

Traf District News

March 2025 – Edition 272

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Park in Yarragon under works

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Walhalla on Australia's World Heritage Tentative List

By Jordan Ross

Walhalla has been included among a list of six areas in regional Victoria recognised for their significance in the Victorian Goldrush era, with the Australian Government including the Victorian Goldfields on Australia's World Heritage Tentative List this week. This is the first step in the areas gaining official World Heritage status.

The tentative listing recognises the Victorian Goldfields' potential outstanding global heritage significance, and seeks to celebrate and protect the region's multi-layered history – from Indigenous Australians living on country, to the gold rushes, and subsequent waves of immigration from the 1850s onwards.

The Goldfields continue to shine as a cornerstone of Victoria's identity, with diverse

gold mining infrastructure, vibrant townships, and enduring cultural markers of aboriginal communities, including the Dja Dja Wurrung and Gunaikurnai peoples.

"A World Heritage listing of these towns would be a significant drawcard for visitors from across Australia and overseas," said Destination Gippsland CEO, Terry Robinson.

The Baw Baw Shire Council has also been supporting this project.

"This is an exciting step for us to get closer to achieving World Heritage listing for Walhalla, which is the site of Victoria's largest single gold producing mine," said Cr Kate Wilson.

Tentative listing is a critical step on the journey to being considered for World Heritage listing by UNESCO, which requires candidates

to develop a Sustainable Tourism Program that ensures listed sites are protected, but also that they are ready to meet the high expectations of large numbers of visitors from across the globe and within Australia, who choose to visit sites which carry the prestigious UNESCO recognition.

The six key areas included in the Tentative List submission are: Bendigo Historic Urban Landscape, Castlemaine Goldfields and Historic Townships, Creswick and the Deep Lead Landscape, Great Nuggets Historic Landscape (Tarnagulla, Moliagul, and Dunolly), Lalgambuk (Mt Franklin), and Walhalla Alpine Mining Landscape.

There are already two World Heritage places in Victoria, Australia. The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape in the state's west recognises the Gunditjmarra people and

how they worked the land and established flourishing culture and society. The second is the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens in Melbourne. Opened in 1880, it was the site for Australia's Federation and has since hosted a range of exhibitions and events.

Walhalla has its history in Victoria's gold rush era of the late 1800s.

Following the gold rushes in Ballarat, Bendigo and Castlemaine, prospectors expanded their searches. They found Walhalla and a quartz reef which became the single largest yield of gold found in Victoria. After gold mining became unprofitable in the early 1900s, most of the town moved to Melbourne or other areas in Gippsland. However, thanks to the preservation and restoration of its historic buildings, the town is still a well-loved tourist attraction.

This development has been a collaborative effort between fifteen local councils (including the Baw Baw Shire), State and Federal Government, and Indigenous groups - the traditional custodians who worked these lands. Local experts and tourism stakeholders have also been involved.

Community information sessions were held in Walhalla on February 14 and 19. These sessions explained the bidding process in greater detail.

If Walhalla is able to obtain a World Heritage listing, it would be a major boost to local tourism and businesses. East Ward Councillor Adam Sheehan and Premier Jacinta Allan spoke about this.

"Obtaining a World Heritage listing will not only draw more tourists to our Shire from all over the world, but also continue to help support our local towns and local businesses," Cr Adam Sheehan said.

"The benefits are estimated to be worth \$1 billion, with 2.5 million new visitors over 10 years to the regions included in the listing," he said.

"World Heritage sites are on bucket lists of tourists worldwide, and our historic Goldfields are on their way to be right there among them – helping to draw in more visitors from all corners of the globe and inject millions into our regional economies," the Premier said.



The rotunda and star hotel in the historic village. Photographed by Nils Versemann.



The underground mine. Photographed by Nils Versemann.



The old newspaper office, the Walhalla Chronicle. Photographed by Nils Versemann.

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Traf District News

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Traf District News OFFICE

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



EDITOR

Jordan Ross
editor@trafnews.com

PUBLISHER/DEPUTY EDITOR

Trevor Colvin

CONTRIBUTORS

Susie Foletta
Ric Nicolson
Michael Fozard
Liam Durkin
Diana Mattea
Jann Windham
Belinda Smeal
Peace Ijiyera
Ciele Towb

ARTICLES

editor@trafnews.com

ADVERTISING SALES CONSULTANT

Lucy Gatti
advert@trafnews.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Alana Moon

Editorial and advertisements can be submitted via our website or by email: articles at editor@trafnews.com and advertisements at advert@trafnews.com Both editorial and advertisements can be posted to PO Box 25, Trafalgar 3824.

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Federal Election: The race for Monash heats up

By Jordan Ross

In 2025, Australia will take to the polls to vote in the federal election. The election will be held on or before May 17.

The federal division that Trafalgar sits in (currently the Division of Monash and previously the Division of McMillan), has elected a Liberal member for each election since 2004. Currently, the seat is held by Russell Broadbent, who was elected as the member for the Liberal Party but in 2023 resigned from the party and is now an independent.

Labor announced their candidate in February, Tully Fletcher. Fletcher is a local of Kilcunda and has experience in business and government. In recent years, he has fought for worker rights, partnering with businesses and unions

to create Australia's first-ever wage-theft laws. For more information on Tully Fletcher, see **page 7**. Traf News plans to conduct an interview with him to publish in our April issue.

The Liberals candidate is Mary Aldred - who defeated Broadbent in the preselection battle in November, 2023. Aldred is an experienced executive and is the head of government relations in the Asia Pacific at Fujitsu. She is the daughter of the late Ken Aldred. He was also a politician who was a Liberal member of the House of Representatives between 1975 and 1980, and again from 1983 to 1996. Traf News has reached out to Aldred and her team.

Russel Broadbent has been a member in parliament for over 25 years and

has represented this region throughout that time. As previously mentioned, he plans to run as an independent and said that he still has *"unfinished business."* See **page 8** for an interview conducted with Broadbent.

Deb Leonard, an independent, who received the third most first-preference votes in the 2022 federal election is also running again. Leonard is a lawyer and a small business owner. In recent years, she has lost faith in the major parties and this inspired her to run as an independent. For more information on some of her recently announced policies, see **page 6**. Traf News has conducted an interview with Leonard that will be published in our April issue.

The Greens also revealed a candidate in February,

semi-retired teacher Terence Steele. Currently residing in Kardella South with his wife Linda, Steele is an avid gardener and has seen firsthand the effects of climate inaction. He says that in Australia, *"we should have world-class public health, education, and affordable housing."* Traf News hopes to speak with him for our April issue.

In the lead up to the federal election, Trafalgar District News will continue to strive to bring our readers information, updates and candidate interviews for the Division of Monash. Our coverage of candidates is not and should not be considered an endorsement.



Terence Steele



Deb Leonard



Mary Aldred

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Massive generator trundles through Trafalgar in the dead of night

By Trevor Colvin

Moving a 125 metre long, 650 tonne superload from Port Melbourne to Loy Yang requires great care and planning and, by necessity, was done at night over four nights. The massive load could only travel at 25 kilometres per hour and each leg started at 11pm and finished at 5am to limit disruption to other road users.

On board was a 350 tonne generator from Siemens in Germany and the load was so massive that five trucks - two pulling and three pushing - were needed to move the 150 wheel rig, which travelled down the wrong side of the freeway in order to minimise holding up following traffic.

That required a lot of support vehicles and advanced vehicles blocking and diverting oncoming traffic.

Your writer waited until 1am to get a chance to photograph this huge setup but the main photo we have used was taken by Natalie Surowka from Moe, who, with her family, waited with me. Natalie's image captures the essence of the load but it was impossible to photograph the entire 125 metre length.

Loy Yang B has four massive generators and they all require maintenance which means going back to the Siemens factory in Germany. This particular generator is a new unit.



Three trucks pushed and two pulled to move this 650 tonne superload. Image; Trevor Colvin



Part of the 125 metre super load photographed in Trafalgar by Natalie Surowka.



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Council set to return Aboriginal artwork

By Jordan Ross

In February, The Baw Baw Shire Council unanimously voted to repatriate a collection of 37 Aboriginal artworks and artifacts of the Lardil People. They are currently stored at the Council's Municipal Civic Art Collection, but will be moved to the Mirndiyan Gununa Aboriginal Corporation on Mornington Island, Queensland.

The Lardil People are the traditional custodians of that land and council agreed that it would be more appropriate the artwork is stored and displayed there.

"It's not hard to support the formal endorsement to repatriate 37 cultural items back home to the Lardil People," said Cr Suzanne Allen.

She further acknowledged that *"(These items) are vital links to ancestral traditions, spiritual practices, and history."*

"Returning these artifacts is an act of recognition and respect, acknowledging and allowing indigenous communities to reclaim their heritage," she said.

The items within the collection consist of bark paintings, rocks, weapons, jewellery, headdresses, vases, wood carvings, boomerangs, and tools. They were discovered in council storage in 2023.

The art pieces were created in the 1970s and are examples of the first commercial works developed by the Lardil People.

Colin and Elizabeth Goldberg were living on Mornington Island during this time and were gifted or purchased the items that formed the

collection. They later moved to Warragul and eventually gifted the collection to the West Gippsland Arts Centre in the 90s. Colin and Elizabeth have now passed and council officers contacted their children who were delighted by the prospect of these items being returned to their traditional owners.

While it was acknowledged by the council that this was not a case where cultural or ceremonial items had been taken without consent (as has often happened throughout history) - as they were gifted to or purchased by the Goldbergs - it should still be considered a priority to return these items home.

Their eldest daughter, Kay McAuliffe, wrote a letter to the council supporting this idea.

An extract from the letter reads, *"Our family wish to express our full support in the repatriation of these works. We understand that they hold deep significance to the Lardil People and can provide them with earlier examples of local elders' skills and traditions."*

It continues, *"These items are important for the Lardil Peoples storytelling and historical timelines, and we are thrilled to see them being returned home."*

Council also sought the advice and support of the traditional custodians of the land encompassed by Baw Baw Shire, the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung and the Kurnai People.

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."

"We implore Baw Baw Shire councillors to endorse this proposal and be a part of the process towards healing and supporting the continuation of culture for one of the world's oldest continuous living peoples," the letter continues.

"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 respect 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 thing to do is to release them from the Baw Baw Municipal Civic Arts Collection and return them to Mornington Island," said Cr Allen.

The Australian and Victorian governments have expressed strong commitment to supporting the repatriation of cultural heritage in recent years. In 2020, the Australian Government established the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) to further assist with this important work.

Baw Baw Arts Alliance

By Carol Monson

March is an extremely busy month for artists and members of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance. There is an exhibition at the 'Station Gallery' in Yarragon, where Trav Hendrick has a wonderful display of his brightly enthusiastic and joyful cartoon style paintings. At the same time, Vivienne Ortega, has a wide range of brightly coloured acrylic and oil paintings on 'The Wall'.

The Alliance is hosting an Art and Textile De-Stash Market at the VRI hall on Saturday, March 22, from 10am to 2pm. Do not miss this chance to pick up some textile bargains.

Another amazing event is our Easter Art Sale, a collaboration between the Arts Alliance and Warragul Rotary. If you are an Artist who wants to submit work to be hung at Victoria Hall in Warragul, go online or call Prue on 0417 500 244.

Artists in the Baw Baw Shire are never deterred by hot weather. Recently, high temperatures on a Sunday afternoon meant moving a scheduled poetry reading

and musical performance from the, as yet, non-air conditioned VRI Hall, to the cooler premises of the Warragul Commercial Hotel. The hotel has since been nominated as a wonderful space to hold the next 'Bauhaus Poetry' performance on April 6 at 2.30pm.

Every Bauhaus poetry reading has its surprises and the next star attraction will be 'Waffle Iron Girl', a celebrated Melbourne poet, followed by musical perfor-

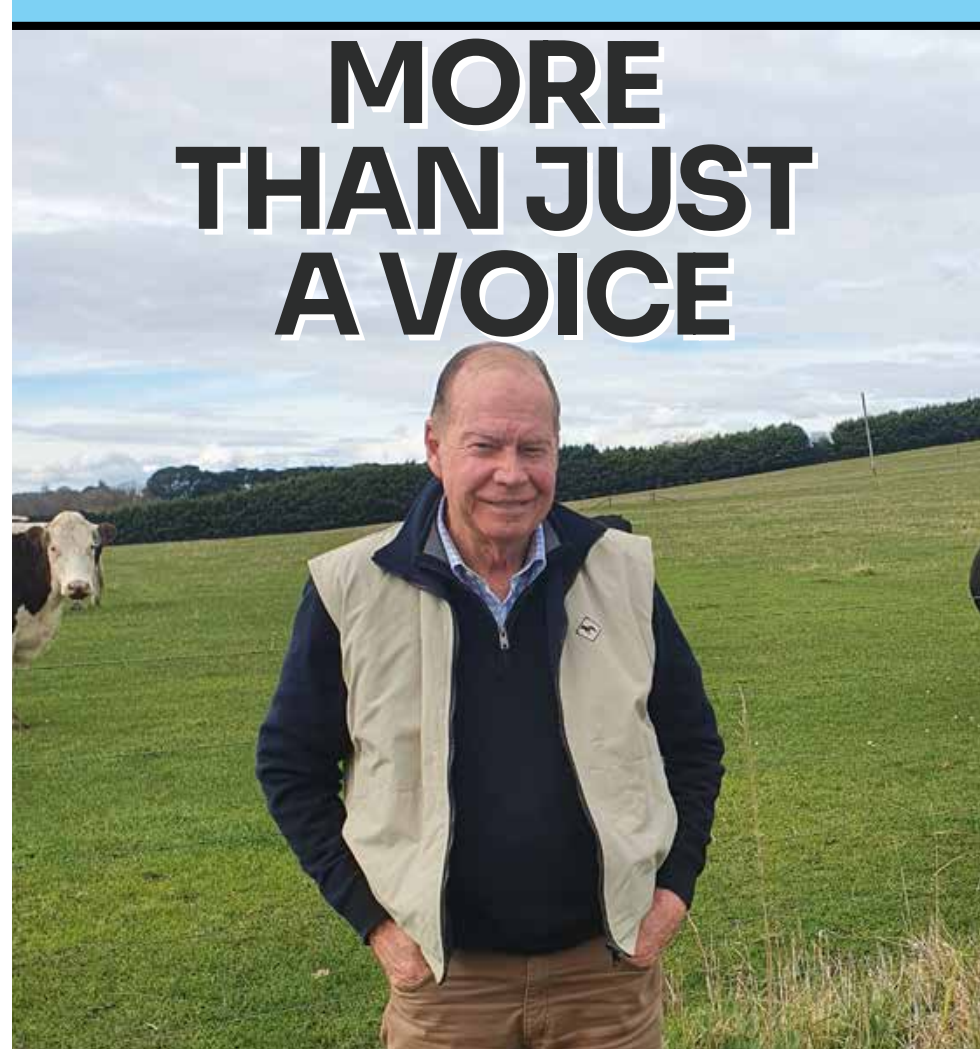
mances from people prepared to share the limelight with the poetry readers. Local musician, Malcolm McCaffery, will be there with interesting instruments and music.

See the Baw Baw Arts Alliance website for details of a proposed writers' workshop on April 6 at 1pm just before the Bauhaus performance. <https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au>



Multi talented Artist Yvette Stubbs, initiator of the Poetry Bauhaus events, waiting for participants at the recent NGV Kids on Tour programme.

RUSSELL BROADBENT INDEPENDENT FOR MONASH



(03) 5623 2064

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Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP, Independent Federal Member for Monash, 46C Albert St Warragul VIC 3820



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Redevelopment on Rollo Street, Yarragon well underway

By Jordan Ross

The transformation of the Yarragon Primary School to the Rollo Street Park continues. The works are expected to be completed around April 2025.

The new community asset will be delivered thanks to collaboration between the Council and the State Government.

\$1.77 million has been invested into the project, with approximately \$1.5 million coming from the State Government's Growing Suburbs Fund. The construction is being completed by Sustainable Landscaping Pty. Ltd.

On January 31, local councillors met with council officers on-site for a tour and project update. Also in attendance was Angelia Malacarne - a teacher at the former primary school for nearly 40 years. The council has proposed that the park be named after Malacarne, in honour of her career which saw her teach hundreds of Yarragon students. The suggested name is 'Angela Malacarne Park'.

Angela said that "it was a wonderful honour and privi-

lege," and that she "never expected this to happen."

Angela attended the Yarragon Primary School on Rollo Street from 1944 to 1949. She returned in 1963 as a teacher and worked until 2002. Angela still lives in Yarragon and maintains an active interest in the community's use of the former school site.

A period of community consultation surrounding the name has been open through February and remains open until March 3. For more details, visit Baw Baw Connect online.

While most commemorative names are granted posthumously, the Registrar of Geographic Names Victoria granted a rare exemption in recognition of Angela's long-standing connection to the site and contribution to Yarragon.

Councillor Brendan Kingwill added that he was proud to see this naming proposal move ahead and also looked forward to seeing the outcomes of the transformation to the park.

"As a former student of the school, this site holds fond memories of my childhood.

I also recognise the locals and former councillors who fought to save the site, so that we can have this here today," Cr Kingwill said.

"Following a strong desire from our local community to revamp the site of the old school, council has taken proactive steps to ensure this space was not lost, and I can't wait to see the many benefits it brings to our local commu-

nity once the reconstruction is complete," he said.

The project will result in a new loop walking path, seating and picnic tables, a drinking fountain, bike racks, rain gardens, and new plants and trees. So far, the old fencing has been demolished and works have taken place for the new footpath and car park.



Baw Baw Shire Councillors joined construction crew, council officers, and local resident Angela Malacarne at the site. Photographed by Jordan Ross.



The construction site. Photographed by Jordan Ross.



An existing tree that will be preserved and protected. Photographed by Jordan Ross.



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Deb Leonard unveils community-shaped policies for Monash to a packed crowd in Drouin

Independent candidate for Monash, Deb Leonard, made her first major policy announcements on Sunday, February 16, to a packed audience in Drouin. Her policies have been shaped directly by feedback from local residents.

On the top of her list of policies was securing funding for local infrastructure (including the West Gippsland Hospital), while she also wants to fight for increased political integrity and transparency.

Deb Leonard said it was through 1000s of surveys, conversations with the public and over 3,500 doors knocked across the electorate so far, that these policy priorities were formed. Other leading issues of concern for people are: the cost of living, housing, roads, climate action, coastal erosion, NDIS and farming.

“Enough is enough - the major parties make promises, but still nothing gets done,” Leonard said about the West Gippsland Hospital. She wants to make it a priority that the hospital is funded and built without further delay.

“Baw Baw Shire is among the fastest growing regions in Australia and our hospital is simply inadequate to cope. For decades our regional area

has been ignored by successive governments. It's time for that to change,” she said.

“I will work constructively with both state and federal governments to deliver this critical infrastructure for our community,” she said.

Integrity and transparency in politics was also announced as a policy, with Ms Leonard saying, *“I’m announcing my integrity policy first because it is the critical foundation for better outcomes for communities - no matter what the issue.”*

“If you want to fix a house, start with the foundation,” said Leonard. *“If we want to address the cost of living crisis, housing, climate, and funding for roads—we need to fix integrity in government first,”* she said.

“When politicians act with integrity, taxpayer money goes where it's needed,” she said.

“Integrity isn't just about cleaning up politics - it's about building a foundation to ensure decisions are made fairly and transparently, and in the best interests of the community,” she said.

“Now, more than ever, it is important that we fight for integrity in politics,” said Ms Leonard, referring to the recent legislation passed by the major parties to en-

trench the two-party system through political donation laws that would heighten barriers for independents and minor parties.

Funding for infrastructure is also key to Ms Leonard's platform. She said, *“Our region has been missing out when it comes to federal funding for roads, recreational facilities and infrastructure.”*

“This comes back to the integrity in politics issue. As a safe seat, we've been ignored when it comes to funding,” she said.

Deb Leonard is running for federal election because she believes that the two-party system is broken. She believes that regional areas like ours are being overlooked and are in need of a strong independent candidate.

“As an independent, my job is to listen to locals and take their concerns to Canberra,” Ms Leonard said. *“The major parties have taken Monash for granted as a safe seat for too long. It's time we had a representative who puts our community first.”*

After the speeches were over, more than 100 supporters hit the streets of Drouin to doorknock and spread the word about the campaign. A choir of volunteers also performed outside Woolworths as Ms Leonard handed out flyers.



Deb Leonard at her event, Drouin Super Sunday Day of Action on February 16. Photographed by Peter Fogarty.

A dozen more volunteers signed up to support Deb Leonard on the day of action in Drouin.

Deb Leonard is a working mum and an active member of her community. Because of this, she understands the pressures the current economic crisis is placing on

families. She is based in Philip Island and runs a law firm there as well.

With policies shaped by the community, growing volunteer support, and voters increasingly disillusioned with the two-party system, Ms Leonard is poised to be a strong voice for Monash,

fighting for the issues that matter most to local residents.

To find out more or to get involved, visit www.debleonard.com.au.

Traf News has conducted an interview with Deb Leonard which will be published in our April issue.



Deb Leonard and choir volunteers. Photographed by Kate Leonard.

Deb will deliver more for Monash

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

Labor candidate announced: Tully Fletcher offers Monash a better deal

The Australian Labor Party has selected Gippsland local Tully Fletcher as the federal Labor candidate for Monash.

Tully is a third generation Gippslander and lives in Kilcunda, with his partner Dani and their two children, Daph and Ted, just down the road from where he grew up. He was educated at public schools in Wonthaggi, Dalyston, and Leongatha, and spends summers at Wilsons Prom with family and friends.

Tully works in business and government as an adviser to ministers, CEOs, and communities to deliver real change and improve the lives of all Australians. He led work with business and unions to create Australia's first ever wage-theft laws, to make sure all workers are paid right and paid on time.

Tully knows families, farms and businesses in Monash are under pressure and need a better deal. He'll fight hard to deliver the services, infrastructure, mobile coverage, and internet speeds we deserve.

As a keen motorbike rider, Tully knows how bad our roads can be and will make road safety upgrades a top priority for all drivers.

As part of your Federal Labor team, Tully will work to bring down the cost of living, protect jobs and wages, and ensure everyone in Gippsland can afford and access housing, health, education and care.

Tully believes Gippsland voters in Monash deserve a federal MP who calls it like it is, shares our values, works as hard as we do, and gets things done.

"Monash voters have a clear choice this election: Peter Dutton-led Liberals who haven't delivered for Gippsland in two decades, or a fresh local Labor candidate raised in Gippsland, ready to tackle the cost of living, and fight for our fair share," he said.

"The only way to get a better deal for Monash, fix the cost of living, and stop Peter Dutton is to vote for Tully Fletcher and Labor," he said.



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‘Unfinished Business’ has MP Russell Broadbent standing again

By Trevor Colvin

Sitting member Russell Broadbent is one of the longest serving MPs in the federal government so it would be reasonable after twenty-five years that he chose to retire, but Mr. Broadbent believes there is more for him to do for this electorate and he has the energy and drive to do it.

Broadbent will be standing as an independent candidate, having lost Liberal pre-selection last year, at which time he moved to the cross-bench.

Russell Broadbent has decided not to seek campaign donations from anyone or any organisation and will send back any he does receive, because he believes campaign donations can be used as a tool to influence votes in parliament. He intends to remain truly independent and free from any form of coercion.

“You can see from the money that’s being spent - and it is big money - and that could come with a price, so I will be

funding my own election campaign with my own resources, and then the voters will know that I’m truly independent on their behalf. I won’t be beholden to any individual, group or business,” he told Traf District News.

“Even within the Liberal Party it was necessary for me to be independent. Some years back we had a situation where the whole of Victoria was drought-declared, except for our area, and our local farmers were really doing it hard. No matter what we did, we could not make the drought rules fit this area, because there’d been some rain up in the hills.

“Our flatland farmers were a mess, and the only person who could make the change was Prime Minister John Howard, who was fortunately visiting the electorate to make an announcement about communications. We did something terrible. We got a journalist to ask him this question: ‘Mr. Howard, the whole of Victoria is drought-declared

except for this area and only you, the Prime Minister, can change that.’ Howard was furious with the question and glared at me, but said, ‘We will be generous’ and the drought relief came the next week.

I wasn’t invited to the Prime Minister’s Christmas party that year but taking a stand for what is right is important. Fighting for the electorate requires independence. That was a tough call but getting that drought relief was important for the district and one of the things I am most proud to have achieved, because that drought relief kept our farmers alive.

“I am not, and never have been, a yes man - I crossed the floor when I was a member of the Liberal party. I am prepared to take a stand when it matters - even when it puts my career on the line.”

Broadbent is also proud that he fought for the proper treatment of refugees even though 90% of the electorate and many colleagues were against it, and more recently,

his role in getting children off Nauru.

Broadbent is not afraid to change his mind if the argument is strong enough; “I started off very strongly in support of the voice, until I saw what was happening and how it was really going to affect the people. And it was going to divide the nation. I changed my opinion and said no. And then told the world that I had changed my opinion.”

Broadbent told Traf District News that he thought long and hard about standing again but spoke to many people in the electorate over the last twelve months or so, who are rightly concerned about the path this nation is on. They are concerned about our national identity, and how we, as a nation, should navigate what’s to come. “We are in unprecedented, uncertain and unexpected times. I believe that we are entering a difficult political climate, and no one knows what the next few years will bring. I believe

strongly in truth, wisdom, justice, fairness and freedom, and if reelected I will be guided by these principles.”

Issues that lie close to the heart of Monash residents, such as cost of living, energy

prices, supporting farmers, families and small businesses, freedom of speech, and infrastructure needs, are some of the issues Russell Broadbent will pursue if sent back to Canberra.



Russell Broadbent – sitting member for Monash



Invest in yourself.

Baw Baw Shire Council has partnered with Bettermentall Together Inc to deliver a series of selfcare workshops across the Shire.

Attending these sessions will help participants learn strategies to enhance their mental, emotional and physical health.

The sessions will be held from **9.30am – 2.30pm** on the following days:

- Wednesday 12 March, Longwarry Public Hall
- Wednesday 26 March, McGregor Park Hall, Trafalgar
- Wednesday 9 April, Yarragon Bowls Club
- Wednesday 26 March, McGregor Park Hall, Trafalgar

Scan the QR code on this page to register yourself today!



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Reminders about the responsibilities of pet ownership

By Jordan Ross

The Baw Baw Shire Council wants to remind residents about the importance of responsible pet ownership and securing your animals properly on your property.

Australia’s affection for pets is evident, as nearly 70% of households own one. It is of course important for all pet owners to guarantee the safety of their pets and to ensure the safety of others from their pets.

In January, a Longwarry resident was found guilty in the Latrobe Valley Magistrates’ Court following a number of charges due to an incident involving their pet dog in September 2024.

The dog was not contained properly and attacked another dog on private property. It caused serious injury to the other dog, as well as a human who was bitten when they stepped in to stop the attack.

The court convicted the owner of three charges and imposed fines valued at more than \$3,000.

According to Animal Welfare Victoria, pet owners are legally required to securely confine their dog(s) to their

property. This means an outdoor yard must have a closed gate and an escape-proof fence. They must also ensure visitors can safely access their front door without being prevented by a dog.

This should prevent a dog from getting lost and ensure it is safe from traffic and other dogs. These laws also protect the community from an animal becoming a nuisance or a danger.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Cr Danny Goss said the courts’ outcome affirmed the seriousness of these matters, and the importance of containing pets properly.

“The penalties send a clear message to Baw Baw residents about responsible dog ownership and the need to ensure your dog is contained in an effective way,” he said.

“When pet dogs are away from their place of residence in public spaces, they must be under effective control on a lead, leash or chain unless they are in a designated ‘off-leash area,’” he said.

Baw Baw Shire has several designated off-leash areas throughout the community. These areas are only for dogs

that will not harm or threaten others using the same public space. Owners are responsible for their dogs’ actions within these areas.

Parks are located at the following spots:

- Bellbird Park, Drouin
- Dunstan Oval, Rawson
- St Phillack Reserve, Rawson
- Hollydell Park, Trafalgar
- Brooker Park, Warragul
- Downton Park, Yarragon



Downton Park in Yarragon



Hollywell Park in Trafalgar

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Bushtucker – midgenberry

By Diana Mattea

If you are new to bushfoods and bushtucker and are keen to learn more about them, midgenberry are perfect perennial plants. Belonging to the Myrtaceae family that include gum and bottlebrush, they thrive without too much attention in a moist, filtered light, sunny position. Midgenberry are small shrubs, low growing to one metre high making them ideal for small gardens.

Midgenberry's botanical name *Austromyrtus* is derived from Latin, *Austro* meaning Australis / southern and *myrtus*, Greek for myrtle.

The delicate copper bronze-coloured leaves, white flowers, delicate appearance, and tough nature, assured a place in our garden. We had two plants located on the east side of our home that were sheltered by shrubs and trees protected from winter frosts.

White, star shaped flowers bloom from spring developing into unique sweet, aromatic, gingery flavoured fruit in late summer to autumn. The delicate fleshy fruit is not suitable for transport or storing for long periods of time. They are best eaten fresh, soon after picking.

Fortunately, bushfoods have grown in popularity and are available from good plant nurseries. As a bushfood enthusiast, replacing non-indigenous plants invites good plant variety in the garden. They are suited to our climate, born, and bred on our great continent adapting to many soil conditions from sandy, loam to clay. Lightly prune to shape and check for plant health. These plants are quite resilient to most pests and diseases; fortunately, our plants did not fall victim to any pathogens.

You may want to look out for myrtle rust.

When planted in full sun the plant grows into a dense spreading shrub. In dappled shade, a ground cover habit is formed. Whichever shape gardeners decide, it is important to remember, good pruning practice achieves desired results.

Bushfood nutrition

From a nutritional value the fruit is a good source of Vitamin C, calcium, iron, magnesium, dietary fibre, low in calories, no cholesterol, low carbs, and no fat. Midgenberries can be added to salads, made into jam, and paired with cheese.

Related plants – botanical name accompanied by common name

Gossia floribunda - Cape ironwood

Austromyrtus tenuifolia - Narrow leaf myrtle

Gossia acmeniodes - Scrub ironwood

Lenwebbia lasioclada - Velvet myrtle



Midgenberry foliage



Midgenberry flower



Midgenberry fruit

Why do I need a Vendor's Statement?

By Jade MacGregor of MacGregor Legal

A Vendor's Statement, or Section 32 as it is also known, is a crucial document required for selling a property in Victoria. Legally mandated under the Sale of Land Act 1962, it provides potential buyers with essential information about the property that could influence their decision to purchase. This document discloses various details, including title details, zoning information, building permits, and any easements, covenants, or restrictions on the property. By ensuring all pertinent information is transparent, a Vendor's Statement protects both the buyer and the seller from future disputes and legal complications.

For sellers, preparing a Vendor's Statement is not just a legal requirement; it is a measure of good faith,

demonstrating transparency and honesty in the transaction. It helps to build trust with potential buyers, providing them with confidence in proceeding with the purchase. Moreover, having a complete and comprehensive Vendor's Statement can expedite the sale process, as buyers are more likely to make informed decisions quickly, with all necessary information at their disposal. Therefore, a well-prepared Section 32 is indispensable in facilitating smooth and efficient property sales in Victoria.

Our conveyancer, Trudi Boldiston, has over 25 years of experience in preparing Vendor's Statements and conducting conveyancing transactions in Victoria. If you are thinking of selling or buying, please reach out to Trudi on 5644 0000.

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Youth mental health ambassadors appointed at Live4Life Crew Induction

By Peace Ijiyera



Youth mental health ambassadors from Trafalgar High School. Blake Stone, Noah Price, Jason Spackman, Jaylee Falls-Daniel and Dillon Moorehouse.

A group of forty year nine and ten students from seven secondary schools across the Baw Baw Shire were inducted as youth mental health ambassadors for Live4Life on Tuesday, February 11.

The induction, hosted in the Fountain Room at the West Gippsland Arts Centre Warragul, was held for the students to get to know each other and learn about the Live4Life program and their important role within the group. The induction also gave crew members the opportunity to identify their values and goals, and plan for the year ahead.

To kick off the induction, food was served, and a series

of icebreaker questions were asked between the students, with a particularly groundbreaking and riveting question debating whether hot-dogs should be considered a sandwich or not!

Crew members were given hoodies displaying the Live4Life and Baw Baw Shire Council logo. Crew members also completed a survey, and the information collected will be used to help plan events for the year ahead.

Since launching in the Baw Baw Shire in 2020, Live4Life has worked in tandem with the Baw Baw Shire Council and other community organisations and schools, to empower young people with the tools and strate-

gies to improve their mental health, and reduce the number of suicides seen in rural and regional communities.

Live4Life and the newly appointed youth mental health ambassadors are excited and are devoted to volunteering their time within their schools, families, and communities, with the collective goal, to spread mental health awareness and reduce the stigmas around mental health.

Through training, and creating healthy conversations around mental health, thousands of students and families' lives across the shire have been impacted and changed for the better.

Noah Price, year 10 student from Trafalgar High School, participated in the Live4Life program in 2024 and has returned in 2025.

Noah said participating in the program was "fun."

Whilst the program does promote fun, Noah highlighted wanting to help his friends through their mental health struggles, as one of his motivators for participating in the program.

"A lot of my friends have had panic attacks sometimes and I have no idea how to help them," Noah said.

Noah hopes that the mental health education he has had, and will continue to receive from Live4Life, will help him help his friends through their mental health struggles.



Live4Life youth mental health ambassadors.

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What do I need to know about ticks?

By Dr. Jared Waddell-Smith of Trafalgar Veterinary Clinic

Ticks are an arachnid, in the same group of animals as spiders and scorpions. They feed by sucking on the blood of their host. Illness is caused by ticks if they spread infectious disease when they bite, when they inject toxins during feeding, or if there are large numbers of ticks and they cause anaemia from consuming large volumes of blood.

Australia has about 75 different species affecting mammals, birds and reptiles. Most are very specific to their primary host and there are no concerns for humans, pets or livestock, but there are a few of particular significance.

1. The tick of most concern is the paralysis tick (*Ixodes holocyclus*), whose natural host is a bandicoot. This tick can be found along the coast of Australia from Queensland to East Gippsland. Baw Baw and Latrobe shires are not currently paralysis tick zones, however this may change in future as

the range of the tick expands. The venom causes a life threatening paralysis, and we occasionally see cases in dogs which have returned from holidays in East Gippsland and the Gippsland Lakes region. There is another species known as the Tasmanian paralysis tick which is present in our region through the Strzelecki ranges, and in rare cases has caused paralysis. Approx 10% of tick paralysis cases will die from the toxin, despite treatment.

2. The bush tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) prefers cattle as its primary host, but will also feed on other livestock, deer, or occasionally humans or dogs. This tick spreads a blood parasite called *Theileria orientalis*, which can cause severe anaemia and death in cattle, and this tick occurs throughout our region.

3. The brown dog tick (*Rhipicephalus linnaei*) is found extensively throughout northern, central and eastern Australia. It can be

found within our region although not commonly. Historically we were not particularly concerned about the presence of this tick – it might cause some minor irritation at the site of the bite, and very large infestations were needed before any disease such as anaemia developed. In 2020 however, a parasite was detected in northern Australia which causes ehrlichiosis, a serious and life threatening disease of the immune system. This was previously an exotic disease, and it isn't known how it got into Australia. Currently this parasite is not known

to occur this far south in Australia, but eventually we expect it to get here.

4. The cattle tick (*Rhipicephalus australis*) is found in northern Australia, and there are management programs in place to try to reduce spread of this tick. It spreads tick fever in cattle, a disease caused by blood parasites, Anaplasma or Babesia.

Tick prevention is recommended, due to the various life threatening diseases ticks can cause. The most effective medications in dogs and cats are a class of medications called isoxazolines, which are available in a va-

riety of different products, usually as oral flavoured chews and sometimes spot-on products. A new product has also come onto the market which gives one year of prevention against fleas and ticks with a single injection.

Because ticks have to feed on the dog or cat to consume these drugs before they then die, there is a chance that they can spread parasites whilst they feed. For this reason, in areas where ehrlichiosis is present, it is recommended to combine the oral or spot-on product with a particular brand of flea and tick collar, which has a repel-

lent action and reduces the chance that a tick will bite and feed.

In summary:

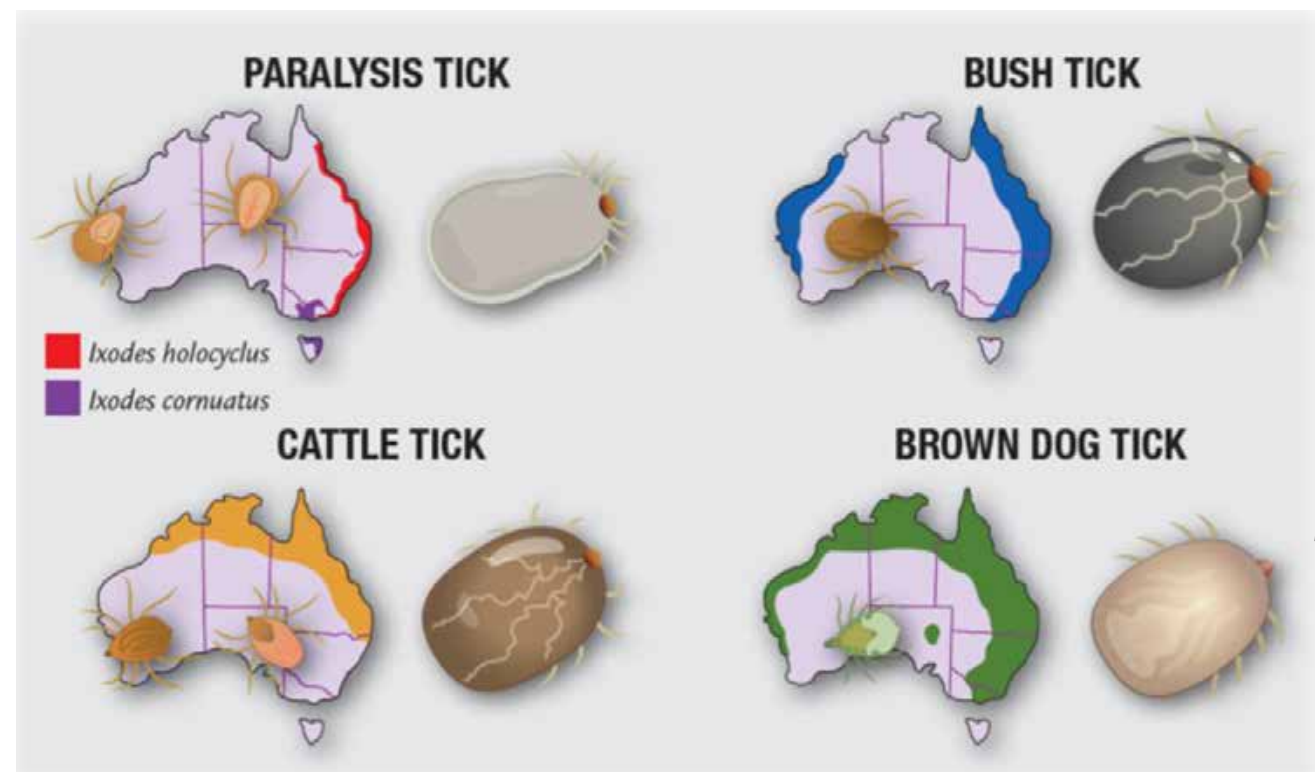
1. We recommend tick prevention for all of our patients as a precaution against local tick species

2. We very strongly recommend tick prevention when travelling with your pets into the Lakes and East Gippsland regions

3. If travelling to northern and central Australia where Ehrlichiosis may be present, a combination of two tick prevention products is recommended.



Photographed by Erik Kartis



Types of Ticks. Sourced from RSPCA Queensland

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Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition coming to Yinnar

By Jordan Ross

The fifth edition of Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition will take to the streets of Yinnar from March 9. Sculptures will line the Main Street of Yinnar for six weeks until April 20.

The exhibition attracts Australia's most recognised sculptors who will showcase their artwork. They've transformed steel, stone, wood,

ceramic, and bronze into one-of-a-kind masterpieces. The exhibition will showcase exterior and interior sculptures, the latter to be found in Yinnar's art gallery.

The sculptures are on sale to visitors, while a jury will award prizes to impressive exhibits. More than \$20,000 in prizes will be awarded, including \$10,000 for the best interior sculpture, and

\$10,000 for the best exterior work. These results will be presented at the opening on Sunday, March 9.

\$1,000 will be awarded at the closing ceremony on Sunday, April 20, for both the best exterior and best interior work as voted by exhibition visitors over the six weeks.

The committee chair, Nicole Allen, shared her excitement for the biennial event to make its return.

"We are aiming to surpass the record number of exhibits from 2023 and attract even

more visitors to Yinnar, building on the incredible turnout of approximately 12,000 people last time," Ms. Allen said.

If you visit the exhibition on a Sunday, free workshops and live music will accompany the sculptures from 10am to 4pm. These additions are thanks to funding from the Latrobe City Council.

"All activities are designed to be inclusive and fun, ensuring a wonderful experience for all attendees," she said.

The Yinnar Health and Wellbeing Group have collaborated with local school

children to create their own art pieces as well.

"These exhibits, once revealed, are sure to generate buzz and beautifully complement the other works on display," she said.

The event and its committee helps to increase tourism in Yinnar and throughout Gippsland, work with the

local community to promote artistic pursuits and creative skills, and promote community connectivity.

You can learn more at the <https://gippslandsculptureexhibition.com/> or visit Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition on Instagram or Facebook.



Sculpture by Jimmy Rix



Sculpture by Robyn Maugher



Sculpture by Graeme Stuckey

BE BUSINESS READY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

Help build resilience within your business and attend one of Baw Baw Shire Council's Be Business Ready workshops!

These free events will focus on building support networks and building resilience against disaster. They are brought to you through the Council Flood Support Fund.

See below for the upcoming events:

- Disaster Prep**

Tue 4 Mar	1pm - 2.30pm	Drouin Community Hall
Sat 5 Apr	10.30am - 12.30pm	Warragul Goods Shed
Tue 8 Apr	6.30pm - 8pm	Warragul Goods Shed
- Business Workshop (all day)**
includes Disaster Prep, Mental Resilience & Business Skills

Wed 19 Mar	9.30am - 4.30pm	Yarragon Bowling Club
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- Mental Resilience:**

Wed 19 Mar	12.30pm - 3.30pm	McGregor Park Hall
Thu 3 Apr	6pm - 7pm	Online
- Business Skills online:**

Tue 1 Apr	5.30pm - 7.30pm	Online
Mon 14 Apr	12pm - 2pm	Online
- Be Business Ready Lunch:**

Fri 6 Jun	12pm - 3pm	Warragul Country Club
-----------	------------	-----------------------

All events **are free** to attend, except the business lunch, which requires the purchase of a ticket.

Registration is mandatory for each event, scan the QR code or visit www.bawbawshire.co/BeBusinessReady

Batteries cause garbage truck fire

On February 11, the Trafalgar Fire Brigade responded to a fire that had started inside a rubbish truck. No one was injured thanks to some quick thinking from the driver, who dumped the rubbish load at a safe location. This minimised damage and ultimately saved the truck from fire damage.

This incident should serve as a reminder to the serious risks posed by the incorrect disposal of batteries.

Household batteries are one of the most common

hazardous waste items that are incorrectly placed in general rubbish bins. They are a risk to human health and the environment. They cause a significant number of rubbish fires.

It is important to remember that all batteries need to be disposed of correctly. From Triple A batteries to the even smaller button or watch batteries.

While batteries can and should be recycled, they should not be placed into a household recycling bin. Lo-

cals are encouraged to dispose of them at designated drop-off points, such as at Jenkins Home Hardware in Trafalgar, or at any Bunnings or Aldi. In Trafalgar, there is a transfer station on Giles Road that accepts specific recycled goods. They accept e-waste (such as batteries), as well as glass, metal, plastic, aluminium and automotive oils. This site is open from 10am to 4pm, Saturday and Sunday.

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Back to school party in Trafalgar

By Patricia Mulqueen



Starting school again is fun. Pictured from left (back row): Olivia and Rosie; And from left (front row): Sophie, Conrad and Maya.



Their Care Manager Jett talking with a parent, Em.

St Joseph's School Community welcomed back the students and teachers after the school holidays. A group of fun-loving students dressed in party hats and novelty glasses, danced to welcome everyone back. The crossing supervisor Rosie Sawyer joined in by strutting her impressive dance moves too.

Parents also enjoyed free coffee supplied by 'Their

Care', the school hours care program. This is a new service for all families that will be run in St John's Parish Centre, the red brick building between the church and the school. 'Their Care' staff will run a fantastic care program and develop a positive, connected relationship with the school. We all look forward to this new service.

It's great to be back at school!



Their Care' Manager centre, pictured with parents who enjoyed the free coffee.

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**Trafalgar High School
Information Evening
Year 7 2026**

4pm-6pm Monday 17th March 2025
Sports Centre—Trafalgar High School

- View facilities and learning areas at the school.
- Discuss with teachers the work undertaken and the opportunities each learning area provides.
- Make an informed choice regarding secondary school in 2026.



Further information or enquiries may be directed to
Mr. Jack Brown or Ms. Phipps on **5633 1733**

Trafalgar High School
Principal: Mr. Brett Pedlow

First Trafalgar Wellness Festival a success

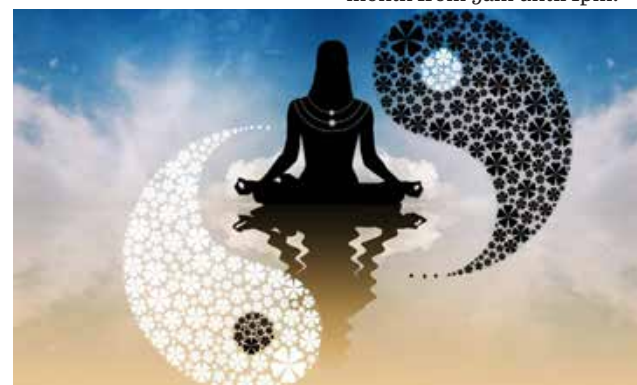
Keeping in good shape involves more than regular visits to the doctor or workouts at the gym. Many people believe that mind, body, soul and more, need to be in alignment to enjoy a truly healthy and balanced life.

To that end, SilkRoad Community Inc., organisers of the popular monthly Trafalgar Farmers' Market, ran their first Wellness Festival last month and more than forty individuals and organisations took part. Locals turned out in droves to support the event

held at the Trafalgar Park Bowls Club in Ashby Street, which is rapidly becoming the community centre for Traf.

During the day, visitors were able to attend yoga and meditation classes and could sit in on several workshops, including flower essences, soil health, amulet making and more.

Watch this newspaper and social media for news of the next Trafalgar Wellness Festival - as well as the Trafalgar Farmers' Market, which is on the first Saturday of every month from 9am until 1pm.



Library image supplied

Wayne

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Thorpdale Potato Festival

The bi-annual Thorpdale Potato Festival will be held at the Thorpdale Rec Reserve on March 9. The event is one of Victoria's most iconic regional festivals and celebrates the area's rich farming history.

There are spud-related activities such as potato picking, throwing and eating. There are also other non-vegetable related events, such as sheep shearing races, wood chopping contests, a petting zoo and live entertainment.

There is even a fashion-based event, 'Hessians on the Field'. Participants create their own clothing and accessory items out of

hessian material with cash prizes awarded for different categories, based on the most original and creative designs. More information about this competition can be found at <https://thorpdalepotatofestival.com.au/hessians-on-the-field/>.

The event runs on Sunday March 9, from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Tickets start at \$15 to children and \$20 for adults. There are also family packages available. All profits from the event are reinvested back into the community.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://events.humanitix.com/thorpdale-potato-festival>.



Potato picking competition



An aerial view of the 2017 Thorpdale Potato Festival.

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Baw Baw Shire appoints new Interim CEO

On February 12, the Baw Baw Shire Council announced the appointment of Cohen Van der Velde as the organisation's Interim Chief Executive Officer.

Council voted to offer the temporary leadership role to Mr Van der Velde during a confidential council meeting.

Martin Hopley, who was the Shire's Interim Chief Executive Officer, is currently on unplanned, personal leave.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor, Cr Danny Goss said Mr Van der Velde would step into the role while a comprehensive recruitment process for a new permanent Chief Executive Officer takes place.

"We thank Cohen for supporting us through this period and look forward to commencing the recruitment process for our new CEO," he said.

Mr Van der Velde has been appointed interim CEO until April 16, 2025.



Newly appointed interim CEO, Cohen Van der Velde



Easter Art Sale
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Friday, April 11 to Sunday
April 20, 2025

Victoria Hall
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Baw Baw Arts Alliance
with Rotary Club
Warragul.

bawbawartsalliance.org.au

Activities for children, young and old. There will be plenty for the adults too! Great music, food, coffee, and plenty of community and environmental groups.

Sunday 30th March 2025, 10am to 2pm
Old Tanjil Road Picnic Reserve, Willow Grove

John 0429 803 631 tanjilvalleycommunityfestival@gmail.com [@tanjilvalleylandcare](https://www.facebook.com/tanjilvalleylandcare)

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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://trafalgarcricketclub.com.au/ Email: trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com	0402 556 338
Trafalgar Football Netball Club	Brett Tonkin	Email: trafalgarnfc@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Football Netball Club	0477 636 648
Trafalgar Golf Club		Email: golf@trafalgargolf.com.au Website: https://www.trafalgargolf.com.au/ Facebook: Trafalgar Golf Club	03 5633 1110
Trafalgar Outdoor Pool		Email: bawbaw@ymca.org.au Website: https://bawbawpools.ymca.org.au/trafalgar-outdoor-pool	03 5623 4017
Trafalgar Park Bowls and Croquet Club			0468 322 066
Trafalgar Ping Pong Club		Email: trafalgarpingpongkings@gmail.com	0418 598 174
Trafalgar Polocrosse Club	Gill Massey	Email: trafalgarpoloxclub@gmail.com	0455 440 062
Trafalgar Pony Club	Denise Marriot	Facebook: Trafalgar Pony Club	0411 890 299
Trafalgar Tennis Club	Sue Klemke	Email: trafftennis@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Tennis Club	
Trafalgar Victory Football Club		Email: committee@tvfc.com.au Website: www.tvfc.com.au	
Other			
Baw Baw Arts Alliance	Sue Murphy	Email: president@bawbawartsalliance.org.au Website: https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au/bcms/	0428 866 417
BawBaw Sustainability Network	Malcolm McKelvie	Email: bawbawsn@gmail.com Website: bbsn.org.au 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.stjohnstrafalgar.com.au/	03 5633 1166
Trafalgar Campdraft	Cheryl	Email: gcasecretary74@gmail.com Website: https://www.gippslandcamp-draftingassociation.com/ Facebook: Trafalgar Campdraft Association Inc	0416 166 027
Trafalgar Cemetry Trust	Howard Jones	Email: trafalgarpubliccemetery@desi.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	John Atwell	Email: balejacks@gmail.com	0419 701 331
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 articles@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
Yarragon Studio Festival Live musical performances, wine and food. Tick-ets: \$125	March 2 From 3:30 pm	Yarragon
South Gippsland Garlic Festival A day full of food, wine, entertainemnt, and of course, garlic.	March 8 From 9 am	Korumburra Showgrounds
Thorpdale Potato Festival Potato-related activites and live entertainment. Website: https://thorpdalepotatofestival.com.au/. Adult tickets: \$20	March 9 From 9:30 am	Thorpdale Rec Reserve Thorpdale
Baw Baw Shire Self-Care Workshop Free registration at: www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	March 26 From 9:30 am	McGregor Park Hall Trafalgar
Flood Facts Learn to protect your home from flood risks. Tickets available at Humanitix.com	April 2 11:30 am	McGregor Park Hall Trafalgar
Baw Baw Pet Expo Treat your pets and family to a day of fun.	April 6 From 10 am	Burke Street Park Warragul
Have an event coming up soon? Email editor@trafnews.com		

The Trafalgar Story 1900 – 2010 A.D.

By Jean Huffer of the Trafalgar and District Historical Society

With the construction of the railway and a railway station in 1878, Trafalgar developed as a service town for the surrounding district. Local industries were timber harvesting as well as fruit and dairy farming.

In 1879, the town constructed a primary school and the Criterion Hotel, which by 1896, was the sole hotel in Trafalgar. By 1900, the town also had a post office, two banks, a mechanic's office, and three churches (St Mary's Church of England, St John's Catholic Church, and a Methodist Church). There was also a growing shopping sector, with a general store, butchers, bakery and a dress maker. The town's first butter factory was opened in 1891 on the site of Loch's Creek. When Moe Swamp was drained between 1889 and 1893, it opened up more land for a settlement north of the town. Many settlers lived on Settlement Road (hence the name) and went out to farm their land each day.



The first St. Mary's Church of England on Contingent Street.



The first Trafalgar Butter Factory on the corner of Slatter's Road and Thorpdale Road.

Warragul Theatre Company presents 'The Wedding Singer'



Warragul Theatre Company Presents

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Book your tickets at www.WGAC.com.au



Let's head back to the 1980s!

Rockstar wannabe Robbie Heart is New Jersey's most in-demand wedding singer as "love is what I do". However, when his own wedding plans go down the pan and he is left standing at the altar, Robbie, his heartbreak and grief, suddenly make him the worst wedding singer you can find. He ruins every wedding he plays at until he connects with Julia, a pretty young waitress who dreams of her own perfect wedding.

There's just one problem: she's already engaged to Glen, a rich, shallow, Wall Street broker. Despite Robbie and Julia's growing feelings, a series of miscommunications lead them away from each other. When Julia elopes with Glen to Las Vegas, Robbie decides to play the gig of his life to win her heart and her hand in marriage.

The lead roles will be played by Dave Lamb (Robbie) and Annelise Answerth (Julia). There are 8 shows in May, with the opening night on May 23.

For those interested, tickets can be purchased at <https://sales.wgac.com.au/event/379:2502/>.

Prices listed: Members: \$48, Full: \$55, Concession: \$50, Group 10+: \$50, Student: \$48

Warragul Theatre Company is a community theatre group based in Warragul and performs two high quality productions a year. People looking for more info can visit the website <https://www.warragultheatrecompany.org/> or follow on Facebook and Instagram for the latest info.

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Trafalgar & District Community Homes Incorporated needs your help

By Ian Riley, TDCH President

TDCH is a locally operated, not-for-profit organisation, providing low cost rental accommodation for persons over 60 who are claiming a government pension.

TDCH, was originally Fairview Homes but has been operating since the early 1990's as its own entity. TDCH currently own 12 independent living, one bedroom units in Trafalgar under the management of the committee - who are all volunteers. They service the local areas of Trafalgar, Yarragon, Thorpdale, Narracan, Willow Grove and Hill End.

Despite the difficulties of the last few years, including the restrictions of the COVID pandemic and a continuing rise in the cost of living, the organisation has been able to maintain its major objective of providing low-cost accommodation to the community, whilst ensuring the highest standard

of independent living, in a supportive environment.


TDCH is now in a position to develop and expand its portfolio and would like to increase the Committee membership by at least three members. If you have time to volunteer for a worthwhile community cause, feel you can make a difference and would like to be part of our organisation then please call the president, Ian Riley on 0473 234 001 or the secretary, Geoff Hill on 0499 004 299. Alternatively, you can attend

any of the meetings which are held at the Community Centre in Trafalgar on the last Monday of every month from 7pm.


If you are looking for local accommodation and fit the criteria of aged 60+, in receipt of a government pension and have connection to the area, then the committee would be interested to hear from you. For more information and an application form, please contact the president or secretary (contact details above).



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Fun with words

In this monthly feature, we explore the meaning of words. This gives us and you the opportunity to learn and reflect on words we already know, the changing nature of language, and the origin of proverbs and jokes.

Useful words ending in ‘ate’

- Accentuate - to make more noticeable or prominent.
- Alienate - to make someone feel isolated or estranged.
- Assimilate - to take in and incorporate as one’s own. To absorb.
Example: She assimilated many new experiences on her overseas trip.
- Exacerbate - to make something that is already bad even worse.
- Hibernate - to spend winter in a dormant state. Usually applies to animals and plants.
- Masticate - to chew food thoroughly.
- Obviate - to make an action unnecessary. Example: The addition of blinds could obviate the need for curtains.
- Procrastinate - to put off intentionally. To make a habit of avoiding or delaying.
- Ruminate - to think deeply about something.
- Violate - to break with or to fail to comply.

Idioms

- ‘A stitch in time saves nine’ - means it is better to address an issue early on as ignoring it might lead to a bigger problem. It derives from the logic of mending a small tear in a garment with one stitch is smarter than leaving it until the tear needs more stitches.
- ‘Bite the bullet’ - to do something that is difficult or painful that you would rather not have to do. Thought to derive from the practice of biting down hard on a bullet to ease pain during field surgery.

Joke

A motorist picked up a hitchhiker who when he settled into the car said “Thanks for picking me up but how do you know I am not a serial killer?” The driver responded “Because the chances of two of us being in the same car are millions to one.”

The Norris's saved \$5,772 last year on their home loan!*

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*Amount saved was annual payments reduction on an owner-occupier home loan when repayments dropped by \$481 a month from lower interest rate and loan restructure. Actual savings will depend on individual circumstances. All loans are subject to the bank's normal lending criteria. Fees, charges, terms and conditions apply and are subject to change. Credit provided by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 Australian Credit Licence 237879. A1963170 OUT_40863256, 10/10/2024



Harriet Shing MP

MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA

Your voice in the Eastern Victoria Region



 216 Commercial Road, Morwell VIC 3840

 harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au

 1300 103 199

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COUNCIL News.

Our Roads. Your Roads. Better Baw Baw Roads.

Great news! Pedder Street in Darnum is now smoother than ever after Council's recent \$50,000 road upgrade.

Completed on 18 February 2025, this improvement is part of Baw Baw's commitment to better roads.

Have feedback about your street? We're here to listen – reach out to Council today!

You can learn more about Baw Baw Shire's roads by visiting our website www.bawbawshire.co/Roads



Baw Baw Connect – Have Your Say, Your Way!

Council currently has two community engagement opportunities open for consultation!

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

Rollo Street Park Naming Proposal

Council is proposing to rename the site known as Rollo Street Park to Angela Malacarne Park, to celebrate the hard work and lifelong dedication of Angela Malacarne, a teacher at the former Yarragon Primary School.

Burke Street Pump Track

Share your thoughts on a concept design for a new pump track in Warragul and help Baw Baw Shire Council secure funding for what would quickly become a much-loved community facility.

Pedal your way over to Baw Baw Connect today and have your say, your way to help shape a draft design for the newly proposed pump track, plus share your input on the overall look and feel.

**YOUR SAY,
YOUR WAY.**

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS:

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

Wednesday 5 March

– Hearing of budget submissions – 1.00pm

Wednesday 12 March – 5.30pm

Wednesday 26 March – 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



Traf finish with a final flourish



Club Pairs Champions David and Nathan Cook.

After a successful home and away season, Trafalgar Bowls Club will have five sides feature in the finals series, all vying for a chance at taking home the ultimate prize in the first week of March.

Not only did sides from both Divisions One and Two in Midweek Pennant earn finals berths, but Division One sat atop the table at the end of the year to claim the minor premiership.

Whilst not finishing top of the ladder, their weekend

counterparts in Division One finished third and will join them, along with sides from Divisions Three and Five. Division Six will unfortunately rue missed opportunities, missing out by four measly points!

Overall a year to be celebrated for the Trafalgar Bowls Club, and hopefully there will be some silverware to add when all is said and done.

Cooks dish up championship performance

David Cook can add another club title to his collec-

tion this year, winning the Club Championship Pairs with son Nathan.

The Cooks took on Will McIlwain and Matt Ogilvie in the highly coveted Pairs Championship on Thursday, 12 February, with several onlookers in attendance for what was expected to be a competitive game of bowls.

There was no doubt for anyone watching that it would be a close affair, and they were proven right. After 18 ends the scores finished 17-14 in the Cooks' favour as they claimed another title.



Club Pairs Runner-ups, Matt Ogilvie and Will McIlwain.

Blooding the youth

By Nicholas Duck

This story is provided courtesy of its original publisher, The Warragul and Drouin Gazette.

Trafalgar Football Netball Club will be looking to fortify its football future with the launch of the club's Young Bloods Junior Football Academy for the upcoming season.

The academy will look to bring together some of the Bloods' future stars for advanced clinics designed to prepare them for senior footy in the red and white - and potentially beyond.

It comes as the latest effort by the club to include and focus on their junior divisions following several years of decreasing numbers.

After reaching a point where it was becoming difficult to field both under 16s and 18s teams Trafalgar officials decided to take action, with Young Bloods being the result.

The hope is the academy will better prepare juniors for what senior football entails, as well as encouraging them to stay at Trafalgar rather than play for another club.

Topics included in the academy program involve proper preparation for games (ie. diet, sleep and recovery habits), advanced stoppage work, how to play in and against zone defences and opposition analysis.

Senior player Matt Devon will be taking the reins as academy coordinator, having coached under 15s, 16s and 18s across the past four years and recently completed a Bachelor of Sport, Physical and Outdoor Education.

He will be supported by a number of other club leaders, including current and past coaches and players.

The club also has plans to expand the program to netball as soon as next year if interest is strong enough.

Club football coordinator Brett Tonkin said bringing the juniors into the fold was going to bring "a community feel" back to the club.

"We started talking about this maybe 12, 18 months ago. We asked ourselves 'what's

the best way we can develop these kids internally?'" He said. *"In our last premiership, we had 17 players all from the Traf area. So now we think we should be developing more senior players at the club. And*

the hope is the players who come out of the academy become real leaders on the field for us."

Mr Tonkin said they had already received 15 expressions of interest for the sev-

en-session program, with more expected to sign up before applications close on Friday, February 21.

"We're going to learn a lot about the format from our first year of doing it. The plan

is to take feedback, figure out what works and evolve the project," he said.

"We're just really keen now to get that first intake in and get going."



Significant cricket milestones

By Liam Durkin

This story is provided courtesy of its original publisher, The Latrobe Valley Express

TRAFALGAR Cricket Club has celebrated a number of player milestones this season.

Veterans Rhys Holdsworth, Jackson Noonan and Daniel Heathcote all joined the 200 game club.

Holdsworth joined on multiple fronts, playing his 200th match for the First XI, adding to his already 200-plus senior games.

He bought up his 200th First XI match in the last game of the season before Christmas.

A true great of the club, there isn't much Holdsworth hasn't achieved in his close to 20 seasons with the Ships.

Holding down a spot at first drop, he has scored the best part of 7000 runs, to be third on the club's all time First XI aggregate.

He is also third on the all time wickets tally, having taken more than 200 poles.

These numbers have led to him winning an astonishing four league best-and-fairest awards.

Playing as a left hand bat/right arm bowler, his best knock is 228 (still a Warragul District Cricket Association record), while best bowling is 7/24.

Among his most memorable moments are three First XI premierships (2006/07, 2014/15, 2019/20) and an All Gippsland one day title (2010). He was captain/coach in all but one of those.

He has captained the First XI on and off for a total of 10 seasons and been club coach for five, often combining the two roles.

Club awards have been prolific: seven best-and-fairests, nine batting aggregates and two bowling aggregates.

A reliable slipper (usually standing at second), he has also taken more than 100 catches. Off field, his work has been equally significant.

He knows the centre wicket and the nets better than most, having concreted the pitches in both, as well as at Trafalgar High School. Holdsworth has also been the club's sponsorship director, and played a key role in recruitment.

Away from Trafalgar, he has played at Victorian Premier First XI level for St Kilda and Casey South Melbourne, and represented Victoria Country, Gippsland Pride, and played in numerous Gippsland Cricket League and Country Week games.

Jackson Noonan had the extra special occasion of having two milestones in one - his 200th senior game and 150th for the First XI. Fittingly, the right arm fast bowler took a five wicket haul on his special day for the First XI against Western Park at Trafalgar Recreation Reserve.

Noonan has opened the bowling in just about every one of his 200 games, sending down countless overs across the best part of 15 years. The right arm seamer is second on the club's all time wicket aggregate with more than 250 scalps, most of which have come at First XI level.

Provided he keeps playing, the 30-year-old will likely surpass club legend Craig 'Olly' Nielsen's mark of 374.

During his time, Noonan has played in two First XI premierships (2014/15, 2019/20), and an All Gippsland One Day flag (2010). He was senior coach in 2019/20, a season that produced two premierships (First XI and Third XI), and he has held additional roles of selector and in First XI leadership, captaining the side on occasions.

Club awards include a First XI best-and-fairest (2012/13), and three consec-

utive bowling aggregates (2020/21-2022/23).

His best bowling is 6/38, although wickets have certainly not told the full story, as he has often done the hard yards in order for bowlers to benefit from the other end or later in the day.

While officially a bowler, he could justifiably be labelled a bowling all-rounder given he has a number of half-centuries and a high score of 86 (featuring some of the cleanest hitting seen in many-a-year).

Ever the team man, he has opened the batting in finals, and played enterprising knocks as a pinch-hitter in one dayers.

This team-first approach has extended off the field, where he has served on the committee, mainly taking care of merchandise.

He has also taken his skills overseas, playing in the UK, while he still holds the record for most wickets in a senior GCL season.

Current club president Daniel Heathcote has been involved with the club as both a player and official for nearly two decades.

As a player, he has achieved just about every-

thing one could hope for in a team and individual sense.

He has won premierships across all three formats, multiple best-and-fairests, and a club championship.

Playing predominately as a tall right arm bowler, most of Heathcote's cricket has been at First XI level, and he is in the top five on the club's all time wicket taking list with close to 250 scalps.

He has two First XI bowling aggregates to his name, as well as a few half-century's batting down the order, where he has gained a reputation for being a finisher - particularly in close run chases and big games.

His best bowling is 6/17 for the First XI, although his best spell arguably came at the most critical time - when he took three wickets in quick succession before lunch in the 2014/15 Central Gippsland Cricket Association Grand Final to break the game open.

He has also played representative cricket in GCL and at Country Week. Heathcote's work in sports administration with the Gippsland League has greatly helped the club from a business perspective in a number of ways (especially apparel), during

his time as club senior coach, committee member, treasurer and president.

Now into his fifth term, Heathcote is the club's second-longest serving president, and he has been at the forefront of many great Initiatives.

The redevelopment of the Traf High School Oval and upgrades to the practice nets are two standout projects, not to mention leading the club through the pandemic.

Always one to enjoy a good time, his club Spotify playlist generally gets a run before and after games, and he has also successfully fund-raised for club events, and organised some very memorable and equally creative trips away.

The trio join Graeme Rankin, Alan Rankin, Laurie Rankin, Craig Nielsen, Vic Jean Jr, Allan Blaser, Christian Burgess, Brendan Dawson and John Asmussen as 200 game Ships.

Asmussen became the first player in the club's history to reach 400 games, doing so at the start of the season.

Others to reach milestones this season have been Zack Brown and Brodie Burgess, who each played their 150th.



Trafalgar Cricket Club veterans Daniel Heathcote, Jackson Noonan and Rhys Holdsworth have all played 200 games for the club.

Thorpdale, Tigers go hand-in-hand

By Liam Durkin

This story is provided courtesy of its original publisher, The Latrobe Valley Express

He might have to pull on the boots himself. Former Thorpdale footballer Rhy Gieschen has been appointed Richmond Football Club's national recruiting manager.

Gieschen has been with Richmond's recruiting team for the past two years since

joining the club as Victorian recruiting manager.

He is the son of Maffra's Jeff Gieschen, who himself coached Richmond between 1997 and 1999.

Somewhat ironically, the paths of Maffra and Richmond have been almost identical since both won pre-

mierships in 2019, and now find themselves coming off wooden spoons.

Perhaps even more astonishing is the links between Richmond and the potato farming town.

Rhy played two seasons for Thorpdale from 2014-15, missing just one senior game

in that two-year stretch and winning the best-and-fairest in 2014.

Richmond and Hawthorn premiership player Barry Rowlings is from Thorpdale, while the Tigers' current AFLW coach Ryan Ferguson is the son of Thorpdale 'everything man' Dave Ferguson.

Essendon is also well connected through 100 gamer Jason Winderlich and 1960s Bomber Jim Forsyth (whose son Tim won bronze in high jump at the 1992 Olympics). All three grew up in Thorpdale.

Football is a way of life for the Gieschen family.

Jeff has seen the game from all angles, as a player with Footscray, senior coach, and as the AFL's umpire manager.

He won two Trood Award and Rodda Medals for the Gippsland League best-and-fairest with Maffra FNC.

The Gieschen name is synonymous with the Eagles, and the family has combined for more than 1000 senior games between them in the red and black.

Winston Gieschen held the Maffra Football-Netball Club senior games record of 253 until it was surpassed by Daniel Bedggood last Year.

Rhy has worked for close to 15 years in the AFL industry, holding talent and operational roles at the AFL, AFLCA and AFL Victoria. Richmond General Manager Football Talent, Blair Hartley said the club felt Gieschen was ready to step into the new role.

"Rhy did an outstanding job in assisting and guiding the recruiting process in the preparation for last year's national draft," he said.

"He has had a strong grounding in the AFL industry, having played a variety of roles in both talent and operations."



New Richmond National Recruiting Manager and former Thorpdale footballer, Rhy Gieschen.

Heart-warming homecoming

By Blake Metcalf-Holt

This story is provided courtesy of its original publisher, The Latrobe Valley Express

Six months on for his horrific injury, Thorpdale's Jason Winderlich is back on his feet and returned to his former AFL club Essendon for a facility tour last month with his family.

Recovering strongly from his serious neck injury sustained in the Round 16 Mid Gippsland Football-Netball League match against Toora at Thorpdale Recreation Reserve, Winderlich underwent surgery for a broken neck and spinal cord damage where he had feared for his life.

The former 129-game Bomber reunited with multiple ex-teammates during the tour, including current player Jayden Laverde and coaches and past players Brent Stanton, Michael Hurley and Ricky Dyson.

Winderlich returned to Thorpdale two years ago, undertaking a playing head coach role with his hometown Blues more than five years after his decade-long AFL career, which began in 2003.



Thorpdale's Jason Winderlich returned to his old club Essendon lastmonth along with his family.

Alice goes international

By Nicholas Duck

This story is provided courtesy of its original publisher, The Warragul and Drouin Gazette.

Bona Vista gymnast Alice Johnson will be donning the green and gold and hitting the international stage for the first time next month to represent Australia at the DTB Pokal Team Challenge Cup in Stuttgart, Germany.

Alice officially earned her position in the junior women's artistic division thanks to her strong results at domestic competitions in 2024.

She and her four teammates will jet out for the competition, which takes place from March 27 to 30, to

take on a variety of countries including China and Great Britain among others.

Australia also will have teams in the junior men's category as well as the senior women's and men's.

It's a big step for the 13-year-old, who has not been outside of Australia since emigrating from England when she was three.

"I'm a bit nervous but I'm really excited just to travel," she said.

According to Alice, when she was first told of her team

selection, it didn't sink in until later that day.

"I kind of didn't have a reaction because I was in training and my coach just told me. But I was really happy, it was kind of a relief."

A member of the Waverley Gymnastics Centre, two of Alice's teammates will be girls from the same centre who have both competed internationally, giving her some shoulders to lean on.

She may need it too, given some of the nerves she'll have facing up against inter-

national gymnasts for the first time.

"It seems big and scary. It's weird to think that I'm going to see girls from other countries my age," she said.

Alice will be hoping to compete in the bars, beam, floor and vault, though depending on how she ranks against the other members of her team she may not be able to do them all.

Despite wanting to have a go at everything she wouldn't be too disappointed if she

missed the vault, as it's her least favourite apparatus.

One challenge Alice and her family still have to navigate is funding. The family has to fund a sizeable part of the Stuttgart trip, and while they're about halfway there they are still on the hunt for businesses and individuals willing to help get Alice over the line.

With a goal of one day competing in the Olympic Games, Alice is hoping to compete at next year's Youth Olympic Games in Senegal,

her journey to Stuttgart being an important first step.

Despite having the world at her feet, however, she's managing to stay pretty humble about it all.

"I'm scared of bragging, I don't want to be mean," she said.

To support Alice's journey with a tax deductible donation head to www.asf.org.au/projects/alice-johnson/support-alices-journey-representing-australia-in-germany



Local gymnast Alice Johnson will be heading to Germany next month for her first international competition. Photograph courtesy of WinkiPoP Media.

Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund

By Jordan Ross

Applications are now open for the Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund (ACIF). The grants are open to all clubs, associations, schools, councils and cricket facility managers.

The ACIF is funded by Cricket Victoria and Cricket Australia to support community cricket facility proj-

ects, with a focus on growing participation and promoting greater access and inclusivity for all Victorians.

"I encourage all eligible clubs to apply for this funding opportunity to enhance their facilities, and continue providing a welcoming space for players of all ages and backgrounds," said Melina Bath, Member for Eastern Victoria.

Over 60 projects were funded in season 2023-24, and over \$250 million of partnered investment with federal, state and local governments has been generated since the ACIF's inception in 2019.

The ACIF provides funding in the following two categories:

- Community Cricket Infrastructure Grant – Minor: \$1,000 - \$15,000.
 - Community Cricket Infrastructure Grant – Major: \$15,001 - \$40,000.
- Applications for more than \$40,000 will be considered on a case-by-case basis under the Strategic Cricket Infrastructure Funding category.

Ms Bath emphasised the crucial role team sports play in fostering community spirit, health, and inclusion.

"Team sports bring people together, build friendships, and teach valuable life skills," she said.

"Clubs do an excellent job putting back into their facilities through their tire-

less fundraising activities. Sporting grants can be game changers to support local cricketers and volunteers," she said.

For more information, visit <https://www.cricketvictoria.com.au/clubs-support/grants/>. Applications close on Sunday 23 March 2025.



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