

Traf District News

June 2025 – Edition 275

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Liberals' Mary Aldred elected in Monash

By Jordan Ross

It took an extra ten days after Anthony Albanese and the Labor Party of Australia declared victory in the May 3 federal election, to declare a result for the seat of Monash.

It was a complex count with the AEC completing a two-candidate preference count with the final result being between Tully Fletcher and Mary Aldred. Independent Deb Leonard's choice to not provide voters with preferences only complicated what already had the potential to be a four-way race.

In Monash, over 102,000 voters made their vote count, completing formal ballot papers. A majority of voters in this electorate voted at a

polling booth during early voting or on election day, but approximately 15% chose to vote via postal ballot.

In the end, Mary Aldred received 32% of primary votes and 54% of the votes after preferences were distributed.

Aldred intends to deliver for locals "from day one"

"My community [has] sent me to Canberra to do a job and that is to stand up for them. I will not take a backwards step," she said.

"We live in the best part of the best country on earth [and] Gippsland's regional success fuels our national prosperity... I will fight to en-

sure we have the infrastructure and services we need," she said.

Aldred will be the first woman to represent this area in the House of Representatives and said that the "significance [of that] is not lost on me at all."

Aldred will be one of just seven women out of 40 MPs in the Lower House for the Liberals. Many critics had judged that the liberals have an issue reaching women voters. With Sussan Ley elected as the first woman to lead the Liberal Party, there is perhaps hope for the future.

"I think Sussan will make a terrific leader. I've got to know her well on the ground here in Monash," Aldred said.

Aldred brought Ley with her to meet volunteers at Baw Baw Food Relief in Waragul and to meet storm-affected residents in Mirboo North. Therefore, Aldred confirmed that Ley has "an

excellent grasp of what our key issues and priorities are here [in Monash]."

While Aldred noted the "enormous task ahead" for the Liberal Party, she declared that "it is not insurmountable."

"To the people of Monash: I will work my heart out for you," Aldred said.

She also acknowledged the departing Russell Broadbent saying, "I wish [him] and his team all the very best."

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Mary Aldred with her supporters on election night. Image supplied.



Mary Aldred and newly elected Leader of the Opposition Sussan Ley. Image supplied.

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Traf District News

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Candidates weigh in on the result in Monash

From p1
Labor’s Tully Fletcher says the result is “not good for Monash”

Fletcher received approximately 20% of primary votes and had approximately 46,646 votes after preferences were distributed. He called Aldred on May 12 to concede and “wish her well for the next three years.”

However, he made his opinions on the result clear.

“While Mary is a good person her election is not good for Monash,” he said.

He said that the Liberals brought “half-baked” ideas to the table.

“Monash has been taken for granted by Liberals for 20 years and that’s long enough... [we] deserve a federal Labor MP with a decisive vote in our Australian Labor Government,” he said.

“For the next three years our communities will sit on the sidelines in Canberra, represented by an out-of-touch, unpopular, hard-right Liberal Party,” he said.

Fletcher thanked his supporters and volunteers, while apologising for not “deliver[ing] the result [they] wanted this time.”

“It’s been an honour to stand as Labor’s candidate in Monash, and stand up for the people and communities who made me,” he said.

“We’ve won [here] before, and we’ll win again” he said, looking forward to Labor’s prospects in 2026.

Deb Leonard thanks Monash and looks forward to time with her family

Independent Deb Leonard - who received approximately 17% of first preferences votes - said that even though this was not the result she had “hoped for” she was “incredibly proud of the positive, community-driven campaign [she] ran.”

While Leonard was unable to get across the line in Monash, she massively improved her result from 2022, recording a 6% swing towards her.

“Even [though] we didn’t win the election, we’ve already won... [we’ve shown] that this seat can’t be taken for granted,” Leonard said.

“We’ve already seen more election promises out of the major parties than we’ve seen in decades, because [we ran] a competitive campaign,” she said.

Leonard wished Aldred “all the best”, and said “I hope she works productively and collaboratively in Parliament to deliver better outcomes for our community.”

Leonard said her grassroots campaign was never about her, but about giving

Monash a genuine, local voice in Canberra. “This was a true community effort and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of it with you.” she said.

“I want to express my deepest gratitude to my amazing team and the hundreds of volunteers who worked their hearts out over many months to put forward a bold vision for Monash’s future,” she said.

After the intensity of the campaign, Leonard is looking forward to some much-needed quality time with her family.

“My family has been my rock throughout this journey. I’m excited to spend some special time with them,” she said.

However, she vowed that “this is not the end, but the beginning of a new kind of community politics in Monash.”

“It’s been an honour” for Russell Broadbent as he prepares to step down

Departing MP Russell Broadbent - who ran as an independent after not being preselected by the Liberal Party in 2022 - said that he and his supporters had “fought the good fight.”

Broadbent first became a federal MP in 1990 and represented this area for 21 consecutive years, (serving as the member for McMillan from 2004 to 2019 and

then Monash since 2019 following redistribution and renaming).

“It has been an honour serving you as the Member for Monash for the past 20 years,” Broadbent said, reflecting on his time in parliament.

One Nation’s Kuljeet Kaur Robinson finds common ground with Aldred

Kuljeet Kaur Robinson says that while she and Aldred “stood for different parties,” that they “are united in wanting the best for Monash.”

“I commend Mary on her successful campaign and wish her all the best as she takes on the responsibility of representing our community in Canberra,” she said.

“I sincerely hope Mary will work hard to deliver on her commitments and ensure that the voices of everyday Australians in our region are heard loud and clear,” she said.

One Nation received around 8,000 votes - approximately 8% of primary votes - which is a slight improvement from their 2022 result in Monash.

Robinson says that “One Nation remains committed to standing up for fairness, common sense, and putting Australians first.”

Find an interview with Mary Aldred on p5

Two-party preference count			
Party/Candidate	Vote Percentage	Vote Total	Swing
Liberal Party Mary Aldred	54.1%	55,242	+1.16%
Labor Party Tully Fletcher	45.9%	46,947	-1.16%

First preference results			
Party/Candidate	Vote Percentage	Vote Total	Swing
Liberal Party Mary Aldred	31.8%	32,476	-5.7%
Labor Party Tully Fletcher	20.3%	20,736	-5.4%
Independent Deb Leonard	17.1%	17,460	+6.5%
Independent Russell Broadbent	10.2%	10,419	+10.3%
One Nation Kuljeet Kaur Robinson	7.9%	8,164	+0.4%
Greens Terence Steele	4.9%	5,023	-5.2%
Legalise Cannabis David O’Reilly	3.4%	3,511	+3.4%
Trumpets of Patriots Alex Wehbe	2.6%	2,609	+2.5%
Family First Geoff Dethelfs	1.8%	1,791	+1.7%

Results taken as of May 15

Gallery of Good

Over the last two months, we’ve shared an interview with Ruth Bruten, owner of the Gallery of Good. Bruten sells ceramics as well as products from her olive grove.

You can find her contact details here:

Website: www.thegallery-ofgood.com.au/contact

Shop: ruth-bruten-ceramics.myshopify.com/

Email: thegalleryofgood@gmail.com

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Mayor suspended following allegations of misconduct

By Jordan Ross



Mayor Danny Goss (right) and Deputy Mayor Tricia Jones (left). Photographed by Trevor Colvin.



Former Mayor Annemarie McCabe with Cr Tricia Jones in 2023. Image supplied.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Danny Goss has been suspended from the office of Councillor for a period of 21 days under the *Local Government Act 2020* following “serious” allegations of misconduct from previous councillors.

The suspension commenced on May 15, following a council meeting held the day prior. He will return to his role in early June.

At the May 14 council meeting, Cr Goss addressed the public and his fellow councillors, calling the outcome “disappointing” but he acknowledged he was “deeply sorry” for the situation.

Former Councillors Annemarie McCabe, Keith Cook, and Farhat Firdous

made allegations that Cr Danny Goss breached several codes of conduct. The application was originally made by the then-councillors in May 2024. Due to a number of factors, processing of the application was delayed until earlier this year, after Goss had been re-elected in last year’s November elections. Dr Lily O’Neill stepped in as the arbiter in February, and made her final decision on May 9.

Cr Goss is said to have acted in a “intimidating and threatening” manner towards fellow councillors at council meetings on March 13, April 3, and June 5 in 2024.

On April 3, Following debate from fellow councillors, Goss used a right of reply to

yell and point his finger at Councillors Jazmin Tauru and Keith Cook - who had disagreed with his motion. Cr Tauru asked “Can you stop yelling?” as he continued to raise his voice.

He continued to speak, accusing Cr McCabe of lying, misquoting him and of “man bashing,” even as the former mayor rang the bell to signal time. In the end, McCabe asked him to stop multiple times, before saying “sit down Cr Goss or I’ll ask you to leave the chamber.”

The arbiter judged that behaviour reached a point of being “abusive and threatening.”

On March 26 2025, Cr Goss made a public apology saying that he takes “full responsibility for [his] conduct” and “immediately regretted” his behaviour.

“I own this mistake and it won’t happen again,” he said.

However, former Councillor McCabe did not accept this apology, calling it “inadequate,” and as a result, the matter was heard on April 9. During this hearing, Dr O’Neill heard from former and current councillors.

Deputy Mayor Tricia Jones said that Cr Goss “wasn’t as respectful as [he] could have been,” while former Councillors Darren Wallace and Peter Kostos pointed towards a broader problem, a “dysfunctional” council.

Former Councillor Jazmin Tauru recalled Cr Goss’ words towards her over her council term, in which he told her to “shut up” and belittled her experience. She also recalled a specific incident at a private Councillor-only meeting in March 2024 where Cr Goss’

is alleged to have threatened Ms McCabe saying that voters would “come after her with baseball bats.”

Cr Goss argued that he wasn’t physically threatening her and that his words shouldn’t be taken literally. However, Ms McCabe said that at the time she considered the comment to be a threat.

Former Councillor Tauru called this comment “nasty” and said that it had been said “aggressively.”

In the end, the arbiter found Cr Goss breached Standard 1 within the code of conduct. This standard states the councillors should “not engage in abusive, obscene or threatening behaviour in their dealings with members of the public, Council staff and Councillors.”

“These breaches of the standards had a very negative impact on other Councillors. I view them as serious,” Dr O’Neill said.

The arbiter noted that Cr Goss’ “sincere” apology did result in the reduced 21-day sentence. The *Local Government Act 2020* allows for a maximum suspension of 28 days under this breach of conduct.

Cr Goss said that the support of his family has been crucial in this time. He vowed that the council would “not be distracted.”

“I’ll be back, even more determined to make a positive difference to this shire,” he said.

During this suspension, Deputy Mayor Tricia Jones has stepped in as Acting Mayor.



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Labor under fire from all sides for new emergency services levy

By Jordan Ross

The state government's new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) - which will replace the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) come July 1 - passed through the Victorian Legislative Council on Thursday, May 15.

The Labor Government says that this levy will "[give] hardworking emergency services the funding and equipment they need," while Nationals MP, Melina Bath called it a "cruel tax."

The previous levy supported the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV), while this new system will see support for a broader range of emergency services including the

Victoria State Emergency Service, Triple Zero Victoria, and Forest Fire Management Victoria, among others.

According to the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance, the new levy will be calculated based on a fixed charge that varies by property type, and a variable charge based on property value.

Melina Bath MP has said that households may see their rates almost double while farmers' rates could increase by 150%.

"Labor is shockingly punishing farmers when many are also CFA volunteers, SES members, and first responders," she said.

"During a cost of living crisis and drought conditions,

it is unthinkable that Labor is further taxing farmers," she said.

Wayne Farnham, Member for Narracan, also weighed in, saying that the "this tax will have a devastating impact on every Victorian family who are already struggling with cost of living."

The bill was passed after the Greens finally agreed to vote in favour, but only after Labor promised to make a number of changes to improve the bill, some of which include; An amendment that ensures that 100% of the money raised from the levy is used to fund frontline emergency services, a commitment to a reduced levy rate for primary production land, and exemptions for farmers

experiencing hardship due to drought.

Leader of the Victorian Greens, Ellen Sandell said that "Labor's original levy had some serious problems, so the Greens pushed for significant changes."

Labor has also promised a rebate for volunteers from VICSES and the CFA. Eligible volunteers will be able to claim the rebate after they receive their rates notice and before they pay. However, it is only available for one property per person. Rebates on residential properties will cover the full extent of the ESVF payment, while there will be a cap on farm properties (approximately \$3,865).

Labor has maintained that this new levy is necessary to

support the state's emergency services. In their new budget, they've committed \$250 million to support CFA and VICSES volunteers as well as \$70 million for truck, tanker and pumper upgrades.

"We're making sure our emergency services have the sustainable funding and the equipment they need to keep Victorians safe and to recover from natural disaster," said Victorian Treasurer, Jaclyn Symes.

They have also pledged \$15 million in drought relief and support for struggling farmers, although Brett Hosking, president of the Victorian Farmers' Federation, said that these measures do not go far enough to address the pressures facing farmers.

"The response so far is too narrow in scope... this drought is not just about dry paddocks. It is about people, families and communities under stress. We need a more serious, coordinated response that shows farmers they are not facing this alone," he said.

Councillors of the Baw Baw Shire also have weighed in on the debate, noting that this new annual levy will be collected by council via rates.

Cr Paul Pratt said that it was a "bitter pill to swallow" while Cr Brendan Kingwill said he was "angry" and called the new levy a "direct tax grab."

"[It is] targeting farmers, business owners and our industrial areas," he said.

Farmers, firefighters turn out in Morwell to protest

By Trevor Colvin



Protesters in Morwell. Photographed by Trevor Colvin.



Neerim South Dairy Farmer David Johnson added his voice to the Morwell rally. Photographed by Trevor Colvin.

Some hours later John and his tractor were part of an estimated three hundred people who turned up in Morwell to protest against the state government's Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund which passed through parliament. They were protesting outside of the office of Harriet Shing MP.

Farmers are generally disinclined to lose their cool but that doesn't mean they are not seething with anger at this event. Some farmers are facing increases in excess of 150%. They don't believe they can afford it and they are angry.

"Everyone's just had enough and it's time to stand up," John told Traf District News. "They just keep taxing and taxing and taxing and they're totally incapable of

spending our money correctly or wisely," He added.

Local councils are getting a lot of negative feedback, but John and others know councils are simply collecting the tax on behalf of the state government and had no say in the decision.

Neerim South Dairy Farmer David Johnson added his voice to the protest, telling Traf District News, "I have a lot of friends in the dairy industry who are doing it really tough at the moment."

"I have a friend in Northern Victoria and this tax may cost him his farm. He has three boys on the farm and they are trying to buy other farms in order to survive and make a real go of it, but this tax might finish them."

"It is going to cost me \$6,000" David added "and

that is money ripped out of our local economy. It is \$120 a week which won't go to the local grain store, or supermarket or anywhere else in our town. It is the end of the one holiday we have each year. We just paid \$75,000 in stamp duty and that should be enough contribution from our farm to pay for fire services, SES and other services, but the government wants more."

"I have one dairy farmer friend in hospital at the moment because he is struggling to cope. Who is going to look after them because this will get bloody worse?"

Retired farmer Les Orchard added.

"Farmers have been trashed throughout this. How many are going to be tipped over the edge?"

Wayne

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Interview with Mary Aldred

By Trevor Colvin and Jordan Ross

Jordan Ross (JR): Why do you think voters resonated with you, noting that you got an impressive swing towards you?

Mary Aldred (MA): “I put myself forward as a genuine local candidate who has had a real track record of community involvement over 20 years. And so people knew who I am, they know what I stand for, they know I’ve rolled up my sleeves for community; aged care, sporting clubs, small business, Committee for Gippsland, the hospital board, and I think they were able to make an evaluation based on that track record.”

“I was also part of a strong coalition team. I’m a big believer that you always can achieve more as being part of a team than going it alone. And despite the disappointing national result, I intend to go forward with that as a basis, being part of a national team and being a very proactive, engaged local representative.”

JR: You will also be the first woman to represent this area in the lower house. Does that mean anything to you?

MA: “That significance is not lost on me at all, and I know I won’t be the last. I put myself forward because I believed I was the best qualified candidate based on my background of experience, my passion for this region. And I think people cast their votes accordingly.”

“And that’s why as soon as I was endorsed as a candidate, I worked my absolute hardest to secure the commitments that I was really determined to be able to deliver under a coalition.”

“I will not take a single vote for granted, whether people voted for me or another candidate. And I will be as engaged and accessible as I possibly can across every town.”

Trevor Colvin (TC): The Latrobe Valley economy has taken a significant downward hit with the closure of Hazelwood and the native timber industry. Do you think there’s some argument for having a serious, cross-party look at serious sustainable harvesting?

MA: “I want to be a very strong representative on behalf of local timber jobs. I’ve had an involvement with the timber industry before coming to this position. I understand it. We have among the highest environmental standards and stewardship anywhere in the world. Our foresters are proud of the very responsible craftsmanship that they undertake.”

“We have thousands of downstream jobs in manu-

facturing and transport and other sectors that rely on our timber industry that has been decimated by state Labor governments and ineffective federal Labor governments. And I think that’s one of the reasons why I had a very humbling and strong response in the Latrobe Valley by voters in Moe and Newborough, because they know I’ll stand up for timber jobs and energy jobs, and Labor and the teals and the Greens are a threat to those jobs. But I will be having a lot more to say about that sector. It is something I intend to take a very active and determined interest in. It has to be sustainable and maybe it hasn’t always been, but surely there’s a pathway for that. It’s the ultimate renewable resource, timber, if it is done properly. Only around 6% of the available forest estate was actually harvested for timber, and because that’s done on an 80-year rotation, it’s effectively 180th of 6%, so it’s a tiny amount.”

TC: Could you work with a broader spectrum of politicians in this area to help bring that about?

MA: “I will work with anyone on any aisle of the Parliament that sees a jobs and economic future for our region.”

“[I think] the only way we can save the Victorian native hardwood industry is to elect a coalition state government.”

TC: Are you familiar with a group called Great Latrobe Park who have a very bold vision for the future economy of the Latrobe Valley, based around rejuvenating the Hazelwood Mine pit and Yallourn North and Loy Yang when they close?

MA: “I’ve spoken with them once and I’d be very happy to meet with them again.”

TC: Do you think Loy Yang and Yallourn North will close on schedule or do you think there’s room to move there for a mix of coal, renewables, possibly nuclear, possibly gas?

MA: “Well, if you just look at the contribution to the NEM that those power stations are making at the moment, that is a huge shortfall that we are looking down the barrel at in only a couple of years. Yallourn is 2028. Yes.”

“In New South Wales, we’ve seen the State Labor Government renegotiate with power stations there. There’s been no moves to do that yet here, but that is why we need a properly structured transition plan and we need baseline as part of that mix and I don’t think we’re talking enough about gas as part of that overall portfolio of generation assets. Given we have billions

of litres of it and we sell it off, yeah, well that’s a good discussion to hope is continuing.”

TC: When you’re settled in, would you consider a regular sort of ‘meet the press’ type monthly meeting?

MA: “Absolutely. Local papers, particularly in regional towns, are far more important and significant, I think, than in metropolitan areas because they tell the story of the life of that community from funeral notices to sporting games to small businesses to the comings and goings of significant people in those towns. They are very important. I’ve always had a really constructive relationship with local newspapers and I think it’s a very, very important way in which I can get a direct and locally focused message to our community.”

JR: You had said one of the things that you wanted to allocate money towards and one of the things you wanted to fight for was youth spaces in Gippsland, and I wanted to ask you why you thought that was really important?

MA: “There are a lot of challenges to being a young person at the moment. Mental health, social media, a rapidly changing world, rapidly changing local community and an employment base here. So I want young people in our community to feel hopeful, to feel connected, included and I think those youth space opportunities, talking with Gippsland Youth Spaces who have young people as part of their leadership team, they provide some really good opportunities across a number of fronts.”

“For some young people, just needing a safe space to go and some food security is an important thing. Feeling connected back to other young people is important. Having healthy recreation opportunities is important and also



Mary Aldred during her campaign. Photographed by Trevor Colvin.

not everyone wants to have a pathway to university education and so for some people providing a clear pathway to vocational or TAFE training, mentorship, employment mentorship opportunities, I’m really passionate about that and although unfortunately we won’t get that funding delivered under what I had hoped to be a coalition government, I am keen to raise it with the Labor government and just the broader value of what that provides.”

JR: What do you see as the role of local councils and how do you think you could maybe work with, in particular the Baw Baw Shire Council?

MA: “I’ve always had a constructive relationship with local government from when I was at Committee for Gippsland. That was when the first iteration of One Gippsland was set up where there was, I thought, the best working model of business and industry, regional development and local government. I think there’s been a pretty clear mes-

sage at the last local government elections that rate payers have an expectation about perhaps a return to some of those primary areas of focus, like roads maintenance, keeping rates at a manageable level, and concentrating on their bread and butter.”

“But I also recognise that particularly for peri-urban and regional councils that are experiencing large population increases, they do have a stretched resource base, so I’m very keen to work with our local councils to identify opportunities for partner opportunities, and making sure that we can attract and secure the investment in infrastructure and roads and services that we need in this part of Gippsland.”

JR: Do you think Sussan Ley will make a good leader?

MA: “I had the opportunity to attend my first party room meeting in Canberra this week, which was an immense privilege. I got to know both Angus Taylor and Sussan Ley over the time I’ve had as a candidate.”

“I think Sussan will make a terrific leader. I’ve got to know her well on the ground here in Monash. We’ve had probably half a dozen visits from Sussan over the last 18 months.”

“She’s met with storm-affected residents in Mirboo North. She’s visited Baw Baw Food Relief with me. She has spoken to residents impacted by coastal erosion in Bass Coast.”

“She’s visited dairy farms with me in Jindivik, and several small businesses. I think she has an excellent grasp of what our key issues and priorities are here. She comes with really serious, comprehensive parliamentary experience, which I think you need as leader.”

“She held a number of portfolios in government and opposition. Like me, she’s from a regional area in New South Wales. I look forward to playing a constructive role in her team, with my first priority being to fight for the services and support we need here in Monash.”

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COUNCIL News

BAW BAW SHIRE'S VOLUNTEERING GIPPSLAND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP.

For individuals and organisations looking to make the most of volunteering opportunities in Gippsland. **This is a free event.** Registrations are essential.

WHEN: Monday 16th June 2025, 1pm

WHERE: Narracan Room,
Baw Baw Shire Council
33 Young St. Drouin

Upcoming Events:

For a full list of the current events, visit
[www.bawbawshire.co/
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Baw Baw Connect – Have Your Say, Your Way!

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- the new draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (Round 2)

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Upcoming Council Meetings:

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

Wednesday 11 June – 5.30pm

Wednesday 25 June – 1.00pm

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

For a full list of the meetings for 2025, visit
www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings

Council axe pension rebate as “hard decisions” are made

By Jordan Ross

In their newly announced Draft Annual Budget for 2025/26, the Baw Baw Shire Council has revealed plans to axe the \$50 pension rebate for ratepayers. Reflecting on the development of the budget, Mayor Danny Goss said that “hard decisions have been made.”

Council has previously provided a \$50 rebate to eligible pensioners. Their decision to phase out this rebate, means that in 2025/26, it will be reduced from a \$50 rebate to a \$25 rebate. In the following financial year, it will be phased out completely.

Local resident Roy Lindsay, who attended the council meeting on April 23, called the move to remove the rebate a “money grab” and referred to the decision as “heartless and embarrassing.”

Cr Suzanne Allen acknowledged the “strong feelings” that were vocalised around the removal of the rebate.

She said that the “decision [to remove the rebate] was not made lightly,” and maintained these “tough decisions... are necessary.”

Over the next financial year, this move will save the council approximately \$118,000 which will help ensure that council can achieve their goals surrounding future financial sustainability.

Council is not mandated to provide any additional rebates in addition to what is provided by the state government.

The Victorian Government runs the Municipal Rates Concession Program which applies to council rates. Holders of a Pensioner Concession Card or a Veterans’ Affairs Gold Card are el-



The current Baw Baw Shire Council who were elected in November last year. Photographed by Trevor Colvin.

igible for these concessions. The maximum rebate under this program for the previous financial year was \$259.50.

Baw Baw Shire Council to generate \$141 million

In 2025/26, council projects it will generate \$141 million in income, with expenditure forecasted for \$118 million. This leaves the council with \$23 million in surplus.

Councillors and council officers have been working on developing the budget since January. Deputy Mayor, Tricia Jones, said that a lot of “careful work” has gone into drafting the budget, while Cr

Allen said they had “listened closely to the community” during the process.

Council will offer over 70 services, including road maintenance, community infrastructure projects, rubbish and waste collection, youth programs, library services and community grants.

They also plan to deliver three projects in Yarragon, including the Dowton Park Pavilion Upgrade, the Loch Street Footpath, and the Rollo Street Masterplan Project.

Cr Allen admitted this budget “won’t please everyone,” while Mayor Goss called the budget “not perfect.”

Council has also allocated \$100,000 to their community grants program. This includes \$20,000 to the Arts & Cultural Advisory Committee Program which funds local artists, as well as \$5,000 for a CASBE membership, an alliance of Victorian councils striving for environmental sustainability. Local sports clubs have also received funding through this program.

Rates will increase with council “cash restrained”

Council confirmed that rates will increase by 3%, which is the maximum increase for this upcoming

financial year as set by the state government.

Mayor Danny Goss said “rampant” inflation and price increases means that an increase is necessary to ensure that council can continue to meet service expectations and deliver infrastructure.

The shire’s rapidly growing population and the increase in service demands that comes along with it, was also listed as reasoning for the increase.

Cr Paul Pratt admitted that council is currently in a “cash restrained situation” in what is a “tough financial time.”

According to Cr Goss, this means it is tough to meet service expectations and deliver infrastructure.

The Long Term Infrastructure Plan - which will be finalised later this year - may provide clarity for projects not addressed in this current budget, such as the second oval at the Trafalgar Football Netball Club.

Council is still reviewing this draft budget and invited the public to provide feedback during May. It is set to be finalised on June 12.



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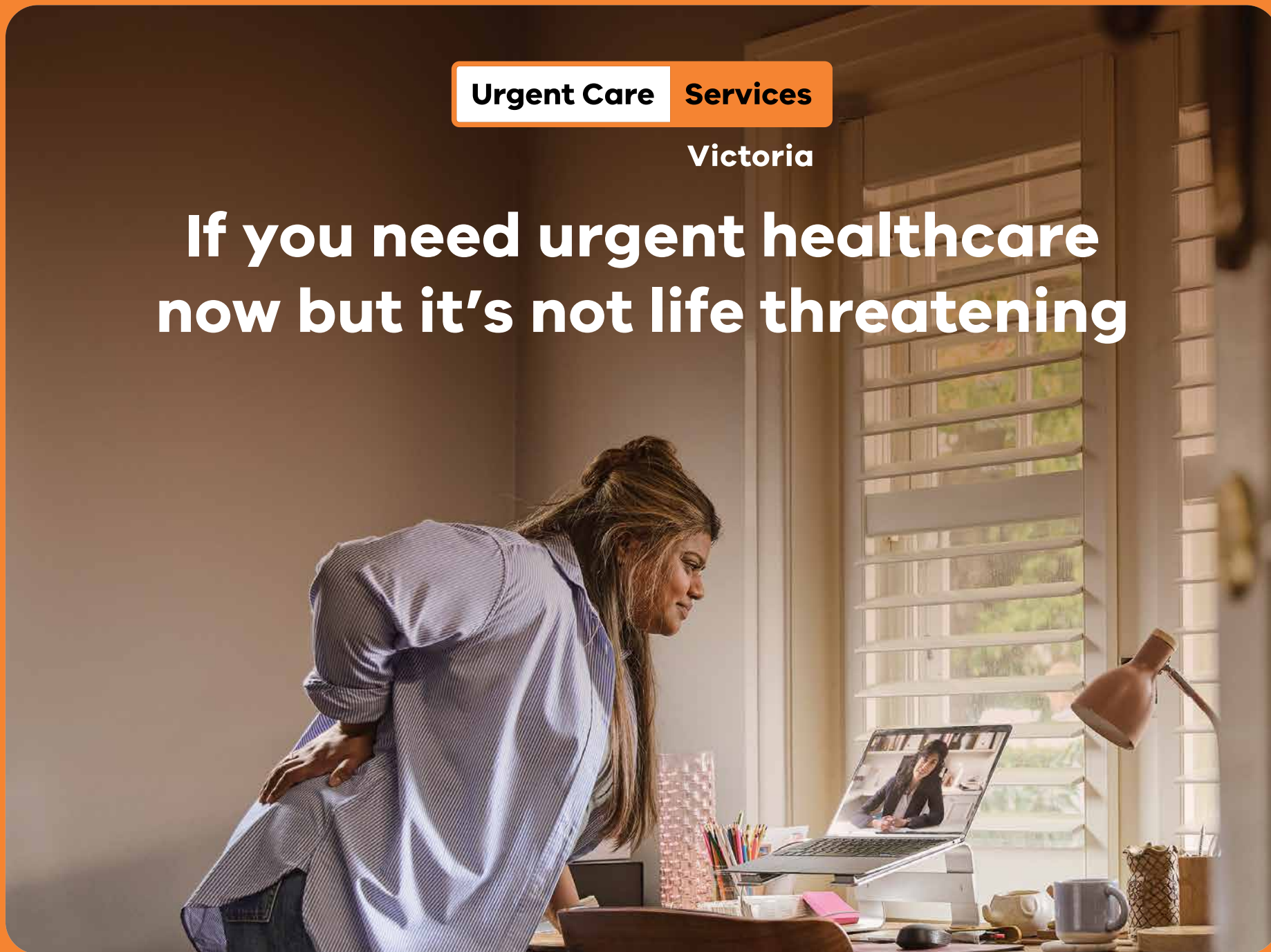
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Vending machines with free pads and tampons installed in Warragul

By Jordan Ross

Regional Victorians are set to benefit from a rollout of free pad and tampon vending machines. Minister for Women, Natalie Hutchins, launched the start of the official statewide rollout at TAFE Gippsland, where new machines have been installed in Warragul.

“Pads and tampons are not a luxury, they’re a necessity,” said Hutchins..

“This rollout means women and girls right across Victoria won’t have to miss work or school because they can’t afford them,” she said.

The state government says this program will help remove barriers to education, work and community life. Lack of access to period products is a real issue in regional areas, where local services may be limited. It can affect health and wellbeing, school and work attendance, and social participation.

“Inability to access sanitary products should never be a barrier to participation in

education,” said TAFE Gippsland Acting CEO Justin Fallu.

She said that these vending machines are “supporting dignity, inclusion and equal opportunity for all.”

This program, which has already been running for six months, has helped Melbourneians save thousands of dollars. In this time, 25,000 packs of pads and tampons have been dispensed.

Once the rollout is complete, up to 1,500 free pad and tampon machines will be available at more than 700 public locations across Victoria. Sites will include regional libraries, hospitals,

TAFEs, train stations and other community hubs.

There are currently five of these machines in the Baw Baw Shire. They are located at the Warragul Library, TAFE Gippsland Warragul, TAFE Gippsland Baw Baw Skills Centre, West Gippsland Healthcare Group, and the Drouin Library.

Member for Eastern Victoria, Harriet Shing said that this rollout will “make a big difference for women and girls” across the state, especially given that a national survey found that one in five women struggle to afford period products.



The vending machines are located in public spaces and are simple to use. Packs of pads and tampons are available. Image supplied.



Harriet Shing MP and Natalie Hutchins MP joined staff at TAFE Gippsland for the announcement. Image supplied by the Victorian Government.





WARRAGUL & MOE OPTICAL

The Turner Family

Celebrating Mothers' Day and women in business

By Peace Ijiyera



Nadine and Hannah Patrick with their matching tattoos



Mothers Day stall

During Mothers' Day week in May, Trafalgar's Contingent Street was decorated with balloons and stalls to celebrate Mothers' Day and the women in business. The main event on the Saturday saw businesses offer special events and deals, including flash tattoo sales at Haven Tattoo Studio, mini photography sessions at The Creative Wellness Studio, in-house specials at Eat Live Fresh, and many more.

Owner of The Creative Wellness Studio, Kellie Robinson shared the joys and challenges of being a woman in business.

"It is hard at the moment," Robinson said, highlighting being a mum as an added pressure.

However, she finds the other businesswomen on the street a great support.

"We are there for each other, and there to cheer each other on. It makes the hard times a little bit less hard," Robinson said.

The Creative Wellness Centre offers a range of services including yoga, tai chi, sound healing, nutrition workshops, pottery, painting and general wellness services.

The space where her business is, previously known as Trafalgar Mens and Boys Wear, was owned by her aunty and uncle for over 30 years.

Robinson shared that she was "inspired by [her] mum, aunty, and uncle," to start her

business, and considers it "special to be able to come in and make it [her] space."

Like Robinson, Danielle Taylor, owner of Luxe On Mane, feels supported by the other businesswomen on the street.

Taylor described starting a new business at such a young age as "scary." However, she said the support she has around her is "phenomenal."

"Everyone gets around everyone. It makes [owning a business] 10 times easier," Taylor said.

Luxe On Mane offers hairdressing, eyelash extensions, spray tan, and waxing services.

Taylor feels a great sense of fulfillment and finds

joy in "making everyone feel beautiful."

Taylor looks forward to offering more services and recently undertook a hair extensions course to further develop her craft.

Even before 10 am, Taylor had already serviced three clients and was gearing up for some more throughout the day.

A few doors down at Haven Tattoo Studio, a line began to form, with customers eager to take advantage of the flash tattoo sales.

Mother and daughter duo Nadine and Hannah Patrick were in line to get their first matching tattoo together. The pair got a butterfly tattoo.

"It is something we can share forever," Nadine said.



Luxe On Mane owner Danielle Taylor



The Creative Wellness Studio owner Kellie Robinson



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Remembering the ANZACs

By Trevor Colvin



Trafalgar ANZAC Day March. Photographed by Trevor Colvin.

110 years ago the tiny shire of Narracan had only 5,400 residents, yet 680 men - more than a third of their eligible men - signed up for service, and many became part of the Australia New Zealand Army Corp, which landed at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915.

In a major tactical blunder, the Anzacs and other troops were dumped on the wrong beach, and had to claw their way off the beach

and dig in under constant fire from the Turkish Army which had the high ground.

Before the final withdrawal, 12,181 ANZAC's had been killed and a further 22,640 wounded. In the decade following the war, Australia lost 60,000 returned men, illustrating that adjusting to normal life after the horrors of war is a very difficult process. We must never forget their sacrifice and fortunately numbers attending ANZAC ceremonies across the nation

are growing every year. There were about three hundred people at the 11am service in Trafalgar, from young to old.

Although the ANZAC landing and subsequent horror were a tactical disaster, the ANZAC's pulled off a major tactical victory by getting every man off the beach without a single loss of life. The Turks held the high ground and could clearly see the beach and any movement on it, but to make the Turks believe the Anzac front line was

still occupied, the ANZACs employed a system of automatic delayed-action rifles, also known as "drip rifles", which fired at intervals after being set. Two ration tins, one empty and attached to the trigger, and the other full of water, which was allowed to drip into the empty tin, were set up. When enough water had dripped into the trigger tin, the rifle fired. Hundreds of these rifles gave the impression of a fighting army when in fact the ANZACs were slipping off the beach to safety.

Australia's population was only around four and a half million, but more than 416,809 served in uniform, throughout all of WW1, which represented almost 38% of the total male population aged between 18 and 44. Of these, over the next four years, 60,000 were killed, in action, died of wounds, or were reported as missing

in action, many lying in unknown graves. 46,000 were wounded, gassed or became prisoners of war. The impact on local communities was immense. 2,860 women

served overseas as members of the Australian Army Nursing Service, of whom 25 died of illness or wounds whilst on active service.



Scout groups laying wreaths. Photographed by Trevor Colvin.



The band at the ceremony. Photographed by Trevor Colvin.

Flags raised to honour veterans

By Jordan Ross

At the Trafalgar Cemetery, 156 flags were raised to honour our veterans in the two weeks surrounding Anzac Day.

The project was organised by Trafalgar Cemetery Trust co-chairs, Linda Davies and Robyn Gunn, Cemetery Secretary Howard Jones, and Trafalgar-Thorpdale RSL sub-branch president and secretary Jim Crowe, and Paul Altamore, respectively.

The late Chris Johnson was also involved in the planning, but sadly passed away

in April. Traf District News passes on our condolences to his friends and family.

The idea was sparked by Robyn Gunn, 10 months ago, who thought it was an "awesome" opportunity to honour veterans at the cemetery.

While the cenotaph in Trafalgar only recognises those who were killed in action (as recorded in the 1920s), the team wanted to recognise all those who had served the Commonwealth. As they continued to research, they found around 100 additional

names that would need to be honoured next year.

The team said it was an "educational" experience for them as well as for many families in the area.

Paul Altamore spoke of a sense of "ownership and community" that the project had inspired, with many people visiting the cemetery for the first time to pay their respect to veterans. The hope in coming years is that the locals who are able and willing, can sponsor a veteran and help financially support the proj-

ect. This will enable the trust to buy more flags and ensure everyone is honoured.

The flags were provided by the RSL, and Robyn Gunn thanked the "lovely team of volunteers" who planted and raised them on April 23.

150 of the raised flags were Australian, five British and one from New Zealand, representing a diversity of veterans who are buried in Trafalgar.

Keep an eye out in 2026, as the team plans to raise the flags once again.



Flags at the cemetery. Photographed by Jordan Ross.

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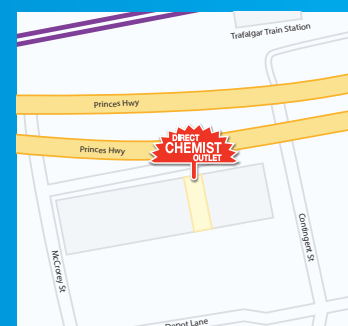
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Great turnout for ANZAC Day services in Trafalgar and surrounds

By Paul Altamore, CSM



Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL's Dawn Service was led by sub-branch president Jim Crowe. Photographed by Mick Bourke



Trafalgar Fire Brigade marches in Trafalgar's ANZAC Day service. Photographed by Callan Barker



The ANZAC Day march is led by Vietnam veterans, with former sub-branch president, Ray James OAM, in front. Photographed by Callan Barker



Junior members of Trafalgar Fire Brigade in Trafalgar's ANZAC Day march. Photographed by Callan Barker

Trafalgar-Thorpdale RSL commemorated the 2025 ANZAC Day with services in Trafalgar, Thorpdale and Narracan East, as well as supporting other services conducted in Willow Grove, Aberfeldy, Erica, Hill End, Walhalla and Yarragon, with at least 1100 people attending the services.

Trafalgar Dawn Service

The Dawn Service was held at the Trafalgar Cenotaph, commencing at 6am, and conducted by RSL president Jim Crowe, with David Koschade providing the traditional bagpipe tunes of the hymn "Abide with me" and "Sleep, Dearie, Sleep".

During this brief ceremony, Jim covered the significance and the traditions of the Dawn Service. Phil Jamieson and Alan Smith were posted as the flag orderlies, a duty they also performed at the later Trafalgar service.

The Dawn Service was well attended with at least 300 people of all ages gathering at the cenotaph.

This service was followed by the traditional Gun Fire Breakfast in our RSL hall, which, again, was prepared by the volunteers from Trafalgar Lions Club. The Gun Fire breakfast was well attended and gave the opportunity to catch up and socialise before some of our members left to support other services in the area.

Thorpdale service

The Thorpdale service was conducted at 9am at its cenotaph by Sandra Pleash, with Jon Marsh reading the names commemorated on the war memorial, and talking about the World War I sacrifice of the local Snowball family.

Darron Fraser and David Ferguson, our reliable Thorpdale flag orderlies, again took their post at the flag poles, and Malcolm Dodson provided the technical audio support for the Last Post, Rouse and National Anthems.

Amongst the wreath layers was Peter Fraser, who, as a platoon commander, was Mentioned in Despatches (MID) for his service at the Battle of Coral-Balmoral during the Vietnam War in 1968.

The Thorpdale service was well attended by at least 80 local people and visitors, and was followed by a morning tea arranged by Tracey Chambers, who also acted as the wreath orderly.

Around Narracan

Concurrent activity included the Narracan East and Willow Grove services, which both commenced at 9am.

Jim Crowe conducted the service at the Narracan War Memorial, and Therese Gorton read the ANZAC Requiem.

Like the Thorpdale service, the residents of Narracan turned out to pay their

respects at this commemoration. At the same time, Grady Edwards travelled north to Willow Grove to assist local man, Dave Williams, in conducting the Willow Grove Service at its War Memorial. Whilst at Yarragon, sub-branch member Bill Kilday addressed the service and read the ANZAC Requiem.

Trafalgar march and service

The Trafalgar march commenced at 10.55am, with crowds lining Contingent Street, as the marchers formed up. The parade consisted of four divisions:

- The RSL and veterans with family members led the march, with former president Ray James in front;
- This division was followed by Trafalgar Fire Brigade under supervision of Captain Mark Walshe;
- 1 Trafalgar Scout Group; and
- Trafalgar Primary School and Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School

The Latrobe Community Concert Band positioned

itself at the Scout Hall and provided the music for the march and subsequent service. An estimated 400 people attended this service either as marchers or lining the streets.

The parade marshal, Paul Altamore, gave the commands, which all quickly responded to as the contingent marched from their forming-up point adjacent to the hotel, to the RSL hall, with an "eyes right" on passing the cenotaph.

Although our personal drill may be a bit rusty, it was nevertheless an impressive parade.

Following the parade's 'fall out', all gathered around the cenotaph and along the streets for the service, again conducted by Jim Crowe, with the Reverend Dr Dean Spalding invited to speak and lead the prayer.

A large number of wreaths, many created by Leonie Gracie, were laid at the cenotaph.

Community groups and schools also had wreaths, and in honour of our recently passed, long-term committee member and dear friend, Chris Johnson, a wreath was also presented.

During the ceremony a plaque was unveiled on the Memorial Wall for World War II veteran, Sgt Frederick Regan, by his family.

The service was further enhanced by the timely fly-over of five jets from the Roulettes based at RAAF Base Sale.

After the services

Following this last service, the crowds dispersed, some

to the RSL hall for lunch, a few drinks and catch ups, and some to other gatherings.

A fine get-together in the hall was superbly catered for by sub-branch members, Leonie Gracie, Pauline Barker, Emma Thomas, Lynn Jamieson, Dellas Edwards, Pauline Weller and Sonja Perrin, who volunteered for the kitchen duties, whilst the bar was continually manned under Phil Jamieson's directions.

Phil also ensured that 'long neck' bottles of classic beers were available for veterans as a tribute to all who served (which was a nice gesture).

The rations provided by the Trafalgar IGA and the Thorpdale Bakery's popular pies and sausage rolls, ensured that none went hungry.

The day was a respectful commemoration honouring our original ANZACs and all service men and women who have since followed in their footsteps (boots steps).

Its success was highlighted by the good community turnout at all locations.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all who volunteered, assisted or offered their services for the day.

There are a lot of moving parts and work behind the scenes which go into such events, and the efforts of those who worked largely unnoticed in supply, catering, bar duties and external liaison with councils and other organisations, is appreciated and acknowledged.

Like any successful military endeavour, it involved teamwork and was a joint operation.

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Council preparing to return Aboriginal artwork

By Jordan Ross

Baw Baw Shire Council will make a history-making move soon as it prepares to commence the process of repatriating 37 cultural items back to the Lardil People of Mornington Island.

On May 10, the council held a smoking ceremony for the cultural items in preparation for their repatriation.

Kurnai Elder, Aunty Cheryl Drayton conducted the smoking ceremony with assistance from Baw Baw Shire Council Coordinator Arts and Culture, Melissa Forlano.

Smoking ceremonies have been performed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for thousands of years to cleanse people and places of bad spirits.

The Traf District News reported in March that the Baw Baw Shire Council unanimously voted to repatriate a collection of artwork, which is currently stored at the council's Municipal Civic Art Collection.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Cr Danny Goss said "since confirming the true owners of these items, council has been determined to follow through the safe return of these and advocate for the Indigenous Repatriation process."

Council obtained letters of support from both the Elders of Kurnai Nations and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and, importantly, the Lardil People, who look forward to having the items returned to their rightful Keeping Place.

A letter sent by Cheryl Drayton, a representative of The Kurnai Corporation, recognised that returning cultural items is "an important mechanism for reconciliation, healing and truth telling."

"Kurnai uphold Aboriginal Custom and Lore and do not endorse the public exhibition of these items on Kurnai Country," it reads.

It is disrespectful to display cultural items from another community without being welcomed onto the country by the traditional custodians of the land where the items are intended for display. This is because Aboriginal art is often connected to the land where it was created and the stories it tells. Therefore, out of re-

spect for local Aboriginal people and the Lardil People, it is not appropriate that this collection be publicly displayed in the Baw Baw Shire.

"The respectful and right-ful thing to do is to release them from the Baw Baw Municipal Civic Arts Collection and return them to Mornington Island," said Cr Allen, speaking at a Council Meeting in February.



Kurnai Elder Aunty Cheryl Drayton addresses guests. Image supplied.

Candlelight vigil honours lives lost to domestic and family violence

On May 7, locals gathered at the West Gippsland Performing Arts Centre for a candlelight vigil, honouring lives lost to domestic and family violence.

The centre was lit up with purple lights. The colour represents courage, peace, and dedication to ending violence.

The vigil - an annual event held on National Fam-

ily Violence Remembrance Day - was started by the Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre.

Statistics released by the Gippsland Family Violence Alliance show that in 2024, Baw Baw Shire had the 23rd highest rates of family violence in the state. Additionally, Victoria Police responded to 1,324 calls for assistance relating to domestic vio-

lence, which is an increase by 16.96% on the previous 12 months. Sadly, two in five women, or 39%, have experienced violence since the age of 15.

For many, the event was a symbol of hope and resilience, and a commitment by organisations and the community to bring about change.



(L to R) Baw Baw Shire Council Co-ordinator Arts and Culture, Melissa Forlano and Kurnai Elder Aunty Cheryl Drayton undertake the smoking ceremony. Image supplied.



Leslie Smith (Quantum general manager family violence), Kate Gardner (detective acting sergeant at Baw Baw Family Violence Investigation Unit), Jane Barr (Gippsland Centre against Sexual Assault (GCASA) chief executive officer), Kathleen Denny (GippSport project officer gender equity) and Baw Baw Shire Mayor Danny Goss.



June exhibitions at 'The Station Gallery', Yarragon, 10.00 am to 3.00pm Wednesday to Sunday. Photographer Jodie Hemingway in Africa and 'Water Colour' group.

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“Absolute tragedy” as fatal collision occurs in Trafalgar

By Jordan Ross

A 49-year old woman tragically died after a car crash on Mother's Day. Emergency services were called after two cars had collided at the intersection North Canal Road and Willow Grove Road on May 11 about 5:55pm.

Detective Sergeant Mark Amos from the Victoria Police Major Collision Investigation Unit called the event an “absolute tragedy.”

One of the vehicles involved rolled off the road and down an embankment as a result of the collision. A passenger from that vehicle,

a woman from Dandenong North, died at the scene. Her husband, a 52-year-old man and their children, a 19-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy, were taken to hospital with serious injuries.

The driver of the second vehicle, a 60-year-old Yarragon man, sustained minor injuries while the passenger, a 58-year-old Yarragon woman, was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

Sergeant Amos said that the crash “should never ever have occurred.”

“Just a moment of inattention, a moment's distraction,

you go through a stop sign and you ruin your life and the lives of your family in a single blow,” he said.

Police believe one of the vehicles failed to stop at a stop sign, resulting in the collision in the middle of the intersection.

At the time of writing, there have been 106 deaths on Victorian roads so far this year.

“Pay attention, be alert, slow down, concentrate,” Sergeant Amos said, as he warned Victorians to be careful.



The crash occurred at the intersection North Canal Rd and Willow Grove Rd. One of the cars then rolled down the embankment on Willow Grove Rd. Photographed by Jordan Ross.



Police believe one of the vehicles failed to stop at a stop sign. Photographed by Jordan Ross.

New speed restrictions on the western end of Traf make for a quieter life

By Trevor Colvin

Denis Jones lives on the highway just west of the railway crossing lights at Ashby Street, and he has been solidly campaigning for the 60 speed zone to be extended much further west.

Denis makes the argument that the 60 zone starts far too close to the town, with vehicles able to drive at 80kph as they approach the busy Dodemaides Road intersection. Many accidents have occurred there as vehicles try to enter the highway from Dodemaides Road. Your writer spent some time a month ago making a number of attempts to cross the highway from Dodemaides Road, and it was a very tricky manoeuvre and quite dangerous. That danger has been reduced quite considerably with new speed signs being installed last month.

The 80 speed zone has been moved a long way west

to Sunny Creek Road, which is 1.3 kilometres from the Ashby Street crossing. The first 60 zone sign is now close to a kilometre from the same intersection and this will also cater for the new housing developments which will occur on the South side of the highway, east of Sunny Creek Road.

“We have noticed a lowering of noise already,” said Denis Jones, “while there are a few cowboy truckers who haven't adapted to the change yet, most truckies and motorists have. It is now quieter and considerably safer for users of Dodemaides Road, in particular.”

Denis is well aware that funding for roads is extremely limited so he is grateful to Vicroads for finding the funds for this project.

Vicroads made similar changes to the eastern approach to Trafalgar last year and that has made a lot of

difference to the safety and comfort of locals.

“The highway patrol were quite a presence there after those changes and that presence alerted motorists to the change.” Denis is hoping the highway patrol may do the same at the western end for a few months, until motorists become accustomed to change. He intends to make contact with them.

Denis is grateful for a lot of help and support from Wayne Farnham MP, and also believes the new local councillors are more willing to engage than the previous administration, and will be reaching out to councillor Brendan Kingwill for help.

“I think the next thing is to have the Trafalgar town signs moved much further west in keeping with the extended speed restrictions,” Denis said. He will be working on that.



Trafalgar just became safer for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians thanks to campaigner Denis Jones.

Train works will continue to disrupt Gippsland line

Coaches will replace trains on the Traralgon and Bairnsdale lines for part or all of the journey between Saturday June 14 and Wednesday August 13. This is due to Gippsland Line Upgrade works, along with Victoria's Big Build works impacting the metropolitan section of the network.

A total of \$52 million has been allocated to a public transport blitz to deliver and improve regional train services. So while these disruptions may be irritating, they will allow for train services every 40 minutes along the Traralgon line.

Member for Eastern Victoria, Tom McIntosh, acknowledged the inconvenience

and thanked locals for their patience.

“We thank passengers in Gippsland for their patience while we get on with this important work that will deliver more reliable services,” he said.

The current construction blitz will complete and commission the line's new signalling system, so trains can run more often and more reliably. To complete the new signalling system, crews will carry out various works along the line including installing cabling and trackside signalling equipment between Drouin and Traralgon.

Works will also include testing of new infrastructure along the 70 kilometre stretch of rail line and enable

trains to safely operate next to the new platforms at Morwell and Traralgon stations.

The Department of Transport and Planning is developing a new timetable for the Gippsland Line, with further information on timing for the new services to come.

Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing said that, “the Gippsland Line Upgrade will deliver more services to Gippsland and ensure passengers can make the most of the upgraded Morwell and Traralgon stations.”

For detailed information on planned Gippsland Line disruptions, visit <https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/disruptions/gippsland-line-disruptions/>.



A VLine train at the Southern Cross Station. Image supplied by VLine.



A VLine train. Image supplied by VLine.

Differences between a will and a power of attorney

By Bryce Grimshaw of J MacGregor Legal, Trafalgar

A will and a power of attorney are essential legal documents, yet they serve distinct purposes and are fundamentally different in their function, scope, and usage.

Purpose and function

- Will: A will is a document that comes into effect upon the testator's death, outlining how their estate, including assets and liabilities, should be distributed to beneficiaries. It allows the individual to specify their wishes regarding guardianship of minors, funeral arrangements, and distribution of personal belongings.
- Power of Attorney: A power of attorney, meanwhile, is intended for scenarios during a person's lifetime, allowing them to appoint someone (an attorney) to make decisions on their behalf. It caters to

instances where the individual may become incapacitated or unavailable, covering financial, legal, or medical-related decisions.

Timing of application

- Will: Operative only after death. It has no power or effect while the individual is alive.
- Power of Attorney: Operative during the individual's lifetime. It ceases to have effect upon the death of the appointor (at which point the will takes over for posthumous matters).

Focus and scope

- Will: Primarily concerned with the distribution of an estate post-death, including monetary assets, property, and personal effects.
- Power of Attorney: Addresses decision-making during life. For

example, an enduring power of attorney allows an attorney to manage financial matters, while a medical power of attorney grants authority to make healthcare and medical decisions.

Key difference

While both documents involve the delegation of authority, a will deals with post-death arrangements, whereas a power of attorney provides for decision-making during a person's lifetime. It's important to emphasise that one cannot substitute for the other, and individuals should ensure they have both documents properly prepared to cover all eventualities.

Contact J MacGregor Legal today to arrange an appointment for the preparation of a Will or Power of Attorney:

Address: 65 Princes Highway, Trafalgar VIC 3824
Email: reception@jmacgregorlegal.com
Phone: 5644 0000

Baw Baw Arts Alliance

By Carol Monson

If, with the onset of chilly weather you are looking for some interesting and creative inside activities, go to the Baw Baw Arts Alliance website immediately.

On the website you will find plenty to do inside when the weather is cold and damp. Take in current exhibitions at the Station Gallery in Yarragon. For the month of June local photographer,

Jodie Hemingway, is exhibiting a wide range of photos she took when travelling in Kenya. Titled, 'Wild Encounters in Kenya', Jodie's exhibition of African animals and birds in their natural habitat are beautifully captured when enhanced by the sun at particular times of each day.

Do not miss the lively and bright display of paintings from the Baw Baw Arts Alliance water colourists. If these capture your interest check out the website for more details and the chance to learn how to paint anything from trees to flowers, landscapes to seascapes, and possibly your pets.

The Arts Alliance has recently added a new range of workshops with their third venue in the VRI Hall in Waragul. This venue is now an addition to Artspace at the Trafalgar Railway Station and the Station Gallery in Yarragon. Seek out a wide range of arts from drawing, figure life sculpting, hand building in clay, mosaics, printing, fibre and fabric, watercolour, mixed media, poetry reading and writing workshops.

All activities are listed on the website at <https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au>.



Poet, Rodney Williams, performing his poem written in a recent writing workshop at the VRI Hall. Rodney is editor of the literary website 'Catchment'.

Trafalgar police weigh in as crime increases

By Jordan Ross

As reported last month, recently released data from the Crime Statistics Agency has revealed that crime is on the rise in Baw Baw for the third straight year. In 2024, over 3,800 crime incidents

were reported, almost 600 more than in 2023.

Trafalgar Police Sergeant Chris Nott said that local statistics "reflect the state averages," and that locals should not be alarmed.

Sergeant Nott said that they had been "proactive" in tackling crimes surrounding drug and weapons offences. He explained that this leads to increased rates of criminal offences, with more search

warrants and offenders being detected.

"This is a good indicator for Trafalgar as we are proactive in addressing drug [related crimes]," he said.

Almost half of the crimes in Baw Baw Shire were reported in Warragul, with 296 and 134 incidents occurring in Trafalgar and Yarragon respectively. For Trafalgar, this was 28% more than there were in 2023. Across the state, 73,539 arrests were made last year. Car theft was the fastest growing crime, increasing by approximately 40% from the year prior.

Sergeant Nott said his team are "working on strategies" to address this increase in car thefts.

Member for Narracan, Wayne Farnham expressed gratitude to "Victoria Police members [who] are working day and night to keep our communities safe."

However, he said that "crime in Baw Baw is out of control," and called for a 24/7 police station in Drouin.

New Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police appointed

As new bails come into place in Victoria, the state government has announced the appointment of Mike Bush as the new Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police.

Premier Jacinta Allen confirmed they had selected the "right person for the job."

Bush - who will step into the role in June - was appointed following an extensive recruitment process that spanned local, interstate and international police organisations. He has significant experience in police operations and strategies, and was the Commissioner and Chief Executive of New Zealand Police from 2014 to 2020.

Bush will replace acting commissioners Robert Hill and Rick Nugent, who have temporarily stepped in following the resignation of Shane Patton earlier this year. Under the Victoria Police Act, Bush has been appointed for a five year-term.

"He'll make the community safer in Victoria," the Premier said.



Image supplied.



Harriet Shing MP

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 harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au

 1300 103 199

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 [@ShingvWorld](https://twitter.com/ShingvWorld)

Authorised by H Shing, 216 Commercial Rd, Morwell.



Trafalgar Community Garden: “Where a town grows”

By Rodney Boon

The garden was established in 2014 by the Trafalgar Community Hall, next to the Men's Shed. Its creation was inspired by a local survey of residents, asking what the community in Trafalgar needs.

Support was initially provided by the Rotary Club, the Lions Club, the Andrews Foundation, the Baw

Shire Council and the Men's Shed.

One of the features is the shipping container equipment shed which has a wraparound graffiti style mural painted by artist, Travis Wiltshire.

The pergola, roof and decking were built by the Men's Shed, and seats and compost bays were built by Trafalgar High students.

There are 15 self-watering and 20 in-ground garden beds. These have been planted with summer vegetables which are now coming to an end and we are busy preparing for our winter crops. All seedlings are raised by our volunteer gardeners at home.

The garden has been voted by a visiting garden group from Tasmania, as the best

design and most productive they had seen.

Unlike most community gardens, which have individual personal plots, ours provides free access to all produce for any community member to enjoy. Recently, a lady told us that sitting quietly looking over the garden helped her deal with a bout of depression. She has since

come back and made donations to help us continue our work.

Since establishment, the garden has been sustained purely by a small group of volunteer gardeners at our working bees on Wednesday mornings. Donations from the community are very important as well.

We continue to need further donations to cover the cost of insurance, seeds, water and mulches. Your donations can be made in the donation slot at the end of the garden shed, or at a Bendigo Community Bank, under the BSB: 633 108 and Account Number: 159611755.

Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.



Probus meets police officer Caroline

By Glenda Mynard of the Trafalgar Probus Club

About 70 members attended our April Probus meeting. Our guest speaker was retired Victorian police officer Caroline Pethick, who has written her memoir about her 30 years in the police force, a job she loved. In her book, *To Hell and Back*, she presented her journey from 1980, when she joined the academy, to recent times when she retired. She outlined the challenges in her career as a woman competing in a male dominated

workforce. In that time, she came across many members who openly resisted women in the force, and others who overlooked her for promotion just because of her gender. To help deal with the pressures of the job, Caroline often wrote things down and decided to share her journey by writing a book.

Caroline was 21 when she enlisted in the Victorian Police Force and after the initial 21 weeks of academy training, performed various roles across the state. When Caro-

line entered the force the requirements were 80% physical skills and 20% education. Today tables have turned, now it is 80% education and 20% physical. Caroline continued to build her skill set by completing further study, hard work and assessment, but despite achieving required levels, she was often overlooked for promotion. She encountered some very supportive colleagues and at other times roadblocks. She was the youngest ever female sergeant in the Victorian Police Force.

When she became a mother she was granted three

months maternity leave but then her only options to resume work were to return full time or resign. Maternity leave these days is much more supportive of women.

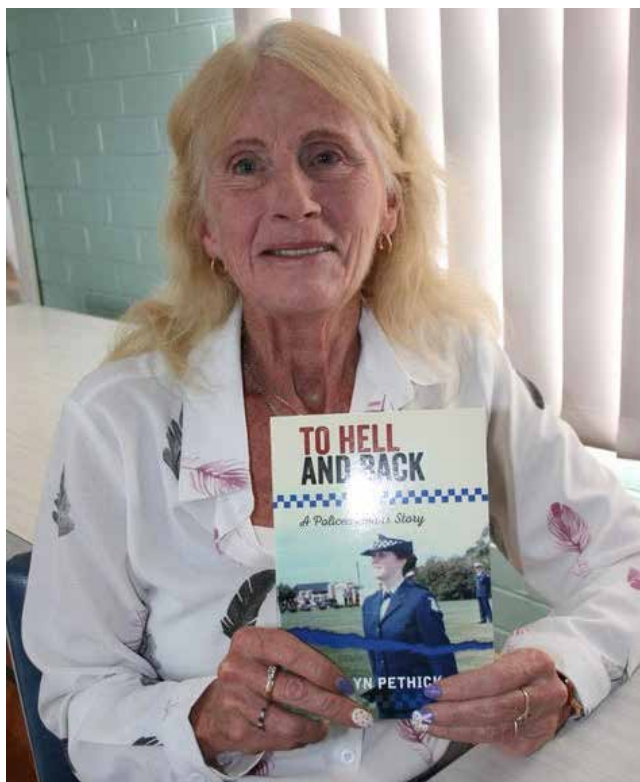
She recommends a career in the police force for young women, and says despite the challenges she's encountered, it was a job she loved.

Probus has many other activities for members to enjoy. Each month we have a dine-out at a local pub or restaurant, a walk in the nearby area, a garden visit, a craft afternoon, a book group, just to mention a few.

Next month we are heading to Melbourne for a tour of Parliament House.

Come and visit if you would like to know more. We


meet the first Thursday of the month at the Trafalgar Park Bowling Club, Ashby St, Trafalgar at 10:00 am.



Retired Police woman Caroline Pethick with her book “To Hell and Back”



New members Gary and Lynn Wilis, and Maria Slot with President Tina Hambleton




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Trafalgar Community Directory

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

Organisation	Contact	Email/Website	Phone
Baw Baw 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.wordpress.com/	0408 962 764
Trafalgar Cricket Club	Liam Durkin	Website: https://trafalgarcricketchub.com.au/ Email: trafalgarcricketchub@gmail.com	0402 556 338
Trafalgar Football Netball Club	Brett Tonkin	Email: trafalgarnfc@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Football Netball Club	0477 636 648
Trafalgar Golf Club		Email: golf@trafalgargolf.com.au Website: https://www.trafalgargolf.com.au/ Facebook: Trafalgar Golf Club	03 5633 1110
Trafalgar Outdoor Pool		Email: bawbaw@ymca.org.au Website: https://bawbawpools.ymca.org.au/trafalgar-outdoor-pool	03 5623 4017
Trafalgar Park Bowls and Croquet Club			0468 322 066
Trafalgar Ping Pong Club		Email: trafalgarpingpongkings@gmail.com	0418 598 174
Trafalgar Polocrosse Club	Gill Massey	Email: trafalgarpoloxclub@gmail.com	0455 440 062
Trafalgar Pony Club	Denise Marriot	Facebook: Trafalgar Pony Club	0411 890 299
Trafalgar Tennis Club	Sue Klemke	Email: trafftennis@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Tennis Club	
Trafalgar Victory Football Club		Email: committee@tvfc.com.au Website: www.tvfc.com.au	
Other			
Baw Baw Arts Alliance	Sue Murphy	Email: president@bawbawartsalliance.org.au Website: https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au/bcems/	0428 866 417
BawBaw Sustainability Network	Malcolm McKelvie	Email: bawbawsn@gmail.com Website: bbsn.org.au Facebook: Baw Baw Sustainability Network	0490 485 370
BetterMental Together	Kerry Rantall	Email: bettermentall@gmail.com Website: https://bettermentall.com.au/	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.stjohnnstrafalgar.com.au/ Email: gcasecretary74@gmail.com	03 5633 1166
Trafalgar Campdraft	Cheryl	Website: https://www.gippslandcampdrafting-association.com/ Facebook: Trafalgar Campdraft Association Inc	0416 166 027
Trafalgar Cemetry Trust	Howard Jones	Email: trafalgarpubliccemetary@dcsl.net.au Webite: https://australiancemeteries.com.au/vic/bawbaw/trafalgar.htm	03 5633 2282
Trafalgar CFA (non-emergency)		Facebook: Trafalgar Fire Brigade	03 5624 1900
Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce		Website: https://www.trafalgarchamber.com.au/	
Trafalgar Community Notice Board		Facebook: Trafalgar Community Notice Board	

Trafalgar District News	Jordan Ross	Email: editor@trafnews.com	03 5633 2591 0432 889 930
Trafalgar Farmers Market		Email: Silkroadcommunitymarkets@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Farmers Market (Silk Road Community Markets)	0417 131 316
Trafalgar Historical Society	Jean Huffer	Email: historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com	0439 655 172
Trafalgar Holden Museum		Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: https://trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au/	03 5633 1684
Trafalgar Lions Club	David Koschade	Email: trafalgarlions@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Lions Club	0428 331 157
Trafalgar Mens Shed	Leigh Shepherd	Website: https://mensshed.org/sheds/trafalgar-mens-shed/	0427 757 505
Trafalgar Opp Shop	Glenys Brennan	Email: glenys_barnyard@yahoo.com.au Facebook: Trafalgar Opp Shop	03 5633 2788
Trafalgar Police Station (non-emergency)		Email: TRAFALGAR.UNI@police.vic.gov.au	03 5633 1188
Trafalgar Probus Club	Glenda Mynard	Email: glendamtraf@gmail.com	0458 332 149
Trafalgar Public Hall	Tanya Stanley	Email: trafalgarpublichall@gmail.com	0409 015 662
PLEASE DIRECT ANY CHANGES TO PUBLISHER@TRAFNEWS.COM			

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 editor@trafnews.com

Event	Date/Time	Location
Warragul Parkrun Reigster at https://www.parkrun.com.au/warragul/	Every Saturday 8am	Brooker Park Warragul
Trafalgar Farmers Market Fresh produce, local crafts, and community	First Saturday of Each Month	McGregor Park Trafalgar
Longwarry Fire Brigade Market	First Sunday of Each Month	Longwarry Fire Station
Warragul Farmers Market	Third Saturday of Each Month	Logan Park Warragul
Trafalgar Holden Museum Ex Employees Day A unique day of history, stories and celebration	June 15	Trafalgar Holden Museum
Snow Season Opening Weekend Celebrate the start of the Australian snow season in Victoria	June 7 - June 9	Mount Baw Baw

Over \$154,000 delivered to local groups through community grants

Baw Baw Shire Council has awarded over \$154,000 in community grants to 41 local community groups and non-profit organisations to fund delivery of new projects, programs and events. The grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 have been awarded through the second round of the Community Projects funding stream for 2024-25, which opens twice each financial year and forms part of council's overarching Community Grants program (which includes both Community Projects and Minor Capital Work funding streams). Baw Baw Shire Mayor, Cr Danny Goss, congratulated the deserving recipients for their outstanding applications and community spirit.

“We were so pleased to see the impressive applications

come through for various community events, projects, programs, environmental initiatives and equipment purchases. Through this program we’re proud to support many local special interest groups, sporting clubs and local progress associations to fund what matters most to them,” said Cr Goss. “As a council, we’re proud to provide valuable funds to community organisations out there having a go and making a positive impact in our community. These groups are the fabric that make Baw Baw Shire such a thriving and vibrant community ,and we look forward to seeing your projects come to life over the next six months.” A reception event will be held in June to celebrate successful grant recipients and their respective projects.

Trafalgar-based recipients of the second round of the 2024-25 Community Projects Grants are listed below:

- Trafalgar and District Probus Club - \$1,800 for the purchase of an Apple MacBook.
- Trafalgar Bowls Club - \$2,090 for the purchase of a battery-operated bowls green sweeper.
- Trafalgar Holden Museum - \$5,000 for Route 69 event traffic management and advertising.
- Trafalgar Men’s Shed - \$5,000 for the purchase of a cabinet saw.
- Trafalgar Park Bowls Club - \$2,980 for the purchase of trestle tables, cupboards and pickleball starter kit.

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Wellness activity

By Cathy Saleta

Mother Nature was nice to us. Our wellbeing group sat at the picnic table, rugged up in thick coats, with the candlelight making our faces glow out from the darkness. It was cold, but the air was still, the trees towered in a comforting way around us, and the stars winked at us beyond the leafy canopy.

We discussed what it takes to be still and quiet. We all agreed - it's difficult to get away from the busyness and distractions of modern life. Our lives are full of work, responsibilities, and commit-

ments, even if we want social events, exercise, or hobbies. Things drain our energy. It's important for our mental health to take 'time out' and rest. Intentionally. And true rest, where the only purpose is our own peace.

This is why we gathered to sit silently in the forest "just being", giving ourselves breathing space, space to listen inside and hear our Self. You might recognise this if you have ever tried to meditate: my mind started dwelling on the past, the unfinished to-do list, what I should've said to a person,

did I put the bins out? The mind just runs. The mind switches to the future too. My mind switched to what will I do next; what does the group need? I could talk about... The mind is planning, working, anticipating. This is its job. But it's exhausting stuff when it runs nonstop.

When we are constantly thinking, doing, meeting objectives, looking out for problems to fix, our body experiences this as stress and that isn't good for us. This shows up in life as feeling impatient towards others, getting angry and having arguments over

unimportant things, being forgetful, or struggling to make decisions because we can't deal with information well. Cortisol is a stress hormone. It has short-term benefits in dealing with immediate stressors, but when it is constantly there, that's really bad for us. It affects sleep, digestion, and mood, and can cause anxiety and irritability. When we don't take time-out to just be, our body doesn't get a rest from this sort of stress response.

We do have the ability to rein in our mind. We need to choose to sit and be still. To

decide to set time aside for listening to the rest of us. You can even tell the mind to have a holiday while you listen to your body and feelings. And the best part is, you don't have to do anything with the body or feelings, just noticing them is helpful.

That night Mother Nature was good to us; we all eventually reached a more calm, peaceful place inside ourselves. We had to ride-out the mind's little tricks and acrobatics. This stillness happens when we keep just drawing our attention back to our breath - soft, simple

breathing. Nothing fancy, your body knows how to do it. Select your focus - focus on your five senses in that moment. How do your feet feel on the earth, how does breathing move your body, what does the air feel like going in and out? Notice the feeling of your muscles, are they tense, can you gradually let them soften and relax? What does the forest smell like? Can you hear anything? Find a few favourite places in nature and give it a go, by the lake, under the moon, up at the nature reserve. Your body will thank you.

Why do pets get dental disease?

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

An estimated 70% of pets have some degree of dental disease by the age of three. So why does it happen?

Our pets' mouths are full of bacteria which are a normal part of the body's microbiome, and when everything is in balance they do not cause any problems. They can rapidly multiply into large colonies, forming a bio-film known as plaque, over the enamel of the teeth.

If the plaque stays on the teeth, then within a few days microscopic amounts of mineral deposits start to build up within the plaque. This harder, mineralised material is called tartar or calculus, and it gets thicker over time. Teeth should be white or very slightly yellow in colour. If they are dark yellow or brown, then you are no longer seeing the clean enamel and are actually looking at tartar.

This new environment, with tartar on the teeth and sitting against the edge of the gums, will alter the bacterial populations, leading to more 'bad' bacteria growing. Over time, the edges of the gums become inflamed (gingivitis), the gums start to recede away from the teeth, and the jaw bone erodes away to expose the tooth roots. Bad breath develops, and as different strains of bacteria start to grow deep down within pockets around the tooth roots, the smell can become quite awful. This whole process is known as periodontal disease, and this is one of the more common causes of dental disease, particularly in dogs.

The periodontal disease may not affect all teeth at the same rate. Sometimes the teeth in the front of the mouth can appear quite

clean, while hidden away in the cheeks there can be severe disease occurring on the teeth at the back.

Unlike the familiar cavities in people where holes in the teeth are the problem and sometimes a small filling is all that is needed for repair, in periodontal disease it is actually the gums and jaw bone which are affected. But with exposed roots and without the surrounding support, the tooth becomes painful and loose, in which case extraction of the tooth is necessary.

Periodontal disease can develop in every individual, but there are lifestyle factors (chewing behaviours and diet) and hereditary factors which influence how well the body keeps the bacteria in balance; we know that some breeds are at increased risk of periodontal disease including poodles, miniature schnauzers, maltese and greyhounds.

So what can be done? Once tartar and gingivitis has formed, then the teeth need to be cleaned. Under anaesthesia, the teeth are assessed and cleaned all over with an ultrasonic scaler, in-

cluding under the edges of the gums. If required, teeth are removed.

I can hear you asking - but what about at home, surely I can do something else?

There are many options, but they work best on plaque; the soft bacterial film, which occurs very early in the stages of dental disease. They will not fix advanced dental disease. So prevention is key; start dental hygiene while your pet is young!

Physically removing plaque from teeth is the best strategy, which can be achieved with brushing teeth, feeding dental chews or dry food in a large dental form and providing plenty of chew toys. Remember plaque can turn to tartar within days, so these need to be regular (e.g., daily) for best effect. Providing raw bones may help to remove plaque, but it is important to be familiar with the potential risks. Large sawn up bones with sharp corners, or very hard objects like deer antlers, are notorious for causing broken teeth in dogs, and broken teeth also need to be removed. Older dogs in particular will sometimes get

constipated when they chew up bone, as the small fragments form a concrete-like poo in their bowels. Choking can occur on chicken necks when excited dogs try to swallow them in one go, or when tendrils get stuck around their tongue.

There are also powders that can be added to food, liquids that can be added to drinking water, and gels which can be dropped onto the gums. These help to reduce bacterial growth in the mouth and whilst they are a beneficial tool that we do recommend, they are complementary and do not replace the need for physical removal of plaque.

If periodontal disease is detected early and preventative cleaning is performed, we have a higher chance of preserving healthy teeth. These freshly cleaned teeth are ideal for the above home care options to work well at keeping plaque at bay.

Once irreversible damage has occurred, then the only solution for a comfortable mouth is removal of the affected teeth.



Dog teeth before a dental cleaning. Image supplied.



Dog teeth after a dental cleaning. Image supplied.

Thorpdale celebrates club favourite

By Liam Durkin

Thorpdale Football-Netball Club stalwart, Daniel Hammond reached the incredible milestone of 400 games last month.

The Blues gave him a day to remember, beating Hill End during Round 6 of the Mid Gippsland Football-Netball League.

The Hammond name is synonymous with Thorpdale, and the family have easily played more than 1500

matches combined in football and netball.

Dan's brother Barry played 350, and dad Mick 600.

Dan's good mates Michael Chapman and Daniel Martin came out of retirement to play in the milestone, chairing him off the ground at game's end.

Known as 'Coco', the 400 game ruckman is a two-time senior best-and-fairest winner for the club and life member, helping out the reserves these days.

Both grades were able to win on the day.

Thorpdale senior coach, Daniel Taylor said it was a special day for the club.

"It was a great day with club legend Dan Hammond playing his 400th seniors/reserves game for the club which is a bloody good effort!" he said.

"It was great to see the two boys put in a big performance for Hammo and get their first win of the season."



Dan Hammond is chaired off the ground by good mates Michael Chapman and Daniel Martin after playing his 400th game for Thorpdale.

Help Shape the Future of Leisure and Aquatic Services in Baw Baw

Baw Baw Shire Council is inviting community feedback which will help shape a service review of the Shire's leisure and aquatic facilities.

As part of a service review, Council is seeking feedback to inform the development of a new tender specification for the Leisure Facilities contract, which is due to go to market later this year.

Whether you're a regular visitor to one of the facili-

ties or simply someone who wants to see better use of local facilities in the Shire, now is your chance to have a say in shaping their future service.

Trafalgar Outdoor Pool is included in the list of leisure facilities in Baw Baw. Pools in Drouin, Neerim South, Thorpdale, and Rawson as well as the indoor centres in Warragul and Drouin are also included.

Deputy Mayor Cr Tricia Jones said the community's

input would be vital to ensuring the services continued to meet the needs of residents of all ages and abilities.

"Our leisure and aquatic facilities play such an important role in supporting the health, wellbeing and social connection of our community," said Cr Jones.

Council is committed to delivering a service that meets community expectations, reflects current best practices and complies with

Academy recognises excellence

By Liam Durkin

More than 170 guests attended the 28th annual Gippsland Sports Academy Awards Night at the Italian Australian Club, Morwell to recognise and celebrate the graduation and achievements of athletes in nine sports over the preceding 12 months.

Seventy two young Gippsland athletes were in attendance and received graduation certificates on the night from their respective program's coaches.

This year, Gippsland Sports Academy was delighted to welcome Traralgon Paralympic swimmer, Emily Beecroft OAM as guest speaker.

Emily talked about her journey leading up to and attending three Olympics Games, culminating in her relay gold in Paris last year.

There was four major awards presented, one of which was The Tim Forsyth Award, named after the Thorpdale Olympic high jumper.

This award went to Jack Bateson (17) of Traralgon. Jack had an outstanding year in shooting.

He won the Australian National 20 Gauge Skeet Championship, which is a huge effort for a then 16-year-old.

Jack recently had a very successful competition in Perth at the nation-

als, shooting a 98/100 in the National 20 gauge 100 target championship.

This put him in a shoot-off with four other competitors, who also shot 98/100. Jack managed to win that shoot-off to win the 2025 Australian Skeet 20 gauge open champion. He is also the junior champion for the same event. He was also awarded 20 hall of fame points for his win. He also took home a bronze medal in the 28 gauge 100 target event, shooting 92/100 in juniors, a bronze medal in the Commonwealth 100 target event shooting (94/100) in the junior category and a silver medal in the Champion of Champions 100 target event junior category with 96/100.

Upgrading fishing facilities across Victoria

The state government is making fishing even better right across Victoria, with 14 fishing projects set to share in nearly \$1.1 million in grants.

Acting Minister for Outdoor Recreation, Ros Spence announced the latest recipients of the Recreational Fishing Large Grants Program to improve facilities, create more fish habitats and support fishing research.

"Victorians love to fish so we're making sure our local fishing hot spots meet their expectations when it comes to facilities and the fish we are stocking," he said.

The grants will fund the Native Fish Report Cards, research into estuary perch stocking, more fish habitats in the Gippsland Lakes and a trial to reduce fishing-related litter in the Sunraysia region.

The fund is backed by Victoria's anglers through

the reinvestment of their fishing license fees – which means this generation of fishing fans is making sure the next generation has the same great fishing they get to experience.

In western Victoria, the Lake Marma Committee and Hindmarsh Shire Council are receiving grants of \$80,000 and \$60,000 respectively to build all-abilities platforms on Lake Marma in Murtoa and Rainbow Lake so that more people can get involved in the sport.

A floating pontoon will also be installed at Lake Marma to provide better access to the eastern side of the lake. Rainbow trout are stocked in the lake in the June and September school holidays, as well as golden perch fingerlings in summer, so there is year-round fishing for people to enjoy. At Warrnambool boat ramp, a new fishing gantry will be installed by Warr-

nambool City Council thanks to a \$74,000 grant so catches of tuna and gamefish can be weighed on the spot, fresh from the water.

Around Melbourne, Parks Victoria will improve seven fishing platforms on the Maribyrnong River thanks to a \$46,400 grant and Melton City Council will use \$55,000 to build lower landings on the Navan Park Lake boardwalk for easier access to the water.

Clinics for all-abilities anglers will be available thanks to a \$40,000 grant for Reclink Australia who will run the clinics with Fishcare Victoria, and a trio of fishing platforms will be installed at the Dunyak Moira fishing lake at Merrigum, with Goulburn Valley Water scoring \$24,200 in funding.

An additional \$300,000 will be allocated by the VFA to support a range of First Nations fishing projects over the next six months.



relevant legislation – all while remaining accessible, inclusive and welcoming for everyone.

"This consultation is about more than just ticking boxes

– it's about making sure our services are guided by the people who use them," Cr Jones added.

The survey is open on Baw Baw Connect until June

6. Have your say, your way – and help make a difference to leisure in your community by visiting www.bawbawconnect.com.au/leisureservices-review

Good start to the season

By Liam Durkin



Trafalgar Football-Netball Club premiership captain, Klay Butler played his 250th senior game for the club last month.

Results were largely positive for the Trafalgar Football-Netball Club last month. The seniors scratched out an 18-point victory over Buln Buln in Round 4. The visiting Bloods kicked five goals straight to no score in the second term, to give themselves enough leeway from there, and record their first win over Buln since joining the league. Dylan Farrell was best, followed by Brad Hoffman, Connor Noonan, Jake Roe-Duggan, Blake Slater and Liam Coulthard. The reserves set up their win with a five goal opening, and played the game out from there. The man who has bowled a few cricket balls in his time, Jackson Noonan collected plaudits, as did Drew O'Brien, Brett Cameron, Hayden Brock, Kynan Noonan and

the financially astute Josh Dwyer. Thirds battled their game out in the second half. Louis Hennessy, Zac Tepper, Tom Vickery, Lachlan Gringhuis and Brodie Gauci put in honest efforts. Fourth's had a great win, although a nervous one at that. After leading by 31 points at halftime, and 21 at three quarter time, a final margin of 13 points left things a little close for comfort; although admittedly 27 scoring shots to 14 told the story. Hudson Grujic kicked four, and could have had many more, and received good support from Lachlan Gringhuis, Wes Scott, Olly White, Campbell Price and Coen Jennings. A Grade secured a commanding win, 60 to 28. Danielle Davies and Piper Albert shared the scoring, shooting

31 and 29 goals respectively. A belated congratulations to Taylah Summersgill on making her A Grade debut previously. B Grade lost a competitive match 53-44, while it was a similar story in C Grade, with a margin of seven goals. In junior grades, the 17s won 41-29, with Lucy Coulthard dominant under the post with 35 goals. The 15s went down by two, and coincidentally, the 13s won by the same amount. The seniors had their best win for the season the next week, getting up over Ellinbank in Klay Butler's 250th. The Bloods led at every change, and broke away with five goals to one in the final term to win by 33 points. Blake Slater was best, followed by Jake Roe-Dugan, Klay Butler, Kyle Beve-

ridge, Liam Coulthard and Matt Devon. Reserves failed to recover from a horrendous start that saw them drop 12 scoring shots to two in the first term. Thirds battled hard against strong opposition. Zak Larkin, Brodie Gauci, Louis Hennessy, Lachlan Gringhuis, Jamie Buch and Oliver McQualter were able to hold their heads up high. Fourth's lost a pulsating game by just six points. The Bloods recovered from a poor start, to lead by eight points at the main break, and nine at three quarter time, but then saw the opposition slam on five goals to two in the last. Jake Dinsdale was best-on with three goals, and found a few willing allies in Coen Jennings, Oliver White, Jett Marslen, Charlie Johnston and Beau Tipping. Not much joy on the net-

ball court unfortunately, with all Traf teams bar the 13s losing. The most junior Bloods won 32 to eight in a strong performance. A Grade went down narrowly by two, and C Grade by five. The senior team led at every change against Catani in Round 6, eventually getting up by 62 points. Blake Slater and Matt Devon were busy inside 50, kicking eight goals between them. Kyle Beveridge was best, while Dylan Farrell, Jace Butler and Ben Northover were also prominent. Congratulations to Louis Hennessy who made his senior debut. Speaking of twos, the reserves won by 48 points at the weekend. Some handy players featured in the best, and also

some blasts from the past. Ben Cunico, Darcy Brock, Jamie Hines, Dan Puglia and Oscar Robinson ensured club favourite Brett 'Scons' Cameron had a 100th game to remember. Thirds had a bye, while the fourths won by 24 points. The side led for the entire game, but had to withhold a determined Catani. Cooper Hammond kicked three goals, and was supported well by Lachlan Gringhuis, Coen Jennings, Campbell Pirie, Tait Kersten and Wesley Scott. In netball stakes, A Grade had a great win 60 to 34. Danielle Davies led by example, shooting 36 goals. C Grade also won, getting up 50-39 but B Grade lost 50-40. The 13s were the lone junior winners, in a match highlighted by Hannah Koldy shooting 26 goals.

Special visit from the oldest Ship

By Liam Durkin

The oldest man in the state, and therefore, oldest living past player of the Trafalgar Cricket Club, was back in town last month.

Reverend Bill Morgan, who turns 110 in October, returned to the club where he played in the late 1940s and 1950s.

Trafalgar was one of many ministerial appointments for the Uniting Church Reverend, in a life certainly well-lived.

As part of his visit, the Reverend also spent time with Trafalgar Uniting Church members.

Though wheel-chair-bound and legally blind, the Reverend's recall is still remarkable. He was able to reel off a number of players from his Trafalgar days, including Lester Tattersson, Bob Trail, the charismatic Dr Bill Ferguson, and the legendary Rankin brothers, Alan and Laurie.

Rev Morgan also played football for Trafalgar, and fondly remembers the coaching of the great Clarrie Swenson.

He recounted the time someone from the club

quipped at his ability to kick proficiently with both feet, to which the reverend replied he could do so "one at a time".

The Reverend was given a tour of the Trafalgar Cricket Club clubrooms, and overlooked the oval, still located in the same spot as it was when he played.

As he recalled, the wicket was mathoid back then.

Rev Morgan played in two premierships for the Ships, in 1949/50 and 1950/51.

Retrospective premier-ship pennants hang in the Trafalgar Cricket Club clubrooms, and the Reverend had his photo taken with them last Thursday.

An accomplished bat, Rev Morgan's highest A Grade score was 134 against Warragul Blues in 1951.

Rev Morgan rated Tattersson as the greatest cricketer he played with, and still remembered him taking all 10 wickets in the 1949/50 Grand Final.

"When he was eight, one or two were playing dead. It was too good a chase to let go," he joked.

Another funny story involved the Reverend and Tat-

tersson when it came to running between wickets.

"He could get up and down the wicket twice as fast as I could," Rev Morgan said.

"I admitted it, and he understood it. So when he hit a ball toward the boundary, he would say three and we'd take three. I'm told his mother was there one day watching and said "that lazy bastard Morgan won't run!"

Rev Morgan was also secretary of the club, but admitted it was "no work in those days".

"I think we had two committee meetings in the whole time I was there," he told this reporter when interviewed after his 100th birthday close to 10 years ago.

"If we had 10 people watching a cricket game that was a big crowd."

Not much has changed at all.

The Trafalgar Cricket Club of today is preparing for the upcoming season, which will commence in October.

It is not too early to get involved. If you are interested, email trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com



The Reverend at Trafalgar's Uniting Church, one of his many ministerial appointments.



Trafalgar Cricket Club's oldest living past player, Reverend Bill Morgan, who turns 110 this year.

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