# Uraf Bistrict Aems

April 2025 – Edition 273

**Baw Baw welcomes** new citizen



**NEWS** 

Baw Baw Pet Expo returns in April

PAGE 10



**NEWS** 

Traf Bowls pennant victory

## Learning music is fun at Trafalgar High

By Trevor Colvin

times as we can – at least three a week – to practice; so it is no chore at all" said Timothy Ray, one of the music students Traf District News spoke to at Trafalgar High recently. Timothy's comment set the tone and the other four Jonah, Beau, Bella and Mahlea, readily agreed. These senior students gave

up their time to explain what From year nine onwards, music means to them.

Traf High has five instrumental music teachers, approximately 130 instrumental students undertaking private lessons, and two classroom music teachers, with a lot of students to teach, given music classes are compulsory for year seven and eight students, and optional right through to VCE.

to continue with music or opt to study in other areas, but a considerable percentage continue right through their high school years. "I'm doing heaps of math and science subjects on top of this, so music's a nice relaxing part," added Beau Asmussen. The others agreed it was fun, but added it has a serious side in that they are marked and graded for their work, so they all realise they have to work hard, as well as having fun. Gone are the days when

students are given a choice

teaching music saw every student with a wooden recorder which was the standard learning instrument and not particularly fun or useful beyond school. At Traf High, they generally teach guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, and vocals. And if a student wants to play clarinet or flute or saxophone or something else, then they can go for it.

Ben Smith, head of the music school explained, "Ultimately, whatever they want to learn, we'll work on. We teach instruments more relevant to their personal interests rather than trying to force them to play stuff they hate. We've got a lot of kids who like metal. We've got kids who like dance music. We had a DJ go through year 12 last year producing hip-hop and dance music. We've got people playing anything from The Beatles and Johnny Cash, through to slipknot, heavy metal and screamo."

"So, the way we approach it is very student-centred. It's a very much, okay, so you're into AC/DC. Well, if you want to play something in that genre you need to know these chords. These chords fit into this key. Now, there's a guitar solo in there. So, you've got to learn the guitar solo and

The music department has a stage and stage lighting, sound recording studios and lesson spaces, smoke machines, and other equipment in order to provide an authentic atmosphere, but while these props are all part of the process and serve to give students real experiences and skills they can carry with them, they also learn all aspects of presenting music, not just how to play an in-

Recently they ran a workshop with Melbourne pop band, Raging Hormones (amongst others), which was very helpful. Students learned about promotion, time management, stage management, how to make a video or take decent photographs for marketing and social media. Skills beyond simply performing. These professional bands that play at Traf High have been extremely generous with their time, knowledge and advice regarding music and the music industry.

Speaking of performing, your writer was treated to an impromptu performance by the five students. They were tight and easy to listen to with a very polished performance.

The music department runs all ages events the public can attend as part of the "Traf High Live" project, where they bring in professional bands from Melbourne and surrounds to headline the shows for the youth in Traf and the wider community. This is also an opportunity for youth bands to be the support acts at these shows and do real gigs alongside professional musicians. Follow the music department on Instagram @theartsattrafhigh and this paper will publish any upcoming events we hear about in our 'What's On' column.











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Page 2 - Traf District News April 2025 **NEWS** 

### 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 your full name, postal address, email address and contact number. Your privacy will be respected and your details will not be printed in the paper.

### **Letter to the Editor**

s the election day approaches, we be-Lgin to hear worried voices talking of a minority government as if this would be a bad thing. I don't see it that way. True, it will disrupt the cosy political duopoly which has made such a mess, but that will be no bad thing.

Whichever of the major parties can form a minority government will be held to a much higher standard of accountability by an independent crossbench. That will be no bad thing. They will be forced to debate policy choices in public view instead of doing cosy backroom deals as they currently do. That will

be no bad thing. The lobbyists and special interests will suddenly lose much of their influence. That will be no bad thing.

In our electorate of Monash, we are lucky to have the chance to elect Community Independent Deb Leonard as our representative. She will work with all sides to get the best outcome for our community. Her vote will be guided by her conscience and what's in our interests. She will always vote independently and will always be open and transparent about how she votes and why. That will be no bad thing.

(Name and address sup-

## Response from the editorial team

irstly, we would like to state that the publishing of this letter (while it is an endorsement of an independent candidate for Monash Deb Leonard) is not an endorsement from the Trafalgar District News. We followed up on this letter and spoke to the author over the phone. It is important to note that a letter like this is an opinion piece and not reflective of any editorial stance. It is the opinion of the

author and it is their right to share it. Whether you believe what is said is for you, as a reader and a voter, to decide.

### SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO: EDITOR@TRAFNEWS.COM

### Jordan Ross takes over as editor

revor Colvin, a renewcomer to Trafalgar, relaunched Traf News in December 2023, and has served as editor and publisher, but is now delighted to step aside as editor and hand that on to Jordan Ross. Ross joined Traf District News in June last year, after completing his media degree.

"It was always my intention to find a young and talented journalist to take over from me," said Colvin, "and Jordan is all of that and more. In the past nine months he has written a lot of articles for this paper, gradually increasing his load and input. Jordan has proven himself to be a keen writer and a clear thinker. Journalism has its own unique set of pressures and Jordan has learned how to navigate his way through them."

Before joining Traf District News, Jordan studied writing, media law, journalism ethics and world history, and capped that off with a study tour of newsrooms and broadcasters in London.

Colvin remains as publisher of Traf District News and will continue to assist Jordan in the role of deputy editor.

Editor's note: I would like to quickly thank Trevor and his wife Susie for their role in restarting this paper. I believe that this paper is an import-

ant part of Trafalgar and provides a beneficial service to its people. They have been an important part of ensuring that this paper survives.



Jordan in work mode

### **MAY 2025 EDITION DEADLINE:**

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**Advertising Material Deadline: April 15** 

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## Baw Baw welcomes 33 new citizens

By Jordan Ross

hirty-three conferees from more than 20 countries across the globe took the pledge to officially become Australian citizens on March 19. A ceremony was held at the Drouin Golf and Country Club with the conferees joined by their family and friends.

After taking the pledge, conferees were given their Australian Citizenship Certificate as well as gifts courtesy of the shire.

Federal Member Russell Broadbent, Mayor Danny Goss, and Councillors Ben Lucas, Kate Wilson, Suzanne Allen, and Adam Sheehan were all in attendance.

The conferees who are now calling Australia home

have come from countries such as Bulgaria, China, Philippines, Sudan, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe.

The ceremony fell on Harmony Week, which celebrates multiculturalism in Australia. Almost half of Australians are born overseas or have parents who were born overseas and since 1945, seven million people have migrated to Australia.

Following a citizenship ceremony in January, there are two more scheduled for 2025; in June and September.

Broadbent addressed the conferees with this message; "Welcome home, you'll make great Australians."



Conferee, Mary Onkui and her family. Image supplied by Baw Baw Shire Council



Mayor Danny Goss addressing the conferees. Image supplied by Baw Baw Shire Council



Yeukai, Freddy and Mavis Mawire at the ceremony with Mayor Goss. Image supplied by Baw Baw Shire Council



Councillors Ben Lucas, Adam Sheehan and Kate Wilson. Image supplied by Baw Baw Shire Council



Page 4 – Traf District News April 2025

# An Interview with Deb Leonard, independent candidate for Monash

By Jordan Ross

eb Leonard is building an impressive campaign as an independent, amassing volunteers and thousands of dollars in donations while positioning herself as an alternative option to the major parties. And this is because Leonard herself lost faith with party politics because she believes they're "failing us."

She has come to feel that our current politicians are not representing the public and are not making decisions with integrity or transparency. She said a lack of action on climate change and the cost-of-living crisis were major driving factors in her decision to run.

After running at the previous federal election (and gaining 10% of first preference votes), Leonard feels she is ready to represent Monash in Canberra.

Her "grassroots" approach sees her policies formed by the people. She has based her ideas off her conversations with the community and from the results of her publicly-available survey.

Leonard also said that her conversations with locals have expanded her ideas for policies as she has found problems she hasn't personally dealt with.

"NDIS is a perfect example. I personally haven't had contact with the NDIS myself, but I've spoken to so many people that have had to deal with the system as both providers and carers, and the system's just fraught with problems," she said.

Leonard said that when making decisions in Canberra, she will have three things influencing her decisions: 1) What does the evidence say? 2) Is it in line with what her community wants? 3) Will she be able to sleep at night after making this decision?

While she acknowledged that not every voter will always agree with all of her decisions, she hopes that through her transparency about the process.

"they'll respect how I got to that position."

Leonard considers herself staunchly independent and views this as a benefit to our region.

"Do we want a party candidate that's just going to vote however they're told to by their party? Or do we want someone that's going to stand up and say, 'hang on, how are we going to, this is how we can benefit from this," she said.

"I think that a minority parliament is a good thing," she said, believing this would allow independent candidates to hold major parties accountable.

"As an independent, you can work with either side... to make sure you get things done," she said. Leonard said she could use her independence to help progress projects such as the West Gippsland Hospital and said "We just need to get it done."

Leonard said that she would work with the state and federal governments to ensure that the hospital is fully funded and constructed.

She called Monash a "very safe Liberal seat," and said that "parties tend not to spend money on areas where that's not a priority for them." In her

eyes, this is causing problems for Monash.

Three years ago, Leonard thought it was time to stop "swearing at the politicians on the radio" and "put [her] money where [her] mouth is."

The result is a campaign with a lot of momentum and local support. Leonard is throwing a curveball at Labor and Liberal and is rustling up the division of Monash.



Deb Leonard and her team of volunteers in Wonthaggi. Photo supplied courtesy of Leonard.

# Deb Leonard responds to funding investigation

By Jordan Ross

n February 28, the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) confirmed that it is investigating at least four companies linked to teal independent candidates, after it was revealed that they were not properly registered as election vehicles.

Deb Leonard, candidate for Monash was on this list.

Liberal Senator, Jane Hume, said that, "The lack of integrity that these candidates have shown is seriously concerning."

"It is the height of hypocrisy to claim to stand for integrity and transparency yet then deliberately avoid the law on electoral integrity and transparency," she said.

In turn, Deb Leonard called Hume's comments "hypocritical," as well.

"The Liberal Party and other parties are not going to disclose any of their donations before the election and even after the election, they'll only disclose the donations over \$16,900, when they're required to do so by law," she said.

"I am disclosing all of my donations up front on my website." she said.

To see the full list of donors on Leonard's website, visit https://www.debleonard4monash.com.au/past\_ donors. Deb Leonard emphasised that she is not accountable to her donors, but to the people of Monash.

"I'm only accountable to the people of Monash whether they've donated or not, because that's who I'm here to represent," she said.

"I'm listening to the community, and my policies are formed directly from feedback I've received from the community," she said.

Deb Leonard has disclosed on her website that she has already received approximately \$700,000 in donations from more than 400 contributors. According to veteran Monash MP Russell Broadbent, that would be seven to ten-times more than any local candidate has ever had at their disposal.

According to reporting by the South Gippsland Sentinel Times, Deb Leonard admitted she has received over \$350,000 from Climate 200, but said "They have not asked anything of me."

Climate 200 is an Australian company, known for funding the 'teal' independent candidates in re-

cent elections. They refer to themselves as a 'community crowdfunding initiative'.

Leonard also turned the heat towards the major parties, of which she has been critical.

"The major parties won't stand up to the supermarket giants. Coles and Woolworths each make significant donations to the major parties and the parties have continued to put their interests before the interests of regular people," she said.

Woolworths made an \$11,000 donation to Labor last financial year, while the Liberal's investment fund, the Cormack Foundation earned a combined \$224,000 from shares they own in Woolworths Group and Coles.

Data by the AEC revealed that the major parties spent approximately \$418 million in the year leading up the 2022 federal election. The Coalition spent \$132 million, while Labor spent \$116 million, putting into perspective the capital raised by Leonard and her team.

One thing is for certain, federal elections require deep pockets and perhaps it's time we start paying more attention to who is funding Australian political campaigns.

To see major donations from previous elections, visit https://transparency.aec.gov.au/AnnualDonor.



debleonard.com.au

Authorised by Deb Leonard, 40B&C Bair St, Leongatha 3952

## An Interview with Mary Aldred, Liberal candidate for Monash

By Jordan Ross

GET AUSTRALIA

Aldred is Liberal Monash. She has a wealth of experience from a life lived in Gippsland. She's been involved with Lifeline and LaTrobe Regional Hospital Board, and was the CEO of the Committee for Gippsland, a role which saw her work with and support small business owners.

To Aldred, these experiences represent her "heartfelt, genuine, long-term commitment," to this area and the communities within it.

"I'm passionate about standing up for Gippsland jobs. I'm passionate about supporting the timber industry, and I'm passionate about making sure that all Gippslanders... get a bit of a break and get the support that they should be receiving," she said.

As the Liberal candidate, Aldred backs a Coalition government.

"If you don't want another three years of Anthony Albanese in the Labor Party, I am the only candidate [for Monash]," she said.

Aldred denied the notion that Monash is a 'safe Liberal seat', referencing the 2.9% margin the party held over Labor at the most recent Federal election.

Turning to policies, the cost-of-living is obviously a major talking point of this election. Aldred herself says she has heard it discussed everywhere, from conversations with families or business owners, to on the sidelines of a football game.

"The Coalition has said that getting the economy back on track is our number one priority for Australia,"

Aldred pointed to inflation and government expenditure as some of the primary factors in this crisis. And while expenses like "\$400,000 [on] speechwriters" would be on the cutting block, there will be "no cuts to frontline services," (areas such as health and education). The rising cost of groceries and electricity were also topics of focus for Aldred.

Aldred has visited towns across Monash - and on many occasions has taken other members of the Liberal Party with her - wanting to showcase the strengths of this area, but also the hardships affecting locals. One such visit was her trip to Mirboo North in the aftermath of the severe storms that damaged and destroyed much of the town. Last year, she took Peter Dutton to Baw Baw Food

While she was clear on what could be promised and delivered if the Coalition formed a federal government, she would not comment on what she could still achieve if Labor retained government, saying; "Being part of a strong Coalition government is what I'm 100% focused on."

Relief to meet with volun-

teers at the foodbank.

Aldred's emphasis on her role within a team was clear. And she views the relationships and connections within this team as a strength and a benefit to the region.

"I won't be knocking at the door asking for a meeting. I will be, if I am elected, in the same room as those senior people, talking to them every time I see them, about what I need done here in Monash," she said.

Aldred made her unwayering support for Peter Dutton clear. When asked about the Opposition leader's comments on refusing to stand by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, Aldred said "We have one official flag, and that is the Australian flag, and I'll certainly support Peter's position."

When asked if that position was disrespectful to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, she doubled down on her posi-

tion and said; "I think we've

### **Editorial** Researcher Wanted

We have journalists who write the articles for this newspaper but we need someone who can spot news items in other media and provide background for our journalists.

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### The Editor **Traf District News**

editor@trafnews.com

OR 5633 2591 got one official flag, and Peter's made that clear" and that "there are a number of national flags that certainly have a place and a role."

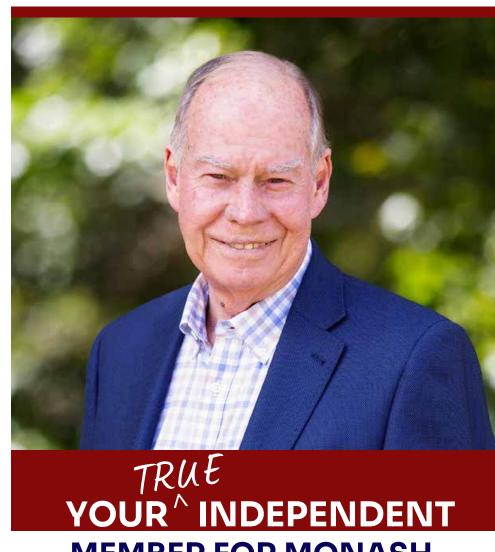
Aldred's passion for this region is evident.

"We live in the best region in the best country on earth,"

But she also understands the "big challenges," currently facing Monash and said, "This election is the most important election in my lifetime."

"I respectfully ask for the trust and confidence of people in Monash to invest in me as their next member," she said.

# RUSSELL BROADBENT MP



MEMBER FOR MONASH Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP, Independent Federal Member for Monash, 46c Albert St Warragul VIC 3820



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Page 6 – Traf District News April 2025

## Liberals want to deliver \$2.5 million upgrade for the Moe Outdoor Pool

n elected Coalition government will support the upgrade of Moe Outdoor Swimming Pool, with a \$2.5 million contribution to the construction of a pool roof, shade cover, and heating.

Local Liberal candidate for Monash, Mary Aldred, welcomed the announcement, a project she has been fighting for.

"I've heard from local families, swimmers, and the Moe community about the need for this investment. This upgrade will enhance the usability of the Moe pool for both recreational and competitive swimming events, ensuring the facility meets the needs of the Moe community," she said.

"The construction of a pool roof will not only protect the pool and swimmers from the elements, but it will also

mean that solar pool heating equipment can be installed on the structure to heat the pool year-round - creating a more usable pool for the Moe community," she said.

Moe Swim Club President, Reg Poxon, welcomed the announcement, highlighting the significant impact this will have on the Moe community.

"The broader impact this has on the Moe community is significant, extending the season in which the pool is open and hopefully its opening times," he said.

"This funding will be instrumental in delivering this project and it has been terrific to work with Mary to secure this support," he said.

The Coalition says this commitment is part of their plan to strengthen local communities and get Australia back on track.

candidate ment at West Gippsland Hospital, diverting thousands for Monash, Tully Fletcher, anof presentations.

Labor announces

support for Urgent

Care Clinic in

Warragul

By Jordan Ross

abor

in Warragul.

he said.

it continues."

nounced that a re-elected

Albanese Labor Government

will deliver a new, fully fund-

ed and bulk billed Medi-

care Urgent Care Clinic

and Drouin will get the free,

bulk-billed urgent care they

need without waiting in the

emergency department at

West Gippsland Hospital,"

Fletcher recognised that

Warragul and Drouin are

some of the fastest growing

towns in Australia and said

that, "we need our health

services to catch up and keep

pace with that growth as

and bulk billed Medicare

Urgent Care Clinic will pro-

vide long-term certainty to

families in Warragul and

Drouin and take pressure

off the emergency depart-

This new fully funded

"Everyone in Warragul

"As a dad with two kids under three, I'm really pleased that my first promise to Warragul and Drouin as our Labor candidate for Monash, is a fully-funded and bulk-billed Medicare Urgent Care Clinic," he said.

"Labor built Medicare. We'll always fight to improve it and protect it from dodgy Liberals like Peter Dutton, voted the worst Health Minister in our history by Australian doctors," he said.

Fletcher said that after "20 years of Liberal neglect, Warragul and Drouin need results," and he is promising to deliver them.

Fletcher indicated that he would soon detail a plan for the new West Gippsland Hospital. The hospital has been a topic of interest for all candidates in the lead-up to the federal election.



Monash Candidate Mary Aldred and Senator Jane Hume join locals at the Moe Outdoor Pool







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## Deb Leonard announces plan to tackle the cost-of-living crisis as she visits Baw Baw Food Relief

By Jordan Ross

ndependent candidate for Monash, Deb Leonard revealed her action plan to address the cost-of-living crisis, vowing to fight for struggling local families. She did so while visiting Baw Baw Food Relief - a food bank in Warragul.

"All over Monash, food banks like the one here at Baw Baw Food Relief are under increased pressure. The number of people in our community that can't afford day-to -day living costs has grown exponentially, and continues to rise," she said.

"I absolutely applaud and support the good people here at Baw Baw Food relief that are working so hard to provide for our community. But they shouldn't have to. The responsibility should not rest on the shoulders of these wonderful volunteers. Our politicians need to do better," she said.

Leonard has based her policies off the needs and opinions of our community. From her conversations with locals, she has found that the cost-of-living is one of the top issues affecting people right now.

"Based on this feedback, my team and I have tailored our cost-of-living policy to provide relief directly where it is needed. I am listening, and taking action on issues that affect the community the most," she said.

She believes there are three areas that need to be addressed; grocery prices, energy prices, and housing affordability.

"Prices at the supermarket are escalating, power bills are rising, rents and mortgages are rocketing and our incomes are not keeping up," she said. She called for the government to stand up to the major supermarkets like Woolworths and Coles.

"Coles and Woolworths control two thirds of the grocery sector, and make billions in profits each year. Meanwhile, they're paying their shop workers minimum wage, and we're paying 14 bucks for a block of cheese. It doesn't add up," she said.

Leonard wants to fight to lower grocery costs; she said she'll do this by "breaking up the supermarket duopoly, increasing competition in the market and cracking down on price gouging."

Her plan also includes ensuring fair prices for farmers, supporting local food enterprises, and reducing food waste.

She called for a long-term strategy to address rising energy prices and not "bandaid solutions."

Leonard said that eco-friendly technologies like solar panels can help save households up to 60% of their electricity bill.

"My policy will ensure every home, school and business has access to the savings available from solar," she said.

Leonard also reiterated her commitment to addressing the housing crisis through increasing supply within town boundaries in Monash, and boosting rental availability.

"The major parties have sent us off track and we can't trust them to fix this," she said.

"It's time for an independent local voice to deliver common sense policies from the community, for the community," she said.



Deb toured the food bank and met the volunteers. Photo graphed by Kate Leonard.



Deb brought some of her own tomatoes to contribute to the supplies at Baw Baw Food Relief. Photographed by Jordan Ross.

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**NEWS** Page 8 - Traf District News April 2025



# Free furry fun for all!

### Come along to the 2025 Baw Baw Pet Expo on Sunday 6 April!

Treat your pets to a free day of furry fun at Burke Street Park between 10.00am and 3.00pm!

See you there!

**YOUR SAY,** YOUR WAY.

### **Baw Baw Connect -Have Your Say, Your Way!**

Council currently has one community engagement opportunity open for consultation!

### **Domestic Animal Management Plan**

Council must prepare a new Domestic Animal Management Plan this year. Have your say on this document before time runs out, this consultation is open until 11 April.

Visit bawbawconnect.com.au to have your say, your way.

### Come along to the Early **Childhood Careers Expo**

Council's Early Childhood Careers Expo showcases the variety of career opportunities in the early years sector.

Whether you're looking for a change in career path or about to finish school, this free event will help you to decide if this sector is the right fit for you.

Whether it's as a Maternal Child Health Nurse or Family Day Care Educator, explore the different options available and meet people who have experience in the industry.

Come along to the West Gippsland Arts Centre on **Tuesday 27 May** from **9.30am – 12.00pm** and see what the event is all about!



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

Council's road maintenance crew have been out and about across the Shire, ensuring our roads are safe and accessible for all.

Here's a snapshot of a few areas that Council has serviced these last few weeks:

- Roadside grading and table drain clearing at Yarragon Shady Creek Road, Yarragon
- Road grading at Richards Road, Trafalgar, and
- Tree trimming along Maxells Road, Lardner

To find out more about Council's Road Maintenance program, visit www.bawbawshire.co/Roads



### **Upcoming Council Meetings:**

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

**Wednesday 9 April** – 1.00pm Wednesday 23 April - 5.30pm

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

# Live music, wine, food, and good vibes at the Garfield Picture Theatre

By Peace Ijiyera

tanding tall on Garfield's main street, the Garfield Picture Theatre hosts live music performances every month.

Their most recent show on March 15, saw the theatre host Jimmy Barnes tribute band, 'Soul Chisel.'

Throughout the night, Soul Chisel took the audience on a journey through Jimmy Barnes' musical catalogue and Cold Chisel classics.

Owner, Fred Perez said the audience was "blown away" by the performance.

"[It was] absolutely brilliant," Perez said.

The Garfield Picture Theatre has a long history of serving the community. Built in 1924, the venue has been used to hold dances, show pictures (movies), and was even used to sell furniture and antiques.

In 1999, Fred Perez and his partner Susan McMahon bought the theatre and began renovating it into what it is today.

McMahon described the twenty-year renovation process as "a massive, massive job."

Completely self-funded, Perez and McMahon along with contractors, worked tirelessly to bring the theatre back to life. They redid the floorboards, installed the eight hundred and eighty square metre roof, installed a commercial kitchen, all access toilets, and an outdoor entertainment space including a veranda.

"We have done a huge amount of work."

"We financed the whole thing ourselves. We worked, earned the money, and then allocated a task," Perez explained.

As former drainage workers, Perez and McMahon worked on roads all over Victoria and New South Wales.

However, they knew that the job was not something they wanted to do long term.

"We would be working all over the place. [We would] leave on Sunday, come back Friday, living in a motel [and] out of a bag."

"The money was good, I cannot complain about that. It helped me renovate this building," Perez said.

When asked why they decided to buy the theatre, Perez shared that he had always dreamed of owning a block of land on a river.

When that did not work out, as if by fate, they stumbled upon the theatre. After some inquiries and negotiations on the price, they bought the theatre.

"I thought it was a good idea if we bought the theatre and we fixed it up, we could create a business later on for us and the kids," Perez said.

The theatre, also known as 'Lucy Bricks', because of the number of loose bricks the building had when it was first bought by Frank and Susan, holds 200 people and is fully licensed.

Tickets cost \$66, and doors open at 6pm for a 7:3opm start. Before the show begins, two-piece band, 'Funk Divino' consisting of vocals, guitar, and piano, provide entertainment for the guests, out in the garden.

"They [Funk Divino] create atmosphere and entertain people while we are waiting for all our guests to arrive."

"They start at around 6pm when we open the doors, then they stop [when the show begins]. Then at interval they start up again. When the show's finished, they start up again till the end of the night."

"It is just absolute fun," Perez said as he showed videos of the guests dancing and having a good time.

Perez cooks a rice dish called 'paella' which can be bought before the show and during the interval. According to Perez, the dish takes "days of preparation", and he makes about forty cups of rice.

Perez aspires to turn the theatre back into what it was intended to be; a picture theatre, saying his "job is not



Photo timeline of Garfield Picture Theatre.

complete until the Garfield Picture Theatre has a capability of showing movies."

"When we bought the theatre, the initial goal was to get the screen and the projector, and all that stuff, set up, and start by showing movies. But it was very difficult for me because I did not understand film and projection, but I understood music, audio and lighting," Perez said.

Perez is eager to learn about the intricacies of film

and is keen to find someone who can advise him.

"I just need a caring, understanding individual that is going to mentor me through the process of setting this place up as a cinema alongside it being a music thing," Perez said.

The next show will be held on Saturday April 12, and will be a tribute to American rock band, the 'Eagles.' Tickets can be purchased online and at the door.



Owners of Garfield Picture Theatre, Fred Perez and Susan McMahon.

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Page 10 – Traf District News April 2025

### **NEWS**

## Baw Baw Pet Expo returns for 2025

By Jordan Ross

ocal council is inviting local pet-lovers to an amazing day out at the Baw Baw Pet Expo on Sunday, April 6. The free community event will take place from 10am to 3pm at Geoff Watt Track at the Burke Street Park, Warragul.

The day is a celebration of pets and will feature over 30 market stalls, pet activities, live demonstrations, wildlife displays, and pet-friendly competitions. The event is held in collaboration with Big Little Markets.

Whether you have a dog, cat, bird, reptile, or any other beloved companion, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Some of the activities on the day include:

- Free gift bags and complimentary goodies
- · Free pet competitions
- Fly Ball Association competition
- Free engraved dog tags
- Free pet rock crafting
- Doggy First Aid classes
- Reptile display
- Market stalls
- Delicious food trucks
- Live music
- And more!

Well-behaved pets are welcome but must be kept on a leash or appropriately secured to ensure safety for all. Council also wants visitors

to remember to bring along bags so that you can pick up after your pet.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor, Councillor Danny Goss, is delighted that the council is once again able to deliver the popular event for the community this year.

"This event is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our pets, learn how to better care for our animals, and promote responsible pet ownership," said Cr Goss.

"Pets play such an important role in our lives, providing companionship, joy, and even health benefits. So why not join in the fun, meet fellow animal enthusiasts, and learn more about pet care and wellbeing," he said.

Central Ward Councillor, Suzanne Allen, hopes that the event will be an opportunity for pet-lovers to come together and experience something new.

"We encourage everyone to come along, enjoy a day full of activities in great company, and support the wonderful local businesses and organisations that will be joining us at the event," said Cr Allen.



Locals are free to bring their own friendly dogs along to the event. Photo Courtesy of Baw Baw Shire Council.



Pets can get involved in free competitions. Photo Courtesy of Baw Baw Shire Council.



Photo Courtesy of Baw Baw Shire Council.



Site map at the Geoff Watt Track in Warragul.



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## **Baw Baw Arts Alliance**

By Carol Monson

### Writing workshops at the VRI Hall

n Sunday, April 6 from 11am to 1pm at the VRI Hall, Warragul, the first of many writing workshops will be conducted. The workshops are the inspiration of Yvette Stubbs, artist and member of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance. Yvette has also been the person behind, and in front, of the entertaining 'Poetry Bauhaus' performances.

The workshops are designed to inspire others to write and perform their own work.

Most writers hope that their words will be received by a reader or audience with impact and intention, and that their poetry will convey the rhythms of the writer's heart, and the music heard in the inner ear. This workshop on Sunday, April 6, will take participants through a series of discussions and exercises on how to write for the 'ear', use rhythm and sound to enhance meaning, and edit with the reader and audience

Es Foong/alias Waffle Iron Girl, who is the featured poet at the later 'Poetry Bauhaus' performance is the poetry workshop facilitator.

### Poetry Bauhaus at the Commercial Hotel

Do not miss the next wonderful Baw Baw Arts Alliance 'Poetry Bauhaus' experience at the Commercial Hotel, Warragul, at 2.30 pm, Sunday, April 6.

Hear local writers and some from further afield, share their writing and invite audience participation. The star attraction for this particular performance is Es Foong, also known as Waffle Irongirl, a poet who writes



Easter Art Sale Buy off the Wall New Original Artworks

Friday, April 11 to Sunday April 20, 2025

> Victoria Hall 76 Victoria Street, Warragul

Baw Baw Arts Alliance with Rotary Club Warragul.

bawbawartsalliance.org.au



Ingrid Thomas, leader of a water color group which meets each Wednesday at the VRI Hall, Warragul. Beside her Ingrid is Pauline Weir.

belonging. Her works have been featured in pages such as 'Best of Australian Poems, 2022', and on stage including Canberra Poetic City, 2023. Waffle Irongirl wants you to know that you are a wild, precious and unique expression of possibility and you are cherished. Her poetry collection 'Clot and Marrow', is available from Recent Work Press. She can be found online at waffleirongirl.com.

#### Easter Art Sale at Victoria Hall

Do not miss the celebrated Easter Art Sale, a collaboration between the Baw Baw Arts Alliance and Warragul Rotary Club. This Art show is rapidly becoming a 'must go to' activity, where you can purchase a work-of-art completed within the last two years, straight off the wall. There is no need to go back later to pick up your purchase. In 2025 the change of venue to Victoria Hall in the centre of Warragul will give a different 'flavour' to the show that has previously been at the Exhibition Hall in Warragul. Set aside Friday, April 11 to Sunday, April 20 to view what will be a wonderful art display from both local and interstate artists.

### **Artistic workshops**

Behind the more public face of the Arts Alliance, many small groups meet to develop their artistic skills. These groups can be found on any weekday at either Trafalgar Railway Station Artspaces, or at the VRI Hall in Warragul.

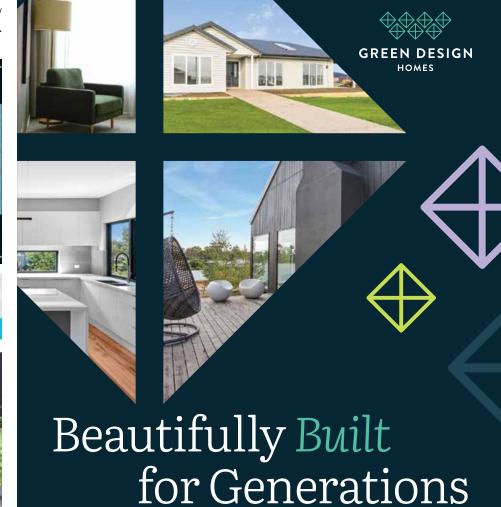
For more news see https:// www.bawbawartsalliance.







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## Cat seen among the veggies at Traf Market

By Trevor Colvin

t was a very large cat, prowling around the market entertaining the kids and adults alike. While its identity is supposed to be a mystery, your intrepid scribe eventually realised it was Hughesy, who is 'Nuts About Caramel' and nuts about entertaining kids. The cat suit and balloons added colour to an already colourful market as The Cat In A Hat wandered around the market looking for the next group of kids to entertain. When he is not doing that, Hughsey is making delicious caramelised nuts, cooked hot before your eyes.

Hughesy is one of many food vendors who are regulars at the market, which prides itself on being free from cheap junk and second-hand car boot sales. All vendors either 'make it, bake it, sow it or grow it', so when you buy from vendors at the market you are buying from and supporting entrepreneurial artisans. Many are local, some travel a long way, such as Big Bears Donuts who come from Lakes Entrance, and others from the city and from across the Strzelecki's.

The market operates at 36 Ashby Street from 9am to 1pm on the first Saturday of the month. Next market will be Saturday April 5. Entrance is free and parking is plentiful.











### **List of Vendors:**

- · Annie's knitwear
- Aroma Lee
- Baw Baw Arts Alliance Inc
- Bella-Liscious
- **Big Bears Donuts**
- Brush and Blue
- Carol Plants
- Carrie's Massages
- Colleen Plants
- DownUnder Mushroom
- Dream Organic Coffee
- **Eddies Cider**
- Eden Hill Garden
- **Enchanted Beads**
- **Encore Retirement** Living
- Folk Farmacy
- Forest Remedy
- Fran's Sweet Delight's

- Freeze Dry Fanatics
- GALA by SKL
- Galina & Co.
- Gippsland Colloidal Silver and Plants
- Gippsland Mushroom
- Handmade by Denii
- Harriet Herbery
- Hughesy's Nuts about Caramel
- Jayva Designs
- Kiki77 coffeeWild Yeast Bakery
- Lauren Lamont Art
- Little luxuries soap
- Little Red Bucket
- Logan's Micro Distillery
- Mill Grove Dairy
- Our Soap Kitchen
- Postcode Hives

- Primal Meat Co
- Radical Soil Care
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- Rotary Club
- Small Batch Sweets
- Steel Sparking
- Strzelecki Heritage Apples
- The Marinade Man
- The Mug Shop
- Tickled Pink Art Studio Vegetable Stand
- Warraview Dahlias Whimsical Craft
- Yarra Valley Berries
- Zenthai Shiatsu Yoga with Lucy

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## Council hears budget The Trafalgar story submissions from the public

By Jordan Ross

n March 5, The Baw Baw Shire Council heard 26 budget submissions from locals. The submitters came from sports clubs, arts groups, community groups, and individuals from across the shire, with the requests ranging in monetary value.

This followed council inviting Baw Baw residents to help shape the 2025/26 Budget back in January. Speakers were allowed three minutes to plead for their cause before councillors asked follow-up questions.

Some submissions were practical; such as calls for improved parking and drainage systems from the Baw Baw Ratepayers Association, or the requests to repair the historic footpath in Walhalla.

Matters involving sport took up a majority of the council's afternoon. There was some tension between

95 Princes Hwy

Trafalgar

football clubs and locals from in a row submitting this re-Trafalgar, Longwarry, and Drouin.

Works began to complete clubroom upgrades and oval resurfacing at the Drouin Recreation Reserve last year and will be completed later this year. Meanwhile, Longwarry are still waiting for 'overdue' resurfacing of their oval. Designs for improvements to the Longwarry Recreation Reserve were completed in 2024, but no funds have been allocated to turn these designs into a reality, as of yet. A Trafalgar resident also submitted a request to have the planned second Trafalgar Football Oval completed.

Neerim South Resident, Catherine Jensen made a heartfelt case in pursuit of a safer children's crossing on Neerim East Road. This was the community's third year quest to council.

She said that the crossing is currently unsafe and that it and speed signs are often ignored by drivers.

"Not enough [has been  $done] \ to \ protect \ vulnerable$ pedestrians that are put in danger every time they cross the road," she said.

Jensen invited councillors to visit Neerim South and discuss with locals the best way forward.

In a statement earlier in the year, the Baw Baw Shire Council announced its intention to build on its plan, design and deliver approach, investing in important services and infrastructure, to ensure a healthy and thriving community now, and into the future. Last year, the budget was announced in June.

delivery every thurs-sunday

# continues

By Jean Huffer of the Trafalgar and District Historical Society

s the town of Trafalgar grew into the 20th century, many businesses and services came into being. There were two newspapers in the community - in May, 1902, Christopher Johnstone began publishing the 'Trafalgar and Yarragon Times'. Richard J. Rolls started his own paper, 'The Trafalgar and Yarragon Settlement News' in January, 1904. This paper survived a change of names, management and ownership over the years, to end its life as "The Trafalgar News" in July, 1988. Christopher Johnstone managed his paper for 55 years, when it finally merged with the Latrobe Valley paper after its final edition in October, 1957.

The Narracan Shire Office was moved from Moe to Contingent Street in Trafalgar in 1908. In 1934, a new building, now the community centre, was built on the highway, after a fire destroyed the shire office and the Mechanics' Institute. The present Public Hall replaced it on the Contingent Street site in that year.

There was a racing club formed in the town in January, 1903 and by 1908, land had been purchased on the western side of the town, and a track was established. By 1930 it had been extended with lawns and a grandstand. The late Bill Collins grew up in the vicinity of this course. He later became a well known racing commentator on radio. Support for local racing declined in the late 1930s, and the track was eventually sold for farming purposes. It became a jersey stud, 'Echo Glen', owned by the Johnson family, and is presently being prepared for a housing subdivision.

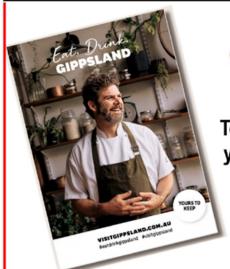
The first police station was established in 1904, in a house on the highway, on the corner of McCrorey Street. There had been great agitation for a police presence due to the unruly behaviour of the patrons of the hotel after closing time. Trafalgar's first resident policeman was Constable James McGrath, but he resigned in 1909 to run a pub in Wonthaggi. He was replaced by Constable P. O'Meara in 1914 when a new station was built in Contingent Street. The years moved on and in June, 2001, after the local sergeant retired, the police residence was converted to office space. There was again no resident policeman in Trafalgar, and the most recent police building was built on the site as a police station.







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CASE III

## Charity helps Gippslanders recover after natural disasters

By Jordan Ross



Destruction left by the storm in Mirboo North.



GERF helped to fund a generator for the Budgeree Community Hall.



A volunteer at an event raising awareness for GERF.

ocal charity, Gippsland Emergency **Relief Fund** (GERF) say they were called on to assist Gippsland residents over four natural disasters in less than twelve months.

These included the storms that affected Mirboo North in February and much of the shire in September, and the flash flooding in Longwarry in December.

The charity's 2024 annual report highlights that GERF provided a total of \$619,500 of aid to 244 families during recent fire, flood and storm emergencies.

"This is the first time in GERF's 45-year history that we have been called upon to support this frequency of natural disasters," said GERF Vice President Nigel Browne.

"However, our disbursements exceeded incoming donations and we had to use our reserve funds to ensure all essential referrals for assistance could be met," he said.

To ensure that they are able to assist in future disasters, the generosity of Gippslanders will be vital.

"We are lucky to have received wonderful support over the years from a range of community organisations, companies and individuals," said Mr Browne.

"However, the increasing frequency and severity of bushfires, floods and storms from climate change will challenge GERF and the Gippsland community," he said.

"We need to be ready for natural disasters," he said.

The organisation was formed in 1978 to assist with the Gippsland bushfires in 1977 and 78. The organisation grew and in 2020, they conducted their largest appeal raising over \$10 million for those affected by the 2019/20 East Gippsland bushfires.

More recently, GERF donated over \$300,000 to the February 13 Storm Appeal to aid in the rebuilding of Mirboo North. They donated a further \$310,000 to over 105 households across Gippsland in the wake of the massive wind storms that damaged and destroyed many houses.

More information about the work of GERF, as well as their annual report, is available on their website gerf. org.au. Tax deductible donations can also be made through their website.



Buildings in Jindivick following a storm.



## THE DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN IS UP FOR REVIEW.

YOUR SAY, OUR WAY.



**Baw Baw Shire Council is** developing a new Domestic **Animal Management Plan,** and you are invited to have your say, your way!

Scan the **OR** code or visit



www.bawbawshire.co/AnimalManagement to have your say, your way.



## 25 years of fun, friendship & fellowship

By Glenda Mynard for the Trafalgar & District Probus Club.



Les & Margaret Bartlett are presented with their 25 year pin by President Barb Butterworth.

rafalgar & District Probus Club recently held their AGM and one of the highlights of the day was a presentation to Life Members, Les & Margaret Bartlett, for 25 years of service. Over that time both have served in various roles on the committee. Les has been president and treasurer, while Marg helped organise the smooth running of the kitchen.

Our guest speaker coordinator, Tina Hambleton, recalled the variety of speakers over the previous year. Early in the year, we were treated to Tales from Clothing, an historical run through many of the curious fashions, fads and trends through the ages. Catriona Ferguson was the presenter. We learnt about care packages from Wayne Gould, and then Roland Hambleton took us trekking in wild places of Nepal and Japan.

We were privileged to hear about living with limited vision, when Pam Haigh spoke about her life, assisted by her obedient and cheeky seeing eye dog, Bryl. For something different, Yvonne Ross demonstrated a range of practical gadgets to make everyday living easier. We were able to try then buy if we wished. One of our members, hospital and medical facility, which travels to Africa to provide much needed health services. Other volunteers who spoke to us about their contribution to poorer countries, included Probus members Judith Campbell about her time in Africa on a delegation, and Dawn Moore who prepares gift boxes for young people in disadvantaged countries across the world.

We noted Remembrance Day with a dramatic presentation, R for Robert, from loration for end of life and the necessity of involving family and community in an affordable and healing way. This made us realise our responsibility to prepare and let our wishes be known.

## **Controversy over** reports of Yallourn **Power Station** closure delay

By Jordan Ross

emerged about the impending closure of Yallourn Power Station. In 2021, it was announced that the coal power plant would close in mid-2028.

However, The Australian reported on March 18 that it is "set to stay open for four more years amid fears of devastating electricity shortages."

They claimed EnergyAustralia and the Victorian Government held secret meetings in which it was agreed that the closure would be delayed in what would be a shift away from the state's promise to commit to renewable energy.

The Victorian Labor Government was quick deny these claims stating that "The Australian has falsely claimed that EnergyAustralia, the Vic-

everyday we remember

On ANZAC Day &

onflicting reports torian Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) have held talks about extending the operations of Yallourn Power Station beyond 2028."

> EnergyAustralia told The Australian that the plant would close in 2028 prior to the publication of their article, saying that "closing Yallourn by 2028 is part of [their] commitment" to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

An EnergyAustralia statement reads, "EnergyAustralia has publicly announced, and reaffirmed multiple times, the closure of the Yallourn power station by 2028."

"We have not met with the Victorian Government, or AEMO, to discuss extending the Yallourn power station," It continued.



Page 16 – Traf District News April 2025

#### **NEWS**

### Managing fear in the vet clinic

By Dr. Jared Waddell-Smith of Trafalgar Veterinary Clinic.

espite everyone's best efforts, some animals experience significant fear when coming to the vet. Unfamiliar sights, sounds, and smells, past experiences, and being approached by strangers, can all contribute to an animal being fearful in this environment. This creates distress for the patient, but also increases risk to owners and veterinary staff because fearful animals are more likely to behave unpredictably or show aggression.

Unfortunately, fear or anxiety can progressively worsen. If a pet comes into the clinic fearful and remains that way throughout their visit, then next time the 'emotional memories' of that previous visit will activate, even if nothing 'bad' happened last time - they remember how it made them feel.

So what can we do to help our pets have a better experience of the veterinary environment?

### 1. Come more, not less!

If the only experience of the clinic an animal has is when they are sick, painful, having injections or surgery, it really should be no surprise if they don't like the clinic environment. Puppy classes are a great way to set a young dog up for a more positive association with a vet clinic, and regular visits just for weight checks and lots of treats can also help to create a positive association with a clinic.

### 2. Bring delicious treats

We have bowls of liver treats in every room for our canine patients, and can also use yummy pastes for dogs and cats. Everyone loves a good snack, so getting treats at the clinic can make it seem like an amazing place. Many patients can be worried and not feel like eating, but sometimes an extra special yummy treat from home can really help to overcome their reluctance to eat.

### 3. Pheromones

We use pheromone sprays and diffusers to mimic the calming pheromones of dogs and cats, to make the clinic feel safer and more inviting. You can also use these in cat carriers or on bandanas for dogs before their journey to the clinic.

### 4. Minimise additional stress

Try to eliminate additional stress events associated with vet visits. Get the cat carrier out a few days or weeks before and feed your cat in there. Training sessions so that the car ride is a more routine event, could also be helpful. If appropriate, arrive early and spend some time outside letting your dog settle before the appointment (this won't be the best solution for every dog).

Help them to feel good, be kind and give them treats 'for free' - a vet visit doesn't need to be a training session and they don't need to be punished for not sitting or heeling perfectly.

We can help where possible by getting dogs into individual rooms to reduce barking in the waiting room, so they are less worked up when the appointment starts. For dogs that get particularly stressed around other dogs, we can try to adjust bookings to reduce exposure to others before and after their appointment. We have a bench where cat carriers can be placed off the ground, as cats tend to feel more vulnerable at floor level.

#### 5. Muzzle training

For some dogs, muzzles are necessary to keep everyone safe during examination and treatment. Teaching dogs that wearing a muzzle is a fun game, means it is one less cause of stress if and when they do need to wear one. You can learn more here: https://muzzleupproject.com/

### 6. Pre-visit medications

If clinic visits create a lot of fear and distress for a pet, giving medication to reduce anxiety prior to them arriving at the clinic can help them to have a much less stressful experience. This can then contribute to a more thorough examination and improve our ability to diagnose and treat them effectively, improving the outcomes from the visit.

## Yarragon Book Fair

By Geoff Conway

t seems only a few weeks ago that we held the 2024 Yarragon Book Fair, but here we are with only a few short weeks to go before the 2025 edition is held. This year's event will be held on the 3rd and 4th of May at the Yarragon Public Hall.

Donations have been coming in steadily all year and once again we have now run out of storage space for all the stock we have collected. It is a great problem to have.

Interest in books and reading does not seem to wane and the crowds that come to our book fair represent a complete cross section of the community; all ages and interests.

The Book Fair is primarily a fundraiser for our volunteer firefighters and the Yarragon Primary School. But there is also a quiet sense of achievement in bringing people to our district to share their passions and interests through books and reading.

Benefits for the fire brigade and the school are clear with the funding of many items of firefighting equipment and improvements to the facilities for our volunteers at the Yarragon Fire Station and the school library.

As always, we must thank the hundreds of local and district residents who donate books for our Fair. They are generous and consistently supportive of our event. We are also very grateful to the amazing volunteers who support the running of the Book Fair each year. Members of the fire brigade, parents, teachers and students from Yarragon Primary School, and those in the community who offer their time and energy to sort, stack and restack books.

If you would like to join the team, you are most welcome to do so. If you can spare an hour or a half day (or more) that would be wonderful. If you would like to help out, give me a call on 0418 318 900. I am sure we can find something for you to do.



## Baw Baw Shire Council reinforces strict animal compliance

In February, Baw Baw Shire Council successfully prosecuted a local for operating an unregistered domestic animal shelter and rescue business in Allambee Reserve.

The main charges related to the keeping of an excessive number of cats and dogs at a farm property without being appropriately registered.

The prosecution resulted after several inspections and the execution of a search warrant at the farm by Council's Animal Management Officers. The business was being run as an unregistered shelter without appropriate registrations, permits or codes of practices being followed.

The accused plead guilty to eight charges, which were a consolidation of 56 charges lodged. These charges related to:

- The keeping of 46 unregistered cats and dogs
- The failure to renew registration of 5 dogs and cats
- Conducting an unregistered domestic animal business
- Keeping animals in an unsatisfactory manner
- Failing to keep the area where animals were kept free of rubbish etc., that may attract rats and other vermin

Planning Scheme.

Penalties were imposed by the Magistrate at Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court, which included a period of good behaviour for five years, as well as a \$5,000 fee to the Court Fund and other costs

Unsightly land for

animal keeping in

breach of the Baw Baw

As a result of these charges, the animals are no longer being kept at the farm.

to the amount of \$213.

Council has guaranteed that its Animal Management and Community Compliance Officers continue to take a strict approach towards animal welfare. They want to ensure that animal rescue groups, breeders and local business owners are acting in-line with the expectations surrounding animal welfare

If you see or know of someone doing the wrong thing, or have concerns regarding animal welfare, Council urges you to contact them. Call 5624 2411 or to submit an anonymous request, use Snap, Send, Solve (The council's phone app that is available on all Apple and Android phones).



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## Gippsland Weed and Pest Festival

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network presents ... WEED AND PEST FEST 9am - 4pm **Sat 3 May** 2025 @ Rokeby Recreation Reserve

### Wherever you own, rent or manage, this festival is for you!

atrobe Catchment Landcare Network's May Festival, pulls Gippsland community together.

You might be forgiven for thinking that a conversation about ferals would divide rather than unite folks, but this year, Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network (LCLN)

is bringing the Gippsland community together to shine the proverbial spotlight on weeds and pest animals.

On Saturday May 3, Rokeby Recreation Reserve will be turned into a full-day festival of presentations, demonstrations and stalls about how to care for our region through weed and

successful multi-agency Forum last September which brought together over 40 different organisations and community groups to discuss regional challenges and solutions, LCLN is turning up the fun-dial in 2025 to provide a family day out at Gippsland's first Weed and Pest Fest.

pest control. After holding a

"The festival is geared to anyone who owns, rents or manages land in Gippsland and wants to find out anything at all related to weed and pest animal management... or about protecting our beautiful native plants and animals for that matter," says LCLN project manager, Jo Kurpershoek.

"Whether folks own a small unit in town, or run a large-scale agricultural enterprise, we really have an amazing lineup on the day, offering something for everyone," she said.

The free festival was born during a community conversation about the region's ongoing and growing pest animal challenges. Soon realising the only option was to go big or go home, LCLN opted to go big.

"Weeds and pest animals don't stop at property boundaries, and absolutely everyone involved recognises ethical control is a shared challenge. The support we're getting to help our region learn and connect through this event is simply phenomenal," she said, referencing the many partners and sponsors who are making this event possible.



Red fox in a farm paddock in Central Victoria. Photographed by Tracie Louise



Weeds in a garden. Photographed by Paul Maguire





### Local audiologist Sean French now in Trafalgar

Our hearing specialist Sean French is a Gippsland local and has worked as a qualified audiologist for the past 15 years, providing friendly care and advice for his patients right across Gippsland.

He has worked with a number of ENT specialists, and if you have ever worked in a loud noisy environment, Sean is fully accredited to assist workers with noise-induced hearing loss claims.

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Alice Grant

**Henry Grant** Charlotte Huigsloot Sandi Hatfield Geoffrey Rayner Matt Falla Helen Wallace Lorraine Beasley David Rooks Les Corson Gwendolwyn Brown Carly Pearson Jo McKenzie Anthea Dacy Ken Savage Ray Fallu Tony Askwith Mary-Ann Ahern Emmett Ahern Liam Ahern Dare Ahern Deborah Harris Melinda Martin **Rob James** Anna Langley Kylee Hudson Neroli Raff Leslie Adams Erika McInerney Philip Batty Daryl Standfield Helen Sheppard Lisa Upson Shannon Bassed Aileen Vening Paul Kirkpatrick Melijah Maghanoy Alicia Miran-Khan Leni Foster Margaret Walker Lynne Healy Gary Kane Stephen Gough Bronwyn Chapman Kiran Hayes

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As a true Independent, Deb doesn't answer to a political party, she represents our community. That means her policies come directly from us!

You can subscribe to her newsletter, sign up to help volunteer or donate at debleonard.com.au.



# 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 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
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.word- press.com/	0408 962 764
Trafalgar Cricket Club	Liam Durkin	Website: https://trafalgarcricketclub.com.au/ 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/bcms/	0428 866 417
BawBaw Sustainability Network	Malcolm McKelvie	Email: bawbawsn@gmail.com Website: bbsn.org.au 0490 485 374 Facebook: Baw Baw Sustainability Network	
BetterMental Together	Kerry Rantall	Email: bettermentall@gmail.com Website: https://bettermentall.com.au/	0477 115 666
Earls Rd Landcare Group	Jim Whiley	Email: info@lcln.com.au 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.gippslandcampdraftin- gassociation.com/ Facebook: Trafalgar Campdraft Association Inc	0416 166 027
Trafalgar Cemetry Trust	Howard Jones	Email: trafalgarpubliccemetery@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
		Email: Silkroadcommunitymarkets@gmail.	
Trafalgar Farmers Market		Facebook: Trafalgar Farmers Market (Silk Road Community Markets)	0417 131 316
Trafalgar Farmers Market  Trafalgar Historical Society	Jean Huffer	Facebook: Trafalgar Farmers Market (Silk	0417 131 316
	Jean Huffer	Facebook: Trafalgar Farmers Market (Silk Road Community Markets)  Email: historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com  Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: https://trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au/	
Trafalgar Historical Society	Jean Huffer  David Koschade	Facebook: Trafalgar Farmers Market (Silk Road Community Markets) Email: historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: https://trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au/ Email: trafalgarlions@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Lions Club	0439 655 172
Trafalgar Historical Society  Trafalgar Holden Museum		Facebook: Trafalgar Farmers Market (Silk Road Community Markets)  Email: historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com  Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: https://trafalgarholdenmuseum. com.au/  Email: trafalgarlions@gmail.com	0439 655 172 03 5633 1684
Trafalgar Historical Society Trafalgar Holden Museum Trafalgar Lions Club	David Koschade	Facebook: Trafalgar Farmers Market (Silk Road Community Markets) Email: historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: https://trafalgarholdenmuseum. com.au/ Email: trafalgarlions@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Lions Club Website: https://mensshed.org/sheds/	0439 655 172 03 5633 1684 0428 331 157
Trafalgar Historical Society Trafalgar Holden Museum Trafalgar Lions Club Trafalgar Mens Shed	David Koschade Leigh Shepherd	Facebook: Trafalgar Farmers Market (Silk Road Community Markets)  Email: historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com  Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: https://trafalgarholdenmuseum. com.au/  Email: trafalgarlions@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Lions Club Website: https://mensshed.org/sheds/ trafalgar-mens-shed/  Email: glenys_barnyard@yahoo.com.au	0439 655 172 03 5633 1684 0428 331 157 0427 757 505
Trafalgar Historical Society Trafalgar Holden Museum Trafalgar Lions Club Trafalgar Mens Shed Trafalgar Opp Shop Trafalgar Police Station	David Koschade Leigh Shepherd	Facebook: Trafalgar Farmers Market (Silk Road Community Markets)  Email: historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com  Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: https://trafalgarholdenmuseum. com.au/  Email: trafalgarlions@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Lions Club Website: https://mensshed.org/sheds/ trafalgar-mens-shed/ Email: glenys_barnyard@yahoo.com.au Facebook: Trafalgar Opp Shop	0439 655 172 03 5633 1684 0428 331 157 0427 757 505 03 5633 2788
Trafalgar Historical Society Trafalgar Holden Museum Trafalgar Lions Club Trafalgar Mens Shed Trafalgar Opp Shop Trafalgar Police Station (non-emergency)	David Koschade Leigh Shepherd Glenys Brennan	Facebook: Trafalgar Farmers Market (Silk Road Community Markets)  Email: historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com  Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: https://trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au/  Email: trafalgarlions@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Lions Club Website: https://mensshed.org/sheds/ trafalgar-mens-shed/  Email: glenys_barnyard@yahoo.com.au Facebook: Trafalgar Opp Shop  Email: TRAFALGAR.UNI@police.vic.gov.au	0439 655 172 03 5633 1684 0428 331 157 0427 757 505 03 5633 2788 03 5633 1188
Trafalgar Historical Society Trafalgar Holden Museum Trafalgar Lions Club Trafalgar Mens Shed Trafalgar Opp Shop Trafalgar Police Station (non-emergency) Trafalgar Probus Club	David Koschade Leigh Shepherd Glenys Brennan Glenda Mynard Tanya Stanley	Facebook: Trafalgar Farmers Market (Silk Road Community Markets)  Email: historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com  Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: https://trafalgarholdenmuseum. com.au/  Email: trafalgarlions@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Lions Club Website: https://mensshed.org/sheds/ trafalgar-mens-shed/ Email: glenys_barnyard@yahoo.com.au Facebook: Trafalgar Opp Shop  Email: TRAFALGAR.UNI@police.vic.gov.au  Email: glendamtraf@gmail.com  Email: trafalgarpublichall@gmail.com	0439 655 172 03 5633 1684 0428 331 157 0427 757 505 03 5633 2788 03 5633 1188 0458 332 149

## What's On

Traf District News is distributed to Trafalgar, Yarragon, Thorpdale and Willow Grove and this directory is intended to reflect events in all of those locations.

We welcome your input about upcoming events in your area.

Please send information to articles@trafnews.com

Event	Date/Time	Location
Warragul Parkrun	Every Saturday	Brooker Park
Reigster at https://www.parkrun.com.au/ warragul/	8am	Warragul
Trafalgar Farmers Market	First Saturday of	McGregor Park
Fresh produce, local crafts, and community	Each Month	Trafalgar
Longwarry Fire Brigade Market	First Sunday of Each Month	Longwarry Fire Station
Baw Baw Flood Facts	April 2	McGregor Park Hall
Learn to protect your home from flood risks.		Trafalgar
Baw Baw Pet Expo	April 6	Burke Street Park
Treat your pets and family to a day of fun.		Warragul
Rumble Roadshow Skatepark Event	April 11	Burke Street Skatepark Warragul
All About Fibre and Yarn Festival	April 13	Warragul Function
See amazing wool and yarn crafts.		Centre
Politics in the Pub Forum	April 16 (5-6pm)	Criterion Hotel, Traf
Meet Liberal candidate Mary Aldred	April 10 (2-opili)	Criterion Hotel, Hai
Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition Final Day	April 20	Main Street of Yinnar
Announcement of prizes and winners.	April 20	
Yarragon Book Fair	May 3	Yarragon Community
Top quality second hand books.		Hall
Gippsland Weed and Pest Festival		Rokeby Recreation
Presentations and demonstrations on weed and pest control.	May 3	Reserve
- E		

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## Uliveto Cinque Cento – Trafalgar's boutique olive grove

By Diana Mattea

rafalgar. Ruth and Guy Bruten operate this groove as well as a business, The Gallery of Good – in which they sell ceramics and hold art workshops. The grove is located on 19 Sunnyburn Road Trafalgar. Ruth has kindly shared her journey; these are her words.

**Traf District News:** Who inspired the purchase of Uliveto Cinque Cento and the name?

"Guy and I had always planned to make a move to a rural property as our five children became older. But we had expected that we would continue to primarily live in the city and move permanently later. As it turned out, our love for this property was so instantaneously deep, that we felt compelled to make the move permanently immediately. A decision we have never regretted."

"The name was inspired by a cheeky reference to my love for the Fiat500, T51r (automotive combustion) and the 500 olive trees."

**TDN:** Who planted out the original grove and what varieties best suit our region?

"The Moscato family planted every single tree on this property. They planted the 500 tree olive grove in 1998 - the same year as our first child was born. It all felt like destiny. Olives are incredibly hardy trees but do like a crisp winter and a hot summer so they are well suited to our climate."

**TDN:** When was Uliveto Cinque Cento grove planted and how has the grove

"Initially the trees were watered (first 8 months) but since that time, they are only watered by rainfall, we do not use any irrigation. Since we took over the property, we have added a small flock of Suffolk sheep to help fertilise and trim the trees, and in a lovely symbiotic relationship, the olive leaves provide beautiful antioxidants and natural oil to the sheep, enhancing their flavour. We keep the ewes and have one ram and we breed for our personal meat supply. We have never tasted more delicious tender lamb. It feels respectful to us to know where our meat has come from and we try and honour every part of the food process, both for ourselves as well as for the earth, the plants, and the animals. Everything we do is intended to support the other parts of the process. We are learning as we go and have had incredible support from the prior owners - who are now very, very dear friends who feel more like family. We have made some changes to the way we do things but we have learnt a lot from them and are incredibly grateful for their generous giving of information."

**TDN:** What varieties produce the best quality commodity? What are your present and future goals producing olive oil?

"We have 4 varieties in our grove; • Manzanilla (Spain) - a round olive that yields a smaller amount of oil in comparison to the others we have. It is the most widely planted olive variety in Australia. It is a fleshy olive whose pit removes easily, making it ideal for brining and stuffing for table olives but also makes terrific oil - a dual-purpose olive.



The grove at Uliveto Cinque Cento. Image from Google

one of the more commonly known olive varieties. Known as an excellent table olive with its rich deep colour. A mellower tasting oil. • Frantoio (Italy) - these are the smallest of our olives but are my favourite for oil. Despite their small size, they have excellent oil yield and fabulous strong fruity flavour. Frantoio are considered the benchmark for oil in Italy. They yield delicious fruity, peppery, lively oil. This variety makes up most of our grove. • Coreggiolo (Italy) same varietal family as Frantoio with similar properties.

"When we purchased the property, all olives were transported off-site to be processed into oil. Guy and I really wanted to have charge of this process onsite, to have all parts of the process occur right here in Trafalgar, where the olives are grown. In the end the timing was crucial as our oil producer was selling and so it helped push us into finding our own solution. We

purchased a beautiful vintage Italian hydraulic press (a lot of olives are now processed into oil using a centrifuge). We loved having this connection with the origins of traditional Italian processing, which means much less interference with the fruit itself. It means we can now pick and process our olives within an hour of being picked incredibly fresh!!

"This method means our oil is Cold Pressed Extra Virgin Olive oil. We only press once (some people press more than once) so our oil is of the highest possible quality. Since taking over all aspects of the production, we have gone through the process of being certified by BawBaw shire to sell our olive oil.

"Our future goals are to use more aspects of the other parts of the olive grove to make other products; olive leaf extract, soaps, hand creams, skincare etc. I have purchased a still from a dear friend who is an expert in distilling and who now imports handmade Portuguese copper stills, amongst her other skills. She will educate me as to the aspects of how best to utilise the leaves to make all sorts of other olive products."

**TDN:** Do you companion plant the grove or interplant?

"We do not companion plant as such (we purchased an already established grove)but as described earlier we do farm livestock with the intention of beneficial outcomes."

**TDN:** What determines good flavour?

"We use the time of harvest as our main determining factor in flavour. Choosing how ripe the fruit are - we choose to pick with a mix of ripe (red/burgundy) colour, but with a larger amount of green, as we prefer the oil to be punchy and peppery. As the fruit ripens, the flavour mellows more. Varietals also have unique flavour profiles. We love

the Frantoio for its peppery acidic bite. (I described the flavours earlier)."

NEWS

**TDN:** What is your favourite dish using olive oil as primary flavour?

"I use olive oil in every dish I make – I am not sure I could pick a fave. I cook soooooo many different dishes and use the oil in so many ways. I feel that is an impossible question to answer. Let us just say that good olive oil makes EVERY dish taste better."

**TDN:** What affection connects you to the grove?

"I feel incredibly connected to our property and find it very difficult to leave to be honest! It has everything I need and want in my life; family, love, peace, community, sustenance, connection."

Editor's note: This is the first half of the interview conducted with Ruth. The second half will be published in our May Issue.



Olive grove landscape. Photo provided by Ruth Bruten.



Sheep at the olive grove. Photo provided by Ruth Bruten.



Olives at the grove. Photo provided by Ruth Bruten.

## Mount Baw Baw Cub Scout Activity Day, a soaked but spectacular success

By Rick Bradley

espite one of the wettest days recently, February 15, 2020, nearly 50 enthusiastic cub scouts braved the rain and cold to take part in an action-packed activity day at Caringal Scout Camp. Their determination and resilience were on full display as they participated in a variety of exciting activities designed to test their skills

The young adventurers engaged in four thrilling challenges-rock wall climbing, crate stacking, archery, and hatchet throwing. The latter, featuring plastic hatchets aimed at special targets, proved to be a popular activity, allowing the cubs to test their precision and coordination, in a fun and safe environment.

To top off the day, the cubs gathered around open fires to prepare their own lunches, cooking toasted

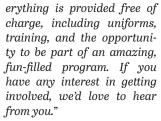
spaghetti sandwiches. Despite the rain-soaked conditions, their spirits remained high, and laughter filled the camp as they enjoyed their well-earned meals.

"The cubs showed remarkable resilience and enthusiasm, proving that a little rain wasn't going to dampen their adventure," said District Commissioner Steve Asbock. "It was truly inspiring to see them embrace the activities with such energy and determination."

riences for young scouts.

"We are always looking for leaders and adult helpers," Steve Asbock added. "Ev-

The success of the event was made possible thanks to the dedicated leaders and volunteers who organized and supervised the day's activities. However, some groups within the district are in need of more adult leaders and helpers to continue providing these enriching expe-



For those interested in becoming part of the Mt Baw Baw scout community, please contact District Commissioner, Steve Asbock at dc.mtbawbaw@scoutsvictoria.com.au.

Despite the challenges presented by the weather, the cub scouts' unwavering enthusiasm ensured that the Mt Baw Baw Cub Scout Activity Day was a resounding success—an unforgettable adventure in the great outdoors!









## How J MacGregor Legal can assist you in selling your business

By Bryce Grimshaw of J MacGregor Legal, Trafalgar

e play a critical role in assisting the sale of a business by providing valuable expertise and support throughout the entire process. When selling your business, we assist you in the following ways:-

### 1. Legal due diligence

Contract review: Reviewing existing contracts such as leases, supplier agreements, and customer contracts to identify any potential issues or obligations.

### 2. Structuring the sale

Sale structure advice: Advising on the most suitable structure for the sale, whether it be an asset sale or a share sale and outlining the implications of each.

### **Documentation:**

Drafting or reviewing essential documents including the sale agreement, confidentiality agreements, and noncompete agreements.

### 3. Negotiation support

- · Negotiations: Assisting in negotiations between you and the buyer to reach favourable terms, focusing on price, payment structures, and other key conditions.
- **Risk mitigation:** Identifying and addressing potential risks associated with the transaction and advising on ways to mitigate them.

### 4. Transaction manage-

### **Coordinating:**

Coordinating with accountants, business brokers, and other professionals involved in the sale to ensure a smooth process.

- **Conditions and** warranties: Drafting and negotiating conditions precedent (requirements that need to be fulfilled before the sale can complete) and warranties (promises about the state of the business).
- 5. Finalising the sale
- **Drafting and reviewing** contracts: Preparing and reviewing the final sale agreement and any

- ancillary documents to ensure they accurately reflect the agreed-upon terms and protect the interests of you as the seller.
- **Obtaining approvals:** Assisting in obtaining necessary approvals from regulatory bodies or other third parties.
- Facilitating settlement Coordinating the settlement process, which includes the transfer of ownership and payment of the purchase price.

If you are ready to sell your business, we're here to help. Contact our office on 5644 0000 or email your business enquiries to bryce@jmacgregorlegal.com.



Page 22 - Traf District News April 2025

## Trafalgar Tennis Club

By Nicholas Duck

rafalgar Tennis Club held its annual club championships on Sunday, February 23 for both senior and junior players.

The championships delivered some fun and entertaining tennis for participants and spectators as 11 senior players and 11 junior players vied for the top prizes.

Juniors played a round robin competition for each section, then a knock-out competition to sort out overall boy and girl champions.

Ollie Stephenson won the section five medal, James Bryant won the section four medal, and Josh Hearne won the section two medal.

Shailah Middleton took out the girls championship honours for the first time, while Josh Hearne took out the boys championship honours for the first time over a very competitive field.

In the men's championship, there were eight competitors on the day as Luke Bryant took the honours, beating Colin Maney in the final.

The women's championship was won by Siena Rikken, beating Amy Chaplain in a close final. This was Siena's first time at winning the championship event.

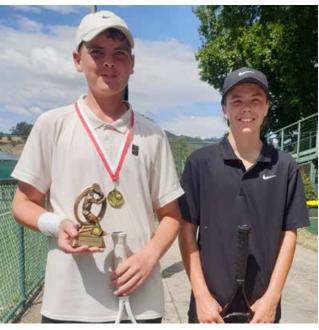
Players at both junior and senior levels demonstrated a high standard of skill, stamina, friendly rivalry and good sportsmanship. The club acknowledged committee members and parents for assisting on the day and supporting all the competitors.



Trafalgar men's champion Luke Bryant (right) with runner-up Colin Maney.



Siena Rikken is presented with the Trafalgar Tennis Club women's club championship by club president Colin Maney.



Josh Hearne took out both the section two and boys championships, defeating Jett Marslen in the boys final.



Taking home trophies in the juniors were Shailah Middleton (girls), Ollie Stephenson (section five) and James Bryant (section

## Trafalgar's midweek pennant champions!

rafalgar's top two midweek pennant sides took to Newborough Bowling Club on March 4, in a search for both the Divisions One and Two Midweek Pennant titles.

The effort by the Division Two team to make the Grand Final was cause for celebration in itself, having only earned promotion from Division Three the previous year when they took home the ultimate prize. Unfortunately it wasn't to be, as they were outplayed by their opponents from Newborough playing on home soil.

Division One however, had a much different day as they took on Traralgon's top side. With two rinks in front and one behind for most of the day, the overall scoreboard stayed agonisingly tight right to the end. However, Traf made the last few ends count. In particular, it was the rink skipped by Matt Schreyer with Ted Kuklinsky, Heather Taylor and Mary Holdsworth, that did the damage when it counted, scoring eight shots in the last three ends to catapult Trafalgar to their first Division One Midweek Pennant Premiership in 45 years!

The final score saw Trafalgar come out nine shots ahead of their opponents, with Matt Schreyer's rink winning by 15 and taking home an extra special Rink of the Week prize, sponsored by our good friends at Fish Bits, Trafalgar.



All smiles as Trafalgar's Division One team celebrate their victory.



The winners with their medals; Ted Kuklinsky, Heather Taylor, Matt Schreyer, and Mary Hold-

## Thirds title completes cricket mission

By Liam Durkin

Redemption came in the greatest form possible for Trafalgar Cricket Club's Third XI last month.

Twelve months ago, the Ships finished nine points clear on top of the Warragul District Cricket Association Division 5 ladder, only to lose the semi-final.

This season, the team finished second on the homeand-away ladder and walked away with the premiership beating an undefeated team in the process.

Having turned the tables in the space of one season, Trafalgar players had much reason to celebrate on grand final day.

Taking on minor premier Ellinbank in the decider, the Ships ventured to the opposition's home ground (Ellinbank Recreation Reserve).

Trafalgar had lost to Ellinbank on both occasions during the regular season, but little was anyone to know the Ships brains trust had a trick up their sleeve.

Having crunched the numbers, senior player Adam Carlson discovered Ellinbank's game plan revolved around batting second.

With that information, he informed skipper Brent Claridge, who took the educated gamble by electing to bowl first upon winning the toss

The decision may have signalled an early win for Trafalgar, as a look of shock came across the face of the Ellinbank captain.

Faced with something of an unfamiliar situation, Ellinbank took to their batting challenge, and showed no immediate signs of danger.

With the score on 26, a diving catch by Steve Asmussen at backward point set the tone for the rest of the innings, and from there, the Ships barely put a foot wrong in the field.

Darren Brown had the first three wickets of the game, and may well have been dreaming of collecting all 10 after dismissing key Ellinbank batsmen Matthew

Dare was dared to hit over the top, but only succeeded

in presenting a catch to Claridge on the mid-wicket rope. Claridge settled to take a cool and collected grab, leaving the home side 3/64.

From there, Trafalgar put the foot down, seeing their opponents collapse and lose their next three wickets for just four runs.

Among those three was two run outs, the first coming from a diving Daniel Van Boven at cover to Shane White at the bowler's end, and the other from a perfectly executed bounce throw from Brenton Faltum in the deep to wicket-keeper Col Parnall.

As they say, run outs cause collapses, and Ellinbank was soon further in arrears at 8/93.

Youngster Brodie Gauci injected further life into the game, nabbing two wickets in just as many overs, with Faltum again in on the act, taking a catch on the long leg boundary.

Asmussen finished the job, with his second wicket getting Trafalgar off the ground and needing 109 to win.

The more senior Asmussen, at least in terms of matches, John, opened the batting with Anthony Faltum, in a combination of at least 1000 games of cricket between them.

Faltum senior was joined by son Brenton, and the pair took the score to 40 before the former was caught trying to hit out and beat what appeared to either be heat stroke, cramp, or both.

Claridge came and went, but not before hitting his first scoring shot for six - a bizarre contortion that was half-pull shot, half forearm jab that went like a tracer bullet and barely got a metre off the ground the whole way.

When he left the score was 3/64 - exactly the same as Ellinbank, although with added reassurance of what was to come.

Parnall and Faltum added a handy 33, taking the team on the cusp of victory.

Some nervous moments followed from overs 30 to 35, as Faltum and White slowly



Trafalgar Cricket Club Third XI celebrate after winning the premiership. Pictured is (back row) Darren Brown, Rowan Stokes, Brenton Faltum, Shane Lanham, Brent Claridge (captain), Daniel Van Boven, Shane White, Adam Carlson, Anthony Faltum, Steve Asmussen (front) William Mills, Colin Parnall, Maxi Barrett (mascot), Liam Smith, Brodie Gauci and John Asmussen.

but surely ticked off the remaining runs.

So nervous was Claridge, he had to isolate himself on the other side of the ground.

His nerves were quickly relieved when White hit a straight drive for four over the top, and then Faltum did likewise, sealing the premiership.

Faltum collected Man of the Match honours for his 38 not out off 103 balls, to go with a run out and a catch in the field.

It has been a big few months for the family, with Brenton playing in a flag alongside his dad Anthony, just a few weeks after former Traf junior and Australian cricketer Nicole (Anthony's daughter) won a title with Melbourne Renegades.

Players gathered with club mates on the oval where presentations were made, before heading back to the clubrooms where celebrations continued.

Christian Burgess, in the absence of dad Ray, revelled in his new role of song master, leading the rendition of Victory, Victory is the name of our great Ship...

Amid the euphoria was a number of great stories.

Like most community clubs, membership is based on friendship and connections. Parnall brought White to the club this season, who slotted into the line-up seamlessly and even ended up winning the league bowling aggregate.

Another to feature heavily in the wickets was Brown, who followed his son Zack in taking four wickets in a grand final, just as Zack did the previous season.

The victory was a fourth flag for the club's games record holder, John Asmussen, who noted any season ending in 4/5 had been good to him.

Asmussen, a veteran of more than 400 games, has won flags in 2004/05, 2014/15 and now 2024/25.

Gauci and Mills formed a tight bond as two of the youngest players in the team, along with Olly White, who was perhaps a touch unlucky to miss out given he played in the semi-final but was deemed ineligible once the higher grade was eliminated.

Fellow youngster Liam Smith was also ecstatic with the result, and made sure to make the most of his time as part of the celebrations.

Possibly the happiest man alive on grand final night was Shane Lanham.

A cult-hero of the club, 'Shane-o' has put his heart and soul into his cricket in recent seasons, and can now proudly say he is a premiership player.

There might not be anything left for Shane-o to achieve, now that he has a flag, a league bowling aggregate, a best clubman award from Trafalgar Football-Netball Club, and seen Collingwood win a premiership.

Undoubtedly however, the premiership had the most significant meaning for the skipper, Claridge.

Those who know local cricket know the struggles that come with captaining a lower grade side, but for this season at least, Claridge was able to enjoy a healthy selection of player availability most weeks.

They repaid him with a premiership.

The win was Trafalgar's first in third grade since 2019/20, and first in the WDCA since the famed quartet of 2004/05 to 2007/08.

The plaques from those times were still on the premiership cup when Claridge held it aloft.

For the man himself, there was also some vindication, after he'd missed the 2019/20 flag through over-qualification, and had toyed with the idea of retiring.

He can finally retire now.

Just two words were all that was needed when Claridge posted a photo asleep with the premiership cup around 3.30am on the Sunday morning following the game.

'Mission complete'.

The premiership team was: Brent Claridge (captain), Darren Brown, Col Parnall, Shane 'Rabs' White, Adam Carlson, Daniel Van Boven, Brenton Faltum, Anthony Faltum, John Asmussen, Steve Asmussen, Brodie Gauci, William Mills, Rowan Stokes and Shane Lanham.



Trafalgar players toast victory by belting out the club song back in the rooms.



The fielding in the grand final was exceptional. Here, Col Parnall celebrates a run out. Watching on is Daniel Van Boven.



Brenton Faltum drives during his Man of the Match innings of 38 not out.

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