

# Traf District News

August 2024 – Edition 266

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# FATAL HIT AND RUN IN TRAF

## Police seek your help

By Trevor Colvin

The body of an unidentified man believed to be in his sixties was found by a passerby in Waterloo Road, Trafalgar, last Sunday morning. Also unidentified is the vehicle and the driver which police believe hit and killed him, sometime between 7:10 pm Saturday night and early Sunday morning. The body was discovered shortly after 10 am and police have said it had been there for some time.

The man was wearing black tracksuit pants with two vertical white stripes, a black jumper and a black and white shirt. He also sported a grey beard. When found, he was shoeless which could indicate he

was homeless, or sleeping rough, but police suggest this is not necessarily so; amnesia could be a factor or he could have had some sort of medical episode or illness.

Detective Sergeant Peter Romanis from the Major Collision Investigation Unit told Traf District News that police really need the public's help to solve this unfortunate death.

*"We appeal to the public who may have seen him because he was spotted in the town on Saturday afternoon and again at 7:10 Saturday evening in Waterloo Road. Any information can be given directly to a police station so any members of the public who may have any in-*

*formation, or any dash cam footage that might have had this man walking on Waterloo Road on Saturday night or Sunday morning. We are asking for community assistance in piecing together what happened."*

The body was found in a spoon drain on the north-side of Waterloo Road, near the cross over from Davey Drive.

*"Debris at the scene suggests the man was hit at some speed. "Given the level of debris that was on the road, there's no chance that whoever's done this may not have realised. It's absolutely apparent to me that someone will have known that they've struck this individual. The debris field was*

*quite large."* Det Sgt Romanis told Traf District News.

Included in the debris was part of a headlight and indicators and enough evidence to suggest the vehicle was white.

The vehicle is likely to have damage to the passenger side headlight and the public are asked to keep an eye out for a damaged white vehicle.

Detective Sergeant Romanis appealed to the driver of the car to come forward.

*"Imagine if it was your friend, your family, what would you expect someone to do in that circumstance? I know what the right thing to do is and that's to come and speak with us. Put your-*

*self in their shoes and come and speak with us about what happened."*

And if anyone has anything to add, the police urge them to contact Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000) and they can do so anonymously if they don't wish to have their name attributed to it, or contact your local police station. *"But we really are appealing to the community for assistance in piecing together what happened."* Det. Sgt. Romanis added.

Fatal pedestrian deaths have increased and it is a concern for police. There were 25 pedestrian fatalities this year, up from 16 last year and that is a staggering increase of 56%. The

five year average is 19 pedestrian deaths per year, so this year's increase is 31% above the five year average.

This death brings Eastern Victoria's total to ten.

### Summary:

Police need your help in identifying a man who was killed in Waterloo Road sometime in the early hours of last Sunday, by a vehicle which left the scene and it is known that the vehicle was white and will have a damaged passenger side headlight and surroundings.

If you have anything that might help, call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or make a report to your nearest police station.



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# 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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## 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.

## Letters to the editor

**D**ear Sir  
After the forests of South Gippsland became open farmland the Leadbeater's Possum was declared to be extinct but they have simply moved on to the forests of mid-Gippsland.

It is obvious that, despite suggestions that logging would destroy their environment, the opening up of the area has resulted in new growth around habitat trees, retained in each coupe. Here their environment was enhanced by the regrowth that followed logging, particularly where old habitat trees had been

retained. They now had an ongoing environment provided for them, even if this meant an inconvenience from time to time!

In your last edition you refer to a Gippsland forestry worker harvesting a large coupe that was planted by his grandfather 50 years earlier. Maybe, his grandfather also had a vegetable garden that he planned and harvested at the right time providing for his family! Likewise, shouldn't we be giving nature a hand but by careful planning by those on the ground, not someone behind a desk with a map!

Let us look at the logging

industry from a different angle as we would the growing of any crop whether it be in the garden, paddock or the bush and cease decimating livelihoods and habitats at great cost, in order to take the unrealistic and costly demands of a few!

To have met these demands, the outcome is laughable if it were not so serious! We now are carting logs across bBass Strait at horrendous cost and an inconvenience to regular travellers. Then these trucks still have to travel to sawmills in Gippsland!

And now we find we are intruding on the habitat of

the Tasmanian Swift Parrot!

The ongoing cost of this closure, to both individuals and whole communities in our area cannot be estimated and for what?

Surely it is now time to take a serious look at the whole Victorian forestry industry, and clarify the direction it should be heading, not lock it away to become no more than a death trap for those in the vicinity - both human and animal!

Thank you.  
(Name and address supplied)

## Comparison of library options

**F**ollowing on from my article in the last edition, and subsequent to Baw Baw Shire Council's decision to sell its parcel of land at 107 Princes Highway, Trafalgar (the old Narraean Shire offices), I was given a copy of the consultant's report comparing two options for the town's proposed library: 107 Princes Highway; and 28 Contingent Street (the old kindergarten).

It is now probably academic, however, I think it is useful for the public record to look at the two options.

As I mentioned in my

previous article, I believe Trafalgar's population will be in the vicinity of 10,000 in the mid 2040s, resulting in an increased need for council services in the town.

The consultant, Croxon Ramsay, in its 'Trafalgar Library Concept Design' report of June 2022 looked at Trafalgar's proposed library being in one of two locations, 107 Princes Highway and 28 Contingent Street.

Presumably, based on this report, council decided that the old kindergarten in Contingent Street was the more appropriate site for the library.

The consultant's report shows that the proposed Contingent Street library will be 83 sq metres at a cost of \$940,000 (excluding GST and some professional costs). This equates to \$11,325 per sq metre (ex-GST, etc)

At 107 Princes Highway, the report estimates that a proposed library would cover 305 sq metres at \$1,740,000 (excluding GST and some professional costs). This equates to \$5700 per sq metre (ex-GST etc), more than half the price per sq metre with more than three times the space of the Contingent Street library.

The Princes Highway costings included services that would benefit the whole of the building and was not amortised to just cover that part of the building that would have been the library.

The report provided an option to expand the Contingent Street library by 175 sq metres without providing costings. The total area would then be 258 sq metres, still less than the Princes Highway option of 305 sq metres.

If I use the costs provided by the consultant of \$11,325 per sq metre, that indicates an additional cost of \$1,981,875 to expand the Contingent Street library, making that library, should an extension be built, costing \$2,921,875 (ex-GST and professional costs).

The report failed to do any costings to expand a proposed library at 107 Princes Highway, which has a further 900 sq metres available without expanding the building, presumably as it considered the area it identified for a library was sufficient.

An analysis of the consultant's report, therefore, suggests an expanded Contingent Street library will cost significantly more than the Princes Highway option.

Mick Bourke OAM  
Trafalgar

SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO: EDITOR@TRAFNEWS.COM

## SEPTEMBER EDITION DEADLINE:

Advertising Bookings Close: August 12  
Advertising Material Deadline: August 15  
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*Editor's Note: Neil Joiner was a significant influence in Trafalgar and his passing is a great loss.*

*Traf District News will honour Neil with an obituary in next month's issue. In the meantime, three people who knew Neil well, share their recollections.*

## He made us feel that the museum was a part of all of us

Jen Middleton – Holden Museum Volunteer

**M**ost mornings I would get a call from Neil 'How are you going? Are you around today? We need to talk. Pop in and I'll shout you a cuppa.'

Nothing was too much trouble and no problem could not be solved, was how Neil worked. His patience with people was amazing and he was always telling me, 'It will be okay,

*we will sort it."*

As the years went on (8 years in total) I noticed it was me saying, "We will sort it", without realising he had given me the confidence to do the work.

He was a great leader and everyone loved his passion. It was infectious. We all loved working for him and achieving our goals. Be it a new display, or just a general cleanup ready for

an event. He made us all feel that the museum was a part of all of us and our achievements were well received.

Neil never stopped and I'm sure never slept, receiving emails at 2am was not unusual, I would say, "Don't you sleep?" and he would say, "Sleeping is for the dead."

Sleep now Neil, knowing we are keeping your dream alive.



Photo courtesy of Latrobe Valley Express

## A determined optimist with a vision

By Mary Aldred – Federal Liberal Candidate for Monash

**S**ome people dedicate themselves completely to their family, some people dedicate themselves completely to their community and some people dedicate their all to a vocation. Neil Joiner's heart was big enough to dedicate himself to all three.

It was an honour to have known Neil for over 20 years through the Liberal Party and his community work in Trafalgar. Contributions he volunteered because he believed in them. Neil loved Trafalgar. And he loved Holdens.

Neil had a vision to bring

the Holden Museum to Trafalgar. For a number of years he was told why it couldn't be done. But Neil was one of those special people in life who choose to focus on getting things done, instead of how difficult they are. Neil persisted and achieved his dream, and we are all the better for it. The Holden Museum is an ornament not just to Traf, but to our great Gippsland region.

Neil loved his family and his friends. It has been a privilege to join the table 33 crew at the Criterion on different occasions that included Neil and Annette,

their son Andrew, BK of course, and Maria and the late, great Graham Davey.

Neil was a practical, no nonsense person. He was also an optimist. Every time I would phone Neil about something he would answer with a cheery; "G'day Mary, how are you?" I will miss that cheery optimism. I will also miss the persistence and practical nature of Neil. All of us are enriched by Neil Joiner's legacy of dedication to his family, his community and his vocation. Vale Neil.

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## Encore Living Trafalgar community centre nears completion

Covid slowed work on the community centre but residents will enjoy finally using it when it opens this month.

Momentum at the village has picked up with three couples moving in in the past few weeks, bringing the total of occupied homes

to more than fifty and with new builds underway. One of the new couples moved from Traf, one couple from Jeeralang Junction and the third from Officer.

Traf District News was invited to a sneak preview of the community centre along with residents who had their

first look at what the centre has to offer, and it offers a lot.

It was a freezing day but the pool was warm and inviting. There is a purpose built gym with HUR gym equipment carefully selected to suit seniors to encourage residents to stay fit and ac-

tive in their golden years.

The outside BBQ area will allow residents, family and friends to enjoy an alfresco casual meal whilst watching or participating in a game of billiards.

Inside, a multi-purpose room will host regular craft get-togethers. The open

plan lounge and dining areas allow residents to share a meal, celebrate milestones and watch sport and movies together.

The centre also includes a commercial grade kitchen and a library.

Encore Living Trafalgar really is a community with-

in a community. There are craft groups, social groups and keen caravanners in the Encore residents mix.

Staff can be contacted on 1800-362-673 and the office is open 10 to 4 on weekdays and by appointment on weekends.



## Potential councillor profiles

This month, we have interviewed and profiled two candidates who are considering running for a seat on The Baw Baw Shire Council. Traf District News is not endorsing any of the candidates but simply wants to help introduce them to our readership. We will profile more candidates in future issues in the time leading up to the election in October.

### Potential Council Candidate - Leni Teng

By Jordan Ross



Leni runs a plant nursery and a skincare business.

Leni felt inspired to run after she felt, and those around her felt dissatisfaction with the current council. She recalled a council meeting she had attended where a food bank's request for funding was rejected.

"I wanted to understand why... They're saying that there's a growing need for food banks and a ... assistance, why was that funding rejected?" she said.

"I feel like I can make a change and support our community," she said.

Leni wants to be a voice for those in Trafalgar who feel unrepresented on the local council. She has a proven record of community work and has been involved in the Baw Baw Food Hub, the Silk Road Community as well as playgroups and kindergartens.

"I'm going to try to make a bit of a difference by engaging with the community," she said.

Leni feels she can represent the young families – especially those who have children attending school and kindergarten, farmers and environmentalist.

These latter communities have fostered her passion for

growing and making organic food affordable for the people of Trafalgar and the surrounding areas.

"If I get a chance to represent these people, I think my focus areas would be ... roads, infrastructure maintenance, education and youth services," she said.

As an owner of multiple businesses, Leni also understands the struggles of small businesses and wants to advocate for them as well.

Leni's approach to standing for council seems like the right one, she wants to step up but knows that if she isn't elected, she'll continue to serve her community like she's been doing. But I think the fact that she's willing to do more, says a lot.

I think Leni is best summarised by this statement on her profile on the Restore Baw Baw website.

"I want to be a candidate for the local council to ensure that every voice in our community is heard and represented."

### Potential Council Candidate - Paul Christian

By Jordan Ross



dustries, non-for-profits, and community organisations – from the Trafalgar Victory Soccer Club to ManUp Gippsland. He is particularly passionate about his contributions to the latter, which is a network that seeks to empower men to work towards a healthier concept of manhood.

Paul also wants to advocate for small businesses, especially those who are experiencing the effects of the financial crisis. He was also a business owner himself, having been in the construction industry for 15 years before retiring a few years ago.

"I look at the business sector because I know from experience how difficult it is to not only set up a business, but to go through all the planning," he said.

With his experience, the relationships he has forged within the community, as well as his willingness to listen, Paul sees himself as someone who is aware of the challenges facing those in our area and wants to ensure the council is doing what it can to support those who need it, including business owners.

"We have a great community," he said.

But he also believes the council is too involved in politics outside of the Baw Baw region.

"We need to be focused on what's going on here. How can we make [Baw Baw] a better place to live?" he said.

Paul told me that he thought there were other strong candidates running for council as well and that he has respect for some already on the council.

"I either get in or I don't. If I don't, it's not the end of the world," he said.

Paul was sure that if he wasn't elected, he'd continue to contribute to his community and find other ways to do so as well.

"I want to go [into the process] with an open mind," he said.

Paul never thought he'd go into politics, he doesn't consider himself to have political affiliations. He just feels he can and wants to make change.

"But it's an old saying, when good men do nothing, evil prevails," he said.

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# Jason sets off on a 100 day run

By Trevor Colvin

It is hard for this writer to imagine walking thirty kilometres, let alone running it, let alone doing it for 100 days. Such endurance inspires awe and respect.

Jason Rantall of Bettermentall Health Inc., launched his 100 day run on July 11 and his plan is to run 3,249 kilometres; one kilometre for every person who committed suicide in Australia in 2022. That is a frighten-

ing figure and Jason's run is to draw attention to it and to help us all better understand, because from understanding might come solutions.

Jason is no stranger to mental health issues; he has been to hell and back and came out on top after a very long and painful personal battle. (See Traf District News - July issue - page 4).

But it is not simply a run. Titled 'Have A Chat Run' Ja-

son invites anyone to join him for a chat, walk with him, jog with him, run with him, talk with him. In addition, Jason will be giving talks at various venues over the 100 day journey and details of his itinerary can be found at <https://bettermentall.com.au/events/>

Jason and his wife Kerry have put a lot of thought and planning into this event and they have developed an in-

credible team of people to support them.

At the launch on July 11, dozens of people turned up to be part of this event, to cheer and to support. Rotary volunteers ran a sausage sizzle with sausages donated by Murphy's Meats in Traf. Jo and Mark from Steel Sparking were there in their smart corporate jackets and provided warmth from one of their stunning steel wheelbarrow

braziers. SilkRoad Community provided a couple of marquees and musicians entertained. Kids played tennis and footy and the atmosphere was positive, despite it being bitterly cold.

Individuals and businesses can help support the 'Have A Chat Run' by donating, or by sponsoring a running singlet of the day. Jason will wear a different singlet each day and for \$50 you can have

your name or your corporate name across the front. The singlets are attractive and this newspaper sponsored one of the 48 which have been funded to date; but that leaves room for 52 more individuals or companies to put their name on one and help underwrite this event. The aim is to raise \$15,000.

You can contact Jason and Kerry via [www.bettermentall.com.au](http://www.bettermentall.com.au)



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"If I could go back now and speak any words of wisdom to myself, I would tell the little boy with dreams to keep dreaming. I would tell him to never give up and to keep fighting. I'd say 'Mate, as hard as it gets, keep fighting. Life is going to be tough, but everything will be okay. Believe in you and never lose sight of what you want, who you are, and what you dream.'"

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## COUNCIL News.

### Free workshops on navigating grief and loss.

**There's no rulebook on how to best manage extreme loss in your life, however Baw Baw Shire Council is partnering with GriefTalks and Mindful Aus to deliver a series of workshops that will take participants through a few steps on how to navigate these tough times in life.**

The workshops will be held throughout August and September across the Shire and are designed to support community members over the age of 18 with their emotional wellbeing, while providing an opportunity to learn strategies and tools to implement into their own lives.

The workshops will take place at the following times and locations:

- Wednesday 14 August Longwarry Public Hall, Longwarry
- Wednesday 28 August Yarragon Bowls Club, Yarragon
- Thursday 19 September Longwarry Public Hall, Longwarry
- Wednesday 25 September Bettermentall Hub, Trafalgar

Places for the workshops are limited and bookings are essential. To register, please visit [www.bawbawshire.co/GriefTalks](http://www.bawbawshire.co/GriefTalks).



**MindfulAus**

### TRAVEL DOWN TO WARRAGUL'S NEWEST BASKETBALL COURTS.

The new basketball and netball courts at the Warragul Leisure Centre are now open and ready for the community to come and shoot some hoops.

The Warragul Leisure Centre stadium expansion is one of Council's largest ever recreational projects, valued at more than \$12.8 million.

Baw Baw Shire Council committed \$6.8 million towards the project, in addition to a \$6 million contribution from the Victorian Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program.

The extension provides:

- Construction of two new indoor (basketball/netball) courts

- Spectator seating and a lounge viewing area
- A new cafe and kitchen
- A referee change room
- First aid room
- Storage facilities
- Swim club store
- Public amenities including Changing Places accessible change room, and
- Improved pedestrian and parking access links between new and existing facilities.

Visit Council's website at [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au) to find out more about this milestone project.



**YOUR SAY, YOUR WAY.**

### NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR LOCAL SPORTING WALK OF FAME.

As Olympic fever spreads among us, we're asking all of you to think of a local person who should be honoured on Council's Sporting Walk of Fame.

Located at Civic Park in Warragul and launched in 2000, the pathway serves as a prestigious recognition of sporting excellence and achievement.

With this in mind, take a look at the nomination guidelines and consider if there's someone in our area who does not already appear, and should feature on this momentous honour trail.

Visit **Baw Baw Connect** today to make a nomination before Sunday 11 August. Details regarding your nomination's outcome, and induction details, will be released later this year.



**W** [bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](http://bawbawshire.vic.gov.au)

**E** [bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au)

**T** 1300 229 229



# After the Storm – rebuild and refresh with plants

By Diana Mattea

In late June, the Rebuild and Refresh our Gardens: Plants and Planting Day event was organised by Mirboo North & District Community Foundation for Mirboo North residents heavily impacted by February's storm.

Native and exotic plants generously donated to affected residents, provided a good selection of plants to help rebuild their damaged gardens. On hand were supportive groups offering advice and horticulturists answering residents' questions.

The day was a success bringing community spirit to the fore. Humans can be extraordinary in times of grief

and despair. Helping not only in the moment, but providing continual support navigating difficult, personal, and challenging dynamics to heal from an extraordinary act of nature.

This is where gardening slides in quite nicely to begin the healing process.

Having rebuilt a few times myself, I acknowledge and understand the fear of how to get life back on track. Gardening is my saviour. As a horticulturist working with a natural, live medium helped me to rebuild stronger personal foundations. I focused on creating 'different'. The word helped me to anchor my creativity and

explore a plethora of plants available suiting the project – rehabilitating public and personal space. Gardens are not built overnight but nurtured over time. They are an extension of how we feel and somehow plants generate a calming force resonating with our personal space. A kind of inner sanctuary; soul medicine.

Speaking with residents on the day I felt humble as they shared their personal losses. We exchanged many ideas – considering the pitfalls of creating new space, basic design principles, providing clear objectives. Our skills and knowledge vary so we need to be consider-

ate of the residents' ideas and plans. The opportunity to gather information from Landcare, Preserve our Forests, Friends of Baths Road Reserve, Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club, offered great information. Horticultural support – the right plant goes into the right spot, working with the land, consideration of pre-storm damage and applying different methods achieving a place of healing and joy.

As I listened, I could not fathom residents' personal experience of the day, the present, and challenges they face heading forward.

When we allow grief and anger to take hold it will

keep us there, stuck. These are normal feelings we experience. One way to move through this heavy emotion is to become creative – rebuild a new garden. Choose unfamiliar plants, introduce an array of seasonal colours you may not have considered in the past, textures, and fragrant plants to support a new ambience everyone in the family can enjoy. Perhaps a rockery (do be mindful of moving sticks), stone circle, a space inviting child friendly activity. The solutions are endless.

The day was a great success, lots of learning and experiencing the soul of the community.

On a side note, I wish to extend our personal thanks to Baw Baw Shire Council acting on my request to remove a massive, dying eucalyptus limb overhanging a busy road located on our nature strip. I felt confident that if a severe storm hit, that limb could have created carnage on the road. A few days prior to the February storm contractors removed the limb. I felt relieved knowing I was right averting a potential disaster. I thanked the boys for their work. Sad to say the February storm hit felling a few minor branches.

A big thank you to your team.



# The grill for a hot rod sparked a business idea

By Trevor Colvin

*Editor's Note: Traf District News will publish a business profile in each issue in order to let you know what businesses we have in our local area. This paper believes it is important to support local small businesses. It is estimated that 68% of money spent in a small local business remains in the community. That can't be said for money spent in major retail chains where most of the profit and much of the income leaves the district.*

TDN caught up with Jo and Mark Withers and daughter Lorelai, who oper-

ate Steel Sparking, a unique new business spawned during covid.

"I'm Jo and I own and operate Steel Sparking. I do designing and laser cutting, predominantly steel. I also do wood and acrylic and a few other different materials.

"I got into it because during covid, my husband Mark bought a Hot Rod project car, and I saw a picture of a grill on a really cool old car. It had flames and stuff on it. I said to Mark, "That would look really good on your car." He said, "Oh, you'd need some-

thing like a laser cutter to make something like that." So, I started looking into laser cutting and learned a fair bit about it. I found a second-hand laser in Melbourne, and the rest is history, as they say.

"I was in between jobs at the time, and we just thought, why not? Let's give it a go. What have we got to lose?"

"It's a lot of fun. I just like that I can just make such a variety of different things. When we need something normally it would be a trip to Bunnings, but now I see if I can make it myself and very often I can.

**TDN:** "You attend this market of course - do you do others?"

**Jo:** "We just do The Traf Farmers' Market and the Yarragon Market.

"They are both good. We don't usually sell a huge amount at the market, but I get a lot of orders. I specialise more in custom stuff. People want something very specific or something with their name on it. So I get a lot of orders from customers."

**TDN:** "You're obviously very creative and you see opportunities in all sorts of

things. Do you have fun doing this work?"

**Jo:** "I got excited one day when I first got the laser cutter and I was running around the yard thinking, Oh, what else is around that I can laser cut into? We had a couple of old hand saws just lying around and I just looked at them and I thought...you know what? I reckon I could cut a scene into those saws. I gave it a try and they worked out so well. I've just been making them ever since. I've had people hand me old saws they got from their great-great grandpa,

and they've got a photo of an old scene of with great-great grandpa. That's very memorable to them. I've been able to cut the scenes from their photographs into the saw for them. That is the sort of thing we do."

**TDN:** "Did you make a grill for the hot rod?"

**Jo:** "No. He's still waiting. I am too busy to make it right now."

**TDN:** If you wish to contact Steel Sparking, do so through Facebook or email [steelsparking@outlook.com](mailto:steelsparking@outlook.com)



## Baw Baw Shire Council postal election

My council, my vote

### You must be enrolled to vote

A general election for Baw Baw Shire Council will be held in October 2024. To be able to vote in the election, you must be enrolled by the close of roll at **4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024**. Two categories of voters can be enrolled to vote in the Baw Baw Shire Council election: State-enrolled voters and Council-enrolled voters.

#### State-enrolled voters

##### Am I enrolled to vote?

You are automatically enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday 26 October 2024 and
- you live in Baw Baw Shire and you are on the State electoral roll for your current address.

##### You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 26 October 2024 and
- you live in Baw Baw Shire and you are not on the State electoral roll or
- you have lived at your current residential address within Baw Baw Shire for at least a month and have not yet updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

##### How do I enrol?

You can enrol online at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

You can also download an enrolment form from the website.

All enrolment applications must be received by the Victorian Electoral Commission by the close of roll at **4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024**.

##### How can I check my State enrolment?

You can check your enrolment details online at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) at any time, or call 131 832.

#### Council-enrolled voters

##### Am I enrolled to vote?

To be a Council-enrolled voter, you must be:

- 18 years of age or over on Saturday 26 October 2024 and
- not a State-enrolled voter within Baw Baw Shire.

New rules mean you are no longer automatically enrolled if you are a non-resident property owner (e.g. a landlord or a business owner that pays rates). If you are a non-resident property owner within Baw Baw Shire, you need to apply to enrol if you wish to vote in the Baw Baw Shire Council election.

##### Who else can enrol & vote?

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you have purchased a rateable property within Baw Baw Shire since the last election but you are a not a resident of Baw Baw Shire, or
- you are not an Australian citizen and you live in, and pay rates for, a property within Baw Baw Shire, or
- you pay rates on a property you occupy within Baw Baw Shire and have no other voting entitlement within Baw Baw Shire, for example you are a shop tenant and pay rates to the Council for your tenancy, and you have no other voting entitlement within Baw Baw Shire, or
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation within Baw Baw Shire that pays rates to Baw Baw Shire Council and you have no other voting entitlement within Baw Baw Shire.

#### How do I apply to be a Council-enrolled voter?

If you meet any of the above criteria and wish to enrol, contact Baw Baw Shire Council on 1300 229 229 for a council enrolment form. Council enrolment forms must be received by the Council by the close of roll at **4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024**.

#### How can I check if I am Council-enrolled?

You can check your enrolment details by contacting the Council on 1300 229 229.

#### Thinking about standing for election?

To nominate as a candidate for Baw Baw Shire Council, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Baw Baw Shire Council and
- be eligible to become a councillor and
- have completed the mandatory candidate training provided by Local Government Victoria before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

For further information, visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

Enrolment closes

**4 pm Wednesday 7 August 2024**

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

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• Hrvatski (Croatian) 9209 0102 • داری (Dari) 9209 0193 • \* Thavonjanj (Dinka) 9209 0119 • Ελληνικά (Greek) 9209 0103 • \* Azərbaycan (Hazaragi) 9209 0162 • Italiano (Italian) 9209 0104  
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Authorised by S. Blumemel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic



Victorian Electoral Commission



# Your Photography

This month we received submissions for our photography page from Karen Youde and Anne Cinemre. If you are a keen photographer, or simply want to share some of your photographs, please feel free to submit some for the next issue. We are happy to receive submissions at [articles@trafnews.com](mailto:articles@trafnews.com). Traf District News expects that this page may develop over time.



Photographed by Karen Youde



Photographed by Anne Cinemre



Photographed by Anne Cinemre



Photographed by Anne Cinemre



Photographed by Anne Cinemre

## Remembering driving Dad’s Holden

Hello again from the volunteers who work at the Trafalgar Holden Museum.

This month we would like to invite any and all clubs who are interested in bringing back childhood memories of learning how to drive in Dad’s Holden to driving around with friends (very sensibly I’m sure!) to the drive-in the-

atres, races at Sandown or Bathurst, or just generally having fun!

We’re happy to have clubs visit us and we have special prices and catering arrangements for all of you.

Maybe you would like to organise an end of season visit with your local football club. Or even a start of season visit for your cricket club. Or

a visit from the many sports clubs that may be interested.

This doesn’t have to be a sporting club. We have had many visits from Probuss, Rotary, Lions and other social clubs. You are all most welcome!

Entrance fees for clubs is \$10 per person. Catering can vary depending on requirements.

We can work with our local bakery to provide a delicious morning or afternoon tea for your club. The cost depends on the food you would like, sandwiches or finger food or sausage rolls/pies.

We can cater for a BBQ lunch at our Kingswood room for an extra \$20 per person (a total of \$30 per person). This will give you a BBQ meal of

two sausages, a burger, bread, coleslaw, tea or coffee and a packet of biscuits.

If you would like to bring your own food to cook on our BBQ, we have a charge of \$30 per group. This will provide all facilities at the Kingswood room, including our BBQ, plus the entrance fee of \$10 per person.

We’ve already started

receiving bookings for December. Maybe your club or group would like to visit for a Christmas visit and meal?

If we have enough notice, we can keep the museum open after 5pm for an evening visit and meal.



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Authorised by M. Leaney  
c/o Post Office, Walthalla 3825

# ‘No prescribed burn’ bushfire prevention policy under fire

Sourced from Latrobe Valley Express

Comments by academics opposed to prescribed burning, Dr Phil Zylstra and Professor David Lyndenmay-er, who believe prescribed burning can make native forests more flammable, are being challenged by leading forestry expert Dr. Tony Bartlett (AFSM).

‘Our research has shown that native forests can become more flammable - not less - as a result of prescribed fires’ Dr Zylstra and Prof. Lindemany-er started recently in The Canberra Times and ‘burning made WA forests on average seven times more flammable for 43 to 56 years.’

Dr. Bartlett believes those statements are inconsistent with those from the extensive body of Australian bush-

fire research adding ‘They do not match the lived experience in many forests burnt by severe wildfires.’

Dr Bartlett told a bushfire conference in Melbourne that a quantum shift in thinking and practice was needed to manage climate change impact on Native forests

He was one of a three-person expert panel which conducted a Commonwealth-State review to assess the impact of the 2019-20 bushfires on the modernized Regional Forest Agreements. The other members of the panel were Victorian traditional owner, Catherine Mullet and Victorian Commissioner for Environment Sustainability Dr. Gillian Sparkes (AM).

For forest fire management, we need adaptive and innovative actions drawing from both traditional knowledge and bush fire science.’ Dr Bartlett told the conference. ‘Prescribed fire is the solution, not the problem. Passive management is failing our Forest ecosystems.’ Dr Bartlett added.

Dr Bartlett said modern science forest management had much to learn from Aboriginal fire practices. A Bandjialang Aboriginal community member in northern New South Wales described the forest structure after the 2020 fires as ‘upside-down-forest’ and said that ‘this forest is now so dense that an emu can no longer run through it.’ Fire manage-

ment is all wrong. Now after a bushfire the forest managers are not allowed to burn for around 10 years, however the Bandjialang had explained that in the past after a bush-

fire they used to do burning of those areas in the following summer, burning the grasses which also kill some of the regeneration wattles and eucalypts.

Further information can be obtained at [forestry.org.au](http://forestry.org.au).



## Dogs howled in East Traf the night body snatched from Trafalgar grave

As told to Traf District News by former Cemetery Trust Secretary, Robyn Walker.

It was back in the fifties and residents said all the neighborhood dogs were howling one dark night for no apparent reason and then police lights appeared at the cemetery. Body snatching, once a common practice centuries ago, is rare in Australia and certainly unheard of in Trafalgar, until the body of ‘Mary’ disappeared.

Mary was the housekeeper at the Catholic Manse and police found her grave open and empty.

That could have been the end of this strange but true story and then Mary’s body was found wrapped in a roll of lino beside the Thomson River. Police and the towns-

people were mystified. Who would do this and why?

Some time later one of the workers helping to construct the Yallourn W Power Station failed to show up for work many days in a row, so SEC staff went to his cabin and found that he had died.

But on the walls of the dead man’s home, were pictures of the missing body.

Because no one was charged, the story ends there except that, fittingly, Mary’s body was brought back to Trafalgar and reburied.



## A shovel, water and many cups of tea were required to dig graves by hand

Lindsay was 65 and dug graves by hand at Trafalgar for very many years. These days it is all mechanical, but back then the work was arduous backbreaking work. The soil at Trafalgar cemetery was anything but soft and yet the grave had to be at least six feet deep. So Lindsay had a technique.

He would arrive in his old ute with shovels and pick and jerry cans full of water. He would dig as far as he could and then pour water on the soil to soften it, then off home to Moe for a cup of tea. By the time he returned, the soil had softened a little and he would progress a little further, repeating the process of digging, soaking and

returning home for a cuppa. Lindsay had many cups of tea and trips home before the job was done. Sometimes Lindsay’s wife would come, complete with a pet bird on her shoulder.

Lindsay didn’t dig a rectangular grave. He had a coffin

template and he would dig precisely to that shape and there were apparently occasions when he dug a coffin shape and a casket turned up which wouldn’t fit. Or an oversize coffin for a very tall deceased person might throw his hard work into disarray.





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## Arts Alliance

Annual General Meeting  
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Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 7.00pm  
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[bawbawartsalliance.org.au](http://bawbawartsalliance.org.au)



# Highly-anticipated upgrades to begin on Noojee Trail

By Jordan Ross

Works began on the Rokeby to Noojee Trail at the end of June.

The \$4.1 million project – jointly funded by The Baw Baw Shire Council and the Victorian Government – will see major improvements to the trail. Visitors will be provided with a safer and more accessible experience with better opportunities to connect with local nature and historical sites.

The area, which is a major tourist attraction within Baw

Baw Shire, will see current upgrades focused on a four kilometre stretch of trail from Rokeby to Crossover.

The works will include the establishment of more trail connections, as well as upgrades to existing trails and roadside trails. Management of dead trees and vegetation will also take place.

The area is home to significant native forest and wildlife, including wombats, wallabies and a diverse population of birds.

Council was assisted by

the Victorian Government and Parks Victoria to plan these improvements, and are currently working towards a second stage which will further extend the trail.

Stage 2, which is scheduled to commence by the end of the year, will see the continuation of works from Crossover to Apex lookout in Neerim.

Future improvements could see the trail connect walking paths to historic sites such as Noojee Trestle Bridge, the tallest remain-

ing wooden railway bridge in Victoria.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Cr Annemarie McCabe was pleased as this highly-anticipated work began.

*“It’s no secret that the Rokeby to Noojee Trail is one of Baw Baw Shire’s favourite walking trails, attracting up to 10,000 visitors each quarter,”* Cr McCabe said.

*“These upgrades will create more opportunities for our residents to enjoy recreational activities closer to home and will draw more visitors to*

*our region to experience our stunning natural landscape,”* she said.

With much concern about the future of the state’s forests and increased discussion of national parks and land use restrictions, it is reassuring to see multiple-levels of government working together to improve access to and the size of walking trails in regional Victoria.

Council is also looking to provide new eco-tourism opportunities in Noojee such as tree-top walking and guided

biodiversity tours.

The first stage of upgrades should be complete by September. Until then, visitors should anticipate weekday closures while construction is underway. However, it will remain open on weekends to ensure visitors are still able to enjoy the nature and recreational opportunities presented by the trail.



## “We just seem to be the dog that they can’t stop kicking”

By Trevor Colvin

That is the reaction of Jeff Coster to the ongoing delays with forestry workers redundancy packages.

Jeff spent thirty years working in the forestry industry and was approached by the Victorian Government’s ‘ForestWorks’ to apply for compensation. Jeff completed all the paperwork, was accepted and told payment would be made in four or five days. Twenty cents was put into Jeff’s bank account in February by Forestworks to test the payment systems.

Jeff hasn’t seen a cent in the six months since, despite being offered and being approved for a considerable compensation package.

Jeff and thousands of other Gippsland forestry workers displaced by the Labor government’s forced closure of the native timber industry have had their compensation payments frozen.

The Allan Government agreed to pay Jeff due compensation in February but the deal has been stalled,

and as at the time of writing, no payment has been made – apart from the test payment of 20 cents.

Seeking a resolution, The Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath, called on Labor in state parliament in May to honour its commitment and pay the due compensation without delay.

Ms Bath said, *“After working in the industry for 30 years Jeff lost his livelihood as a direct result of Labor’s appalling decision to close the timber industry - a solution must be found.”*

*“Over the past month I and The Nationals, along with the Costers have had discussions in good faith with the Minister for Agriculture and her Forestry Adviser, despite sympathetic noises, no payment is forthcoming.”*

Ms Bath said that the Costers were not alone, forestry workers operating under a subcontracting arrangement face the same unacceptable predicament.

*“The Allan Government is morally obliged to recognise*

*time, toil and investment in the industry by subcontractors,”* said Ms Bath.

*“Labor’s hastily designed forestry compensation scheme failed to consider the federal tax implications, resulting in many workers being either rejected or left to pay huge tax bills.”*

*“Some subcontractors who received a payment have now shockingly been asked to repay their compensation to the state government.”*

*“The Labor Government was so fixated on fast tracking the closure of the industry it hasn’t considered the ramifications of applying the redundancy payments to subcontractors.”*

Ms Bath said the stalled payment is a bitter pill for Jeff to swallow given he has used his expertise to fight every major bushfire over the past 30 years.

*Editor’s Note: Traf District News will follow up with the government and Ms Bath and hope to publish more positive news next month.*



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# Councillors divided over sale of old shire offices

By Trevor Colvin

Council addressed the issue of the proposed sale of the Baw Baw Technology Centre, formerly the Narracan Shire Offices, on the Princes Highway in Trafalgar with councillors being divided on the idea.

“To me, it’s surplus to requirements,” Cr. Goss

The sale would be; “So short-sighted.” Cr. Cook It would be; “A grave mistake.” Resident Mick Bourke

“Personally, I think council needs to get out of this space.” Cr. Wallace. Trafalgar resident Mick Burke provided the only public written submission and argued that “the sale would be a grave mistake that would, in my opinion, sacrifice one important community facility for another. In making the decision whether or not to sell the land, Council must guarantee to the Trafalgar community that this land will not be needed in 20, 50, 100 years’ time,” he added. *“It cannot give such a guarantee.”*

Councillor Darren Wallace argued for the sale, stating the Trafalgar community has a certain level of ownership of the former Narracan Shire building and having had the second oval cut recently from general revenue, believes; *“Personally, I think council needs to get out of the space and allow the growth to happen,”* he said. *“Whatever money we get we can put back into the same community for a long-term asset that is desperately required.”*

Cr. Wallace said the second oval had been discussed in Trafalgar for more than 20 years and its omission from the budget is a hot button topic in the town. *“The backlash of this*

*project being withdrawn from the budget and long-term infrastructure can’t be understated,”= he said. “The community desperately wants this number two oval delivered.”*

Five submissions relating to the sale of the building were received during community consultation in May, one of those in support and the other four opposed, some suggesting council use the building to develop a permanent library.

The building was constructed in 1979 and was originally used as the Narracan Shire Council offices and chambers before it became the Technology Centre. It is set back from the road and is next door to the Trafalgar Community Centre.

Council officers described the property as under-let and recommended selling the four and a half

thousand square metre site via public auction, arguing that selling the property is one way in which council can generate additional income.

Councillor Kostos said the sale of the old building had been discussed over a number of years. *“I believe in my heart that retaining the money for the second oval in Trafalgar will be a far better benefit to the people of Trafalgar than retaining the building.”*

Councillor Cook warned that whoever bought the property could do what they want with it and it could become a fast food outlet or a service station or similar.

There was much discussion and philosophical differences, but in the end councillors voted in favour of selling the building and in favour of directing proceeds from the sale to the much talked about second



Lord Nelson statue to remain in situ



Old Shire Offices to be sold

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Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP, Independent Federal Member for Monash, Warragul

## Cemetery Trust needs your help

Trafalgar Public Cemetery is seeking assistance from the public in identifying graves and monuments that relate to service men and women. In particular, military service people, but also police, fire, ambulance and similar service personnel. If you think you can help with knowledge you have, call

0418345595 during business hours, or email us at [trafalgarpubliccemetery@desi.net.au](mailto:trafalgarpubliccemetery@desi.net.au).

The more information you have available the better, including service numbers, particulars of service (where/when served and for which country/state etc) and photos. We already

have a list of 96 military servicemen and women, for example, so any information on additional personnel will help us to make our list comprehensive.”

Howard Jones  
Trust Secretary  
Trafalgar Public Cemetery  
PO BOX 196  
Trafalgar Vic 3824



# Language used in Wills and Deceased Estates: What do they mean?

By Jade MacGregor – MacGregor Legal

Wills and the administration of an estate can be confusing, we have defined some of the most common terms below to assist you with understand your documents and the process: **Administration / Probate** – this is the process of finalising the personal and financial matters of a person who has passed away. This often involves making funeral arrangements, applying for the death certificate and distributing the estate to beneficiaries. **Beneficiary** – the per-

son or people to whom the Will-maker wishes to benefit from their estate. **Codicil** –a short document that amends or adds to an existing Will. **Estate** – this is the entirety of your assets and liabilities such as bank accounts, shares, equity in a property or vehicle, mortgages, personal loans and credit card debt form your estate. **Executor / Administrator** – the person or people that the Will-maker has appointed to administer and distribute their estate. Ex-

ecutrix is sometimes used to describe a female executor, although this is becoming less common. If there is no Will, then the deceased's next of kin is nominated to act as the Executor and is referred to as the Administrator. **Intestate** –when a person passes away without a Will, the estate must be distributed in accordance with intestacy rules. Victorian legislation applies a strict formula with how the estate must be distributed and to whom in this instance. It is important to update your Will after

any life changes to ensure your estate is distributed according to your wishes. **Grant of Representation** – also known as Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration and refers to the process where the Executor or Administrator applies to the Probate Court for them to grant them the power to administer the estate. **Medical Treatment Decision Maker** – a legal document that allows another person to make medical decisions on behalf of another person if they lose the capac-

ity to do so for themselves. **Enduring Power of Attorney** – a legal document that allows another person to handle your personal and financial affairs if you lose the capacity to make these decisions for yourself. **Principal** – the person who is making the power of attorney or medical treatment decision maker. **Testator** – the person who has made the Will; the Will-maker. Testatrix is sometimes used to describe a female will-maker, although this is becoming less common.

**Trustee** – the Trustee is usually the person who has been appointed as Executor or Administrator. They are responsible for holding the estate in trust until it can be distributed to beneficiaries. If you need help interpreting a Will, or would like to make or update a Will, please give our office a call on 03 5644 0000 or email us at reception@jmacgregorlegal.com.

## How do I know what to feed my pet?

Dr Jared Waddell-Smith for Trafalgar Veterinary Centre

There are so many choices available now for feeding our dogs and cats, it can sometimes seem overwhelming. There are also some very strong opinions out there on what is the "right" way to feed your pet. Rest assured there is no such thing; however, there are pros and cons for the different ways to provide nutrition which should be considered so that you can come up with a feeding plan that meets the nutritional needs of the animal whilst aligning with your values. The following information doesn't seek to tell you how you should feed your pet, but will hopefully provide some food for thought (excuse the pun). There is a lot to cover but we've tried to keep it concise.

When providing nutrition to our pets, we want to be providing them with all the necessary macronutrients (fats, protein, carbohydrates) and the necessary micronutrients (vitamins and minerals) for their body to function. We need these nutrients in

the right proportions to avoid excesses or deficiencies that could negatively affect their health. If we get this 'near enough' then we will provide them with adequate nutrition to survive and live quite well, or we can aim to provide them with 'optimal' nutrition where the nutrients are at ideal levels and balance that will allow them to thrive and live a longer life.

Nutritional needs can vary at different life stages. There is a higher risk of nutritional complications in a young animal whose body is still growing and changing, while there are proven benefits of targeted dietary changes in aging animals to slow progression of age-related changes.

Some pets with particular health conditions (such as liver, kidney, heart, skin or intestinal disease) can also benefit from prescription diets which are formulated specifically through years of research and development to help reduce clinical disease.

We can roughly divide nutrition styles into three

categories, with some overlap between them: commercially prepared cooked diets (think dry food, tinned food and meat rolls); commercially available fresh or raw diets; and home-prepared meals.

**Things to consider when choosing a diet for your pet:** *Is it nutritionally balanced?*

Research over many decades has provided us with our current nutrition knowledge. Most of this research has been led by the major pet food research and development companies such as Hills and Royal Canin. These companies have performed many well-conducted and valuable studies on what our pets need for ideal nutrition and also have strict food safety and quality control measures in place.

Most commercial prepared foods will have on the label that they meet AAFCO standards. This will indicate that they at least meet minimum standards for key nutrients. These standards however do not have compulsory requirements for micro-

nutrient components such as antioxidants and so can still be lacking in nutrition for your pet. This is where generally the more expensive foods such as the super premium brands (available at pet stores or vet clinics) can be better than the lower quality brands available at supermarkets.

Home prepared meals can be more difficult to balance. To help with this, there are now ways to formulate diets with input from a veterinary nutritionist. This may include purchasing a supplement to add to a nutritionist approved recipe, or even a private consultation with a veterinary nutritionist for a recipe specific to your pet.

*Food safety*

It is critically important if feeding a raw diet that food is handled and prepared with hygiene in mind. Raw meats come with a significantly higher bacterial contamination level than commercial dry or wet foods, including food poisoning bacteria such as Salmonella, Campylobacter and E.coli. Not only

can these be detrimental for your pet's health but residues can be left on your pet's mouths or in their faeces which can leave potential for people to be infected as well. Another major concern is that these bacteria can come with antibiotic genes which can be transferred to our own gut microbiome, which increases our risk of an antibiotic resistant infection in the future. This should be particularly considered for people who may be immunocompromised. For this reason we recommend cooking meats rather than feeding raw, and if feeding raw then the meat should be stored and handled with good hygiene practices as if you were eating it yourself.

*Convenience and lifestyle*

Last but not least, convenience can play an important role in choosing an appropriate diet for your pet. Commercially prepared wet and dry foods can be easily stored and are readily available, making it a convenient op-

tion for pet owners to offer a nutritionally balanced meal. Some owners however, may find it rewarding to prepare food for our pets in the same way that we would provide food for ourselves or our family and may prefer home prepared meals for this reason.

Overall, there's certainly lots to think about when choosing an appropriate diet for your pet. Consultation with your veterinarian or a veterinary nutritionist may help narrow down the various options available out there to find the best solution for your pet.



# When the Olympic Games came through Trafalgar

Words by Dianne Ireland and John Weymouth from the Trafalgar & District Historical Society

In 2000, Mayor Bill Harrington invited all the residents of the Baw Baw Shire to participate as the Olympic flame travelled through the shire during day 63 of the traditional Olympic Torch Relay. The celebrations passed through Trafalgar on August 9 en route to an over-

night stop in Warragul, before the relay continued on towards Sydney for the first Olympic Games of the new millennium. The torch was carried into the Shire by former Yarragon resident Charlie Hooker. There was also a procession leading up to the flame's arrival, followed by a

concert in Logan Park.

Cauldrons were lit in 40 towns throughout Victoria, with one in Moe and another in Warragul. 1996 Olympian Julian Paynter lit the cauldron in Moe whilst local teenager Lauri Brooker did so in Warragul. A convoy of vehicles trans-

ported the torch towards Trafalgar on its route through the Baw Baw Shire. Holden provided over 5000 vehicles for the Sydney Olympics with 72 vehicles participating in the torch relay.

There was a celebratory event at Logan Park in Warragul. Locals enjoyed choir

performances, market stalls, a jumping castle, face painting and a mini-Olympics. A fireworks display followed a Vanessa Amarosi concert. Photos from the time show crowds lining the route cheering on the torch bearers.

*This information was tak-*

*en from Moe and Narracan News and the Festival of the Flame booklet from the Baw Baw Shire. These resources can be found in the archives of the Trafalgar & District Historical Society.*



## Baw Baw Sustainability Network AGM set for August 29

Only financial members are eligible to vote or nominate to join the Committee of Management.

Please ensure you are a current member, or if you would like to join, please visit our website: <https://www.bbsn.org.au/membership>. If you are not sure your membership is current, please get in touch by email: [hello@bbsn.org.au](mailto:hello@bbsn.org.au)

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At the conclusion of the formalities we will be showing Joost Bakker film Greenhouse. Greenhouse follows environmental campaigner Joost Bakker as he builds a self-sustaining home that provides its occupants with shelter and nourishment. He faces his fair share of challenges and is accompanied by internationally acclaimed chefs Matt Stone

and Jo Barret.

7pm Thursday 29 August  
Uniting Church Hall, 9 Campbell Street, Yarragon.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

To register your attendance, go to: [www.bbsn.org.au/events](http://www.bbsn.org.au/events)  
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## Helping save the Strzelecki gum

By Jordan Ross

Gippsland Water has helped boost the local population of endangered Strzelecki gums with a successful revegetation program in Neerim South. Their work to revegetate the site with a range of flora will help improve the biodiversity of the area.

The small population can be found at a conservation site Gippsland Water manages near the Neerim South wastewater treatment plant. Nearly 2,000 native plants were planted at the site be-

tween 2018 and 2019 and have since flourished.

Site inspections revealed the program had enhanced overall habitat quality and resilience for the gums.

Eucalyptus strzeleckii, more commonly known as the Strzelecki gum, is a tree that is native only to Victoria, with a vast majority found within the Strzelecki ranges in Gippsland.

The gums are classified as vulnerable under the Australian Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conserva-

tion Act 1999. The trees often have lance-shaped leaves and can produce white flowers, grouped flower buds and conical fruit.

While much focus is on the replanting of the vulnerable gums, Gippsland Water emphasised that the project was to ensure the biodiversity of the overall area improves. This means the revegetation of low-lying plants and shrubbery as well.

Revegetation programs are massively beneficial to the environment. Vegetation pro-

vides habit and food for animals, producing oxygen while absorbing carbon dioxide. In grassland or agricultural areas, trees can help move water from the land to the atmosphere, ensuring rainfall is absorbed into the soil. Overall, revegetation increases soil fertility, reduces soil erosion and improves biodiversity.

Sarah Cumming, managing director for the revegetation site, spoke of the success of the project.

*"We will continue to protect natural assets like the endan-*

*gered Strzelecki gum against pest species and other threats so they can remain part of nature,"* she said.

*"For us, it's an opportunity to reflect on the work we've done to restore vegetation and increase biodiversity,"* she said, as Gippsland Water celebrated their progress in the lead-up to World Environment Day in June.

The fact that Gippsland is home to some of Australia's most endangered plants and animals has inspired the water utility company to engage

in biodiversity management projects. There are also sites at the Moondarra Reservoir, Sunny Creek, Rawson and Mirboo North, which protect and conserve different native flora and fauna.

Gippsland Water has additional projects focusing on the revegetation of Strzelecki gums at conservation sites near Drouin and Warragul.

## Trafalgar Golf Club developing girls golf through scholarships

This article is reproduced with permission from Golf Australia; author Martin Blake.

A positive connection with local schools and the power of the Australian Golf Foundation Girls Scholarship Program is helping to reinvigorate Trafalgar Golf Club.

The club has another batch of AGF scholars engaging in the sport on Saturday afternoons this autumn, having worked wonders in the junior space last year by collaborating with two primary schools in the area.

In particular hundreds of students at Trafalgar Primary School and Yarragon Primary School have had the benefit of the expertise of qualified Community Instructors Stewart Cluning and Di Moody.

The instructors talent-identified students from those clinics and as a result, five found their way through to the AGF scholarship pro-

gram at Trafalgar.

For the little club based in a bushland setting eight kilometres out of the town, the journey to better engage with women and girls began five years ago with a government grant to buy some sets of clubs and conduct Get Into Golf Clinics.

Recently Trafalgar became a signatory to the R&A Women in Golf Charter to confirm its commitment to the cause.

One of the bonuses of the AGF programs is that they have alerted local residents to the existence of the golf club, and at the same time reminded the golf club that its somewhat remote location is an issue.

"It's been interesting to hear people come out to the club and they say 'I didn't even know this was here,'" says Anne Outhred, Trafalgar's women's captain.

"That's been a nice thing, to be able to showcase the club. It highlighted for us

how remote we are from the community. If you're not involved in golf, you might now know we're there."

Trafalgar has focused on inclusion, and a welcoming attitude. Outhred in her leadership role has rallied against overly-restrictive rules on attire, telling the girls to make themselves comfortable and safe.

Cluning as the instructor was on the same page. "We taught the basics and we broke down any barriers," he said. "They didn't need to worry about ethnic group, social-economic group, any of that."

Outhred says having the girls around the club gives it a different feel and a positive vibe. When the AGF scholars are brought in to spend time with the members during Wednesday competition, the existing players embrace the beginners.

"They know where the golf club is, tick," said Outhred. "They know how to find

the place, where the facilities are. Thinking about it from an adult perspective, I had nothing to do with golf until I retired and stepping out of the car into the clubhouse was the biggest challenge for me as a 58-year-old.

"We can't understand how hard that is at times. We tend to be dismissive about it. We need to put in place little things that bridge that gap. Our club does that very well. I think we recognise that if we don't, we are in trouble."

What is completely unknown is what the longer-term impact upon a club like Trafalgar will be. But in the short-term, it has around 15 junior girl members now, compared to zero just a short few years ago.

Farther ahead, Outhred anticipates that inevitably, some of the girls will move on to other pursuits or move away from the town following school.

But she was gratified

by an anecdote passed on by a Trafalgar member recently which told of an AGF scholar who had formed a stronger bond with a golfing grandparent through taking up sport, the girl suddenly blossoming socially and also finding common topics of conversation with her neighbours.

"That was a powerful message and one that you don't always get to hear about," she said. "A young girl finding other people in her community that she could talk to and identify with, I suppose. It's the connection for the neighbour and the girl and the connection for the girl and the grandfather."

For Trafalgar and Anne Outhred, they are taking on the challenge. "I'd rather be damned for trying, than damned for not," she said.

For more information please contact Trafalgar Golf Club on (03) 5633 1110 or email [golf@trafalgargolf.com.au](mailto:golf@trafalgargolf.com.au).

### Traf District News invites articles from you

This newspaper welcomes more writers providing a range of articles and ideas.

Contact: [articles@trafnews.com](mailto:articles@trafnews.com) or call 5633 2591



## Another successful year for Trafalgar Lions

President Trevor Byrne presented his annual report at the Lions Club of Trafalgar's Change-over Dinner, recently held at the Trafalgar Bowls Club. In his report he thanked Patricia Tattersson as Secretary and Olive Morrison as Treasurer with the three Vice Presidents, Ian Bosma, Alan Smith and Joanna Reekie all having done an excellent job. He said the club has been

busy catering with the I.G.A. barbeque each month and other catering events included the district cabinet meetings, Youth of the Year, Junior Public Speaking, Australia Day Breakfast, Swap Meet, and the Anzac Day Breakfast. He expressed his thanks to everyone who helped with these events.

The main fundraising is with the catering, wood to I.G.A. and the Swap Meet.

Donations made to the local community of over \$14,750, and just under \$7,000 to Lions humanitarian projects were made, none of which could have been achieved without the support of the broader Trafalgar community and by the tremendous effort of our members.

The new Board of Directors was then inducted by District Cabinet Secretary PDG Terry Hayler.



Trafalgar Lions Club Board of Directors for 2024-25 (From left rear) Greg Sephton, Ian Bosma, Treasurer David Koshade, Mike Hornby, Tom Pye, Alan Smith. (front) Marianne Tyler, Secretary Pat Tattersson, President Trevor Byrne, Joanna Reekie, John Parkin. Absent Roger Carse.

## Little Black Book of Scams

Behind the growing number of scam reports are everyday Australians who lost money to scams – sometimes their life savings. And the true cost of scams is more than a dollar figure. Scams can have a devastating impact on victims' lives. As scammers become increasingly sophisticated in their tactics, we need to better coordinate our efforts to stop them.

The little black book is free - available online or in hard form from the Trafalgar and District Community Bank.

- What is a scam
- How to spot a scam

- Telephone scams
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## 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	<a href="http://bawbawartsalliance.org.au">bawbawartsalliance.org.au</a>	0428 866 417
BawBaw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Darren Wallace	<a href="mailto:darren.wallace@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au">darren.wallace@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au</a>	0476 000 053
BawBaw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Michael Leany	<a href="mailto:michael.leaney@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au">michael.leaney@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au</a>	0476 000 119
BawBaw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Peter Kostos	<a href="mailto:peter.kostas@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au">peter.kostas@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au</a>	0438 570 304
BawBaw Sustainability Network	Malcolm McKelvie	<a href="mailto:bbsn.org.au">bbsn.org.au</a>	0490 485 370
BetterMental Together	Kerry Rantall	<a href="mailto:bettermentall@gmail.com">bettermentall@gmail.com</a>	0477 115 666
Bowls Club	Ian Miles	<a href="mailto:trafalgarbowlsclub@bigpond.com">trafalgarbowlsclub@bigpond.com</a>	0400 210 033
Boxing Gymnasium	Shane Cameron	<a href="mailto:box_on_box_all@hotmail.com">box_on_box_all@hotmail.com</a>	0408 962 764
Campdraft	Cheryl	<a href="https://facebook.com/trafdraft">facebook.com/trafdraft</a>	0416 166 027
Cemetery Trust	Howard Jones		5633 2282
CFA (non emergency contact)	District HQ		5624 1900
Chamber of Commerce	Jade McGegor	<a href="https://facebook.com/visititrafalgar.com.au">facebook.com/visititrafalgar.com.au</a>	0421 467 270
Community Notice Board		<a href="https://facebook.com/trafalgarcommunitynoticeboard">facebook.com/trafalgarcommunitynoticeboard</a>	
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Earls Rd Landcare Group	Jim Whaley		0423 832 122
Football Netball Club	Brett Tonkin	<a href="mailto:trafalgarnfc@gmail.com">trafalgarnfc@gmail.com</a>	0477 636 648
Golden Girls Trafalgar	Social Group		5623 6032
Golf Club		<a href="mailto:golf@trafalgargolf.com.au">golf@trafalgargolf.com.au</a>	5633 1110
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Historical Society	Dianne Ireland	<a href="mailto:historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com">historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com</a>	0439 655 172
Kindergarten			5633 1233
Lions Club	David Koschade	<a href="mailto:trafalgarlions@gmail.com">trafalgarlions@gmail.com</a>	0428 331 157
Mens Shed	Eric Johnson		5633 1566
Opp Shop	Glenys Brennan		0417 587 454
Police Station (non emergency)			5633 1188
Polocrosse Club	Gill Massey	<a href="mailto:trafalgarpoloxclub@gmail.com">trafalgarpoloxclub@gmail.com</a>	0455 440 062
Pony Club	Denise Marriot		0411 890 299
Primary School		<a href="http://trafps.vic.edu.au">trafps.vic.edu.au</a>	5633 1162
Probus Club	John Atwell		0419 701 331
Public Hall		<a href="mailto:trafalgapublichall@gmail.com">trafalgapublichall@gmail.com</a>	
Rotary Club of Trafalgar	Michael Fozard		0418 513 092
St John's Church	Trafalgar	6 pm Saturday	
St. Jariath's Church	Yarragon		
Traf District News	Trevor Colvin	<a href="mailto:articles@trafnews.com">articles@trafnews.com</a>	5633 2591
Trafalgar Parks Bowling Facility	Michael Fozard		0418 513 092
Trafalgar Ping Pong Club	Bob		
Trafalgar Tennis Club			Sue Klemke
Wesleyan Methodist Church	Thorpdale	10 am Sunday	
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# Cricket records updated

By Liam Durkin

TRAFALGAR Cricket Club fast bowler Jackson Noonan has moved to second on the club's all-time wicket-takers list.

Noonan now has 261 senior wickets, trailing only club legend Craig ‘Olly’ Nielsen on 374.

The right armer had another productive season in 2023/24, taking 21 wickets for the First XI.

Noonan picked up his 250th senior wicket during the season, and went past club great Garry ‘Wizard’ Edwards, who finished his career with 254 scalps.

Virtually all of Noonan's wickets have come at First XI level (223), with a sprinkling picked up in the lower grades during his younger years.

Perhaps unjustly, he only has four ‘five-fas’ to his name, although this can be attributed to the sheer amount of play and misses he delivers most games.

Statistics won't show the number of times he has beaten the bat, which would sit at an average of half-a-dozen genuine play and misses every match.

With Noonan applying pressure at one end, bowlers at the other have possibly benefitted as batsmen

look to play more shots, thus bringing about a higher chance of dismissals.

Noonan's time with Trafalgar has been highlighted with a couple of senior premierships, to go with three First XI bowling aggregates.

He still holds the record for most wickets in a representative season, taking 15 for Central Gippsland in 2015/16.

While primarily known for his bowling, he has also proven to be a more than handy bat, and has more than 1600 runs to his name.

Over the years, he has been both an opening and pinch-hitter, with his most famous innings possibly being the 86 he peeled off in a one dayer against Moe as the Ships chased down more than 250.

Assuming he keeps playing, he should go past Nielsen's mark in the next decade.

Noonan's long-time teammates, Daniel Heathcote and Rhys Holdsworth also feature heavily in the club's bowling records.

Heathcote is fourth on the all-time list (241 wickets), and Holdsworth fifth (239), meaning three of the top five wicket-takers in the club's history are current players.

Holdsworth also con-

tinues to climb the batting ranks. He has been anchored in third on the all-time list for a few seasons, but is only 1200 runs away from going past club icon and modern day great, Graeme Rankin.

A few current players went past the 1000 run mark during the latest season. They were: Cooper Burgess, Leo Connolly, Brent Claridge and Billy Claridge.

Another highlight from the bowling records was Zack Brown.

Brown moved into the top 10 on the club's all time list with 158 poles, an incredible number for someone who only turned 24 this year.

The right arm quick has a knack for taking wickets, and has two First XI bowling aggregates to this name (one in a premiership season) and was Man of the Match in the last season's Grand Final after taking 4/9.

The Trafalgar Cricket Club is now preparing for the 2024/25 season.

The club fields and senior and junior teams, and welcomes new players and members.

For more information, email [trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com](mailto:trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com), or check out the club's socials.



Jackson Noonan now sits second on the list of wicket takers for Trafalgar Cricket Club.

# Moorcroft joins Thorpy for Picko's milestone

FORMER Essendon high-flyer Gary Moorcroft played a one-off game for Thorpdale recently.

The match coincided with Blues favourite son Ray Pickering playing his 250th game. Thorpdale made it a mile-

stone to remember, beating Mirboo North in Round 11 of the Mid Gippsland Football-Netball League.

Moorcroft, who took what is widely regarded as the greatest mark in AFL history in 2001, suited up at the

grand old age of 48.

The appointment came about through Thorpdale coach and former Essendon player Jason Winderlich.

While Winderlich, who grew up in Thorpdale, never actually played with

Moorcroft at Essendon, the Bombers network of players allowed them to stay connected.

Moorcroft and Pickering kicked a goal each on the day.



Thorpdale's Ray Pickering leaves the field after playing game number 250.

# Hillmen break the drought

By Blake Metcalf-Holt

HILL End arrived on the winner's list last month.

The Rovers celebrated an 11-point victory against Boolarra in Round 12 of the Mid Gippsland Football-Netball League, marking their first win for the season and their first in almost two years – 714 days to be exact.

What's more, it was at their home ground.

Despite the drought, Hill End had reason to be confident heading into the game considering their recent form.

The bottom-listed Rovers pushed finals contender MDU for four quarters the week prior, only going down by three goals.

In games before that they had stuck with teams in patches, but were let down by equally horrendous passages.

Momentum flowed into their Boolarra matchup, with Hill End kicking the first four goals of the game, and they were up by as much as 26 to nothing halfway through the first quarter.

Boolarra did find themselves and got to the quarter time break down by only a goal.

The Rovers must have been acting on some pent up credence spilt over from the preceding weeks, as they once again jumped out with the first four goals of the quarter before conceding equally as much, leading 8.2 (50) to 7.4 (46).

Country footy would be on full display to open the second half however, with only a goal each both way, but the Demons found the little extra edge to hit the front for the first time all day and lead

by three points heading into the final term.

After a back-and-forth opening few minutes with Boolarra kicking a goal early, Hill End kicked the next three to jump to a two goal lead with just over five minutes remaining.

The Demons would respond momentarily to bring it within a goal, but time was against them and the final siren wailed which guaranteed the down-on-their-luck side would be reading aloud their lyrics for the first time in quite a while.

In Hill End's momentous win, it was the young guns who proved to be the difference-makers.

Seth Calway continued a stellar season after coming across from Drouin to begin the 2023 season, collecting best-on-ground honours for the fifth time this season, while first-year senior player Liam Cuminksey booted a team-high four goals.

The rest of the best included captain Aaron Fawcett, recent recruit Marko Kulas picked up mid-season from Longwarry in the El-linbank & District Football League, Harry Moore, and local boy Mark Ferguson.

Hill End's last victory came in Round 15, 2022 with a two-point thriller against eventual premier Yinnar, before losing their last three games of the season, including a three-goal loss to Boolarra in the Elimination Final.

Rovers senior coach, Ambu Uliando recorded his first win at the helm, being at the club for over 10 years at this point, he's still cherishes it as one of his best football memories.

"I'm not sure where I'd

rank it on all-time football victories but it would have to be up there as one of the best," he said.

"There was a lot of emotion, a lot of hard work. When you've had a fair few games where you've been done by 100 points or more, I had some responses from the other guys that wins like that especially compounded by all those losses it makes it even more worth getting wins like that and it was really special for the club."

Uliando could sense the team's confidence levels had changed upon their MDU performance.

"The MDU game was the first time we actually played a consistent four quarters and there had been other games... we just need to string together those four quarters to be competitive with some of those better sides but it's hard to do that with an inexperienced team."

Uliando took over as senior coach for the 2024 season succeeding Mike Santo, who served the role for six years, taking the club to heights unseen for nearly 40 years, playing off in the 2019 Grand Final.

The day's festivities were made extra special as the club held their Past Players day with the clubmen of the past watching on as the young and hungry side fought tooth and nail to get on the board in 2024.

The Rovers will hope to tack on a few extra sweeteners in their final five games of the season.

"Hopefully we've got a couple more where we can get up and we'll see how we go," Uliando added.



The scoreboard makes it official; Hill End's first senior win in two years.



Victorious coach Ambu Uliando

# Moe Racing Club shines at awards evening

Moe Racing Club was awarded the esteemed Regional Community Club Award at the Community Clubs Victoria (CCV) 2024 Gala Awards recently.

Held Saturday, July 6 at the RACV City Club, Moe Racing Club was awarded the winner's trophy.

The respected industry event represents more than 1000 licenced clubs across metropolitan and regional Victoria.

The award acknowledged the club's ability to demonstrate great benefit through the promotion of services and programmes, as well as assistance to outside pro-

grammes, and a commitment to employee skills development, and commitment to WHS in areas of operation and licensing.

Moe Racing Club Chief Executive, Cass Rendell said the Moe Racing Club is a community-centred organisation that gives back through various promotions and services, including raising money for organisations like the Good Friday Appeal.

"We have started a Social Golf Club and hold weekly raffles, footy tipping, punters club, and a Friday members draw to foster a sense of community and friendly competition," Rendell said.

"The club also provides a welcoming space with ample TV streaming services for sports enthusiasts and sponsors local events, companies, and sporting clubs, often hosting dinners and fundraising activities.

"Employees have opportunities for skill development through courses, and the club recognises dedicated staff through its Staff Recognition Program, boosting morale and dedication.

"The club also prioritises workplace health and safety with a dedicated WH&S/OH&S committee that meets monthly to address issues and ensure employees' voices

are heard and acted upon."

CCV Chief Executive, Andrew Lloyd said the awards night provided the appropriate platform for clubs to be recognised for their hard work.

"We believe in reward for efforts and the appreciation of our clubs and members as they continue to persevere in a challenging operational climate for businesses," Lloyd said.

"We are pleased to once again host this prestigious awards night, honouring the exceptional efforts of individual and clubs whose contributions have had a profound impact on our local

communities.

"It is a privilege to acknowledge their outstanding contributions to Victoria's social and economic well-being," he said.

Elsewhere, Jo Wouters from Moe Racing Club was also awarded the esteemed Club Person of the Year at the Community Clubs Victoria (CCV) 2024 Gala Awards.

Wouters is considered the backbone of the Moe Racing Club.

The club's chief executive led the chorus of congratulations.

"Known for her excellent rapport with patrons, Jo's warmth and kindness endear

her to both customers and staff, making her a beloved Duty Manager," Rendell said.

"Her interactions with patrons are genuine and caring, often going out of her way to ensure everyone feels looked after, especially in the gaming room.

"Jo's impact is profound, as illustrated by a recent instance where her friendly conversation saved a woman's life, turning her mindset around during a difficult time. This woman's gratitude and continued visits highlight Jo's extraordinary ability to provide support and comfort, making her an invaluable asset to the club."

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# Mid Gippy, North Gippy begin talks

By Tom Hayes, Blake Metcalf-Holt and Liam Durkin

MID Gippsland Football-Netball League officials and their North Gippsland counterparts met with AFL Gippsland recently to discuss the future of both leagues.

The meeting, held on Tuesday, June 18, looked at potential changes to current structures and compositions, and focused on the current state of the leagues, and potential scenarios for the future.

Both leagues share similarities due to their relative close proximity and commonality, and have often been tied in conversation.

North Gippsland has 11 member clubs, while Mid Gippsland has 13, although six are from 'outside' the surrounding Latrobe Valley and Wellington Shire regions.

The two leagues have also had clubs affiliate with both

leagues during their history.

Most critically perhaps, the two leagues have been identified as being comparable in terms of town populations and playing standard/performance from its member clubs.

During the meeting, league executives had the opportunity to discuss the current club composition and playing numbers, as well as the potential repercussions of maintaining the status quo.

Discussions also centred around potential future structures and composition options for the leagues, repercussions for football and netball and the process for admission and transfer of clubs and teams.

Clubs seeking to transfer leagues will firstly need the approval of the destination leagues existing member clubs, and the source league

must agree with the transfer request.

If this is to occur, it would be between August 1 and October 31.

Should the member clubs not approve the transfer, then the club stays in the existing league. Should the source league appeal the acceptance of a club transferring, then AFL Victoria would be asked to make a determination based on submissions from affected parties.

One of the key topics of conversation at the meeting was the junior competitions within the leagues, aiming to foster the development of young talent, ensuring long-term success of the leagues.

Junior football remains a sticking point in any discussion involving the NGFNL and MGFNL. The NGFNL mandates that all member clubs field an under 18 side,

in comparison to the MGFNL, which currently only has five of 13 member clubs fielding under 18 teams (noting Fish Creek and Tarwin field a combined side).

AFL Gippsland has said all clubs across both leagues will be consulted widely over the following weeks, with plans to engage in meaningful dialogue with all parties a key part of the project.

Critically, AFL Gippsland has maintained leagues and clubs will be leading the project with their full support.

The project has been labelled 'Futures Project', which AFL Gippsland says will involve local people making local decisions.

Gormandale Football-Netball has struggled on the football field in recent years, and have been seen as one of many small town clubs who would possibly benefit from a two-tiered

competition combining the North Gippsland and Mid Gippsland leagues.

Combining the two leagues could even in theory create a three-divisional league of eight teams in each league.

League changes have been commonplace across both leagues in the last decade, although with different approaches.

While more clubs have sought to join North Gippsland, a greater number have looked at leaving Mid Gippsland.

Morwell East has attempted to join North Gippsland at the end of the last two seasons. The Hawks appeared certain to join last year, only for the move to be blocked by NGFNL clubs at the 11th hour.

The Hawks have already signalled their intentions of applying to North Gippsland

again at the end of this season, and it is understood Yinnar and Newborough are also considering their options.

Newborough had been previously linked to the Ellinbank District Football-Netball League, although it is understood all EDFNL clubs have told Newborough they aren't wanted.

Mid Gippsland lost Yarragon and Trafalgar to Ellinbank in 2018 and 2020 respectively, followed by Yallourn Yallourn North leaving Mid Gippsland for North Gippsland in 2021.

With a lot to take in, and still many pins to fall, the absolute irony of the whole situation is hard to ignore.

Mid Gippsland was seen as the 'saviour' of the now extinct Alberton FNL just six years ago. That same league could now

# Swenson salutes in game 300

YOU couldn't have scripted it any better.

Trafalgar Football-Netball Club veteran Matt Swenson celebrated his 300th senior game in the best possible way last month.

With the Bloods holding a narrow five-point lead over Neerim Neerim South, a match sealing tackle from Swenson ensured he would be signing the song after being chaired off.

Swenson took in the applause of well wishes as he exited his home ground, on the shoulders of teammates

Dylan Farrell and Cooper Minichiello.

The occasion completed a memorable day, as the Bloods topped their more fancied opponents in Round 14 of the Ellinbank and District Football League, winning 5.11 (41) to 5.6 (36).

A number of aspects lead to many Trafalgar officials claiming it to be the club's best win since joining the EDFL from Mid Gippsland three years ago.

Not only was there Swenson's milestone, but the Bloods were also celebrating

their past players day.

A packed crowd came to Trafalgar to join in festivities, which saw part of the oval painted with congratulatory messages to the milestone man.

In a dour struggle, the Bloods led at three quarter time by five points, before holding on to win by the same margin when fulltime was called.

The win kept Trafalgar outright sixth, and with it, their finals hopes remain alive.

A Trafalgar Football-Net-

ball Club Life Member, Swenson became just the fifth person to play 300 senior games in the red and white. He made his senior debut way back in 2002, and has gone on to achieve a number of team and personal accolades since.

He has played in three senior Mid Gippsland premier-ships for Trafalgar (2009, '12, '18) and represented the MGFNL in senior interleague.

Club awards include selection in two TFNC Teams of the Decade (2000-09, 2010-19), while his consis-

tency and durability saw him win the Bloods senior goal-kicking just last year with close to 50 goals.

Playing at either ends of the ground, his disposal by foot has been a hallmark, and he is often cited as one of the best distributors by teammates and those who have played with him.

Off field, he has also served a number of roles, perhaps unheralded at times, including secretary, vice president and through dedicated sponsorship.

He has also put in count-

less hours behind the scenes helping with recruitment.

The Swenson family has been a part of the Trafalgar community for generations. His grandfather was the legendary Clarrie Swenson, who played for Collingwood and Hawthorn, and later won the Trood Award and Rodda Medal as best player in the Gippsland League in 1950.

# Snell standing in the Hall of Fame

By Blake Metcalf-Holt

MIRBOO NORTH'S Belinda Snell was inducted into the Australian Basketball Hall of Fame last month.

The induction followed an outstanding and decorated professional career both in her homeland and overseas.

Snell spent 20 years between the WNBL, WNBA, various European leagues and was a frequent member of the Australian women's national team (commonly known as the Opals) at the Olympic Games and other international tournaments.

The inductees were enshrined at a function in inner Melbourne before later being celebrated at John Cain Arena pregame before the Opals pre-Olympic match against China.

"I'm very honoured to be in the Australian Basketball Hall of Fame with such elite, tremendous athletes from the basketball world," Snell told the Express.

To accompany her individual acknowledgment, the Opals 2006 FIBA World Cup championship side became the first team to be inducted into the Australian Basketball Hall of Fame, which alongside Snell featured such icons as Lauren Jackson, Penny Taylor, Kristi Harrower and future AFLW champion, Erin Phillips. The 2006 World Cup is Australian basketball's highest ever achievement.

Most 2006 members were

on the court that night to embrace and be lauded by the fanatical Melbourne crowd.

"Catching up with a majority of my teammates from 2006 from the World Championships, it's so long ago now, but it was great to catch up with all of them and go about all the fun stories with them and winning the gold (medal)," Snell said.

Snell recalled a fork in the road moment during their famous run, in the Opals semi-final match against Brazil in which she engaged heatedly with long-time teammate and friend, Lauren Jackson.

"In front of at least 15,000 people and we were down going into the second half and I think in the third quarter I remember Lauren telling me 'shoot the damn ball!' or something along those lines, you know, heat of the moment and I managed to knock down a few important shots in that semi-final and get the team into the gold medal game and go on to win," she said.

"(It) was obviously very exciting and it's still such an honour to win the first senior gold medal."

Snell attended the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) from the ages of 17 to 19, winning a WNBL championship in 1999 with her fellow class members Jackson, Taylor and Suzy Batkovic (who was a fellow honouree on the night).

Snell then moved to the Sydney Panthers (later known as Sydney Uni Flames) and cemented herself as one of the best players in the country, named in the WNBL All-Star Five team in 2001, 2004 and 2005. It was the only place Snell felt it necessary to finish her career.

"(I) played over 10 seasons with the Flames, Sydney I call it my second home, I obviously spent a lot of time up there, I've got some great friends out of the Sydney shire area down south who I stay in contact with regularly and I love watching the Flames play as well," she said.

On January 22, 2005, Snell broke the WNBL single game scoring record by posting 54 points in a blowout win against the Perth Lynx in which she also tacked on nine rebounds, nine steals and seven assists. The record still stands to this day.

After a quality performance for the Opals in the 2004 Athens Olympics, Snell would be picked up by the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury and after three years would win the 2007 WNBA championship with them.

"Very fond memories over there, the facilities, just playing in huge stadiums week-in, week-out... (I) feel very lucky to have been able to get over to America and play in the best league in the world," she said.

At the time, the WNBA and other women's basketball leagues occupied a much smaller season as opposed to the likes of the NBA or the NBL, Snell managed her years in between the States and Europe.

Snell played for teams in France, Russia, Spain and Poland while also returning to the WNBA for multiple seasons at the San Antonio Silver Stars and finally with the Seattle Storm. She would win a total of five European trophies including the Euro-League title in 2011 with the Spanish Avenida.

Snell played in three Olympics (Athens 2004, Beijing 2008 and London 2012), medalling in all (two silvers and a bronze).

She is perhaps best remembered for a ridiculous clutch moment at the London games.

With Australia looking like they were headed for certain defeat, she famously hit a miraculous three-pointer from beyond halfway in the preliminary match against France to force the game into overtime. The ball was literally in mid-air as the final siren blew.

Snell is looking forward to this year's Olympic Games and checking out what all three Australian basketball sides do – the Opals, Boomers and Gangurru (3-on-3 basketball).

She'll also be keeping an

eye out for Jackson, who returns to the Olympic play for the first time since 2012 in London.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing Lauren out there at the upcoming Paris Olympics and see how well she'll do there and also our up-and-coming Traralgon girl, Gippsland girl Jade Melbourne, very excited for her, looking forward to her representing Australia," Snell said.

Regionally, Snell was recently announced as Gippsland United's Youth League Women's coach for 2025 as the local representative basketball club pushes to eventually return a senior women's team to the Big V court.

"I'm looking forward to working with the young girls

around Gippsland in the upcoming months, the season's not until next year but I'll be getting around to some stadiums in the coming months and checking out the local talent and hopefully we can put together a strong team on the court for next season and look to build up the women's program later on down the track potentially," she said.

Snell has had coaching experience in her final years in the WNBL with the Sydney Uni Flames and as head coach of the NBL1 Ballarat Blues as late as 2022.

Snell grew up in Mirboo North, and played for the Latrobe Valley representative side (a previous incarnation of Gippsland United) before making her way in professional ranks.



World stage: Belinda Snell during her playing days. Photograph supplied



Matt Swenson is chaired off after playing his 300th senior game for Trafalgar.



Premiership teammates of Matt Swenson gather to celebrate his 300th game. Pictured is (back row) Jace Butler, Matt Swenson, Will Cheatley (front) Rhys Holdsworth, Michael Farrell, Luke Williams, Klay Butler, Chris Kyriacou, Matt Robertson, Hayden Fredericks and Tyson Leys.



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