

Traf News

April 2022 – Edition 248

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HOUSING BOOM FOR TRAF

Residential land is set to expand in Trafalgar, with Baw Baw Shire supporting a 324 lot subdivision south of the Princes Highway at its meeting in late February.

Council has issued a notice of decision to grant a permit for the new estate which extends the town's current boundary west of Dodemaids Road.

The application, submitted by Planning Central on behalf of developers The Range, shows a 324 lot subdivision over a 41 hectare property in Princes Highway and School Road. The estate includes three drainage reserves and a public open space reserve.

Councillors approved the application despite calls from objectors for a more environmentally sustainable subdivision design.

The proposed lots are between 500 square metres and 1622 square metres, an average lot size of 746 square metres and a density of 9.6 lots net developable area.

The subdivision includes three roads that will link into a future residential estate extending further west to Sunny Creek Road.

Access from Dodemaids Road into the new estate also is proposed via an existing road reserve and a roundabout will be constructed at the Dodemaids and School roads intersection.

A 3.2 hectare drainage reserve will be developed adjacent to the Princes Highway while a 7822 square metre

open space reserve will be created in the centre of the subdivision.

There were six objections to the subdivision which largely related to the impact of stormwater on houses north of the railway line, drainage concerns and traffic management issues on existing road networks.

Objectors said the town's schools, roads and infrastructure could not handle 700 new houses and also requested a walk and bike path be included connecting Sunny Creek Road and Dodemaids Road via the Princes Highway.

Tony Stewart told council the site was a "potential toxic bomb" because sub surface soil and groundwater north of the former tip site had never been tested for contaminants.

"My concern is that the soil in the development will be considerably disturbed during construction and then have up to 300 families living on top of it," he said.

Murray Cook called for sustainably designed subdivisions, saying Trafalgar and Yarragon communities did not want the Warragul and Drouin standard of development in their towns.

"Well designed developments will have an effect on the rural character of our towns and also enhance the value of existing real estate.

"We know we can't stop progress but we can demand the infrastructure that should accompany it," he said.

On behalf of the developer, Glenn Kell of Planning Central said the land had been identified for residential development for many years.

He said a lot of work had been undertaken with expert reports being obtained addressing civil infrastructure, traffic and linkages and bushfire risk.

He said the drainage plan had been developed specific for the development.

Cr Peter Kostos said expert planning and engineering consultants had considered the application and supported the proposal.

He said retardation basins and wetlands had proven very successful in holding back water and runoff.

Cr Kostos said there was a 300 metre buffer to the Trafalgar landfill site, that had previously been capped and tested.

Cr Darren Wallace said there was a need for residential land in the town.

"There isn't a block of land for sale in the town at the moment."

He said he understood the concerns about the old tip but "let's hope there are no contaminated soil issues in the future."

Cr Wallace said he was not a drainage engineer but he had read the report and he believed the drainage basins would "go some way in alleviating some of Trafalgar's flooding issues more broadly."

Source: Warragul & Drouin Gazette



The proposed development on the former Johnson farm which will see Trafalgar grow to the west to Sunny Creek Road

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Free skin cancer check and awareness unit to visit Traf

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world and Lions Clubs in Victoria and Southern New South Wales are doing something practical about reducing that level and its impact on families.

The incorporated charity, the Lions V Districts Cancer Foundation, has put a Skin Check and Awareness Unit on the road, following excel-

lent financial support from Lions Clubs and generous public and private supporters.

The Lions Club of Trafalgar are proud to announce that the Skin Check van will be visiting Trafalgar on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1.

The van will provide a free skin screening service to local people and will be operated by fully trained,

certificated and professionally supervised volunteers. The unit will also be a valuable resource for local people to access not only the skin check, but valuable and timely information about skin care and self-checking techniques.

We know early detection of skin lesions potentially saves lives, so this visit will be a timely support and reminder to local people of the need to take care of their skin.

Following the skin check, visitors will be issued with a referral to their GP if there are any suspect spots or lesions. The Unit is not a medical clinic, so diagnosis or treatment requirements are not discussed - it simply provides the skin check and alerts the visitor to skin lesions that require further checking and attention. A

great first step in ensuring urgent needs are addressed.

The air-conditioned van has three fully equipped screening rooms and an entry foyer, as well as a disabled lift and entry at the rear.

Attendance is by appointment only. To book a free

Skin Cancer Screening, local and surrounding residents should phone Lynne Byrne on 0409 143 670 or by email sheena@desi.net.au.

The Lions V Districts Mobile Unit is a public service provided by volunteers. As such, and in line with health

directives in the state of Victoria, this service is unable to assess or allow access to the van for people who are unvaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

Museum hosts travelling Holdens

Photo by Marge O'Donnell

Trafalgar Holden Museum welcomed a number of vintage Torana's from New South Wales last month. The cars had travelled for several days

before stopping at Trafalgar's Holden Museum on their way to Philip Island for the long weekend. It was a spectacle to see the Torana's lining Trafalgar's streets. The

group enjoyed a big lunch at the Trafalgar Criterion Hotel before continuing their travels to Cowes.



Torana's on display in Traf.

Check out our new website
www.trafnews.com

We now offer digital
advertising space, and local
business profiles on our site.

Editor's note

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

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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ISSN 1444.1608



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
the voice of the community
MEMBER 2021

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Happy golden wedding anniversary Robyn and Phil Walker

Happy golden wedding anniversary Robyn and Phil Walker

Robyn and Phil Walker are set to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on April 22.

After meeting at a New Years Day dance in 1971 and dating for three months Robyn cornered Phil with the question filled with landmines and asked, "how much do you love me?" Phil not understanding the trap that had been set, responded with "enough to marry you". And thus, the most unromantic proposal in history was made.

The happy couple announced their engagement on May 22 and preparations started for the wedding.

The first issue was to pick a date. Phil insisted that it be the 22nd so that he only had one anniversary to remember. Thus, the wedding was set for April 22 1972.

The wedding day arrived with the usual amount of unforeseen issues. Robyn's family had been saving chicken wish bones to be painted in theme colour of brilliant orange and used as place holders at the reception.

However, the family dog had discovered the bones and celebrated by eating them. A call then went out in the local paper for more wishbones. Wishbones were then sent in the hundreds to the family. A train strike delayed the arrival of flowers for the big day and instead local gardens were raided to make bouquets for the bridesmaids, yellow flowers were featured to have a juxtaposition against the brilliant orange bridesmaids' dresses. Robyn was also suffering a head cold.

All of this led to the ceremony at St Mary's Anglican Church, Trafalgar where traditional vows were exchanged. The wedding featured in the local paper of the time not for the romantic events that it was but for the fact that Robyn's 'something old' was a 100 year old hankie (lace trimmed and hopefully unused).

The day after the wedding, when calling in to get Robyn's belongings so that she could move into the two room flat in Melbourne with Phil, Phil was told by Robyn's mother that there were no returns, and so their married

life began.

They went on to have three kids and are now grandparents to five grand-

children.

Robyn's advice to a long marriage is to never go to sleep on a quarrel. Phil's ad-

vice is to not argue (you sleep better) and settle things when Robyn doesn't want to quarrel.

Happy anniversary Robyn and Phil.



Phil and Robyn Walker celebrate their 50th anniversary this month.

Open Day

Saturday 21 May
10am – 2pm

Register now at
stpaulsags.vic.edu.au

Warragul Campus
Kindergarten to Year 12

Local CFA is busy

The past few months have been keeping Trafalgar brigade busy, 10 firecalls in March (as of Thursday, March 17). This has included some grass and scrub fires, car accidents in the busy holiday period, a house fire, illegal burn offs, and other incidents.

The brigade has also been keeping busy fundraising. After fund-raising activities in 2020 and 2021 were disrupted by COVID, Trafalgar CFA brigade has been in full swing in early 2022 participating in community events and raising vital money. Trafalgar CFA attended the Local Cups & Community Race Day in Moe in February, along with other local brigades. At this event proceeds were raised from the entry fee, activities including a petting zoo and rides, as well as a classic sausage sizzle. The public was also given a chance to see the CFA trucks up close, and the Trafalgar tanker was particularly popular among some of the local kids.

Another fundraising ef-

fort in full swing in February was the hose recoupling project. Across the organisation, CFA is standardizing coupling connections on their trucks and hoses to enable greater equipment compatibility and ease of use on the fireground. This recoupling is being conducted by brigades with the relevant expertise and equipment, with funds raised from the project going to that brigade. Trafalgar is one such brigade and has been completing recoupling for other local CFAs.

Fundraising and grants are important components of enabling brigades to maintain operational capability by paying for repairs or updates to equipment, purchasing new equipment, and funding training and specific qualifications for members. One such expenditure that people around town may have noticed is the works being done at the Trafalgar CFA station. The Trafalgar station is getting a much-needed room dedicated for cleaning and storing Breathing Apparatus (BA) equipment.

BA equipment is vital in enabling the brigade to respond effectively to structure fires, vehicle fires, HAZMAT incidences, and other emergencies. Trafalgar's BA equipment has been used multiple times over February and March in response to fire calls, and the brigade is looking forward to having a room dedicated to this equipment.

If you would like to support the Trafalgar brigade's you can go to <https://cfavic.secure.force.com/giving-community/> and select the Trafalgar brigade to make a donation

The brigade would also like to remind local residents that the Fire Danger Period is still in force (as of writing this article, 17 March 2022) and fire restrictions mean you cannot burn off or light a fire in the open air unless you have a permit. To inquire about a permit, or for more information re-garding restrictions visit <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-danger-period-restrictions>.

Community banks excluded

By Keith Anderson

The three community banks in Baw Baw Shire have been excluded by the State Education Department from holding accounts of local state schools.

A directive from the department, Financial Manual - Financial Man-agement for Schools, has given Victorian government schools that don't already bank with one of its approved banking suppliers - major banks Westpac, Commonwealth Australia Bank (CBA) or National Australia Bank (NAB) - to "transition" by the end of this month.

Drouin and District, Neerim District and Trafalgar and District community Bendigo banks are disappointed with the action by the Education Department.

Local schools, including state schools, have been significant beneficiaries from their community grants programs.

Schools' operating accounts that must be held in the name of the school council are used for receipt of monies from local and commonwealth government sources and local funds such as voluntary contributions, donations and fund-raising activities.

The community banks are the only remaining banks in Drouin, Neerim South and Trafalgar following the closure of branches there by the major banks.

The only branches of the major banks now available in Baw Baw Shire are in Warragul.

The Drouin, Neerim and Trafalgar community banks were not willing to state what schools bank with them or did so until recently.

Chair of the Trafalgar community bank Christine

Holland said the department's decision was short-sighted.

She said the decision would impact day-to-day banking and profit margins and, in turn, the amount that can be put back into the community.

As well as the Trafalgar high and primary schools, other schools in the Trafalgar district have received funding from the \$1.6 million it has distributed, Ms Holland said.

Member for Narracan Gary Blackwood described the mandate to schools to use one of three major banks for their accounts as "another example of state government centralised control overtaking common sense and intruding into people's lives".

There is no reason and it is not right to take away schools' ability to choose to use the services of a bank in their own communities, he said.

Many, particularly in regional areas, have built long-term relationships with their local banks, Mr Blackwood added.

Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath said that as well as the directive to schools, other state-run health services and organisations had previously been directed to close accounts with smaller regional banks and transfer to CBA, Westpac or NAB.

It reeks of another city-centric policy by the state government, she said.

Chief executive officer of the West Gippsland Healthcare Group Dan Weeks said the banking policy relating to it was instituted several years ago but the group still has some accounts with community banks.

"We are pleased to bank

with them as well as one of the majors and the annual Community Bendigo Bank charity golf day, a significant fundraiser for the West Gippsland Hospital, is due to be held soon for the seventh year", Mr Weeks stated.

Traf News asked Government Upper House Member for Eastern Victoria, Harriet Shing, for her views on the banking directive to schools and to comment on whether she expects the community banks to continue supporting the local schools.

In response, Ms Shing said, "The changes to the state government's choice of banking services were made after an extensive public tender process that involved community banks, domestic banks, and other financial institutions.

"The decision to go with Westpac, Commonwealth Bank and National Australia Bank as well as Australia Post expands the number of branches available to the State Education Department and other State Government Departments in regional Victoria and make it easier for state schools to hold accounts with banks in their local area.

"It won't change the arrangements that schools currently have for managing funds raised in their local communities, and it won't prevent schools from maintaining an account through their local community bank if they wish to.

"Community banks are a cornerstone of so many communities across Baw Baw shire, and their role in helping to grow and reinvest in their local area shouldn't change because of this announcement."

Source: Warragul & Drouin Gazette

yourself.

We have a pleasant dining room where the internet is available. The woodwork room is well equipped and there are members willing to help you get started on your first project. And there is more, a metal work shop only a dream five years ago is operational and members with a lifetime of experience in welding and metal work to help out.

See you at the shed.

Probus committee sworn in

By Elly Fallon

The month of March saw Probus celebrate their 29th annual meeting with a new committee sworn in.

Next year we will celebrate a milestone 30th birthday for Trafalgar & District Probus Club.

Our club has been providing fun, fellowship and friendship over that period of time for many senior members in our community.

Mick Bourke OAM acted as the returning officer for the occasion.

The new executive committee members are Maggie Attwell as President, John

Attwell (Secretary) and Sharley Smith (Treasurer). There are quite a number of members taking on other roles to organise the many activities our Probus Club has to offer, making a total of 15 committee members.

A light luncheon provided by the club followed the election procedure which was a great social occasion for over 60 people.

Special thanks were extended to four retiring committee members: Tina Phipps, Carol Achterdenbosch, Anne Brennan and Lyn Jones for their contribution in the roles of President,

Secretary and Treasurer and Lyn for being the keeper of the kitchen and making sure we were all well fed.

The March meeting also saw Lorraine Fowler presented with her 10-year pin. We wish Lorraine continued good health so that she can continue to enjoy Probus for many years to come.

The past month has seen activities return to normal.

The walking group met at Edward Hunter Reserve in Newborough and ventured out on the Coral Fern Walk. The loop took in the lake and returned to the carpark but there was more than one

choice of track so walkers experienced some diversity and even confusion. However, it all added to the adventure and everyone managed to return safely bar one slip-up and were able to relax over coffee and compare paths travelled.

The mystery bus trip included some members from Drouin Probus Club.

Together they set off in the sunshine with Tour Local for places unknown. The drive took them through the picturesque hills of Athlone and Poowong, through Loch and on to Inveloch which was the morning tea stop. There

members enjoyed a visit to the shell museum with its amazing displays of shells and sea creatures. The trip continued via the coast to Eagle's Nest for a photo stop of the coastline from a great vantage point before arriving in Wonthaggi for an enjoyable pub meal and a chance to explore the streets.

The bus then took members for a tour of the 11 murals that have been painted on town buildings over recent years before returning through the towns of Leon-gatha and Mirboo North.

All enjoyed the day and the snapshot of our South

and West Gippsland countryside.

Meanwhile, eating out each month is always popular with the fortnightly morning teas and the once a month dine-out, which this month was held at the Italian Club, Morwell and saw 28 Probus members enjoying good food and companionship.

Each month holds new adventures. Please ring our new Secretary John Attwell on 0419 701 331 if you would like to know more.

We always welcome new members.



Probus members enjoying morning tea at Gracie's Bakery.



Trevor Byrne shows how it's done in the Garden Club.



Lorraine Fowler with the former President John Attwell.



The new committee of the Trafalgar & District Probus Club: Ross Pethybridge, Elaine Boyles, Wayne Butterworth, Glenda Jones, Joan Hobson, Ron Bowley, Elly Fallon, Barb Butterworth, (front) Ann Hoff, Glenda Mynard, Maggie Attwell (President), John Attwell (Secretary) and Sharley Smith (Treasurer). Absent: Bob Jones and Mary Vosper.



Mystery bus trip taking in the view from Eagle's Nest near Inverloch.



Frank Gridley with his acrylic on canvas portrait, painted by Graeme Beary.

A special moment took place at the Shed on our meeting day Wednesday, February 2.

Frank Gridley is a well-known Trafalgar identity who received a Citizen of the Year award in 2010 and was immortalised with the Trafalgar High School's new state-of-art sport centre named after him in 2019 for his outstanding contribution to basketball in the local community over many years.

Frank was presented with a portrait of himself for his birthday by our vice-president Graeme Beary.

The portrait is titled 'Francis' and the portrait was achieved by applying acrylic on canvas.

Graeme also did a similar painting of Harriet Shing MP when she attended one of our events several years ago.

Graeme has a gift and to enhance his talents he attends art classes at Out West Art in Drouin West.

This was a special moment and we thank Graeme for his thoughtful-

ness, time and effort in creating this gift for Frank who was most appreciative and humbled by the occasion.

Before Christmas a lady brought three chairs to the shed for repair work and they have now been completed. Unfortunately we have misplaced your contact details so if you are reading this, please phone us on 0493 256 723 or call into the Shed. We apologise for the inconvenience.

Also, if anybody out there in our community has any unwanted gas bottles or cylinders taking up space in the garage, one of our members would like to put them to good use in the metal workshop. Thanking you in anticipation.

A reminder to the men in our community membership is available, all you have to do is come to the shed on a Monday or Wednesday between 9am and 3pm and introduce

Part of the team

Trafalgar & District Financial Services Limited is a franchisee of Bendigo Bank and operates the locally owned Community Bank Trafalgar & District.

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Special Disability Trusts

By Trafalgar solicitor Jade MacGregor

One of the biggest concerns that we see from our clients that have children with disabilities is what is going to happen to their children after they die. Who is going to pay for their day-to-day living expenses? Who is going to ensure that they are given the reasonable care? Where are they going to live?

A Special Disability Trust enables family members to contribute money and/or property into a trust to be used for the reasonable care and accommodation needs of a beneficiary who is considered to have a sever disability. Under this trust, the money and assets held in the Special Disability Trust can be used for the benefit of

the child without impacting their entitlement to a Disability Support Pension. This trust can be created now or within a parent's Will to be established upon their death.

The initial step should be to verify with DHS or the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) that the child meets the definition of 'severe disability' before establishing a Special Disability Trust.

A Special Disability Trust provides the following benefits to the beneficiary:

- Assets of the trust do not affect the child's Disability Support Pension;
- Asset protection;
- It eliminates or reduces the need for the child to have a Will of their own;
- It provides certain tax,

duty and gifting exemptions for assets transferred into the Trust by family members, and;

- Income from the assets the Trust will not be counted for the assessment of the income for the child.

A trustee is appointed by a deed to operate the trust for the benefit of the child.

The trustee manages the investment of the assets and applies the assets/income toward the accommodation and medical needs of the child. While this occurs, the child is still able to continue to receive and use their Disability Support Pension as normal.

The assessable assets of that trust can be up to the



value of \$681,750 (as at July 1 2019 indexed annually) plus the main residence of which the child resides which will be disregarded for the assessment of the assets test. Any value above this amount will be assessed against the assets of the beneficiary.

There are some restrictions on what a beneficiary or their partner can gift to a

Special Disability Trust.

Just how useful a Special Disability Trust is likely to be is very much dependent on individual circumstances, and the plans and wishes parents have for their children, to take account of the disability.

It is important for you to obtain legal, accounting and financial advice before decid-

ing whether a Trust is suitable for a child and whether to set up now or via a Will. You may wish to look at the Department of Social Services website for the Special Disability Trust Model Trust Deed to see if this could possibly be an option for you and your family.

WHAT IS AN 'OFF-THE-PLAN' CONTRACT?

Buying 'off-the-plan' simply means that you sign a contract to purchase land based on proposed plans before the land has titled, or a house or strata based on proposed designs before it has been built. The purpose of the conditions in an off-the-plan contract is to provide the vendor flexibility for amendments required during the development of the property, but they can become biased against purchasers. In this article, we outline some of the important considerations when entering into an off-the-plan contract.

OFF-THE-PLAN CONTRACT CONDITIONS

Registration of plan
Most plan of subdivision contracts contain a 'sunset date' clause that specifies a date by which the vendor must register the plan with the Titles Office. Generally, this date is specified in the contract of sale and is between 18 months to three years. If the plan has not been registered by the end of the sunset date, the purchaser, or the vendor with the

purchaser's consent, has the right to terminate the contract and return the deposit to the purchaser.

An important consideration in purchasing off-the-plan is that there is a long waiting period before the land is titled. During this time, you are locked into the contract. If your circumstances change and you cannot obtain finance or afford to purchase the property then you may not be able to terminate the contract without losing your deposit.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PLAN OF SUBDIVISION OR HOME DESIGNS AND FIXTURES

The vendor may make amendments to the plan of subdivision or alternations to the home design as required by an authority (such as council) or if they are required to obtain the necessary approvals and certifications. Off-the-plan contracts generally provide that you must accept the property in its final state notwithstanding any minor variations or discrepancies from the original plans.

VENDOR'S RIGHT TO TERMINATE

Off-the-plan contracts will usually stipulate that the vendor has the right to terminate at any time if any requirement imposed by an authority for the plan is reasonably considered by the vendor as 'too onerous' on the vendor to perform or accept or, in their discretion, the development is not financially viable. If the contract is then terminated or rescinded by the vendor for these reasons, you are unable to claim compensation for the termination and the deposit is returned. The vendor may terminate the contract at any time for these reasons.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/RESTRICTIONS

Development restrictions
The developer and council may stipulate certain design restrictions (known as covenants and design guidelines) that prevent the type of home that can be built or how the land is to be used and developed. Not all of these restrictions will be made available at the time of signing the contract. You will be required to accept all restrictions and encumbrances registered on the land. Under some contracts, failure to comply with these restrictions gives the vendor a right to enter your property to rectify the defect and, as a last resort, give the vendor a right to repurchase the property from you at 90 per cent its value (minus transfer and legal costs).

SUBJECT TO FINANCE APPROVAL

It is our recommendation that any contract of sale contain a subject to finance approval provision. If you are obtaining finance to purchase and build your home, we recommend speaking with your bank or broker about your finance. If the contract is subject to finance, it will be conditional on you obtaining finance approval from your bank within 14 days of signing the contract. If your finance cannot be approved within those 14 days you can withdraw from the contract and have your deposit returned to you.

We note that even if your finance is approved, if the development of the property takes one to two years, your circumstances must remain the same for you to be able to secure finance again. We also note that lending requirements and criteria may change during that time

which may make it harder for you to re-apply for finance approval.

NOMINATION OF ADDITIONAL OR SUBSTITUTE PURCHASER

If you find yourself in a situation where you can no longer purchase the property or you wish for another person to purchase the property with you, you may need to complete a nomination form. Some off-the-plan contracts provide that the only person who you can nominate must be a relative which can be extremely difficult when no relative wants to or can purchase the property as your replacement. If the vendor allows for you to nominate a third party to be the new purchaser, the vendor will provide their consent subject to conditions (such as paying their legal fees) and the vendor will normally require you and the new purchaser to sign a deed acknowledging that while they are the new

purchaser, you remain personally liable to ensure the contract proceeds.

ON SELLING THE PROPERTY

Often contracts contain provisions that prevent a purchaser from directly or indirectly advertising the property for sale without first obtaining the vendor's consent if certain requirements are not met. For example, after settlement if you have not completed the construction of your home and the landscaping you cannot sell the property without the vendors consent.

There are many items that must be considered prior to signing an off-the-plan contract. Speak with one of our friendly solicitors at Jade MacGregor Legal, Trafalgar on (03) 5644 0000 to review your off-the-plan contract and discuss your options.



There can be many ramifications in off-the-plan contracts.

Manage your heartburn without medication

By Dr Michael Kunze



Heartburn is very common. It is estimated that around 20 per cent of adults experience some heartburn at least once a week. It can be annoying but is rarely dangerous. For most people it can be managed with simple measures.

Heartburn usually occurs due to gastro-oesophageal reflux. This means that the contents of the stomach escape upwards into our oesophagus, which is the pipe that connects our mouths to our stomachs. Our stomach produces a very strong acid, about as strong as battery acid. This helps with initial digestion of food and is usually neutralised in the first part of the intestine by bile and enzymes. The stomach

has a protective lining and can deal with the acidity, but oesophaguses don't have this protection, so if the stomach contents regurgitate upwards it causes discomfort.

In this way heartburn is only partly due to the acidity of the stomach contents, but also very much due to the unwanted physical movement of these contents in a backwards direction. This can occur due to pressure from below the stomach, having an overfull stomach, or relaxation or weakness of the lower oesophagus and diaphragm. These latter two elements are important in a valve-like action to encourage stomach contents to only move forward.

There are a lot of things you can change to reduce

heartburn. For instance, I used to get a lot of heartburn whenever I ate birthday cake. This has stopped since I learned to blow out the candles first.

Eating smaller meals is good for heartburn. In the short term it reduces overfilling of the stomach. In the longer term it can reduce the pressure on the stomach from fat stores. Drinking liquids between meals rather than with meals can make it less likely that the stomach contents will slosh upwards. You may also find that certain foods and drinks exacerbate your heartburn, such as bread, pastry, beer and other carbonated drinks, or very acidic foods.

Gravity helps our food go the right way. Avoiding eating or drinking for two hours before bed can be very helpful. Elevating the head of your

bed just a little can also make a significant difference. This is best done by placing a brick or other solid object under the legs of the head of your bed (please make sure it's stable). An extra pillow rarely helps as it only raises your shoulders and head. Sleeping in a sitting position can increase the pressure below your stomach thereby creating more regurgitation.

Our oesophaguses can become overly relaxed by alcohol, making heartburn worse. Interestingly, peppermint and some (not all) blood pressure medications can also do this. Smoking can weaken the diaphragm and make our oesophagus more vulnerable to acid. Stopping smoking is obviously good for you in other ways too.

In relation to the acidity of the stomach contents, using an over-the-counter

antacid is a good strategy for occasional heartburn. If you have frequent symptoms it is worth discussing these with your GP. They may want to check you out in other ways, as not all chest pain is heartburn. They may also want to arrange an upper gastrointestinal endoscopy, also known as 'the camera down the throat'. Most people with heartburn don't need an endoscopy, but it can be important if there are symptoms such as weight loss, vomiting blood, food getting stuck on the way down, or symptoms which are severe or not responding to treatment.

There are also prescription medications for heartburn. These reduce the production of acid by the stomach to that of diluted orange juice. They can be very effective in short-term use, and side effects are rare.

However, there is a significant risk of over-prescribing and unnecessary long-term use. This can impact your health in the long-term and also creates a significant financial burden within our already-strained health system.

If you are on esomeprazole, pantoprazole, rabeprazole, lansoprazole or omeprazole please check regularly with your doctor to see if you still need it. When stopping these medications it is often more successful to reduce the dose to half a tablet daily, or one tablet every second day, before moving to using them only on bad days.

I hope this helps you to manage this common problem and to improve your health.

Reflection

Words by Moria Dodsworth

LOOKING OUTWARDS

At a meeting recently, we were given an activity to use our senses to think about walking in our community, the place where we are most. During this discussion, I discovered that trains had not been running for two weeks and I had not noticed, even though the

trainline is 200 metres from my home. I wonder if this has been partly due to COVID, I think we do worry more about ourselves – how am I feeling, any symptoms? Where am I going today, do I need to? When can I have my booster? Have I got my mask, my phone for every departure from home? I think we may

have extended this to our state and country, numbers of cases, available of vaccines, PPE for our place. Perhaps this has even become a selfishness.

On my walk today, I went out with all my senses on notices. I realised that the lavender scent is not as strong as it was, a na-

tural strip tree is flowering with a strong scent. I heard the birds and distant traffic, I found I smiled at regular walkers, felt who had mown their lawn recently. I was thinking out there, rather than inside my head about what has to get done today.

exercising but being part of my community and the world. I am fortunate to walk, not just on streets but in a stretch of bush. The creek and the highway battle with each other to be heard, the scents of the bush are fresh with the dew.

to look beyond ourselves, we want to be safe and know those we love are safe too but there is much we can miss. I did hear a train today and saw the neighbour's cat taking a rat home for tea

It did me good, I wasn't just

Sometimes, it is challenging

Collaboration is key for Group

By Alyssa Fritzlaff

Federation University Australia's Gippsland Campus launched the Collaborative Evaluation and Research Group (CERG) on February 21.

Led by its director, Associate Professor Joanne Porter, the body supports non-government and community organisations to evaluate projects.

CERG began its work in 2018, and has since then helped numerous organisations roll out important initiatives and programs, apply for funding and use funding in the best way possible.

It also help groups evaluate what elements of projects were not as successful, and how things might be improved moving forward.

Dr Porter's team, collaborators and members of Federation University staff were there to witness the group's official launch.

While the CERG team is comprised of about seven

staff, three of which are full-time, Dr Porter said that she considers the whole of Federation University as part of her team.

"What we do is we look at a project... and pull these experts in and they become the core team," she explained.

"I think over the course of last year, I probably have 50 different individuals that were part of the projects."

CERG started its work in partnership with Latrobe Health Assembly, helping to co-design the Latrobe Health and Wellbeing Charter.

"We did a series of community engagement activities right through, so it was the community voice coming through that Health and Wellbeing Charter," Dr Porter said.

The group works with a wide variety of organisation on a number of different programs, campaigns and events.

"All the work we do is

done in partnership," Dr Porter said.

"We work with the project team... and we start with a measuring success workshop. We help them to work with SMART objectives.

"We help them to hone down their big visions to measurable data, and then we collect it from various sources."

Federation University vice-chancellor and president, Professor Duncan Bentley said a major part of CERG is making sure funding is going to the most beneficial places for the community.

"As we come into two sets of elections, it's going to be absolutely critical that any money which is promised at election time is very carefully evaluated. So that as the funding comes we are able to allocate it to those projects which will have maximum impact for the community," he said.

"Gippsland is going through a major process of transformation... so how can we make sure that Gippsland itself determines its future,

rather than having someone else do it for them.

"In order to get a seat at the table, we've got to go in with evidence and data

as to what works and what doesn't, and what our community wants."



Federation University vice-chancellor and president, Professor Duncan Bentley, Megan Jackson, Michelle James, Associate Professor Joanne Porter, Val Prokopi, Dr Michael Barbagallo. (Photo: Alyssa Fritzlaff).

Holden Museum car of the month

By Bob Moss

General motors Holden Comair Bus

After the War ended to supplement revenue and retain skilled sheet metal workers, Commonwealth Air Corporation produced and bodied buses based on Bedford chassis under the brand name of Comair.

CAC major shareholder in the 1950s was General Motors Holden and from 1946 until 1973, Comair produced over 3600 bus bodies, primarily on Bedford OB, SB and VAM 70 chassis for Victorian operators.

The private bus market in Australia before and immediately after WW2 was dominated by conventional layout pre-war buses from US manufacturers, such as Federal, White, Diamond T, GMC and Reo. GM-H itself had recently built complete Chevrolet buses.

GM-H decided to modify the Bedford OB chassis for its Australian release to a flat front, forward control design. Conventional Bedford OB chassis arrived from the UK in Knockdown form and were assembled and modified to forward control by GM-H locally.

To achieve maximum seating, GM-H moved the controls 300 millimetres further forward and to assist with quite heavy steering, fitted a locally cast 75mm larger aluminium steering wheel with a 500mm diameter.

GM-H wanted an all-metal forward control bus that was modern, different and bold, with a design that would set a new benchmark in Australia.

Buses of the day traditionally had wooden frames but GM-H's construction featured a steel frame with aluminium panels solid riveted to the frame.

A scale model of the Bedford OB was constructed in February 1946 by General Motors to assist with the building of a full size prototype OB bus at GM-H's Woodville, South Australia plant.

A noticeable design difference between the scale model and the full size bus was the addition of elaborately styled park light fittings on each side above the front bumper. These beautifully designed pressed aluminium fittings were added to cover a protruding steering arm on the driver's side of the bus as a result of the modification from conventional to forward control layout.

General Motors-Holden Australia (GM-H) began offering Bedford OBs as complete buses in 1947 selling the Bedford OB as a complete bus, rather than body-on-chassis

GM-H's Bedford OB body styling was dramatic... with enclosed wheels, the use of aluminium bright work and

of course a fully flat front, all quite radical for the day and so different to anything else on the market.

Compared to the conventional (engine out front) buses of the day, the Bedford OB looked more like a spaceship had landed!

GM-H originally intended to build all bus bodies in-house, but with the pending introduction of their new Holden motor car in 1948, all GM-H resources needed to be redirected to Holden car production.

GM-H now needed to find a different way of building bodies on its Bedford OB chassis. It is unclear whether GM-H began building Bedford OBs at its Woodville, SA plant, its Fishermans Bend, Victoria plant or both plants. But in any event, GM-H's Fishermans Bend, Melbourne VIC plant began modifying OB chassis and outsourced the body building task to CAC (Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation) located nearby to the GM-H Melbourne plant.

CAC was a builder of aircraft, but as World War 2 had recently ended, CAC was looking for additional work to maintain its staff levels. The contract offered by GM-H suited CAC, so they began building buses right alongside aircraft production lines.



The Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation factory. Note aircraft production in the background.



A 1959 Bedford bus.

Around the Historical Society

By Di Ireland

At the last meeting of the Trafalgar & District Historical Society it was confirmed that we now have access to an area previously used by the old Kindergarten as office space.

This has given us a room which the public can use to examine our collection for private research.

We also have much needed extra storage space, including shelves on which to display artefacts and other large items. Please feel free to pop in on any Friday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm or phone Jean on 5633 1960

CAN YOU HELP?

The Society has received a request for photos of the Trafalgar Primary School, in particular of past principals from the old school site.

Bill Tucknott is looking for information in regard to his family who lived in Trafalgar in the early 1960s. Bill's father William Edward Tucknott drove a

tanker for Peters Ice Cream.

If you recognise any of the young men in the photo, let us know. Names and the occasion would be most appreciated.

If you can help with any of these requests, please phone our archivist, Jean Huffer on 5633 1960 or Dianne on 0439 655 172.

One of our members, Nelva Griffiths, nee Cooper, recently celebrated her 100th birthday with a luncheon in Melbourne. Nelva was born and raised in Trafalgar where her parents Harry and Irene (Rene) lived until Harry's death in 1989. Nelva

maintains a keen interest in the town, in particular the history of Trafalgar and surrounds. Belated birthday greetings to Nelva from us all.

The next general meeting of the Trafalgar & District Historical Society will be held in the Maternal Health building in Contingent Street at 7.30pm on Thursday, April 21. All most welcome. Work is underway on a Facebook page so hopefully that will be ready soon.

Email address for the Society is historicalsociety-traffic@gmail.com



Do you recognise any of these faces? The photo is believed to be relations and friends of the family of Bill Tucknott, whose family lived in Trafalgar in the early 1960s.



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Farmer to farmer

VICTORIAN FARMERS FEDERATION HOLDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) held its 2021/22 Annual General Meeting (AGM) online recently, attended by members from across Victoria.

VFF President Emma Germano said the AGM was an opportunity for members to hear from the organisation about how it managed the financial impacts resulting from the events of the last year and the plans in place to rebound into the future.

"At the VFF, we continue to navigate one of the most challenging periods in our 43-year history. Despite these headwinds, the organisation has maintained its position as the respected voice of Victorian farmers, helping to position our industry for success," she said.

Ms Germano said the VFF continues to absorb the financial impacts of the pandemic relatively well and the organisation remains vigilant and financially responsible in these uncertain times.

"The VFF remains in a very sound financial position. Net assets at September 30 2021 were \$38.4 million, and despite the Federation's operations resulting in a deficit of \$305k, this is healthier than the budget deficit estimated at the start of the financial year of \$755k and an improvement on the previous year.

"Once again the cancellation of a number of events and gatherings resulted in impacted costs and lost margins.

"Rent relief provided to tenants, and the difficulties filling tenancies following the end of a number of leases, saw a decline of \$364K in the annual rental revenue from \$1,807k in FY20 to \$1,443k in FY21.

"Importantly, government COVID stimulus in the forms of state government land tax relief, and the final stages of the federal government measures, provided some relief.

"Overall, we are heading in the right direction and focussed on expanding our membership base," Ms Germano said.

PORT EFFICIENCY ALL AT SEA SAYS VFF

The VFF is calling for urgent government action to strengthen port regulation and improve Australia's port efficiency with the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Australia's Maritime Logistics Systems underway.

VFF Infrastructure and Transport Chair Ryan Milgate said the significant pressures facing the agriculture supply chain are being compounded by high port and stevedore costs, insufficient regulation and low productivity.

"We need both the Victorian and federal governments to work together to stop Australia becoming a destination of last resort," he said.

"Even before the pandemic Australia had some of the least efficient ports in the world and this has only gotten worse during COVID-19.

"Not only are we facing massive delays and difficulty accessing ports, we continue to face escalating port and stevedore charges."

Mr Milgate added that insufficient port regulation is contributing to the high costs with aggregate rent per square metre at the Port of Melbourne more than double any other port in the country.

The Essential Services Commission's recent Inquiry into Port of Melbourne Compliance with the Pricing Order found there was significant and sustained non-compliance with regard to pricing.

"As a critical monopoly infrastructure that is central to the prosperity of Australians, it is imperative that there is greater regulatory oversight of port and stevedore pricing."

"These high costs and delays across port operations really risk doing long term damage to our vital export markets and makes Australia less attractive for international shipping lines."

"It makes it incredibly hard for Victorian farmers to maintain access to export markets under these conditions," Mr Milgate said.

Mr Milgate said says farmers need action as they face the inevitable flow-on costs.

"We are asking govern-

ment to act to relieve pressure. The longstanding domestic port inefficiencies act as a real disincentive to visit Australian ports and add more cost to landside costs to shipping services."

FARMERS GUTTED BY AGRICULTURE VICTORIA JOB CUTS

The VFF says reports that 145 jobs will be cut from Agriculture Victoria makes it harder for farmers to meet community expectations.

VFF president Emma Germano said the decision is a backwards step for Agriculture in Victoria.

"The move comes at a time when agriculture and regional Victoria are facing significant challenges in the face of a changing climate, supply chain challenges and the ever-present risk of natural disasters," Ms Germano said.

Ms Germano added the move has the potential to undermine the progress made to support Victorian farmers.

"So much work has been done to build the research and development capacity of Agriculture Victoria to support the resilience of our farmers. Our soil scientists are world class and essential to support the future of our young farmers as they adapt to climate change. It's absolutely preposterous that the government is prepared to walk from that.

"This is a time when agriculture has absolutely underpinned the economic

resilience of Victoria, when other industries have been shattered.

"We try to work constructively with the government of the day, but when they tear the guts out of the Ag Department, it is further evidence to me that the Andrew's Government has no respect for the food and fibre producers of this state."

SENATE REPORT BACKS INDUSTRY CONCERNS ABOUT PLANT PROTEINS

The Australian dairy industry has welcomed the Commonwealth Senate Inquiry report into the labelling of alternative proteins.

Australian Dairy Industry Council (ADIC) Chair Rick Gladigau says the report's recommendations acknowledge the market failure highlighted by ADIC in its submission to the Inquiry.

"The report recommendations have vindicated the concerns our industry has expressed for years. The false leveraging of the dairy industry has been a long-standing issue. Plant-based products have misused dairy terms and misrepresented dairy nutrition, to the detriment of our industry," Mr Gladigau says.

He says Australian consumers' perceptions about dairy products have been affected by the misuse of dairy terms and nutritional information by processed, plant-based alternatives.

"The report's recommended review of the Food

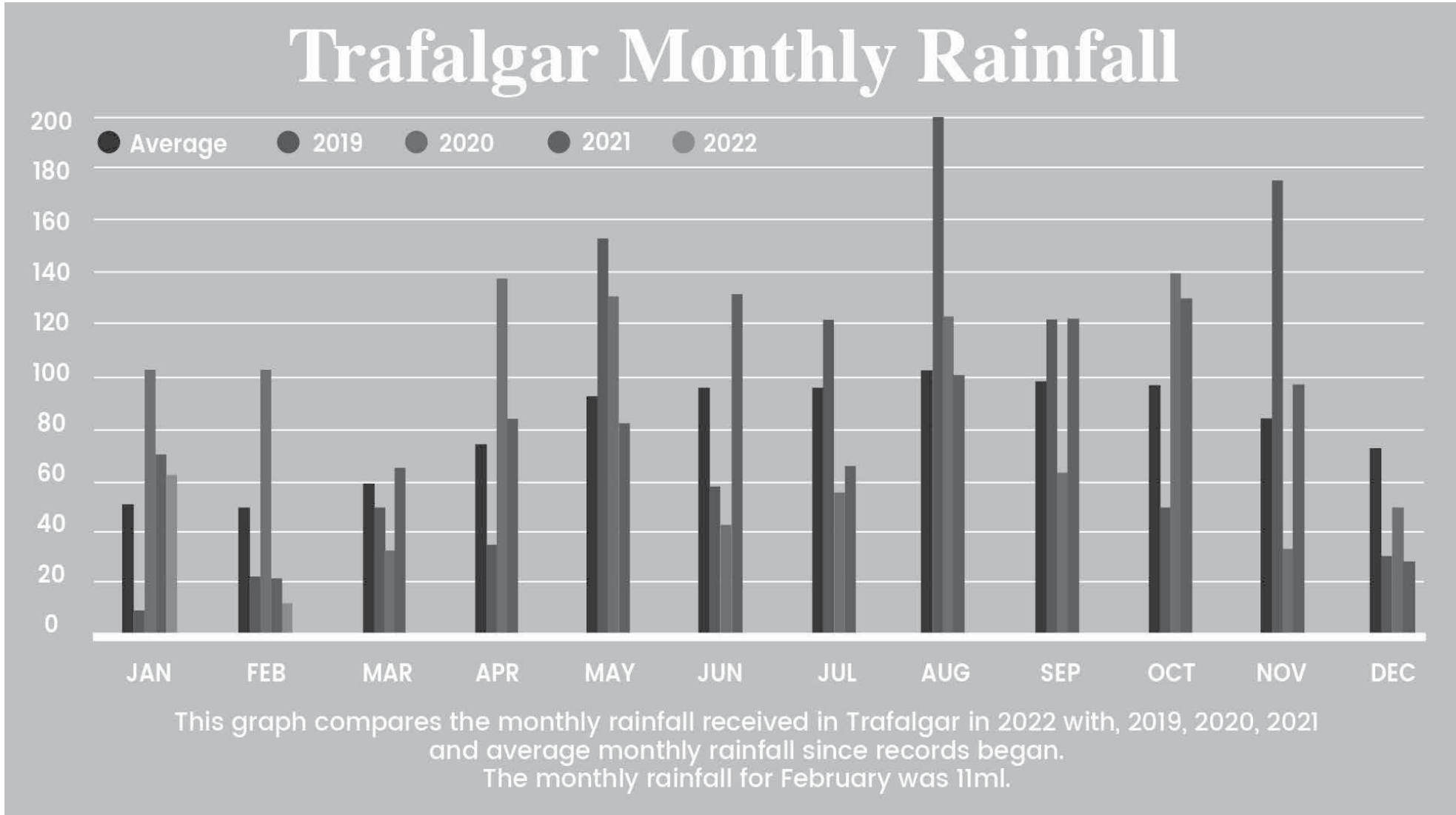
Standards Australia New Zealand Code and exemption of named meat, seafood and dairy "categories" – meaning terms like soy milk should not be permitted – is the first step necessary to address those misperceptions," Mr Gladigau said.

"Another of the report's recommendations – the development of guidelines to inform labelling and marketing practices for manufacturers of plant-based protein products – is also an initiative that our industry supports."

Mr Gladigau said the dairy industry is now keen to see bipartisan support for the report's recommendations, with the development of a mandatory regulatory framework for the labelling of plant-based protein products, in consultation with industry, prioritised.

"We want to see Australia brought into line with the likes of Europe and Canada which have banned the misuse of dairy terms outright, or the United States which requires the clear distinction between dairy and plant-based products," he said.

"Australian consumers should not be misled. Labelling and nutritional information should be transparent. They should have confidence that what they are putting in their grocery trolley, is what it says it is."



New school year at St Joseph’s

By Trish Mulqueen

St Joseph’s Primary School, Trafalgar has welcomed in the new school year with a positive group of eager Foundation students and new staff and student leaders.

The Foundation students have settled into school life very well. Ms Liza Marino, Foundation teacher said “it is a real pleasure to teach such positive, receptive students. The learning curve for our Foundation students is especially steep in these first few weeks of school and it’s so rewarding participating in and supporting their learning.”

A confident Foundation student announced, “we love our teacher Ms Marino because she is fun and helps us”.

The community also welcomes new student leaders Kaitlyn Pe-demont, Robert Arbrecht and Anton Istraty. Kaitlyn, Robert and Anton are Grade 6 students and they work hard to support the students and the learning in the school. Part of the student leaders’ job is also to help run school assemblies.

The St Joseph’s School community is looking forward to a positive year of learning and fun.



St Josephs Primary School leaders Kaitlyb Pedemont, Robert Arbrecht and Anton Istraty.



Foundation student Nathan Baldassa.



Liza Marino with Foundation students Sophie Pedemont and Addi Paul.



The new cohort of St Joseph's Foundation students.



You’re invited

Community Investment Program Information Session

- Does your community group have an idea or project that needs funding?
- Are you based in Trafalgar & District’s catchment?
- Do you provide a service that meets the needs of the Community?
- Is your group an incorporated body, have a DGR status or are a not for profit organisation?

You are invited to an Information Session about Community Bank Trafalgar & District’s upcoming Community Investment Program that will explain eligibility and how to apply.

When you partner with us, good things happen.

When Wednesday, 20 April 2022

Time 7:30pm

Where Trafalgar Bowling Club

7-13 Seven Mile Rd, Trafalgar

RSVP By Wednesday 13 April 2022 to Community Bank Trafalgar & District’s CI Coordinator Debbie Di Sisto via email: makelings@dfs.com.au or mob: 0402 106 088

Key Criteria Community groups MUST have a representative attend the Community Investment Information Session to be eligible for funding.

Social Media Follow us on Facebook & Instagram to stay updated.



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New Learning Support Officer at St Joseph's Stacey Lia.

LIONS V DISTRICTS CANCER FOUNDATION INC
Patrons: Mr Frank Costa AO
Ambassadors: Mr David Mann AM

FREE SKIN CANCER SCREENING

THE LIONS CLUB OF TRAFALGAR

in a joint project with
The Lions V Districts Cancer Foundation Inc.

Trained volunteer dermatologists (skin screeners) will conduct **FREE** Skin Cancer Checks on Saturday 30th April and Sunday 1st May

At Mobile Library parking area between Post Office and Skate Park

To book a free skin check appointment -
Phone: 0409 143 670
Or email: sheena@dcsi.net.au

The Lions V Districts Mobile Unit is a public service provided by volunteers. As such, and in line with health directives in the State of Victoria, this service is unable to access or allow access to the van for people who are unvaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

Saving lives through skin checks and skin care awareness

Traf News puzzle bonanza

Composed by Matilda Ott – Year 7 Trafalgar High School

Answers will be posted in May edition!

JUMBLE

Rearrange the letters in each row to form a word. Write your answers into the blank grid. The first letter from each word reading down, will spell the mystery word.

1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					

1.	B	L	E	G	O
2.	L	R	E	R	U
3.	A	L	P	E	P
4.	T	P	I	A	N
5.	O	U	E	S	H

Target Master

How many words of four letters or more can you make from these nine letters? Each letter may be used only once. The centre letter **MUST** be included. No slang, foreign or capitalised words, hyphens, apostrophes, or plurals ending in 'S'. Only one form of a verb can be used. Eg. Sing, but not Sings or Singing.

O	N	I
D	A	E
U	C	T

This months targets:

Good 30
Very Good 36
Excellent 40+

March Edition Answers:

Jumble:
Catch, Order, Agile, Crowd,
Horse. Mystery Word: COACH

Target Master:
Badminton

Word Search:

Basketball

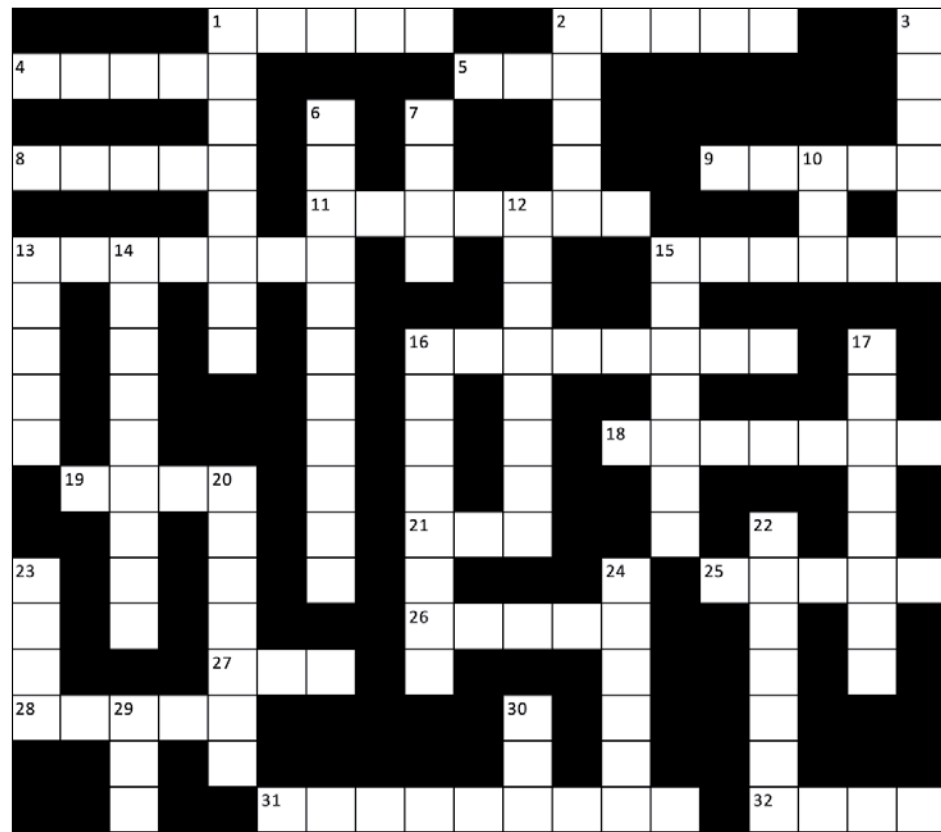
Crossword Across:
Bowling, Epees, Tee, Barty,
Oar, Orange, Eagle, Try,
Puck, Discus, Victory,
Relay, Bat, Gymnastics, Six,
Greece, Club, Offside, Ten,
Cue, Horse, Racket, Cap,

Kayak, Judo.

Crossword Down:

Ring, Centre, Batterup, Score, Water, Crowd,
Cricket, Knot, Let, Surfing, Spar, Punt,
Triathlon, Base, Goal attack, Speed, Xgames,
Shoe, Catch, Sand.

Crossword



Across

- Midday break
- Maths Chart
- Furniture
- Reason to miss school
- Used to measure
- School sign up
- In charge of the class
- Language lesson
- Common language
- Test of words
- School outfit
- School trip
- Home-Ec Tool
- Class
- Seat
- Old school pen fluid
- Do-Rae-Me
- Science practical
- Stationary in stick form

Down

- Aim of school
- World map
- Body functions
- Study of numbers
- Assessment
- Cross country style
- Study out of school
- Painting holder
- World study
- Best part of school
- Lunchtime favourite
- Table of elements
- Forces
- Documenting
- Group to start the day
- Use for mistakes
- Storytime position
- Sun protection

wordsearch

Find all the words in the grid below. Words can be written forwards, backwards, up, down, diagonally. The remaining unused letters will answer the question. Theme: School

Question: Need to have at school?

- Algebra
Art
Bag
Biology
Book
BunsenBurner
Canteen
Chair
Chalk
Class
Culture
Curriculum
Economics
English
Essay
Exam
- GlueStick
Hat
Homework
Language
Learning
Library
Mathematics
Pencil
Principal
Reading
Recess
Ruler
Science
Sport
Student
Teacher
- Technology
Test
Uniform
Values
Whiteboard

S	G	C	Y	L	T	E	C	H	N	O	L	O	G	Y
P	N	A	G	I	E	A	U	P	C	G	A	B	L	T
O	I	N	O	B	S	R	R	E	H	L	N	U	U	E
R	D	T	L	R	T	T	R	N	A	A	G	N	E	A
T	A	E	O	A	N	W	I	C	I	P	U	S	S	C
A	E	E	I	R	E	H	C	I	R	I	A	E	T	H
K	R	N	B	Y	D	I	U	L	S	C	G	N	I	E
R	S	B	E	R	U	T	U	L	U	C	N	E	B	C
O	E	O	E	E	T	E	U	F	I	I	S	U	K	F
W	U	O	T	G	S	B	M	N	E	R	S	R	L	R
E	L	K	A	O	L	O	R	R	N	P	A	N	A	E
M	A	T	H	E	M	A	T	I	C	S	Y	E	H	C
O	V	M	A	X	E	R	T	R	E	L	U	R	C	E
H	S	S	A	L	C	D	U	N	I	F	O	R	M	S
H	S	I	L	G	N	E	C	O	N	O	M	I	C	S

Easy

5		9	6	8		4	
7				1	3	5	8
		6				1	
					1	4	
	4			2			1
			4	5			
2			4			6	8
		5	1	2			
			5	3			9

Hard

3	8						9	
	7	5	3	6				8
				4				
6	5				2	3		
			4	5				
2		9						
					7	5		
				1	3	6		
1							2	

TRAF NEWS SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each column, row and each of the nine 3x3 squares contain all digits from one to nine.

Turra Pavilion a game-changer for Traf

By Liam Durkin

The future of sport in Trafalgar was officially unveiled last month, with the opening of Turra Pavilion at the recreation reserve.

The multi-use pavilion has been constructed to service soccer, boxing, football and cricket. Situated to the north of the current Trafalgar Victory Soccer Club pitches, the double-sided pavilion sits between the soccer pitches and space slated to become a second football/cricket oval.

Inside, the pavilion features a number of spacious change rooms, a social space, storage cages, canteen and elevated time keepers box.

The project was completed ahead of schedule, at a cost just under \$2.5 million.

Baw Baw Shire council secured a \$500,000 grant from the state government's Female Friendly Facilities Fund, and paid the remaining balance as part of its 2020/21 Capital Works Program.

Last months opening capped off something of a crowning glory for many Trafalgar locals, who have campaigned for close to 20 years to see a major upgrade to the recreation reserve come to fruition.

Back in 2005, based on a recreation precinct strategic plan developed the previous year by the Trafalgar community under the leadership of Peter Williams (then president of Trafalgar Recreation Reserve) and Mick Bourke OAM (then president of Trafalgar Community Development Association), convinced Baw Baw Shire Council to purchase the Turra family farm adjacent to the recreation reserve.

Williams and Bourke OAM were in attendance as the pavilion was declared open, as were members of the Turra family, whom the pavilion is rightly named after.

The Turra brothers Jim, Frank and Dominic 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.

Twins Jim and Frank had the honour of cutting the ribbon, along with Rosemary Turra, wife of the late Dominic.

The quietly spoken brothers were beaming with pride when touring the pavilion, and were clearly chuffed to see so many people delighting in what it would mean for their sporting club to now have this facility.

Pauline Turra, daughter of Dominic, spoke on behalf of the family.

"Today is a proud day for the Turra family, and we are very honoured to have the Turra name adorning this wonderful new facility," she said.

"It was Emilia and Giuseppe Turra that migrated to Australia in the early 1920's that began the farming tradition that brings us to where we are today.

"Farming was a way of life for the Turra family and working the land is an integral part of our family history, dating back to the early 1900's.

"Today the descendants of Emilia and Giuseppe Turra have reached a fourth generation in Australia, the farm on which the Turra Pavilion now stands was owned by Dominic, Jimmy and Frank Turra, three of the first generation Turra family members born in Australia.

"The brothers gave their heart and soul for a better future for generations to come, and so there is no greater legacy than this naming. The pavilion and surrounding facilities will be a great asset to the Trafalgar community."

With the pavilion now open to complement a pair of immaculately manicured pitches, Trafalgar Victory Soccer Club president Lachlan Wyatt believed the club had arguably the best facility in the region.

Trafalgar Boxing Club has moved out of its old shack-like facility, which enjoyed a previous life as the football club's social club, and into a spacious interior inside the Turra Pavilion.

Boxing club head coach Shane Cameron hopes the new gym will see membership increase.

The old boxing club rooms have been demolished, and with it, stories from the social club that are perhaps best left behind as well.

The benefits of the new pavilion and oval will be far reaching, most notably in alleviating foot traffic during

winter and providing capacity for a long-awaited turf wicket in summer.

Currently, the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve football ground is reduced to a mud pit within a matter of weeks once the season starts, as senior and junior football use the ground most days of the week.

The Trafalgar Cricket Club has also faced an uphill battle in its bid to get a turf wicket, with it's A Grade team needing to travel away every week to play matches on grass.

The turf wicket saga, confined to the status of 'running gag' at Trafalgar for many years, now appears an actual chance of seeing the light of day.

When a turf wicket does land in Trafalgar, one can foresee the Ships having the most corrupt curators in cricket history to make up for decades of retribution.

It is believed the club has idealist plans to install a white picket fence around the oval, with the Baw Baw mountains overlooking the ground sure

to make it one of the most picturesque in Gippsland. The Turra Pavilion and other to-be completed projects at the recreation reserve received input from user groups headed by a Project Reference Group.

With Trafalgar now the third biggest town in Baw Baw, Project Reference Group member and former Trafalgar Football-Netball Club president Ray Wall said it was vital there was appropriate infrastructure to support the growing population.

"The future of the town,

with the approval of The Range subdivision, we are going to have 600 blocks, this facility is going to be right on the doorstep of future families that are going to be living in this area," he said.

"We have the basis of a great facility now, it won't happen overnight, but we will try our best to get this oval up and running in the next year or two.

"Anything that we can get for getting another oval will be a great achievement for this town."



Members of the Turra family were on hand to see the official opening of the new Trafalgar multi-use pavilion. The Turra family sold the land on which the pavilion sits to Baw Baw Shire Council. (Photos: Liam Durkin)



The Turra Pavilion is officially opened by twins Jim and Frank, along with Rosemary (wife of the late Dominic) and Parliamentary Secretary for Sport Danielle Green.



Patrons are given their first look inside the Turra Pavilion.



Trafalgar Recreation Reserve user groups and key stakeholders worked collaboratively with Baw Baw Shire to see the multi-use pavilion come to life. Pictured are Baw Baw Shire recreation coordinator Shane Paynter, original strategic plan developers Mick Bourke OAM and Peter Williams, Trafalgar Football-Netball Club's Ray Wall, Trafalgar Victory Soccer Club's Lachlan Wyatt and Mark Judd, Trafalgar Boxing Club coach Shane Cameron and Baw Baw Shire community recreation officer David McMahon.



A view from the timekeepers box overlooking the future second oval.



The new spacious changerooms on the football/cricket side feature folding dividers.



A feature of the multi-use pavilion is the designated internal storage space for all users.



Trafalgar Boxing Club head coach Shane Cameron is excited to be in the new gym.

Advocate releases quarterly update

By Alyssa Fritzlaff

The Latrobe Health Advocate's quarterly update identified Latrobe's top health aspirations.

Jane Anderson from the Advocate released the update.

It contained information collected from October to December 2021.

The top aspirations identified by Latrobe Communities during this period were Health Equity and Access to Services.

People reported that not everyone has the ability to access vaccinations within government timelines and delivery settings, particularly people who have experienced trauma or are living with mental illness.

Healthy lifestyles was also among the top aspirations.

In the LGBTIQ community, Social Inclusion was an aspiration. Ms Anderson

heard about a new program targeted at LGBTIQ people in Latrobe.

The program is focused on adolescents but is open to all people.

During this quarter, COVID-19 had hit a peak in the Latrobe Valley.

At the same time, 95 per cent of eligible people in Latrobe were recorded as being double vaccinated.

The Advocate heard from people who wanted to know how to comply with COVID-19 rules.

Some reported struggling with "what appeared to be inconsistency and the unreliable frequency of information that relates to them."

"A key element of my role is to elevate the voice of communities and enable systems change that leads to improved health and wellbeing of Latrobe communities," Ms Anderson said.

"In this report I am sharing people's experiences which provide great insights into what is concerning them and what solutions they can see that will support people in Latrobe to experience better health and wellbeing."

In the update, Ms Anderson mentioned her submission at a panel hearing about the proposed Delburn Wind Farm.

In her submission she said she had consistently put forward the view that governments and industry need to involve communities in the design and decision making processes.

The Advocate also shared her concerns when meeting Chief Environmental Scientist, Mark Taylor and staff at the Environmental Protection Authority during the quarter.

Alcohol reforms to take effect

The state government recently announced new alcohol reforms.

The reforms will allow licensed restaurants and cafes to supply a limited volume of alcohol with takeaway or delivery meals without having to apply and pay for a second licence.

These changes are intended to help the hospitality industry recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Businesses will be able to include limited packaged liquor, and hotels, bars, restaurants and cafes wanting to extend their trading hours from 11pm to 1am will now be able to do so automatically, without having to apply for a license change.

Those businesses that currently hold Temporary Limited Licences (TLLs) expiring in March will be able to access a new streamlined

process to apply for a new TLL – allowing them to continue selling alcohol outdoors.

Liquor Regulation Minister Melissa Horne said all changes have been accessed to reduce harm to the community.

"These important reforms balance supporting Victoria's hospitality and entertainment industries post-pandemic while ensuring harm minimisation remains a key focus," she said.

"All changes have been assessed to reduce both harm to the community and unnecessary hurdles for small businesses, which we know did it really tough during the pandemic."

The reforms include harm minimisation measures, some of which will take effect later this year.

All online sales of alcohol

will the subjects to the same conditions, including protection for minors. Those supplying alcohol will need to deliver in person to first time customers and verify their age and ID.

There will also be greater clarity around alcohol advertising that is likely to appeal to minors, promotes violence or is of a sexual, degrading or sexist nature.

Further measures intended to minimise harm are set to come into effect throughout the year, including making it an offence to deliver alcohol to an intoxicated person and making it compulsory for large packaged liquor stores to undertake a community impact assessment as part of the licencing application.



New alcohol reforms are now in place.



Jane Anderson of the Latrobe Health Advocate.

Jobs fair attracts attention

By Alyssa Fritzlaff

The Latrobe Valley Jobs Fair was held last month.

Many people from all over Gippsland attended the event, on the hunt for a job that suits them. Local businesses and authorities had stalls set up.

Their booths were overflowing with informative pamphlets and other information about job opportunities.

Members from each workplace manned the stands, ready to meet prospective candidates and have a chat about what sorts of jobs they had on offer.

Outside Kernot Hall, the Bling51 Coffee van was caffeinating attendees, and the Rotary Club of Morwell were putting on a sausage sizzle. Inside, one big room

housed all the stall holders, while smaller rooms held seminars and resume workshops.

Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester said the event was a welcome boost for jobseekers after the challenges Gippsland has been through over the last few years.

"Parts of the Gippsland economy, including construction, meat processing, IT, aged care and disability services, are finding it hard to obtain suitably skilled local staff," Mr Chester said.

"Some areas of the resources sector are in decline, but we expect that several planned solar, wind and hydrogen energy projects will create large-scale labour demands, so there are plenty of opportunities."

Those managing the Latrobe Health Services' stall, Nicole Krawczyk and Bailey Lay, said the fair was a good opportunity to look for people to fill available positions in their organisation.

They encouraged people to apply for their wide range of positions up for grabs.

"We are open to anyone that meets our values," Ms Krawczyk said.

"And people that have a growth mindset," Mr Lay added.

A number of government agencies were on the hunt for candidates, as well as businesses like McDonald's and support services like CoAbility Support Coordination.

Latrobe City Council had a stall set up, as did TAFE Gippsland.



The Latrobe Valley Jobs Fair attracted a number of people to Kernot Hall in Morwell. (Photo: Alyssa Fritzlaff)

Unclaimed cash could well be yours

Latrobe City residents are among those entitled to money currently held in the State Revenue Office (SRO).

The state government are calling on Victorians to come forward and check if they are entitled to unclaimed cash.

Currently there are more than 740,000 entitlements waiting to be claimed across the state, totalling \$111 million.

People can start the process with a simple online search.

"I encourage all Victorians, businesses and community groups to visit the SRO and search for any amount recorded under their name,"

assistant treasurer Danny Pearson said.

"All you need are a few personal details and if we're holding unclaimed money in your name, you'll know within seconds. If you find an unexpected windfall, just follow the prompts to start the recovery process."

The City of Melbourne has the highest amount of unclaimed money, sitting at \$15,266,021 of unclaimed cash.

Latrobe has the third largest amount of unclaimed cash in regional Victoria, behind Greater Geelong and Greater Bendigo.

The overall value of unclaimed money in Latrobe

is \$1,194,185, with a total of 10,371 entitlements.

The largest single amount of unclaimed cash in the

local government area is \$12,599 – which belongs to a resident of Glengarry.

To complete a search

visit, sro.vic.gov.au/unclaimedmoney and submit a personal or company name and address that the lodging

organisation would have had on file.



The state government is calling on Victorians to come forward and check if they are entitled to unclaimed cash.

Capper and Anderson go back-to-back

By Ian Miles

Defending Trafalgar Bowls Club pairs champions Ken Capper and Tim Anderson successfully defended their title with a hard fought 18-16 win over Ian Miles and Peter Rosenboom recently.

Played in fine but windy conditions, the champions started slowly but with good consistent draw bowling, they built a narrow lead and maintained the advantage through the 18 ends.

Mary Holdsworth and Helen Robertson won the ladies pair title.

The experienced pair defeated Pat Tatterson and Marg Moss in the final.

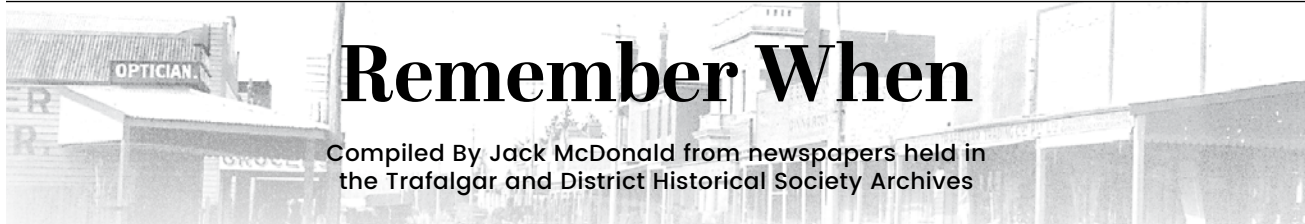
All players handled the tricky, windy conditions well but the consistency of Holdsworth and Robertson was the difference in the end.



Trafalgar Bowls Club mens pair champions Ken Capper and Tim Anderson.



Trafalgar Bowls Club ladies pair champions Mary Holdsworth and Helen Robertson.



Remember When

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

THE TRAFALGAR, YARRAGON & YALLOURN NEWS, APRIL 1932

7 APRIL – DISTRICT LIGHT HORSE PERFORM

The Trafalgar Troop under Lieutenant R Ryan and the Moe Troop under Lieutenant Bell gave excellent performances at the Gippsland Light Horse camp held at Bairnsdale.

The Trafalgar Troop did particularly well by gaining four firsts and three seconds, out of the nine events held.

14 APRIL – TO BEAUTIFY TOWN

A letter was read at Monday's meeting of the Narracan Shire Council at Trafalgar from Mr T Shanahan, secretary of the Trafalgar Traders Association, that he had been instructed to request that permission be granted to establish a garden on a three-cornered piece of land on the Prince's Highway opposite the Methodist Church.

At the present time the ground was covered with rubbish and the making of a garden would considerably improve its appearance.

Note: This small reserve was established and later became known as "Campbell Square". It disappeared with the realignment of the Highway.

21 APRIL – AUSTRALIAN DRAUGHTS CHAMPION

A notable event will take place in the Memorial Hall on Saturday night next and all are welcome.

Mr J Boyles, Victorian and Australian draughts champion will be on a visit to his sons, Messrs A and W Boyles of Trafalgar.

The Memorial Hall committee is desirous of 15 or 20 draught players to come along on Saturday night next, bringing their own boards if possible, when it is hoped that the champion will play a large number at the same time.

The general public is invited to come along and be privileged to see our Australian champion in action.

THE GIPPSLAND NEWS, APRIL 1962

5 APRIL – CRICKET PREMIERSHIP WIN

The wind-up and presentation night of the Trafalgar Cricket Club held at the Recreation Reserve on Saturday evening last, was a much brighter occasion for

members of the Trafalgar Greens team who also took the opportunity to celebrate the winning of their first premiership for many years.

During the afternoon the Greens had defeated Yarragon in the grand final of the town section of the Warragul and District Cricket Association after three days of tense cricket.

“LATROBETTES” IN FORM

Trafalgar “Latrobettes” struck top form in the final stages of training in preparation for the Australian titles when, on Sunday last at the Traralgon Girls Marching contest, they won the championship in the junior section; gained second place in display; won the aggregate award, while their team leader Miss Sally Laybourne was awarded best leader.

12 APRIL – TRAFALGAR CAR CLUB

At the committee meeting on Monday night, six names were submitted for the blood donors' list for 2 May.

Remember it is better to leave your blood at the blood bank than on the highway! All final arrangements for the beard growing contest are completed and posters and entry forms are available now.

19 APRIL – POLOCROSSE TOURNAMENT

Trafalgar staged an exceptionally good two-day polocrosse tournament on Saturday and Sunday last with teams from various parts of Gippsland and the Western District competing.

Over 100-odd horses took part with no serious mishaps. Although the Trafalgar teams were unplaced in the finals the Blues acquitted themselves by winning the trophy for the best turned out team by a good margin of points, with Trafalgar Blacks second.

26 APRIL – YARRAGON'S WATER DROUGHT

Yarragon's reservoir dried up on Tuesday soon after a water main burst and has left the township in a desperate position.

A move has been made to connect the town water system to a bore at the Yarragon Butter Factory.

It is reported that Yarragon has had its driest summer for 50 years, and that there is hardly a drop of water in house tanks.

FUTURE OF SWIMMING POOL?

At the last meeting of the Narracan Shire Council held at Trafalgar a letter was read from the Secretary of the Trafalgar Swimming Pool Committee stating that due to the lack of interest the committee could no longer carry on and requested council to take over the management of the pool with the sum of £1981 (\$56,625 today) still owing on it.

A very vigorous protest came from Cr D Vaughan who said the council had already played its part as far as the pool was concerned.

On the motion being put it was lost with the voting 4 for and 5 against.

BASKETBALL AT YARRAGON

Cr J C Balfour, MLA, officially opened the second basketball court at the Market Street, Reserve, Yarragon, on Saturday afternoon last.

During the afternoon the visiting teams took part in a social game on the new court. This court is a real asset to the Yarragon club as its strength is rapidly growing as the interest in basketball increases.

TRAF NEWS, APRIL 2004 FURTHER DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED

Growth in the Baw Baw Shire is at an all-time high and Trafalgar is no exception, as a new 209-lot subdivision (over 22 hectares) is under consideration off School Road.

According to Baw Baw Shire Town Planner Michael Deidun, the lots will range in size from 437 square metres to 1444 square metres.

Some of the lots will have direct access from School Road, while others will access the site via Cross Street.

COMPUTERS FOR CHILDREN

Gippsland Green PC is a new enterprise, based in Trafalgar that aims to provide affordable, refurbished, internet-ready computers to low-income families and school-aged children.

The project is under the auspices of the Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network, also based in Trafalgar.

The computers are donated by Government, businesses and individuals, and are tested, repaired and refurbished ready to be sold to needy families at very low prices.

LIONS CLEAN UP TRAFALGAR

Trafalgar Lion Club members participated in Clean-Up Australia Day on Sunday, 7 March.

They picked up rubbish around the railway station and car park and also cleaned up for about 1 km along both sides of the railway line.

“On the whole it was a very interesting lot of rubbish”, said club member Graham McKenzie.

Eleven Lion Club members and the daughter of a member participated in the clean-up.

“UNDER THE INFLUENCE” PROGRAM

The West Gippsland Healthcare Group in conjunction with Victoria Police and the Latrobe Community Health Service has recently set up a program to assist young people affected by underage drinking.

Referrals into the program are at the discretion of the Victoria Police.

Inspector John Merret said: “Victoria Police are very happy to support this program”.

COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS

Cr. David Balfour writes: I would like to start with some well-deserved congratulations.

Firstly, to Cr Ruth McDonald on her election as Mayor of the Baw Baw Shire Council.

Congratulations also to the Trafalgar Community Association on the completion of the Strategic Plan for Trafalgar.

Mike Bourke and Judy Bishop have briefed the Council and the plan has been well received.

Finally, I congratulate the Trafalgar Golf Club on their effort in supporting and organising the Baw Baw Classic. Over 400 golfers participated in the event held at the Warragul, Drouin and Trafalgar Golf Clubs.

It was great to see the three clubs working together to deliver such a fantastic event.

HELP WANTED WITH TRAF NEWS

We are seeking volunteers, especially in the Compositors and Advertising Sales group. If you are interested in being involved in Trafalgar's monthly community paper Traf News, please get in touch with us.

CHURCH SERVICES

CATHOLIC PARISH

Father Bernard Buckley, Phone 5633 1166

St John's Trafalgar, 54 Waterloo Road	
Saturday Night Mass:	6.00pm
Sunday Mass:	10.00am 2nd & 4th Sundays
	St Jarlaths Yarragon
	10.00am 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

UNITING CHURCH

Rev Moira Dodsworth

Phone 0447 957 772

St. Andrew's Uniting Church, Trafalgar

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

St David's Uniting Church, Yarragon

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

St Stephens Darnum

Service times	11.00am on 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month
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Please direct inquiries to Dee Crosby Phome 0409 933 104

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Paul Zelenewicz, Phone 0493 088 370 or info@trafalgaranglicanparish.org.au

St Mary's Church, Trafalgar

1st Wednesday of each month – 10.00am Quiet Service

1st, 4th Sundays – 9.30 Family Service

2nd Sunday – 9.30 Holy Communion Service

3rd Sunday – 9.30 Combined Parish Holy Communion Service

5th Sunday – 9.30 Combined Parish Holy Communion Service at St Mark's Yarragon Service at St Mark's Yarragon

St Mark's Church, Thorpdale

1st & 3rd Sunday of each month - 11.00am Extended Communion Service

St Mark's Church, Yarragon

1st, 2nd, & 4th Sundays - 8.30 Extended Communion Service

3rd Sunday - 9.30 Combined Parish Holy Communion Service at St Mary's Trafalgar

5th Sunday - 9.30 Combined Parish Holy Communion Service

THORPDALE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

Rev Frank Lees,

Phone 5634 6413 or 5633 2758

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

Time to remember the virtues of football

By Liam Durkin

DOES anyone realise the country footy season starts in a few days?

If anyone else is feeling as though there doesn't seem to be a great deal of excitement surrounding the upcoming season, you are not alone.

I must say, in all my years playing, watching and reporting on local footy, season 2022 takes the unwanted title of being the one carrying the least amount of hype.

Ordinarily at this time of year there is no shortage of discussion surrounding how teams are shaping up, conversations about what is happening at club land and rumours circulating how much such and such is getting paid.

But this year? While I have heard a bit, most of it unsubstantiated, it is nothing compared to previous years.

Granted clubs only talk when they're recruiting, yet the apparent lack of anticipation for what season 2022 might bring is bewildering to say the least.

Perhaps it is to do with the uncertainty, perhaps it is to do with the mental drain of getting up for a third pre-season after the last two led to a grand total of 10 games, or perhaps it is simply a case of the last two years making people realise there is in fact more to life than footy.

The hesitancy is understandable. I think people were prepared to cop not playing in 2020 under the assumption it would only add to the thrill of what was to come the following year. When it happened again it reached a 'why bother' stage.

At least in 2020 you knew there was no chance the season would get off the ground. Last year you still had to front up, most of the time with the vaguest amount of optimism you were actually working toward something.

It was like logging on trying to purchase tickets for a major concert you knew you didn't have much chance of actually getting a ticket to - but you do it anyway just to be sure.

Often you would leave home in the morning with your bag packed ready for training, only to find out hours later you were being plunged into lockdown that night.

I lost count of how many 'last suppers' were had.

Clubs more than likely lost count of how many functions, anniversaries and reunions were cancelled, not to mention how much canteen stock was wasted.

Just how many player milestones were denied? I myself worked out I should be on at least 150 games by now.

It is strange how players say milestone matches don't mean much to them. To play 200 or 300 games for one club is a moment and a person to be celebrated. Just as it is for the local legend who has been on the gate or behind the bar for 50 years.

The trainers, the board members, the support staff, they are all a team themselves, wearing the same colours, fighting with the same passion in devotion for their footy club.

Where else but a football club can such an eclectic group of people come together to share in a common purpose?

Look at a team singing the song following a win. There is a good chance the circle will be linked by players standing arm-in-arm ranging from doctors and lawyers to tradies and truck drivers.

Society says people from those walks of life shouldn't mix. Football says otherwise.

These are the characters that help make up the fabric of a football club. Clubs are a place where an emphasis on good will, sense of duty and pride in work all merge to help build bring hope and moments of sheer joy. And it's a great deal of fun as well.

Many towns in Gippsland don't have a lot in terms of physical buildings, but they do have a footy club. These are places that serve a greater purpose than being a general assembly of people. They are hubs for the community, meeting places, places to socialise, laugh and sometimes even cry. You can see that good things come out of football clubs. The club to which I belong and the club to which you belong might be different, but it is equally special and an integral part of your life.

Think of how soulless some towns in Gippsland would be if it wasn't for the football/netball club. Some of them are ghost towns during the week but become a small metropolis every second Saturday.

Surely this sense of community is too great an ideal to lose on the back of two challenging years.

Looking at the narratives and subplots attached to our local clubs it is surprising then that there is such little excitement, for it would seem there is actually plenty to be excited about.

Could Traralgon be this season's bolter in the Gippsland League? The Maroons have added former Port Adelaide player Brett Eddy, who will surely complete one of the best forward lines in the competition working alongside Jake Best and Dylan Loprese.

Eddy will be just one of many ex-AFL players running around in Gippsland next season. Warragul to the west has Jedd Lamb and Nick Graham, Bairnsdale to the east has Logan Austin all trying to resurrect their respective sides fortunes.

In total, seven of the leagues 10 member clubs will have AFL experience on their lists. Such quality will surely make the Gippsland League the highest standard it has been in recent memory.

Morwell might not quite be ready to make a huge impact, but who knows, the Tigers could surprise a few. Morwell's rivalry matches with Traralgon and Moe always make for compulsive viewing.

And what of the Lions? They were still hanging people the last time Moe won a flag. Will this finally be the year they bury 55 years worth of torment? Imagine the outpouring of emotion if it actually happens.

They'll be a parade and a public holiday.

Season 2022 could be the year we see a number of droughts broken.

Hill End won the hearts of most in 2019, making their first Mid Gippsland grand final since 1982. The Hillmen looked a good chance of winning it last season before being stopped in their tracks, and will surely be eager to go again.

Standing in their way though could be Mirboo North, a team that just seems to come from nowhere and win premierships when they have even the slightest opening. Morwell East could be another, and certainly on paper look to have a list profile that suggests they will be contending.

I'm hearing good things out of Fish Creek. We saw possibly the embodiment of football culture last season when they managed to knock off Yinnar despite having virtually their entire senior team unavailable due to travel restrictions. How much a club means to a small town was surely seen earlier in the day when a call-to-arms was made to successfully field a reserves team.

The Kangaroos had never forfeited a reserves match before, and COVID or no COVID, weren't prepared to make last season the first.

You would mark Newborough down as another team set to improve. The Bulldog's should be resurgent under club legend Craig Skinner and with a host of former players returning. If you were writing a story previewing Newborough's season you would have to borrow from The Blues Brothers - "we're putting the band back together".

Some other relative newcomers to various leagues will be hoping to avoid a case of second year blues.

Yallourn Yallourn North and Trafalgar each slotted in seamlessly to the North Gippsland and Ellinbank league last season. The Jets had a percentage of 228.80, the Bloods an 8-2 record. The Bloods are being coached by an ex-Newborough player in Tom Hallinan - as Bob Dylan said "the times they are a-changin".

Back to the Gippsland League, interest will surround Maffra under new coach Anthony Robbins. Grand finals are like Christmas at the Eagles, they come around every year.

The Eagles biggest rival, Sale, are always a tough team to beat, especially at home. The rivalry has only intensified since former Maffra player Jack Johnstone took the coaching job.

Sale is home to possibly the greatest Collingwood player of all time in Scott Pendlebury. Drouin is home to possibly the greatest player of all time - Ablett Senior.

Heading south, Leongatha is a club that just does great things. Wonthaggi looks to be on the verge of doing great things.

The Parrots have played in the last five grand finals. The Power came from nowhere to make their most recent grand final.

If you wanted to see true emotion you should have seen the 2014 preliminary final. Wonthaggi came from 45 points down at three quarter time and won. The ground was flooded with people, strangers were hugging players out on the ground, grown men were crying. It was absolute pandemonium.

Those who thought football wasn't a matter of life and death didn't think to tell the Wonthaggi players in the last quarter. They played as if their lives depended on the result.

Some years later I wrote a feature story on the match. Speaking to Power coach Rob Railton and asking how they managed to pull it off he simply said "the scoreboard never dictates effort".

Those words have stayed with me ever since. How much that can be applied to not just football but life.

In my travels recently I was required to be in Kilcunda by 9.30am on a Saturday.

Driving from Traralgon, I headed through Leongatha and past the football ground, momentarily casting an eye over the oval, curious but for no real reason as to whether or not the Parrots were training. They weren't on this occasion.

A little while later I was in Wonthaggi. With time on my side I thought I would make a slight detour and go check out the footy ground.

As I drove in the Power were training. They were taking part in what looked like a drill involving moving the ball from end-to-end. The talls were deep, the smalls around the stoppage, and other players, presumably those in rehab, on the top deck of the old social rooms on exercise bikes.

If you were a Wonthaggi supporter you would have been pleased to see such commitment at 8.30am on a Saturday.

I doubt they saw me, I didn't hang around for long, but I was there long enough to leave thinking "they're practicing well ... they look like they're going to be tough to play against".

The byplay has begun. The conversations are sure to follow. The on-field action isn't far away.

Bring on season 2022. There is plenty to get excited about.



Country football provides the heartbeat to many towns in Gippsland, such as Yarram (pictured). (Photo: Liam Durkin).

Junior cricket concludes

By Liam Durkin

The junior season for the Trafalgar Cricket Club Under 16s and Under 14s ended last month.

Both teams had strong seasons, making finals in their respective grades.

The Under 14s finished the regular season in second position on the ladder, while the Under 16s finished fourth.

Unfortunately the Under 14s lost their semi-final and the Under 16s were denied the chance to play in theirs due to rain.

In the Under 16 game against CATS, Trafalgar saw out their 20 overs with a couple of players getting starts in Blake White who made 17 off 20 balls and Olly Hennessy 13. CATS then got the required runs without much damage.

The team put up a massive score at Traf the following week against Moe. A number of players spent quality time out in the middle and returned terrific results for not only themselves but the team.

Louis and Olly Hennessy each made half centuries, while Blake White responded to the challenge of batting first drop by scoring a fine 32.

Michelle Claridge and James Pace played their naturally attacking ways, hitting two sixes each.

The bowling saw wickets shared and some good accuracy as three of the seven wickets to fall were bowled. Charlie Hennessy took 2-7.

Trafalgar then had the opportunity to play on a belter of a turf wicket at Keegan Street, and returned home victorious.

Trafalgar batted first and made 190, before bowling Morwell out.

The Ships then won a low scoring game at Peter Siddle Oval the next week.

Traf decided to bowl first, and dismissed Latrobe for 84. Blake White took 2-11 and Little Smithy (Liam Smith) 2-13.

Olly and Louis Hennessy then put on 54 for the first wicket, before some mild panic went through the lineup as the team was soon 6-81.

Michelle Claridge however was at the other end, and saw the team to victory with a gritty 24, showing his discipline in batting for more than two hours.

Needing to win the last game of the home-and-away season to make finals, Trafalgar was sent in to bat and compiled 106 from their allotted 20 overs.

Louis Hennessy scored 26 off 31 balls and James Pace 30 off 18.

Some moments of madness saw the Ships go from 0-49 to 3-49 and then 4-83 to 7-86, as the question of 'do we have enough?' lingered at the change of innings.

Fortunately, Trafalgar was able to strike at semi-regular intervals with the ball to see their opponents dismissed short of the required total.

Jordy Chapman, Louis and James took the bulk

of the wickets, while little Smithy got the team off the ground with the winning pole.

The Ships were out of finals just as quickly as they qualified however.

The Under 16s experienced the joy of making finals on Friday, and then ended their season in absolute anti-climax on Sunday as rain ruined any hopes the side had of going all the way.

As the semi-final was washed-out, the fourth-placed Ships had to accept their fate and graciously bow out of the finals race.

As cricket teaches you no shortage of life lessons, perhaps the lesson the young players can take from this experience is to not leave things to the last minute.

In the Under 14s only seven runs separated Traf and Churchill in the first game back after Christmas.

Trafalgar made 2-83 with Olly White scoring 31 not out and James Pace 30 not out, but Churchill made 4-90. Brodie Gauci took 2-7 with the ball.

The Ships made use of short boundaries in the next match at St Paul's, Traralgon.

Traf bowled first and kept Centrals to 97, which they were able to pass without too much haste.

A pair of wickets to Matthew Jackson proved a high point, while the batting saw great intent from everyone who went out to have a hit.

Olly White hit a six in his 22 off 23 balls, James Pace

three in his 33 off 12 balls and Memphis McQualter hitting one out of the screws as well with a six.

Charlie Hennessy also contributed with a run-a-ball 17 and Zak Larkin scored 30 off 26 balls.

Traf took the points against Latrobe on the Maryvale astro the next week.

The Ships bowled the Sharks out for 105, with Sam Jones leading the wickets taking 2-8. Others to chip in with scalps were Emma Jackson (1-10), Brodie Gauci (1-13) and Charlie Hennessy (1-15).

Run outs were a feature of the fielding effort. Zak Larkin, James Pace and Mathew Jackson all getting in on the act.

With the bat, Traf made

4-167 off their allotted overs. Pace retired on 50 (five sixes) and Larkin made 43 while Olly White scored 16 opening up.

In the last game of the home-and-away season, Traf bowled first at home and saw their Willow Grove opponents close at 6-86 from 20 overs.

Charlie Hennessy proved a handful, taking 3-3 from four overs with two maidens.

Amazingly, young Charlie can bowl three different types, much like the great Garry Sobers - seam, wrist spin and finger spin all to great effect.

In reply, Trafalgar was led by Olly White making an unbeaten 35 at the top of the order, along with Zak Larkin who made 23.

Olly hit five fours in his effort to see the Ships to a score of 6-116.

The semi-final saw the Ships pitted against CATS.

Traf batted first and scored 138.

Olly White and Zak Larkin made 48 and 35 respectively.

CATS got the runs in the end. Leading the wickets for Traf was Olly White (3-45), James Pace (2-21) and Charlie Hennessy (2-36).

The club hopes all junior cricketers and parents enjoyed the season.

Moving forward, the club has identified the need to get an Under 12 team back up and running and will treating this as a high priority over the off season to see a full complement of junior teams from 12s to 16s.



Trafalgar Cricket Club Under 16 team for season 2021/22. Zack Brown (coach), Liam Smith, Jordan Chapman, Olly Hennessy, Blake White, James Pace, (front) Zak Larkin, Olly White, Charlie Hennessy, Memphis McQualter, Mitch Claridge and Louis Hennessy.

Junior cricketers sweep league awards

By Liam Durkin

A number of Trafalgar junior cricketers capped off dominant seasons by winning a raft of Latrobe Valley and District Cricket League awards.

Louis Hennessy won the Under 16 league best-and-fairest.

Louis scored 243 runs at 34.71 and took 11 wickets at 9.27.

Younger brother Charlie won the Under 14 bowling aggregate with 11 wickets at 3.27, which was a remarkable achievement considering he is only 11-years-old.

James Pace also won the Under 14 batting aggregate with 223 runs at an average of 111.50 using the trusty Hunts bat. That stick has certainly seen a thing or two.

Not to be outdone, Olly Hennessy made 243 runs at an average of 48.60 in the Under 16s.

They're not bad at cricket those Hennessys.



Under 16 league best-and-fairest Louis Hennessy.



Under 14 league batting and bowling aggregate winners James Pace and Charlie Hennessy.

Ships see finals action

By Liam Durkin

Trafalgar Cricket Club had two senior sides qualify for finals this season.

The Ships first and second grade teams each made it past the regular season after finishing in the top half of their respective ladders in the Latrobe Valley and District Cricket League.

Some strong performances in matches leading up to finals allowed the teams to qualify. Trafalgar's C Grade unfortunately missed out, but their season was kept alive right until the last game of the home-and-away season.

A GRADE

The Ships got home against Traralgon West in a high scoring match at Burrage Reserve, Newborough in Round 12.

Stand-in captain Connolly survived a few strangling attempts by Trafalgar players for electing to bat first on a greasy surface under misty skies, but the decision appeared a masterstroke a few hours later as the Ships closed at 7/203.

George and Liam White combined for a 129-run opening stand, with the former scoring 84 and the latter an unbeaten 64.

The Eagles then played with absolutely no fear when they went into bat. This high-risk-high-reward approach presented Trafalgar with ample opportunities, and the Ships were able to capitalise during the middle stages.

At 1/77, Traralgon West quickly sank to 5/86, before back-to-back wickets on the eve of the second drinks break left the score 7/116.

Traralgon West took the chase deep, and provided a few nervy moments as they got to 7/175, but Trafalgar was able to get the percentages in their favour by protecting the boundary and the back end of the over to ensure the run rate eventually became the main point of concern for the Eagles.

George rounded out a good day with 2/19, Connolly took 2/32 and Liam Durkin 2/10.

The next match against Moe was one of the most thrilling in recent memory.

Trafalgar bowled first at picture-perfect Ted Summerton Reserve and saw Moe post 7/253.

Connolly took 2/34 and Holdsworth 2/36.

The Ships took a steady approach in response, and at

the halfway mark was 4/83.

Jackson Noonan was promoted from nine to six and responded with a swash-buckling 86 from 76 balls, combining with Holdsworth in a 156-run stand for the fifth wicket.

At the 30-over mark the Ships had got the equation down to just over a run-a-ball.

Come the final over, the Ships needed two to win and Holdsworth brought up the win with a square drive through backward point.

The captain produced when his team needed him most and ended on 104 not out, arguably the finest of his eight hundreds in a Trafalgar shirt.

A bye and then a wash-out meant the Ships hadn't played in a fortnight, but they were able to win the last home-and-away match against Centrals by seven wickets.

Batting first, Centrals took themselves to a steady position of 1-45, before running into some trouble and finding themselves 5-63.

From there things did not improve a great deal, as the Lions were eventually bowled out for 111.

It was Zack Brown's day as he bowled exceptionally well with the new ball, taking 4-19 from 10 overs. Holdsworth and Durkin took 2-10 and 2-14 respectively.

Going out to chase, the Ships lost a couple early, but mature hands from Holdsworth and Connolly saw the team into a winning position.

Connolly and Holdsworth put on 56 for the third wicket.

The latter saw the game out with a terrific 71 off 72 balls, highlighted by an outrageous lofted off drive that saw him hold the pose for what seemed an eternity.

B GRADE

B Grade had their best win of the season the following week, taking down the top side.

Trafalgar was sent in and although no one made a huge contribution individually, the Ships were able to get to 140 thanks to a few 20s and double figure scores throughout the card.

Jeeralang-Boolarra looked to be on track to pass in at 2-91, but Trafalgar was able to get a crucial breakthrough and from there wickets fell at semi-regular intervals.

The Ships found an un-

likely hero with the ball in Kaleb Chapman, who ended with 4-15.

In a good sign, every bowler used was under 18, which bodes well for the future of the club.

The team undid some of this good work with a disappointing performance the next week against Yinnar.

The Ships struggled battling first, and could only manage 107. Connor Dastey scored 29 but was bereft of much support, as only two other players made double figures and extras second top scored.

Trafalgar then only took three wickets with Yinnar not taking too many chances, getting home in the 37th over.

A fairly tame performance came the following week.

Traf won the toss and elected to bowl first at John Black Oval against CATS.

CATS only lost three wickets in their innings, and closed with 187 on the board.

Zack Brown and Riley White kept things tidy with the new ball, with White going for just 17 in seven overs, but overall, the bowlers struggled for any real penetration.

After getting to 1-55, the Ships batting then saw them lose clumps of wickets, with the highest partnership after the fall of the second wicket being 33.

The batting was plagued

by five players getting to double figures before falling against the run of play.

Fred Dyke did his best to help the situation, scoring 32 from 40 balls, as the team fell 44 runs short.

In the last game of the regular season, Trafalgar batted first against Latrobe. The Ships struggled through the innings, unable to put on any partnerships of significance and were bowled out for 96.

John Asmussen made 38 opening the batting but was bereft of much support as only one other batsman reached double figures.

A somewhat bizarre innings followed as Latrobe was 2-88 and then lost 5-6 as the winnings runs dawned on them.

At 7-94 the game was kept interesting, but Latrobe was able to get over the line in the finish.

Billy Andrews bobbed up and took unreal figures of 4-4 while Damien Mann took 2-12 from nine overs.

Shane Lanham provided the highlight of the day, taking a wicket that became the talking point of the evening after bowling the opposition's top scorer.

C GRADE

The Ships got on the winners list, thanks mainly to some Mark Smith heroics in the game against Moe.

Captain Claridge took the

punt to bowl first upon winning the toss, reasoning that batting first hadn't worked in the last few weeks.

Trafalgar bowled Moe out for 108, with wickets shared between Billy Andrews, Steve Asmussen, Mark Smith and Brenna.

Andrews did his championship points no harm, with all three of his wickets bowled as the Ships recovered well after Moe got to 52 without loss.

Batting woes made a comeback in the early stages, with Trafalgar sinking to 4/25 and then 6/52, making the 108 required seem like 308.

Smith, who had watched the carnage unfold from the other end, saved the day, making an unbeaten 68 batting through the innings.

Smith and Darren Brown put on 63 for the seventh wicket to see Trafalgar over the line in the 22nd over.

A club favourite, who has generously driven the bus on occasions and provided players with massage treatment this season, it was great to see Smithy have his moment after bowling the opposition's top scorer.

C Grade then lost a close one against the top side.

CATS batted first and closed with 181 on the board at Traf.

Darren Brown highlighted the bowling with a wicket off the very first ball of the

match, as he returned neat figures of 1-18 from eight.

The Ships struggled to string any partnerships together in the top order, stumbling to 6-62, before Brendan Rooney and Brent Claridge resurrected the situation, putting on 60 for the seventh wicket.

With Rooney making 44 and Claridge 39 the Ships set up a tight finish, but unfortunately, couldn't quite get over the line.

Needing to win the last game against Mirboo North to play finals, Traf was sent in on the Mirboo North astro and found the going difficult early, at one stage falling to 3-20.

A steady loss of wickets had the scoreboard reading 6-57 before Mark Wynne and Brent Claridge took the total past triple figures.

However, after Wynne departed for a well-made 41 there wasn't much added, as the Ships were bowled out for 117.

Wickets didn't come for the bowlers, although the chase went right to the third-last over which kept the door ajar for a Traf victory.

Darren Brown kept things tidy with figures of 0-9 off five, as did Paul Connolly (0-11 off six with two maidens) and Fred Dyke (0-19 off eight) while Brendan Rooney took 2-27.



Trafalgar players celebrate a wicket during a B Grade match at home.



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

Synthetic rink realises long term dream for Trafalgar Bowling Club.

The conversion of one of the Trafalgar Bowling Club's bowling rinks from a turf to a synthetic surface had long been a dream of the club and after a successful grant application from Baw Baw Shire Council on behalf of the club, those dreams are now reality.

The new synthetic rink has enhanced useability of the facility and will provide the club and wider community the ability to play through the wet Gippsland winters – something that previously was unthinkable and would cause costly damage to the bowling greens.



The \$200,000 redevelopment was delivered by the Trafalgar Bowling Club in partnership with the Victorian Government, who contributed \$134,000 through Sport and Recreation Victoria's Local Sports and Infrastructure Fund. Baw Baw Shire Council supported the club through the construction process after securing the grant funding.

Club Chairman Ian Miles was extremely grateful for the funding and Council's support throughout the project. "I would like to acknowledge Baw Baw Shire's Shane Paynter and David McMahon, who I think could see what a development like this would have on our club and community in general", he said.

The Trafalgar Bowling Club was able to contribute \$60,000 to the project after four years of fundraising by the club and committee members. To meet the project shortfall, Council contributed the remaining \$6,000 as part of its 2021/22 Capital Works Program.

Prior to this project coming to fruition, Trafalgar residents had to travel to other communities such as Moe, Warragul and Drouin to bowl at clubs that can remain open, having their own synthetic greens.

Having their own synthetic surface has been a revelation for the club and has provided the ability to explore additional programming and growth opportunities. Already the new surface has attracted more players to the club, both competitively and socially, resulting in additional teams being entered into their Saturday and midweek pennant competitions.

Turra Pavilion a game changer for local clubs

Officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday 5 March, the Turra Pavilion is a landmark facility for Trafalgar community sporting clubs.

Boasting six changerooms and amenities, umpires and officials' spaces, club storage, multi-use flex spaces, elevated timekeepers' box, a first aid room, canteen and a 200m2 boxing gym it provides everything the clubs need now and will need in the future.



The pavilion's name recognises the Turra family, who previously owned the land on which the facility was developed and have been actively involved throughout the Trafalgar Community.

When asked about seeing their family name on the pavilion for the first time, Pauline and Michelle Turra said "we are honoured and very proud to see our family name on the pavilion, and it will be special for future generations of the family to come and see our family's legacy and recognise the blood, sweat and tears that brothers Dominic, Jimmy and Frank Turra put into developing the farm on which the pavilion now sits."

The project has been supported by a \$500,000 Victorian Government grant, secured by Council through Sport and Recreation Victoria's Female Friendly Facilities Fund. Council has contributed the \$2.3 million balance through its 2020/21 and 2021/22 Capital Works Programs.

The two-year project has been officially completed by local contractor, Kubale Constructions and clubs are now able to begin using the facility.

The Trafalgar Victory Football Club are looking forward to their first season in the state-of-the-art pavilion. "We've already had more players wanting to come to the club and we haven't even started using the facility yet," said club president Lachlan Wyatt. "We could say that we've got the best fields in Gippsland and now we've got the best pavilion too, why wouldn't you want to come and play here."

"I'd really like to thank the Trafalgar Victory Football Club committee, Baw Baw Shire Councillors, Council staff and the project team, the Victorian Government, and the project reference group for all over their work in making this project possible."



Bloods to begin season

The Trafalgar Football-Netball Club will commence its season on Saturday, April 9.

The Bloods have to wait an extra week to start owning to a bye in Round 1.

Trafalgar will play Ellinbank away to begin their season.

The next block of matches sees the Bloods play Longwarry (home), Catani (away), Buln Buln (home) and then

rivals Yarragon (away).

All will be hoping for an uninterrupted season after the frustrations of the previous two years.

Key forward Blake Slater has returned home after spending a few years at Churchill.

Mitch Virtue is another recruit from Nar Nar Goon.

Outs are Chris McIntosh and Dom Pinneri who have both retired.

Gippsland United on court

Gippsland United made its Big V debut last month.

The team has been established as the region's club to participate in the Big V and Victorian Junior Basketball League.

Years of lobbying and consultation culminated in the creation of Gippsland United, which is a joint project between the Traralgon Amateur Basketball Association and the Combined Gippsland

Basketball Association (also known as Latrobe City Energy).

With a now truly all-encompassing team flying the Gippsland flag in the sport of basketball at an elite level, it is hoped Gippsland United will provide a pathway for players to make their way to the National Basketball League, or even to the United States and the NBA.

Basketball Victoria fully supported the Gippsland

Basketball Elite Pathway and Participation Project and review leading to the creation of Gippsland United led by Michelle Harris from Gippsport in 2020.

Some big names will be on display for Gippsland United this season, including United imports Brandon Armstrong and Makenzie Miller.

Local lights are also tipped to shine bright, with college player Jordan Pyle and state players Ben Waller,

Emily Scholtes and Asha Nightingale selected.

Gippsland United is the first senior Gippsland basketball representative team in three years.

The men's side will be coached by Korumburra's Scott McKenzie while well-known local basketball coach Gail Macfarlane will call the shots for the women's team.

Spin king is fondly remembered

By Liam Durkin

Cricketers across the region awoke last month morning to the shock-ing news Australian cricket legend Shane Warne had died.

Selected as one of Wisden's five cricketers of the 20th century, Warne took 708 Test wickets to be regarded as the greatest spin bowler of all time.

Tributes flowed for the leg spinning maestro, with club cricketers across the country sporting black arm bands in remembrance.

Warne had some connection to the Latrobe Valley, with fellow Test cricketer Peter Siddle of Latrobe Cricket Club overlapping the start of his Victorian career with the back-end of Warne's.

Morwell Cricket Club overseas player Chris Yates also played with Warne for English county Hampshire, while Willow Grove and Trafalgar players Rob Phoenix and Rhys Holdsworth played premier cricket for Warne's club St Kilda.

Yates shared his experiences with the spin king.

"I was lucky enough to share a taxi with him, go clubbing with him, net with him and even field a ball off his bowling," he said.

"(We) talked about music and family one night, (he was) so down to earth and never felt like I was speaking to the best spinner ever to play the game, just a humble man interested in you."

"What a legend and such

terrible news. RIP Warne."

Sale-born cricketer Ian Wrigglesworth crossed paths with Warne a few times, both as part of the Victorian squad and overseas.

Wrigglesworth, who played a number of First Class and List A matches, came across a young Warne at a time both were looking to forge their careers.

The year was 1991, and the destination England. Warne was playing for Accrington in the Lancashire league and Wrigglesworth was a drive "just five minutes away".

From there, Warne went on an Australia A tour of Zimbabwe, and two years later, bowled the 'ball of the century'.

Wrigglesworth and

Warne, as well as James Sutherland, were part of a group of Melbourne-based players in England at the time, and would have a hit most Wednesdays.

Wrigglesworth recalled even at an early age Warne imparted more rip on the ball and had more control than any spinner he had faced.

"He just didn't bowl rank leg-spinning half trackers," Wrigglesworth said.

Those who have seen Wrigglesworth bat will attest to him being a quality player of spin, but even he said there was always an element of uncertainty when facing Warne.

"I could pick him out of the hand, but he made the ball drop quickly so you had

to check your shot," he said.

As well as cricket, the Melbourne cricketers would often play social tennis or pool, with Wrigglesworth saying Warne's "incredible hand-eye" allowed him to excel at both.

He remembers Warne hardly played pool (eight ball) before the England trip, but was one of the best players by the end.

Wrigglesworth believed Warne was the greatest stock bowler of all time, and that his greatness lay not entirely in his wicket taking ability, but in the fact his bowling was of such quality and durability it meant Australia could play six recognised batsman and no all-rounder for most of his Test career

- a time that saw Australia completely dominate world cricket in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

In remembering the champion, Wrigglesworth said he was not only a "fantastic team player" for Victoria but a "good bloke", always willing to sign autographs or pose for photos with kids, something perhaps lost in the age of tabloid newspapers only running stories detailing his trials and tribulations off the field.

"I couldn't speak highly enough of him, he was always genuine, very personable," Wrigglesworth said.



Legendary Australian cricketer Shane Warne died last month at the age of 52.



Pavilion artwork a fitting homage

By Liam Durkin

Users of the Turra Pavilion at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve will be greeted with a striking exterior artwork for generations to come.

Situated on the western side of the building, the piece encapsulates the history and characteristics of the Trafalgar township and the various sporting teams that will one day call the reserve home once the second oval is constructed.

Such a landmark pavilion deserved a landmark mural, and Trafalgar artist Jeff Thege delivered.

The steel-plated design features a grandiose display of the iconic ship HMS Victory navigating its way through a sea of trouble, onward and forwards to more prosperous times.

The ship has become an instantly recognised symbol for the Trafalgar township, with most sporting teams, schools and business associations adopting it as their logo.

The towns connection to not only the Battle of Trafalgar but to the Captain of the flagstaff ship, Lord Horatio Nelson, has been passed through generations of youngsters who have grown up in the town.

This identity is ensured thanks to the naming of Victory Park alongside the Princess Highway heading

through town, and an ode to the battle and Nelson's ship taking pride of place within the foyer of the public hall.

In describing the artwork, Thege said he wanted to embody the symbolism of the ship.

"This artwork aims to inspire, motivate and incite fair play of sport by using imagery of the HMS Victory," he said.

"Members of Trafalgar's sporting club are represented by the HMS Victory in this artwork, which in turn symbolises strength, effort, strategy, teamwork, leadership, discipline and fortitude. "Symbolism is deeply embedded in this scene, with the Victory emerging from a violent storm demonstrating triumph - or victory - over adversity.

"Another symbolism is the harsh swells of the ocean, representing difficult times ensured by any club or sports player at one time or another.

"The sun breaking through the storm clouds represents hope, conveying with perseverance and resilience that bleak times will not last.

"Lastly, the looming great wave represents the inevitability of new, oncoming challenges as well as the preparedness, willingness and courage needed to face them."

A storyboard is set to be added to the CorTen and stainless steel structure, detailing the mean-ing behind what is sure to be looked upon with great interest so long as it stands.

"The signature of the piece are the words 'Blood, Sweat and Tears', as well as the silhouette of the three Turra brothers, Frank, Jim and Dominic," Thege explained.

"This signature is a tribute to the Turra family, for not only a demonstration of collaboration and hard work, but also charity, integrity and family values. These values transfer to the sport-ing context and is emphasised by the wording blood - family as well as team and club, sweat - hard work in collaboration with teammates, and tears - for the wins and losses."

Looking at the artwork, one can't help but think it is reflective of the rallying cry "all hands on deck".

If you listen closely you can even hear the sounds of bat on ball, or of footballers working their way through the crisp winter chill, followed by the words sung to toast victory, from the footballers belting out 'it's no idle boasting, we'll keep victory floating' to the cricketers sing-ing - 'Victory, Victory is the name of our great Ship'.



Trafalgar artist Jeff Thege in front of his piece that will adorn the new Turra Pavilion at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve. (Photo Liam Durkin)

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Tennis Club holds championships

By Colin Maney

Trafalgar Tennis Club's Championships ran on Sunday, February 27 for senior players and Tuesday, March 1 for junior players. The championships delivered some fun and entertaining tennis for participants and spectators. Nine senior players and the Section 2 junior players entered the competition.

Junior players played a round robin competition,

then a knock out competition to sort out section champion. Harry Pace took the honour of winning the section medals. Sarah Seddon took the Girl's Championship honours again for a third year running. Pace won the Boys Championship.

In the Men's Championship, there was six competitors on the day and Luke Bryant took the honours beating Colin Maney in the final. The

Ladies Championship was won by Amy Chaplain beating Sarah Seddon in the final. Players at both junior and senior levels demonstrated a high standard of skill, stamina, friendly rivalry and good sportsmanship.

Thanks go to committee members and parents for assisting on the day and supporting all the competitors.



Section 2 Juniors David Brand, Harry Pace (Junior Boys Champion), Sarah Seddon (Junior Girls Champion) and Noah Smith.



Trafalgar Tennis Club Men's Champion Luke Bryant and Ladies Champions Amy Chaplain.

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Bloods call on Hallinan

Tom Hallinan is the new senior coach of the Trafalgar Football-Netball Club.

Hallinan will begin coaching the Bloods in a mater of days, making the step up from assistant coach.

The new man in charge was good enough to provide some insights for Traf News.

(Questions by Liam Durkin).

FIRSTLY, CONGRATULATIONS ON THE APPOINTMENT, HOW HAS IT ALL COME ABOUT?

Going back a few months, Kyra (outgoing coach Chris Kyriacou) approached me just about a handover and asked me to consider it as he wasn't going to go on. I didn't take too long to think about it, had a chat to my wife and agreed to it.

CAN YOU GIVE US AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR CAREER?

You'll run out of pages haha. I've got more clubs than Tiger Woods.

Newborough junior, came through Gippy Power, left home, left Newborough for an apprenticeship, then played in the city. Played at Ringwood, VFL for a year (with Preston Bullants), then went back down and started coaching. There has been a lot of stints. Assistant at Surrey Park, head coach at Oakleigh Districts, assistant coach at Balwyn, after that I went back home to Newborough and then went into Casey Cardinia, Tooradin, Doveton, Nar Nar Goon assistant coach, back to Tooradin, assistant coach at Aberfeldie in Essendon District under Mal Michael. To cut a long story short life just brought me back home after some time. Newborough in 2016, I coached the under 18s at Newborough and seniors then I got sick of footy to be honest and stepped away from it all and took up fitness coaching in soccer would you believe and really enjoyed it. Got it back to the grassroots of what sport is all about, the volunteerism, players wanting to play because they want to be there.

Now finally into Traf, which is unheard of for a Newborough player!

IS THERE ONE CLUB YOU HOLD DEAREST?

If there is one it was probably Nar Nar Goon. It was a flag we won after 30 years. Fond memories from three years at Nar Nar Goon.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO COACHING?

Because I'd always held leadership roles in footy clubs the coaching fell on me by a fella called Steve Daniels, now the head coach of Southport Sharks in the VFL. He's won flags everywhere. He actually conned me out of VFL and into Surrey Park as assistant coach. It ended up being the worst thing I ever did but in some ways the best thing I ever did. I got into coaching. I turned up Alan Richardson at East Burwood where they went on to win a flag, we went on not to play finals. After that Oakleigh District came knocking, I was a 26-year-old playing coach. I think once it's in you (coaching) it's always in you.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS A COACH?

It's all based on self-discipline, that is the cornerstone of what I do. I'm probably more a contested coach, don't get too wrapped up in the AFL system at local footy, local footy at the end of the day is footy - beat your opponent type of thing.

Myself as a coach I'm not afraid to eyeball but by the same token able to build good rapport with players so they understand their role and play their role for the team. My motto has always been 'suppress the ego for the betterment of the team'.

For me my biggest thing about coaching is trying to better the individual and better the club. I've always been fascinated by club culture and how to improve it and get more well-rounded players and not players who just play and that's it. I guess I've been fortunate to see many clubs and different cultures and how it works, how it doesn't work. Coming to Traf it is its own unique set.

SPEAKING OF CULTURE I'D DESCRIBE TRAF AS VERY MUCH WORKING CLASS. HAVE YOU GOT THAT IMPRESSION?

Yes, they are meat and three veg. I did a lot of observing last year as assistant, you could throw out the classic Thursday night drills and the boys would be happy doing that. They are definitely working class, funny enough there is a lot of similarities to Newborough, it's not a money-club, strong juniors, players play for the jumper more often than not, and that flows through from how players play starting si-

ren to end siren and making a contribution to the club over a period of time.

IS THERE ANYONE YOU MODEL YOURSELF ON AS A COACH?

Dean Caldwell was probably my most influential coach. Clever thinking, well planned, always thought ahead, good with developing young people and always a club-first focus.

HOW MUCH HAS THE GAME CHANGED FROM THE TIME YOU STARTED COACHING?

It has gone from the old footy shorts with the buttons on the side to now ankle socks. The game has changed a lot from the really tough early 90s, rivalries were everything and so too was lining up with the opposition. Now there is a lot more mutual respect. Gladly the behind-the-play stuff is out of the game which is a real positive.

A LOT OF THE TIME IN COUNTRY FOOTY IT SEEMS CLUBS PREFER TO HAVE A PLAYING-COACH. DO YOU GIVE THE PLAYING VERSUS NON-PLAYING DEBATE MUCH THOUGHT?

Both are a skill set that are different to each other. I was always a really good playing-coach because you can feel the emotion of the game and control it as such out there, whereas a non-playing coach is removed. The skill of a non-playing coach is about empowering individuals in the playing group to make decisions that are aligned to how you are coaching. It's all a bit different to being out there, lead-from-the-front type of thing. They both have merits, it takes a pretty special person to be a playing-coach in my opinion.

HOW DOES ELLINBANK COMPARE TO MID GIPPY?

You certainly have more players who can execute the skill more accurately and more regularly than Mid Gippy. Even playing Catani who hadn't won a game, they could still hold their own, they just couldn't hold it for long enough, but when they did they were able to move the ball as well as any team from end-to-end.

YOU WOULD HAVE A GOOD GRASP ON WHERE THE GROUP SITS IN THE OVERALL SCHEME OF THINGS?

I think stepping into the role I'm comfortable stepping into the role, the guys are comfortable with me, I certainly wasn't a silent fixture at training or on game day, but knowing what we have, what we need, with the improvement moving forward, and little tweaks with the game plan, I feel confident we have

DID YOU HAVE A PER-

CEPTION OF TRAF WALKING IN?

Not really. I'd spent most of my footy in Melbourne and as a junior it wasn't really Traf I hated it was Yinnar. I'm quite pragmatic to realise people are people. The biggest thing I needed to do was not stand on the sidelines and watch training and not be part of the group. I had to start training with the boys. It's the individual who has to shift to the group, the group doesn't shift to the individual. I learnt that a long time ago. At the end of the day it is just another footy club.

TRAF FINISHED LAST SEASON IN SECOND POSITION ON THE LADDER. DO YOU THINK THIS WAS AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF HOW THE SIDE PERFORMED OR WAS THERE AN ELEMENT OF 'NEW LEAGUE SYNDROME'?

I think we were exactly where we were in that top-two. It definitely wasn't new league syndrome and it definitely wasn't teams taking it easy on us. Our playing group was certainly well matched to Ellinbank, we weren't a fish-out-of-water nor did we have a real sugar-hit. Had we gone for the second half of the year I think that would have proven to be the case. The game we lost against Ellinbank (top side) was a toss of the coin, anyone could have won that in the worst conditions possible, and we outscored ourselves against Buln Buln, they just kicked accurately and saw through the game, credit to them.

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the group to do that and that I know what their strengths and weaknesses are.

IS THERE ANYTHING SPECIFICALLY YOU'RE LOOKING TO BRING IN THIS SEASON?

Developing our midfield depth. I'm mindful of the age profile of the team. We have 19 under 18 players coming into open-age footy - so we have a whole team pretty much. There is a strong focus to see that through and develop the youth and get some of those guys playing on the outside for our guys who are good contested players that win on the inside. It's probably just that midfield depth and a bit of outside run. I also think I will pare it back a bit to some basics, senior players have played six months in two years so I will be prepared just to pare it back to ensure the fellas are coming along and not overcooking it with technicalities.

I KNOW IT'S A CLICHÉ AND EVERYONE SAYS THE AIM IS TO WIN THE FLAG BUT THAT IS GENUINELY THE GOAL THIS SEASON?

It certainly is the goal, but by the same token so is the graduation of these young kids into open-age footy - we are nearly doing two fronts. I think the group we've got definitely has another couple of years with our senior core that we had last year and then it might just be tweaks to their role and how they're positioned. Definitely the objective is the flag and it's a realistic objective, but so is getting these young kids transitioned and accustomed to senior footy and that job is creating an inclusive environment for them.

IF RECENT HISTORY IS ANYTHING TO GO BY



New Trafalgar Football-Netball Club senior coach Tom Hallinan.

COACHES AT TRAF USUALLY MOVE ON IF THEY DON'T WIN A FLAG IN TWO OR THREE YEARS. DO YOU FEEL ANY PRES-SURE BECAUSE OF THIS?

I'll have to go back to Clint (former Trafalgar FNC coach Clint Einsiedel) who I used to play against in Melbourne and ask him. Not really, my job is to create the next wave of leaders and have guys stepping up in responsibilities. I'm there to coach the club, not just the starting 21, and to do that, my job is to empower other individuals under some guidance to have some autonomy in terms of taking on a role and seeing through that role. The buck ends up falling with the senior coach don't get me wrong, but if it's the senior coach sitting in the drivers wheel and just the senior coach then we have a big problem.

AND ON A LIGHT-HEARTED NOTE TO FINISH, HAVE EVEN THE MOST DIED-HARD TRAF PEOPLE BEEN ABLE TO SEE PAST THE NEWBOROUGH HISTORY AND ACCEPT YOU?

It's a bit of banter. My biggest task is making sure I know the words of the song verbatim. A couple of times I wore my Newborough training top and I felt like a rabbit out in front of greyhounds. Jamie Hines coming at you with evil eyes is not a particularly good thought. But it's all good, footy is footy at the end of the day. Newborough will be re-surgency this year under Craig Skinner so I'm really pleased to see that element but my alliance is with Traf and seeing continual improvement there, introducing my bit of flavour and empowering others to take the lead.

Bowling all-year round

By Liam Durkin

Trafalgar Bowls Club members and guests are set to benefit from year-round play, thanks to the installation of a synthetic green.

Not only will the new addition allow bowls to be played during winter, but players will be able to enjoy consistent speeds and conditions regardless of heavy rain.

Additionally, the synthetic green is set to lower maintenance costs and volunteer hours associated with maintaining a traditional grass green.

Trafalgar Bowls Club has kept one grass green to compliment the synthetic.

The synthetic was formally opened recently, with club chairman Ian Miles, bowls section president Helen Brodie and Parliamentary Secretary for Sport Danielle Green cutting the ribbon. Amazingly, the Trafalgar Bowls Club raised over \$60,000 for the project, in what was a tremendous act of defiance after events in the last few years saw the club, through no fault of its own, run into severe financial trouble.

Miles was beaming when he took to the podium to speak at the unveiling.

“It is with great pride that I stand here today, with and on behalf of the Trafalgar Bowls Club membership for the opening of our new state-of-the-art synthetic bowling green,” he said.

“As our members know in the last four years our club struggled through the worst financial times in the clubs 107-year history - our members and our entire Trafalgar community know how close we came to closing the doors.

“But we survived due to a lot of hard work and fundraisers, led by former chairman Ian Riley and his committees, and because our members love lawn bowls, we love the club, we love being part of this community and we enjoy the challenges and friendships formed on and off the greens.”

Sensing the need to have bowling available 12 months of the year, the Trafalgar Bowls Club applied for a local sport infrastructure grant to the state government through Baw Baw Shire.

The application was successful, and the state government kicked-in \$134,000.

“We could only dream of what it would be like to have a new synthetic playing surface, none of us could have imagined what a positive effect it would have on our club and the community,” Miles said.

“When it was announced that the grant application had been successful, an enormous mood-change swept through the club and members.

“With renewed enthusiasm we held many working bees, where we improved and upgraded other parts of the club. What we witnessed was a sense of pride and empowerment that the Trafalgar Bowls Club was about to flourish again.”

Trafalgar now has a Berrys Bowling System Ultra-Cool synthetic model - the first of its kind to be installed in West Gippsland.

Miles said the benefits had been far reaching.

“Since we commenced playing on our synthetic green I can confirm that it

has reinvigorated our players and it has attracted new members,” he said.

Trafalgar Bowls Club now

has close to 150 members and has added extra teams to Saturday and midweek Pennant competition within

the Strzelecki Bowls North Region.



Baw Baw Shire councillor Darren Wallace, Trafalgar Bowls Club chairman Ian Miles, Parliamentary Secretary Danielle Green, Trafalgar Bowls Club bowls sections president Helen Brodie, Baw Baw Shire councillor Peter Kostos and deputy mayor Annemarie McCabe declare the new synthetic green officially open. (Photo: Liam Durkin)

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Karen (Vendor)-Trafalgar

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