

# Traf District News

August 2025 – Edition 277

www.trafnews.com  Follow us: @trafnews

## NEWS

**Trafalgar Community Bank**  
“here to stay”

PAGE 2



## NEWS

**NAIDOC Week celebrated across shire**

PAGE 4 &amp; 5



## NEWS

**Furry friends up for adoption**

PAGE 13

## Holden Museum opens space to honour the late Neil Joiner

By Jordan Ross

On June 26, the Trafalgar Holden Museum opened its Neil Joiner Holden Heritage Centre. The new wing includes a showroom decked with Holden cars and a mezzanine floor with 24 display booths to showcase Holden-related paraphernalia.

The museum now houses more than 75 vehicles made by Holden. In 2014, it opened

with 19 vehicles. Well-known local Neil Joiner was the driving force behind the museum, recruiting a group of volunteers to help him start it.

The dream for this new building began over four years ago when General Motors-Holden called Neil and offered the museum some additional cars.

“From that moment, we were all in,” said Jenny Middleton, president of the Trafalgar Holden Museum, who also spoke of the “enthusiasm” Neil had for this museum.

“Today we celebrate not just the building, but the legacy and vision of a man who brought people and passion together,” said Middleton.

Museum secretary and daughter of Neil Joiner, Anne Schembri was also present on the day and has

been an important member of the team in getting the project completed.

The museum, which is inside a preserved dairy factory on Waterloo Road, attracts around 10,000 visitors each year. According to the state government, the museum expansion is expected to increase visitation to the region, supporting the Gippsland tourism economy which

in 2024 welcomed more than 6 million visitors, who stayed 7.3 million nights and spent \$1.4 billion.

Minister for Tourism, Steve Dimopoulos, said that he’s never “seen anything like this in the country,” after taking a tour of the museum.

“We’re really proud as a Victorian government that we were able to contribute some money towards the [extension],” he said. Minister Dimopoulos said that he sees the museum not just as an asset of economic and tourism importance, but one that is an important marker in the national identity of Australians.

The Trafalgar Holden Museum was granted \$417,000, from the state government as a part of a tourism fund.

“We know people will come here for the Trafalgar

Holden Museum. Then they’ll stay and spend money at the pub, or they’ll go and stay at local accommodation venues. It extends their stay,” he said, speaking to the importance of museums as a driving factor in the area’s tourism sector.

“It is important that people from Melbourne [and] people from interstate, come and visit regional Victoria, [and] spend money in the local economy,” he continued.

Right now, the museum is open 10am to 4pm every day. Tickets start from just \$10 for children and \$20 for adults. The Trafalgar Holden Museum is worth a visit for any locals or for those passing through town. There’s always something new to see with exhibits rotating every three months and, of course, the newly opened Neil Joiner Centre.



Museum president Jenny Middleton. Both photographs by Jordan Ross.



(From left) Museum secretary Anne Schembri, museum president Jenny Middleton and Steve Dimopoulos MP.



**Strzelecki Realty**

Real Estate Agents  
77 Princes Hwy,  
Trafalgar VIC 3824  
Phone: (03) 5633 2858  
admin@strzeleckirealty.com.au  
www.strzeleckirealty.com.au

**EDCOMP**  
IT SERVICES



Gaming and Professional laptops  
fully customizable to your needs  
starting from just \$1199

Ph: (03) 5633 1344  
sales@edcomp.com.au  
1 Contingent Street Trafalgar  
www.edcomp.com.au

Simon James  
**Plumbing**  
**0499 259 080**  
Gas appliance repairs

Service and carbon monoxide testing  
Taps, Toilets, Hot Water Systems and  
all your general plumbing needs.

**Goodies**  
TV & COMMUNICATIONS

0466 333 660 enquiries@goodiestv.com.au  
goodiestv.com.au



DIGITAL TV  
SATELLITE TV & INTERNET  
PHONE, DATA AND WI-FI  
HOME THEATRE & AUDIO VISUAL  
4G AND 5G LTE RECEPTION  
2-WAY COMMUNICATIONS  
CCTV INSTALLATIONS



# 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.

Traf District News is published by Traf News Inc. Approx. 3,700 copies of Traf District News are distributed each month to homes and businesses.

**Traf District News OFFICE**  
Phone 5633 2591  
107 Princes Highway,  
Trafalgar VIC 3824  
admin@trafnews.com  
www.trafnews.com  
Follow us @trafnews



**EDITOR**  
Jordan Ross  
editor@trafnews.com

**PUBLISHER/DEPUTY EDITOR**  
Trevor Colvin

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
Susie Foletta  
Ric Nicolson  
Michael Fozzard  
Liam Durkin  
Jann Windham  
Belinda Smeal  
Peace Ijiyera

**ARTICLES**  
editor@trafnews.com

**ADVERTISING SALES CONSULTANT**  
Lucy Gatti  
advert@trafnews.com

**GRAPHIC DESIGN AND PRODUCTION**  
Alana Moon

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

©Traf District News 2025  
ISSN 1444.1608

**ADVERTISEMENT COPYRIGHT**  
Traf District News Incorporated being the publisher of Traf District News (the newspaper) is the owner of the copyright in all advertisements (including artwork) prepared by the servants and/or agents of the newspaper on behalf of its advertisers. Neither the newspaper's advertisers nor any person on their behalf are authorised to published, reproduce or copy in any manner, any of the said advertisements (including artwork) without the prior written licence of the newspaper.

**DISTRIBUTION MANAGER**  
Ric Nicolson

**THE GENEROUS PEOPLE WHO WALK THE STREETS LETTERBOXING THIS NEWSPAPER**  
Lynette Alexander  
Ivan Blitz  
Trevor Colvin  
John Duck  
Peter Dyt  
Michael Fozzard  
Brett Hicks (Scouts)  
Helen Spackman  
Alina Sarfaraz  
Adina Sarfaraz  
Ric Nicolson  
Jude Hayman  
Helen Scott

The views or remarks expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of Traf District News editorial or production staff and no endorsement or service is implied by the listing of advertisers, sponsors or contributors. Although every effort is taken in reproducing and printing advertisements correctly, we take no responsibility for errors.

# The Trafalgar Community Bank is “here to stay”

By Jordan Ross

The timing of the Trafalgar Community Bank reopening on June 10 after refurbishments and improvements to the branch, was perhaps a bit symbolic.

Just a few weeks later, Bendigo Bank announced the closure of regional branches in Yarram and Korumburra. But as a community bank, Trafalgar is “here to stay” according to branch manager, Torina Johnston. She noted that these upgrades “shows our commitment to the local community.”

She said that community banks are centred around the idea of “profit with purpose”. They have a local board and local shareholders and the aim is to reinvest profits back into the community.

Recently, the Trafalgar branch hit a “big milestone” with over \$2 million invested into the community over the past 20 years.

It was opened in the early 2000s by local business owners. It was during this time that regional bank branches were beginning to shut down

and they recognised that a physical bank would be needed to support the town and its community. After ANZ left town in 2018, the Trafalgar Community Bank is the only remaining bank.

The board thought that the branch was “tired” and needed “updating and modernising.” These refurbishments will optimise the space and support the staff.

“We are really fortunate to have the upgrades,” Johnston said.

While the new layout has less open space than it used to, the entrance is still spacious, and new offices will allow for the one-on-one conversations between customers and staff to have greater privacy.

Digital screens and a coin counter are among the new features. The coin counter will mean “less double handling” and ease the depositing process for customers and staff.

Johnston, who brings with her 25 years of bank experience, says that the continued support of the community

has ensured its future. The “good staff” who are local and care about their town have helped as well.

She said that community banks allow for “deeper conversations” and a stronger “connection with customers.”

Board Chairperson Debbie Di Sisto said “we’re proud to be part of this community, and we’re committed to the long-term sustainability of Community Bank Trafalgar & District.”

Our physical presence matters - and bricks and mortar remain a vital part of how we connect with and serve our local area. Our focus remains on continuing to provide meaningful support and service to our region and contributing to the growth of our community,” said Di Sisto.

The branch is open from 9:30 am, Monday to Friday and is located at 103a Princes Highway, Trafalgar.



Branch manager Torina Johnston. Photographed by Jordan Ross.



The entrance to the newly refurbished branch. Photographed by Jordan Ross.



The branch is under renovation. Image supplied.



Staff at the branch the day before renovations began. Image supplied.

SEPTEMBER 2025 EDITION DEADLINE:

Advertising Bookings Close: August 10  
Advertising Material Deadline: August 10  
Articles for Publication Close: August 15

WWW.TRAFNEWS.COM

DIRECT CHEMIST OUTLET

Discount Chemist

TRAFALGAR

LOCAL LOYALTY REWARDS PROGRAM  
JOIN IN-STORE TODAY!

75 Princes Highway, Trafalgar, VIC 3824  
(03) 5633 1155  
trafalgar@directchemistoutlet.com.au

OUTLET PRICES  
UNBEATABLE VALUE



# Future of the Great Forest National Park in doubt

By Jordan Ross

According to a social media post by Field and Game Australia, the Victorian State Government has ruled out the establishment of the controversial Great Forest National Park.

The Great Forest National Park was proposed by ecologists and forest scientists and would cover from Kinglake to Lake Eildon and Healesville to Mount Baw Baw. Much of this land is fragmented between different designations as national parks and state forests.

The social media post claims that at a July conference for the Electrical Trades Union Victorian Branch, Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos made a statement saying that the Labor state government will not support the new national park.

At a previous event, Dimopoulos had said that *“There are no new national parks on the agenda,”* and that Labor had never formally supported the Great Forest National Park.

The state government says they are focused on giving Victorians more opportunities to camp, hike, hunt and engage in a range of outdoor recreational activities.

Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath says that she wrote to the minister asking for a public confirmation.

*“He must be prepared to put it on the public record,”* said Ms Bath.

Melina Bath, who is the Shadow Minister Public Land Management, has been staunchly against the creation of new national parks, and gathered over 40,000 signatures on a petition with that sentiment.

*“The Liberals and Nationals oppose the creation of new national parks and support the active management of our public land for better environmental and recreational outcomes,”* she said.

While hunters and outdoor recreationalists are celebrating the decision, environmentalists are concerned.

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) said this decision overrides public consultation and ignores expert advice. They referenced polling by research group RedBridge which found that four in five Victorians support the creation of new national parks.

Leader of the Victorian Greens, Ellen Sandell said Minister Dimopoulos has *“capitulated to hunting and shooting lobbyists, sacrificing*



Baw Baw National Park. Photographed by Buffie Harris. Image supplied by Parks Victoria.

*the future of Victoria’s most endangered ecosystems on the altar of political convenience.”*

*“This is total contempt for nature, for the traditional owners, scientists, and communities who’ve fought for years to protect these precious places,”* she said.

According to the VNPA, national parks are of great importance. Since European colonisation, over 70% of native vegetation has been removed. National parks focus on conservation and aim to protect ecosystems and habitats.

The agency also emphasises that visitors are still welcome to visit national parks and that many Victorians visit them every year to engage in recreational activities that don’t cause harm or damage to the sensitive wildlife and delicate ecosystems inside them. This means that in most national parks, you can camp, walk your dog, ride a trail bike, and drive a four-wheel-drive.

The VNPA is calling on Victorians who are concerned about this decision to join their petition at <https://vnpa.org.au/gfnp-action/>.

**Deer hunting opportunities will be expanded in East Gippsland**

In a similar tone, the Alban Labor Government is

expanding recreational hunting in East Gippsland, a move they say will boost tourism, support local jobs and help control wild deer.

This will come in the form of an amendment to the National Parks Act which will allow for seasonal deer hunting in the Errinundra and Snowy River National Park. These parks cover over 130,000 hectares or land.

It is important to note that anyone wanting to recreationally hunt deer in Victoria must hold a current Victorian Game Licence issued by the Game Management Authority. There are over 45,000 licensed deer hunters in the state.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve, Dimopoulos called this move a *“win for regional communities”* and will mean *“more visitors, more jobs, and stronger local economies.”*

He also explained that this decision is a part of their plan to manage deer populations across the state.

The Australian Deer Association has also welcomed the amendment, with advocate Sean Kilkenny calling it a *“fantastic decision.”*

*“Public land access is cherished, and we thank the premier and minister for their ongoing efforts and engagement*

*regarding public land access,”* he said.

Member for Eastern Victorian and the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, Jeff Bourman said that decision was *“great news”* and a *“major win for hunters, jobs and community wellbeing.”*

The VNPA has slammed this decision saying that the Government’s claims that hunting will reduce the impact of deer on our environment are false and that the

government’s own 2021 State-wide Deer Control Strategy states that *“recreational hunting on its own is not an effective means of controlling deer numbers.”*

Jack Gough, CEO of the Invasive Species Council said *“If the government is serious about protecting our wildlife, they need to stop pandering to the shooting lobby and scrap the protections for deer as game animals under Victorian law.”*

Deer hunting is already permitted in some areas of the Baw Baw National Park from February 15 to December 15 each year. For more information, visit <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/hunting> or <https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/deer>.

*Editor’s Note: This story was written July 16 and may be out of date by the time of publication. Apologies for any confusion.*

**Your kitchen & bathroom renovations specialist**

116 Waterloo Rd Trafalgar

**Allure**  
KITCHENS • JOINERY • STONE  
1300 4 ALLURE







# Recreational and Educational opportunities for NAIDOC week

Following the opening ceremony on Monday July 7, there were two additional events held for NAIDOC week in the Baw Baw Shire.

On Friday July 11, Members from the Koori Community, Victoria Police, and Baw Baw Shire Council united at

the Warragul Leisure Centre for a deadly game of basketball. Then the Kurnai Culture Expo at the West Gippsland Arts Centre was an amazing opportunity to learn from Kurnai Elders about their culture and history. Historical maps, native ingredients, and Kurnai films were on display.



Kurnai Culture Expo at the West Gippsland Arts Centre. All images supplied.



The Deadly Hoops Basketball featured kids and community games.



The Deadly Hoops Basketball game brought together the community.



Volunteers at the expo.



WARRAGUL & MOE OPTICAL



# Walhalla Ghost Tour

By Jordan Ross

Walhalla was founded as a gold-mining community back in 1862, and its rich history is the perfect backdrop for a night of chilling ghost stories.

The night began when we met our host at the old Walhalla Chronicle office. Our hostess, Miss Sally, was an engaging and confident storyteller. Her expert knowledge of the area and its history, as well as her passion for the town, were on display all night.

In many ways she set the scene for what life was in Walhalla during the 19th century: a “hellhole” with a “thick and green” sewage-filled river running through it. She remarked that “death came upon the Walhallians frequently [and] more often than not it was bloody.”

Death was, of course, a common topic of the night, from hearing about how people in Walhalla died - whether it be disease or mining accidents - to hearing about how Walhallians are spend-

ing their afterlives as ghosts haunting the town.

Hostess Sally even said that Walhalla has 1400 permanent residents, even if almost all of them reside within the cemetery.

The hour and a half tour also packs in the sights. Walk down Main Road past the iconic Walhalla rotunda, the eerie school yards, and up to the historic mining area. These stops gave time for photos and for ghost tales.

Perhaps the most memorable story of the night was the tale of Sarah Hanks, Walhalla’s first and only victim of smallpox. Sarah was a 21-year-old woman, freshly married and new to the town. At the time of her diagnosis, smallpox was a painful death sentence - with an 85% mortality rate. The town was so fearful of the potential of an outbreak that they locked her in her house and built a fence around it. Her neighbours reported hearing sobbing coming from the house, and then screams of pain. After three days of silence, the town’s

doctor reluctantly entered the house and found that she had died. The town demanded that her body be disposed of and she was thrown into a pre-prepared grave about 50 yards from the Walhalla Cricket Ground. She did not receive a service, “unceremoniously dumped, wrapped in a filthy, dirty blanket” before her house was burnt to remove any reminder of her existence. Her husband left town shortly after. He is remarkably absent from the story, it is left unsaid whether he fought against the town and left due to the horrors of their actions, or whether he was complicit in the inhumane treatment of his wife and left town in shame. Perhaps either is understandable given the mortality rate of the disease, but it’s interesting to think what would you do in his position.

The tour also includes interactive opportunities for some brave individuals to venture out on their own, and the potential for a paranormal experience is always looming. One such moment

came by Sarah’s house, when an individual was invited to walk past her house, turn off their lantern and wait for ten seconds to see if they could hear her sobbing. The results? You may just have to take the tour and see if you can hear her yourself.

The experience is family-friendly and the kids on the tour appeared to have a great time. For believers in the occult, Walhalla is the perfect place for some spine-shivering encounters, for sceptics, you may just have a moment that makes you doubt yourself. Tickets start at \$25 for children and \$30 for adults. For more information, please visit: <https://www.ghosttourbookings.com.au/ghost-tours/walhalla-ghost-tour/>.

If you are fascinated by the paranormal or are planning to spend some time in Walhalla, this is a great way to spend an evening.



The starting place for the tour: The old office for the Walhalla Chronicle, the town's newspaper established in 1889. All photographed by Jordan Ross.



The historic Walhalla Rotunda. Bands would play live music for the town.



A trail off of Main Road.



The entrance to the mine shaft.



The entrance sign for the school cottage and yard.



**SEND ANYTHING, ANYWHERE**  
with Vicsec Logistics  
proudly partnered with  
Team Global Express.

For more information visit  
[www.vicseclogistics.com.au](http://www.vicseclogistics.com.au)

1/76 Waterloo Road, Yarragon,  
Victoria 3823

[gippsland@vicseclogistics.com.au](mailto:gippsland@vicseclogistics.com.au)  
**0447 554 489**



**Meet your Local WFI Insurance Rep, Brad**

**Brad Hosking**  
0429 062 258  
[brad.hosking@wfi.com.au](mailto:brad.hosking@wfi.com.au)



Insurance issued by Insurance Australia Limited ABN 11 000 016 722 trading as WFI. To see if a product is right for you, always consider the Product Disclosure Statement and Target Market Determinations available from [wfi.com.au](http://wfi.com.au).



# Save Our Farmers event pulls a full house

By Trevor Colvin. All images from a video by Jeremey Bartlett

It was standing room only at the Trafalgar Community Centre last month when five speakers addressed a capacity audience. Each speaker had ten minutes, followed by ten minutes each for questions, and there were many.

It is impossible to accurately or completely record in a few words in this article, what each speaker had to say, so we have paraphrased it as best we can and have done our best to remain accurate.

SilkRoad Community Inc. organised the event and organiser Ric Nicolson made the point that there will be another event in a couple of months. So, if you missed this one, watch out for posters, social media and this paper, for news of the next.

Farmers represent 1% of our population but provide the bulk of our food and they are under attack. The new Essential Services Levy could be the final straw for many farmers and the purpose of the meeting and each of the speakers was to shed some light on that.

## Brendan Kingwill

Baw Baw Shire Councillor and local businessman

Our regional area is under attack. Our timber industry is under attack, our gas industry is under attack, our coal industry is under attack, our farmers are under attack, our emergency services are under attack, small businesses are under attack.

Small business needs our farmers, if small business is to survive.

It takes years for a farm to recover from a drought, it takes years for a farm to clear the debt a drought can cause, it also takes years for a community and small businesses



Brendan Kingwill

to recover. It doesn't end just because it rains.

Small business is struggling with increasing interest rates which drives up rents, utility prices have gone through the roof, wages and superannuation have increased significantly with a subsequent decrease in revenue due to the cost of living crisis.

The small business sector employs about 60% of the Australian population and that equates to around 15,000 jobs in Baw Baw Shire alone.

Taxes are crippling us all. Example: 'A building I own earns an income and for every dollar received there are six taxes deducted from it,' said Brendan.

Our government has overspent and is trying to tax its way out of it, with superannuation likely to be hit which that will be another blow to farmers, many of whom have their farm assets in superannuation policies.

In the last 12 months around 7,500 Victorian businesses closed and appeals for help to the ATO have increased by 85%.

## Ben Lucas

Baw Baw Shire Councillor

Ben was raised by a farmer in the district and learned



Ben Lucas

the values of hard work and resilience, before joining the Australian Infantry and serving this country overseas.

Ben is frustrated that many of our state government politicians are selected, not elected and have never worked a day in their lives outside the political system, which leads to narrow experience and judgement. Many simply don't understand how the world really works which can lead to ill-considered decisions and the proposed Emergency Services Levy is one such example.

Ben is not confident that the money the levy raises will go to the services it is intended to support such as CFA, SES and others and Ben, like many, he sees the increased levy as a tax grab.

Ben was the first to raise this issue in Baw Baw Shire Council and received unanimous support from the other councillors.

The state government's role should be to enable, not asphyxiate, according to Ben and the Victorian state government is practising the latter, which is seeing developers and others leaving this state to do business in Queensland, because the Queensland government is more supportive.

Dairy farming employs 6,000 people across 1,028 farms in Gippsland, producing 1.9 million litres of milk annually. These farmers are struggling with drought affected incomes and many have real concerns about viability if the new taxes are introduced. For many farmers the strain is damaging their mental wellbeing and that of their families.



Sharon Gibson

## Sharon Gibson

Deputy Mayor, Latrobe City Council

What do we want? We want you, the people, to stand up and support each other against the levy and let's call it what it really is; a new tax.

This tax doesn't only affect farmers. It affects every rate payer in Victoria - every individual and business and that is not widely understood and it needs to be. Many rate payers are unaware they will be charged and many others are unaware that while the tax has been deferred for farmers, it has not been deferred for all other rate payers. It is effective this financial year. It is up to all of us to make sure these facts are understood.

Also not understood is that if rate payers refuse to pay the extra tax, the state government now has legislation allowing it to take the money from councils anyway. Councils are forced to collect the tax and the state government can take any shortfall from the general rate, leaving councils genuinely short of funds they would otherwise use to provide council services.

Sharon pointed out that businesses of all sizes will be hit with incredibly high increases, which many can not afford. What will they do if they have to choose between paying this new tax, or paying wages, or energy costs, or rents? Many will struggle and will go to the wall, leading to more unemployment.

Sharon reminded us that this is not a one-off payment. It will be repeated each and every year.



Leonie Blackwell

## Leonie Blackwell

Local advocate for state parks

Let's start with the obvious. Farmers are the economic backbone of our community and without our farmers we are totally screwed.

We mostly focus on dairy farmers and they are many and they are vital, but when we look at the farming diversity in Gippsland, we also have flower farmers, vegetable farmers, a huge spud growing industry, hot-house farmers, and all of them are under threat with the new tax. Lose them and we lose food diversity. Gippsland is an important food bowl and that is under threat.

Leonie was present to talk about keeping the bush open to the people and not locking them up in national parks and how that overlaps with farmers.

Leonie sees major issues with locking up the bush as national parks and believing that will be better for the environment. It won't. Poorly managed national parks will lead to an increase in noxious weeds, an increase in foxes, pigs, deer and other feral animals, because farmers (and others) keep these pests largely under control.

Farmers keep tracks open in the bush and are the first on hand to fight fires in the bush. Locking up the bush will see that vital interaction end.

Another major flaw with locking up the bush as national parks, is overgrowth which makes the bush more susceptible to bushfires. Farmers whose lands adjoin such parks face an increased threat to their properties



Wade Northhausen

and a likely increase in the time they will have to spend managing outbreaks.

## Wade Northhausen

Billboard Battalion

Wade was introduced as a grass roots community leader aimed at bringing truth about covid, food security and much more, directly to the people. Wade - a third generation dairy farmer from North Eastern Victoria - travels the country in the Billboard Battalion bus - speaking to groups and has done for some years. His mission is to inform people about what is happening in the real world in real terms.

Wade made the point that he shoots straight and gets a lot of flak, but at the end of the day, truth needs to be heard and clearly.

Wade made the statement that everything that is going bad in this county is by design and that statement created a rumble in the audience. Wade makes the point that we are being manipulated and most of Australia is unaware of that.

Over the last five years since the covid fraud started, a lot of people have stood up and more are standing up; aware that their freedoms are being eroded. Wade speaks of the freedom movement gathering momentum in this country and many in the audience identified with that.

Wade is not new to this work. In the eighties his parents started a group called 'bankwatch' which exposed how banks were illegally forcing farmers off their land.

Wade made many observations in his address, but his main aim is to wake people up to what is going on at federal and state level in this country.

**TTMI**  
PARTNERS IN MACHINERY

TRAFALGAR  
8-14 Saleyards Road  
03 5633 1588

**CASE IH MERCH**



Check our huge range of CASE merchandise. Mens, Womens and Kids Clothing, Hats, Jackets, Toys. In-store or online. [farmtoyshop.au](http://farmtoyshop.au)



**MARY ALDRED**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MONASH

**ELECTORATE OFFICE NOW OPEN**

☎ 03 5614 3600  
📍 46C Albert Street, Warragul  
✉ [mary.aldred.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:mary.aldred.mp@aph.gov.au)

Authorised by M Aldred, 46C Albert Street, Warragul, Vic 3820



# “Difficult decision” for Bendigo Bank as two Gippsland branches set to close.

By Jordan Ross

In a statement at the end of June, Bendigo Bank confirmed the closure of two Gippsland branches: Korumburra branch on Friday, August 29 and the Yarram branch on Friday, September 26.

This decision will leave both regional towns without a physical bank present. For Korumburra customers, they can travel 15km to Leongatha, while Yarram locals will need

to travel 64km to Traralgon or 39km to Toora.

A spokesperson from the Bendigo Bank said that it was a “difficult decision” but came “following a review of evolving customer preferences, a reduction in business activity, and an increase in costs.”

A spokesperson from the bank apologised for the “inconvenience” this may cause customers. The bank noted that they still “operate Aus-

tralia’s second largest regional branch network.”

In 2021, the Bendigo Bank reversed a decision to close the Korumburra branch after strong local advocacy from the community. At the time, a statement from Bendigo Bank said that in order for the bank to remain open sustainably, it would “require individuals, community groups and businesses in the local community to

support the bank with their banking business.”

It is yet to be seen what resistance the community in Korumburra can mount this time around. Federal Member for Monash, Mary Aldred says she strongly opposes the closure of the branch in Korumburra and has urged them to engage with the community and reconsider the closure.

In Yarram, bank executives attended a community

meeting to discuss the decision to close the branch. Local Wellington Shire Council Mayor, Scott Rosetti described the announcement as utterly disappointing and disrespectful. He said that “Yarram deserves better than this.”

According to the National Treasury, 36% of bank branches in regional Australia have closed since 2017. Last year, banks such as the

Commonwealth Bank, Westpac, NAB and ANZ agreed not to close any more regional bank branches before July 31 2027, but Bendigo Bank was not involved in this agreement.

In regional areas, physical banks are incredibly important. While digital banking and payment services continue to grow, these options may not always be accessible or suit the needs of regional people or small businesses.



Image supplied by Bendigo Bank.

### GARDENING SERVICES

With the option of 2, 3 or 4 hour gardencare packages, you'll always come home to a beautiful garden.

More than just mowing - we'll work with you to deliver the results you're looking for.

TRAFALGAR BASED

- ✓ NDIS
- ✓ Work Cover
- ✓ TAC
- ✓ Private Gardens

0416 204 505

### J MACGREGOR LEGAL

INCORPORATING  
O'HALLORAN DAVIS  
Barristers & Solicitors

**Practice Areas:**

- Wills & Power of Attorney
- Deceased Estates
- Conveyancing & Property Transfers
- Commercial
- Deceased Estate Claims

**Office Location**

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

### CONCRETING AND EXCAVATION SERVICES IN TRAFALGAR

- Concrete Slabs
- Commercial Builds
- Slabs for Sheds
- Excavation Work

If you'd like a free quote for your next concreting project or excavation service, **give us a call today:**

**0418 515 656**

**WWW.BILLHOLDSWORTHCONCRETING.COM.AU**



# Probus in July

By Glenda Mynard of the Trafalgar & District Probus Club

Many Probus members enjoy a variety of activities each month such as dine outs, walks, garden visits, book group, craft group to mention a few, but the favourite activity is often the guest speakers at our monthly meetings.

Recently we have had two excellent presentations, 'Quilts of Valour' and 'Ambulance Victoria'.

'Quilts of Valour Australia' was presented by Helen Compote. Helen is the founder of this wonderful organisation. In 2010, her son - who was serving in Afghanistan with the Australian Defence Force - was injured. Her son was touched by the warmth of a quilt he was awarded from the Americans. Seeing the positive effect this had on her son, Helen was inspired to establish an Australian organisation to award quilts to service personnel, veterans and immediate families of defence personnel and veterans, who have passed. These awards are in recognition of their service, sacrifice and valour for their country.

The first quilt was awarded in 2012 and the most recent in Victoria was awarded to Normie Rowe. This group has awarded over 3,000 quilts since 2012, to veterans affected by their service to our country. The quilts are a powerful symbol in a traumatic time. Each quilt is a gift of love, gratitude and sometimes tears of the maker. The quilts are made by volunteers who donate time, materials or skills. Helen showed some quilts, many depicted the symbol of the Southern Cross, or poppies. All quilts contain love, warmth and thanks from the makers to the awardees. This was a very moving presentation where we learnt about the wonderful and generous people who



Ron Bowley, John Attwell, Tina Hambleton with a new Macbook purchased from the Baw Baw Shire Community Grants Program. It will be used by members and guest speakers to present their slideshows. Image supplied.

contribute to our service personnel and families in such a meaningful way. For more information see [www.quiltsofvalour.com.au](http://www.quiltsofvalour.com.au)

Ambulance Victoria paramedics, Steph, Anthony and Renee, updated our knowledge of help available when we have health needs. Ambulance Victoria is an emergency service which prides itself on giving patients the right care at the right place at the right time. These confident and informative ambulance officers reviewed the CALL, PUSH, SHOCK procedure anyone can use in an emergency. Call 000, start CPR and use a defib to shock if instructed.

Another very useful lead when you're sick is VVED (Victorian Virtual Emergency Department). This is a

free, state-wide 24/7 service to treat non-life threatening emergencies. This is an on-line service you can access at home and you will be connected to a team of emergency nurses and doctors who are trained to assist you.

Urgent Care Clinic is another contact when you need help but can't get in to see your GP. Our nearest clinic is Fowler Street, Moe and is open from 8am – 10pm.

Nurse-On-Call is another service for caring, professional health advice. A dedicated nurse is ready to help you day or night. Registered nurses provide caring and professional advice to address your health-related questions and concerns.

We look forward to many more interesting guest speakers in the future.



Helen Compote with one of the beautiful Quilts of Valour. Image supplied.

## Traf Farmers' Market

1st. Saturday each month—9am to 1pm

Traf Croquet Club—Ashby Street.

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

MEET THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT BAKE IT SOW IT OR GROW IT



Wayne  
**FARNHAM** MP  
MEMBER FOR NARRACAN

1/80 Smith Street, Warragul

03 5623 1960 f i WayneFarnhamMP



DOMESTIC CLEANING

GARDEN  
MAINTENANCE

END OF LEASE CLEANS

SCHOOL CLEANING

BUSINESS / OFFICE  
CLEANS

BUILDERS CLEANS

NDIS CLEANING

WORKCOVER  
CLEANING

Contact Sarah  
0416 204 505

JENKINS HOME  
HARDWARE



August exhibitions at 'The Station Gallery', Yarragon,  
10.00 am to 3.00pm  
Wednesday to Sunday.  
Drawing and print groups  
annual exhibitions.  
VRI Artspace 'Mixed Media'  
groups Wednesday, 6.30pm  
to 8.30pm and Thursday,  
10.00am to midday

Yarragon Station Gallery  
shop open for purchase of  
local, one of a kind Artworks.



[bawbawartsalliance.org.au](http://bawbawartsalliance.org.au)  
for more details



# Understanding the requirement for a Foreign Resident Capital Gains Withholding Clearance Certificate in property sales

By Bryce Grimshaw of J MacGregor Legal, Trafalgar

When selling property in Australia, sellers will encounter the requirement for a Foreign Resident Capital Gains Withholding Clearance Certificate. This certificate is a critical document that ensures compliance with tax laws and prevents unnecessary withholding of funds during property transactions.

### What is a Foreign Resident Capital Gains Withholding Clearance Certificate?

The Foreign Resident Capital Gains Withholding Clearance Certificate is a document issued by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) under Subdivision 14-D of Schedule 1 to the Taxation

Administration Act 1953 (Cth). It confirms that the seller of a property is not considered a foreign resident for tax purposes.

This certificate is essential because, under Australian tax law, buyers are required to withhold 12.5% of the purchase price and remit it to the ATO if the seller is classified as a foreign resident. The clearance certificate exempts the seller from this withholding requirement, ensuring the full purchase price is paid to them at settlement.

### Why do Australian citizens need a clearance certificate?

Although the withholding tax is primarily aimed at foreign residents, Australian citizens also need to obtain a clearance certificate when selling property. This is because the law applies to all property transactions, regardless of the seller's residency status. Without a clearance certificate, the buyer is legally obligated to withhold 12.5% of the purchase price, even if the seller is an Australian citizen.

The clearance certificate acts as proof of the seller's residency status and prevents the unnecessary withholding of funds. It is particularly important for Australian citizens to apply for the certificate to avoid complications during settlement. The current turnaround time to obtain these certificates is 28 days from the date of application, which

can impact the settlement date of the sale.

### How Does a clearance certificate work?

- Application:** The seller (through their conveyancer, legal representative or accountant) applies for the clearance certificate through the ATO. The application process is straightforward and typically requires details about the property and the seller's tax residency status.
- Issuance:** Once the ATO verifies the seller's residency status, it issues the clearance certificate.

- Presentation:** The seller provides the certificate to the buyer before settlement. This ensures the buyer is not required to withhold any portion of the purchase price.

### Implications for property transactions

- For sellers:** Failure to provide a clearance certificate may result in the buyer withholding 12.5% of the purchase price, which could impact the seller's cash flow and settlement arrangements.
- For buyers:** Buyers are legally obligated to withhold the tax if the seller does not provide

a clearance certificate. Non-compliance can lead to penalties from the ATO.

### Key takeaways

- The Foreign Resident Capital Gains Withholding Clearance Certificate is a vital document for property sellers in Australia, including Australian citizens.
- It ensures the seller is not subject to the withholding tax.
- Sellers must apply for the certificate from the ATO and provide it to the buyer before settlement to avoid complications.

# Proposal for BBSC to review decisions

Story provided to Trafalgar District News

A proposal has been submitted to the Baw Baw Shire Council for it to rescind its decision to sell the Trafalgar Business Centre on Princes Highway and, with the Trafalgar community, undertake a full consultative process and review regarding the potential uses of the building.

The proposal also recommends that council review the Trafalgar Library Concept Design report of June 2022 as to the appropriate location for Trafalgar's permanent library, with that review involving appropriate Trafalgar community members.

The proposal, submitted by local resident Mick Bourke OAM to council through ward Cr Brendan Kingwill, is currently being considered by council.

Cr Kingwill said, "I felt really disappointed about the quality of the community consultation at the time, and the current council is in the process of organising a community consultation process."

The proposal is summarised below.

### Background & purpose

Council has proposed the sale of the Trafalgar Business Centre and the development of a library at the old kindergarten in Contingent Street, Trafalgar. The proposal aims

to outline key concerns regarding these decisions and its impact on the Trafalgar community, including the future of local infrastructure, sporting facilities, and community services.

### Sale of Trafalgar Business Centre

Trafalgar Business Centre at 107 Princes Highway is a valuable community asset that could serve future needs as Trafalgar's projected population grows towards 10,000 residents by 2044.

The sale was decided without full community consultation or an analysis of long-term council service requirements.

Once sold, the site will be permanently lost, limiting options for future infrastructure needs.

### Second oval at Trafalgar Recreation Precinct

Council may be considering using proceeds from the sale of the Business Centre to fund the second oval at Trafalgar Recreation Precinct.

This approach is not financially responsible, as it shifts funds between community assets rather than securing new investment.

Council should establish a dedicated budget allocation for the oval and seek grant funding rather than relying on the sale of public assets.

### Trafalgar Library location

Council selected the old kindergarten site (28 Contingent Street) for the new library, despite cost and space inefficiencies compared to a library at the Trafalgar Business Centre.

Consultant data shows that a library at Trafalgar Business Centre would offer more space (305 sqm vs. 175 sqm) at a significantly lower cost per square metre.

The decision was made with minimal community consultation and should be reviewed.

### Changing population situation

Trafalgar's population is set to increase by almost 35 per cent over the next few years. This is a population increase of 158 per cent on the 2001 census figures.

If we use this percentage over the next 20 years, it is possible that Trafalgar's population, in 2044, will be just under 10,000. Even if this projection is not numerically accurate, the general concept of a larger Trafalgar in 2044 is accurate.

### Lack of community consultation

The decision to sell the Business Centre was made before Trafalgar's strategic planning process was finalized. Many community stakeholders were not given the opportunity to provide input on the sale. A comprehensive community review of the site's potential uses should be conducted before irreversible decisions are made.

### Community Consultation on this proposal

Seven local organisations, including three directly impacted by this proposal, were consulted and provided

ed letters of support, being: Trafalgar Football Netball Club; Trafalgar Cricket Club; Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Trafalgar & District Historical Society; Lions Club of Trafalgar; Trafalgar Rotary Club; and Baw Baw Arts Alliance.

### Recommendations

The proposal also makes several recommendations to council, including for the council to rescind the decision to sell the building and undertake consultation with the local community.



The Trafalgar Business Centre. Photographed by Jordan Ross.

 Bendigo Bank

Community Bank  
Trafalgar & District



# The Trafalgar story continues: The town grows

By Jean Huffer of the Trafalgar & District Historical Society

The original butter factory was replaced with a new, bigger, building near the railway line on the north side of the town in 1904. The advent of the factory encouraged farmers in the area to experiment with new ways of feeding cows through the winter, and new types of feed. Farmers visited Alex Matheson's 'New Model Farm', to learn these techniques. The farm was near Summerlea St., on the highway east of the town where the Davey brothers later farmed, and part of which,

in 2004, became the 'Meadows Estate' sub-division.

By 1910, the butter factory was expanding, with a store being built where shareholders could purchase produce at discounted prices. A pigery was established in 1911 to use the surplus buttermilk from the factory, and business was booming.

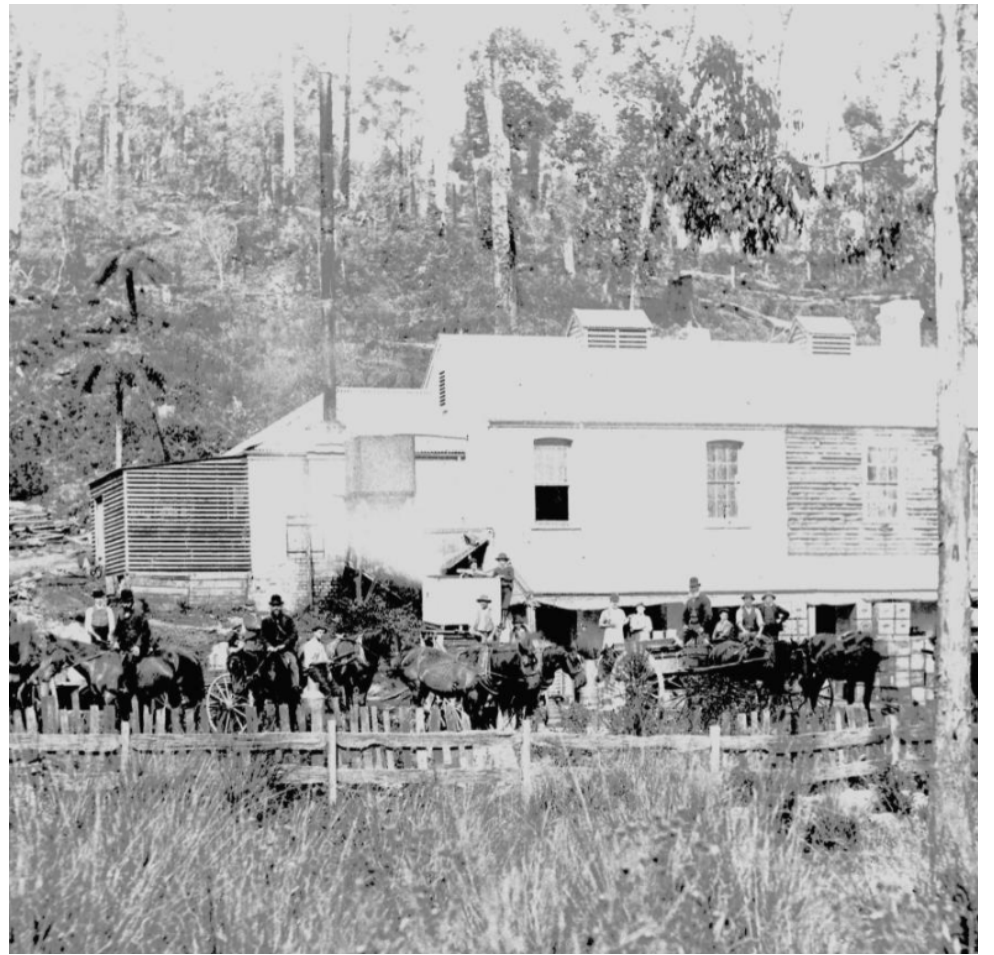
In 1920, a milk supply depot was opened in Waterloo Road. It produced butter under the label of 'Meadows' while the butter factory in competition, produced 'Sunny South'. The butter facto-

ry closed in July, 1942, and the milk supply depot was bought by Peter's (later Petersville Pty. Ltd.) in 1943. It continued providing jobs for the district, but eventually, with the centralisation of the processes of industry, closed down in 1990.

Potatoes had been planted on the flat lands after the swamp was drained in 1890. In April, 1914, Mr. Bill Dowie of Trafalgar, took up a wager offered by some of his friends, by digging 60 bags in 8 hours – a world record, with two hours to spare.



Second Trafalgar Butter Factory, built 1904, extended 1910, on Factory Rd. Image supplied.



The first butter factory on the corner of Thorpdale and Slatter's Rd in 1891. Image supplied.

## Trafalgar & District Historical Society celebrates 40 Years

In August 1985, the Trafalgar and District Historical Society was formed and this August will be their 40th anniversary. To mark this occasion, the society is holding an open afternoon on August 22 from 2pm to pm.

Members of the public, and society members past

and present, are invited to help celebrate this milestone in the rooms at 30 Contingent Street Trafalgar. These rooms are at the front of the Maternal Health building in what was once the residence for kindergarten teachers. Some of the society's collection will be on display to showcase what has been

donated and acquired over those 40 years.

You will have the opportunity to peruse old newspapers, photos and memorabilia from Trafalgar and the surrounding district. For further information, you can contact Dianne Ireland on 0439 655 172.



**Melina BATH MP**  
THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

**MY DOOR IS  
ALWAYS OPEN**

✉ melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au    📍 2/181 Franklin St, Traralgon VIC 3844

☎ 03 5174 7066    📺 MelinaBathMLC

**WIN BIG THIS MONTH**

**\$1000**

**CASH GIVEAWAY**



**BK'S Takeaway**

**Just shop in-store in Traf or Warragul  
Aug to Sept and go into the draw  
to win your Share of the Cash.**  
See store for details



## Who are Trafalgar's leading citizens?

The Citizen of the Year committee wants you to start thinking of appropriate people who deserve to be recognised as Trafalgar's 2026 Citizen of the Year.

Talk to your friends and people in your network to decide on a person or persons you would like to nominate.

In doing so, consider how the person's actions have inspired you and contributed significantly to the Trafalgar community. This could be through their voluntary community contribution, work or a combination of these.

The nomination form for this important communi-

ty award will be published in the September and October Trafalgar District News publications.

This year, the winners of the main prize were Jason and Kerry Rantall, recognised for their significant work in the mental health sector. They opened the community hub, BetterMental, which is a safe and relaxed place for people to connect with each other and mental health resources.

Neil Joiner and Graham Davey won the posthumous awards while Trafalgar High School student Ambrose Bajada won the junior award.

## Community Food Relief Program applications open

By Jordan Ross

Local volunteer and community groups are encouraged to apply for the 2025-2026 Community Food Relief program - Local Grants.

Neighbourhood houses, community and volunteer-led organisations, aboriginal entities, social enterprises, and public health services are eligible for funding. Earlier this year, the state government added \$9 million dollars to this grant program, meaning more than \$74 million had been invest-

ed into food relief programs since 2002.

Labor Minister for Carers and Volunteers, Ros Spence, said that "this Budget doubles our support for food relief programs, making sure more families doing it tough can get the support they need."

"No one should have to choose between putting food on the table and paying the bills – we are making sure Victorians don't go hungry by supporting the vital work of food relief organisations," she said.

Nationals MP for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath is also encouraging people to apply for these grants saying that "food insecurity is a growing problem [and] a successful grant application can extend services and allow community and volunteer groups to continue assisting people experiencing disadvantage in our community."

"I invite all our eligible groups to consider applying," she said.

Bath also recognised the important work conducted

by volunteers and community groups in the food relief space across the region.

"I have visited many organisations throughout eastern Victoria that quietly go about their business, selflessly supporting those in need during this cost-of-living crisis," she said.

Applications for the 2025-2026 Community Food Relief Program - Local Grants close on August 19. For more information, visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/community-food-relief-program-local-grants>.



Jason and Kerry Rantall after becoming Trafalgar's citizens of the year in January. Image supplied.

## Nice warm toes? Remember where the smoke goes

Provided by EPA Victoria

Victoria's environmental watchdog has some handy tips for everyone who has a wood burning heater keeping them warm this winter.

EPA Victoria says the condition of the heater, the flue and the fuel you're using all contribute to seeing more, or less, smoke from your chimney.

EPA's Chief Environmental Scientist, Jen Martin, says you'll get less smoke and more heat for your money, if you do it right.

"Have your chimney professionally cleaned every year, only burn dry, clean wood, and extinguish your fire

before going to bed or leaving the house," Dr Martin said.

"Don't leave it smouldering, it's inefficient, generates more smoke and creates a fire hazard," she said.

Wood heater owners have an obligation under the Environment Protection Act's General Environment Duty, to minimise the smoke from their wood heater. EPA urges anyone burning wood to consider their neighbours' health and seek alternative heat sources, especially on calm days with not much wind.

The people most sensitive to smoke from wood heaters are those with heart or lung

conditions such as asthma, pregnant women, young children, those aged 65 years and over, people with diabetes, and smokers.

"If you suffer from heart or lung disease and you notice symptoms of smoke exposure, take your regular medications, rest and seek medical advice if the symptoms persist," Dr Martin said.

Another important tip is to avoid burning the wrong things, including coal,

coke, driftwood, household rubbish, painted wood, chemically treated timber or the green-coloured pine logs used at parks and playgrounds.

The EPA website has more information for anyone who wants to be a good neighbour and create more heat and less smoke from their wood heater. This can be found at [www.epa.vic.gov.au/manage-smoke-wood-heaters](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/manage-smoke-wood-heaters)



Photographed by Clay Banks. Image supplied by Unsplash.

**Matija Pecek**  
**Piano & Guitar Teacher**  
Classical & Modern  
Lessons Tailored to Suit you  
Learn for leisure or prepare for graded examinations  
Ph: 0433 210 771 or [matijapecek1995@gmail.com](mailto:matijapecek1995@gmail.com)

A Little Patch of Country  
**End Of Roll Sale**  
**15% off when you purchase all on the roll**  
63 Princes Highway, Trafalgar  
Ph: 5633 2311

**Trafalgar Self Storage**  
• Open 7 days a week, 365 days a year  
2 Sale Yard Road, Trafalgar  
Call Strzelecki Realty  
Ph: 5633 2858  
Strzelecki Realty

**FoxyPC**  
Computer Repairs  
0409 580 244



# Adopt, don't shop for your new furry friend

Are you on the hunt for a new furry friend?

With so many animals currently up for adoption, Baw Baw Shire Council is encouraging local animal lovers to consider giving a furry friend a forever home.

Both cats and dogs are currently available for adoption, however, the pound has recently experienced an influx of cats in need of new homes.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Cr Danny Goss is encouraging anyone considering a new pet to visit the pound and adopt before they shop.

"By adopting from our pound, you're not only gaining a new best friend — you're also giving an animal a second chance at life," he said.

Cat adoption fees are kept affordable to encourage more adoptions and en-

sure all animals are desexed, microchipped, vaccinated, wormed, health checked and registered with council – ready to become part of a new family.

Cat adoption fees start at \$110 for senior cats (aged 10+ years), \$210 for cats (aged six months to 10 years) and \$250 for kittens (under six months old).

West Ward Cr Jess Hamilton urged interested community members to view the growing list of animals available for adoption today.

"If animal adoption is something you're interested in, you can view a list of available animals on Council's website or call us to book an appointment to visit the pound located in Longwarry North," said Cr Hamilton.

As part of Council's ongoing commitment to respon-

sible pet ownership and animal welfare, Cr Hamilton said "adopting a cat is not just about companionship, it's a lifelong commitment. Before considering adopting a cat we encourage you to do your research, understand their needs and the responsibilities associated with cat ownership such as the 24-hour cat curfew."

"Animal adoption is a rewarding experience that benefits both the animal and its new owner. Unfortunately, some pet owners are not practicing responsible pet ownership causing many unwanted kittens and cats to be surrendered to our pound," added Cr Goss.

To view available cats and learn more about the adoption process, please visit [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Animals](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Animals).



From the 2025 Baw Baw Shire Pet Expo. All images supplied by Baw Baw Shire Council.



From the 2025 Baw Baw Shire Pet Expo.

## YARRAGON POST OFFICE

- ◆ All Banking Services, Bill Payments
- ◆ All Sizes PO Boxes Available
- ◆ Identity Checks (Land Titles, TFN, Children Checks)
- ◆ Soda Stream (Buy and Swap)
- ◆ Western Union, Foreign Currency & Money Order
- ◆ Open My Post Business Account & Get More Benefits
- ◆ Wide Range of Greeting & Gift Cards
- ◆ And Most Post Services

**Quick Customer Service**  
Car Parking Available

**OPENING HOURS**  
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. Sat 9am-12pm

3 Campbell St, Yarragon, 3823. Ph: 03 5634 2209

## Trafalgar & Newborough Vet Centres

Locally owned, serving Trafalgar and surrounding districts since 1949

5633 1327  
Trafalgar Bookings

5126 2880  
Newborough Bookings

## DARNUM POST OFFICE

- ◆ All Banking Services, Bill Payments
- ◆ All Sizes PO Boxes Available
- ◆ Soda Stream (Buy and Swap)
- ◆ Western Union, Foreign Currency & Money Order
- ◆ Open My Post Business Account & Get More Benefits
- ◆ Wide Range of Greeting & Gift Cards
- ◆ And Most Post Services

**Quick Customer Service**  
Car Parking Available

**OPENING HOURS**  
Mon-Fri—8:30 am to 5 pm

1 Cropley St., Darnum. 3822. Ph: 03 5627 8209



# St Joseph’s students shine in ‘Around the World in Grandma’s Dreams’ production

By Patricia Mulqueen

St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School recently delighted audiences with its outstanding school concert, *Around the World in Grandma’s Dreams*. This original production was a collaborative effort, with the script creatively developed by staff and senior students.

Music teacher Ms Raelee Hill took on the roles of producer and director, bringing the story to life with great

energy and passion. She was expertly supported by Naomi Blackman, who led the choreography and helped shape the overall presentation. The performance, held at the Lowanna College Auditorium, was a true showcase of the students’ talent and hard work. It was a memorable evening of storytelling, song, and dance that left both performers and audience members proud and inspired.



Senior students led the concert as the family members.



Grade 1/2 students performed on the stage.



Joan starred as the Grandma in the school concert. All images supplied.



A sneak peek of the production impact.



Student Charlie provided comic relief in the concert.



## You’re invited Community Investment Program Information Session

Does your community group/organisation have an idea or project that needs funding?

Do you provide a service that meets the needs of the Community?

Is your group an incorporated body, have a DGR status or are a not for profit organisation?

You are invited to an Information Session on our Community Investment Program for sponsorships. This session will cover eligibility requirements and the application process.

**At Community Bank Trafalgar & District, we are committed to seeing our community thrive.**

**When** Wednesday August 6 2025

**Time** 7.00pm

**Where** Trafalgar Bowls Club - Seven Mile Road.

**RSVP** By 30th July to Moriah Taylor email [marketing@tdfs.com.au](mailto:marketing@tdfs.com.au) or phone 0402 106 088

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

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram to find out more or visit [communitybanktrafalgar.smartygrants.com.au/](http://communitybanktrafalgar.smartygrants.com.au/)



The Grade 3/4 students enjoyed their performance.



## Harriet Shing MP

MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA

**Your voice in the  
Eastern Victoria Region**

216 Commercial Road, Morwell VIC 3840  
[harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au)  
1300 103 199 [f harrietsHINGMP](https://www.facebook.com/harrietsHINGMP) [@ShingvWorld](https://www.instagram.com/ShingvWorld)

Authorised by H Shing, 216 Commercial Rd, Morwell.





# Trafalgar Community Directory

This directory has been compiled to provide a list of local and important contacts for the community in Trafalgar. Please advise Trafalgar District News of any corrections and additions.

Organisation	Contact	Email/Website	Phone
Baw Baw Shire Council			
Baw Baw Shire Council		Email: bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Website: https://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Home	03 5624 2411
Baw Baw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Adam Sheehan	Email: adam.sheehan@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Facebook: @adam4bawbaw	0461 515 690
Baw Baw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Brendan Kingwill	Email: brendan.kingwill@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	0474 652 435
Baw Baw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Kate Wilson	Email: kate.wilson@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Facebook: Kate Wilson - East Ward Baw Baw Shire Council	0460 829 001
Government Members			
Member for Monash (Federal Electorate)	Mary Aldred	Email: mary.aldred.mp@aph.gov.au	03 5614 3600
Member for Narracan (State Electorate)	Wayne Farnham	Email: wayne.farnham@parliament.vic.gov.au	03 5623 1960
Education / Childcare			
Nido Early School Trafalgar		Email: trafalgar@nido.edu.au Website: https://nido.edu.au/early-schools/vic/trafalgar/	03 5633 1233
Trafalgar High School		Email: generaloffice@trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au Email: Trafalgar.hs@education.vic.gov.au Website: https://trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au/	03 5633 1733
Trafalgar Primary Early Learning Centre		Email: trafalgar@ykinders.org.au Website: https://ykinders.org.au/centres/trafalgar/	03 4311 1592
Trafalgar Primary School		Email: trafalgar.ps@education.vic.gov.au Website: https://www.trafps.vic.edu.au/	(03) 5633 1566
Trafalgar Primary School (Before and After School Club)	Holly	Website: https://www.oshclub.com.au/find-us/trafalgar-primary-school/	0439 735 713
Sport			
Trafalgar Bowls Club	Ian Miles	Email: trafalgarbowlsclub@bigpond.com Website: https://trafalgarbowlsclub.com/	03 5633 1274
Trafalgar Boxing Gym	Shane Cameron	Email: box_on_box_all@hotmail.com Webite: https://trafalgarboxingclub.wordpress.com/ Website: https://trafalgarcricketclub.com.au/	0408 962 764
Trafalgar Cricket Club	Liam Durkin	Email: trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com	0402 556 338
Trafalgar Football Netball Club	Brett Tonkin	Email: trafalgarnfc@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Football Netball Club	0477 636 648
Trafalgar Golf Club		Email: golf@trafalgargolf.com.au Website: https://www.trafalgargolf.com.au/ Facebook: Trafalgar Golf Club	03 5633 1110
Trafalgar Outdoor Pool		Email: bawbaw@ymca.org.au Website: https://bawbawpools.ymca.org.au/trafalgar-outdoor-pool	03 5623 4017
Trafalgar Park Bowls and Croquet Club			0468 322 066

Trafalgar Ping Pong Club		Email: trafalgarpingpongkings@gmail.com	0418 598 174
Trafalgar Polocrosse Club	Gill Massey	Email: trafalgarpoloxclub@gmail.com	0455 440 062
Trafalgar Pony Club	Denise Marriot	Facebook: Trafalgar Pony Club	0411 890 299
Trafalgar Tennis Club	Sue Klemke	Email: trafftennis@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Tennis Club	
Trafalgar Victory Football Club		Email: committee@tvfc.com.au Website: www.tvfc.com.au	
Other			
Baw Baw Arts Alliance	Sue Murphy	Email: president@bawbawartsalliance.org.au Website: https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au/bcems/ Email: bawbawasn@gmail.com	0428 866 417
BawBaw Sustainability Network	Malcolm McKelvie	Website: bbsn.org.au Facebook: Baw Baw Sustainability Network	0490 485 370
BetterMental Together	Kerry Rantall	Email: bettermentall@gmail.com Website: https://bettermentall.com.au/ Email: info@lcln.com.au	0477 115 666
Earls Rd Landcare Group	Jim Whiley	Website: https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/westgippsland/earls-road/	0423 832 122
Jade MacGregor Legal	Jade MacGregor	Email: reception@jmacgregorlegal.com Website: https://jmacgregorlegal.com/	03 5644 0000
Rotary Club of Trafalgar	Michael Fozard	Email: mrfozard@bigpond.com Facebook: Rotary Club of Trafalgar	0418 513 092
St John's Church (Trafalgar) St. Jariath's Church (Yarragon)		Email: Trafalgar@cdsale.org.au Website: https://www.stjohnstrafalgar.com.au/	03 5633 1166
Trafalgar Campdraft	Cheryl	Email: gcasecretary74@gmail.com Website: https://www.gippslandcamp-draftingassociation.com/ Facebook: Trafalgar Campdraft Association Inc	0416 166 027
Trafalgar Cemetry Trust	Howard Jones	Email: trafalgarpubliccemetary@dcsi.net.au Webite: https://australiancemeteries.com.au/vic/bawbaw/trafalgar.htm	03 5633 2282
Trafalgar CFA (non-emergency)		Facebook: Trafalgar Fire Brigade	03 5624 1900
Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce		Website: https://www.trafalgarchamber.com.au/	
Trafalgar Community Notice Board		Facebook: Trafalgar Community Notice Board	
Trafalgar District News	Jordan Ross	Email: editor@trafnews.com	03 5633 2591 0432 889 930
Trafalgar Farmers Market		Email: Silkroadcommunitymarkets@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Farmers Market (Silk Road Community Markets)	0417 131 316
Trafalgar Historical Society	Jean Huffer	Email: historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com	03 5633 1960
Trafalgar Holden Museum		Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: https://trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au/	03 5633 1684
Trafalgar Lions Club	David Koschade	Email: trafalgarlions@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Lions Club	0428 331 157
Trafalgar Mens Shed	Leigh Shepherd	Website: https://mensshed.org/sheds/trafalgar-mens-shed/	0427 757 505
Trafalgar Opp Shop	Glenys Brennan	Email: glenys_barnyard@yahoo.com.au Facebook: Trafalgar Opp Shop	03 5633 2788
Trafalgar Police Station (non-emergency)		Email: TRAFALGAR.UNI@police.vic.gov.au	03 5633 1188
Trafalgar Probus Club	Glenda Mynard	Email: glendamtraf@gmail.com	0458 332 149
Trafalgar Public Hall	Tanya Stanley	Email: trafalgarpublichall@gmail.com	0409 015 662
PLEASE DIRECT ANY CHANGES TO PUBLISHER@TRAFNEWS.COM			

## Update from the Arts Alliance

By Carol Monson

Despite winter weather keeping many people inside, consider coming to the Baw Baw Arts Alliance ‘Arts Gala’ to be held on Friday, August 9, at the VRI Hall in Queen Street, Warragul. The Gala, from 6pm to 9pm, will give you an evening’s worth of unusual entertainment from a Star Wars Burlesque, to a 10 minute play, live music and DJ as well as the chance to go over the top in fancy dress and share a potluck buffet. All this for a mere \$20, some of which will help the Baw Baw Arts Alliance continue to develop the VRI Hall. Ring 0401 073 049 for tickets.

There are numerous drop-in groups meeting each week in the Artspaces at Trafalgar Railway Station and in the VRI Hall in Warragul. Check our website for a complete list of activities. The VRI has become a vibrant space where numerous groups meet with

the activities covering drawing, fibre and fabric, creative watercolour, mixed media, and figure drawing. There are day and evening activities. If you cannot attend regular workshops, visit the Station Gallery in Yarragon to catch up with the latest August exhibitions. The regular print group has its biennial exhibition of a wide range



Deborah and Ingrid at an evening mixed media group. Image supplied.

of print skills; linocuts, intaglio, silkscreen, monotype, collograph and lithograph. Alongside this exhibition will be the work of the drawing group from the VRI.

This is just August but stay tuned for the Jewellery Makers’ Fair in September and a wonderful repeat, in October, of the Art and Textile De-Stash Market.

**Bendigo Bank** Community Bank  
Trafalgar & District

## What's On around Trafalgar

If you have an event, please feel free to send information to us (editor@trafnews.com). Trafalgar District News is distributed in Trafalgar, Yarragon, Thorpdale and Willow Grove.

Event	Date/Time	Location
<b>Warragul Parkrun</b> Reigster at https://www.parkrun.com.au/warragul/	Every Saturday 8am	Brooker Park Warragul
<b>Trafalgar Farmers Market</b> Fresh produce, local crafts, and community	First Saturday of Each Month	McGregor Park Trafalgar
<b>Longwarry Fire Brigade Market</b>	First Sunday of Each Month	Longwarry Fire Station
<b>Warragul Farmers Market</b>	Third Saturday of Each Month	Logan Park Warragul
<b>Baw Baw Arts Alliance Gala</b> Call 0401 073 049 or visit BBAA's website for ticket info	August 9 6pm - 9pm	WRI Hall, Warragul
<b>Neerim South Winter Market Series</b>	August 9	Trafalgar Recreation Reserve
<b>Baw Baw PSA Neighbourhood Policing Forum</b> Tickets at Eventbrite.com	August 14, 7pm - 10pm	Warragul RSL
<b>Olivia's Place Charity Gala Dinner and Auction Night</b> Tickets: https://2025-charity-gala.raiselysite.com/	August 16	Lardner Park, Warragul
<b>Gardivalia Festival of Gardens - Open Gardens Weekend</b> For more information: https://www.gardivalia.com.au/	October 25 and 26	Across the Baw Baw Shire

Supporting your community **5633 2783** 103a Princes Highway, Trafalgar



# Pennant the perfect prize

By Liam Durkin, provided by the Latrobe Valley Express

**T**rafalgar Cricket Club was presented its premiership pennant last month.

The physical flag marked the full stop on the actual flag won by the Third XI in March.

The Ships, under the leadership of Brent Claridge, capped off season 2024/25 by winning the Warragul District Cricket Association Grand Final, beating a previously undefeated Ellinbank for the title.

In an added bonus, the team has also won promotion from Division 5 to Division 4 for the upcoming season.

Division 4 matches have been changed to a sole one-day format this season, and the Traf thirds will be eager to test themselves in the next grade up.

Additionally, the club's First XI maintained its place in Division 1, while the Second XI will go again in Division 3 after making finals last season.

To have three senior teams competing in divisions 1, 3 and 4 is a noteworthy effort for the club, having come from having three teams in divisions 2, 4 and 5 only two years ago.

The cricket season starts in early October, which will once again creep up quicker than most people realise.

The Trafalgar Cricket Club has some new additions this season, most notably an honour board to detail the next chapter of the club's more than 130 year history.

All matches played at Trafalgar Recreation Reserve are also live streamed during the season, so be sure to catch a glimpse of the action even if you cannot attend games. Simply search for Trafalgar Cricket Club on YouTube to view matches.

Live streaming offers an attractive incentive for any prospective sponsors, whose logos will be broadcast to a worldwide audience.

If you would like to learn more, or if you are a prospective player or family, please email the club at: [trafalgar-cricketclub@gmail.com](mailto:trafalgar-cricketclub@gmail.com)

The club fields three senior and multiple junior teams, and has a level to suit all abilities.

The club is also seeking expressions of interest for coaching roles in the under 13, u15 and under 17 age groups for season 2025/26.

This is a great position for anyone currently playing, a parent, family member, uni or high school student, or anyone who's interested in the continual development of Trafalgar Cricket Club's strong junior program.

If you would like any more information about these roles or to express your interest, get in touch with Trafalgar Cricket Club Junior Co-Ordinator, Zack Brown on 0475 078 358.

Meals are also available in the club rooms every Thursday night during the season (October to March).



Shane White is all smiles with the premiership flag.



Trafalgar Cricket Club premiership player, Shane Lanham, with the pennant.

## Moving with the times: full one day comp

By Liam Durkin, provided by the Latrobe Valley Express

**O**ne day matches will be the norm for Division 4 in the Warragul District Cricket Association this season.

Clubs voted for a sole limited overs competition at the WDCA annual meeting last month.

The motion was put forward by the WDCA Executive, after it had become clear clubs were struggling to field teams for Division 4 two day matches.

Division 4 is typically a Second XI competition, and was reduced to only six teams last season.

By contrast, the all one-day format of Division 5 had 11 teams, made up of some teams whose preference was to play limited overs, but who were also clearly too strong for the grade.

It is envisaged that by making Division 4 all one dayers, some of the stronger Division 5 teams will be promoted to help prop up the next grade.

Division 4 clubs still wanting to play two day cricket for the upcoming season can ask to be placed in Division 3.

Division 1 will remain as it was last season, after Western Park's Second XI won the Division 2 premiership. Trafalgar, who finished last

in Division 1 and ordinarily would have been relegated, have been given a reprieve.

Two motions were put forward by Hallora and Garfield-Tynong cricket clubs.

Hallora's motion that the highest placed team in Division 1 and Division 2 be given the right to select the turf venue for the grand final was carried.

Previously, a rotation policy was used to give all turf venues the chance to host a grand final.

Garfield-Tynong's motion to play all grand finals over the Labour Day long weekend was narrowly defeated.

The Titans argued it was nonsensical to have a reserve day for the semi-final on the Monday public holiday, while the grand final reserve day carried over across two weekends and potentially into football season.

The meeting saw all previous executive office bearers re-elected unopposed.

Michael Neilsen will again lead as president, and have vice presidents Grant Duncan and David Armour as his right-hand men, along with Peter Flahavin and Jenny Vincent in the respective roles of secretary and treasurer.



Rowan Stokes draped in the premiership flag.

## Your town. Your bank.

### Everything you need

We deliver the products and technology you'd expect from a big bank, plus the personal service you wouldn't.

Feel good about who you bank with. Try Bendigo.

Find out more. Call 5633 2783 or search Bendigo Bank Trafalgar.

**BANK  
LOCAL**

**Bendigo Bank**

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 237879 A1455027 OUT\_45911542, 04/07/2025

Community Bank  
Trafalgar & District

**WIRED ONE  
ELECTRICAL**

- Domestic • Commercial
- Rewires & Additions • New Homes
- Energy Efficient Lighting Solutions
- Installation of TV Antennas & Additional Outlets



**Ph: 0427 299 271**

**Craig McGarrity**

[wiredoneelectrical@icloud.com](mailto:wiredoneelectrical@icloud.com)

REC 24340





# COUNCIL News

## ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

Could you be cuddling up with a new pet this winter? By adopting an animal from our municipal pound, you're providing a loving home and a second chance at life, and in return you'll get unconditional love and companionship. **It's a win-win.**

All animals adopted from the Baw Baw Shire Council are:

- Desexed
- Microchipped
- Vaccinated
- Wormed
- Health checked
- Registered with Council

If you're looking for your purrfect lifelong companion visit the website or contact us today to find out more.



## Our Roads. Your Roads. Better Baw Baw Roads.

Did you know debris and litter can block kerbside storm water drains leading to water on the road and increased pollution in our waterways?

We've noticed an increase in residents blowing their leaves and grass cuttings into the streets after doing their yard work. It might seem harmless but it's causing issues with our storm water drainage system and is actually illegal.

Our Infrastructure Maintenance teams work hard to keep our streets and drains clear, but it is everyone's responsibility to ensure we are not contributing to the problem.

Be sure to responsibly clear away your leaves, grass cuttings and other garden debris by utilising your green waste bin.

## Upcoming Council Meeting:

The following Council meeting will be held in August 2025 in the Fountain Room, West Gippsland Arts Centre.

**Wednesday 27 August – 1.00pm**

All community members are welcome to attend in person or tune in via the Live Stream on our website.

For a full list of the meetings for 2025, visit [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings)

## Baw Baw Connect – Have Your Say, Your Way!

Council currently has one community engagement opportunity open for consultation!

- Draft Road Management Plan

Visit [bawbawconnect.com.au](http://bawbawconnect.com.au) to have your say, your way.

YOUR SAY,  
YOUR WAY.



## Upcoming Events:

For a full list of the current events, visit [www.bawbawshire.co/Events-Calendar](http://www.bawbawshire.co/Events-Calendar)





# Schofield sees Rovers to maiden victory

By Blake Metcalf-Holt, provided by the Latrobe Valley Express

Scenes of pure football beauty played out at Willow Grove Recreation Reserve last month, as Hill End sang their song for the first time this season after a 19.5 (119) to 11.11 (77) finish over Stony Creek.

The developing, young Rovers added veteran leadership of the highest order, for both on-field and off-field performance, with the arrival of retired West Coast premiership defender Will Schofield via the Carlton Draft.

Schofield had got off to a flying start with the Mid Gippsland club when a majority of the senior group arrived in Melbourne a few months ago for ‘draft night’, giving the former Eagles backman the chance to build rapport with the Hill End boys and don the Rovers green and gold a while in advance.

By the time it got to the weekend, which played out in picturesque form with great conditions and weather on the day for Round 13, Schofield was primed and ready for all that unfolded.

Talking to the Express in the week leading up to his arrival, Schofield admitted he wasn’t going to be playing in

his natural position, instead electing to fill ruck duties.

*“I’ve made some decisions around my playing position, I didn’t want to play at full back because basically I feel like I’d just cop the next Nate Caddy, sort of just jump on my head and kick 10 on me,”* he said.

*“I didn’t want to play full forward, because I would’ve had a big gorilla on me in the goal square, and so I’ve put my hand up to go in the ruck, so I’ll be around the footy and be trying my best to get the win for the lads.”*

Not only did that play out, but Schofield even divulged that he had some pre-game speeches prepared for the team on the day, making sure all was ready for the occasion that brought plenty of attention and cameras to the small town.

Bringing the team in before heading out, Schofield addressed them, saying how he saw Hill End as more a football club than any he’s been around, including over in Perth, with perhaps the most successful club in the land, given how tight-knit he saw the group being and all around the club.

As the side ran out onto the ground, with Schofield wearing the number 32 on

his back, they were treated to a bumper crowd anticipating a great contest.

The effort and belief that Schofield also discussed in his speech was displayed early from the Hill End outfit, as the Rovers banged home six goals straight in the first quarter.

The home team’s lead extended even further through to halftime, with multiple players rising to the occasion, including young Darcy Paul with three goals in the first half alone.

Schofield also produced some magic, showing signs that perhaps all was meant to be for Hill End, as the big man grabbed the ball out of a boundary throw-in and snapped truly from 40 metres out from goal, electrifying not only the ground, but the entire playing group as well, rushing to celebrate and almost in awe.

Hill End went into the rooms with the scoreboard reading 64-37 their way.

The travelling Lions (who agreed to swap home games between the two earlier in the season to ensure the Hill End faithful got to watch Schofield on their own deck) came out of the main break with their eyes fixed.

With a win, Stony Creek would only be two games back of playing finals with a further four matches to go, they too had as much pressure on them as anything.

The Lions held the Rovers scoreless throughout the third quarter, while booting three goals themselves, bringing the margin back to eight points with half-an-hour left.

Hill End, realising this was perhaps their one and only chance of victory for the year, returned knowing they had to get back to their ways from the first half.

That arrived as quickly as they returned for the fourth term, with Schofield winning the first bounce as the Rovers sent the ball into their forward line, ending with Andrew Daly booting his first goal for the season, fresh out of the under 18s.

That all happened over the course of the opening 30 seconds.

Despite Stony Creek mounting goals to keep it close within the first 10 minutes of the last quarter, Hill End rode a wave insurmountable for most, with the entire community on their back on the day, as the Rovers kicked

the last five goals all the way through to the final siren.

Hill End coach Adrian Burns said it was a collective effort from his side.

*“We all played well, but big Will Schofield got us plenty of the ball and lifted the whole side,”* he said.

*“Stony Creek came back in the third quarter, but we kept them at arm’s length.”*

*“I’ve been waiting for them to do what I knew they could, it was just great to see the boys get a reward and for the whole community to enjoy it.”*

It truly was a whole team effort as stated by Burns, with the young Paul producing a five-goal best-on-ground performance with the entire football world watching. The lad is still in thirds!

Aaron Fawcett, skipper Seth Calway (three goals), Amburupa Uliando, Liam Cumiskey (three), and Kyan Mulley were others to stand tall on the day for the Rovers.

Not only did Hill End get to sing the song loudly and proudly for the first time this year, for which Schofield let out with great gusto being of similar ilk to Carlton’s theme, the Rovers also ended the Lions chances of extending their season in 2025.

The Lions had Julian Stone, Jayden Battersby, Calum Carter, Cameron Stone, Hayden Bull and Jack Stuart play well.

In talking earlier in the week with the Express, and also noted during his post-draft interview back in April, mocking media personality and former Port Adelaide 300-gamer Kane Cornes for only mustering a mere nine touches and one mark during his Carlton Draft appearance in Moyston Willaura’s 119-point loss to Hawkesdale Macarthur in a Mininera and District 2023 match.

Schofield boasted that if he could not surpass those numbers set by the famed football shock jock, he would cease all of his own media commitments with Perth’s Fox Footy coverage and his BackChat Podcast with former Eagles teammates Hamish Brayshaw and journalist Dan Const, as well as ending any other future sporting ventures.

It’s safe to say Schofield served up much greater impact during his Carlton Draft match, not just on the field, but deep into the night, with Hill End also holding their sportsman’s night the same day.

## Trafalgar Golf Club Awards Night 2024-25



Chris Moody – Mens Winner Medal of Medallists



Hank Fiddelaers, winner – Most Points on Tuesdays.



Sue Klemke – Senior Womens Scratch Champion



The Trafalgar Golf Club. Photograph by Jordan Ross



Christine Payne – Seniors Handicap Champion and Womens Runner Up Most Wins on Thursdays



Sue De Vries, winner of Most Wins on Tuesdays. Absent Runner Up Geoff Fallon



Vic Hill – Mens Winner. Most Wins on Thursdays



Olwyn Balfour – Womens Winner. Most Wins on Thursdays



Tony Shearer – Mens Winner Most Points on Thursdays. Mens Winner Most Monthly Medal Scratch Wins. Mens Winner Seniors Scratch Champion



Karen MacGregor – Womens Winner Most Points on Thursdays. Womens Winner Medal of Medallists. Womens Co-winner Most Monthly Medal Scratch Wins



Bev Keily – Runner Up Most Points on Tuesdays



Rob Cusworth-Warner – Mens Winner Senior Handicap Champion



Heather Savige – Womens Winner, Eclectic Award



Michael Bennett – Mens Runner Up, most points on Thursdays



Aija Owen – Womens Runner Up, Eclectic Award



Steve Klemke – Mens Runner Up Most Monthly Medal Scratch Wins



# \$1.4 million secured for sports upgrades in Baw Baw Shire

By Jordan Ross

The state government's Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund (RCSIF) will fund two projects in Waragul, a new pavilion at Western Park Oval 2 and a pump track at Burke Street Park.

Mayor of Baw Baw Shire Cr Danny Goss welcomed the announcement saying this is a fantastic outcome for our community.

*"This funding marks a major step forward for two exciting projects which are both strongly supported by local clubs and by the community,"* he said.

*Both projects aim to create spaces that encourage participation, staying active, build community pride and support health and wellbeing for residents of all ages and abilities,"* he continued.

The construction of a new pavilion at Western Park Oval 2 will improve gender equality with a female-friendly player change rooms with inclusive and accessible amenities. This project aims to address current logistical and safety issues, and supports significantly increasing participation from women in a diverse and growing community.

New umpire rooms, storage spaces, undercover spectator seating and an accessible public toilet are also included in the designs.

The state government is investing \$1 million into this project, the council designating another \$1.5 million.

The second project is the Pump Track at Burke Street Park. A pump track is a circuit for cycling, scootering and skateboarding and this track will be the first of its kind in Baw Baw. Council recognised a lack of safe off-road bike facilities in the area which prompted them to apply for funding.

The family-friendly track which will feature loops for beginners and intermediates, will cost around \$600,000, with \$480,000 being supplied by the Victorian government.

Council has consulted with local sporting and cycling clubs to shape the designs of these projects. Construction should commence for both projects next year.

Mayor Goss also thanked the Victorian Government *"for this significant funding boost and appreciate their continued investment in our growing community."*

Beyond the funding for Baw Baw Shire, The RCSIF will provide approximately \$24 million across 41 regional projects.

Indoor stadiums, aquatic facilities, women and girls facilities and all abilities infrastructure are at the top of the list for improving regional sporting access for the state government.

Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing welcomed the continuation of this fund which has already helped *"[transform] community sports facilities across West Gippsland,"* such as Bell-

bird Park in Drouin which received funding in 2024.

*"Thank you to everyone who helped to advocate for this funding. I'm overjoyed that we can now upgrade more community sport facilities across West Gippsland to give local families even more ways to get out and get active,"* she said.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence said that these sporting upgrades are a *"game changer"* for regional communities.

These projects will provide jobs in regional areas and help encourage sporting participation for all.

## Jordie's long haul for mental health

By Blake Metcalf-Holt, provided by the Latrobe Valley Express

Trekking 200km across a single day to raise money for mental health, former Trafalgar resident Jordie Humphrey's bike ride down the Great Ocean Road from Melbourne to Apollo Bay was done for those we've lost tragically along the way.

Partnering with Mindfull Aus, the former Newborough local raised north of \$4000 for the mental health organisation and the Tyson Bale Memorial Fund.

Humphrey had many ideas rattling around in his head, including an ironman event to fundraise, but discovered cycling after suffering a setback when training for another venture at the heralded Stawell Gift.

During training and at work, Humphrey suffered a severe back injury that kept him off the running track for close to six months, and in recovering, his partner's uncle recommended bike riding to build his aerobic capacity.

*"I felt fine enough and started running again... I said to myself (that) I really want to do a triathlon, so I started training for a triathlon and got a little bit from family,"* Humphrey told the Express.

*"So, I just started getting on the bike and started to really realise that I was actually really, really enjoying this... and I probably only started to enjoy it more than my running only because I was doing the running and then two days later I was just in bed because I couldn't move."*

Humphrey then committed himself to the cause, training for six months in the lead up to his venture.

*"I was up at (6am) every morning, just doing as many kilometres as I could in the morning,"* he said.

*"I really did work quite hard in terms of getting my body right... a lot of strength work on the bike was the sort of training I did and just getting the general ks in."*

Arriving on the day after a few date changes, Humphrey started things off from Science Works in Spotswood at 6am, beginning his close to half-day journey.

*"When it came around to the ride I was like 'I really want to get this done', I don't want to sit there and keep pondering it,"* he said.

*"I got crook on the original week, I was like 'I really need to just get the closest date I can find (and) just get it done'."*

Humphrey admitted he didn't find the day mentally taxing, at least not until the backend.

*"To be quite honest, I didn't really have like a mental battle until probably about the last 30km were a real punish, only because I was thinking about time,"* he said.

*"I had mentally prepared everything, like I knew the hills were going to be there, I had a good gauge on elevations, so I knew how far I was going to be climbing."*

Humphrey was supported throughout the day by his partner and his mum, while his dad and uncle showed out during his ride, and Mindfull Aus Chief Executive, Matt Runnalls followed Humphrey all the way through to Geelong.

While recently, Humphrey realised how he'd set out to achieve his goal,

the idea to do it for mental health was sparked years in advance.

*"I've lived with my mental health challenges for nearly a decade, whether I recognised it or not, it wasn't until I was 17 that things really took a turn, with personal issues,*

*anxiety, and depression,"* he said.

*"I want to show people in my community that it's okay to express feelings about anxiety and depression."*

His brother Bailey, current Gold Coast Suns player and Mindfull Aus ambassa-

dor, alongside North Melbourne player Jacob Konstanty were hosting a golf fundraiser in 2022 while still attending Lowanna College back in 2022. That time inspired Jordie greatly.

*"After my brother became an ambassador for Mindull*

*Aus, I saw first-hand the tremendous work they do, and I knew I wanted to be a part of it,"* he said.

Both brothers lost a dear friend of theirs to suicide, which affected an entire community, and now each have made grounds to raise awareness for a necessary cause.



Jordie Humphrey during his ride for mental health.



**encore**  
retirement living

# Explore the relaxing retirement lifestyle you deserve

**Secure your dream villa and enjoy a bonus pergola on us!**

- Be part of a community within a community
- Enjoy resort living everyday

**GET A BONUS  
PERGOLA**  
VALUED AT \$10,950!\*



## Trafalgar



**FINAL TWO STAGES  
SELLING NOW**

2 Flagship Drive,  
Trafalgar (Enter  
via Hardy Drive)



1800 362 673



[encoreliving.com.au](https://encoreliving.com.au)



Scan here to  
learn more

\*Terms & conditions apply. See staff for additional details.  
Images for illustrative purposes only. EL225366