

Traf District News

We're
Back!
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December 2023 – Edition 259

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YOUNG GUNS TAKE TO BOWLS

By Trevor Colvin



Nine year old Lincoln Fraser shows his style



Kyen Jenkins, 16, playing B Grade Finals and Division 1

It is a myth that lawn bowls is a game for the elderly. Although that demographic is well represented at most clubs, younger people are now playing the game at clubs across Australia.

Trafalgar's Ian Miles explained that the average age of the Australian female

bowls squad is twenty seven. The average age of Australia's national cricket team is thirty one.

Lincoln Fraser (left) is nine and this is his first season.

Kyen Jenkins (right) is almost a bowls veteran by comparison and at sixteen Kyen has made the B Grade Finals

and is currently playing in Division 1 for Trafalgar.

Lincoln followed his dad's example, who was an early starter, and Kyen told us his Grandfather Billie introduced him to the sport a couple of years ago. Kyen plays a lot of other sport and makes the point that there is a lot to like about bowls, not

the least being that you don't have to run.

Both these young players show a lot of promise and many more young players are welcome at Trafalgar and other clubs in the district.

If you would like to chance your arm, the club invites anyone and everyone to have a roll on Wednesday evenings

during the summer months. It is an opportunity to have some fun in a relaxed environment and enjoy a free sausage sizzle. The bar will be open.

A sign at the door says: 'There are no strangers here, just people you haven't met' and they mean it, so you will be made to feel very wel-

come. Starts 5:30.

Trafalgar Bowls Club is at Seven Mile Road.

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Letter to the editor

By Michael Fozard

We all recently participated in the referendum vote for recognition of indigenous people in our Australian constitution. Whether you voted yes or no should not put a "label" on you or place you in a "box". The saddest outcome of this vote was the way in which it has divided our community. It is now up to us the community to heal the division and take a conciliatory approach.

I am a white male Caucasian of English and Italian background with a father

that was born in Sri Lanka.

My parents migrated to Australia in 1948 and I was born in Mansfield, Victoria and call Woodpoint my home town. I am proud of my heritage but as far as I am concerned I am an Australian first and foremost. When I was young some people asked if I was English due to the use of some words (my parents influence), I was adamant that I was Australian.

In my years of life, as a community member, I have always been willing to sup-

port various indigenous issues. At high school I established a program for first nation issues, when I moved to Gippsland my closet neighbour was a Gunai Kurnai person and we established a long and lasting relationship. As the manager of Old Gipps town I was able to assist numerous indigenous individuals and work with them.

I have a commitment as an Australian to the betterment of all people and will work diligently in helping all Australians and other

individuals who live in this great country of ours.

I did vote NO on the basis that the proposal was lacking in detail and wanted us to rely on the political system to sort out the details. It is society that has to resolve this issue and not politicians.

As the song goes "we are one but we are many" – the challenge is for us to resolve the divide what has been created by the political process and go forward as a united country.

Council officially adopts the Yarragon Township Plan

Adopting the Yarragon Township Plan and Urban Design Framework marks a significant milestone in the region's strategic planning and development.

The adoption follows a robust community consultation process, reflecting the aspirations of Yarragon's residents for sustainable growth and the preservation of the town's unique

character.

For more information go to <https://www.bawbaw-shire.vic.gov.au/Home> and use the search option 'yarragon township'.

Editor's note

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

Traf District News

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

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FEBRUARY EDITION DEADLINE:

Advertising Bookings Close: Mon Jan 8
Advertising Material Deadline: Mon Jan 15
Articles for Publication Close: Mon Jan 15

Letter to the editor

I recently attended a Forum in Warragul to clarify the status of the proposed Victorian Treaty with our First Peoples.

The Forum was headlined by our local Kurnai Elder, Cheryl Drayton, who assisted in explaining the

proposed Treaty.

In view of the recent referendum result, could this newspaper follow up to clarify the real issues surrounding these proposals.

(Name and Address supplied.)

Editor: There is a lot of ongoing interest since The Voice referendum and considerable confusion about where to from here. We will do our best to provide more information in our next issue (February 2024)

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Creative Harvest Edible Garden Weekend – Saturday January 27 and Sunday 28

Want something to do this January, somewhere you can take the kids? Then the open weekend is for you between 9am and 3pm both days.

West Gippsland's annual Creative Harvest is a family-friendly, open garden weekend with a difference. Its focus is on veggie gardens and

growing your own food.

Explore 12 flourishing edible gardens growing healthy, sustainable food crops in spaces of all sizes from backyards to lifestyle farms.

Creative Harvest is the brainchild of the Baw Baw Sustainability Network. Launched in 2018, it's growing faster than a sprouting pea. In 2023, over 1,100 visi-

tors flocked through the gardens. It is a chance to join like-minded gardeners and those who want to be more self-sustaining.

From Neerim South to Yarragon South, to Warragul and Childers or Jindivick, there are gardens to inspire everyone no matter their level of experience or size of their gardens. Some gardens are a few years old; others have been established for many decades. Be inspired so that you can do something in your own patch.

Even if you don't own your own home, there is even a garden in a rental property that shows you can have a self-sufficient garden regardless of where you live.

Chat with Gippsland's artists and other creatives who'll showcase their work in splendid garden settings. There will be painters and printmakers, jam makers, jewellers and winemakers, sharing their expertise and their wares. Sample tasty, locally made treats. Buy artisan cheeses, honey, jams, and preserves.

Be inspired, be encouraged and learn from like-minded gardeners and art-

ists who'll show you how you can 'do-it-yourself'. Grow your green-fingered know-how in a workshop.

Creative Harvest is a family-friendly event. This year, kids can plant seedlings or make scrumptious edibles in a kitchen garden cooking workshop.

Grownups can glean insights from garden owners in talks on soil health, composting, companion planting, etc., or delve deeper in work-

shops run by renowned experts like Penny Woodward, author of the award-winning heirloom tomato bible 'Tomato: Know Sow Grow Feast.'

Other workshops, at the home of the Baw Baw Sustainability Network in Yarragon, include Using Florals as Dye, Edible Weeds and a how-to on Sourdough Starters.

There is something truly magical about eating fresh seasonal produce from your

own garden. Creative Harvest is about sharing that magic.

Forming a trail of self-sufficiency and do it yourself inspiration, Creative Harvest is on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 January 2024 (9am-3pm each day). For more information, the details of individual gardens and creatives, maps, and tickets visit: www.creativeharvest.org.au.

It is indeed great to be back

Welcome to all readers, new and returning, to another issue of Traf News.

Or should we say Traf District News.

A slight rebrand, but hopefully the same quality content readers enjoyed from Traf News in its previous incarnation.

The name change heralds the start of a new era for the monthly paper, which has been a part of the Trafalgar and surrounding community for more than 20 years.

It will indeed be fingers and toes crossed the brief hiatus experienced this year will indeed be just that - brief.

The decision to place the paper in recess in April was certainly a chastening experience, especially given the loyal readership over the best part of two decades.

At the time, we didn't know whether or not that was the end, although it almost certainly felt like it was going to be.

However, as Trafalgar has often shown in the past when

it is faced with adversity, whether it be sporting clubs, local groups, or even taking on city hall - the community rallies and bands together.

And so has happened here - admittedly with a great deal of luck.

How lucky we were to have Trevor Colvin, a man who has spent a lifetime working with The Age, literally land on our doorstep.

Now retired and living in Traf, he and I met at Eat Live Fresh in September.

There, he told me of his vision to bring the Traf News back in time for December.

I must admit, I thought he was optimistic at best, but now here we are, with a bumper 28-page issue.

Well done to Trevor and the new management team, who have worked positively and passionately to get to this point.

Their efforts are worthy of praise, as are those of the previous committee of management, headed by John Freyne, who oversaw quite possibly the most tumultuous time for

any media outlet.

While most local newspapers went under during the pandemic, Traf News decided to fight on.

In hindsight, that decision may well have caught up with us at the start of this year, but like most things, you do what you feel is the best thing at the time.

As we now move forward, hopefully the best thing to do will be to reignite the paper with this issue, which is being somewhat used as a test run to gauge interest to see whether or not it is worth continuing into 2024.

Our thanks need to be extended to the readership for not deserting us, and to advertisers for giving us another chance.

For people, especially the man who started Traf News and is still an avid reader, Mick Bourke OAM, it is surely worth continuing for the sake of continuing a legacy alone.

On a personal note, while I will always have a great affinity for Traf News, for it is the paper that gave me my first editing experience, readers will need to be aware times have changed.

When I started at Traf News six years ago, I was a uni student with ample time. Now, I am a fulltime working editor with three mastheads on my watch.

Sadly, that means Traf News will need to be relegated a fair way down the pecking order, although as I will maintain, I am happy to assist in any capacity. My belief has always been if you are available and have the necessary skill set, you should help where you can.

I now ask that we all help each other to keep these pages printed.

Happy reading Trafalgar and district community. Liam Durkin - Traf News Editor since 2017

Neglected roadside vegetation a risk to regional communities

Neglected roadside vegetation a risk to regional communities.

Out of control roadside vegetation must be addressed as summer and the impending bushfire season approaches.

Shadow Assistant Minister for Public Land Use and The Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath has placed a Motion for debate in State Parliament's Legislative Council to address Labor's ongoing neglect of roadside vegetation.

Ms Bath said The Nationals are calling on the Labor Government to commit to an intensive slashing and vegetation removal program across regional Victoria.

"High rainfall during three years of La Nina conditions has intensified roadside vegetation growth in regional Victoria, including those managed by VicRoads and local councils. "The overriding priority of any state government when it comes to bushfire mitigation must be the protection of human life, yet Labor continues to

prioritise ideological environmentalism.

"Right throughout eastern Victoria roadsides are burgeoning with out of control long grass, dead wood and weed species.

"Given the forecast weather pattern for summer – fuel load reduction on our roadsides must be prioritised."

Ms Bath said unkept roadsides act as a wick during bushfire events and deny residents a safe passage during bushfire events.

Bushfire experts indicate that community safety is significantly improved when roadside fuel loads are reduced through slashing, burning, and weed management.

Private property owners have a legal responsibility to keep their land cleared and fire safe, it's high time for Labor to act on its own directive and maintain road sides to keep regional communities safe.

"Gippsland has already experienced an early start to bushfire season, and many regional Victorians are justifiably concerned about La-

bor's woeful preparation.

"VicRoads and our Councils needs comprehensive resources and deadlines to get on top of management of roadside vegetation to mitigate fire risk across regional Victoria.

Fuel reduction saves lives, and The Nationals are demanding Labor instigate a greater focus on it to maintain roadsides and public land."



Caption – With a hot and dry summer forecast, Melina Bath has placed a Motion for debate in State Parliament's Legislative Council to address ongoing neglect of roadside vegetation.

Victoria's firewood review must improve access to firewood gathering on public land

By Trevor Colvin

As the cost of living increases significantly and the cost of firewood skyrockets, many regional Victorians will struggle to keep warm. Redgum can cost \$480 per tonne and Sugar Gum comes in at \$420. If you need ten tonnes of wood for a long cold winter the cost is \$4,500, or around \$800 a month. Prices are at record highs because of shortages and that in part is due to the forced closure of the native forest hardwood logging industry (see story elsewhere in this issue).

There is a solution and that is for increased access to firewood on public land.

The Nationals are calling for greater access to firewood gathering on public land as commercial supplies dry up and are making that call while the Labor government is conducting a review into firewood collection on public land.

Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Public Land Use and The Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath said The Nationals want to see more public land

available for firewood collection and the season extended to address future supply shortages.

"Many Victorians living in regional and peri-urban areas rely on solid fuel heating as their primary source for warming their homes.

"The rising cost of living in Victoria means gas and electricity is unaffordable for many households and solid fuel heaters help to keep household costs down.

"Labor's closure of the native timber industry has also strangled the commercial firewood industry therefore it's imperative that Victorians have increased opportunity gather firewood."

To firewood gathering is restricted to two seasons. Autumn season 1 March to 30 June and Spring season from 1 September to 30 November and then further limited by relatively few sites being available for firewood collection.

Ms Bath said the impact of dwindling commercial firewood supplies will not be felt until next winter.

"Legal firewood collection

has a positive impact of our state forests, it supports the health of the ecosystem by removing dead undergrowth and reducing fuel loads, albeit on a small scale.

"We have seen Labor dramatically restrict firewood collection access in Central Victoria to certain local government areas – this approach must not be extended into eastern or western Victoria.

"The Nationals are calling on Labor to increase the number of firewood collection areas and better maintain access tracks on public land to meet the community's need for the fuel source."



Melina Bath said The Nationals want to see more public land available for firewood and the seasons extended

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Trafalgar Probus Club Still going strong

By John Atwell

The Trafalgar and District Probus Club has missed the old Traf News which was such a great publication and kept the community informed about local events and activities. BUT it is wonderful to see the great effort from locals to resurrect the newspaper.

Probus continues to provide opportunities for "Fun, Friendship and Fellowship" for our members which number more than 100 and growing. Just a look at the calendar of activities for November, there were 11 opportunities for a get together ranging from Melbourne Cup Day, Walking Group,

Garden group and coffee mornings and a caravan/cabin week away at Kilcunda etc.

Then we are all looking forward to our usual celebrations for Christmas and this year we are going to the function rooms at Moe Racing Club and of course we will catch up with Santa.

Our November guest speaker was Bill Ringin the apiarist who spoke about bees, of course, and gave us lots of insights of the amazing "military like operation" of a bee colony. Fascinating. The picture below shows Bill with one of his hives.

Because we have a good club with plenty of good fel-

lowship, we continue to gain new members and over October/ November we have inducted 12 new members. Quite a record!

The photos below show the new members after their inductions by President Glenda Mynard.

October - Phillip and Judith Johnston, Glen Miles, Lucy Bouchier, Gail Fidelaers, and Cynthia Rudlin.

November we have Norreen Plozza, Kevin & Debbie White, John & Roxanne Purvis and Rhonda Ellul.

Welcome to all and wishing you many years of Fun with Probus!



October new members



November new members

Superannuation and Life Insurance and their Nominations

By Jade Macgegor

Superannuation and Life Insurance often get overlooked when it comes to estate planning.

Many people assume superannuation and any life insurance benefits will automatically pass to their spouse or children or become part of their Estate. This isn't always the case, and the benefits may not be distributed as per your wishes unless you submit a valid binding death benefit nomination.

Superannuation and life insurance are dealt with as separate entities of an Estate by the Trustee of those policies with its own set of rules and will not be directed by a Will or the Executor of an Estate.

Legislation governs that, if nominating individuals, they must be classified as a dependent. A dependent is defined as:

- Your spouse (including a de facto spouse);
- Your children (including an adult child, an adopted child or a step-child);
- Anyone who is financially dependent on you at the time of your death; or
- Anyone with whom you

have an interdependency relationship and one or more provides the other with financial support domestic support and personal care with at the time of your death

If you nominate someone outside of the class of dependents (such as your siblings or friends) then the nomination will be invalid. The Trustees then have full discretion to distribute the funds to the Estate or any Dependent that they choose.

When nominating a person or persons to receive your superannuation, there are generally two nominations that can be completed: a binding or a non-binding death benefit nomination.

Non-Binding Death Benefit Nomination - who you nominate to be your beneficiaries is an expression of wishes to the Trustee and is not binding on them to distribute to that person. The Trustee has the discretion to pay the benefits to whomever they choose, if their choice is within the rules noted above.

Binding Death Benefit Nomination - who you nominate to be your beneficiaries

is binding on the Trustee (provided it is considered valid in the first place).

A binding nomination can also be either: non lapsing or lapsing nomination. A non-lapsing nomination means the nomination will remain binding until it is changed through lodging another nomination. A lapsing nomination means the nomination becomes non-binding after a certain period (usually 3 years).

The risk with a lapsing nomination is that if it is not regularly checked and re-lodged the nomination could become non-binding on the Trustee.

As part of our review of your estate, we check your superannuation and life insurance to ensure your nomination is valid, binding and up to date. We take the time to sit with you and understand your wishes and ensure your legal documents reflect this.

If you wish to know more, please reach out to one of our friendly staff on 5644 0000 or by email reception@jmacgregorlegal.com

Become an environmental warrior for Baw Baw Shire

Are you passionate about protecting and enhancing your local environment? Do you want to ensure a sustainable future for all?

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then Baw Baw Shire wants to hear from you.

Expressions of Interest are now open for Council's Environmental Voice Advisory Committee (EVAC) with two vacant positions available. Nominations

close December 15.

Find out more and apply online at: <https://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/> Home and use the search option 'environmental warrior'.

Radical Soil Care Or Why Healthy Soil is Important for Everyone of Us

By Stephanie Hildman

SOIL IS VITAL FOR OUR SURVIVAL

This far exceeds its function as merely the substance in which we grow our food or the pasture for our animals. It has an impact on us not only chemically and biologically but also emotionally, energetically and spiritually.

Without healthy soil, we humans, cannot survive. Full stop. And we are losing our soil at an alarming rate.

Many think that soil health only matters to farmers and gardeners yet it is vital for everyone who works with soil to understand the significance of soil health and how to preserve our precious soil for ourselves and future generations. Likewise,

everyone who eats, needs to understand what the quality of the soil - or the lack thereof - does to our food and health.

There is nobody who is not affected by soil health.

The processes in healthy soil are responsible for our oxygen supply, they make it rain and they stabilise the soil preventing erosion and land slippage. The microbes in the subsoil provide substantial water storage underground, mitigating flood and bushfire risk. The bacteria in soil support our immune system and even regulate our moods. Without healthy soil plants cannot sequester carbon and last but not least - soil is in charge of the nutrient content and secu-

rity of our food supply.

Nature and soil are not complicated but they are complex. Not long ago it was common knowledge how to support soil and its biology yet many of us have lost touch with the traditional wisdom around soil health. There are many good reasons for this, however, the lack of soil competence makes us perfect targets for vested and political interests.

We increasingly rely on experts and demand more research. To what end? The argument is that we have more people to feed than ever. That is correct., but with all the scientific knowledge, research and technology at our fingertips today,

most soils produce a far poorer outcome per acre than two generations ago and our food has lost half of its nutrient contents yet has increased toxicity.

Every time humans have tried to interfere with Nature and its ecological cycles we have failed miserably. Or worse: we have destroyed the very substance that keeps us alive - soil - and literature is increasingly linking this with chronic diseases.

To reconnect with Soil Health we need to understand its underlying principles. Once those principles are understood the solutions become evident. Once the why is clear, the how becomes easy.

The solutions are more often than not surprisingly simple and cheap - not complicated at all - and most of all lots of fun.

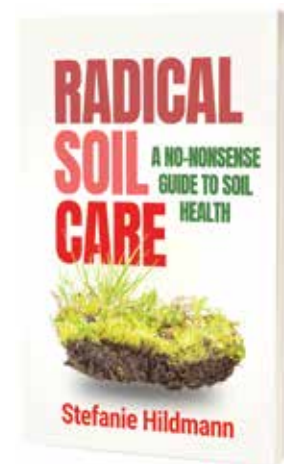
Saving the planet starts beneath our feet.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

In her book 'Radical Soil Care - a No-nonsense Guide to Soil Health' Stefanie explains in simple, easy-to-understand terms how soil health works and how to improve it. Stefanie works as a soil educator and is known for her no-nonsense approach to soil health and land management. She focuses on empowerment and straightforward implementation. She lives in South Gippsland

and speaks, teaches and runs workshops in person and online.

Editor's note: If you wish to contact Stefanie through this newspaper, drop us a line to: editor@trafnews.com



If you are anxious about visiting the dentist, Bruce and Dave are here to help

By Trevor Colvin

If you are anxious about visiting the dentist, Bruce and Dave are here to help.

Bruce and Dave won't pull a tooth, or prepare an injection or hand you a mouthwash, but Bruce and Dave are specialists in their own right. Their sole role is to help clients relax.

Bruce and Dave are highly trained Labradors who can and do have a positive effect on patients. They help reduce anxiety, making the trip to the dentist a more pleasant experience.

Lisa McFadyen from Cherokees K9 School has both dogs in training and it is a long term exercise.

'Bruce is a six-year old and he did intensive training with me as a young dog. He was already certified when he came in for training, but he didn't have very good training. It was very erratic. It was enough to get him through the certification, but his behaviour was quite challenging.

ing in some environments.

Bruce belongs to the Belinda and Anand who own Warragul Dental Care. They called me in to help retrain Bruce which then led to training Dave when they purchased him as a young pup. They are both working at the clinic, and Dave is about to undergo his certification. He has had some time off training over the past 18 months, due to personal reasons.

It's becoming more and more popular for dogs to be working in medical practices and Bruce is the first dog to be certified as a dental therapy dog.

There is a big 'tick list' for therapy dogs. They have to be very calm around people and be able to hold certain commands. His education is very high. The woman who certifies them has set very strict criteria and she won't certify them if they don't meet that criteria.

There are different organizations that will certify a

dog. However, and I'm trying to be very diplomatic here, so I won't name names, unfortunately some of them don't set high enough criteria.

So apart from temperament, though, they've got to know how to do certain things or not to do certain things. They must not jump and get overexcited around people because their job in the clinic is to help people to be calm. So they have to be able to hold attention.

The dogs have to be trained in the rooms with all the machines and all the staff.

My job really has been to teach their owners how to train the dogs because it has to be maintained by the owners, but also they've come in and board with me for ongoing training. One day when I was in the clinic training Bruce, there was a bit of an alcove and there was a lady that had had a wisdom tooth

out. She was looking pretty sorry for herself. And we were working on saying hello, teaching him how to say hello to someone. And we asked, 'Is it okay if we say hello to you?' And she said, 'yes'. And so I invited Bruce to say hello. Bruce stood up and went to say hello to her. She stiffened ever so slightly. Bruce read her body language in an instant. Stopped, turned and saw another woman in the waiting room and walked over to her instead. It was re-

ally quite remarkable.

Bruce is a very intuitive special dog. He's very good with kids and very good with people who are really stressed. It takes a particular dog to be like that, because a dog that is not stable or not balanced and is anxious themselves, that anxiety from the person will wear up onto the dog.

When the dogs are not working they will take them bush walking and to their farm. I take them out with my dogs and they often come for sleepovers. They have a really nice balanced life and then they go in and work. The other day Bruce had three patients in a row and that's a big day for him.

I started in my early 20s with my first dog, Cherokee, which is who my business is named after. Then I got a second dog, Benson, who was a border collie and trained them both into advanced level with Australian Dog Training. I thought I knew everything there was to know about dog training, until Astro came along. That was twelve years ago. Yeah, Astro was next level with reactivity and I was really struggling with him. So I contacted a friend who runs a dog training school and said, I need some help. So I started training with her and had all sorts of issues with him. One day my friend said to me, why don't you do the dog trainers

course with the National Dog Trainers Federation? And so I did, and our relationship just blossomed during that course. I then developed a thirst for dog training. So I'm nationally accredited with the National Dog Training Federation. Since then I've been to many seminars and I've been overseas twice now and studied with some of the world's leading experts in socialisation and aggression.

I'm a strong leader for the dog. When you have a strong leader, the pack will be more relaxed and better behaved. But if you have an anxious person, the dogs don't see them as a leader. In their natural environment an anxious dog would bring the pack down and make the pack vulnerable.

What creates a natural leader with the dogs is someone who is stable and has boundaries which are clear and consistent. The dogs respect those boundaries. The don't respect a lack of boundaries.

Unfortunately, dog training is an unregulated industry and anybody can call themselves a dog trainer. So there are a lot of different methods in training dogs. And some people can do a short course, whether it be on the internet or whether it be through a body.

Some people will use certain equipment on a dog to gain control of that dog, like

on their face, for example. The face apparatus controls the dog and they can get compliance from a dog very easily. And what tends to happen is the dog shuts down and he'll comply in order to turn the pressure off, because that's a method of learning. A lot of people think that they have a really well trained dog or my dog is doing really well, when underneath it, the dog is really sad and unhappy. And a lot of people don't recognize that. My method of training is more motivational. I want the dog to want to do the things that we teach them. And what a lot of people don't understand is a lot of what we expect our dogs to do is very unnatural to the dog. You'll never see two dogs going for a walk side by side, for example. It just doesn't make sense to them. And yet we put them on a leash and expect the dogs to walk next to us on a concrete path down to the park or for a walk around the street. And the dogs are like, this doesn't even make sense.

Lisa runs group classes in Trafalgar and Drouin and also does behavioural consults as well, working privately with people and their dogs. Feel free to contact her. She is always open to helping to create a beautiful relationship between you and your dog.

Lisa can be contacted on 0413 428 692

The human-animal bond: A special connection

By Dr Alinda Zhang BSc DVM for Trafalgar Veterinary Centre



Reduced stress and anxiety: Studies have shown that petting a dog or cat can lower blood pressure and heart rate and reduce levels of the stress hormone cortisol. Interacting with animals can also release oxytocin, a hormone that has mood-boosting effects.

Increased physical activity: Having a pet can often encourage us to get more regular exercise, whether it be waving a wand toy for your cat to chase up and down the hallway, or taking the dog out for a walk. This can lead to a number of health benefits, including reduced risk of heart disease, stroke, and obesity.

Improved mental health and reduced social isolation. Studies have shown that pets

can help to reduce symptoms of mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety. Animals can provide emotional support and help people to feel less alone by providing companionship and helping people to meet new people.

Some additional tips for strengthening your bond with your pet:

- Spend time with your pet every day. This could involve playing, walking, or simply cuddling on the couch.
- Do some training with your pet. This will help to create a sense of trust and communication between you. If you have a dog, consider joining the local dog obedience club, or if you have a new pup-

py contact us about our puppy school. Cats can be trained as well, and there are a lot of fun training exercises that you can find online that can be practiced at home.

- Provide your pet with plenty of exercise and mental stimulation. This will help to keep them healthy and happy.
- Take your pet to the local vet clinic for regular checkups and vaccinations. This will help to ensure that they are healthy and free from disease. Making an appointment is as easy as giving us a call on (03) 5633 1327 or visiting our website

www.trafalgarvet.com.au



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Snippets from the past

THE TRAFALGAR, YARRAGON & YALLOURN NEWS, DECEMBER 1933

DAIRMEN MEET AT THORPDALE

A splendid rally of dairymen was held last Saturday at Thorpdale, when the annual meeting of the local branch of the Dairymen's Association was held. Mr G.R. Savage spoke of the danger of tuberculosis existing in the dairy herds, and the secretary was instructed to make inquiries from the Department regarding the possibility of blood tests being taken by a qualified officer.

VISITING RECHABITES

Last Tuesday evening the Rechabite members from Yarragon and Narracan visited Trafalgar for an Inter-Tent social. Music for dancing was provided by T. Perriman and J. Slater, assisted by Bro. McHoul, all by the mouthorgan.

Games and competitions were also enjoyed, and a very nice supper capped off the evening's amusements.

SWIMMING BATHS NEEDED

In addition to the town supply, a number of running streams would provide ample water for public baths at Trafalgar.

Several sites have been suggested – these include Lock's Creek and the Contour Drain. Perhaps a better site than either would be at the public land near the police station in Contingent Street.

At the present time many people use a site at the Main Drain (Moe River) bridge on the Seven Mile Road.

THE GIPPSLAND NEWS, DECEMBER 1963

5 DECEMBER – YARRAGON "GUARDS" TAKE HONOURS

The Yarragon "Guards" Marching Girls team gained two first placings with a fine exhibition of Marching at the Orbost display held last Sunday.

Against seven other senior teams from Bairnsdale, Moe, Orbost, Maffra and Morwell, the "Guards" took first placings in the Fall-In and Inspection and in the March Past.

Those who comprised the victorious team were: Nellie Visser (leader), Denise Hand-

ley, Reggie Hams, Helen Kent, Rhonda Johnson, Tinika Visser, Glenys O'Brien, Mary-Lynne Bolton, Gay Handley, Jenny Wheller and Fay Towers.

UNSELFISH CHILDREN

Grade 111 (3) pupils of the Trafalgar State School last week conducted a lunch-hour stall to aid the "Sun" Toy Fund.

The effort was very successful and resulted in the sum of 9 pounds, 16 shillings (\$298 today) being raised. The children deserve much praise for their thoughtfulness and unselfish effort.

TRAFALGAR SCOUTS

Mr Padadopoulos must have been a busy man at the Trafalgar Swimming Pool on Saturday afternoon, as the following Boy Scouts turned up en-masse to do their swimmers proficiency badge, and the following all passed: Ronnie Marino, Philip Shanahan, Graeme Jolly, Graham Spratling, Murry McCrorey, Tim McCrorey and Graham Parks.

12 DECEMBER – PIO-NEERS ENTERTAINED

Twenty-five of the district's pioneers were visitors at the weekly dinner meeting at the Trafalgar Rotary Club on Tuesday evening, 3 December.

A Pioneer's Night has been an annual feature for some years, and among the guests were names of well established families who have done much to develop the districts of Trafalgar and Yarragon.

The club has endeavoured to change the guest list each year so that all the elderly people of the district eventually have the opportunity to attend.

19 DECEMBER – YOUNG JEFF WINS AT GOLF

Young Jeff Hasthorpe is certainly following in the footsteps of his father as a golfer.

(Doug has won the Trafalgar Club Championship on four or five occasions), and on Saturday last Jeff proved that he has the potential to take similar honours in the near future when he had his best round ever to score a 78 off the stick to win the stroke event with a net 59.

Jeff is still attending school and with years of golf ahead of him he is the club's up and coming star of the future.

[Ed. note: These predictions came true]

HOLIDAY FOR LEGACY CHILDREN

Once again, the Central Gippsland Group of Legacy is appealing to local and district residents to provide a holiday for 21 Legacy boys and girls from 4 January to 18 January.

Up to the present time 9 applications have been received which leaves 12 still to be placed. Their ages range from 9 to 15 years.

24 DECEMBER – NARRACAN FALLS RESERVE

Councillors at the last meeting of the Narracan Shire Council at Trafalgar decided to apply for a grant for the construction of new conveniences at the Narracan Falls Reserve.

Mr J. Auchterlonie (Narracan) said the present toilets are a shambles as all the palings have been torn off to make fires by persons using the Reserve.

TRAF NEWS, DECEMBER 2005

DECEMBER – SHOP IN TRAFALGAR

Sixteen businesses in Trafalgar have united to fight the problems associated with the high fuel prices. Each of the 16 businesses will issue vouchers to the value of four cents a litre once a customer reaches the minimum conditions.

But, unlike other such promotions at major supermarkets, the customer can combine vouchers from other stores to save as much as 60 cents (\$0.86 today) a litre.

This program is not new and was introduced to Trafalgar by Graham Davey after he saw the success of this in small towns such as Heyfield and Yarram.

MEET AND GREET MORNINGS

New and not so new residents are invited to drop into the Baw Baw Technology Centre in Trafalgar on Friday, 2 December for the first of the 'meet and greet' mornings.

John Ernst, Trafalgar's Community Development Officer said that it was important for all new residents in Trafalgar to feel welcomed, and it was the intention of the community to ensure that opportunities are made for this to happen.

PET PARADE

The Battle of Trafalgar's

Pet Parade was a huge success because of all the assistance received. All proceeds are to be donated to the Trafalgar Veterinary Centre's Native Animal Fund. The day made \$131 (\$189 today) for all our cute and furry wildlife. There were many pets of all shapes and sizes, species and breeds, and everyone who entered earned themselves a show bag full of goodies.

THORPDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Federal Member for McMillan Russell Broadbent MP, recently helped staff and students at Thorpdale Primary School unveil their new flagpole, funded by the Federal Government.

Mr Broadbent also donated a brand new Australian flag for the school staff and students to proudly fly on their new flag pole. Mr Broadbent said he believed every school should be able to fly the Australian flag.

SAINT JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

Life has been busy at St. Joseph's in the past month. Our Year Six children, as part of a special service program, have been involved in a variety of activities.

They have assisted in the church cleaning roster, carried out general maintenance tasks around the school, helped prepare for our school fete, and in the weeks ahead will be visiting the residents at Andrews House and singing for them.

ATM FOR YARRAGON

The Trafalgar and District Community Bank is thrilled to announce the forthcoming installation of a Bendigo Bank ATM in the Main Street of Yarragon.

It will be placed in Yarragon in the next few weeks, offering both locals and travellers access to their money 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

\$1,000 'HOLE IN ONE'

The Trafalgar Golf Club is offering a new initiative to members with every 'monthly medal' day giving a total of \$1,000 (\$1439 today) on offer for a "hole in one" on the day, with \$200 (\$288 today) on each of the 5 Pars 3's.

In addition, a Gold Putter is offered to all those who can ace one of the Par 3 holes on a medal day. All this has been made possible by the generous sponsorship from local businesses.



After The Voice the work begins

By Trevor Colvin

Traf District News spoke with Kurnai Elder Cheryl Drayton about where to from here now that some of the anguish from The Voice referendum is slowly abating.

TRAF DISTRICT NEWS:

'You stood very strongly for the 'No' side and got a lot of criticism from your own mob and others for recommending a no vote. We now know 61% of Australians agree with that stance, but that doesn't solve any problems. So where to from here?

CHERYL DRAYTON:

'First, we have to all settle down and get on with healing the division that this voice referendum created. We need to give everyone a clearer understanding of what it is like to be aboriginal, and we need to give aboriginal people a heightened sense of purpose and to raise self-esteem. We need to get some aboriginals off welfare and more responsible for their lives and we need to heal division, not create it.

There are plenty of aboriginal people working, but others are not working. I am working to bring about a cultural change and it will take time, but it can be done'.

TDN:

"Do we need a treaty as proposed by state and federal governments?"

CD:

'The government and the so-called power brokers who are associated with government, have decided to take this treaty on. And I don't advocate for a treaty per se because it's not inclusive of the whole of Victoria, it doesn't include the non-aboriginal people so again it could lead to more separation and division. Now if any treaty is needed we, the Aboriginal people, have to have a treaty with ourselves.

TDN:

'That is an interesting idea. Why do aboriginal people

need a treaty between themselves'?

CD:

'Since colonisation, aboriginal people have been moved off their mothers' and fathers' countries. In our culture, the country where you're born and the tribe you belong to is so important. We identify with every aspect of country, and we have had thousands and thousands of years to do that. We have real respect for the earth. She's a living energy.

To be forced to leave our districts was painful and it also meant that for that one hundred or so years we lost a lot of our stories. The elders couldn't pass on the knowledge to their country because they were no longer there. So, when we eventually came back, we had lost track of much of the sites and knowledge which is important to us. So, when I say we aboriginals need a treaty amongst ourselves I mean that we need to rediscover what we lost during that century of dispossession and regain our culture. And we need to reach agreement among ourselves on who we are and where we are going. Personally, I have never left country and I never will and I am incredibly grateful for that.

Some members of the white society are very dismissive of the fact that Aboriginal people can do good. Looking back through the historical records you find that we were touted as not having any knowledge, didn't know how to live right. But we had lived gently on this land for many many thousands of years. When the white people came they built their bark huts the same as we had. Bark huts are easy to build and when you are moving across country in pursuit of food you need to be able to house yourself simply. We walked across country getting the natural foods that are here, like the kangaroos, possums and emus and all those sorts of things, but when white people got here, all they knew about was what they

brought from England. Ours was a nomadic life where we followed the food sources. White people plopped and brought sheep and cattle and such. Neither side back then could understand the other.

TDN: 'Are there any people living naturally anymore?'

CD:

'No, because back in the 40s, everybody had to be on a mission and the opportunity to live naturally was lost.'

TDN:

'Let's talk about Welcome To Country and respect for country and what that means.'

CD:

I can't go down to Melbourne and talk about anything to do with Melbourne because it's inappropriate. So when I sit on government committees, when I have to speak about Gippsland, I say to them, I'm speaking about Gippsland. I don't have permission to speak about anything other than my term of reference to what we're here to discuss today. I cannot go down there and do any smoking ceremonies or any of that sort of stuff. The respect of who they are comes first and you have to be invited in. We

didn't have welcome to country ceremonies, but we didn't just barge in. We came to the edge of country and waited to be invited in. So, young men and women would do that and then take a partner from the other clan. They would elope because that is how our system of marriage worked and it kept the gene pool healthy.

As for acknowledging country, it's simple. The speaker gets up and welcomes you to the meeting and acknowledges whose country you're on. That's it. That should be it. You don't have to go on and on. And really, only aboriginal people should do welcome to country and it should be simple. People do get sick of overinflated ceremony.'

TDN:

'Back to what you are doing personally to make a difference.'

CD:

'The next thing really now is to actually capacity build aboriginal communities to understand government legislation and procedures, understand policy and programs, and understand that they have a voice. They already have a voice. I had my

first meeting with my community recently with the theme "How can we make it better for ourselves not to rely on the government." We will develop our own road map to teach our people more about their culture, much of which has been lost and to get off the welfare mentality.

Once we get this document together and we get everybody to sign it off as they acknowledge the work that's being done and have ownership of the information in it. We need to be actually involved in all aspects of life and not rely on government

too much. We will have come a long way when we achieve that.

The dust is settling after the voice and the work that needs to be done needs to be done at grass roots. We don't need aboriginal activists or white activists muddying the waters. Australian aboriginals need to understand and be very proud of their culture but also fit in because we are all one. We are one Australia, but we are many cultures of this country and we need to respect our differences and work together.



Kurnai Elder Cheryl Drayton

Traf District News Quiz with a \$30 IGA gift voucher for the first correct answer(s)

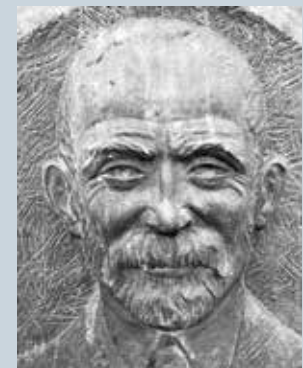
HE DRAINED THE SWAMP – CAN YOU NAME HIM?

This man was the engineer who really did drain the swamp which was way back in 1914. His work led to opening up the rich farmlands of Moe, Trafalgar and Yarragon.

Can you name him? Can you also tell us where a commemorative cairn is located?

Traf District News will open entries on December 15 and the first entry with correct answers to both questions, will receive a \$30 IGA voucher, just in time for Christmas.

Post entries to Traf District News, PO Box 25, Trafalgar 3824, or email to: publisher@trafnews.com with the subject title 'He Drained The Swamp'.



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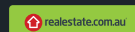


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Girls In Blue talk to potential recruits

By Trevor Colvin

Women play a vital role in policing in this state and the percentage of serving women in The Victoria Police Force is steadily on the rise.

How things have changed since Victoria's first female police officer - Madge Connor - signed up in 1917. Officer Connor was paid half the pay of a police-man, had no powers of arrest, or rights to a pension. Madge wasn't allowed to wear a uniform.

But Madge Connor was a fighter and along with other women who gradually joined the force, she fought for change and for recognition, making deputations to government to increase wages and conditions for police-women and they had some success. Connor was forced to retire in 1929 and became a private detective but not before she and her female colleagues had improved the lot of serving women.

Fast forward to today and women represent more than forty percent of serving police officers in Victoria and several of them spent a day

with Trafalgar and district secondary students showing how policing works and opening up the opportunity for more young women to join the force.

Policing now offers a career path and not just a job and there are opportunities to join specialist units, such as the Police Air Wing, Arson and Explosives Squad, Highway Patrol, Police Dog Squad and many more specialist po-

lice areas.

Young recruits are paid from day one when they enter 31 weeks of training at the Police Academy in Waverley and - unlike Madge Connor - they are entitled to all that the police force offers. Young women (and men) can apply from age 18.

Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) organised a day for the district's female

senior school students to meet with a team of police-woman from Warragul, Moe and Morwell General Ops units and the day was spent looking at what it means to be a policewoman and how to go about joining. More than forty young women and fifteen policewomen spent an enjoyable day together. While it was informative it was also fun.



Some of the policewomen and young students who had a fun day learning about serving in the police force.



Senior Constable Nicole Beams having fun with Jamie, Monica and Brianna.



LtoR: Jenni Graham (BLLLEN), Policewomen Paula Fowler, Steph Mills, Jess Smart and Debbie DeSisto (Community Bank Trafalgar & District).

Encore Retirement Living: Building Communities, Creating Lifestyles

By Debra Beary

BUILDING A COMMUNITY WITHIN A COMMUNITY

Is a move to a retirement community for you? Encore Retirement Living design and build communities to accommodate the needs of retirees in the Gippsland region.

Gippsland is a beautiful place to live and play!! Encore Retirement Living at Trafalgar and the upcoming Paynesville village are perfectly situated to take advantage of the best of regional lifestyle.

Both villages offer two or three bedroom villas, designed, and built to encourage independent living, while enhancing lifestyle, security, and freedom.

"We recognise everyone's circumstances are different and with this in mind we have developed a range of contract options so you can personalise your retirement lifestyle." Manager of Encore Trafalgar, Debra Beary says, "Rosa and I are committed to helping

people understand the legal, financial and service aspects of living in a village and answering any queries regarding retirement living."

OPEN PLAN HOMES WITH CHOICE

"Our homes are open plan and include key accessibility features of wider doorways & hallways and no steps." Debra adds. "Choice is a key factor when choosing a new home so you choose the design of home, personalise some of the internal design features so your new home suits your lifestyle now and in the future"

Located on the edge of the Trafalgar township, the village is an easy walk from local shops, medical services, and the Trafalgar station for those looking to venture further afield by train. Trafalgar is a vibrant town with plenty of options for keeping active and involved.

COMMUNITY CENTRE OPENING IN 2024

"Our whole purpose is to create a community of people who feel safe and supported whilst continuing to live independently in their own home." Debra says. "Construction is well underway on our much anticipated Community Centre, due for completion early in 2024." The Community Centre will include an indoor heated pool, fully equipped gym along with a library and craft/games room, lounge, dining, and kitchen areas to cater for a broad range of activities that enhance health and wellbeing. An undercover outdoor and BBQ area with fully landscaped surrounds will provide additional spaces for residents to enjoy.

Community connectivity is an important aspect of village life and being a community within a community, we encourage our residents to join local activity and sporting clubs alongside any activities the village has to offer. The Community Centre

will become the hub of the village and our residents can't wait to use the facilities!! But they are not hanging around waiting, there are regular outings to local restaurants, a trip to Gumbuya World and more recently Melbourne Cup celebrations. In addition, Happy Hour is a regular on the Friday night calendar and there is a craft group who meet weekly. The Social Committee of Robyn, Gloria, Nancy, and Trish are doing a great job coming up with ideas to keep residents involved.

Encore Retirement Living Trafalgar is a staged development with works on Stage 5 currently underway. Currently home to almost 70 residents, approximately 150 people will reside in the village once the 92 villa development is complete.

Open Days are a great opportunity to tour display villas and enjoy an informal chat with existing residents and the Encore team. Keep an eye on the website for 2024 dates.

NEW VILLAGE IN 2024

Ms Beary also mentioned that Encore Retirement Living will commence works on their next village at Paynesville in 2024. For those interested in retirement living in Paynesville, the Trafalgar village showcases the style of homes on offer and a preview of the lifestyle to be found by securing their new home in this beachside paradise.

For more information or to book your personal tour of Encore Trafalgar please contact Encore Retirement Living on 1800 362 673 (1800 ENCORE) or visit encoreliving.com.au.

THINGS GET SOCIAL AT ENCORE TRAFALGAR

If you haven't taken a trip to Gumbuya World in a while, it's a must do. Although the weather wasn't the best on the day of our visit, the hospitality more than made up for it. We enjoyed the morning tea and lunch provided and especially the time spent with the animals, finding

out about their habitats and what the like to eat, Some were cuddlier than others.

Melbourne Cup Day celebrations were in full swing across the state and Encore Trafalgar was right there. The theme for the day was Op Shop Chic and winner of Fashions on the Field was Mary Kylstra in a stunning hot pink ruffled number complete with long black gloves and feathered halo fascinator with a special mention to Larry Heenan. Judging and prizes were sponsored by Jenkins Home Hardware in Trafalgar. Margie Lane & Larry Heenan also took home the race day Cup so celebrations all round.

A big thank you to Sharyn for the use of her backyard and the Social Committee for their continued work behind the scenes and on the day.



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Third Traf Market draws a big crowd

By Trevor Colvin

The weather looked ominous as the stall-holders gathered in the early light but at opening time at 9 am the weather gods relented, and the day improved. And the people came, perhaps as many as 2,000 visited the more than fifty stall holders at the Croquet Club.

Market organiser Ric Nicolson explained 'I think the matter is that the town has always been crying for somewhere different to meet and to socialise other than the usual café's and pubs. There's a lot of people here who've been crying out for just such a meeting place. We've just provided the opportunity and it's worked really well so far.

"We're doing the first Saturday of the month, plus a twilight market the 22nd of December which starts at 4 pm and that means we won't have one in January. There will be plenty of Christmas goodies and cakes at the twilight market."

The market operates on the philosophy of no junk or car boot goods. Most of the stall holders make or bake or grow or sow the items they sell, so it is a genuine craft and farmer's market.

LIST OF STILLHOLDERS

- Annie's Knitwear
- Arancini 4 All
- Aroma Lee
- Baw Baw Shire Council
- Bella-Liscious
- Carrie Massage
- Colleen Plants
- D & E designs
- Downunder Mushroom
- Dream Organic Coffee
- Eddies Cider
- Eden Hill
- Ellinbank Wildflowers
- Folk Farmacy
- Forest Remedy
- Fran's Sweet Delights
- GI Essentials
- Gippsland Colloidal Silver
- Glass Roots
- GPC
- Handmade By Denni
- Harriet Herbery
- Himalayan Bliss
- Hughes's Nuts
- Kamie
- Kiki Coffee
- Leonie
- Little Aussie Tradies
- Little red Bucket
- Magic of Mushrooms
- Mill Grove Dairy
- Oma's Kitchen
- Our Soap Kitchen
- Postcode Hives
- Premium Nut Company
- Primal meats
- Queen Bee bags
- Reminiscence
- Rianha Blomeley Jeweller
- Rotary Club (sausage sizzle)
- Small batch Sweets'
- South Hill Seeds
- Splash of Colour
- SRC
- St. Fiacres
- Steel Sparking
- The Clover Project
- The Light Newspaper
- Tickle Pink
- Tonemade
- Un-be-weed-able
- Whimsical Craft
- Wild n Succulent
- Wild Yeast Bakery
- Wings To Sing
- Yummy Gozleme



Restaurant Reviews

By Trevor Colvin

Traf District News intends to publish two or three reviews of cafés, restaurants, and wineries in every issue. The venues we review may or may not be advertisers in this newspaper. Our aim is to give you an idea of what is available in Baw Baw Shire and perhaps beyond. The reviews will not be harsh or overly critical; we intend that they serve as a guide.

The evening was quick and efficient.

We shared a baked camembert entrée which was a very generous serve and perfectly baked for \$18 and followed with half a dozen oysters natural and half a dozen Kilpatrick, the latter served with chunky bacon in a bbq sauce and attractively presented on a bed of salt with rocket.

For mains we chose the lamb shank and a steak, both of which were very good. Both came on a bed of excellent mashed potato and greens.

Wines by the glass were well priced, starting at \$10 and food prices at Sampsons are very reasonable with starters ranging from \$15 to \$18, burgers from \$26 to \$32 and mains from \$32 to \$46.

Well worth a visit and it is advisable to book. Visit sampsonsbbqgrill.com.au



Brandy Creek Estate

(570 Buln Buln Road, Drouin East; Tel: 5625 4498)

This venue is well worth a visit for stunning views, excellent tapas style food with a difference and some wonderful estate grown wines. The restaurant itself is unusually decorated throughout with a Spanish theme and a lot of thought and effort has gone into the décor.

There are a number of dining room options and a wide range of wines for table or cellar door sales. The venue has a day spa with an extensive choice of relaxing

treatments. Brandy Creek Estate caters for group functions and social events.

We were a party of six and we chose one of the set menu tapas options at \$47.40 per head.

We were all delighted with the quality and the range of food which included:

Baked Turkish Roll with Home Made Dip, Spanish Dry Cured Ham, Patatas Bravas with Pimento Sauce, 'Calamares Ajo', calamari grilled & marinated with chili, paprika & garlic and a main of Crispy Free-range Chicken Thigh with Honey Chili dip,

Rocket Salad with Roasted Almonds, Sundried Tomato & Red Onion.

Wines were excellent and varied. We had a bottle of thirteen-year-old Pinot Gris and opened with their own bubbly 'Fiesta' an old and fruity Champagne-style wine. Prices for all wines were very reasonable. Bookings are a must and the countryside around the estate is truly delightful. Check out their website: brandycreekestate.com.au.

You can help us modernise the Traf District News Operating Systems – Our target is \$7,500

Traf News purchased state-of-the-art computer systems fifteen years ago which served the paper well, but those systems are now truly outdated and need to be replaced.

The paper now needs a Windows Server in order to run specialist newspaper advertising and production systems from Melbourne company Advanced Publishing Systems. The software itself is not expensive,

but it does need a decent server to run on and that does cost money as a one-off expense.

We are hoping to put the APS system in place in February/March but we simply don't have the money for the hardware. Can you help? Will you help?

Any amount will help us reach our \$7,500 target. If you would like to help, can the code below of type the URL into your browser. The GoFundme process is

quite simple and quick.

We appreciate your help in advance.

The team at Traf District News

<https://gofund.me/boc70e83>



gofundme

Traf Farmers Market

1st. Saturday each month—9am to 1pm

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Genuine produce and craft market with more than fifty stallholders, food and fun. Come and support your local community.

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Applications open 1 December 2023.

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bendigobank.com.au/scholarships

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Bendigo Bank

Community Bank Scholarships will be funded from management accounts of the Community Enterprise Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968 (the Fund). The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 AFSL 237906, a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL 237879, is the trustee of the Fund. OUT_32562674, 26/10/2023

Community Enterprise Foundation™

Welcome back to the
Traf News
AND
Merry Christmas
to all



Baw Baw Arts Alliance

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by local artists

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Artspace1, Trafalgar

Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 10:30am to 3:00pm
and Wednesday 10:30am to 12:30pm

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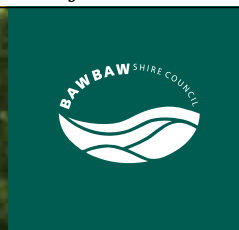
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COUNCIL News

MAYOR RE-ELECTED

Councillor Annemarie McCabe re-elected as Baw Baw Shire Mayor.

Baw Baw Shire Council has its first all-female leadership team since 2011, following the re-election of Cr Annemarie McCabe as Mayor alongside fellow West Ward Councillor Tricia Jones, who was elected as Deputy Mayor, at the Mayoral election on 14 November.

Cr McCabe said that she was looking forward to continuing to lead the Shire and advocate on behalf of its more than 60,000 residents.

"The Baw Baw Shire has seen some great outcomes over the past 12 months, and I look forward to working with the community to see what else we can do in the next year," Cr McCabe said.

"Advocacy and engagement are a growing priority for the Council, and the recent launch of Council's new online engagement platform Baw Baw Connect reinforces this."

Cr McCabe and Cr Jones will each serve a one-year term in their roles with the Victorian Council Elections to be held in October 2024.



FEEDBACK
OPEN NOW!

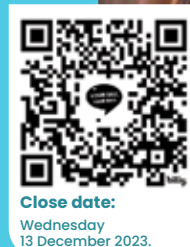
HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE FOR BAW BAW'S YOUNG PEOPLE.

Council's Youth Strategy aims to improve the experiences of young people living, working and visiting Baw Baw Shire.

Young people across Baw Baw Shire were consulted to help form the Draft Youth Strategy, and now is your final chance to have your say before it's finalised.

The draft strategy is now live on Baw Baw Connect and we want to hear more of your ideas before feedback closes on Wednesday 13 December 2023.

Jump online to www.bawbawconnect.com.au and use the ideas board to have your say.



Close date:
Wednesday
13 December 2023.



FEEDBACK
OPEN NOW!

TIME TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR SIX LOCAL PLAYGROUNDS!

Bellbird Park playground in Drouin, Toy Park in Longwarry and Apex Park in Trafalgar are just some of the playgrounds identified by Council for refurbishments as part of the latest Playground Renewal Program.

Council's Playground Renewal Program replaces worn equipment and provides a

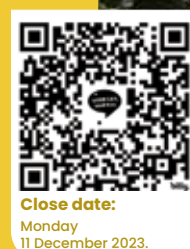
chance for the community to share their ideas on how it may be updated should budget allow.

The list of playgrounds up for renewal in 2023/24 are:

- Bellbird Park, Drouin
- Toy Park, Longwarry
- Downton Park, Yarragon
- Apex Park, Trafalgar

- Noojee Riverside Playground, Noojee
- Briona Court Playground, Trafalgar

Head to Baw Baw Connect today and have your say on these renewals before the consultation closes on 11 December 2023.



Close date:
Monday
11 December 2023.



Expressions of
Interest
NOW OPEN!

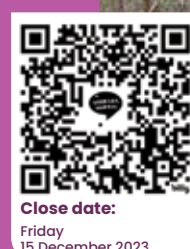
SUBMIT YOUR INTEREST TO JOIN A COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TODAY.

Two of Baw Baw Shire Council's advisory committees have vacancies, providing a wonderful chance for residents to influence Council decision making.

Expressions of Interest are now open to join the Environmental Voice Advisory

Committee, as well as the Place Names Advisory Committee.

For more information on these committees and to find out what your role could be, visit www.bawbawconnect.com.au today.



Close date:
Friday
15 December 2023.



BAW BAW
CONNECT.

YOUR SAY,
YOUR WAY.

Yarragon residents, it's time to have your say, your way.

Yarragon Master Plan.

The upcoming projects for Yarragon are:

- Rollo Street Master Plan
- Yarragon Streetscape Master Plan
- Loch Street Upgrade
- Campbell Street Upgrade
- Yarragon Train Station
- Yarragon and Trafalgar Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety Study – now live on Baw Baw Connect!
- Downton Park Pavilion

Yarragon is going through an exciting phase of growth and development, with seven key projects scheduled to roll out across the town.

These projects will feed into the Yarragon Master Plan, an overarching strategy and direction for the future of the township.

To help guide the formation and direction of the Master Plan Council will form a Yarragon Project Reference Group (PRG) and Expressions of Interest (Eoi) are now open to join.

This group will have a unique opportunity to inform Council decision making and have their say on the various projects popping up.

Residents have until Friday 15 December to submit their Eoi, which can be made via Baw Baw's online engagement platform, www.bawbawconnect.com.au

Submit your
Eoi before
15 December 2023!

What is the role of the Project Reference Group?

The Yarragon PRG will have local knowledge, individual skills and passion to help bring the projects for Yarragon to life.

Council wants members who will bring balanced feedback about the planning and implementation of the projects.

Council is keen to hear from a broad cross-section of the community including local business owners and traders, members of local sporting clubs and people new to the area.

The PRG will consist of 10 local representatives with Council officers and Councillors also involved.

When submitting an Eoi, community members must indicate their availability for a Tuesday or Thursday, with meetings to commence at 5.30 pm in Yarragon.

Further details, including a Terms of Reference for the PRG, can be found at www.bawbawconnect.com.au



Scan the code to visit
bawbawconnect.com.au

Orange Summer Ahead for Gippsland Sport

You play the way you train' is a common phrase in sport and Gippsland clubs are adopting a similar approach when it comes to fostering a culture of equality and respect.

More than 4,000 Gippslanders took a stand against family violence by participating in this year's Winter Orange Round, with 15 clubs across East Gippsland, Wellington, Latrobe, Baw Baw, and Bass Coast hosting 11 education sessions and 17 game day events between July 15-30.

Players and officials at participating soccer, tennis, netball, hockey, and Australian football clubs learned the pivotal role sports clubs can play in family violence prevention and demonstrated their commitment by wearing orange armbands on game day.

Expressions of interest are now open for Summer Orange Round and project partners GippSport, Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault (GCASA), and Gippsland Women's Health (GWH) are gearing up to deliver more education sessions and facilitate more conversations on game days across the region. GippSport Gender Equity Project Officer Kathleen Denny said the motivation for most clubs to host an Orange Round was to 'get everyone on the same page about gender equity' and 'to learn how their club can be more welcoming for women and girls'.

"The key outcome from the educational sessions has been an increased knowledge of Gippsland's family violence statistics and local support services," Denny said. "Participants have also gained confidence in understanding the relationship between gender equity and family violence and these positive outcomes are vital for our education and awareness campaign as police across Gippsland receive more callouts for family violence than the majority of Victoria."

Each Orange Round is tailored to meet individual club needs and support their progress toward gender equality.

Typically, an Orange Round comprises three components, an online information session for representatives from all Orange Round host clubs, an in-club education session and a game day event where players show their support by wearing or-

ange tape to champion the cause of preventing violence against women and girls. Conceived in 2015 for senior sports clubs,

Orange Round has evolved and with the support of funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria, a Junior Orange Round package is now available. This youth-focussed education session emphasises concepts like fairness, respect, and equality, using age-appropriate language and activities, tested with young people.

It aligns with the implementation of Child Safe Standards in clubs, and the associated resources ensure parents and coaches feel confident to continue these vital conversations at home and within the club. Summer Orange Round will run from November 25 to December 10, aligning with the United Nations' annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-

Based Violence campaign.

There is flexibility to accommodate alternative dates in December, February and March, as well as further training such as Active By-stander in Sport and gender audits.

Expressions of Interest are now being accepted via <https://wkf.ms/46z6vj5> for all sporting codes, and registration for the November 16 online information session is via <https://tinyurl.com/OnlineInfoOR>.

For more information, please contact GippSport's Gender Equity Project Officer, Kathleen Denny, at kathleen@gippsport.com.au or 0455 99 77 95.

If you, or someone you know, needs assistance: • In an emergency call 000. • 1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732 • Safe Steps: 1800 015 188. • Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault: 1800 806 292 or 5134 3922

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Office Location
65 Princes Highway, Trafalgar
Ph- (03) 5644 0000

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	bawbawartsalliance.org.au	0428 866 417
BawBaw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Darren Wallace	bawbawshire.com.au	0476 000 053
BawBaw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Michael Leany	bawbawshire.com.au	0476 000 119
BawBaw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Peter Kostos	bawbawshire.com.au	0438 570 304
BawBaw Sustainability Network	Malcolm McKelvie	bbsn.org.au	0490 485 370
Bettermentall Together	Kerry Rantall	Bettermentall@gmail.com	0477 115 666
Bowls Club	Ian Miles	trafalgarbowlsclub@bigpond.com	0400 210 033
Boxing Gymnasium	Shane Cameron	box_on_box_all@hotmail.com	0408 962 764
Campdraft	Cheryl	facebook.com/trafdraft	0416 166 027
Cemetery Trust	Howard Jones		5633 2282
CFA (non emergency contact)	District9 HQ	Mon-Fri 9am-5pm	5624 1900
Chamber of Commerce	Jade McGegor	facebook.com/visitttrafalgar.com.au	0421 467 270
Community Notice Board		facebook.com/trafalgarcommunitynoticeboard	
Cricket Club	Liam Durkin	trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com	0402 556 338
Croquet Club	Michael Fozzard		0418 513 092
Earls Rd Landcare Group	Jim Whiley		0423 832 122
Football Netball Club	Brett Tonkin	trafalgarnfc@gmail.com	0477 636 648
Golden Girls Trafalgar	Social Group		5623 6032
Golf Club		golf@trafalgargolf.com.au	5633 1110
High School			5633 1110
Historical Society	Dianne Ireland	historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com	0439 655 172
Kindergarten			5633 1233
Lions Club	David Koschade	trafalgarlions@gmail.com	0428 331 157
Mens Shed	Eric Johnson		56331566.00
Opp Shop	Glenys Brennan		0417 597 454
Police Station (non emergency conact)			5633 1188
Polocrosse Club	Gill Massey	trafalgarpoloxclub@gmail.com	0455 440 062
Pony Club	Denise Marriot		0411 890 299
Primary School		trafps.vic.edu.au	5633 1162
Probus Club	John Atwell		0419 701 331
Public Hall	Tanya Stanley	trafalgarpublichall@gmail.com	



Banding together - Morwell East FNC senior football captain Lucas Towns, Mirboo North FNC senior football captain Hudson Kerr, Latrobe Valley Umpires Association_s Ryan Bosch and GCASA Project Developer Kim Savage

Native forest timber industry in shock with only weeks to go before total closure

By Trevor Colvin

The State Government has reneged on previous agreements by forcing the industry to shut down by the end of this year, despite agreeing to let the industry run until 2030. The WA government is in lock-step.

First they came for the fishing industry. Australia is the world's largest island with 34,000 kilometres of coastline and more than 4,000 species of fish and yet we import 75% of our sea-food. Let that sink in.

The farming industry is under severe threat from impossible green overlays and mounting bureaucracy, incredible numbers of solar panels, wind turbines and transmission lines closing down productive farming land and a rising wall of unreasonable indigenous demands.

And now both Western Australia and Victoria's hard-

wood timber industries are being forced to close by the end of this year, despite both having agreements with their state governments that they would support logging until 2030. The industry accepted that date in good faith and mills and the harvesting and timber transport industries have spent millions of dollars in new equipment. Those industries are in shock.

The Andrews government assured the industry before the last election that it would support logging until 2030 and abruptly reneged on that agreement almost immediately after they won another term. There was no consultation. The same cruel blow was dealt by the McGowan government.

The McGowan government gallantly offered \$350M to develop the softwood industry. The Andrews government launched a fund to help the industry and the fund is

titled 'The Sawmill Voluntary Transition Package.' Voluntary? Really?

Good arguments can be made for phasing out the native forest hardwood industry but only if enough time is allowed to replace it with sufficient plantation hardwood and that is a sixty-year cycle. Close it down at the end of this year and that timber will be replaced from countries to our north - among others - who have far less stringent logging practices and are far less regulated and monitored. Harwood is already being brought in from overseas to fill the gap.

It is not as if this hasn't been discussed in full over successive governments. Federal Member for Monash, veteran politician Russell Broadbent announced in federal parliament; "This is a kick in the guts for regional Australia. This is a real kick in the guts for my community

and it's immoral". Broadbent said various federal governments have addressed the issue "We spent political blood and millions of dollars to get these regional forestry agreements up with the states and those agreements are now shattered."

Federal member for Gippsland Darren Chester announced in parliament; "It is dangerous to live around forests that are unmanaged. People and wildlife die in poorly managed forests and Victorian Premier Dan Andrews' plan to shutdown the native timber industry in 2024 is a plan to kill country towns, kill wildlife, and kill Australian jobs. It is a Dan-made disaster."

Recently Gippsland Water cancelled a longstanding agreement with the Country Fire Authority for forest management which leads to an increased risk of fire and this just as we enter an El Nino

dry weather period.

In WA, Shadow Minister for Forestry Steve Martin lambasted the government over the loss of yet another milling operation.

"Whiteland Milling is the third timber mill to close within the last month as a direct result of the McGowan Labor Government's attack on regional jobs. Thanks to Labor's unscientific and cynical decision to shut down a sustainable regional Western Australian industry, dozens of workers in Busselton are now looking for a job".

Mills in WA have advised that they can't get logs even though the government suggests there is no issue. At the coalface it is a different story, with mills unable to source logs which essentially means the industry is shutting down well ahead of the January 1 deadline.

WA Forestry Industry Association CEO Adele Farina

said that five months from the cut-off the government contacted mills across southern WA and advised them that no more logs were available and any statement to the contrary by the government is a blatant lie.

To add insult to injury, logs selected for logging are being selected for firewood according to WA's Forest Industry Association.

Perhaps the final word goes to WA forestry consultant John Clark who said he has seen clear evidence that sawmill-quality timber was still being harvested but it was not going to mills and instead was being stockpiled for firewood. "One of my suspicions is that the minister, The Honourable Jackie Jarvis, is really concerned there will be firewood shortages next year."

Make sense of it if you can.

A gentler way to say farewell a loved one

Jenny Briscoe-Hough decided after caring for her mother with her family at her end of life and then receiving a considerable bill, that there had to be a better way. So Tender Funerals Illawarra was born in the town of Port Kembla.

Some years later the second location of Tender Funerals was opened up in the town of Wauchope in NSW and it has been in operation since January 2022. Tender Funerals is a social franchise that only operates in areas where it is requested. It truly is a community driven project. There are now 12 other Tender Funerals around the country in various stages of establishment and the two operational sites.

Tender Funerals is a community operated not-for-profit funeral service that ensures everyone is able to access personalised, meaningful and affordable funerals.

Tender Funerals also provide community education and empowerment around death and dying.

The range of services include funeral and celebration arrangements and body

disposal options – many of which are based on sustainable principles – which enable families to have a much greater say in how their loved one is treated after death. We encourage practices that promote healing for the bereaved.

Families are not left with large debt and relationships throughout the process are managed with care and sensitivity.

Tender Funerals Gippsland was first considered in January this year and has a working group and board and became incorporated in March.

While not yet operational, Tender Funerals Gippsland is actively seeking funding through grants and assessing appropriate properties for lease.

Fundraising to date has been at the Newborough Pub through their meat raffle. A stunning High Tea was conducted at the Narracan Hall. There was an awareness and fund-raising stall at the referendum and a trivia night at the Yallourn Golf Club. Bun-nings fund raising sausage sizzles are coming up. Anyone who can roll a sausage is

most welcome to attend and help us out for those days!

Volunteers are reaching out from all over and once we get a property organised, there will be plenty of positions requiring volunteer support. Volunteering can come in many forms. You may help families prepare their people for their service, you could jump into the admin team, social media is a big job to be shared, you may want to join the sewing group and help to make shrouds for the deceased and memory bears and cuddle cushions for the bereft.

There truly are many ways that any person can help within a Tender community.

If you would like to help Tender Funerals Gippsland become established, the contact details are below and there is also a link to a worthwhile thirty-minute video.

gippsland@tenderfunerals.com.au
Ph: (+61)414940711

<https://tenderfunerals.com.au/gippsland>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-06-16/a-community-undertaking/139329294>

We Wish you all a Happy and Safe Christmas



See our latest catalogue for great gift details for The Most Wonderful Sale of The Year On Sale 7 Dec. to 24 Dec.



75 Princes Highway, Trafalgar
Phone: 5633 1155

Happenings in Yarragon

We thank the editors of Yarragon Community Newsletter for material published in this page. Traf District News intends to run a Yarragon page every month and welcomes local material. Send to articles@trafnews.com.au.

WALKING GROUP

Meets at the rotunda every Tuesday and Thursday at 9.30am for a lovely social walk followed by morning tea at one of our cafes. Everyone welcome.

GARDEN GROUP

Wednesdays from 10 (or 10:30) until lunch time. Share your knowledge and learn from other gardeners in the backyard of the Uniting Church, Campbell St.

CRAFT GROUP

Thursday 1pm craft group meets at the room behind Fozigobble café, bring along your works in progress, everyone welcome.

CFA OCTOBER FIRES

By Colin Lackman, Yarragon Fire Brigade, 3rd Lieutenant and Brigade Health Safety Officer.

The first week of October was unusually busy for the brigade. It started with a call-out for our tanker at about 5am on Sunday the 1st to be part of a fleet of 20 tankers heading for Erica where a fire was burning out of control in heavy bush and heading towards Walhalla. Our task on that day was to protect the Walhalla tourist railway station which was under threat. We returned home from that job at about 6pm as the station was no longer under threat. The following day should have been a quiet day, but we knew there were three fires still burning in East Gippsland. Sure enough, we received a page at about 6pm to meet in Warragul ASAP to catch a bus to Sale to assist at the Loch Sport fire. Three of us answered the call and were soon on the way to Sale along with about 20 other people to pick up the fire trucks we were to use at Loch Sport. Another 5 vehicles were going to meet us there to help protect the town. We made it to Loch Sport but unfortunately, the only road in and out of town was closed before the other team could get through.

We were alone to defend the town, but fortunately had a good team of 4WDs manned

by Forest Fire Management staff, who were actively fighting the fire in the scrub.

In order to protect the assets and people in the town, we set up defensive positions around the town and along the golf course waiting for the fire to reach us. Strong winds were fanning the fire and predicted wind changes during the night were expected to pose an even greater threat to the town. We patrolled all night and it was not until mid-day that the road was reopened and our replacements could get through. By this time the fire had reached the edge of town and some of our very weary team were kept busy maintaining a control line outside the edge of town.

Just as our replacement crews arrived, so did some most welcome rain, which helped to slow the fire's progress. In the meantime, another three of Yarragon's Fire Brigade members had been called out to help for a day on the Briagolong fire, which had also been experiencing the same strong winds that we had at Loch Sport. I am pleased to say that all of our members are safely back home, although some were feeling very tired after being on the fireground for an extended period.

It's most unusual to have three very large fires break out at this time of year, and is perhaps a warning of what the rest of the summer may bring. It's also worth noting that each of these fires was started by a campfire or burnoff which the owners had thought were out. When you leave a fire, it is important that the ashes are cold to touch, don't rely on not seeing any smoke or embers. It is also worth noting, that even after more than 100mm of rain, all three fires were still burning.

Quote from Baw Baw Shire Council Media Release: "Victoria is one of the most bush-fire-prone areas in the world so it's vital to plan ahead.

Make sure your household has a Bushfire Survival Plan. We have lots of great resources available for residents at the CFA website.

For those who would like to get involved more directly and help the CFA, our brigades are recruiting now. If you would like to give us a hand, we would love to hear from you." CFA District 9 Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer Emma Conway

LIONS CLUB NEWS

By Alison and Glenn Butterworth

At our October meeting we were pleased to host a visit from Colin Blyth, 2nd Lions District Governor, his wife Nina, and David Koschade, Zone 6 District Governor.

EV CHARGING STATION

By Peter Kingwill

Yarragon's First Public Electric Vehicle Charger In the very near future a new Electric Vehicle charging station will be installed in front of the Yarragon Uniting Church.

This project is being facilitated by the Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN), funded by AGL and supported by the Uniting Church. The charging station will enable locals and visitors to Yarragon to top up their EV while enjoying the town's facilities. This initiative is another step in the Yarragon Uniting Church's journey to achieving carbon neutral status. GCCN has also helped us install solar panels which will help offset the energy used in the Church and hall along with offsetting the energy to charge EVs.

Other improvements already implemented include removal of gas heaters/appliances in the Church hall, installing energy efficient appliances, and draft-proofing the hall thanks to the Baw Baw Sustainability Network. Be ready to plug in!

Regular Events

MONDAY MOBILE LIBRARY

2:30—5:30pm Yarragon Hall carpark

FIRE BRIGADE

7:30pm at fire station, 1A Murray St. Captain Ashley Smith 0427 274 666 yarragonfb@gmail.com

BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Last Monday of month. Venue varies; ph 0418 513 092

TUESDAY CRAFT GROUP

9:30am—12:30pm Uniting Church Hall, Campbell St. Join us for craft and laughs.

YDCA TBA, CFA

meeting room Secretary Richard Polmear 0407 347 545

WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

10:00am or 10:30am to lunch time at the backyard of the Uniting Church, Campbell St. Share your knowledge and learn from other gardeners.

PLAYGROUP

9:30—11:30am at Yarragon Hall, Campbell St. \$5 per family and bring fruit to share Ph Jen: 0413 666 245

LIONS CLUB

2nd & 4th Wed at St Jarlath's Catholic Hall in Rollo St. President Bill Cropley 0448 361 213. Secretary Allan Logan 0435 576 100 LIONS on MANE op shop Wed to Sun 10:30am to 2:30pm.

LIONS GARAGE SALE

Hann's Lane Every 4th Saturday, often more.

LEARN TO TANGO

No partner or experience necessary. 7-8:30pm Uniting Church Hall

THURSDAY BOWLS CLUB

Shady Creek Rd Ph: 0490 831 283 October to April, social game night 1st & 3rd Thursdays followed by a meal. Meal orders must be placed by 5:30pm on the Tues prior.

SATURDAY CRAFT & PRODUCE MARKET

4th Saturday, 9:00am—1:00pm Yarragon Public Hall Campbell St

SILKROAD COMMUNITY TRAFALGAR FARMERS MARKET

First Saturday of Every Month, 9:00am—1:00pm Trafalgar Croquet Club, 25 Ashby St, Trafalgar

MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK BAW BAW ARTS ALLIANCE

Station Gallery, Princes Highway. Ph: 0490 173 103 Open Wednesday to Sunday 10:30am—4:00pm for

EXHIBITIONS, GALLERY & SALES.

Classes with Tutors – apply at Station Weekly drop-in sessions at Trafalgar Station Monday / Painting Group. Tuesday/MmaD Group (mixed media) Wednesday am/Clay group, Wednesday pm / Just drawing, Thursday/ Mosaic group. Friday/Fibres group

ART UPDATE

For most people December is the busiest month of the year and this is no different for members of the Baw

Baw Alliance. Put the date of Monday, December 11 in your calendar when 'Art Down the Line' takes place.

The brainchild of Anita George, painter, calligrapher and former president of the Arts Alliance, this is a chance to watch a fun, multimedia event based on the concept of an old style progressive dinner. Artists will start at Trafalgar Artspace in the former Trafalgar Railway Station precinct, sample, layer, play and paint then move on to Yarragon for lunch. At the park adjoining the Warragul Railway Station Artists will do more painting, stitching, sketching while you watch.

The event is free at the railway stations and commences at 10.00am. For more information see <https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au/>

The next date that is a must in one's is the Warragul Arts Market in Civic Place Warragul on Saturday, December 16 from 8.30am to 1.00pm. With more than 50 stalls operated by Artists there is a huge range of quality, locally produced creative work available for you to purchase in time for Christmas. Also during the month of December at 'The Station Gallery', Yarragon are two very different exhibitions. The larger gallery space will be hung with Art produced from recycled materials and objects. Expect Artworks from diverse materials such as clothing, rusty wire, tea-bags, plastic containers. Artists are only limited by their imagination. In the smaller gallery space known as 'The Wall', Artists, Jeff Thege and Dale Plew, are exhibiting their stunning black and white drawings under the title of 'Definitely This Time'. The exhibition has been long in the planning because both Artists have had to overcome serious hand injuries and worked extremely hard to produce time-consuming

and intricate works of Art.

A little known venture for the Arts Alliance is the relationship with 'Through Life Physiotherapists', 100 Brandy Creek Road, Warragul, whose business has gallery space where Arts Alliance Artists exhibit their work throughout the year. Members of the public are welcome to visit the gallery and its regular displays. On display during December, 2023 and January, 2024 are the works of Calligrapher and painter, Anita George, and painter, Ingrid Thomas.

The Baw Baw Arts Alliance is an energetic, not for profit organisation of artists and those interested in the arts. It is the Alliance that runs the Warragul Arts Market during the warmer months.

With more than 50 stalls operated by Artists there is a huge range of quality, locally produced creative work available for you to purchase. One such Artist is Darren Crouch of <https://www.beyondenc.com.au/> who creates exciting, high quality metal Art in Warragul. Like all the stallholders at the Arts Market Darren is enthusiastic and informative about his art. Yarragon.

The Alliance is well known for its support of Visual Artists but not so well known is its support of other creative forms. The website of the Alliance is now hosting a new initiative called 'Catchment – Poetry of Place' where poets are invited to contribute work focusing on locations in Australia and overseas. This initiative has largely been the work of poet Rodney Williams who conducts the 'Time to Write' drop in group at Artspace 1 in Trafalgar Railway Station each Wednesday at 10.30am. for more information on 'Catchment' see <https://bawbawartsalliance.org.au/newcms52/Catchment>



The fight to save the native timber industry

By By Renee Heath MP

In June this year, I said I feared that the State Government's talk of transition for the native timber industry would be as empty as it was for Latrobe Valley's power industry. Sadly, that seems to have become a reality.

Timber communities that were left blindsided by Labor's choice to fast-track the ban by six years now feel like they have been hung out to dry.

Nearly five months since the shock announcement, I've been in contact with timber workers who still haven't heard a word from the Government. They've been given no indication of what genuine assistance is on offer or where to find this information.

The silence is deafening; entire towns are being destroyed so that a political party can score preferences from inner-city activists.

While the Gippsland Region will never forget the sustained campaign of attacks from former Premier Daniel Andrews, I hope that Premier Jacinta Allan can put aside her predecessor's ideological games and stand up for the regions she hails from by reversing the native timber ban.

I hope that Jacinta Allan will be open to hearing the facts. Like how native timber

logging is entirely renewable.

For eight years, Victoria's native timber industry was demonised and its workers were shamed. The facts about the timber industry's sustainability and environmental importance were drowned out by inner-city activists and eco-warriors who were more interested in emotion and headlines. These people never let the truth get in the way of a good story.

The Victorian native timber industry undergoes some of the world's most rigorous and strict regulations. 94% of public native forest estate is locked up in parks, reserves and water catchments. Of the remaining 6% available for timber production, just 0.3% of that area is harvested each year. That is about four out of every 10,000 trees, and they are replanted.

Before harvesting, forests are subject to pre-harvesting surveys to identify the presence of threatened species, both flora and fauna, and if they are found, these areas are restricted from harvesting. There has not been one species of animal that has become extinct because of timber harvesting in Victoria.

The consequences of this ban are devastating. Entire communities could become ghost towns. Almost 25% of all jobs in Orbost are direct

full-time employees of the timber industry. 40% of the town's jobs are dependent on the timber industry. The town's economy will be ruined.

But Labor's political elites have been unwilling to look beyond the emotional narratives of inner-city activists. They have not considered the impacts beyond the tram tracks. They have forgotten that if they destroy an industry, they destroy the communities that rely on it.

They have even ignored the environmental evidence supporting the industry. A ban on Victoria's native timber industry will see the departure of crucial manpower and machinery used during bushfire responses each fire season. It will lead to Victorians having no choice but to import timber from unsustainable and unregulated sources like South-East Asia and Africa.

Victoria's native timber industry is sustainable, it built our state, and the Government's shutdown will see the Gippsland Region suffer for the sake of keeping activists happy. Alongside your local Liberal MP Wayne Farnham, I will continue to fight to reverse this shameful shutdown before it's too late.



Melina BATH MP
THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

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Farmers and rural property owners are asked to help determine koala numbers and health

By Trevor Colvin and Kelly Smith

Kelly Smith from Federation University is needing people to help find koala scats, particularly on private property which researchers are not usually able to access. And it is important.

There are two distinct koala populations in Victoria. One is the Strzelecki koala of South Gippsland and the other being koalas translocated from Victorian island populations throughout Victoria.

The Strzelecki koala – which is quite rare compared to the translocated variety - consist of the original diverse gene pool, whereas the translocated populations have gone through a genetic change, resulting in much lower genetic diversity.

The Strzelecki koalas, therefore, are crucial to the animal's future.

Kelly is running group volunteering sessions in large reserves but many koalas live on private properties which she is not normally able to access.

If you have seen or heard koalas on your property, get in touch with Kelly so that she can collect the scats.

If you would like to collect the scats yourself it is very easy and instructions on how to do that appear later in this article.

The purpose of this project is to design and deliver a koala population survey that will provide a more accurate estimate of koala abundance, genetic diversity (including the extent of the remnant South Gippsland population) and general health status across Victoria.

The resulting survey data will inform management of the species in Victoria and assist in the implementation of the new Victorian Koala Management Strategy (VKMS).

The survey data will also be used to update the national estimate of koala abundance through the National Koala Monitoring Program

(NKMP) being delivered by the CSIRO. This research is the first of its kind in Victoria and a very exciting and important step in the right direction towards understanding Victoria's koala population.

Many institutions are involved in this project including the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, Deakin University, Federation University, Melbourne University and the University of Queensland.

Volunteers can contribute by collecting koala scats which will be sent to Federation University, where the DNA on the surface of the scat will be analysed to find out genetic information such as sex and disease status.

The DNA from the scats will also inform researchers of the koalas ancestral and genetic origins. In other words, where did the ancestors of this koala originate? Were they originally

translocated from another population with less genetic diversity or are they part of the special South Gippsland Strzelecki 'remnant' genome? It is important that we understand all of this, in order to provide the koalas with a better management plan.

Citizen scientists can cover larger areas in a shorter amount of time compared

to just using a few dedicated field staff.

Group volunteering scat collection sessions for this project will run across Gippsland on most weekends between October 2023 and the end of March 2024.

There is only a very short time period for scat collection. This is the one opportunity to get as many people involved in this project and get a true understanding of our most iconic native species to protect it for future generations.

Here is how to collect and store the scats. Simply pick up 6-8 scats using a toothpick. Place them upright into something like foam, polystyrene or blue tack for a couple of days to dry. Once dry, place them all into a small vitamin bottle or similar, packed down with paper, so they don't roll, and place a desiccant sachet on top to absorb moisture

Send to Kelly Smith at Parcel Collect 10284 75015, Dromana Post Office, Shop 8, 251 Point Nepean Road, Dromana, Vic, 3936. Please note, scats need to be fresh. They will be a green olive to black brown colour when fresh, with a shiny coat.

If you would like to be involved or have any questions, email Kelly Smith at kellyj.smith@federation.edu.au



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Bettermentall Mental Health

By Noel C Blundell

Recent studies conducted across the Western world have found that men who receive help to reduce their ideation with self-harming, through the provision of practical help with issues such as, managing crisis, talking through issues of desperation, feelings of hopelessness, and affirming their obligations to their children and families, can reduce issues with depression, anxiety, self-harm, and promote better mental health.

Furthermore, men cope with psychological suffering differently to women. Often this is reflected in inappropriate masculine behaviours such as, drug and alcohol abuse to numb distress, ignoring negative emotions, and engaging in high-risk behaviours. All the behaviours mentioned have the ability to

promote and worsen issues of depression and anxiety, which leads to poor mental health in men.

Recovery and healing starts from the first step. Bettermentall Together Health and Wellbeing service provides a safe environment for starting out on a journey to a new life, through providing a safe environment, and a helping hand, to make that new beginning a reality. Often those effected by issues of poor mental health, are left to deal with their situation themselves. This ultimately results in unnecessary family breakdown, hospitalisations, police involvement, and in worse case scenarios suicide.

Trafalgar locals, Jason and Kerry founded the Bettermentall Together health services in response to their own lived experience of deal-

ing with issues of mental health. Jason and Kerry were disheartened by the inadequate regional mental health services. The lack of available services for those suffering the ill effects of mental illness were insufficient, and often lead to further hardship for sufferers and their families.

Through a combination of lived experience and professional services, Bettermentall aims to encourage people to speak more freely about their challenges with mental illness, and the struggles they endure. Bettermentall staff encourage individuals to get the help they require to start their journey to wellness, and to treat their illness the same as any physical illness that can be addressed and managed to acceptable levels. Bettermentall works tirelessly to breakdown stig-

ma attached to mental illness and empower people to get out of their limiting beliefs and find inner peace and self-worth.

Bettermentall has become an iconic part of the Trafalgar's community landscape, and has been for the past three years. Originally beginning at the shopfront location in Contingent Street Trafalgar, then moving to the church hall at 36 Contingent Street Trafalgar, making this location their permanent home. Bettermentall has run a Men's Health support group every Thursday between 10.00am to 12.00pm. This service provides a safe friendly environment for men to sit, have a coffee and chat about all things. Supports include; peer support services, N.D.I.S. support services, material aid, food aid supplied by Baw Baw

Food Relief, and referral service to others specialised services across the region. Bettermentall is broadening its scope to include Youth, through the provision of a Youth program held at the Contingent Street hall on Tuesday afternoons 3.30pm to 4.30 pm through school terms, along with community programs aimed at whole families, which includes one-on-one coaching, Root cause therapy, mediation workshops, Breathwork sessions, and assorted group activities, and outings designed to assist people to achieve calm states of wellbeing.

Each year Bettermentall holds their hugely successful Christmas Gifts for families experiencing hardship. In 2022 more than 100 children received gifts from Santa along with generous food hampers from Bettermen-

tall, ensuring no child in the community went without. Bettermentall will be conducting the Christmas drive again this year, and welcome donations of new items or store bought Gift vouchers suited for children and young people between the ages of 0 to 16 years. All items can be dropped into the church hall at 36 Contingent Street Trafalgar during open times.

Bettermentall is dedicated to assisting and supporting anyone who is finding it hard to take that first step on the road to recovery. Bettermentall is a privately operated community service and depends solely on donations for its survival. We can be found at Bettermentall.com.au or on Facebook and all are welcome.

Farmer to farmer

SIXTY METRE TALL TRANSMISSION PYLONS ACROSS YOUR FARM ARE VISUALLY ACCEPTABLE BUT YOUR PADDOCK IS NOT, BECAUSE THE PASTURE IS TOO TALL.

That is not as silly as it might sound. South Gippsland Council is planning new by-laws and controls which mean the scenario above could be accurate. Ludicrous yes, but possible none-the-less.

There is no suggestion that similar by-laws are planned for our district, but it can't be ruled out and while South Gippsland Council may be well intentioned, the truth is that if these proposed by-laws become law, they could be misused.

The purpose of this article is to suggest that we all have a responsibility to ensure that such by-laws are crafted accurately and precisely so that they can't be misinterpreted.

In defence of law and order, we must have rules, or

chaos could ensue and we must have a bureaucracy to manage those rules. We are not suggesting that there is not merit in what South Gippsland Shire is proposing, but we are suggesting that it appears to be full of inconsistencies.

Following are some examples and in the next issue of Traf District News we will provide a more extensive update.

Under section dealing with private property condition (2) (d) says 'excessive vegetation, including grass exceeding 300 mm in height.'

They are probably referring to town properties and not farms, but it doesn't say that. It doesn't specifically exclude a hay paddock; and perhaps it should.

Here is another. 'conditions conducive to harbouring or breeding vermin'

Would that include mice? And if it does, is your hayshed likely to draw attention

from council officers?

'Without a permit a person must not use, or allow to be used any road or municipal place for the purposes of an outdoor eating facility.

Does that threaten the family picnic?

'Without a permit a person must not sell or offer for sale any goods from any private property or municipal place adjacent to a road'

So, does that mean your daughter can't earn some pocket money by selling eggs at the farm gate?

Again, let us state that these by-laws may be well intentioned and there may be sound reasons for introducing them, but sometimes that is not immediately apparent. Example:

'Without a permit, a person must not conduct, or allow filming for commercial purposes on a road, or on any municipal place.'

Does that mean that this newspaper can't attend a roadside accident and take

photographs, or take photographs at a public park without first obtaining a permit? And how long would that take and how much would that permit cost? Does 'filming' also mean 'photographs' and is a free newspaper such as Traf District News considered commercial, because it certainly contains paid advertising. And we have to ask, what occurred in South

Gippsland that had this particular by-law even make it to the draft proposal?

We reiterate that it is important that when such by-laws are proposed that a lot of thought goes into them by those proposing them – and that seems to be lacking in some instances in the South Gippsland Draft – and a reminder that we all have a responsibility to ensure pre-

cision and clarity.

It would be very strange if one arm of government can determine that massive transmission towers are visually acceptable and another arm of government determine that your farmhouse needs a coat of paint. More to come in our February issue.



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The new cricket season is well underway

By Liam Durkin

Trafalgar Cricket Club has enjoyed a strong start to the 2023/24 season, with its senior and junior grades taking to the park.

The Ships moved back to the Warragul District Cricket Association this season for

the first time since 2010.

Members votes in favour of affiliating with WDCA, and moving out of the Latrobe Valley-based league, with the pending amalgamation of the Latrobe Valley league and Traralgon District Cricket Association meaning Trafal-

gar would be burdened by increased travel.

Playing conditions within the WDCA were also seen as more suited to Trafalgar's demographics, as well as increased opportunity to play first grade matches at Trafalgar Recreation Reserve.

Under a mandate in the previous league, first grade matches had to be played on turf wickets. Trafalgar, which currently only has synthetic, was therefore forced to play away games for the best part of five years.

It is estimated the club lost \$4000 a season for five years in bar sales while this set of arrangements were in place.

Since moving back to the WDCA, the Ships have enjoyed the opportunity to play more first grade games at home, with healthy crowds coming along to watch.

The firsts won both their two day games of the season, following some lottery-type one day matches.

English recruit Sam Sharp started the longer format with back-to-back four wick-

et hauls, as Trafalgar defeated Buln Buln and Garfield-Tynong respectively.

His countryman mate Leo Sanczuk has also settled into Traf conditions, getting a few runs away (48 against Buln Buln) while also being very tidy behind the stumps as the team's wicket-keeper.

Sanczuk took a blinding one handed diving catch in front of first slip against Garfield-Tynong - one of the best catches seen at Trafalgar for many-a-year.

The Ships have also had new recruit Josh Campbell come across from Caulfield, and he has given skipper Aydan Connolly another option with the new ball.

Billy Claridge scored his maiden A Grade half-century against Buln Buln, in an innings that saw some of the most carefree slogging of all time.

The match against Jindivick saw a huge highlight (and lowlight) as Liam White and

Rhys Holdsworth both made centuries on the same day - only to later lose the match in the last over in scarcely believable circumstances.

Cooper Burgess and Brendan Dawson (who recently played his 200th game), have been leading the Second XI, and doing a sterling job at that.

The team easily won its first two-day game of the season against Garfield-Tynong, in a match that saw Rhain Ross top-score with 69.

The Hennessy brothers Olly and Louie have been getting wickets, and enjoying some quality time at the crease.

Brent Claridge had the Third XI rocking during November, getting a number of wins on the board.

The skipper survived heart attacks across consecutive weeks, with games coming down to the last and second-last over.

Young Liam Smith steered

the winnings runs home against Drouin off the last ball, while cult hero Shane Lanham did similar against Western Park.

Junior cricket is also in full swing.

This season, there has been a slight change to the age groups, with Trafalgar fielding an under 13s, under 15s and a combined under 17s team with Drouin.

The club is also running Woolworth's Blasters for kids wanting to learn the basics of cricket on a Tuesday night at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve.

Trafalgar Cricket Club welcomes new players and members.

For more information, email trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com, or phone secretary Liam Durkin on 0402 556 338.

The club website also has all the information you need: <https://trafalgarcricketclub.com.au/>



Trafalgar cricketers Rhys Holdsworth and Liam White after each scoring centuries on the same day.

Traf District News Reader Survey

For the past six weeks, while we have been getting this relaunched issue together, we have been asking local people to physically fill in a questionnaire on what they would like to read in a community newspaper. We want to deliver a newspaper that you want to read and so we will extend this survey beyond the fifty or so people who have completed it so far.

But some clear preferences seem to be occurring already.

Below are the topics our respondents chose and the importance they gave to them.

• Community Notice Board	59%
• Public Notices	89%
• Markets	83%
• Restaurants and Dining	78%
• History/Historical Content	74%
• Health and Wellbeing	74%
• Council News	74%
• Police and Policing	70%
• Holidays and Travel	70%
• Social Club News	61%
• Opinion pieces	59%
• Gardening	59%
• Yarragon News/Events	54%
• Art/Culture/Museums	54%

We acknowledge that the survey numbers are small but we will give you the chance in the February issue and via our website to have your say.

If we can collect 250 or 500 or more responses, we will have some meaningful data with which to design the content of Traf District News around what our readers tell us they want.

Stars align for VNL squad

By Zaida Glibanovic

The newly-formed Victorian Netball League club - Gippsland Stars - has announced the key players who will lead them into season 2024.

After a successful try-out period a 15-player squad was selected for the 23 and Under VNL Team, and a further 15 young athletes were selected for the Stars Pathway team that would compete in the State Super Netball series.

The renowned successful Sale Football Netball Coach, Jo Ballinger has taken the head coach role.

"A prominent Gippsland local Jo needs no introduction to the Gippsland netball community," a Gippsland Stars spokesperson said.

"She is the current Gippsland Sports Academy Netball coach and also has coaching roles with the Gippsland League representative sides and as A Grade and Junior coach at Sale Football Netball Club."

A wealth of VNL experience in her assistant coaching role with Hawks, Ballinger will be a key to starting up the Stars netball program.

"I feel honoured and privileged to lead the Gippsland Stars in the programs first season of VNL," Ballinger said.

"This is such a fantastic opportunity for me and for the athletes in our region to showcase our talents on a larger scale and inspire others Gippslanders to play or coach at a higher level.

"To say I'm excited is an understatement and I can't wait to get to work with the rest of our amazing team and contribute to further growth on netball in Gippsland."

Ballinger will be joined by another local legend Stacie Gardiner who will take on the roles as assistant coach.

Gardiner has had an extensive career as a VNL Championship player at the Peninsula Waves. The experienced goal attack has a career highlight reel like no other and will be a key to nurturing the success of the team.

Her VNL experience with elite programs and her ability to work with our players will be vital to the Stars program in 2024.

She has coach strong coaching background as a premiership coach in the Gippsland League with Dr-

ouin Netball Club and was named the Gippsland League A Grade coach of the year in 2023.

Gardiner has also coached and managed Open teams in the Victorian Community Championships and a number of Open level programs.

"Bringing VNL to Gippsland provides all aspiring netballers the opportunity to be apart of a high-performance netball program," Gardiner said.

"This is a chance to challenge, learn and build a brand that is the Gippsland Stars. As a proud Gippslander I'm so honoured to be appointed assistant coach and work along side Head coach, Jo Ballinger.

"The opportunity to be apart of the Gippsland Stars is exciting and I can't wait to get started."

The Stars have got off to a flying start, signing their first ever players.

Anna Solomon has made history to be the Gippsland Stars' first ever player signing.

The athletic Morwell FNC defender made waves in the Gippsland League last season.

One of the Tigers' best in the Gippsland League A Grade Grand Final and experienced in VNL with Casey's Under 19s extended squad, Solomon will be a great addition to the side.

Drouin's Lucy McKellar will join Solomon in the ring. Another proven VNL athlete, McKellar was in the Hawks Under 19 VNL squad, brining her experience to the side.

Hailing all the way from Bairnsdale to showcase our regional talent, Alison Dwyer will join the defensive team.

Playing in Melb Uni Lightning in the VNL, Dwyer will no doubt star playing for her region.

Moe's A Grade premiership player Hollie Bugeja will also take the court for the Stars, having played for the Ariels, Bugeja will have no trouble at Victoria's highest standard of netball.

Traralgon shooting star, Sophie Lecchino joins the Stars after a stellar season, shooting 400 goals for the Maroons.

The young up-and-comer Charliz Traumanis has made Longwarry proud after being selected into the Stars squad.

From the Ellinbank and District competition, the tall shooter has a promising future in VNL.

Paris Dunkley, that's right that famous Gippsland name returns to the local sports scene.

Dunkley joined her netball superstar cousin, Lara, in Queensland - and while she didn't play for the Firebirds, young Paris was outstanding for the Brisbane South Wildcats and will bring her talent back to the region.

The Morwell premiership player, Chloe Radford will be joining teammate Solomon at the Stars for the new netball season in 2024.

The young midcourter was a Gippsland League All Star in 2023 and will now represent her region.

Joining Moe FNC teammate, Bugeja, Charliz Bird will line up for the Stars.

Bird has won two A Grade premierships at Moe in 2018 and 2023 as an athletic and hard-running midcourter.

With previous VNL development experience, Bird is all set for a breakout year at the Gippsland Stars.

Emma Felsovary from Karingal and Brooke De Riter from Drouin will also join the

star studded line up.

The pride of the North Gippsland League, Heyfield's Jayde Parsons will join the VNL team.

Parsons has made moves in her short career - having just moved up to A Grade from juniors, the young gun will be apart of the 19 and Under pathway team but also a part of the Stars squad.

Experienced representative coach Roger Palmer will lead the Gippsland Stars Development team in 2024.

"Roger has a wealth of coaching experience in joining teammates and Melbourne as both a club and representative coach. Roger is the current U17 State Titles coach for Gippsland and has a long resume including experience in Association Championships, Gippsland Storm and State Titles teams," the Stars posted.

"We are excited to have Roger join the Gippsland Stars in 2024 to help develop our future VNL."

In a landmark moment for netball in Gippsland, the Gippsland League has secured a licence to operate a team in the VNL. The Gippsland Stars will join the competition from 2024 in the

newly-created 23 & Under division before entering both the Championship and 23 & Under divisions in future seasons.

"We're excited to welcome the Gippsland Stars to the Victorian Netball League in 2024," said Netball Victoria Performance Competitions Manager Stacey O'Neill.

"The Stars' inclusion will

mean more opportunities for talented athletes, coaches and officials from across the Gippsland region. We know Gippsland is a passionate netball heartland and we're looking forward to working with the club to ensure our competition is even stronger and more exciting in 2024 and beyond.



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Organisers rejoice at the Gippsland Stars announcement earlier this year. Gippsland League General Manager and Trafalgar resident Daniel Heathcote is pictured centre.

Picture perfect racing

By Tom Hayes

A CRACKING day of racing was on show for the Moe Cup, as more than 2000 spectators flooded to the Moe Racing Club.

Not only did a mass of people come to see racing, fashions or have a punt, but the weather turned it on unlike the usual rainy Moe Cup spectacle.

An actioned-packed nine-race meet was scheduled, the track improving throughout the day from a Soft 5 to a Good 4 thanks to the 27-degree heat.

Trainers the likes of Gai Waterhouse, Peter Moody, Dennis Pagan and cup ambassador Gemma Rielly were among a swarm of talent during the afternoon.

Four-year-old gelding Suizuro stormed home late to win the Race 8 Ladbrokes Moe Cup for Cranbourne trainers Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young, with Craig Newitt in the saddle.

There was fireworks from the very start in the TM&H Mitre 10 Maiden Plate ran over 1600 metres.

Local runner Pianta for Moe's Paul and Tracey Templeton jumped best from the barrier but soon surrendered his early lead to Larson Bay who swooped in from a wider barrier.

Moody's Linas Reel joined Kingdom Of Castile for Cranbourne's Enver Jusufovic behind Larson Bay as they turned onto the final straight.

Linas Reel ran from seven back to make a charge, slicing off the rail to make

a charge for the line, as did Turpin's Torment who was nine back at the 800m mark streaming down the middle of the straight.

Kingdom Of Castile was able to take the lead in the final metres to take out the first race of the day, ahead of Linas Reel by a nose, who was a neck ahead of Turpin's Torment.

Larsen Bay finished about a length behind the winner, while Pianta could only manage an eighth-place finish.

CAPITALISATION for Flemington's Ben Hayes was able to hold off on comers in Race 2's Ian Grants Caravans Maiden Plate (1100m).

The well-backed \$3.30 runner, who is known to lead, did just that, and after two second place finishes to start his career, he was finally off the mark.

Hugging the inside rail, he let the other runners fare for themselves as he shot out to a comfortable two length lead once he crossed the line.

Silver Hammer overtook Beaunified – who held onto second for most of the race – to upgrade his spot on the podium.

The \$2.70 favourite Sea Mist fell back to fourth.

IT was a hot contest at the front of the field during the Race 3 Clearview Radiology Maiden Plate (1100m), with two horses going back and forth over the sprint.

Both Frosty Vonn for the Templeton's and Fanagoria for Pakenham's Phillip Stokes made searching starts both holding a leading position from the jump.

They traded positions often, but as they rounded the bend, Fanagoria found another gear to take a clear lead, bursting out to a lead of more than two lengths.

The \$2.60 favourite came home strong to take the win, with Frosty Vonn finishing closer to third-placed Alltante.

No Savings for Moe's Christine Sexton held firm in a midfield position to finish sixth – the only other local in this race.

THE track was upgraded to a Good 4 ahead of the Race 4 Moe Optical 'Royal Snack' Handicap Benchmark 70 (2050m).

Two heavyweights went at it, but it was once again the favourite that prevailed – Hoops for Danny O'Brien of Barwon Heads. Pagan's George Get Mad, paying \$5.50 for the win, was well in contention after leading the pack around the 800 and 400m marks.

But on the straight she began to fall while on the rail, allowing more runners to put their names into the winning hat.

Hoops cut further outside from the rail after placing herself in an off-pace position, meanwhile Fire Glo Too was steaming down the outside to make a challenge for the lead.

Hoops was able to hang on with Fire Glo Too within close quarters, just a neck behind in second.

Raid The Bar would have paid dividends for an each-way bet paying \$9.60 for a place ahead of the race, before finishing third.

fore finishing third.

Dahwilly for Moe's Allison Bennett was only able to make up the numbers, racing at the rear and finishing in eighth.

WHAT appeared to be the trend of the day happened once again in the Race 5 TRFM Handicap BM64 (1600m), when the \$2.50 favourite War Frontier for Caulfield's Mick Price and Michael Kent Jr came up trumps.

In a race filled with local talent, only one could make their way onto the podium, yet was not far from the eventual win. Rielly's Labhuku filtered to the front out of the barriers and lead the field around and onto the straight.

Waterhouse's Golden Pierro was primed in second position, but soon fell back at the rounded bend, dropping to eighth.

War Frontier burst onto the scene from a backmarker position, going from eighth to first during the length of the Moe straight, stealing the win at the very last by a nose.

Local talent was scattered all over the track; Schweinsteiger for Sale's Damien Walkley managed to claim third, Jakk's Fortune for Sale's Adam Hanley took fifth, Ripplebrook for Sale's Sharon Trollove was sixth, A Penny Spent was next in seventh for Sale's Heather Stephens and Delightful Journey for Sexton dropped from fourth to ninth in the space of the straight.

IN back-to-back races the winner crossed the line with just their nose in front, but was unable to hold on to the lead.

Oppositely, coming to the front was Only Need Time and Moody's Funnelle, but

as Rhinoceros for Pakenham's Emma-Lee and David Browne claimed Race 6's Botlemart Moe Mile Handicap BM78 (1600m). Leading once again from the barrier, another horse was able to take it all the way home, this time hanging on by a thread.

Rhinoceros looked strong throughout the mile-long race, but right at the last received some welcomed news in the form of Seb Song who was donning for the lead.

Seb Song climbed from six back at the 400m mark and would have won if there was another 50m of track to run.

But this two-horse race only went one way and that was in the favour of Rhinoceros, winning by a nose.

The favourite, Place Of Gold, could only muster a third place finish, while Moe local Sharper for Michael Templeton ended his fight early, dropping from second to sixth in the space of 400 metres.

HORSES traded positions in numbers during Race 7's Harcourts Moe/Newborough Handicap BM64 (1000m). The field just about flipped in terms of positioning as they came onto the straight, with the leaders filtering back and the midfield and backmarkers coming to the front.

Jungle Sensation and Young Liam took the reins of the race at the beginning, but would soon find out they weren't cut out for the win, finishing fifth and 10th respectively.

Oppositely, coming to the front was Only Need Time and Moody's Funnelle, but

they were swiftly outdone by A Little Deep for Ciaran Maher and David Eustace.

The well-backed \$5 mare rose the ranks from seventh to climb to an emphatic win ahead of the Moe Cup, doing so comfortably by more than two lengths.

Trollove's Not Enough Effort finished seventh, while Delivery Man for Sale's Rebecca Kelly came 11th.

Well-backed \$6.50 horse Empressive Enuff was unable to trouble the rest of the field, following a poor jump from the barrier, holding 12th for the whole race.

THE final race of the meet saw five horses finish within around two lengths of the lead, and it had to be a roughie to complete the day.

The favourite, Etienne priced at \$3.10 took the lead, but unlike many horses on the day, was unable to hold on until they reached the line.

He was soon trampled by those running behind him, Toronto Terrier and Extreme Flight for Mornington's Anthony and Sam Freedman.

Once on the main straight, both Toronto Terrier and Extreme Flight had passed the leader and made it a two-horse race to the line.

Extreme Flight took the lead on the inside rail and made a break for the line and stretched out to a half-a-length lead. The \$11 entrant did the impossible, winning as a mid-priced roughie, claiming the third win of its career.

Oppositely, coming to the front was Only Need Time and Moody's Funnelle, but



Winning Moe Cup trainer Trent Busuttin. Photo: Zoe Askew



Suizuro returns to the mounting yard after winning the 2023 Moe Cup. Photo: Scott Barbour/Racing Photos

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Cause for celebration

By Liam Durkin

FOR some moments in life, there are no words.

Moe Racing Club finally got the weather it deserved for Moe Cup Day.

With sunshine and temperatures hovering around the mid to late 20s, it was too nice a day to be inside, and racegoers thought so too, as more than 2000 of them flocked to Moe for this year's cup.

While there was some disruption in terms of facilities, owing to renovations currently taking place in the race day building, the weather was so good people didn't seem to mind at all.

Really, lush green grass to lay down on and a cold drink to sip is all anyone really needed on a day bathed in sunshine.

Festivities continued during the half hour interlude between races, as general mingling of patrons led to that discernible sound of shoe heels walking over temporary marquee floors.

Like cricket spikes walking over concrete, it is those sort of sounds that provide the soundtrack to a particular season.

So great was the weather, people who would ordinarily bypass the end of the Moe Cup after work couldn't help but duck over to catch a glimpse of the action.

Those who had stayed all day soaked up the sunshine, and made use of the hospitality on offer.

Moe Racing Club members were moved into the Turfside Bistro as the usual member's room formed part of the renovations.

Come the end of the last race, 'Turfy' was absolutely

shoulder-to-shoulder, giving attendees the chance to let the good times roll.

Regardless of whether punters came out in front or not, the vibrancy and positivity emanating from the event itself was worthy of celebration.

Member for Morwell, Martin Cameron joined a string of special guests, including Nationals party colleague, Tim Bull, who was there as not only the Member for Gippsland East but also the Shadow Minister for Racing.

Bull had an even busier schedule than usual, with the Spring Carnival meaning he has no shortage of engagements.

Moe Racing Club Life Member and former chairman, Lance McMillan, wore two hats to the cup, welcoming fellow Country Racing Victoria Board member and chairman Charles Armytage to his home club.

Brad Law was in a similar position, wearing his Moe Racing Club Vice Chairman's hat and Latrobe City Councillor hat alongside fellow councillors Sharon Gibson and Melissa Ferguson who were also in attendance.

The crossovers didn't stop there. Prominent Moe businessman, racing and sporting identity Manny Gelagotis was busy doing the hospitality sector.

The notion of clubs helping clubs has been a feature of Gippsland country racing in recent years, and Moe Racing Club has been at the forefront of such an initiative.

The number of framed local sporting jumpers sup-

ported by the racing club nearly takes up the whole wall inside Turfside. Moe Racing Club has been a long-standing supporter of many Trafalgar sporting clubs.

That faith looked to be reciprocated by the number of people who showed up on cup day on Friday, October 20.

Speaking to Moe Racing Club chairman, Mike Vanderfeen after the Moe Cup was run and won proved oddly redundant, as there was really nothing more to say other than "what a great day".

"It's been a fantastic day, blessed with the weather, 28 degrees, well over 2000 people through the gate, people are well-dressed, they participated in fashions on the field, punting was good, so great to see a group of owners take out the cup, couldn't get better," he said.

"This year with good weather, the crowd was still coming through the gate at 3:30pm ... really good result for us.

"The staff have done a fantastic job, well prepared, it's gone off extremely well."

Moe Racing Club will now turn its attention to its Christmas meeting, which Vanderfeen predicts will draw an even bigger crowd if the weather is similar to what it was last Friday.

Given the Moe Cup's unfortunate association with rain over the years, the clear skies of last week would have surely given people reason to believe any such curse had been lifted.

Hopefully it's not the only curse that gets lifted in Moe.

Photography by
Zoe Askew



Trafalgar residents Michelle Jarvis and Anthony Moscato enjoying the Moe Cup.



Naomi Buckely (Willow Grove), Sarah Orton (Tanjil South), Steph Paul (Hill End) and Melissa Pinch (Yarragon).



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Maree Athanasiadis (Morwell), Bianca Carpinteri (Warragul), Maria Philipou (Traralgon) and Teagan Bramstedt (Thorpdale).

Legend's link to Gippsland

By Liam Durkin

AFL great Ron Barassi was publicly farewellled from life with a state memorial service last month.

Patrons gathered at the Melbourne Cricket Ground to pay their respects to one of the most influential people Australian Rules Football has ever known.

A bust of Barassi on stage was flanked by the 10 premiership cups - five either side - he won during his career as either a player or coach.

His record stood at 17 Grand Finals for 10 premierships at Melbourne (1955-57, 1959-60, 1964) Carlton (1968, 1970) and North Melbourne (1975, 1977).

In a nod to this achievement, Barassi would often add '17-4-10' to his signature.

Coincidentally, the numbers 17 + 10 + 4 = 31 - the guernsey number Barassi wore in his more than 200 games for Melbourne.

Perhaps fittingly, if not hauntingly, the temperature in Melbourne was forecast to hit 31 degrees on the day of the service (Friday, November 10).

Those making speeches included Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan, former premier Steve Bracks, radio host Neil Mitchell, Melbourne Football Club President Kate Roffey, and Barassi's son Ron Barassi III.

Making a point of Barassi's dry sense of humour, Roffey recalled how at the Demons' flag unfurling of the 2021 premiership, the first thing the Melbourne legend said was "took a while this one".

Fellow AFL legends Kevin Sheedy and Leigh Matthews also took part in a panel discussion, alongside Eddie McGuire who acted as master of ceremonies.

Musician Mike Brady played his signature song Up There Cazaly as part of the service, changing some of the chorus to sing 'up there Barassi'.

Understandably Brady, at age 75, wasn't able to perform the tune with quite as much gusto in previous years, and one did have to ponder just how he is still going after being wheeled out to play the same song for the last 40 or so years whenever a football occasion arises.

Attendees of note included AFL coaches Alastair Clarkson and John Longmire, as well as Melbourne captain Max Gawn.

Popular AFL commentator Anthony Hudson was also spotted mingling with the general congregation, which was seated on the bottom deck of the MCC Reserve.

Disappointingly, a few phones went off during the service, putting a slight dampener on the occasion.

Barassi had a strong link

to Gippsland, particularly through the 1968 and 1970 Carlton premiership teams.

The '68 team featured Morwell's Bryan Quirk and Yallourn North's Garry Crane, as well as Ian Collins (Sale), Bill Bennett (Maffra), Ian Robertson (Dalyton), Adrian Gallagher (Yarram) and Neil Chandler (Welshpool). Bairnsdale's Bob Edmond was part of the squad, and later won two Silver medals in weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games.

Crane, Robertson, Gallagher and Chandler all played in 1970, as did Vin Waite (Morwell) and Ted Hopkins (Moe).

Hopkins famously kicked four second half goals in that Grand Final, seeing Carlton storm home to win the premiership after trailing Collingwood by a seemingly impossible 44 points at the main break.

Adding to the local connections was Morwell's Graham Donaldson, who was Carlton's assistant coach at the time. Donaldson features in the iconic photo of Barassi leaping high in celebration on the final siren at the end of the game.

Barassi arranged for Carlton to play a preseason practice match in Morwell in the late 1960s.



Carlton coach, Ron Barassi leaps for joy after the 1970 Grand Final. Morwell's Graham Donaldson, who was the Blues assistant coach, is pictured left.

Bowls season begins

By Michael Holroyd

brought.

Chris Bortignon and his rink of Tim Anderson, Graham Hill and Ken Capper defeated Morice Gardiner and his rink of Mike Arnold, Ross Kennedy and Laurie Melhuish.

For the visitors, Danny McKeown and his rink of Jodie Ashby, Kevin Pigdon and Keith Gadsby had a 18 - 14 win over Ian Miles and his rink of Kyen Jenkins, David Wilson and Paul Dawson.

Final scores were Trafalgar 16 - 81 defeated Morwell 2 - 68.

In Division 3, Morwell (2) 18 - 97 defeated Trafalgar (2) 0 - 61 with with Ken Turner

and his rink of Stuart Hui-mphrey, Alex Monroe and Bob Wilson having a 31 - 13 win over Mal Clymo, Steve Cunningham defeated Frank Farrugia 24 - 19, Col Grant defeated Anthony Mitchinson 21 - 18 and John Osborne defeated Peter Rosenboom 21-11.

Neerim beat Traf in Division 5 (2). Scored were 15 - 66 to (3) 1 - 51 with winning skips John Rochford 20 - 17 and George Rymer 26 - 14, whilst Jim Schroeder drew with Bill Lithgow.

Traf had better luck in Division 6, winning 8-40 to 2-35 over Churchill.

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