to play that didn't eventuate?

It was Morwell verses Moe in maybe 1994 or 1995. It was a Sunday game, big crowd, beautiful day, two top teams. I managed to kick the first three goals of the game and was thinking "this is my day, I'm set for a big game here".

Well, I didn't get another kick until the last two minutes of the game.

A bloke by the name of Ken Rainsford went on to kick 14 goals for Moe.

We managed to lose a game after kicking 23 goals.

Still the greatest game I've been involved in.

One of your teammates, Brett Knowles, ended up getting drafted to St Kilda. That must have been great to see?

Brett had won Gippsland Power's best and fairest and also managed to play in our Morwell premiership team as an 18 year old.

We were in Adelaide on a footy trip when the AFL draft was on.

Thinking Brett was a chance we sat in a pub and started watching hoping he would be drafted,

after about an hour everyone was a few beers in and starting to pay less attention to the draft.

After about two hours no one was watching the draft, then 'pick 71 Brett Knowles' got called out drafted to St Kilda.

Thirty-five pretty drunk teammates were pretty happy and we went on to sing the St Kilda theme song for the next three hours. Fun day. I think!

You then came back to Traf and ended up being senior playing-coach for two seasons. Did you always have ambitions to coach?

After five years at Morwell and two premierships I came back to Trafalgar. I made a lot of good friends at Morwell but I always wanted to come back and play with mates I grew up with.

Probably being coached by Lachlan Sim sparked the interest in coaching.

The challenge of trying to unite a group of people for a common goal is pretty rewarding.

Preliminary finals in both years you were senior coach. Give that a pass mark?

First year definitely a pass mark. We made the preliminary final with a bunch of kids, personally my worst year for injuries but couldn't have been prouder of the team's effort and commitment.

Second year, no. Devastating as we were six goals up in the preliminary final and lost. Trafalgar then had the opportunity to appoint Brian Leys (former Richmond player) which I happily agreed with as we had just started a family and coaching does take up a lot of time.

More recently your work with junior footy and cricket has

been immense. How has that experience been?

I think it is important for kids to have something to focus on and be part of something that as a group they all contribute to.

I never actually coached a team unless my kids asked me to so that they could be themselves.

In saying that my kids were the first to whinge when we did fitness work ha-ha.

Most kids hated doing the fitness work at the time, but after the session felt pretty good about themselves, which is pretty rewarding as a coach.

Coaching juniors or seniors is challenging, you have to be a dad, mum, best friend, enemy and psychologist!

But most importantly is working out what motivates every individual, then working out how to get the best out of them.

In saying all that you have to make it enjoyable, it's gotta be fun, that's the main reason everyone comes back each year.

On a light hearted note to finish, you won a slab for hitting the last ball of the game for six a few years back. Can you talk us through that?

Probably my greatest sporting moment ha-ha.

It was against Morwell Cricket Club in A Grade and we had actually just won the game and finishing the last over when a mate of mine from Morwell Craig Giddens challenged me to hit the last ball of the day for six with a slab of beer as the prize. Challenge taken.

I proceeded to hit the last ball for six, it cleared the rope by one inch.

Even though the Morwell boys had just been beaten they were pretty happy that I hit the six so Craig would have to shout the slab of beer.

Summer tennis begins next month

By Sue Klemke

The summer tennis season is about to start and can go ahead under COVID-19 guidelines from Tennis Victoria.

If you are interested in playing junior tennis on a Saturday morning, please call Luke Bryant on 0408 567 087 by Friday, September 4. The season starts on October 10.

If you are interested in play-

ing senior tennis in the Riverside Tennis competition on Saturday afternoons please register your interest before Monday, August 31 with Colin Maney on 0438 507 849.

Trafalgar Tennis Club also runs a night tennis competition for all ages and abilities. Please register your interest by Wednesday, September 23. Night tennis

starts on Wednesday, October 7 (6.15pm onwards) and all players are welcome. Please call Brett Tonkin on 0427 220 127.

Other enquires to the club can be made by emailing trafen-nis@gmail.com or by following the club on Facebook.

Cricket season may or may not start next month

By Liam Durkin

At time of writing (August 10) there appears to be a little chance the 2020-21 cricket season will commence on its usual first-week-of-October start date.

Naturally, given the complexities of the COVID situation and its ever changing nature, planning for the upcoming season has indeed been difficult.

That being said, players and officials have been keeping tabs and will no doubt be raring to go once given the all clear to play some cricket.

From an administration viewpoint there may be some benefits in the long run, as this writer is approaching it with a "if we can get through this we can get through anything" mentality.

Training sessions at the new Moe indoor centre pre-restrictions were well attended and received, whilst a number of players have been spotted running around town keeping fit.

Some players also have milestones on the horizon and could reach them next season.

Daniel Heathcote (89 A Grade games) and Jackson Noonan (87) should register their 100th A Grade matches during the

season, whilst Zack Brown (84 senior games) should also celebrate his 100th senior match.

John Asmussen has a commanding lead on the all-time games tally at 368, with Christian Burgess the next best of the current players on 227.

Heathcote is also only 26 wickets away from climbing into the top five on the clubs all time aggregate, and may get there next season.

Brown needs eight wickets to make it 100 senior poles.

A few players are also within reach of batting milestones. Rhys Holdsworth is 282 runs shy of the 5500 mark and James Blaser is 20 runs away from 5000 career runs for the club.

Christian Burgess is 438 runs away from reaching 5000 career runs, whilst Mark Wynne and Scott Moorhouse are less than 200 runs away from posting 3000 runs for Trafalgar.

Youngsters Aydan Connolly (801 runs) and Liam White (747) are also not far off joining the 1000-club.

Others close to 1000 runs for Trafalgar are Heathcote (973), Jasin Hopkins (941) and Jack Holdsworth (907).

Veteran Billy Pace is 208 runs away from four figures and will be looking to cut and pull his way to 1000 in the near future.

All senior Trafalgar teams will face a double endre this season. A and C Grade will be challenged with not only qualifying for finals and going deep but also proving their worth in the higher division, whilst B Grade will be tasked with having a successful season and earning promotion again.

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, under 12s and also ran an entry level program.

Coming off the back of a very satisfying 2019-20 season, the Trafalgar Cricket Club is expecting performances across the grades to remain strong as the club seeks further premiership 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 Facebook page.



Trafalgar Cricket Club brains trust Daniel Heathcote and Rhys Holdsworth, (pictured pre-COVID), have their thinking caps on ahead of the new season.

COVID concerns prompt GCL shake up

By Liam Durkin

Due to cost cutting measures, the Gippsland Cricket League season for seniors and under 18s has been revamped into a two pool competition for the upcoming season.

The new format will see two pools created and reduce the five round competition to three games per team plus the final.

Sale-Maffra, Traralgon and Bairnsdale will make up one pool, whilst Leongatha, Warragul and Latrobe Valley will play in another.

Each team will play one home game, one away game and will have a bye in the pool stage.

The top two teams from each pool will then play a semi final against a corresponding opponent in the opposite pool.

The minor premier from the pools will play the second ranked team from the other pool for a place in the final, whilst the third ranked teams will play each other in a consolation final.

Teams that top the pools will get a home ground advantage for the semi-final.

Individual performances in the pool stage and the semi-finals will determine the All-Gippsland team.

Trafalgar Cricket Club players selected in GCL will play for the Latrobe Valley team.

Further cost cutting measures by Cricket Victoria to withdraw the Regional Big Bash have also led to the cancellation of the 2020-21 Kookaburra Cup.

The Kookaburra Cup is an annual fixture in Gippsland

cricket pitting the two best performed teams from the previous season against each other for the right to represent Gippsland at the Regional Big Bash.

Trafalgar won the Kookaburra Cup in 2010 and played in the Regional Big Bash in 2017.

Elsewhere, the Bairnsdale Cricket Association will host Junior Country Week this season.

Women's GCL will also be reduced to a maximum of four days plus a final.

The Gippsland Cricket League will once again be led by George Munro (president), David Anderson (secretary) and Neil Purdy (treasurer).

Wally's Words



I had a dream I went to Hell and Satan forced me to sing karaoke with him. That's right, the Devil made me duet
— Wally

Upcoming Baw Baw Shire Council Elections

October 24 will see Baw Baw Shire Council elections held, by postal vote.

Trafalgar is the hub of the East Ward and is about to expand rapidly. New and upgraded sports facilities are already on the way and will aid this fast-growing area of Baw Baw Shire.

I am again nominating to be one of your East Ward Councillors.

I have had over 12 years of experience as a Councillor with a heavy focus on both the rural and residential communities.

Now retired, after having 46 years in the livestock industry, I am still farming. I hope you can again show confidence in me to represent you for the next four years.

Vote 1 Peter Kostos



Major achievements this year;

- New road maintenance contractor, situated in Trafalgar
- Doubling of road maintenance contract to \$8 million
- New multiuse facility for Trafalgar recreation reserve
- Upgraded lighting and electrical system for Thorpdale recreation reserve

Authorised by Roy Lindsay, Yarragon Leongatha Road, Yarragon



Trafalgar resident Christian Burgess has been the man to print many AFL finals tickets over the years.



People line up in Morwell for tickets to the 2019 AFL Grand Final.

Turra brothers instrumental in modernisation of recreation precinct

With the recent announcement that Baw Baw Shire Council received funding from the state government to construct a new multi-use pavilion at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve, particular mention should be made of the Turra brothers – Jim, Frank and Dominic – the original owners of the land.

The Turra Brothers 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 masterplan 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.

A proposal was forwarded to council by Mick Bourke OAM around 12 months ago to have the Turra name formally recognised at the new recreation precinct. Council advised Mr Bourke that it couldn't name a significant part of the precinct in honour of the Turra family due to legislative barriers.

The proposal wished for a portion or a significant building within the precinct to be named after the Turra family for their community mindedness in making their land available for the Trafalgar community, which has resulted in the potential for the enormous expansion of the recreation precinct.

The main users of the precinct – Trafalgar Football-Netball Club, Trafalgar Cricket Club and Trafalgar Victory Football Club - all agreed in principle to the proposal.

It is hoped the Turra family name will be formally recognised in some capacity once construction of the new precinct and pavilion is complete.



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 property is now an integral part of Trafalgar's current and future recreation needs.

STAY | HOME

Stage 3 *Stay at Home* restrictions are now in place for regional Victoria.

There are only 4 reasons to leave home.



Shopping for food
and supplies that
you need



Care and
caregiving



Exercise



Work and study
if you can't do it
from home



And if you're out
you must wear a
face covering

If you have symptoms, get tested then stay home.

STAYING
APART | KEEPS
US | TOGETHER

For all current restrictions go to vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

