

Traf News

December 2022 – Edition 256

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DR JAMES BROWN: DRIVING THE FUTURE OF GP TRAINING

Trafalgar's local doctor, Dr James Brown, leads a very busy life. Besides performing clinical work at Trafalgar Medical Centre, associate professor Dr James Brown OAM is Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' (RACGP's) current principal medical educator and, from February 2023, is set to become RACGP national director of training.

From February 2023, RACGP will be taking over responsibility for most of Australia's training for general practice.

This means providing the training of some 5500 doctors to become GPs. As the RACGP principle medical educator, James has provided leadership at RACGP in preparation for delivering the training.

This has required building a curriculum, an educational program and a medical educator team.

From February 2023, James will be the national director of training leading a large team of medical educators to deliver the training.

In undertaking these roles, he brings 35 years of experience as a GP in Trafalgar, 25 years as a lead medical educator in Gippsland and 15 years of research into GP training.

His work has been widely published and has informed the evolution of GP training over the past 20 years. He has recently completed a PhD focusing on the GP supervisory relationship.

James, and his wife Helen, raised their family in Trafalgar. They have three daughters, now all adult, and all specialising in mental health.

In reflecting on being a GP in Trafalgar, James says, "Being invited into the lives of our patients is an extraordinary privilege, and I treasure this."

Outside of the busy practice and RACGP role, James isn't one to sit still. He loves to ride his bike of a morning, ski mountaineering, making a fence or two on their small farm and enjoying his spectacular view of Mount Baw Baw.

10 QUESTIONS WITH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JAMES BROWN

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO IN YOUR NEW ROLE?

I am looking forward to working with the teams who will be training doctors to become Australia's GPs.

I am very excited about the opportunity to be part of the next chapter of GP vocational training.

I believe that College led training will offer an environment that will enable many new developments for Australian General Practice training enabling it to continue to address the changing challenges and needs of the primary care for the Australian community.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO START WORKING FOR

RACGP – WHILE STILL JUGGLING WORK AS A GP FOR YOUR PRACTICE?

I joined the RACGP in 2020 because I wanted to be part of college-led training.

I saw this as the next challenge in my work in GP education.

WHAT KIND OF LEADER ARE YOU?

I perceive myself as collaborative, consultative and enabling.

I consider that the shared objective of high-quality GP training is the primary imperative and that we need a shared vision of this.

WHAT STRATEGIES DO YOU EMPLOY THAT HELP YOU SWITCH FROM 'GP' TO 'RACGP LEADER'?

I continue to be a GP. I find that there are many parallels in the work of general practice and being a leader.

As a clinician, a GP needs to take leadership in sense making with their patients and enable them to realise their chosen direction.

TELL US ABOUT HOW YOU MANAGE YOUR WORK/LIFE BALANCE?

I start the day early with a time of reflection, I have a bike ride with my wife most days and I prioritise my relationships. I also have lots of adventures.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN GENERAL PRACTICE?

Because I like people, I want to make a contribution to the world and I seek chal-

lenges.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AS CHILD/TEEN-AGER?

A fire fighter and then a scientist. As a teenager I also had a list of initiatives I would take as the prime minister!

AS A PRACTICE OWNER FOR OVER 30 YEARS, WHAT MEMORIES DO YOU REFLECT ON?

Being involved with families over a long time is an enormous privilege.

As a GP, I have been part of many shared significant events with patients and families and these become part of my ongoing connection with them.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR COL-



Associate professor Dr James Brown OAM enjoying feeding out hay away from his busy professional life

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Thanks for your support in 2022

Well, here we are at the last issue for 2022.

After what has transpired in recent times, this year probably offered a chance to enjoy 'normal service' once again.

At Traf News, we were able to produce a 20-page

paper each month, which we hope you have enjoyed.

My thanks go to all contributors who supplied stories. You are the voices in the community people love to read about.

For a small town to have its own dedicated newspaper provides a terrific way

for people to communicate, enjoy something with their morning coffee, as well as provide a historical record for generations to come.

One of the things I have always loved about Traf is I believe it is a town of 'doers'. Regardless of resources, time, or even odds, Traf people always seem to be out doing things.

Maybe it is just me being over-observant, but even driving through other towns, Traf seems to be the one where you see people running the most.

To keep producing a paper I think is important in the upkeep of that notion of just getting out and getting

the job done.

That being said, this year provided a few challenges professionally and personally.

Unfortunately, a high turnover of staff at the Latrobe Valley Express meant my work commitments skyrocketed, and as a result, Traf News fell way behind on my list of priorities.

Not being able to dedicate the time needed to Traf News was frustrating, but I hope I have been able to put together a creditable paper nonetheless over the year.

My thanks to Traf News graphic designer Sarah Mangion for her patience and understanding. There was a

few mad scrambles this year getting the paper out, and I'm sure at times she wanted to kill me, so I can't thank Sarah enough for giving me until the absolute last minute (sometimes more) to have everything submitted.

Thanks also to those behind the scenes and to the committee of management for their trust in me. The committee is to be commended for seeing Traf News continue at a time when most other regional newspapers were going under.

Moving forward, it is clear we need more hands on deck.

If anyone reading this has an interest in writing, we would love to have you on

board.

For students especially, Traf News can be a great stepping stone into your media career.

I got my start at Traf News, and there is no reason someone else can't as well.

Best wishes to all Traf News readers for the festive season.

See you in 2023.

Liam Durkin
Traf News Editor

Closure sparks attack from Blackwood

By Phil Hopkins

Native timber harvesting in Victoria has stopped after a ruling last week in the Supreme Court, prompting a savage accusation by the Liberals Gary Blackwood on what he termed the Andrew government's culpability.

VicForests ordered the stand-down, after Justice Melinda Richards ruled in a case involving Environment East Gippsland that the state-owned enterprise's pre-harvest surveys were inadequate and it was not doing enough to protect two possum species - greater and yellow-bellied gliders, TimberBiz reported.

VicForests chief executive, Monique Dawson, said the order was permanent, and it was comprehensive.

"We've got some limited operations in some areas where there aren't any (gliders) so we'll keep doing what we can do. But certainly, the impact of the order is profound," she told TimberBiz.

The ruling forces VicForests to resurvey hundreds of coupes, which it confirmed would take months to complete and would leave harvest and haulage contractors without work and deepen a sawlog shortage that has already led one mill to close.

Justice Richards also ruled that VicForests had failed to meet its obligations to retain enough vegetation on coupes to protect gliders, under the precautionary principle of the Code of Practice for Timber Production.

Her preference was to retain three hectares around a

possum sighting and retain 60 per cent of the trees in the rest of the coupe.

Mr Blackwood, the retiring Member for Narracan and the Opposition forestry spokesman, said VicForests had to cease operations pending their appeal against the ruling.

"This is a disgraceful indictment on the Andrews government, who have been lobbied for months to adjust the Code of Forest Practice so that it reflected exactly what has been in place to protect the Greater Glider for many years," he said.

"VicForests have been working to a prescription that gives greater oversight to Greater Glider habitat for some years. A simple and transparent inclusion in the Code of this prescription and reference to the precautionary principle would have closed the loophole that activists use to support third party litigation."

Mr Blackwood said the state government had had plenty of time to fix this issue and save hundreds of timber workers and their families from massive hardship.

"And now right on Christmas they are faced with the worst situation possible. I cannot think of any government in our history that has destroyed livelihoods for political expediency as the Andrews government has," he said.

Ms Dawson said VicForests was already only undertaking limited operations anyway because of the court's previous orders.

"But the orders are very broad because they're for all areas of the state where there are greater gliders or yellow-bellied gliders, and they are abundant throughout virtually all of the areas that we harvest," she told TimberBiz.

Injunctions imposed by Justice Richards on harvesting last December had already locked contractors out of many coupes, leading to lost work, idle machinery and a sawlog shortage that has crippled many timber communities as mills slowed or stopped work.

East Gippsland's timber industry is already on the brink of collapse, with 115 workers facing the axe and warnings Orbost will become a "ghost town".

In her ruling, Justice Richards said the spotlight surveys VicForests to detect gliders are limited to a one kilometre transect through a coupe.

"This leaves most of the coupe unsurveyed and provides incomplete information about whether gliders are present and where their home range is located. Without knowing where the gliders are within a coupe, it is not possible for VicForests to take management actions to address risks to them."

VicForests has highlighted to the court that more intensive surveying at night is next to impossible, even taking Justice Richards and her associate out to an unharvested to show them the difficulty of the terrain, TimberBiz reported.

Great sales at Absolute Angus

By Liam Durkin

The recent Absolute Angus Spring Bull Sale was highlighted by two \$15,000 purchases.

The sale was in Trafalgar South on Wednesday, October 12 - the stud sold 52 of its 56 bulls.

Damp conditions did not deter potential buyers, who made their way to the on-property sale.

Absolute Angus principal Anthony Pisa and staff left no stone unturned, ensuring the 100 or so visitors were provided excellent hospitality.

Auctions took place inside an American barn style shed, with the sale also telecast online for those unable to be there in person.

Elders staff Ryan Bajada and Ross Milne were the sale's auctioneers, presiding over the 64 lots.

Philip Island's Paul Waylen formed part of the team that made one of the top purchases.

Representing Wiltshaw Farming Services, the company paid \$15,000 for a two-year-old bull described as 'a good looking bull, perfect

for heifers with an exceptional pedigree'.

Mr Waylen said they were happy with the purchase.

"This is an emerging stud, and we are commercial farmers, so looking at the larger, better-known ones, the prices here are within our budget, we're quite happy to pay the top price for the best bull," he said.

"We see this as a good investment."

Wiltshaw operates out of Ventnor (a location west of Cowes) on about 500 acres (202 hectares), spread across four properties, selling at Pakenham and Korumburra.

"We bought one bull here last year and we are happy with him," Mr Waylen said.

"This year has been unusually wet for Philip Island, it is generally less rainfall than up here (in the Thorpdale area), this year has been extraordinarily wet and we're hoping for some sunshine to grow the grass ... it will be a very late season everywhere for hay."

An engineer by trade, Mr Waylen paid tribute to all involved at Wiltshaw.

"We've got a very good manager, Russell Cleeland, who is very well known on Philip Island, and he's been with us over 30 years," he said.

Mr Pisa congratulated Mr Waylen on the purchase, and said it was a successful sale.

"Happy with how it went,

good turnout, people are starting to get their data-driven, understanding that has been prominent this sale," he said.

"The yearlings went really well, I'm really pleased with the yearlings.

"I focus a lot on genetics, what I have spent on genetics

is showing now.

"I always spend my time focussing on genetics, making sure I've delivered to the market what they need."

Absolute Angus has expanded its operations, and now has a farm in Echuca, home to 400 head.

The next Absolute Angus

sale will be in April.

The Spring Bull Sale was the fourth by Absolute Angus.

Great to see someone else putting Trafalgar South Rd on the map.



Paul Waylen of Wiltshaw Farming Services bought the most expensive bull at the Absolute Angus Spring Bull Sale in Trafalgar South. Mr Waylen is pictured with Absolute Angus principal Anthony Pisa after the sale. (Photos: Liam Durkin)



Absolute Angus principal Anthony Pisa, auctioneers Ryan Bajada and Ross Milne and Alex Scott and Staff Livestock manager David Secches.



Absolute Angus has now hosted four Spring Bull Sales.



Attendees examined the bulls on offer at Absolute Angus.

Traf News

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Trafalgar remembers

Around 80 people attended this year's Remembrance Day commemoration at the RSL cenotaph in Trafalgar on November 11.

Starting at 11am, Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL president, Jim Crowe, officially welcomed everyone, and then passed the microphone to the sub-branch's secretary, Chris Johnson, who gave an overview of Remembrance Day.

He said the day "is set aside as a day to remember the sacrifice of those who have died for Australia in wars and conflicts. It was originally known as Armistice Day. Australia is a free and democratic country and this freedom we all enjoy is the legacy of those that have fought and died for this country. We must never forget.

"At 11am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months.

"In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order

to secure a peace settlement. They accepted the allied terms of unconditional surrender.

"The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war.

"This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between nine and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead", he concluded.

The sub-branch's treasurer, Paul Altamore then informed those present that the Flanders poppy has been a part of Armistice or Remembrance Day ritual since the early 1920s, and is also increasingly being used as part of ANZAC Day observances.

"During the First World War, the red poppies were seen to be among the first living plants that sprouted from the devastation of the battle-

fields of northern France and Belgium," he said.

"Soldiers' folklores had it that the poppies were vivid red from having been nurtured in ground drenched with the blood of their comrades.

"The sight of the poppies on the battlefield at Ypres in 1915 moved Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae to write the poem In Flanders Fields."

Wreaths were then laid to represent the RSL sub-branch, those lost during World War 1 and World War 2, as well as other conflicts.

Other wreaths were laid by students from Trafalgar Primary and Trafalgar High School, as well as Baw Baw Shire Council.

A number of those present then accepted Jim's invitation to lay a poppy as a personal gesture of remembrance.

The Ode then followed with the Last Post before Rouse was played and the flag raised to mast head.

Prior to the national anthem, the names of all those on the cenotaph were read.

The RSL sub-branch then conducted a similar commemoration at Thorpdale's cenotaph at midday.



Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL sub-branch with fellow Vietnam veteran Bill Kilday, treasurer Paul Altamore and secretary Chris Johnson.



Wreath laid by Dellas Edwards on behalf of World War I veterans.



Wreath laid by Trafalgar Primary School students.



Wreath laid by Trafalgar High School students.



Some of the 80 local residents who attended the Remembrance Day commemoration.



Veteran Bob Moss (facing camera) attended, along with Les and Marge Bartlett talking to Peter Battey.

Lions Swap Meet and Car Show was cancelled

Due to ongoing significant rainfall, we regretfully had to make the difficult decision to cancel our Swap Meet last month, as the ground at our venue (Trafalgar Recreation Reserve) was too soft to be used and there's no suitable alternative in our area.

Whilst the roadway around the oval was okay, the oval could not be driven on, and the surrounding grass areas were unusable.

There was insufficient time for the ground to firm

up, and more rain was expected.

We apologise for any inconvenience or disappointment; naturally we are also very disappointed as a substantial amount of organising had been done and cancellation seriously impacts our community support finances.

We hope nothing will prevent us running a successful event next year; we'll look forward to seeing you then.



Trevor Byrne receiving his Australian Lions Foundation 50 Year Medallion from Past International Director Tony Benbow and District Governor David Culpitt.

Victorian Flood Appeal

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Victorian Flood Appeal.

We raised almost \$6000 and have donated \$3000 each to the two Lions Districts covering the most-affected areas.

This will be used by the local Lions Clubs to help with the clean-up activities and to assist those greatest in need.

In addition, we are donating \$2000 to the Lions Need 4 Feed to help provide hay for livestock, plus food hampers and essential items to farmers in difficulty.

Due to the succession of disasters in eastern Australia,

Need 4 Feed is struggling to maintain adequate supply of hay.

If you have good quality fodder that you're able to donate, Need 4 Feed can arrange to have it picked up. Please visit <https://www.needforfeed.org/fodder-donations.html> for more information.

If you have a truck and trailer and can spare some time to lend a hand, please visit <https://www.needforfeed.org/hay-run.html>

Fuel for trucks, meals and drinks for drivers and crew are covered.

Lion Trevor Byrne receives 50 Year Medallion

At the recent Lions District Convention held at Lakes Entrance, a very surprised Trevor Byrne was called to the stage and presented with an Australian Lions Foundation 50 Year Medallion by past International Director Tony Benbow.

Over the years, Trevor

has been president three times, treasurer three times, and has served on District Cabinet as newsletter editor twice and administration officer twice. More importantly, he still enjoys working for and helping the community.

Men's Shed has a good year

By Ron Fletcher

With COVID restrictions behind us, we are back attending cluster meetings, where sheds get together for morning tea and lunch and swap stories about what sheds are up to in our region.

Representatives from the Victorian Men's Shed Association (VMSA) are present, and provide information about what grants are available and what sponsors have on offer to assist sheds with the purchase of paint, tools and the like. There are always give-aways such as defibrillators and hand tools, so it is worth the effort to attend and have a good day out.

We have completed many projects during the year for local people and community groups. We made an honour board for the Trafalgar Tennis Club, which was a stand-out, and while mentioning honour boards, any local clubs requiring one should get in touch with the shed on the mobile number below.

We have a woodwork machine sponsored by the Bendigo Bank, which enables us to make a very good honour board, so give us a call.

One huge project was turning 40 railway sleepers into four picnic tables for the Moe Yallourn Rail Trail Group, which are now installed.

Member Leigh Shepherd made a drum sander from scratch using a Hoover washing machine motor circa 1947. Leigh saw a need and showed initiative in providing the shed with a machine for minimal cost.

Two of our major spon-

sors are Bendigo Bank and Bunnings Warragul. Bendigo Bank has been assisting us since 2009 with the purchase of tools, a deposit for a solar system, a \$10,000 grant to assist with the construction of our car park, and an air filter system, plus the woodwork machine mentioned above. We have been doing community sausage sizzles at Bunnings Warragul since September 2014, and what we consider a partnership has produced outstanding funding results for the shed.

We should erect a statue of Ron Jones at the front of the shed for his initiative in arranging a meeting with Bunnings management back in early 2014. Over the years Ron put a lot of energy into organising the equipment and condiments for the day of the sausage sizzles, and although he has handed these duties on, he still insists on sticking his nose in. Well done Ron Jones.

We have a lapidary machine at the shed together with attachments, and a box of stones of various shapes and sizes. Anyone interested in purchasing the item should call the mobile number below. People who know lapidary as a business or hobby will be able to judge the machines worth and make a reasonable offer.

At the risk of breaking my collar bone patting myself on the back, this is my 50th article for the Traf News, or as I call them "promoting the Men's Shed". The shed has been good for me and I look forward to making further contributions, or should I say

50 not out.

A decision to open on Fridays was made at our last meeting. This day must be convenient for some prospective new people in the community, so please come along and get involved.

A merry Christmas and happy New year to all Traf

News readers.

We are open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am to 3pm.

For further information about the shed, phone our president Corrie Koppen on 0458 674 450.



Ron celebrating his 50th men's shed article appearing in Traf News.

Rule change shocks residents

By Emma Ballingall

A revision of Baw Baw Shire Council planning approvals guidelines has caught out Trafalgar residents who objected to a five-unit development back in April.

Resident Ken Watkins said the planning application for 48 Ashby Street attracted nine objections, enough to send it to a council meeting for determination. However, a delegation guidelines change in September saw it approved by planners with no further consultation.

The delegation guideline change, approved at the 14 September council meeting, means planning applications with 10 or more objections will be determined by council. Previously only five or more were required.

"You don't change the game rules halfway through the game," Mr Watkins said.

"All I wanted was to be treated properly and fairly. And that hasn't happened."

"We now don't get the opportunity to put our case forward."

In response, council said the updated delegation guidelines came into effect immediately and "this change applied to all active planning applications at the time the guidelines were adopted."

Asked where it stated the change would be immediate, it was noted "the guidelines do not include a suggested implementation date."

Council said the Ashby Street application was the only active planning application impacted by the change.

Mr Watkins said he was told at a meeting with council planners that five objections would see the matter referred to a council meeting. After lodging two objections in early April, he was shocked to receive a letter on 5 October stating a notice of decision had been granted.

He believes an additional objector would have come forward if required.

"I was told five, and that was definitely the case at the time," he said, believing the public consultation process

should have re-opened.

"We're done and dusted. They've swept it under the carpet."

News of the planned five-unit development next door came soon after the death of his father Keith Watkins about 18 months ago. He owned two neighbouring properties in Ashby Street and Mr Watkins lodged the objections on behalf of his father's estate.

Mr Watkins said several long-term Ashby Street residents, some who had lived on the street for up to 82 years, were concerned about traffic and parking. He shares these concerns, saying heavy vehicles were diverted from town routes down the street and the subject site was located close to a corner.

He noted a mention of reduced carparking on his most recent correspondence and also was concerned about the driveway only allowing for a small vehicle turning circle, along with losing his newly built fence and trees along the property

line.

Latrobe Valley Drafting Pty Ltd is listed as the applicant on documents Mr Watkins obtained from Baw Baw Shire. He was first notified of the planning application on 24 March.

Council denied the delegation change from five to 10 objections was made to help clear a planning backlog.

"This decision was made to enable planning applications to be determined more efficiently, and also to bring council's number of objections more in line with that of other councils."

"This is also consistent with advice received from integrity agencies on ensuring planning decisions are made utilising the appropriate del-

egated powers," council said.

Council said consultation would not be re-opened unless required under the relevant legislation in the interest of fairness for both the applicant and objectors. The assessing planner also considers relevant planning matters before finalising their decision.

Source: Warragul Gazette



Ashby Street resident Ken Watkins will not get the opportunity to fight a five-unit development in Trafalgar after a planning delegation rule change

Maintenance needed to halt flood risk

Emma Ballingall

Frustrated councillors called for urgent and ongoing maintenance of the Moe River Drain after flooding resulted in \$1 million of repair works at Trafalgar.

Despite qualifying for disaster recovery funding, ratepayers will have to foot a bill of about \$150,000 for embankment reconstruction to protect North Canal Road.

"Do the work, clean this

canal out or it will happen time and time again," Cr Peter Kostos urged the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA).

Cr Darren Wallace said the works were "for someone else's asset which damaged our infrastructure and our ratepayers are still up for \$150,000."

"Something has to be done before Trafalgar and

Yarragon, and the surrounds, become the next Shepparton and Mooroopna."

An officer report said significant rain on August 13 and 14 caused breaching of the embankment along the Moe River Drain, severely impacting North Canal Road and South Canal Road.

"The volume of runoff exceeded the capacity of Moe River, resulting in flooding of the adjacent roads," it said.

It reported collapses and slumps of the embankments encroached North Canal Road at 10 separate locations over a 227 metre stretch between Telephone Road and Cummings Road.

Officers considered two options for repairs to protect the road from further erosion including large rock spalls or sheet piling.

Rock spalls option were used for repairs on a section at the Yarragon end last year. Officers said given these works were unaffected by "this more significant flood event", this was the preferred option.

The report said only one quote was obtained "due to the type of work and the timeframe to undertake the 'immediate reconstruction' works to receive Disaster Re-

covery Funding Agreement (DRFA) funding".

McInnes Earthmoving Pty Ltd submitted a quote for \$1,005,759 and was chosen for its experience in landslip and embankment works as well as having previously undertaken works along North Canal Road.

"RRV (Regional Roads Victoria) has indicated that council's contribution towards these works will be approximately \$150,000," the report said. "Council will need to fund the full amount and seek reimbursement of the claimable amount once the work has been completed."

Council's contribution will be funded out of the 2022/23 unplanned road maintenance operating budget.

Councillors unanimously supported the officer recommendation to accept the quote for the immediate reconstruction works.

However, Cr Kostos expressed frustration of having to repair "multiple malfunctions".

"I've always said the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority are the ones that are supposed to be looking after the canal and

keeping it in good order," he said. "They haven't done it. (Flooding) is caused by growth in the canal. Trees that have been there for years. When it floods like this, it washes out the bank," he said.

Cr Wallace said he was thankful "some" of the repairs qualified for disaster recovery funding but called on the WGCMA and state government to "spend some money and fix your asset".

"You've got to remember this is not a council asset, the Main Drain. It's a regional asset that carries water from as far as Warragul through the drained swamp area of Yarragon and Trafalgar into the Latrobe River."

"It's about 100-years-old and it is deteriorating. Who is responsible and when is some serious money going to be spent on the ongoing maintenance of this asset?"

"Every time it rains the Moe Drain, through the lack of regular and ongoing maintenance, poses a greater threat to life and property," Cr Wallace said.

Cr Tricia Jones said money that could have been spent on council assets would now be diverted, "and I think that's totally unfair".

"It is most unfortunate that the responsible organisation - not the Baw Baw Shire - has turned a blind eye to the maintenance of their asset which has dire consequences for farmers, residents, trucks, tractors and commuters as well as us, the Baw Baw Shire ratepayers," Cr Jones said.

After flooding in northern Victoria, Cr Michael Leaney said he hoped the spotlight would be put on ongoing maintenance of the drainage system.

"It's not a natural waterway," he said. "It is there specially designed to drain away water from the flats to the north of Yarragon and north of Trafalgar as quickly as possible. If it doesn't do that, it means flooding occurs."

Cr Leaney warned better management was required, not just repairs, or flooding would simply continue.

Source: Warragul Gazette

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Summer Arts Market, Saturday, December 17, Civic Place Warragul, 8.30am to 1.00pm.

'Station Gallery', Yarragon, open from 10.30 am to 4.00pm, Wednesday to Sunday.

'Artspace' at Trafalgar Railway Station, open from 10.30am to 3.00pm, Tuesday to Friday, closes 12.30pm on Wednesday.

December exhibitions, 'Station Gallery', Yarragon, 'Gippsland'.

More details of the exhibitions can be viewed on <https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au>

Probus cluster dinner

By Elly Fallon

Trafalgar & District Probus Club hosted the annual Probus Cluster Dinner for the region recently at Black Tie Restaurant in Warragul.

The special dinner saw 125 Probians gather together to enjoy fun, fellowship and friendship in abundance.

The seven clubs made up of three Warragul clubs, two Drouin clubs, Garfield/Bunyip, plus Trafalgar and District.

The restaurant was decorated in the gold and blue Probus colours, plus the Probus banners that represented each of the clubs.

Staff at the Black Tie served a delicious two course meal followed by tea and coffee and the chocolates that was on each table.

Presidents from each club spoke briefly on the events they had been able to enjoy this year. Patrons were entertained during the lunch by musician and singer Chris Newman.

Guest speaker for the day was Emma Germano, the

first female president of the Victorian Farmer's Federation.

Ms Germano comes from a third generation farming family in Mirboo North.

Her family have a mixed farming enterprise that supplies fresh vegetables for local and overseas markets. They also run sheep and cattle for the meat markets. Ms Germano spoke of her journey from school to university and the various roles she has worked in since those days. Her passion is in sustainability and the education of the community in food and fibre production from the ground up.

She spoke about her concern for the future security of food production and energy sources in Australia and Victoria, and the need to plan not just for now but for well into the future. She spoke of the costs faced by regional people, fuel, food production costs, reducing emissions, the poor state of regional roads, cost of power and gas and the regional

health system.

Probus members sat enthralled, applauded her ideas and asked numerous questions.

Her visit was certainly the highlight of a very enjoyable day.

The general meeting this month saw member Gloria Cornwall being presented with her 10 year pin by vice president Glenda Mynard.

Speaker at the monthly meeting was Trafalgar's very own member, Jim Cornwell.

Mr Cornwell spoke eloquently of his childhood, growing up during the war in England.

His family had a Morrison Shelter inside their house that they would retreat to when planes were dropping bombs. He described it as a type of wire cage with a metal "roof" that would protect them from falling timber and bricks should their house be hit while they slept. He told of his father going off to war and returning some years later and not recognising who this stranger was.

The family eventually moved to Australia. Mr Cornwell went on to become an engineer in the air force. He also spent time working for the Weather Bureau and then later the SEC.

The Probus Christmas Dinner will be held on the general meeting day in December at the Neerim South Hotel, and this celebration will complete a busy calendar of Probus events for 2022.

Probus commences January 5 2023 with it's first general meeting.

This is a great chance for people to come and join and see just what Probus has to offer.

Trafalgar & District special event in early 2023 is the 30th birthday celebration of the club, to be held in March.

Plans are already underway to make it a day to remember.

For more information on Trafalgar & District Probus, phone John Attwell on 0419 701 331.



Gloria Cornwall being presented with her 10 year Trafalgar & District Probus Club pin from vice president Glenda Mynard.



John Attwell, executive assistant Delshea Sobhee and Victoria Farmers Federation president Emma Germano. Ms Germano was guest speaker at Probus' Cluster Dinner. (photo courtesy of Warragul Gazette)

Looking back on 2022 for the Trafalgar Fire Brigade

This year has been a big one for the Trafalgar Fire Brigade.

As of November 11, volunteers have responded to 39 primary and 45 support incidents this year. This has included grass and scrub fires, unauthorised burning, structure fires, vehicle accidents, and HAZMAT incidents.

The brigade started the year with a strike team sent to Venus Bay on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, and in October, brigade member Darren Wallace was deployed to Shepperton Incident Control Centre to work as Mapping Officer. This was part of CFA's response to the major floods that have been impacting communities across Victoria.

This year, there has been multiple calls for LPG flare-offs, which is a specialisation Trafalgar Brigade has, enabling it to safely burn off the flammable contents of pressurised cylinders that have been damaged and pose a hazard. One such notable incident was the vehicle incident on the Princes Hwy, where two cars running on LPG needed to be flared-off just west of Yarragon.

In May, brigade elections were held and a new Brigade Management Team

was elected for the next two years, with the following members elected:

- Captain: Mark Walshe
- 1st Lieutenant: Brian Mynard
- 2nd Lieutenant: Marcus Barker
- 3rd Lieutenant: Peter Mynard
- 4th Lieutenant: Adrian Allatt
- Secretary: Kathy Geisler
- Treasurer: Alison Edgar

During 2022, the brigade has participated in local community events, including the Moe Racing Club 'Yellow Day for CFA', and the Station Open Day.

At these events, brigade members met with community, who had a chance to look over the trucks and fire station. In addition, the brigade has been conducting school visits, including Trafalgar High School, where students in the Broadening Horizons Program interviewed some of the volunteers as part of their projects.

Some local school students are also members of the brigade's Junior Volunteer Development Program (JVDP). This year has seen some new faces joining juniors. The JVDP aims to introduce young people between 11-15 years to CFA by providing them with the op-

portunity to become good fire safe citizens while engaging in activities that build self-esteem and self-confidence.

Community donations and funding through grants and the CFA have enabled the brigade to make some important upgrades and purchases this year.

The Enhancing Volunteerism Grant Program enabled some new members to complete their medium rigid truck licenses, which is the first step in training to drive the firetrucks.

Funding through the 2018/2019 Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP), together with community donations, has enabled the completion of an extension on the station for storing and cleaning of the brigade's breathing apparatus equipment.

The brigade has also been continuing its Fire Equipment Maintenance Program, servicing fire extinguishers and hose reels for 82 organisations, schools and businesses in Trafalgar and Thorpdale communities. Trafalgar has also assisted the Willow Grove Fire Brigade by providing qualified volunteer service personnel to complete work for their community clients.

This year, the brigade was awarded a contract by CFA District 9 as part of the Storz replacement program, upgrading hose couplings for other CFA brigades. The brigade purchased a band-it tool and air compressor from community donations to enable this work to be performed.

Throughout 2022, the brigade has continued its usual weekly training program. Additionally, Trafalgar hosted the gas cylinder training pod, which is a piece of training equipment that simulates a pressurised cylinder fire.

Trafalgar also hosted the CFA's new Virtual Reality Training set and the Incident Command Simulation Program. Both of these are new

training systems using specifically designed computer programs and equipment that enable firefighters to safely train in simulated high risk and complex fire calls.

The brigade has also participated in joint training with neighbouring brigade and training exercises, coordinated among the Baw Baw Group.

Group exercises enable volunteers to train in exercises simulating potential incidents in which multiple brigades may end up working together.

The final group training of the year was focused on preparation for Summer, and involved exercises simulating running grass fire, as well as fighting grass and

scrub fires on foot.

All of the work done this year by Trafalgar Brigade happened because of volunteers.

Whether you want to be an active firefighter or volunteer in another role, there are many options for contributing towards our ongoing operations.

If you are interested in volunteering, you can submit an expression-of-interest at <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers/volunteer-with-cfa>

You can also follow the Trafalgar Fire Brigade on Facebook at TrafalgarFireBrigade



Trafalgar Fire Brigade has had a busy 2022.

Market for art lovers

By Carol Monson

If you love buying unique, locally made gifts for Christmas, then do not miss the December Arts Market run by the Baw Baw Arts Alliance.

The Summer Arts Markets take place on the third Saturday of each month up to March, so on Saturday,

December 17 from 8.30am to 1pm at Civic Place in Warragul, you will be able to choose artworks from over 50 individual stalls.

Also not to be missed are the constantly changing exhibitions at 'The Station Gallery' in Yarragon.

During December, an ex-

hibition promoting both the expected and unexpected in Gippsland will be displayed in the main gallery and 'On the Wall'.

Artworks from printing, mosaics, painting, ceramics, textiles to drawing and writing will seek to place a perspective on Gippsland you

may not have seen before.

This is an exhibition organised by the Baw Baw Arts Alliance, designed to draw on the wide range of artistic skills present in Gippsland

'The Station Gallery' is also a space where many artists sell their creative work in the gallery shop, which sits

along the regularly changing exhibitions.

A more limited range of artwork can be seen in the 'Artspace' at the Trafalgar Railway Station. This is also the venue for the many regular drop-in groups that cover a wide range of art genres.

Planning is also underway

for the 2023 Easter Art Sale that is a collaboration with Warragul Rotary Club and the Baw Baw Arts Alliance.

Information will be on the arts alliance web site as it becomes available.

See <https://bawbawartsalliance.org.au>

Moe ANZ to close

By Michelle Slater

THE Latrobe Valley is coping another banking blow, with ANZ, another of the 'big four banks', withdrawing from Moe next year.

ANZ has confirmed it will close its Moe branch as from April 2023.

ANZ district manager, Minh Vuong, said 80 per cent of Moe customers were using online and mobile banking.

Mr Vuong said in-branch transactions had slumped by half in the past four years.

"We have personally written to our Moe customers to help them with alternate banking options and our re-

lationship bankers continue to visit many of our business customers at their locations and are also available on the phone and online," Mr Vuong said.

"Customers can visit our Traralgon branch for their face-face banking needs and they can also use the ATM network at no charge and ATMs operated by the other major banks, fee-free."

Mr Vuong also suggested customers could access cash from major supermarkets' EFTPOS systems.

However, the Finance Sector Union has slammed the decision, stating branch

closures had a "devastating" impact on small towns and regional centres.

FSU national secretary, Julia Angrisano, said it also unfairly affected those forced to travel further to do their banking over the counter.

"Residents in regional areas could decide to close accounts when a particular bank leaves and move to one that continues to have a local presence," Ms Angrisano said.

"However we know from bitter experience that when one bank closes other often follow, sometimes leav-

ing towns without any local banking services."

Ms Angrisano said banks should be required to provide a minimum level of service to customers and "stop cannibalising their local branch network".

She said the union was also calling on the federal government to inquire into the provision of local banking services, particularly in regional areas.

"Don't believe the banks when they claim customers prefer banking online," Ms Angrisano said.

"Our members tell us that the numbers of over

the counter transactions in a branch often have limits placed upon them and once that limit is reached, customers are taken to a computer inside the branch or to an ATM and shown how to do their banking online."

Latrobe City Council has been told that all ANZ Moe staff will be retained and relocated to Traralgon.

A Latrobe City spokesperson said council still encouraged the community to bank with existing local branches, or use online and Australia Post's Bank@Post services where available.

"Council remains open to

working alongside banks to ensure local communities remain empowered as services change," the spokesperson said.

"While it is understandable that these decisions aren't made lightly by corporate banks and there has been a significant shift towards online banking for many customers - access remains paramount; "particularly for community members that may face certain barriers and small businesses that require cash float and deposit facilities."

Construction starts

By Michelle Slater

Construction has started on a world-first magnesium from brown coal fly ash plant being built on Tramway Road in Hazelwood North.

Latrobe Magnesium has begun civil works for its \$40 million dollar demonstration plant, with production slated to start mid-next year.

LMG chief executive, Da-

vid Paterson, said they had started installing concrete slabs ready for major equipment to start arriving in January.

Mr Paterson said recruitment should start in March to fill the 40 ongoing jobs that will be needed to operate the 100-tonnes a year demonstration plant.

He said the company was

already in talks with EnergyAustralia to potentially re-deploy workers from the Yallourn Power Station when it shuts in 2028.

LMG has signed a 20-year contract with EnergyAustralia to use Yallourn fly ash to manufacture magnesium.

The company AIMS to upscale the plant to a larger commercial operation mak-

ing 10,000 tonnes of magnesium a year if the demonstration plant is viable.

He said he expected there was 50-years of supply from Yallourn, with more available at Hazelwood.

"We will be working on that landfill at Yallourn now. There is 10-million tonnes in there, but we won't be able to take all of that out as it would

destabilise the hill that's there," Mr Paterson said.

Mr Paterson said the global demand for low-emissions magnesium was expected to double by 2027 to make lightweight sheeting for vehicles and components.

He said LMG planned to achieve net zero emissions by then and was negotiating with the proponents of the

Morwell Solar Farm to power the plant with renewables.

"There will be other projects that will come to the Valley because of this here. We are getting interest from the big aluminium and die-cast players," he said.

"You can't tell me these people would not come here if we offered them the tonnage."



Latrobe Magnesium chief executive David Paterson with a magnesium ingot made from brown coal fly ash. Photo: Michelle Slater

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Route 69 Holden Day

By Bob Moss

The sounding of the end of shift siren at the Holden Plant at Elizabeth, South Australia on Friday, October 20, 2017, meant the closure of the factory, and the end for the foreseeable future, of car manufacturing in this country.

The Trafalgar Holden Museum had planned that ROUTE 69 would be an annual event from 2017, when GMH ceased production in Australia, but with the onset of the COVID-19 virus in March 2020, it was unfortunately cancelled.

Finally, with restrictions lifted this year, on Sunday, October 23 this year, the Trafalgar Holden Museum was able to hold the planned

annual event 'Route 69' to commemorate the years that GMH manufactured vehicles in Australia. Luckily the weather was good, overcast but no rain.

The event started at 9am, with parking available opposite the Museum and at the local football ground, where a bus was supplied to transport the drivers and passengers to and from their cars.

There was plenty of our volunteers to help with parking, transport and working as guides if needed. We also had the local Scout group there who were busy supplying the crowd with food.

In the morning we had the Route 69 run, where many of the visiting cars were

given a map of a 69 kilometre drive (to represent the 69 years that Holden built cars) around the area around Shady Creek, Willow Grove and the storage dam arriving back at the museum prior to the official speeches and presentations.

It would be a great surprise to many of the visitors who had not been here for some time, to see how the museum had grown and to see the support that it has from the locals.

We estimate that over 600 visitors and more than 300 Holden vehicles attended the day, and remind everybody that this event is an annual event at this museum.

There's nothing like seeing the delight on a child's face when they open a gift on Christmas morning.

But, with the cost of living and poverty on the rise, we need your help make the festive season a little brighter for families in need across Gippsland.

At Uniting Vic.Tas, our Gifts for Families Appeal supports disadvantaged local families by providing toys and gifts generously donated by the community for children in need.

Uniting Vic.Tas Gippsland executive officer, Di Fisher, said more families than ever are expected to ask for help this year.

"We know cost-of-living

Spreading the joy at Christmas

pressures have stretched many budgets to breaking point," Ms Fisher said.

"Whether it's the cost of rent, gas and electricity or putting fuel in the car, we know people are really struggling.

"Affording the necessities is now out of reach for many and they're having to choose between putting food on the table and paying their bills.

"Gifts For Families is one of the highlights of every year for us - we are determined that no one is going to go without a gift this Christmas.

"Putting smiles on the faces of families and providing gifts to deserving children and young people is so rewarding.

"We hope you; your group, school, workplace or family can make sure there are gifts

under every Christmas tree in our community."

You can help by donating new gifts such as toys and puzzles, sports equipment, books, new clothes, e-gift cards and gifts for adults.

Gifts can also be purchased online and sent to Uniting, 126 Raymond St, Sale.

Uniting are also looking for donations of non-perishable foods, so families have something to put on the table on Christmas Day.

Donations can be made at Uniting offices at Sale, Bairnsdale, Morwell and Leon-gatha, and the Uniting Sale op-shop.

For more information, visit www.unitingvictas.org.au/local-christmas.

Government re-zoning and how it may cost you significantly

By Trafalgar solicitor Jade MacGregor

The state government announced in its 2021/22 budget that it would be implementing a new Windfall Gains Tax (WGT), aimed at taxing landholders for the increase in value of their property that occurs as a result of government re-zoning.

The purpose of this scheme is to use the tax monies received to reinvest it in public transport, schools and other essential infrastructure.

WHEN IS IT TRIGGERED?

From July 1 2023, a WGT applies if, as a result of government rezoning, your land increases in value by more than \$100,000.

A rezoning is an amendment of a planning scheme that causes land to be in a different zone from the zone that it was in immediately before.

For example, a change from Neighbourhood Resi-

dential Zone Schedule 1 to Residential Growth Zone Schedule 2 is captured, while a change from Neighbourhood Residential Zone Schedule 1 to Neighbourhood Residential Zone Schedule 2 is not captured.

RATE OF WINDFALL GAINS TAX

For a rezoning of land that results in a value uplift of:

Less than \$100,000 - no tax liability;

More than \$100,000 but less than \$500,000 - a marginal tax rate of 62.5 per cent, and;

\$500,000 or more - a tax rate of 50 per cent.

For example, if a property experiences a windfall gain of \$250,000.00, the WGT will be calculated as 250,000.00 - 100,000.00 x 62.5 per cent which equates to a total WGT liability of \$93,750.

TIMING FOR LIABILITY

A notice of assessment for payment of the WGT will be

payable shortly after the rezoning has taken place. You will then have up to 60 days to either pay the WGT or request a deferral of payment.

Payment of WGT can be deferred to the next trigger event, such as the sale or transfer of the property, but only to a limit of 30 years, after which time, the tax will need to be paid.

If you defer the payment of the WGT, interest will accrue until the tax is paid.

Interest is calculated per annum (accruing daily) and is adjusted in accordance with the 10-year Government Bond Rate which currently sits at 3.73 per cent.

EXEMPTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS FROM WINDFALL GAINS TAX

There are a number of exemptions or exclusions from WGT, including:

Residential land exemption (for land under two hectares);

Land entitled to a transi-

tional exemption from WGT; Land rezoned to or from the Urban Growth Zone within the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) area;

Charitable and university land;

Land rezoned to Public Land Zones;

Land rezoned to correct an obvious or technical error in the Victoria; Planning Provisions or a planning scheme, and;

Land rezoned to a Rural Zone (other than the Rural

Living Zone).

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

If you believe your property may become subject of this scheme, please phone our office to discuss your options.

Farmers with vacant land in excess of two hectares on the urban fringe need to be aware that their land may become subject to a WGT liability through no fault or doing of their own.

For developers, the narrowing of their profit margin

will not be favourable.

Instead, the consumer will most likely see developers charging premium prices for their subdivided lots in an order to expand their profit margins.

Should you wish to discuss how the government rezoning could affect you, please reach out to one of our friendly solicitors on (03) 5644 0000 or email us at reception@jmacgregorlegal.com

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<p>03 5644 0000 www.jmacgregorlegal.com</p>		

Around the Historical Society

By Di Ireland

Many thanks to Jenny Tattersson for providing names for the photo in the November Traf News.

We can now identify Jen Tattersson with her children Shannon, Tayla and Jack, and Dianne Brock with Darcy. It seems Sharon Hill has been obscured when printing but is still visible in the copy held by the Society.

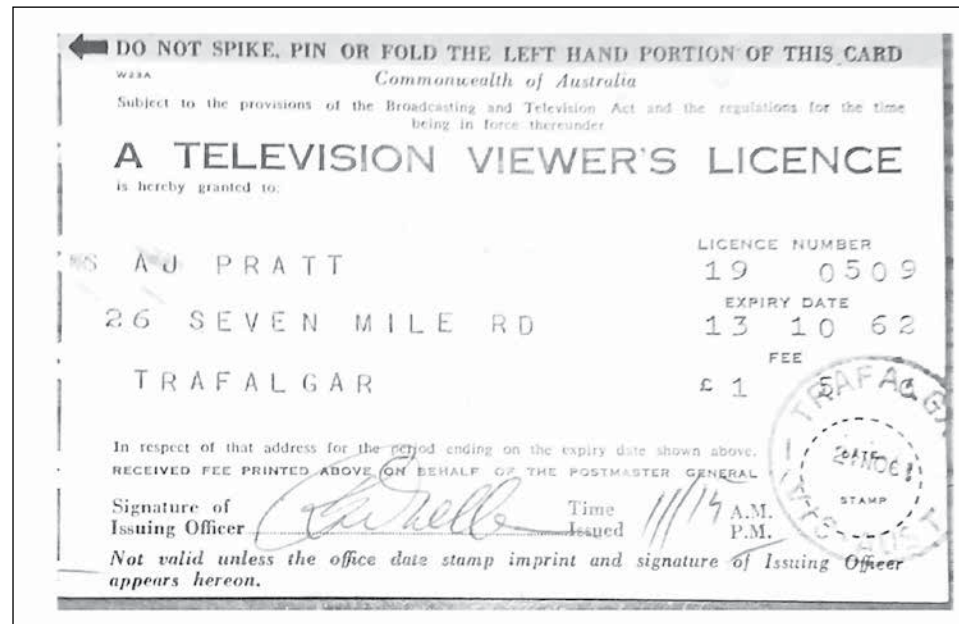
Working bees continue, with our people files being sorted and added to the cata-

logue. We have quite a collection of funeral booklets and where possible, a death notice, eulogy or personal details is included to make a picture of someone's life, in time perhaps serving as a family history. This material is always gratefully received by the Society and continues to provide information for future generations.

Have you heard about TV licences? These were introduced in 1957 and abolished by the Whitlam government

in 1974. In the Gippsland News of February 6 1958, it was noted that Trafalgar is developing into a TV town. In one section of the town, nine houses in a small area have TV aerials. The cost of a viewer's licence at the time was five pounds (around \$50 today) and was valid for 12 months from the date of issue.

As this is the last Around the Historical Society for 2022, seasons greetings to you all.



A Trafalgar television viewers licence from the early 1960s.

Market success

The Animal Welfare Craft Market and Pets Day Out, which was held as a fundraiser for animal charities, The Ted Basarke Mercy Foundation and Pet Medical Crisis Fund, were the winners on Melbourne Cup Day, with 16 market stalls displaying their wares, a large number of owners and pets attending and the weather granting organisers the break they needed to run the stalls and pet competitions on the day.

The sun shone while the stalls did a cracking trade in selling their products or promoting their group.

Owners got very involved in the competitions, which included 'Best Trick', 'Fluffiest Dog', 'Smallest/Tallest Dog' and the highly popular

'Dog that looks most like a Cat'. Yes, there was a cat on a leash, one very brave ragdoll cat.

The charities would like to offer their heartfelt thanks to the organisers of the day, Amy and Andrew, for putting this event together, and they sincerely appreciate the efforts of the stallholders who were prepared to take a punt on the weather.

They would like to acknowledge the support from all people involved: Natasha from Newborough CFA (first aid), Moe Hire, Fat Cat Coffee Roasters, Animal Justice Party, Dr Kate Maxfield, Racing2Rehome, Slinky Spuds, Genuine Pet, Fizzy Face Entertainment, Goodland Brewery, Val's Jewellery, Pawfection Dog Treats, May-

wood Lodge Candles, Amici & Co, Puparrel, Unwind Awhile, Naomi Seccombe Photography, Kellee Kenter Buntings, Dolls & Quilts, and Whipped Body Co.

Thanks go to all who contributed their advice, their physical support and financial contribution.

The Ted Basarke Mercy Foundation support financially vulnerable people with their veterinary bills and hold a monthly pet walk on the Moe Yallourn Rail Trail.

The next walk is November 20 from 9.30am at the Rotary rotunda and all are welcome to attend.

Gold coin donation, with refreshments provided at the conclusion of the walk. Dogs must be on leash.





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Celebrating grandparents

Recently at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, the community celebrated and honoured their grandparents.

Students invited their grandparents to a prayer service in St John's Church to thank God for their grandparents and to ask God to bless their work and their roles in our families.

After the prayer service, families went back to the school for afternoon tea.

Students were excited to have their grandparents in the school and the grandparents felt proud and valued in our families.



Kelvin Trotman and daughter Kellee Mynard at the afternoon tea.



Grandparents pictured from left Diane Garcie, Irene Harrop and Ian.



Sue and Ben Garratt.



Great grandmother (Big Oma) Hilly Elfring pictured left, and Oma Rita Ramsey enjoying the day.



Grandparents from left Liz Picking and Maree Walsh.



The Smith family celebrated together. Pictured from left is Hendrix with nan Heather Baldacchino and Ezra, and parents Robbie and Krystan Smith.



Castello and Carpinteri families gathered. From left: Laura and Lia Castello and nan Rosa Castello. Gina Carpinteri and Anna Di Sisto with Samuel in front. Together with Rachel holding Mila Carpinteri.

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Farewell class of Year 12

By Liam Durkin.

Trafalgar High School Year 12 students officially bid adieu to their secondary schooling this year.

Students took time out during October to celebrate the last day of school before the exam period began.

This day, colloquially known as 'Muck-up Day', saw students dress up in an array of outfits and 'let off some steam' as a cohort.

Year 12s took turns staffing the driveways into the teachers car park, making teachers' pay to park on site. Their efforts raised over \$220 for the Win The War With Willow fundraising program for Bowel Cancer Australia.

Mr Anthony Wilson, for whom the Win The War With Willow program was created, was a past principal at Trafalgar High School.

Mr Wilson died in October, his loss felt by many in the Trafalgar, Moe/Newborough and Willow Grove community.

With exams now complete, students will wait with baited breath to receive their ATAR scores.

The new year presents the start of a new life journey for the Class of 2022, as university or a career in the workforce awaits.



Group photo from Year 12 Celebration Day.



Orin Morrison with a House of the Dragon themed costume. (Photos: David 'Wombat' Lyons).



Principal Brett Pedlow cooking breakfast for the Year 12s.



Jack Boelen as The Joker.



Darcy Seccombe as a mobster.



Harry Pace on duty collecting money from teachers to use the car park.

Traf High students celebrate deb

Lardner Park formed the home to Trafalgar High School's Deb Ball 2022.

The largest Debutante Ball held by the school saw 45 couples presented performing a range of dance styles under

the instruction of Ms Bobby Viney and Ms Kim Moroney.

Presented to an official party of leadership staff and school council members, the event was a huge success, mixing the traditions of the past

with a modern take on the celebration.

The Year 10 students enjoyed their night and in their speech, students Piper Albert and Waylon Van Der Stoep thanked staff for their contri-

bution to managing the event, and families, without whom the students would not have been able to have had their night of nights.

The event had a focus on supporting local business,

with all suppliers being local to West Gippsland including Spargo Photography, Panthers Mensland Moe and Lilly Pilly Flower Boutique.

The band for the evening was 'The Hus-Band' formed of

former Trafalgar High School students.



Presenting the student Speech Piper Albery and Waylon Van Der Stoep.



Chelsea O'Brien and Scout Carlson ready for their big night.



Dance action shots.



Final poses.

Traf News puzzle bonanza

Composed by Matilda Ott – Year 7 Trafalgar High School

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.	S	T	A	F	E
2.	T	O	R	S	A
3.	O	N	G	A	R
4.	N	T	A	A	S
5.	A	T	I	N	R

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.

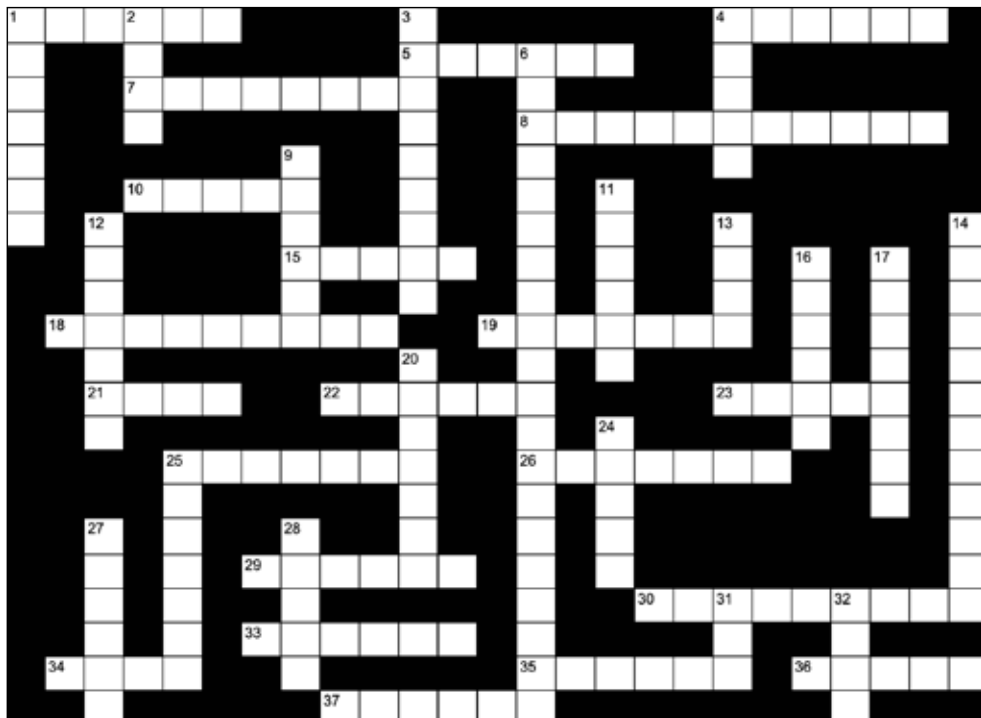
T	S	S
R	A	I
H	M	C

This months targets:

25
20
15

Excellent
Very Good
Good

Crossword



Across

- Wraps around the tree
- Alternate crib
- Christmas drink
- Used for decoration
- Decorative miniature house
- Christmas singer Michael '___'
- Top of the tree
- Day after (6,3)
- Stocking filler
- A type of cone
- Number of days of Christmas
- Jack '___'
- Gift
- Time away
- Watch with your friends and family
- Sweet tree adornment
- Santa's vehicle
- Carols
- Often done as a calendar
- '___' Express
- Tree or house decoration

Down

- Good wishes
- Weather more likely at the north pole
- Birthplace of Jesus
- Happy
- Best Christmas Story 'T'was the '___' (5,6,9)
- Hark!, What type of angel sings?
- Spend time with
- Red nose
- Abbreviation
- Birth gift from a Wise Man
- Meal surprise
- Period of Christmas
- Relating to a festival
- Santa's helpers
- Christmas dessert
- Holiday cheer
- Santa's persona
- Christmas ballet, The '___'cracker
- Food preparation

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: Christmas Question: Popular Christmas carol

Bell	Elves	Nativity	Sleigh
Book	Feast	Noel	Snowman
Cards	Giving	NorthPole	Star
Carols	Grinch	Prawns	Stockings
ChristmasEve	Hope	Presents	Tinsel
Christmastree	Indulgence	Reindeer	Toy
Church	Kriskringle	Religion	Tradition
Decorations	Merry	Santa	Turkey
Elf	Mistletoe	Shopping	

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

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



Council News.

To keep up to date with Council news, visit our Facebook page, Instagram and website.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor and Deputy Mayor elected for 2023 term.



Cr Annemarie McCabe has been elected Mayor and Cr Michael Leane has been elected Deputy Mayor at the Statutory Council Meeting held on 16 Wednesday November.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, Councillors put forward nominations for the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will serve a 1-year term in their roles until November 2023.

During the same meeting, Council appointed Councillor Advisory Committees for the 2023 term. To view the representatives, head to www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/AdvisoryCommittees



Congratulations to the Early Bird Prize Winner!

A Warragul residents is the lucky winner of the \$1000 Early Bird Prize Draw for paying their rates in full by 30 September.

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

For more information on Council's rates services please head to: www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Rates

>> bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Chat with Council at the Tanjil South Pop up!

Residents of Baw Baw Shire are encouraged to come along to the Tanjil South Council Pop-up to chat with Councillors and Council staff members about the issues that are important to them.



When: Saturday 10 December
Time: 12:30pm – 2:30pm
Where: Tanjil South Centenary Hall
377 Moe-Willow Grove Rd, Tanjil South

This is the final pop-up session as part of the 2022 pop-up program. More details will be available on Council's website as they are confirmed www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/CouncilPopUp.

Provide your feedback to guide future development in Yarragon.

In preparing to meet the needs of a growing community, Baw Baw Shire Council has prepared the **draft Yarragon Township Plan (Plan) and Urban Design Framework (UDF)** and is seeking community feedback on the draft documents.

The Plan and UDF have been developed following thorough background research, analysis and community consultation and will consider important issues like land use, open space and public realm, connectivity and built form design, and will guide decision making about investment, development and infrastructure improvements.

How you can get involved with this consultation

Attend a drop-in sessions:

Yarragon Public Hall
• Saturday 10 December
• 10am-12pm

Yarragon Craft and Produce Market
• Friday 16 December
• 5pm-7pm

Make a submission:

To view the draft documents and make a submission, scan the QR code.

Feedback can also be submitted via email to strategic.planning@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

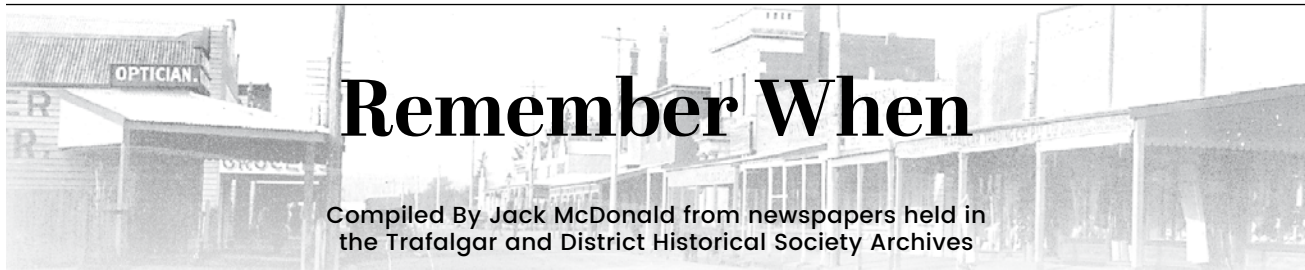


For more information about the project please visit www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/YarragonTownshipPlan

[f bawbawshirecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/bawbawshirecouncil)

[@bawbawshirecouncil](https://www.instagram.com/bawbawshirecouncil)

[t 1300 BAW BAW \(1300 229 229\) or 03 5624 2411](tel:1300229229)



Remember When

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

THE TRAFALGAR, YARRA-GON & YALLOURN NEWS, DECEMBER 1932 1 DECEMBER – AUSTRA-LIA'S GREATEST SON

In the presence of some 3000 people, the first monu- ment erected to the memory of the late Sir John Monash, Chief of the State Electricity Commission, sterling citizen, military genius and described as “The Greatest Australian”, was unveiled at Yallourn on Sunday afternoon last.

15 DECEMBER – TRAFAL- GAR STATE SCHOOL

All parents and friends of pupils of the Trafalgar State School are invited to a “break-up” ceremony on Friday (to-morrow).

Lunch will be served at 12.30, and the ladies are invit- ed to bring a basket. In the af- ternoon there will be a sports program, and presentation of prizes won at the recent show, also of merit certificates gained during the year.

JUVENILE BALL

All roads led to the Trafal- gar Public Hall on Tuesday night, the occasion being the annual Juvenile Ball.

There was a great assem- blage of happy childhood at this popular ball, and the vari- ety of fancy costumes made a striking display when dancing was in full swing.

The hall was nicely deco- rated and afforded a pleasing background to the assemblage of joyful youth.

22 DECEMBER – DAIRY INSPECTORS REPORT

Mr C Murray: I have in- spected most of the dairies in the Childers Settlement; all that I inspected with but one exception were kept in a high- ly creditable condition, the one exception was the worst that I have seen.

I found everything in the dairy in a very dirty condition. I have notified him that if im- provements are not immedi- ately effected that he will be prosecuted.

THE GIPPSLAND NEWS, DECEMBER 1962 6 DECEMBER – FOOTBALL PRESENTATION NIGHT

The Trafalgar Football Club held their presentation evening in the Public Hall on Friday evening last.

Of course, on this occasion the spirit of the evening was somewhat more enthusias- tic than has been the case in recent years for this season the Trafalgar team had an-

nexed the premiership of the Latrobe Valley League.

A long list of trophy win- ners were duly presented with their awards, whilst the grand final team also received a beautiful coloured pho- tograph and a medallion to mark the winning of the 1962 premiership.

HOLIDAYS FOR JUNIOR LEGATEES

The Central Gippsland Group of Legacy is again ap- pealing for hosts for children from Melbourne for a fort- night's holiday from the 5th to 19th of January next.

There are at present avail- able seven girls aged 9 to 13, and seven boys aged 10 to 13.

13 DECEMBER – NO HOPE!

A suggestion was made at Monday night's Chamber of Commerce meeting at Trafal- gar that action be taken to re- introduce Friday night shop- ping.

Whilst many items are dis- cussed at the Chambers meet- ings this was certainly one which stood as a “no hope” chance of success and soon lapsed.

NO BUNTING

Local traders were hopeful that Trafalgar's Main Street this festive season could be decorated with bunting once again, but Mr Don Davey, chairman of last Monday's meeting of the Chamber of Commerce soon put a stop to their wishful thinking when he produced a sample of the bunting available.

It was filthy, faded and al- most torn to tatters.

The old bunting had been purchased by the “Back-To- Trafalgar” committee eight years ago and had been left up too long.

Rotary Club Entertain

A very happy night was had by the Rotarians of Trafalgar and their guests on Tuesday evening last.

A score of elderly citizens and pioneers from Trafalgar and Yarragon were enter- tained by the Rotarians.

The get-together is an an- nual gesture by the Rotarians as Christmas nears.

20 DECEMBER – GIFT FOR GOLF CLUB

When members of the Trafalgar Golf Club make use of the new golf ball washing machine situated on the first tee, they can thank the gen- erosity of five keen members from Thorpdale for making it

available – Messrs. S. Savige, D. Graham, H. Shackleton, I. Watson and J. Edwards.

This machine is a decided asset to the club, and thanks go to the donors.

NEW COACH FOR THOR- PDALE

At a recent meeting of the Thorpdale Football Club com- mittee it was decided, after much deliberation, to have a change of coaches.

So, after seven grand sea- sons of coaching the ‘Blues’ the ever popular Clarrie “Fuzz” Swenson bows out.

As a parting gesture from the club it was unanimously decided to make him a life member. And so has ended an era in Thorpdale football his- tory brought about by one of the greatest little gentlemen ever to play this grand Austra- lian game.

Clarrie's successor will be Alister Sturton, formerly of Moe.

TRAF NEWS, DECEMBER 2004 LIONS CLUB SWAP MEET

In ideal weather condi- tions, a bumper crowd attend- ed the Lions Club of Trafalgar's annual 'swap meet' held at the Trafalgar recreation reserve recently.

This annual event is the Lion Club's main fundraiser for the year and the excellent profit of approximately \$6000 (\$8620 today) would enable the club to continue to sup- port local community groups and individuals in need of as- sistance.

ANDREWS HOUSE INNO- VATION

An innovative walking pro- gram was recently launched at West Gippsland Healthcare Group's Andrew House aged care in Trafalgar.

The program aims to pro- vide a walking program for residents, staff and the local community.

The residents were intro- duced to pedometers and the recording system during the launch.

VANDALISM AT SKATE- PARK

Trafalgar's skate-park may very well close if vandalism continues.

There have been a number of recent incidents involving damage to the fence and the brick wall between the skate- park and the adjacent timber yard.

This vandalism appears to have been carried out by some

skate-park users.

TRAF NEWS WINS AWARD

Traf News won the Best Sports Reporting Award at a recent Community Newspa- pers Conference held on Fri- day 19 November at Monash University, Churchill.

Traf News was also a final- ist in each of the other cat- egories; Best Layout, Best His- torical Column, Best Editorial, Best Community Reporting and Best Young People's Re- porting.

Mick Bourke, the editor of Traf News, said that receiving the award and being a finalist in each of the other categories was an acknowledgement of the excellent work undertak- en by the paper's volunteers and the many people who provide contributions to the paper.

LIONS YOUTH EXCHANGE

The Lions Club of Trafal- gar continue its long-term involvement in the Youth Exchange Program recently when three students from Trafalgar attended a club din- ner meeting to talk about their forthcoming overseas trip.

They all leave in early De- cember and will spend six weeks with Lions-approved host families in a variety of countries.

Brittini Giles will visit Swe- den and Finland, Melissa Cook will go to Germany and Bel- gium, and Cameron Hill will travel to Japan.

TAEKWONDO CHAMPI- ONSHIPS

Braha's Martial Arts Centre (Trafalgar branch) ran its first Taekwondo Championships in the Trafalgar Public Hall on 30 October 2004.

Spectators were enter- tained with board breaking and self defence demon- strations during the day.

Local members competed against Gippsland and Metro- politan clubs in free sparing, running, jumping and kick events.

REQUESTS FROM HISTOR- ICAL SOCIETY

If you have any old photos, maps, newspaper cuttings, pamphlets or posters of the district, its past personalities, or “changing face”, please con- sider lending them to the Soci- ety to copy, or to keep.

We are always very grate- ful to those who remember the Society when dealing with de- ceased estates and pass on any of the above.

REFLECTION

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

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 Yar- ragon

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

THORPDALÉ WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

Phone 56346413



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

REFLECTION

Fed Uni robot set to snare wildlife poachers

By Michelle Slater

Federation University researchers are devel- oping a robot to help catch wildlife poachers and protect park rangers in the African bush.

The Ground Unmanned System - or GUS - uses AI, mobile signals, a variety of cameras and a drone to de- tect if poachers are in the vicinity. The unit is being developed by the Fed Uni mechatronics team led by Gayan Kahandawa in con- junction with Yinnar local, retired British Army Captain Luke Townsend.

Capt Townsend said he was helping develop the unit to provide more resources on the ground in vast national parks where it is impossible to deploy rangers.

He said GUS could be sta- tioned around poaching hot spots such as remote water holes and then send out an alert to dispatch rangers when they were needed, thus saving human resources.

“One of these national

parks is the size of Denmark. In a normal observation post, someone could be there for many weeks and nothing happens,” he said.

“People need to be re- placed every few days to re- main effective, but this can stay out there for five days and we think it could stay out there for up to two months.”

Capt Townsend had been made a Member of the Brit- ish Empire for helping to tackle illegal rhinoceros and elephant poaching in sub- Saharan Africa.

He said GUS was tested at a property in Boolarra, but researchers were looking for further funding to develop a newer version to trial in the African bush.

“Animals will want to trash it, baboons will swing off it and elephants will push it around like a toy car, but if they get closer than 10 me- tres it will play the noise of a native bee to scare them off,” he said.

“If a human gets close it

will record a message to say they have been detected.”

The project caught the eye of the defence industry after winning the Best Land Inno- vation award in a pitch-com- petition at the Land Forces International Land Defence expo in Brisbane last month.

The lead researcher, Gay- an Kahandawa, said the army was interested in the unit which can be modified with more advanced tech.

“Using the audio technol- ogy, our robot can differ- entiate between a range of sounds from a motorcycle to a firearm or an elephant,” Dr Kahandawa said.

“The cameras and drone can then be used for further investigation.

“We are excited to see the technology recognised for its potential use in industries beyond wildlife conservation and look forward to devel- oping a replica that will be easy for rangers to maintain parks.”



GUS the robot with Federation Uni researchers Ian Sparks, retired Captain Luke Townsend, Gayan Kahandawa and Hasit"b Hewawasam. (Photo: Michelle Slater)

Trafalgar Community Directory

This Directory has been compiled to provide a listing of not-for-profit community based organisations operating in Trafalgar. Please advise Traf News of any corrections and additions.

Organisation	Contact	Email/Website	Phone
Baw Baw Arts Alliance	Sue Murphy		0428 866 417
Baw Baw Shire Councillor, East Ward	Darren Wallace		0476 000 053
Baw Baw Shire Councillor, East Ward	Michael Leaney		0476 000 119
Baw Baw Shire Councillor, East Ward	Peter Kostos		0429 936 876
Baw Baw Sustainability Network		bbsn.org.au	0490 485 370
Bettermentall Together	Kerry Rantall	bettermentall@gmail.com	0477 115 666
Bowls Club	Ian Miles, President	trafalgarbowlsclub@bigpond.com	0400 210 033
Boxing Gymnasium	Shane Cameron	box_on_box_all@hotmail.com	0408 962 764
Campdraft		facebook.com/trafdraft	0416 166 027
Cemetery Trust	Tania Mussared, Secretary		5633 2282
CFA (non-emergency contact only)	Mark Walshe		5624 1900
Chamber of Commerce	Brendan Kingwill	trafalgarchamber.com.au	0418 596 494
Community Development Association	David Lyons	wombatlyons@yahoo.com	0409 015 662
Community Notice Board		facebook.com/trafalgarcommunitynoticeboard	
Cricknet Club	Liam Durkin, Secretary	trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com	0402 556 338
Croquet Club	Michael Fozard		0418 513 092
Earls Road Landcare Group	Jim Whiley, Secretary		0423 832 122
Football Netball Club	Brett Tonkin, President	trafalgarfnc@gmail.com	0418 189 027
Golden Girls Trafalgar			5623 6032
Golf Club		admin@trafalgargolf.com.au	5633 1110
High School			5633 1733
Historical Society	Dianne Ireland	historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com	0439 655 172
Kindergarten			5633 2208
Lions Club	David Koschade	trafalgarlions@gmail.com	0428 331 157
Men's Shed	Eric Johnson		5633 1624
Opp Shop	Glenys Bren- nan, President		0417 597 454
Police Station (non-emergency contact only)			5633 1188
Polocrosse Club	Gill Massey, Secretary	trafalgarpoloxclub@gmail.com	
Pony Club	Denise Marriott		0411 890 299
Primary School			5633 1566
Probus Club	John Attwell		0419 701 331
Public Hall	Tanya Stanley	trafalgarpublichall@gmail.com	
Rotary Club	Glenn Doolan	trafalgarrotary@outlook.com	0438 332 438
RSL - Trafalgar Thorpdale Sub-Branch	Chris John- son, Secretary		5633 1162
Scout Group	Rick Bradley	gl.1sttrafalgar@scoutsvictoria.com.au	
St Andrew's Uniting Church	Rev Moira Dodsworth		0447 957 772
St John's Catholic Church	Fr Bernard Buckley		5633 1166
St Joseph's Primary School	Trish Mulqueen, Principal	trafalgar.catholic.edu.au	5633 1151
St Mary's Anglican Church	Paul Zelenewicz	trafalgaranglican1@gmail.com	0493 088 370
Tennis Club	Sue	tennis.com.au/bawbaw/competitions-trafalgar	0428 673 413
Traf News	Mark Walshe, Editor		0466 249 849
Traf Watch		Facebook - Traf Watch	
Victory Football Club (Soccer)		admin@tvfc.com.au	0438 076 824
Youth Resource Centre	Glenys Bren- nan, President		0417 597 454

Farmer to farmer

FARMERS NEEDED FOR PROGRAM

Southern Cross University and the Environmental Analysis Laboratory (EAL) are inviting farmers and land managers across Australia to participate in a Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry incentivised soil sampling and analysis program.

Under the pilot Soil Monitoring Incentives Program (SMIP), the soil analysis data can help farmers make informed decisions on land management practices while also being available to others for use through the Australian National Soil Information System (ANSIS).

Farmers and land managers can receive \$275 per sampling site, capped at \$10,000 per ABN, towards the cost of soil sampling and analysis and sharing the data through ANSIS.

They can also receive assistance from Commonwealth-funded soil extension officers to interpret their soil test results. EAL's senior manager of laboratory operations, Graham Lancaster, said participating in the soil sampling initiative enabled farmers to benchmark the carbon or organic matter of their farm soil and could even contribute to Emissions Reduction Fund projects.

Southern Cross' SMIP project officer, Debbe Allen, said, "it's really important we get farmers from across the country involved, and lots of them so that in future those making policy decisions around soils will have relevant data for informed decisions".

"Currently, there is not enough quality data to make confident recommendations, and compared

with the rest of the world, we are decades behind with this.

"It might cost farmers a little more money, but it might also save them significantly on ameliorants, if they know what nutrients their pastures and crops can already access below the top 10cm layer."

Southern Cross University is also looking for qualified agronomists across the country with soil-sampling experience to come on board to help deliver this program.

For more information on the program, visit <https://www.scu.edu.au/pilot-soils-program/>, email soiltest@scu.edu.au or phone 02 6620 3489.

The program ends on June 30, 2023.

THIRD FIELD DAY PROVES POPULAR

In three short years, the volunteer, farmer-operated Gippsland Agricultural Group (GAgG) has expanded its work: from a four-hectare cereal variety trial to more than 100 hectares and numerous trials, generating a vast amount of momentum and excitement in its ranks.

It's Spring Field Day showcased everything from the effect chicken litter can have on soil, to worm burdens in sheep, fertiliser options and fodder options for livestock.

Some much-needed social activity for local producers has cemented the group's role as an agricultural hub.

GAgG general manager, Jen Smith, said the group had progressed greatly.

"We've come a long way in a short time, and we're about much more than cropping," Ms Smith said.

"We included each of our five pillars - pastures, fodder, soil, livestock and having a healthy farming community.

"The (field day) started with a session on genomics, which was really well received, and ended with one of the world's most-eminent climate scientists, Dr Richard Eckard, speaking about carbon."

Ms Smith said the field day had the latest in both sciences delivered in practical and actionable ways.

"Our speakers were significant and the support from industry, government and the East Gippsland and Wellington shires was fantastic," she said.

Genomics speaker, Daniel Abernethy, said the technology was a "fundamental game changer".

"We want to see variation within a population; if you can see it, you can exploit it," he said.

"You pick the best, but the concept is being able to find it very quickly."

The day attracted farmers of all types and from different places across Gippsland.

For Wy Yung's Sekove Koroisamanunu, a relatively new cattle producer attending his first GAgG field day, his interest was taken by the ryegrass demonstration, as he wants to work on his soils and pasture production. Mr Koroisamanunu said he was "learning lots".

The ryegrass demonstration discussion was led by agronomist Nicole Frost, who coincidentally had recently taken soil tests at Sekove's property.

Hillside farmer Kane Stewart also asked questions about ryegrass varieties, trying to find the

variety most suited to his operation.

Assisted by Tim Brown of AGF Seeds, the group discussed its 'blind' ryegrass trials, time of sowing and heading dates of the GAgG trial, as well as the forage-crop demonstration.

That the saviour of the dry years, barley, clearly not enjoying the wet conditions and already laying over in the plots, was noted.

Another area that sparked discussion was the pit dug in the chicken litter/compost paddock, known as the 'soil amelioration demonstration', organised in conjunction with DELWP.

It distinctly showed how root systems could penetrate deeper into the clay below the topsoil, as did the buried chicken litter.

GAgG chief executive, Trevor Caithness, said he was pleased to see so many new faces at the Gippsland Research Farm.

"The fact we could showcase nearly every element of dryland ag was excellent," Mr Caithness said.

"And the energy new members bring to an organisation is wonderful."

It was the group's fourth spring field day; the first was where a few farmers stood around a paddock in 2019; a virtual tour in 2020; and moving in groups of 20 to meet COVID regulations in 2021.

This year's spring days attracted 130 registrations and included trade stalls, as well as supplying a free lunch, where all attendees could relax and chat together.

GAgG collaborates with all sorts of organisations, including the Gippsland Sheep Breeders Association, which had its wether

trial sheep in the yards for perusal, as well as the East Gippsland Farm Dog Group (EGFDG).

EGFDG members finished the day with sheep-dog trial demonstrations and an announcement of a partnership between the group and GAgG.

EGFDG president, Andrew Whelan, said the group was excited to partner with GAgG and call the Gippsland Research Farm home, and also said he was looking forward to using the research centre when it was built in 2023.

WORKS TO SAVE WILD-LIFE

Victorian landholders have voluntarily protected more than 70,000 hectares of wildlife habitat in the past 50 years through the conservation charity, Trust for Nature, which aims to provide sanctuary for at least 430 species of threatened animals and plants.

Since the organisation's founding in 1972, Trust for Nature has established more than 1600 conservation covenants - legally binding agreements that permanently protect habitat on private land, even if the property is sold.

Hans Fankhanel was one of the first Victorians to protect his 87-hectare Otways property according to a conservation covenant in 1988.

"I was a bit ahead of my time," Mr Fankhanel said.

His land protects mountain ash forests, home to threatened species such as the carnivorous and nocturnal Otway black snail.

"I am very conscious of what happens after I'm gone; eventually, it will be sold, but having the covenant and knowing the Trust will ensure it is being adhered to is of great comfort," Mr Fankhanel said.

Fiona Murdoch's 450-hectare property, Raakajlim on Latji Latji Country in the state's north-west, has been protected with a covenant since 2009.

"Being able to protect the property with a covenant means that the hard work we've done has the chance to continue beyond us. We can be sure that even if the property is sold, it will never be developed," Ms Murdoch said.

Fiona Murdoch said her family have done extensive work to restore their property, which is home to the critically-en-

dangered pink cockatoos and the endangered *Mildura ogyris* butterfly.

In 2022, Trust for Nature celebrates its 50th anniversary of protecting habitat for Victoria's wildlife.

Including the organisation's conservation reserves and properties subsequently transferred to the Crown, Trust for Nature has protected more than 110,000 hectares in the last 50 years.

The first conservation covenant was signed in 1985. Andrew Foran, Trust for Nature acting chief executive, says the conservation outcomes that Trust for Nature has achieved are testament to the dedication of the Victorian community.

"We could not have achieved so much without the support of landholders, Traditional Owners, volunteers, donors and many partner organisations and the Victorian government," Mr Foran said.

Among the threatened species protected by Trust for Nature are the critically endangered Leadbeater's possum and plains-wanderer, both priority species under the Australian government's new threatened species action plan.

"While national parks are very important, some species of animals and plants are highly dependent on habitat found on private land. The formation of Trust for Nature recognises how important protecting private land is for Victoria's wildlife," Mr Foran said.

At the first meeting of Trust for Nature in 1973, then-premier, Rupert Hamer, said he hoped the organisation would be able to buy back land "that should never have been alienated".

As well as forming conservation covenants with landholders, Trust for Nature has also contributed more than 7000 hectares of habitat to the public reserve system, including parts of Mornington National Park, Churchill Island in Westernport Bay and the diverse Anglesea heathlands.

By 2025, Trust for Nature aims to protect another 35,000 hectares of habitat for wildlife.

Gippsland's greatest football team?

By Liam Durkin

Sale Football-Netball Club celebrated the 10-year reunion of their 2012 senior premiership this year.

Players and officials gathered at Sale Oval to reminisce, recall and remember deeds performed during what was one of the most dominant seasons by an individual team in Gippsland League history.

Sale's 2012 title was the club's 10th since the Gippsland League was established in 1954, and remains their most recent.

Ferguson, a former Sale junior who played 12 games for St Kilda, took on the coaching job in 2012.

Little was he or anyone to know what that year had in store.

FOUNDATION FOR A FLAG

After winning the Gippsland League premiership in 2008, the Magpies suffered a mass exodus of players, losing half of its flag winning side, and duly finished the 2009 season in eighth position.

The next year was spent developing under coach Nick Anderson, who took over from premiership winning mentor Adrian Cox.

Sale finished seventh in 2010, but a solid recruiting drive the next season that enticed Ferguson and former Brisbane and Carlton player Dylan McLaren back to the club saw the Magpies end the home-and-away season in third.

However, disaster struck in the finals series, and Sale went out in straight sets.

Anderson departed following the loss, and Ferguson took over.

Ferguson, who played with Perth in the WAFL after his time at St Kilda ended, said coaching was never really on his radar.

"It was more situational," he said.

"I guess I thought I had enough football knowledge and I had too many good ideas in my head at the time that I didn't want to go to waste.

"The more I thought about it the more it built inside me. I talked to a few mates and they had my support, especially my good mate Justin McLay, he really encouraged me to do it, he said he'd come back from Sale City to come across and play, once I really applied myself the boys seemed to resonate with me."

Despite failing to win a final in 2011, Ferguson said

there was enough to suggest the team was tracking in the right direction.

With the players assembled, Sale had the basis of a successful team - then it unleashed something that had never been seen before.

PRESSURE COOKER

Of all the brilliant ideas Ferguson had in his head, one proved to be the most devastating for opposition teams.

Breaking from the norm, Sale decided to go with a system that had never been used in the Gippsland League before: a full ground press.

The press initially caught every other team off guard, as Sale rolled over its opponents with a high octane style that created incredible levels of pressure.

Onlookers were left stunned and amazed at its effectiveness and by the second half of the season, bewildered opposition coaches were scratching their head to try and conjure up a way to counteract it.

In the end, not only could teams not beat Sale, they couldn't stop them.

As Ferguson explained, the press worked on the simple principle that chaos created panic for opposition defenders.

"The theory behind it all was you had to have forward pressure, you had to have fit players in your forward line willing to chase, tackle and harass," he said.

"It was about defenders coming off their man to push up the ground and come forward to defend, it was about celebrating not just goals and nice kicks but it was about celebrating surging the ball out of bounds, gaining territory, punching from behind, all those one per cent things.

"We got so good at that, when we would punch the ball out of bounds we would celebrate and get around each other, the other team didn't really understand what was going on, we knew exactly where we wanted the ball, we were forcing the other team backwards, sideways, down the line, if they kicked it in the middle it was turnover city, teams just had nowhere to go."

So, where did the idea come from and why was it so effective?

"I played four years under Grant Thomas at St Kilda, and then two years under Ross Lyon," Ferguson said.

"He (Lyon) didn't really perfect the forward press until 2009 which was the

year after I got delisted, but I could see what was happening and I was very interested in learning what was happening.

"I still had some really good contacts at the footy club, I was able to get some inside knowledge of how to teach it. I got a memory stick from someone at the club which was a real game-changer.

"The technology wasn't great back then but it showed some cartoons of rolling zones and some key points. I dumbed it down quite a bit because we didn't have the time to train the boys but I tried to just give them the key points and key teachings."

For Sale, it seems 2012 wasn't so much about how to beat an opposition, but more on making sure an opposition could never defeat them.

PATH OF DESTRUCTION

Sale officials may well have been forgiven for thinking their new coach would take some time to find his feet after what was an inauspicious start to the season.

The Magpies almost lost a practise game to neighbours Sale City, with Ferguson unsure at that stage whether or not local footy was ready for a full ground press.

Any such doubts were surely extinguished once the season proper came around.

After three games the Magpies were undefeated, with winning margins of 140, 113 and 95 points.

A Round 6 loss to Morwell by five points served as noth-

ing more than a blip on the radar, as Sale went on to win every game for the remainder of the home-and-away season.

Along the way there was some absolute carnage for opponents.

The Magpies won their Round 10 match against Bairnsdale by 176 points - Alister Ford never coached the Redlegs again.

The Magpies kept Leongatha goalless in Round 18 - the Parrots finished the season second on the ladder.

Ferguson labelled the Leongatha job as the side's most complete performance.

The statistics for Sale from 2012 were staggering to say the least.

The Magpies' average winning margin sat close to 80 points, while all-in-all they kicked 212 more goals than their opponents.

They averaged 17 goals a game and won four games by over 100 points.

FINALS TIME

After finishing on top of the ladder by two games and more than 100 per cent, Sale faced rival Maffra in the first semi-final.

The Magpies broke away from the Eagles after quarter time to eventually win by 38 points 13.6 (84) to 6.10 (46).

Maffra then won the preliminary final in a thriller, getting up over Leongatha by a point.

Even that tells a story of how dominant Sale was: Leongatha missed playing in the grand final by a point and

the Magpies kept them goal less for an entire game.

With a local derby set to determine the season's premier, the Magpies capped off their dominance by leading at every change to win by 56 points.

Among the best players in the black and white on grand final day were future club leaders Shane Fyfe and Jordan Dessent, as well as Ferguson who kicked five goals.

Martin was prolific, and collected both best-on-ground medals on offer.

A LOST DYNASTY?

As good as Sale was in 2012, the fact remains - they only ever won one flag.

For a team that was so dominant, it appeared a safe bet the Magpies would win at least another premiership in the years to come.

Sale made the grand final again in 2013, and the preliminary final in 2014, only to suffer crushing defeats on both occasions.

In 2013 the Magpies went into the grand final with 32 consecutive wins under their belt - and lost by 81 points.

The next year they were 45 points up at three quarter time in the preliminary final - and lost by two points.

Ferguson, who coached to the end of 2014, said it was a shattering way to bow out.

"For the amount of games we won, to only get one flag was definitely disappointing," he said. "It is hard to stomach, I'm not going to say I don't still think about it.

"We were really dominant, to only get one premiership still hurts but I guess we are here to celebrate the positives.

"I can't tell you which one hurt more out of 2013 and 14. I can remember after the 2014 one I struggled to even talk to the team after the game, to be up by 45 points at three quarter time and to lose by two points, that was my last game I coached, I have to live with that."

While premierships are hard to win, there is an undeniable sense Sale missed a golden opportunity to go back-to-back or even complete a hat-trick, which would have put them among the truly great Gippsland League teams of all-time.

In looking at what went wrong, it may well have been the Magpies greatest strength became their greatest weakness.

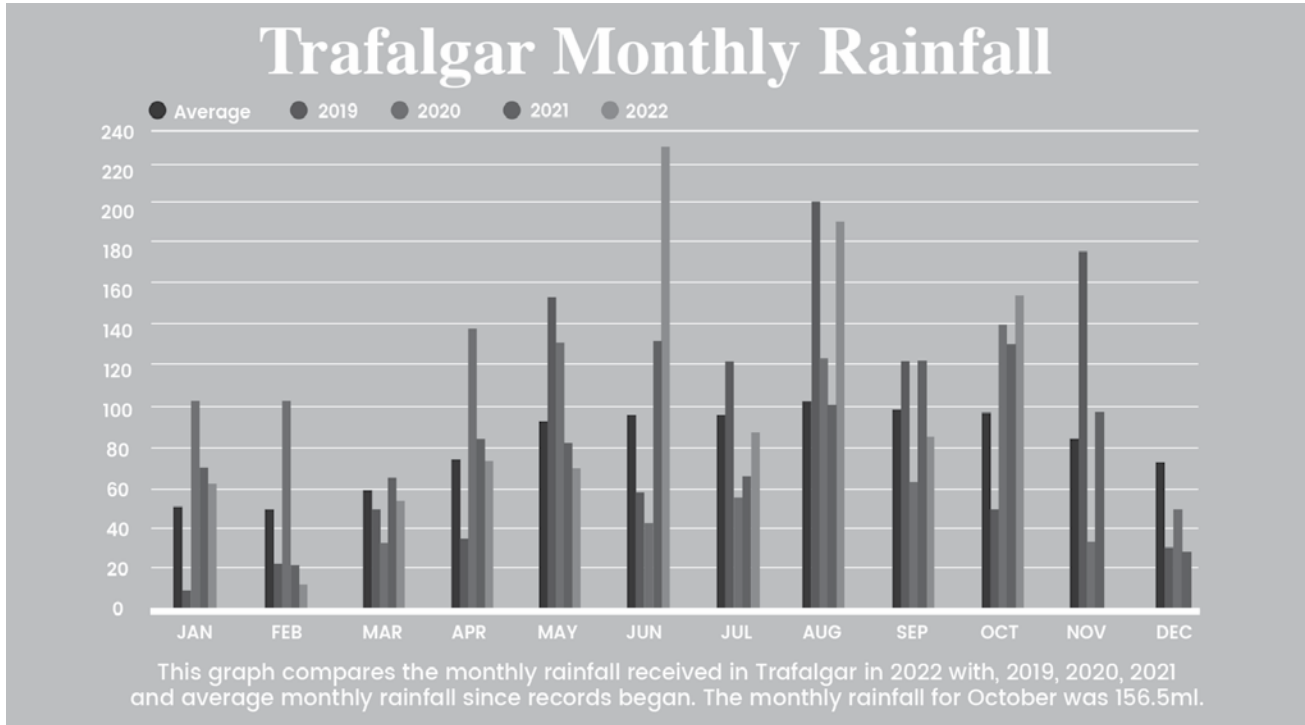
"We actually didn't know how to beat it (the full ground press)," Ferguson said.

"We knew how to do it, if we had to play against it we weren't too sure, we just knew that we had a game plan that seemed unbeatable at the time."

Although a dynasty eluded them, for what Sale put together in 2012, they certainly deserve to be mentioned in the same conversation as Morwell 1993, Traralgon 1998 and Maffra 2004.

Was this the greatest football team ever seen in Gippsland?

Let us know at articles@trafnews.com.au



Sale won the 2012 Gippsland League premiership in comprehensive fashion.

Limited cricket action

By Liam Durkin

There hasn't been much on-field action at the Trafalgar Cricket Club so far this season.

Inclement weather saw the first five rounds of the season abandoned in most senior grades (a most unwanted record).

While it has been frustrating, players have enjoyed getting onto the park when they can.

A Grade finally played their first game in Round 5.

The Ships got underway with a solid win against Jeeralang-Boolarra.

The Panthers batted first and compiled 165 from their allotted overs.

Once the white ball stopped swinging, the Panthers were able to knock the ball around and then open up toward the end.

A late flurry of wickets came for Trafalgar, as openers Jackson Noonan and Zack Brown bookedended their spells by taking some poles.

Noonan snared 3/39 and

Brown 2/21.

Young quick Owen McLeod-Agland was miserly, going for just seven runs in five overs.

Fellow youngster Olly Hennessy finally made his A Grade debut.

It has been a whirlwind journey for Hennessy, who was picked to play in the firsts back in January, only to have to withdraw due to COVID, and then saw the first four weeks of this season abandoned.

Left handers Liam White and Rhys Holdsworth put on 76 for the second wicket, putting the Ships into a good position.

White made 36 opening up, while Holdsworth, sporting an Andre Russell inspired haircut, made a game-high 75.

Trafalgar passed the required total in the 44th over, as skipper Aydan Connolly saw the side over the line with an unbeaten 24.

The next game against

Mirboo North came down to the wire.

The bowling from Trafalgar was very good, the batting not so.

Traf was defeated by eight runs, with the match coming down to the penultimate over.

The win was meritorious for Mirboo North, who were forced to field with 10 following an injury to Brett Pedlow.

Conversely for the Ships, to fail to chase 140 when there was an extra gap in the field was certainly a bitter pill to swallow.

Connolly bowled a spell from either end, taking two wickets initially before coming back to take the remaining three.

Aiden George operated at the other end, and took two wickets, even finding himself on a hat-trick.

Noonan bowled with exceptional control, going for just 11 off 10 straight overs with the new ball.

The Trafalgar chase start-

ed steadily, but the Ships failed to really get going at any stage.

A loss of patience led to some soft dismissals, which reduced the batting effort to 3/39 and then 5/65.

Connolly weathered much of the storm, and batted through while wickets fell at the other end.

As the game wore on, it became clear the Ships' best chance of winning would be to take the game deep.

With 40 to get off 10 overs, time was never going to be an issue. But with only three wickets in hand, Connolly needed support.

Trafalgar got it down to 12 off 14, before Connolly shelled a catch to mid on, bringing his fighting innings of 40 to an end.

From there, the last wicket pair for Trafalgar hit and ran, and came the last ball of the 49th over, they agreed to run on anything.

The plan resulted in a run-out that very ball, as the Tra-

falgar non-striker couldn't get back in time.

B Grade played their first game for the season at the rough old Northern Reserve, Morwell.

A youthful Ships outfit batted first, but found themselves in all sorts of strife and facing a very early day.

Some fireworks from Blake Zimora down the order saw him make a counterattacking 30.

Zimora sent a ball over the fence, adding to his bomb tally from last season.

With not much to bowl at, Traf tried to get as many bowlers involved as possible.

The Ships were out in the field for the best part of 20 overs before the required total was met.

Cooper Burgess took two wickets with his leg breaks, while the Smiths proved economical. Smith Senior went for just three off as many overs, and Junior grabbed a wicket in his three over stint.

C Grade ventured up to

Callignee for their first game, in what turned out to be an eventful day. Debuts, injuries and stunning catches all featuring.

Traf lost the toss and with it, effectively the game, as a soggy outfield left the ball resembling a bar of soap before too long.

With the wicket-keeping duties needing to be rotated, Craig White provided the highlight with a spectacular one handed catch down leg with the gloves.

The batting effort didn't make for pretty reading, and could perhaps be best described as a non-event.

New players are always welcome to the Trafalgar Cricket Club.

If you would like to find out more, please phone club secretary Liam Durkin on 0402 556 338 or email trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com



Trafalgar players celebrate a wicket at home.



Owen McLeod-Agland bowling for Trafalgar.



Zack Brown, all smiles as cricket gets underway last month.



Aiden George about to launch a return throw.

Junior cricketers get stuck into season

By Liam Durkin

Junior players have taken to the field at Trafalgar Cricket Club.

Like their senior counterparts, there hasn't been a lot of matches go ahead, but players have made the most of the opportunities presented to them.

As well as club cricket, many Trafalgar players have also represented the league in representative games.

The Ships are fielding a full complement of junior teams this season (Under 16, 14s and 12s), as well an entry-level program for beginners.

Senior players have helped conduct these ses-

sions, which has been great to see.

The 14s were the first junior team to get on the park in season 2022/23.

The 14s started their season with a win, defeating Centrals.

Batting first, the Ships closed at 5/129 from their 20 overs.

Top run scorers were Dylan van der Stoep, Memphis McQualter and Zak Larkin, who all retired after reaching 30.

Trafalgar then restricted their opponents to 6/61.

Matt Jackson took two

wickets, while others to chip in were Charlie Hennessy, Will Mills, Zak Larkin and Olly White.

The 16s played a couple of games up to the end of November.

The team managed to get a game underway in Morwell for their first one. Damp conditions meant the game was moved off turf, but this did not dampen spirits, as kids were just happy to play some cricket.

A Twenty20 was played, with Traf closing at 6/117 at compulsory close.

James Pace well and truly hit out, smashing six sixes

and two fours to retire on 33. Keegan Friedlander also retired, making 31 off 19 balls.

The Ships then took six opposition wickets to complete their victory, Angus Kirkham and Olly White snaring two each.

Trafalgar players were to be commended for fielding for the opposition in order to get a game going.

The 16s then put up a massive total on Racecourse Turf in the next game.

Batting first, Traf closed at 8/244 after 40 overs.

James Pace and Keegan Friedlander each retired after posting half-centuries,

while others to make runs were Dylan van der Stoep (31), Zak Larkin (24) and Olly White (22).

Angus Kirkham then did the damage with the ball, taking 4/7, along with Jordy Chapman, who nabbed 2/11.

The club's youngest side, the 12s, features many players getting their first taste of cricket.

The Under 12s ventured up to Mirboo North in late October.

While a win didn't come the Ships way, perhaps it will be the start of a lifelong journey in the game.

A few weeks later, the

team played against Moe at Traf.

The Ships were asked to bowl first, but despite their best efforts, couldn't make any inroads.

Quinn Asmussen was economical, conceding just four runs off his three overs.

Quinn then showed good signs with the bat, scoring 12. It is not too late to join a team.

If you would like to become involved at a great family club, please email trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com, or phone club secretary Liam Durkin on 0402 556 338



Trafalgar Under 16s watching the game unfold.



Dylan van der Stoep going on the attack.

Men's Fours champions

By Ian Miles

Ken Capper and his team of Tim Anderson, Danny Bryant and Jim Wilson have been successful in winning this

year's Men's Fours Championship at Trafalgar Bowls Club, with a solid win over Mal Clymo and his team of Peter Watson, Tony Dawson

and Peter Dart; 21 shots to 13. Clymo's team got off to a fast start and led 7-3 after five ends, but then lost the next six ends to trail 15-7.

Whilst it was pretty even after that, they could not bridge the gap.

Bryant and Wilson are enjoying their first seasons with

the Trafalgar Bowls Club, having come from Bairnsdale and Port Welshpool, and both put in a consistent display of draw bowls to give

Cappers team the edge.



Danny Bryant, Jim Wilson, Tim Anderson and Ken Capper.

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Monthly pairs

By Ian Miles

The Moe Racing Club monthly pairs attracted a good field of players from around the district, but it was the local team of Paul Dawson and Russell

Lavell who won the day.

After a two-year break, Trafalgar Bowls resurrected the Melbourne Cup Calcutta Sweep with Trafalgar Tyre Service guru Peter Dart run-

ning the event.

A good crowd turned up to bid on the horses, with the winning horse Gold Trip being drawn out to Wayne Hurst's 'Granddaughter Syn-

dicate'.

The Calcutta was followed by a Melbourne Cup Day chicken and champagne luncheon, with sweeps run on every race during the day.

In club news, the corporate barefoot bowls usually held in November/December has been postponed until after Christmas due to the anticipated commencement

of the new synthetic green build.



Paul Dawson and Russell Lavell, winners of the monthly pairs.



Peter Dart with the Calcutta Cup Sweep Draw.



Tony Minchinson, Greg Sephton and Graham Hill busy running sweeps on Melbourne Cup Day.

Wins for Templeton, Maskiell

By Liam Durkin

Trafalgar trainer Mick Templeton had a winner at Moe Racing Club on Monday, November 7.

The track was initially rated a Soft 6, upgraded to a Soft 5 after the first race.

Templeton highlighted the meeting, winning Race 5, while high-profile trainer Peter Moody secured a double.

The Race 1 Ladbroke It! Maiden Plate over 2050 metres saw Gottabesavvy edge out Hollerween by a nose.

The New Zealand gelding stretched on the outside by literally a pimple to win.

In Race 2, the Able Mechanical 3YO Maiden Plate (1200m), Cold One did it easy, winning by nearly two lengths.

Moody got his first win of the day in the Race 3 Captain Zap 4YO+ Maiden Plate (1200m), as Life Lessons got home by a length.

This was followed by Mornington trainer John McArdle winning Race 4, the Colli's Hair Design Maiden Plate (1600m). Muzukashii beat a good field that saw four horses all within a length of each other as the winner crossed.

Templeton won the Race 5 RMBL Investments Rising Stars BM58 Handicap (1600m) in a thriller.

His six-year-old mare Stay A While jumped well and settled nicely to sit second at the 800 metre and 400m mark.

Stay A While was in a sprint to the finish with Alphaville for most of the straight, but jockey Tayla Childs was able to see the local to victory.

"The choice to either leave or sit off was just depending on how she would go throughout the run," Childs told Racing.com postrace.

"She raced really keenly but she was happy just sitting off that one, we were going at a good clip but she was just so tough in the end.

"Mick told me she's a fighter and she'll just keep going to the line."

Stay A While showed trademark Latrobe Valley tenacity, defying its \$14.00 starting price to beat the favourite.

Isolating won the Race 6 Ladbroke's Punter Assist BM58 Handicap (1000m), winning by 1.5 lengths.

Race 7, the S&S Equip-

ment Hire BM58 Handicap (1000m) was won by Vegas Diva, before Moody got his second win in the Race 8 Ladbroke's Mates Mode 0-64 Handicap (1200m).

The race saw a cracking field get to the line with less than a length separating the top four finishers.

Coincidentally, Moody also

trained the horse that ran second, The Big Freeze.

Mornington Mask rounded out the meeting by winning the Race 9 Xmas Party Raceday 9th Dec - Shannon Noll Live BM58 Handicap (2050m).

Elsewhere, Trafalgar jockey Jason Maskiell completed a riding double at Latrobe

Valley Racing Club (Traralgon) on Derby Day (October 19).

In the Race 1 Traralgon Rodeo December 10 Maiden Plate over 1900 metres, Maskeill rode Satin Image to a commanding win by six lengths.

Maskiell completed the double, winning the Race 6

Erin Park Lodge Horse Feeders BM 0-57 (1430m) on board A Penny Spent.

The five-year-old mare timed its run well, coming from sixth at the 400m mark to win by a length.



Satin Image, ridden by Jason Maskiell, returns to the mounting yard after winning the Traralgon Rodeo December 10 Maiden Plate at Latrobe Valley Racing Club on October 29. (Photos: Scott Barbour/Racing Photos).



Stay A While, trained by Trafalgar's Mick Templeton, wins at Moe on Monday, November 7.

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