

Traf District News

May 2025 – Edition 274

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Hospital hot topic of conversation in the lead-up to the election

By Jordan Ross

For Baw Baw Shire locals, the West Gippsland Hospital has been a topic of conversation for more than a decade. Now, candidates for the federal election have turned their eye on the hospital as well.

The new hospital - in which construction was supposed to have started last year - was pledged up to \$675 million in funding from the state government in 2022. However, the land-rezoning only began last year and construction has not begun.

The hospital was originally expected to be accepting patients by 2029, and should include 223 patient beds and treatment spaces, three new operating theatres and 25 spaces for outpatient care and specialist treatment.

According to data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Warragul and Drouin are the fastest-growing towns in Australia. This increasing population is putting further pressure on the already inadequate hospital infrastructure.

The federal candidates have also set the scene of an under-resourced hospital. Independent Candidate Deb Leonard described “cracks in the wall” and a roof that is “falling in,” while MP Russell Broadbent said upgrades are “desperately needed.”

In addition to the poor state of the building, the hospital needs more beds so that paramedics can spend more time responding to emergen-

cies, and less time ramped outside of emergency.

Independent MP Russell Broadbent is making the hospital the “priority” of his campaign.

He has called on all sides of politics to join him in committing \$60 million to kickstart the planning and design of the new Warragul and District Hospital.

Broadbent personally wrote to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Opposition Leader Peter Dutton, urging them to visit his electorate and declare their commitment to the first stage of hospital funding.

“It’s clear the major parties are taking this electorate for granted,” he said, warning that the major parties can “no longer ignore Monash.”

Mr Broadbent said in the event of a hung parliament, “No one will get my support unless they commit to the hospital.”

Deb Leonard echoed a similar sentiment.

“As an independent, it doesn’t matter who’s in power; I can work with both sides of politics,” she said.

Leonard referenced the success of past independent MP’s, such as Andrew Wilkie who managed to get \$340 million in funding for a hospital in his electorate, Denison.

Leonard said “we just need to get [the hospital] done.”

“We’ve been promised West Gippsland Hospital for a decade” she said.

Leonard said “we deserve better” and that Monash needs better access to mental health services and aged care facilities.

“I will work tirelessly to improve access to healthcare services,” she said.

Labor Candidate Tully Fletcher said that “only Labor builds public hospitals” while “the Liberals only close them... or privatise them.”

He referenced new hospitals in Wonthaggi and Phillip Island which have been funded and delivered by the Labor state government.

He said that he’d like the West Gippsland Hospital to be “built faster,” and that he can deliver co-investment from the federal government to support the funding already committed by the state government in 2022.

Fletcher offered an additional pledge. A new, fully funded and bulk billed Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Warragul which will “ease pressure” on the existing hospital.

“Everyone in Warragul and Drouin will get the free, bulk-billed urgent care they need without waiting in the emergency department at West Gippsland Hospital,” he said.

He said that this project will “take pressure off the emergency department,” and “provide long-term certainty to [local] families.”

Liberal Candidate Mary Aldred has her own

experiences with West Gippsland Hospital.

As a member of the Committee for Gippsland, she pushed the Labor State Government to commit funding which has yet to come across in a state budget.

She said that training medical and health staff in the Monash area will be important, as it will prompt the state and national governments to “build local links” so that people can live, study, and work in the same area.

Aldred brought Senator Sarah Henderson with her to visit the hospital earlier this year, hoping to re-

mind federal politicians of the need for upgrades to Monash’s infrastructure.

The Coalition has said that if they form government, they will introduce a Regional Australia Future Fund to deliver a guaranteed annual funding stream for projects in regional, rural and remote areas.

They said that in time, this fund could grow to \$20 billion.

“This is about putting regional people first and leaving a legacy for future generations,” said Leader of the Nationals, David Littleproud.

Independent Russell Broadbent called it a “great initiative” that could support infrastructure projects like the hospital.

“This Fund could be used to kickstart local projects such as the planning and design phase of the proposed Warragul and District Hospital,” he said.

Mr Broadbent said that as an independent, he will “support parties and policies that offer what’s best for Monash.”

With all the candidates making promises to progress the West Gippsland Hospital, it’s for you to decide who you trust the most to deliver.



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Traf District News

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Editor’s Note

When submitting letters to the editor please include your full name, postal address, email address and contact number. Your privacy will be respected and your details will not be printed in the paper. In this instance, the names have been published as they are political candidates.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor, the discussion around decarbonizing the economy is gaining momentum, with the LNP exploring nuclear power stations and Labor focusing on offshore wind and green hydrogen. However, there is a noticeable gap in these discussions that needs to be addressed. Transitioning towards a more sustainable future entails significant considerations. The CSIRO’s GenCost report shed light on the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) for various technologies, highlighting that solar PV and onshore wind offer cost-effective energy gener-

ation options. Currently, solar and wind energy firming costs range from \$100-\$140 MWh, with projections indicating a decline to \$90-\$120 per MWh by 2030.

To support this transition, reforms are essential to plan for future renewable projects and establish transmission infrastructure to accommodate our growing population. It is crucial to ensure fair compensation for rural and regional communities hosting transmission developments. Public ownership of poles and wires can facilitate government-led investments, paving the way for renewable energy zones.

Mr Corbell, CEO of the Clean Energy Investor Group, emphasizes the need for governments to enact laws that enable zero-carbon electricity generation, energy storage, and transmission infrastructure development. To achieve these goals, incentivizing battery storage across households and businesses nationwide can alleviate grid stress caused by intermittent solar power.

Establishing federal programs for distributed and storage in schools, government housing, alongside re-nationalizing poles and wires through transparent processes, are crucial stag-

es. Additionally, prioritizing transmission upgrades, avoiding excessive grid investments, adequately compensating landowners who host transmission lines, and ensuring reliable dispatchable generation sources as coal plants phase out are vital strategies.

As a country, we must invest in long-duration storage technology, which is key to shaping Australia’s energy future.

Carly Noble

Editor’s Note: Noble is a candidate for the Senate, representing Victoria as an Australian Democrat at the 2025 Federal election.

Dear Editor, I am a single issue candidate for the western alliance.

The American people have become dangerously erratic and without necessarily wishing to, they are vandalising their own democracy and the western alliance with it. That is our problem.

The western alliance is the foundation of freedom, democracy and prosperity for Australia, just as it is for Australia and even for non-aligned countries in our region. Ukraine is fighting for

its freedom because it dared to aspire to these things we have taken for granted.

No-one can tell the future but the present moment looks like it could be a historic one. People in the street mostly know this but our election candidates apparently do not. Nor do our leaders in Canberra have much to say, more concerned that we somehow escape the US tariffs that everyone else, friend and foe, are being subjected to.

The problem in America started with Trump, but it has infected a large frac-

tion of the American people. Our political leaders should reach out to the American people, that they should have more respect for themselves, their country and their institutions.

They should have done so in 2020 when Trump falsely claimed that their electoral process was corrupted.

I have asked other candidates, most particularly Russell Broadbent, to take up this issue. If they will not, I feel I must run. At the same time I hope to promote discussion forums that the candidates and voters can take part in. This is not a council election.

It is not about dog parks. If we can have proper forums we can move past silly election advertising and look at the real issues that other candidates have raised, such as economic ones. Slogans do not cut it, ‘corflutes’ with candidates’ faces on it do not help, and flyers in your letter-box with lots of colours, but no information, do not advance the discussion.

Robert Durkacz

Editor’s Note: Durkacz intended to run in the Division of Monash for the House of Representatives but was not included in the final list of candidates on April 11.

SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO: EDITOR@TRAFNEWS.COM

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Voting on election day

On election day you will receive two ballot papers: a green one for the House of Representatives and a white one for the Senate.

House of Representatives

On the green ballot paper, you need to put a '1' in the box beside the candidate who is your first choice, '2' in the box beside your second choice and so on, until you have numbered every box. You must number every box for your vote to count.

Senate

On the white ballot paper you can choose to vote either above or below the line

If you vote **above the line**, you must number at least 6 boxes from 1 to 6. Place a '1' in the box for the party or group that is your first choice, a '2'

in the box for the party or group that is your second choice and so on until you number at least six boxes. You may continue to place numbers in as many boxes above the line as you like.

If you vote **below the line**, you must number at least 12 boxes from 1 to 12. Place a '1' in the box beside the candidate that is your first choice, a '2' in the box beside your second choice and so on until you number at least 12 boxes. You may continue to place numbers in as many boxes below the line as you like.

Early voting

Early voting from Tuesday April 22 2025. Election day is Saturday May 3 2025. There are many reasons you may be eligible to vote early, which can be found at: <https://www.aec.gov.au/election/fe25/early-voting.htm>.

In Monash

On April 11, the ballot order was drawn for our division, the Division of Monash. As confirmed by the AEC, this is the order in which the candidates will appear on the ballot paper for the election.

- 1. Kuljeet Kaur Robinson (One Nation)
- 2. Tully Fletcher (Labor)
- 3. Russell Broadbent (Independent) (Sitting Member)
- 4. Mary Aldred (Liberal)
- 5. Deb Leonard (Independent)
- 6. Geoffrey Dethlefs (Family First)
- 7. David O'Reilly (Legalise Cannabis Party)
- 8. Terence Steele (Greens)
- 9. Alex Wehbe (Trumpet of Patriots)

Australian flags will fly to honour veterans

To honour the men and women who have served the nation, The Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL and Trafalgar Public Cemetery Trust intend to have individual national

flags placed at the grave sites of former service personnel and veterans.

The flags will fly from April 23 to May 2. Family, friends and all others inter-

ested are invited to visit the ceremony and see the flags.

Editor's Note: The Traf News will provide photographs and additional details in our next issue in June.

Ask Cathy

By Cathy Saleta

I am a local counselor in Trafalgar. I'm very passionate about mental health and holistic well-being. This is because I have my own story of overcoming mental health issues, trauma, crises, and challenges in life. It's very meaningful to support others along their

healing and recovery paths. I am offering a support column for Traf News. You can write in to Traf News with an issue or challenging experience and I will share some ideas, insights, research, or strategies to support you and hopefully improve your situation. I will answer a letter or

if there is a theme amongst the letters, I will offer a more general contribution.

Editor's note: If you are interested in writing to Cathy, please email editor@trafnews.com. You do not need to attach a name and anything you write will remain anonymous.

Voting Locations

For early-voting (beginning April 22), you can vote at:

- St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall, 34 Fowler Street, Moe.
 - St Paul's Old Year 9 Centre, 57 Sutton Street, Warragul
- For voting on the day (May 3), you can vote at:

- Trafalgar Primary School, 84 School Road, Trafalgar
- There are several more locations across Yarragon, Willow Grove, Moe, and Warragul

For more locations and more details on dates and times, please check the AEC website.

House of Representatives Ballot Paper

State
Electoral Division of Division Name

Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice

2	SURNAME, Given Names INDEPENDENT
3	SURNAME, Given Names PARTY
7	SURNAME, Given Names PARTY
8	SURNAME, Given Names PARTY
1	SURNAME, Given Names PARTY
5	SURNAME, Given Names PARTY
6	SURNAME, Given Names PARTY
4	SURNAME, Given Names PARTY

Remember... number every box to make your vote count

SAMPLE

Sample ballot paper for the House of Representatives. Provided by the AEC.

Senate Ballot Paper
State – Election of 6 Senators

You may vote in one of two ways

Either

Above the line

By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
LOGO	LOGO	LOGO	LOGO	LOGO	LOGO	
5	2	1		3	6	4
PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	

Or

Below the line

By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	UNGROUPED
SURNAME Given Names PARTY	8 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	6 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	10 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	4 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT	SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT
1 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	5 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	3 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	9 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	11 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	7 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT
SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	2 SURNAME Given Names PARTY	12 SURNAME Given Names PARTY		SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	
SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY						

SAMPLE

Sample ballot papers for the Senate. Above and below the line. Provided by the AEC.

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Name for new Yarragon park confirmed

By Jordan Ross

A Yarragon park will officially be named *Angela Malacarne Park* following unanimous endorsement by the Baw Baw Shire Council.

The park, located on Rollo Street, is currently under construction and is expected to be completed by November 2025. From 1879 to 2013, the location was the site for the Yarragon Primary School.

Angela Malacarne was a teacher at that school for nearly 40 years. Council thought it was appropriate to honour her career which saw her teach hundreds of Yarragon students.

The name was endorsed by council in December, and after a period of community consultation, council confirmed the name in late-March.

"There aren't too many people in the Yarragon area who aren't familiar with Mrs Malacarne, who taught at least 800 local children during her 38.5 years as a teacher at the Yarragon Primary School, the primary school she also attended herself," said Cr Mayor Goss.

"I've spoken to a number of people living in the Yarragon area, people who have either been taught by Mrs. Malacarne or whose children

have been taught by her, and all agree that naming a park in her honour would be a truly fitting tribute," said Cr Deputy Mayor Jones

When Angela toured the site back in January, she said that *"it was a wonderful honour and privilege,"* and that she *"never expected this to happen."*

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.

The \$1.77 million project will deliver a new walking path, seating and picnic tables, a drink fountain, bike racks and new plants and trees.

"I am very much looking forward to seeing the many benefits this new park will bring to our local community once the reconstruction is complete," said Cr Goss.

In similar news, council is considering a new name for the Noojee Streamside Reserve, the Gladys Sanderson Park.

Gladys Sanderson was a local here back in 1939. In the summer of that year, Noojee and much of Victoria

was ravaged by bushfires and Sanderson remained in town operating the telephone switchboard - the area's only communication link at the time. She only left her station when her building was engulfed in flames and she was forced to flee.

She was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1940 and her story was widely recognised across Australia.

Before a final decision is made, council is seeking community consultation to ensure the name reflects the values and identity of Noojee. Online community feedback is open until May 2.



Angela Malacarne (centre), was given a tour of the construction site in January alongside Baw Baw Shire Councillors. Photographed by Jordan Ross.



The construction site in February. Image provided by the Baw Baw Shire Council.



The construction site in February. Image provided by the Baw Baw Shire Council.

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Mayor apologises one year on

By Jordan Ross

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Danny Goss has apologised to the previous councillor group. In his apology, he specifically mentioned previous mayor Annemarie McCabe and referred to *"all of the councillors who were present that day."*

Cr Goss said that the apology - which was issued as a part of his mayoral minute at the end of a council meeting held on March 26 - had come after 12 months of reflection.

He said that in the *"heat of the moment,"* he acted in a way that he *"immediately regretted."*

"I lost my temper and said some things that I deeply regret," he said.

"Anyone who knows me, including my fellow councillors here today, you just wouldn't have recognised the person who overstepped the mark that day. To be honest, I don't think I'll ever be able to recognise that version of myself either," he said.

"I take full responsibility for my conduct," he said, making note that he had not been asked to apologise.

While he did not specify which incident, he said that it followed a *"bitter debate,"* and occurred about 12 months ago. This would point to the council meeting held on April 3, 2024.

It became well known across the shire that there was tension amongst the previous councillor group - in which only Cr Goss and Cr Jones remain following elections last November. However, this tension toppled over in this meeting in April, during a heated debate.

Cr Goss presented a rescission motion to overturn a newly approved Place and Feature Naming Policy. Following debate from fellow councillors, Goss used his 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."*

At the end of her term, McCabe claimed that there was a *"boys club"* within the council and spoke of misogynistic behaviour.

"When I became a councillor in 2020... women were not respected and it was unprofessional, and at times, a hos-

tile environment. Not a lot has changed over the four years," she said.

"I have seen first hand and been subjected to appalling behaviour that would never be tolerated in a workplace," she said.

The elections last year saw seven new councillors elected. In November, newly appointed Councillor Brendan Kingwill said *"It does feel like we're all on the same page."* This claim was echoed by fellow East Ward Councillors Kate Wilson and Adam Sheehan.



Mayor Cr Danny Goss (right) with Deputy Mayor Cr Tricia Jones (left).

Crime on the rise

By Jordan Ross

According to recently released data from the Crime Statistics Agency, crime is on the rise in Baw Baw for the third straight year. In 2024, 5,850 criminal offences were recorded, over 1,300 more than in 2023.

In Trafalgar, 296 criminal incidents occurred last year. This was an increase of about 60 incidents from 2023. In Yarragon, 190 offences were recorded, meaning an increase of about 11%.

Across the Baw Baw Shire, around half of criminal incidents were reported in Warragul and a majority of crimes occurred in houses.

Baw Baw Shire wasn't alone in increasing crime rates, across the state recorded criminal offences increased by 15.7% from 2023 to 2024. Statewide, 73,539 arrests were made last year. Car theft was the fastest growing crime, increasing by approximately 40% from the year prior.

"Crime in Baw Baw is out of control," said Member for Narracan, Wayne Farnham.

"Our Victoria Police members are working day and night to keep our communities

safe. The Allan Labor Government must do more to support their efforts," he said.

Farnham said: "we need tougher laws, stronger enforcement, and a government that puts community safety first."

He called for a 24/7 police station in Drouin - which would support the growing population.

Bail Laws passed in state parliament

This report was followed by an announcement of tougher bail laws by the state government, which Premier Jacinta Allan called "the toughest bail laws in the country."

"The overall crime rates in Victoria are totally unacceptable," said Deputy Commissioner Bob Hill.

"The time has come for Victorians to feel safe in their homes again and for young offenders to be held accountable," said Hill, referencing the tougher bail laws to come into place.

The new bail laws - which passed through both houses of the Victorian Parliament - will prioritise community safety. Additionally, new criminal offences will seek to

punish those who do not respect the terms of their bail.

"I have listened to victims of crime and Victorians, and I have acted... [we are] putting community safety above all and delivering consequences for those who break the law," said Premier Jacinta Allen.

The bail bill will create tougher barriers for repeat offenders to obtain bail, and ultimately increase the number of adult and youth offenders on remand.

Community and human rights groups have criticised these new laws, with the Human Rights Law Centre calling them "dangerous and discriminatory," to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

First Nations Director at the Human Rights Law Centre, Maggie Munn said, "It is deeply shameful that the Allan Government has refused to learn from past policy failures," and that these new measures will "worsen the mass incarceration of Aboriginal people."

The Victorian Greens party are calling for "evidence-based bail laws."

"Last time Labor rushed bail reform we saw a dou-

bling of the number of First Nations women in Victoria's prisons and deaths in custody," said Victorian Greens spokesperson for Justice, Katherine Copsey.

To tackle the rise of youth crime, the new bail laws will mean remand or custody for youth offenders will no longer be a "last resort."

A media release from the Australian Human Rights Commission said that detention should be a "last resort"

for youth offenders and that the focus should be on preventing crime by youths.

In contrast, the Coalition said the "weak" changes do not go far enough, with Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath labelling the state government's approach to crime, "soft."

"These bail laws still aren't as strong as they need to be to protect Victorians," said Liberal MP Michael O'Brien.

Bath said "residents deserve a justice system that prioritises their safety; bail must be considered a privilege and not a right."

"Communities will be dismayed to learn no offence will be recorded for a breach of bail for youth offenders and that no bail test will be applied for criminals who commit serious offences such as arson, burglary, and robbery," she said.



Police tape at a crime scene. Photographed by SCM Jeans.

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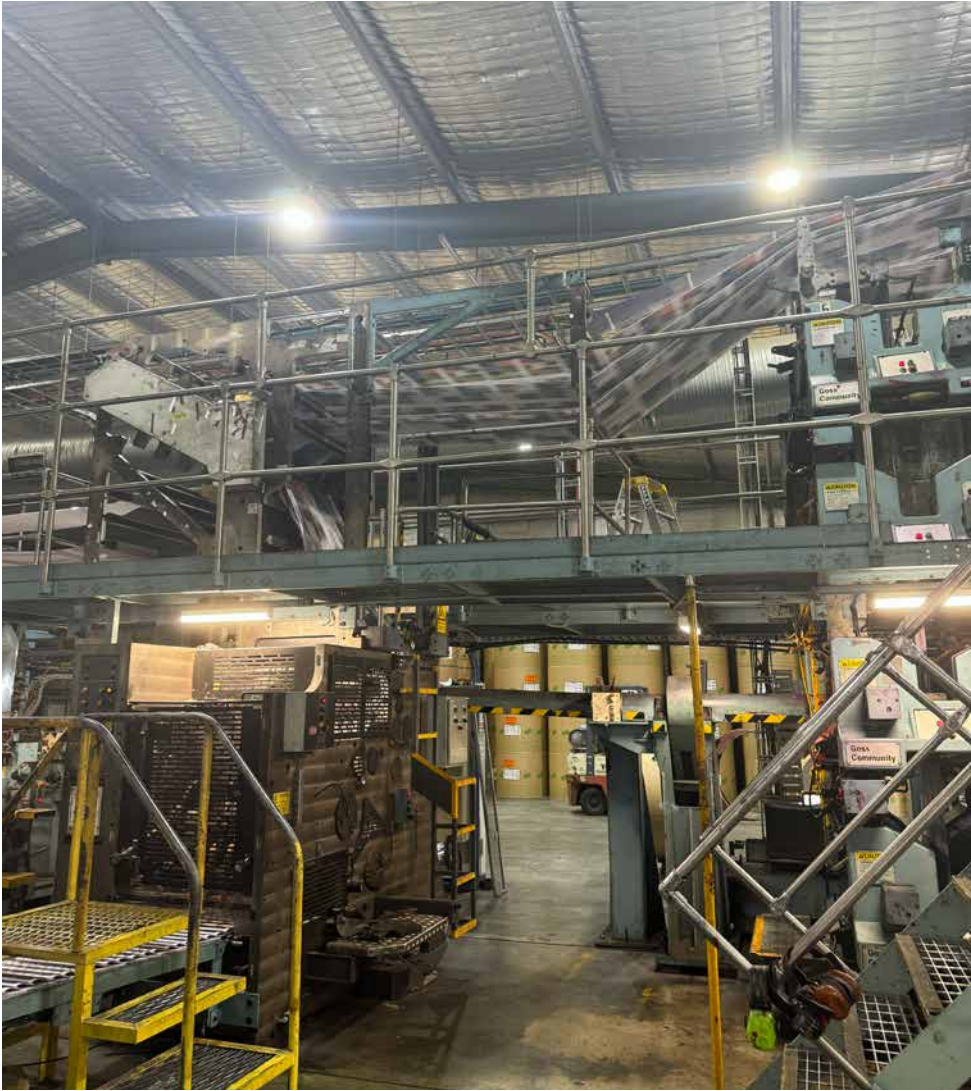
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Authorised by G Blackwood, Liberal Party, 14 Chesterfield Avenue, Warragul VIC 3820.

Traf News has new printers

By Peace Ijiyera



The Printing press in action. Photographed by Jordan Ross.



Traf News papers hot off the press. Photographed by Peace Ijiyera.

Recently Traf News joined forces with the Latrobe Valley Express as the new printers of the Traf News paper.

On March 28, the Traf News team went to the Latrobe Valley Express printing facility in Morwell to see the April edition of the paper printed.

Fast-paced, noisy, and interesting were some of the words to describe the experience. The Traf News team were super impressed and excited to visibly see the paper come to life.

The printing facility has been around for as long as

the Latrobe Valley Express has been - over 50 years.

Print manager Peter Giles led the way and explained the whole printing process.

Peter has been working in the printing industry for over 40 years and has been working for the Express for over 25 years.

He did his printing apprenticeship in North Melbourne, at the College of Printing and Graphic Arts. Though it was not his first choice, he grew to love the craft.

"I had my heart set on being an electrician and I ap-

plied for several different positions with apprenticeships and was unsuccessful."

"Printing was my second choice, so I ended up getting a printing apprenticeship and here I am 40 years later," Giles said.

With over 40 years of experience in the industry, Giles' love for the job has not faded.

"I still get satisfaction out of seeing a happy customer and a completed job go out the door. That still gives me a great sense of pride."

"I love the machines, I love the staff, I just love the whole job."

"All the people that work here, they have got a fantastic sense of commitment. They always have the company's interest at heart," Giles said.

The Latrobe Valley Express Print prints on average 35 different publications a week. The publications range from all over the state.

"We cover newspapers that go as far east as Mallee, and as far west as Colac, Maryborough, up near Ballarat."

As for the quantity of papers that are printed a week, Giles explained that "it varies."

"Some weeks a customer might say they want two

and a half thousand papers, and the following week, they might want 5."

"We get the big newsprint rolls delivered, and our newsprint consumption on average is about 30 to 35 tonnes a week," Giles said.

"Majority of the newsprint we use is manufactured in Australia; it is made in Tasmania."

Giles explained that the mill that produces the newsprint, The Boyer Mill, in Tasmania, is the only mill in Australia that still produces newsprint.

"The company that makes our paper is a Northern European company called Norske Skog."

"There used to be 3 [mills]. They had mills up near Albury, they had one on the north Coast of Tasmania, and one on the south Coast of Tasmania. We also used to get a limited supply of paper that used to be manufactured in New Zealand."

"Those mills have closed or [been] sold or been converted to make other kinds of paper. There is only the one mill now in Australia that makes newsprint," Giles said.

The actual process of the printing happens fast. If you blink, you will miss it.

Giles explained that the "largest circulation publication" is the Latrobe Valley Express, which prints on average, thirty-five thousand copies a week.

"If we have an uninterrupted press run, we can finish printing that [Latrobe Valley Express paper] in less than 2 hours, usually around 1 hour 40 [minutes]."

"Our press can run at speeds up to twenty-five thousand copies an hour," Giles said.

Around four thousand copies of the Traf News paper are printed. Once that is done, the papers are bundled up and sent over to the distribution team led by Ric Nicolson.

The distribution team is made up of "ten happy walkers who love the exercise," said Nicolson.

The papers are delivered to residents of Trafalgar and Yarragon.

"We normally get the papers mid-week and have them delivered by the weekend," said Ric.

A big thank you to the volunteers on the distribution team who deliver the paper. Your work is greatly appreciated.

It would be remiss of us to not appreciate our previous printers at James Yeates Printing in Bairnsdale. We thank you for your partnership over the years in printing this paper.

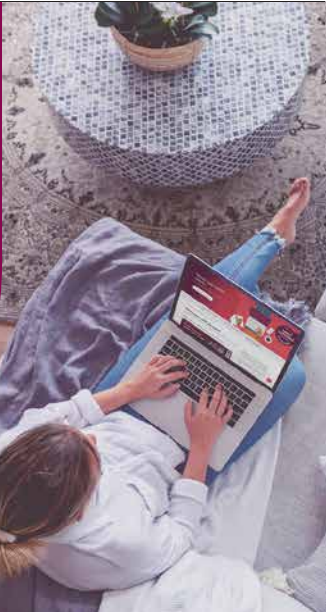
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*Source: Roy Morgan Single Source Australia, May 2023. All loans are subject to the bank's normal lending criteria. Fees, charges, terms and conditions apply. Please consider your situation and read the Terms and Conditions, available online at www.bendigobank.com.au or upon request from any Bendigo Bank branch, before making a decision. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237879 A 2045547 OUT_40116675, 03/09/2024

Trafalgar Primary School crowned School Sport Victoria's School of the Year

By Rick White

Trafalgar Primary School has been awarded the prestigious title of School Sport Victoria School of the Year, in recognition of its outstanding commitment to school sport, inclusivity, and community partnerships.

The accolade caps off a remarkable year for the school, which built on its 2023 success in the Victorian School Sport Awards for Outstanding School and Community Partnerships. In 2024, Trafalgar Primary set a new standard, recording an impressive 764 student

participation events across inter-school competitions.

The school's expanded sporting program saw the formation of Trafalgar Primary's first-ever AFL Girls team, a revival of competitive school hockey after a 12-year hiatus, and strong showings at regional and state levels in football, volleyball, tennis, downball, and NFL Flag.

Principal contributors to this success include the school's proactive partnerships with leading sporting bodies such as AFL Victoria, Cricket Victoria, Hockey Victoria, Cycling Australia,

and Disability Sport and Recreation. These collaborations have significantly broadened opportunities for students and enriched their sporting experiences.

Programs like After School Auskick and Cricket Blast have bolstered participation rates, while the WheelTalk wheelchair basketball initiative has given students valuable exposure to adaptive sports, reinforcing Trafalgar Primary's commitment to inclusivity and diversity.

The school has also fostered strong local partner-

ships, working closely with Rhee Taekwondo, Leongatha Gymnastics Club, and Trafalgar's community sporting clubs for football, netball, cricket, tennis, croquet, golf, and soccer. These connections have not only enhanced the school's sporting programs but also strengthened community ties.

"The strength of our community partnerships continues to be central to our success," said Rick White, Sport and Physical Education Teacher.

"With the support of our local clubs, organisations, and volunteers, we've been able to provide fantastic opportunities to our students. It's great to see that recognised, and we're looking forward to raising the bar even higher in the years ahead," said Mr White.

Trafalgar Primary School's achievement reaffirms its reputation as a leader in school sport, paving the way for continued excellence and fostering a culture of participation, inclusivity, and lifelong enjoyment of sport.



Trafalgar Primary School students, Aurora and Elisa, with their teacher, Rick White.



Recipients from Trafalgar Primary accept their award.

Ending a contract of sale; understanding your rights

By Jade McGregor of MacGregor Legal

A Contract of Sale is a legally binding agreement that outlines the terms of a property purchase in Victoria. Once signed, both buyer and seller are generally committed to its terms, making it crucial to understand the circumstances under which such a contract can be terminated. Common scenarios for ending a Contract of Sale include the non-fulfilment of specific conditions, such as finance approval or building inspections, or through statutory cooling-off rights granted to buyers in certain situations. However, it is essential to note that these rights do not apply to auctions for properties purchased within three business days of an auction. Failing to adhere to the legal processes

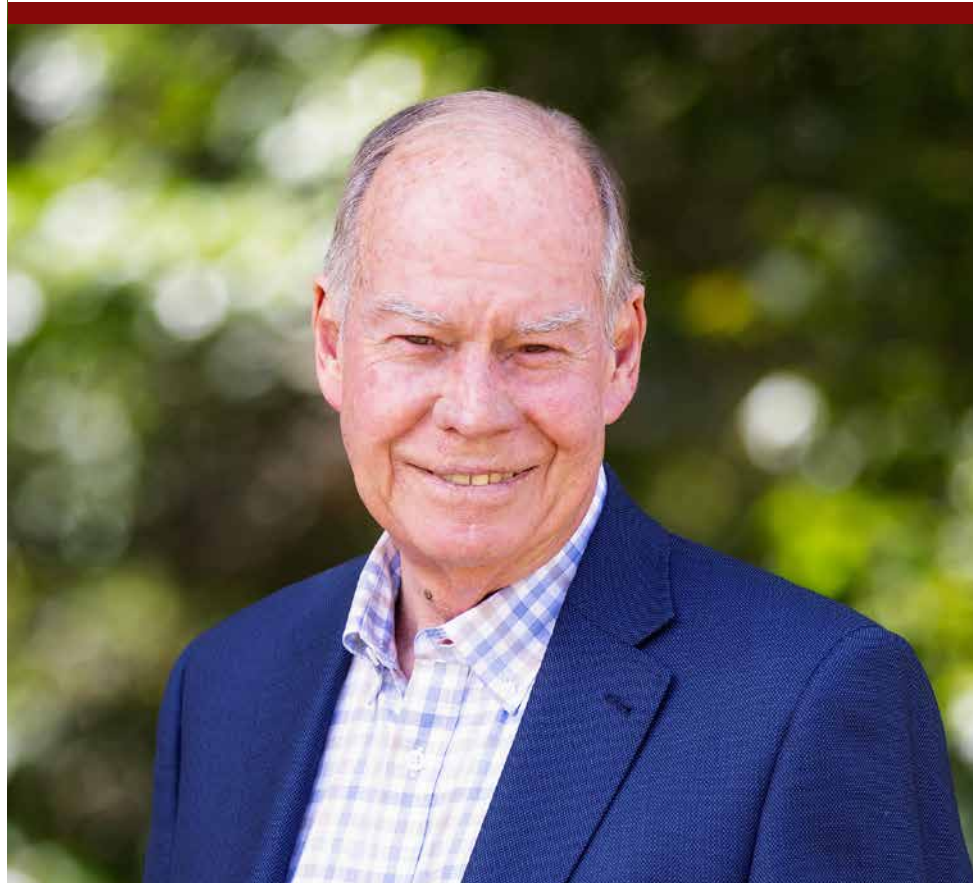
for terminating a contract may leave parties exposed to penalties or loss of deposits.

In some cases, breaches of contract can provide grounds for termination. For example, if the seller fails to supply an accurate and comprehensive Vendor's Statement (also known as a Section 32), as legally required under the Sale of Land Act 1962, the buyer may have the right to withdraw from the agreement before settlement. Similarly, should either party fail to meet their obligations as stipulated in the agreement without rectifying the breach, termination may become an option. These situations are usually complex and require careful analysis of the contract's terms and the specific circumstances surrounding the breach.

Given the binding nature of a Contract of Sale, it is vital to seek legal advice before signing any agreement. A qualified solicitor or conveyancer can help you understand the contract's terms, identify potential risks, and ensure your interests are protected. They can also guide you on how to exercise your termination rights appropriately if unforeseen circumstances arise. By securing professional advice early in the process, you can make informed decisions and avoid costly disputes, ensuring a smoother property transaction.

If you are looking at buying or selling, get in touch with one of our friendly conveyancers on 5644 0000.

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Baw Baw Pet Expo a hit with locals

By Jordan Ross

On Sunday April 6, Baw Baw Shire locals enjoyed the annual Pet Expo in Warragul. The event was a must-attend for pet lovers, with live demonstrations and animal-friendly competitions.

The free event was well-attended, as it is every year. Visitors were invited to bring along their pets - as long as they were kept on a leash or appropriately secured.

Live demonstrations included talks from local veterinarians and organisations such as Therapy Animals Australia. Additionally, over 30 market stalls were on-site; raising awareness and accepting donations for pet-based charities, selling customised items such as pet accessories and food bowls, and providing food - for humans and pets alike.

Mayor Goss spoke to the importance of community events such as these.

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



Dog jumping competition at the Expo. Image supplied by Baw Baw Shire Council.



New Life Bird Rescue, a charity who help abandoned and abused birds, were on site. Image supplied by Baw Baw Shire Council.



Visitors were invited to bring along their leashed-up dogs. Image supplied by Baw Baw Shire Council.



The site of the Expo, the Geoff Watt Track in Warragul. Image supplied by Baw Baw Shire Council.



Baw Baw Shire Council Community Grants.

Minor Capital Work Category.

Expressions of Interest Minor Capital Work Grants up to \$10,000 will open at 9am Monday 5 May 2025.

To find out more about our Community Grants program, scan the QR code or contact our Officers on **1300 229 229** or at grants@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au





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Mothers’ Day week on Contingent Street

By Kellie Robinson

From Thursday May 8 to Sunday May 11 Contingent Street will be decorated to celebrate Mothers’ Day. This has been organised by several businesses on the street, all of which are owned by women!

There will be a **giveaway drawn to May 10**, the day before Mothers’ Day. There are some amazing prizes to be won. If you are interested in entering the giveaway, follow the involved businesses on social media to find out more information over the coming weeks. The giveaway prizes include:

- \$100 family photo voucher for Kellie Robinson Photography at The Creative Wellness Studio.
- \$100 tattoo voucher for Haven Tattoo Studio.
- \$50 salon voucher for Luxe on Mane.
- A piercing aftercare & piercing pillow package from Pinpoint Piercings.
- \$50 worth of magnesium salts & magnesium roll from Trafalgar Chiropractic Clinic.
- \$80 breakfast voucher for Eat Live Fresh.

- \$50 voucher and a high tea for 2 grazing box from Sweet Treats by Jamie-Lee.
- \$50 coffee & cupcakes voucher for Coffee Life.
- A bird bath valued at \$179 from Jenkins Hardware.

There will also be special events and offers during the week/weekend of Mothers’ Day (May 5 to May 11). These include:

- Mothers’ Day mini sessions on May 10 for Kellie Robinson Photography at The Creative Wellness Studio.
- Flash tattoo sale day on May 10 at Haven Tattoo Studio.
- Wash & blow wave specials on May 10 and 11 at Luxe on Mane.
- Free piercing aftercare with every gift voucher purchase or new piercing service on the day May 10 at Pinpoint Piercings.
- Two for one pilates offer for the week leading from May 5 - 9 at the Trafalgar Chiropractic



The business women of Contingent Street: From left the right: Sarah (Jenkins Hardware), Charlotte (Sweet Treats by Jamie-Lee), Shannon (Haven Tattoo Studio), Kellie (Kellie Robinson Photography & The Creative Wellness Studio), Keira (Trafalgar Chiropractic Clinic), Nik (Eat Live Fresh), and Danielle (Luxe on Mane).

- Clinic. Purchase a pass and it is valid for a month.
- In House Specials the week leading into Mothers’ Day from May 5 to 10 at Eat Live Fresh.
- High Tea Grazing Boxes, cupcakes & cookies available in store the weekend of Mothers’ Day (May 10 and 11) at Sweet Treats by Jamie-Lee.
- In house specials from May 5 to 11 at Coffee Life.
- 15% of decorative planters at Jenkins Hardware from May 5 to 10.

Local youths launch Live4Life for 2025

Live4Life - the Baw Baw Shire mental health program - was launched on March 31, with local year 8 students attending the event at the West Gippsland Arts Centre. The students got to meet their crew and learn about the program.

The crew volunteer their time and act as ambassadors within their schools, social circles, and the broader community, to promote positive mental health messaging among young people. They were inducted as mental

health ambassadors at an event in February.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Cr Danny Goss said he was extremely proud of the program which he said prompts meaningful “conversations about mental health.”

“This program is led by our local youths themselves and is such an incredible initiative for a young person to be involved in,” he said.

“Raising awareness of mental health is such an important issue, especially for young people, and we are excited to work together with the youths this year,” he said.



The crew at the event launch.





WARRAGUL & MOE OPTICAL

The Turner Family

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: trafalgarfnfc@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: bawbawnsn@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/ Email: gcasecretary74@gmail.com Website: https://www.gippslandcampdraftin-gassociation.com/ Facebook: Trafalgar Campdraft Association Inc	03 5633 1166
Trafalgar Campdraft	Cheryl		0416 166 027
Trafalgar Cemetry Trust	Howard Jones	Email: trafalgarpubliccemetary@dcsi.net.au Webite: https://australiancemeteries.com.au/vic/bawbaw/trafalgar.htm	03 5633 2282
Trafalgar CFA (non-emergency) Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce Trafalgar Community Notice Board		Facebook: Trafalgar Fire Brigade Website: https://www.trafalgarchamber.com.au/ Facebook: Trafalgar Community Notice Board	03 5624 1900
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
Yarragon Book Fair Top quality second hand books.	May 3	Yarragon Community Hall
Gippsland Weed and Pest Festival Presentations and demonstrations on weed and pest control.	May 3	Rokeby Recreation Reserve
Trafalgar's Women in Business Celebrate Mother's Day	May 5 - 11	Contingent Street
Warragul Threatre Company Presents the Wedding Singer Tickets: https://sales.wgac.com.au/event/379:2502/	May 23 (opening night)	West Gippsland Arts Centre

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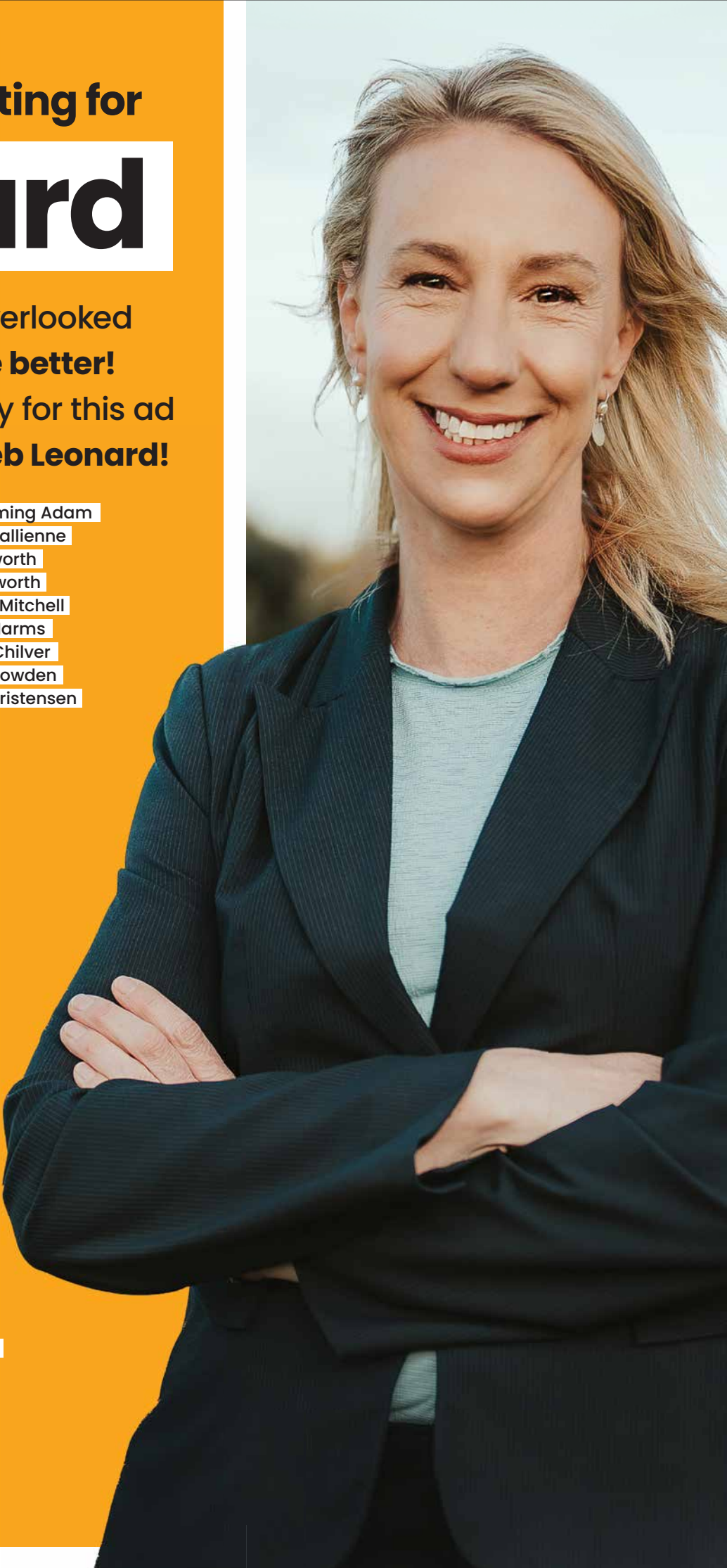
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| Sarah Jury | Geoffrey Rayner | Deborah Hollingsworth |
| Nic Frances Gilley | Matt Falla | Pierre Mainstone-Mitchell |
| Deb O'Connor | Helen Wallace | Matt and Donna Harms |
| Marg Lynn | Lorraine Beasley | Trevar Skillicorn-Chilver |
| Barbara Glass | David Rooks | Tony and Robyn Bowden |
| Cath Stephensen | Les Corson | John and Pam Christensen |
| Mark Toomey | Gwendolwyn Brown | Carey Family |
| Anne Schmitt | Carly Pearson | Griff Stewart |
| Michael Vernon | Jo McKenzie | Chris Chapman |
| Glenn Barry | Anthea Dacy | Jennie Brown |
| Brett Smith | Ken Savage | Liz Glab |
| Coralie Snell | Ray Fallu | Stephan Ward |
| Neil Prentice | Tony Askwith | Ian Batton |
| Warren Smeal | Mary-Ann Ahern | Karen Egan |
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| Stephen Gough | Liam Ahern | Lorraine Bull |
| Judith Schrever | Dare Ahern | Wendy Davies |
| Wendy Steendam | Deborah Harris | Geoff Hayes |
| Leigh Candy | Melinda Martin | Cait McMahon |
| Andrea Reupert | Rob James | Peter Ghys |
| Matthew Ryland | Anna Langley | Kevin Hill |
| John Tebbutt | Kylee Hudson | Kathy Hill |
| Paul Ahern | Neroli Raff | Richard Kentwell |
| Rebecca Holloway | Leslie Adams | Shane Ellis |
| John Godfrey | Erika McInerney | Priscilla Alderton |
| Sarah M Crinall | Philip Batty | George Baker |
| Malcolm McKelvie | Daryl Standfield | Sarah Bone |
| Helen Matthews | Helen Sheppard | Sally Willshire |
| Julianne Spithill | Lisa Upson | Ian Rees |
| Julie Gillespie | Shannon Bassed | Bill Legge |
| Ross Larson | Aileen Vening | Margaret Healy |
| Babette Casey | Paul Kirkpatrick | Noel Maud |
| Jane Sultana | Melijah Maghanoy | Kate Spiller |
| Peter Flahavin | Alicia Miran-Khan | Amanda Jackson |
| Heather Buntine | Leni Foster | Peta Condon |
| Hannah Farthing | Margaret Walker | Don Gillies |
| Beryl Turner | Lynne Healy | Gero Gardener |
| Don Foster | Gary Kane | Keith Lovell |
| Petra Hohmann | Stephen Gough | Lindsay Linnell |
| Margaret Young | Bronwyn Chapman | Alisha Hill |
| Alice Grant | Kiran Hayes | Brendan Condon |



As a true Independent, Deb doesn't answer to a political party, she represents our community. That means her policies come directly from us! **You can subscribe to her newsletter, sign up to help volunteer or donate at debleonard.com.au.**

Authorised by Deb Leonard, 40B&C Bair St, Leongatha 3953

Deb **Vote 1**
Leonard
INDEPENDENT

Meet Your Candidates

These are the nine candidates for the House of Representatives for the Division of Monash. They have been listed here in the order they will appear

on the ballot paper according to the AEC Ballot Draw.

The Traf District News reached out to most of the candidates to get their own words on who they are, their policies and priorities,

and why you should vote for them. Not all candidates responded or could be contacted and we have therefore filled in the gaps. More information can be found for the candidates on their respective websites or in our cover-

age (Pages 1, 15, 16 and 17). We have also interviewed some candidates in our previous issues in the lead-up to the election.

Russell Broadbent is the current MP and has represented this area since 2004.

Kuljeet Kaur Robinson

Pauline Hanson's One Nation

A Vote for Common Sense, Your Voice in Canberra



“My name is Kuljeet Kaur Robinson, your local candidate from One Nation. I am a registered psychiatric nurse, a mother of three young children, a poet, and a devoted wife.

I am deeply committed to promoting both physical and mental health.

Recently I moved to Warragul to be closer to my family, after having lived in the City of Casey for years. Throughout the years I have frequently visited the area for family visits and holidays.

“I believe in being practical and working hard. Growing up on a farm in Punjab, I witnessed firsthand the struggles of farmers and everyday people who had no support from the government. I see a similar pattern emerging in Australia today. This concerns me, as it often leads to mental health issues and tragically high suicide rates among farmers. It is this issue, among others, that motivated me to join One Nation. Their policies resonate with my values of national sovereignty, Australian identity, and economic independence.

“As a candidate for Monash, I am dedicated to tackling the rising cost of living, supporting local jobs, and advocating for the growth of tourism businesses. I am also focused on improving access to better physical health, mental health, and education services. I am passionate about implementing targeted mental health programs to help reduce male suicide rates.

Additionally, I will push for a new hospital in West Gippsland to better serve our community's needs.

“I also stand against the ‘Great Forest National Park’ proposal and will fight to protect local farmers and landowners. I wholeheartedly support One Nation’s initiatives, such as reducing electricity bills by 20%, providing fuel price relief, increasing tax-free thresholds for retirees, and enhancing Medicare rebates to improve access to healthcare.”

Number One Issue: Cost of living

Tully Fletcher

Australian Labor Party

Getting things done for Monash



Tully is a proud third generation Gippslander and lives in Kilcunda with his partner Dani and their kids, 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.

He has experience fighting for Australians, and led unions to create Australia’s first ever wage-theft laws to make sure all workers are paid right and paid on time.

The ALP has announced they will help with the cost of living, strengthen medicare, build over one million homes, create education opportunities and protect the climate.

As part of the federal Labor team, Tully is already working to support family budgets, protect jobs and wages, and ensure everyone in Gippsland can afford and access housing, health, education and care. He has announced commitments to build a bulk billed Medicare urgent care clinic in Warragul, progress the West Gippsland Hospital, and fund road improvements in the Shire.


“Broadbent and the Liberals have taken us for granted for too long and they don’t deserve another go,” he said, saying that with him and Labor, Monash will get a “better deal.”

“I’m a real Gippslander. I’m a team player. I work hard. And I get things done,” he said.

Russell Broadbent

Independent

Russell Broadbent, Your True Independent



“It doesn’t seem to matter whether it’s Labor or Liberal—more and more people are feeling let down and fed up with the major parties.

“That’s why, this election, I’m keeping my focus squarely on the issues that matter most to locals here in Monash.

“I’ve spent years working alongside passionate community members pushing for action on the building of the desperately needed new Warragul Hospital.

“As I’ve done for the past 20 years, I’ll keep standing up for those who feel ignored or fed up—and I’ll continue to hold governments to account when they’re spending your hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

“If re-elected as your independent member for Monash, I’ll keep backing practical, people-focused policies that; tackle the cost of living and housing crises with genuine solutions; prioritise families and food and fuel security; cut red, green and brown tape that holds back our farmers and small businesses; improve health and wellbeing; and to protect our freedoms.

“And just so you know - I’m the only candidate in this election running a self-funded grassroots campaign. No donations. No strings attached. That means I can’t be bought, and neither can our community.

“As an experienced independent, I’m free to fight for what matters - and I’ll always put the people of Monash first.”

Number One Issue: Kickstart the planning and design phase of the new West Gippsland Hospital

Mary Aldred

Liberal Party of Australia

A New Voice for Monash



When Traf News interviewed Mary Aldred in March, she told us that she believes in a “strong Coalition government.”

Mary has extensive experience with small business and was the founding CEO of the Committee for Gippsland, the region’s leading industry voice to the government. She oversaw this growing from a start-up to having over 100 local employers as members. She said these experiences represent her “heartfelt, genuine, long-term commitment” to the area.

“The Coalition has said that getting the economy back on track is our number one priority for Australia,” she said.

The top priorities of the Liberal Campaign for the election are: 1) Low inflation, 2) Cheaper energy, 3) Affordable homes, 4) Safer communities, 5) Quality healthcare.

For Monash specifically, she has released plans to: improve mobile coverage to improve safety, business connectivity and education; fund youth services; and upgrade infrastructure.

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

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

Deb Leonard

Independent

More for Monash



“I’m running as an independent because our community deserves better.

“As a business owner, local lawyer and working mum, I’ve seen firsthand how our regional and rural electorate has been ignored by the major parties.

“As an independent I am solely focused on getting better outcomes for our community. Good local jobs, new industries, better education options, and critical services like mental health support and more funding for recreational facilities to build strong communities.

“When you hear about party politicians talking about getting us “back on track” – stop to think who sent us off the track in the first place. The cost of living crisis and housing crisis have been brewing for years. We’ve been ignored in relation to federal funding for decades.

“We can’t keep voting the same and expect things to change.

“I’m not aligned with any party or bound to toe a party line - I’ll always put the interests of our community first. I’ll consider each piece of legislation on its merits and vote according to how it aligns with community needs and values.

“It’s likely that this election will result in a hung parliament, and despite fear-mongering by the major parties, this will put an independent on the crossbench in a powerful position to get real results for our community.

“As your MP I’ll continue to have regular communication with the community, and seek your input on decisions. I won’t be a politician that you don’t see again until 2 months before the next election. I’ll host regular town hall meetings and pop-up offices throughout the electorate to ensure I’m listening to community needs and can address issues as they come up.

“By voting for me, you are voting to have a say in the future of our community.”

Geoffrey Dethlefs

Family First
Party of
Australia

Worth fighting for



Geoff Dethlefs is a retired School Teacher and Principal, who recently pastored a small West Gippsland Church. He has two daughters. He has lived in Monash for the last nineteen years.

He views action against climate change as a “woke dream” and sees the “warming of the planet as a cyclic matter [that] will cool again.”

Family First says that their vision is “to create a flourishing nation through strong families and communities underpinning a civil society.”

According to their platform, they want to promote values such as family life, faith, freedom, enterprise and subsidiarity.

They believe the Liberal Party is weak and that the Labor or Greens Party in government would be “disastrous.”

They oppose the Sex Discrimination Act (which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, intersex status, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy, breastfeeding, and family responsibilities) because it allows people to identify as a gender different from their sex assigned at birth (i.e. being transgender).

Their top priorities are: to defend religious schools and freedoms, stop abortions and promote pro-life rhetoric, shut down gender clinics and stop transgender people from transitioning, and to stop drag queens from reading to children at libraries.

David O’Reilly

Legalise
Cannabis Party



David was born in Seymour, Victoria, to Army parents. He completed high school in Moorabbin and enlisted in the Australian Army at the age of 17 in 1979. David took a short break during the 1980s before re-enlisting in 1990. He served until his discharge in 2011.

He is married and has three adult daughters.

According to the Legalise Cannabis Party, they advocate to protect and uphold: civil liberties, privacy, human rights, personal freedoms, anti-discrimination, and compassion.

In line with their party name, they are for the legalisation and regulation of cannabis. They say cannabis should be treated in a similar way to alcohol and tobacco (minus the tax). They want reforms so that people can legally grow cannabis on their property and a removal of all criminal records related to cannabis use.

Terence Steele

Australian
Greens

If you want change, vote
for it.



Terence is a semi-retired teacher from Kardella South who is ready to inspire change within our local community. He is married to his wife Linda and has family ties to the engineering and railway industries of South Gippsland.

He is an avid gardener and through this became aware that “the beautiful region that we call home is under threat from climate inaction by our major political parties.”

“In a wealthy country like ours, we should have world-class public health, education, and affordable housing. I joined the movement for a fairer future so my children and grandchildren can live in a better world,” he said.

He told The Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser that “The Greens will be doing everything we can to keep Dutton and his dangerous agenda out of government.”

According to the Greens, they have demonstrated they can work with the crossbench, and the independents, and Steele himself told ABC Gippsland that the “Greens and Labor have to work closely together and co-operate.”

The Greens plan includes: Expanding medicare so that dental and mental health is included and so everyone can see the GP for free; fighting for renters and first home buyers by building more affordable homes and preventing unlimited rent increases; protecting the environment and bring down energy bills by subsidising solar; and tackling the cost of living by stopping supermarket price gouging and wiping student debt.

Alex Wehbe

Trumpet of
Patriots

Commonsense policies
for Australia



Alex Wehbe is a business owner and accountant. He is a husband and father of three children.

He says that he “understands the challenges facing families in Monash and is determined to advocate for their needs.”

“The current government has built the second largest super fund in the world – nearly \$5 trillion – yet allows these funds to be invested in Europe, Asia or the United states,” Webhe says.

“But Australia has a pressing need for capital funds to develop our own country – funds traditionally been sourced from foreign investment.

“Our Trumpet of Patriots party says these significant superannuation funds should be deployed in Australia to provide venture capital, infrastructure and industrial investments.

“Our party would mandate superannuation capital to be redirected and invested locally, to help to make Australia great again.” he says.

The Trumpet of Patriots is a party led by Clive Palmer. Their top priorities are democracy, individual freedoms, free speech, reducing government intrusion in our lives, breaking the duopoly, real choice and real liberty. Their policies include cutting government spending and reducing the number of immigrants Australia accepts and removing “far-left, woke ideology” from schools.

“Every vote for Labor, the Liberals, Greens or Teals is another nail in Australia’s coffin,” their website says.



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Matt Runnalls (Mindfull Aus) MC with keynote speakers – Andy Finestone OAM. and Will Paul.

The event aims to:

- Offer a space for the community to engage with expert speakers and passionate advocates, well versed in mind and behavioural health,
- Provide practical tools to improve mental health, relationships, and emotional resilience,
- Create a sense of unity and empowerment among local residents.

This event is for Adults, 18+ only.



Matt Runnalls



Andy Finestone



Will Paul

This FREE event is limited to only 200 people, so please register to secure your seat.

MC: Matt Runnalls
WHEN: Friday 30 May
TIME: 6.00 – 7.30PM (Doors open at 5.30pm)
WHERE: Fountain Room, West Gippsland Arts Centre
REGISTRATION: Scan QR code to register



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Jason will talk about his journey with mental health and addiction, and how taking small steps helped him rebuild his life. He will share tips on how to face difficult times and stay strong, offering hope and advice for anyone facing similar challenges.

Kerry, who supported Jason through his journey, will talk about the impact of caring for a loved one going through tough times. She will explain what she learned about looking after herself while helping someone else and share helpful advice for others in a similar situation.

Jason and Kerry Rantall are the founders of Bettermentall Australia Inc and are passionate advocates for mental health and wellness.

What to expect

Sessions are for anyone looking to enhance their mental health or for those who are supporting a family member, friend or colleague on their journey. You'll leave with practical steps and ideas for improving your well-being and dealing with life's challenges.



Kerry & Jason Rantall

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Yarragon Bowls Club

Let's Have a Chat: FREE Session 2

6.00pm, Wednesday 18 June 2025

Warragul Goods Shed
(doors open 5.30pm)

To find out more or register online go to www.bawbawshire.co/LetsHaveAChat or scan the QR code.



Deb Leonard aims to make history as she launches her campaign in Warragul

By Jordan Ross

Independent candidate for Monash, Deb Leonard, kicked off the final sprint to election day with a high-energy campaign launch event in Warragul on April 6.

Leonard stated her intentions clearly, to “make history for Monash” and become the first independent candidate elected in the division.

Leonard has centred her independence at the heart of her campaign. And while others have questioned this quality, she has not wavered.

She says that due to the major parties, “[Monash has] been left behind.”

“As your independent voice for Monash, I don’t answer to parties, I answer to you,” she said.

Over the past few months, Leonard has announced policies to tackle the cost-of-living by stopping supermarket price gouging and subsidising solar power, and to ensure political integrity within our system.

She has addressed local infrastructure problems in

her policies as well. Among her top priorities, the construction of the new West Gippsland Hospital and upgrades to the Longwarry Football Netball Club.

“We can’t keep voting the same way and expect a different result. This election, our community is standing up and demanding better,” said Leonard.

Leonard said she has visions of a “happy, healthy, connected community” in Monash, and asked her supporters “can you help me make this vision a reality?” Leonard’s words were met with applause on several occasions, but it was at this moment the crowd was at their loudest.

Leonard was joined by guest speaker and political scientist Ann Capling, who said that “Monash is on the knife edge,” as locals consider the major parties and independent candidates such as Leonard and Russell Broadbent.

The event, held at Oak’s at Logan Park, saw around 150 volunteers and supporters



Deb Leonard and her crowd of supporters. Photographed by Kate Leonard.

gather for a day of celebration and action.

“The bigger the crowd, the louder our message rings out,” said Capling.

Capling called Leonard an “unlikely candidate” and said that “everything she had done in her life, has been for others.”

Leonard’s appointment of Ann Capling to her team sends a powerful message. Capling managed Monique Ryan’s campaign which saw her elected in Kooyong in 2022, breaking 77 years of Liberal dominance in the inner-east Melbourne division.

After the official program had concluded, approximately 50 volunteers hit the street, door knocking at over 700 residences.

Leonard said the campaign launch marked the beginning of an intensive final push to connect with as

many voters as possible before election day.

“We’re taking nothing for granted,” she said. “Our volunteers will be out in force every day, listening to the community and sharing our positive vision for Monash.”



Deb Leonard answered questions in a Q&A session. Photographed by Jordan Ross.



Deb Leonard (right) and guest speaker Ann Capling (left). Photographed by Jordan Ross.



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Coalition plans to deliver \$850,000 for Gippsland Youth Spaces

By Jordan Ross

An elected Coalition Government says they will commit \$850,000 for Gippsland Youth Spaces across Yarragon, Trafalgar, Moe, Newborough and Morwell. This would be part of a revitalised Safer Communities Fund (SCF).

Mary Aldred, Liberal Candidate for Monash, said this funding would help ensure people across the Gippsland community feel safe as they go about their daily lives.

“This funding commitment aims to support preventive measures to reduce youth crime. The programs provided by Gippsland Youth Spaces helps shape better citizens through community-based social cohesion programs,” she said.

Aldred said that she had been working with the members at Warragul Community House to ensure that she could “secure support for the amazing work that they do locally.”

Liberal Senator, Kerryne Liddle - who joined Aldred in this announcement - said that this is \$850,000 for the “young people and the community in this electorate.”

“This is all about connecting people [to their community], and improving lives,” Senator Liddle said.

“This funding is a direct response to the concerns raised by our community. I’ve heard firsthand from local residents that safety is a priority, and we’re responding with practical measures to help make public spaces safer for everyone,” Aldred said.

The Liberal Party says that supporting youth services will help them tackle youth crime.

Shadow Minister for Home Affairs and Cyber Security, Senator James Paterson, said under a Dutton Coalition Government, the Monash community will be better supported to tackle crime.

“Getting Australia Back on Track means keeping Australia safe – safe for families, safe for businesses, and safe for communities,” Senator Paterson said.

The revitalised SCF will build on the programme established by the previous Coalition Government, delivering grant funding to councils, schools, and local organisations to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, enhance security around community spaces, and promote social cohesion.

Aldred says this commitment is part of the Coalition’s plan to strengthen local communities and get Australia back on track.



Mary Aldred with members of the Warragul Community House.

Labor commit three million for road planning

By Jordan Ross

Monash Labor Candidate, Tully Fletcher, says his party will commit three million to plan works to upgrade and improve road networks in Drouin and Warragul if re-elected in the May federal election.

This planning work will identify opportunities for future investments to improve travel times and road safety that will service this growing urban area.

“Planning a major new arterial road network for Warragul and Drouin will help us manage growth, ease congestion, and improve safety for all road users and pedestrians,” said Fletcher.

“Some serious planning

mistakes have been made here in Warragul and Drouin. Our job is not to dwell on those though; our job is to make sure that we can look forward and fix them,” he said.

He was joined by the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King, who welcomed the announcement.

“Warragul and Drouin is an incredibly beautiful part of the world, but unfortunately the planning that was done back some time ago did not really account for the growth that you are now seeing here,” said Minister King.

“We’re fixing roads right across the state. We’ve dou-

bled our road maintenance funding to local councils, reinstated road maintenance indexation that was scrapped under the former government, and are investing heavily in our regions and cities,” she said.

Minister King says that after being “short-changed” by the former Coalition Government, Labor can continue to deliver for Victorians.

The funding announcement is part of the Albanese and Allan Labor Government’s joint \$1.2 billion Road Blitz. Further road upgrades will occur on the Calder Freeway, Princes Highway, the Western Port Highway, as well as road networks in Melbourne.

Why is the electorate called Monash?

By Jordan Ross

Since 2018, Trafalgar has been a part of the Division of Monash within federal politics.

Since then, the name has caused some confusion, especially because the Division does not include the well known Monash University in it. However, they are both named after the same person, Sir John Monash, an Australian military commander during World War I. There is also a city council in the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne named in honour of him.

John Monash was born in West Melbourne in 1865 to German-Polish Jewish parents. He excelled at school

and was dux of his college in mathematics and modern languages. After this, he studied arts and engineering at the University of Melbourne. As an engineer, he worked on the Princes Bridge across the Yarra River.

He enlisted in the military and in 1914, he was among the first to land at Gallipoli in World War I. He was the only Australian brigade commander among the original troops not killed or evacuated. By 1918 he was in charge of the entire Australian Corps and was knighted by King George V. Many historians consider him to be the prominent Allied mili-

tary commander of the First World War.

When he died in 1931, his funeral was attended by over 250,000 mourners. His legacy is evident as a man of education and of action.

The division was previously named after Angus McMillan, a Scottish explorer who lived in the 1800s. Many historians believe he played a role in the destruction of traditional Gunaikurnai culture, thus there were calls to change the name from local communities.

At the time, Member for Parliament, Russell Broadbent said “Sir John Monash had a proud history in Gippsland; there is good, solid reason to confirm the name.”

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Deb Leonard: Liberals' free TAFE cuts will hurt Monash

Independent for Monash Deb Leonard has warned that the Liberal Party's plan to scrap free TAFE places, if elected, would be devastating for the community and jeopardise Monash's future — especially for residents already struggling with the rising cost of living.

"Cutting free TAFE is incredibly short-sighted. It's an investment in our people and our future that is already delivering results," Ms Leonard said.

"Here in Monash, free TAFE has opened up opportunities for people to gain new skills, get better jobs, and increase their incomes. It's helping address skills shortages that are hurting local businesses."

"Our TAFE campuses in Warragul and Leongatha are vital community assets. Cutting their funding would be another example of the major parties taking our region for granted," she said.

While Deb Leonard supports the free TAFE program, she says that it needs to be better utilised in some regional areas. She referenced the Wonthaggi Chisholm TAFE facility which is only offering a limited range of courses.



"Free TAFE is a good idea, but if we can't access courses it's essentially useless," she said.

She says that if elected, she will fight for dedicated federal funding to support regional education hubs in Monash and to improve public transport connections between local communities and education providers.

Leonard says that education should be accessible and affordable, and is also in favour of reforming the HECS system to reduce student debt and encourage further education.

Leonard said the positions of both major parties showed they were out of touch with the challenges facing everyday Australians.

"While Mary Aldred will make you pay for TAFE, I'll fight to make TAFE accessible and help people get ahead and build a better life, address workforce shortages and build thriving regional economies," she said.

"As an Independent, I'll fight to protect free TAFE and make sure Monash gets our fair share of funding for a wider range of TAFE courses across our region."

An interview with Tully Fletcher, Labor candidate for Monash

By Jordan Ross

Tully Fletcher, the Labor Candidate for Monash, is promising real results to improve the lives of West Gippslanders.

Fletcher is a third generation Gippslander and lives in Kilcunda with his partner Dani and their kids, Daph and Ted, just down the road from where he grew up.

He is very proud of his Gippsland identity and believes his experiences growing up here are the "important experience[s]" that will help represent Monash.

"Because I'm actually from Gippsland, I don't need a slick, million-dollar marketing campaign to tell me what needs to get done in Monash," he said.

"I've been waiting 20 years for solutions to problems we're all sick of talking about because Broadbent and the

Liberals haven't fixed them," he said, adding that Monash has been "taken for granted."

During his campaign, he has announced a re-elected Labor Government will fund road planning in Warragul and Drouin, an Urgent Care Clinic in Warragul, as well as several projects in South Gippsland. He says that these commitments "[prove] that Broadbent and the Liberals haven't done the work for Monash," in comparison to him.

"I'm a real Gippslander. I'm a team player. I work hard. And I get things done. That's the opposite of what we've had from the Liberals in Monash for the last 20 years," he said.

As a lawyer who was involved in the development of Australia's first wage theft laws, he has a history of fighting for Australians. Fletcher

said that he was "proud" of the work he did with unions and business groups to achieve this win for middle and low income Australians.

With wage theft laws in place nation-wide, he says "employers have been auditing their payrolls to ensure compliance and hundreds of millions of dollars have been back-paid to Australian workers."

Fletcher is against the Liberal proposals for Nuclear Power. He called it "an insult to all Australians," and said that the opposition "don't know how to deliver or pay for it."

"Our mining and energy workers deserve serious proposals for real jobs in real industries as part of a fair transition," he said, referencing talks of Loy Yang Power Station as a site for a Nuclear Reactor.

On the West Gippsland Hospital, he said that "[it] will be built but – like everyone in Monash – I'd like to see it built faster."

He promises to secure co-investment from the federal government to add to the funding from the state government to "fast-track" the hospital. He referenced the upgrades to the Wonthaggi Hospital and the construction of a new hospital in Phillip Island, both funded by Labor as proof that "only Labor builds public hospitals" while the "The Liberals only close them... or privatise them."

Fletcher said that voters have the choice to elect "an Albanese Labor Government that will protect jobs and wages, lower taxes, and deliver real energy and manufacturing jobs in Gippsland."

"It's an easy decision," he said.



Tully Fletcher with his volunteers and supporters.



Tully Fletcher in Warragul.

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“A famous Australian that nobody knows”

By Glenda Mynard of the Trafalgar & District Probus Club

This is how our guest speaker, Harry Ballis, introduced his topic when he spoke at Trafalgar & District Probus Club last month. His subject was Joice Nankivell / Loch. We were entertained as Harry took us on his journey of investigation and research over many years, into the life of Joice.

Joice was born in Queensland in 1877 to a farming family. They successfully farmed at Mirboo, Tyres and Drouin. Joice was home-schooled but her governess encouraged Joice to write. When she showed promise she began to write to newspapers and her work was regularly published in the Melbourne Herald. This was the start of her successful journalist career.

It was writing that led to meeting a fellow journalist Sydney Loch. They were married in 1919 in Carlton. Their marriage was a happy partnership as they travelled the world and made a living from their writing. They were also humanitarian workers who worked with refugees in Poland, Greece and Romania after the World Wars. They also advocated for refugees in their writing. When they settled in a small village in Greece, Joice wanted to help the villagers so she purchased looms so that the women could work as rug weavers. The women used their skills to make Pyrgos rugs and this provided an income for their village. The rug industry saved this small town from starvation and this unique Greek design became well known worldwide.

Joice was one of Australia's first female journalists. When she died in 1982 she had received medals for her work from six countries and also had been made a member of the Order of the British Empire.

Harry finished his talk by adding a personal detail. He was born in Greece in the village where Joice lived. He came to Australia when he was seven but regularly visits the family home in the village, so he has a special connection to the history of this great Australian.

We had 74 members attend this meeting and our new President, Tina Hambleton, was presented with the chain of office. We look forward to more informative speakers and events this year and welcome any interested seniors from the area to come and join us.



Harry Ballis speaks about Joice Nankivell



Club President Tina Hambleton

Farewell to friends

The following list is of people whose death was recorded by Trafalgar & District Historical Society's Gazette during 2024. Due to the timing of the publication of the society's official publication, some of those recorded may have died in late 2023, and some in late 2024 may have been after the last Gazette publication.

- Alan Griffith Formerly of Trafalgar
- Anne Marie Robins Late of Yarragon
- Assunta Cavallin Formerly of Yarragon
- Betty Lois Lucas (Rawlings) Late of Trafalgar
- Bernard 'Barney' John Asmussen Late of Trafalgar
- Craig Andrew Marslen Formerly of Willow Grove
- Delsa Lorraine Bury (Oliver) Late of Trafalgar
- Des Morris Late of Andrews House
- Dorothy Lillian 'Nance' Ward (Gleadhill) Formerly of Trafalgar
- Elizabeth 'Anne' Reid Late of Andrews House
- Evelyn "June" Wiseman (Warren) Late of Andrews House
- Francis 'Frank' Gridley Late of Trafalgar
- Francis 'Frank' McGrath Formerly of Trafalgar

- Frank Turra Late of Trafalgar
- Geoffrey Austin 'Nobby' Clarke Late of Trafalgar
- George Gooden Late of Yarragon
- Giuseppi (Jim) Parise Late of Trafalgar
- Glenn 'Bear' Butterworth Late of Yarragon
- Graeme Edward Brown Late of Trafalgar
- Graham Bruce Davey Late of Trafalgar
- Hayden Roger 'Slim' Somerville Formerly of Trafalgar
- Heather Semmens (Martin) Formerly of Trafalgar
- Herbert William 'Herb' Hotchkin Late of Childers
- Ian Donald Wilson Late of Trafalgar
- Ines Angelina Turra (Arboit) Late of Andrews House
- Janet May Rowlings (Murphy) Late of Andrews House
- Joan Florence O'Meara (Wharton) Late of Narracan
- Jean Margaret Kennedy (McCallum) Formerly of Trafalgar
- Joanne 'Jo' Stewart (Sandall) Late of Trafalgar
- Judith Lynette Shelbourne (Nation) Formerly of Trafalgar
- Kathleen Asmussen Late of Trafalgar

- Kenneth 'Ken' Wayne Peterson Late of Trafalgar
- Kevin Riley Formerly of Willow Grove
- Lachlan Ray Ward Late of Trafalgar
- Laurence 'George' Tagliabue Late of Andrews House
- Lorna 'June' Robinson (Hyde) Late of Andrews House
- Margaret Mary Milne (Scott) Late of Andrews House
- Mavis Dawn Jean (Turley) Late of Trafalgar
- Neil Joiner Late of Trafalgar
- Nelida Teresa Dodorico (Toffoli) Late of Trafalgar
- Noel Alexander Asmussen Late of Trafalgar
- Otto Christian Nielsen Late of Trafalgar
- Patricia Margaret Atkin (Standing) Late of Trafalgar
- Patricia Margaret Hooper (McCubbery) Late of Andrews House
- Penelope 'Pene' Bell (Laird) Late of Trafalgar
- Peter De Lazzer Formerly of Trafalgar
- Stanley Hillman Formerly of Hill End
- Tania Claridge (Byrne) Late of Trafalgar
- Victor Herbert 'Vic' Jean Late of Trafalgar
- William 'Bill' Burgess Formerly of Trafalgar

Enjoy weekly children's events at Myli

At Myli - My Community Library - we believe in fostering a love for reading and learning from an early age. That's why we offer a variety of free engaging events for children and families, including our popular weekly Storytime and Baby Rhyme Time sessions across the Baw Baw Shire.

Our Storytime sessions are designed for children aged 3-5, but younger and older siblings are always welcome. These fun-filled sessions feature storytelling, singing, and interactive activities that encourage language develop-

ment and social interaction. Join us for Storytime at the Drouin Library on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10.30am or visit the Warragul Library on Fridays at 10am.

For our youngest library visitors, Baby Rhyme Time offers a special bonding experience through songs, rhymes, and gentle storytelling. These sessions are ideal for babies aged 0- 2, but preschoolers and siblings are welcome to join in. Baby Rhyme Time sessions are hosted at the Drouin Library on Wednesdays at 2.30pm or at the Warragul Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10.30am.

All sessions are free and open to the community. To access our full range of resources, sign up as a Myli member for free! With a Myli Membership, you will gain free access to everything from traditional books to eBooks, eAudiobooks, online resources, our Library of Things and more!

To sign up as a Myli member, visit myli.au/join. For further information regarding Myli Libraries, please head to our website: myli.org.au or contact our Support Team on 1800 446 954 during opening hours Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm.



Harriet Shing MP

MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA

Your voice in the Eastern Victoria Region

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Authorised by H Shing, 216 Commercial Rd, Morwell.



Remembering Lucy Bouchier

February 17, 1932 - February 5, 2025

By Lynette Alexander

Lucy Margaret Bouchier, nee Robinson, was born in Trafalgar and passed away in Trafalgar.

Lucy was born in St. Margaret's hospital in Ashby Street Trafalgar to dairy farmers Charles and Mollie (Elizabeth) Robinson of Fumina South.

Lucy was their second daughter. Elsie (now deceased) was the eldest and Heather the youngest and all three attended Fumina South School.

Their mother Mollie Anderson was a school teacher at Fumina South before marrying Charles. She was a prolific writer and wrote many stories, poems and letters to the editor of newspapers and magazines. At that time, female writers were rarely published so she wrote under the 'nom de plume' of 'Peter Hayseed.'

Mollie died young at forty-four years of age, and the

girls were sent off to attend Penleigh Ladies College in Melbourne before Lucy returned home to help her dad. Her love of farming led to her becoming one of the first female herd testers in the state.

Charles eventually remarried and his new wife Hazel moved onto the farm, which freed Lucy up to travel and see the world. Eventually Lucy ended up in the Northern Territory, where she worked with aboriginal children at the Hermannsburg Mission, where she met Charles Dickinson, a bricklayer from England. They had their oldest three children—Kathleen, Joanne and Lynette, in Alice Springs before moving back to Victoria, where they completed their family with Graham and Jeanette, who were born at the Yallourn Hospital. Charles worked at the Hazelwood Power Station and Lucy was busy raising her family. The children attended Hernes

Oak Primary School and Lucy would help out by writing plays for the school and helping teachers and students with their production.

Charles passed away in 1972, and when the state government seconded their land for the open cut, Lucy moved her family to Warragul. While looking after her five children as a single mother, she enrolled at Drouin High School and completed her VCE. She then went on to university and became a primary teacher. She was one of the first mature-aged graduates in Victoria.

Lucy later owned a bookstore in Warragul as, like her mum, she was an avid reader and had a passion for books.

In the late 1970s Lucy reconnected with Frank Bouchier from Hill End, who she had known from her childhood, and love blossomed and in 2004 they married. Frank and Lucy loved to travel, exploring remote re-

gions all over Australia; they were often away for months at a time. In 2006 they embarked on a massive trip across Europe and Africa.

Lucy and Frank lived in Darnum until Frank's death in 2016, with Lucy eventually downsizing and moving to Trafalgar. In Trafalgar, Lucy joined the Probus Club.

Lucy's health began to deteriorate towards the end of 2024, she quietly passed away on February 5th 2025, leaving behind a family of five children, fourteen grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Lucy is buried beside her beloved Frank at the Willow Grove cemetery.

Here is a verse from a poem Lucy wrote.

When I Have Gone by Lucy Bouchier

"When I have gone, if you would think of me,

Think of me on the day on which I came—

Not on the day I left; for opening doors

Bring brighter thoughts by far, than closing ones."



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Tanjil Valley Landcare Festival a massive success

By Judy Bishop

A supportive crowd of over 500 participants enjoyed the great outdoors with plenty of free activities, informative stalls, food and live music beside the beautiful Blue Rock Lake. The event was opened by Baw Baw Shire Councillor Kate Wilson.

The focus was to bring greater awareness of our natural environment, actively involve children in nature and to encourage safe, sustainable living practices within our community. All this was

certainly achieved in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

The popular cubby-building with sticks, bark and brush was a great way for the Kids In Nature Network (KINN) to launch the state-wide Nature Play Week, alongside nature art, storytelling and an informative slide presentation in the rolling presentations tent. Similarly, careful handling and learning about our native wildlife was popular and exciting with visitors able to interact with a range of native animals including unique

insects, arachnids, reptiles and marsupials. An incredible display of our fantastic wildlife made possible by Bug Blitz, Mumsupials and Sons, and Aussie Wildlife Displays. Habitat Creations provided some indigenous plants which were used to revegetate a section of the festival site as well as being prizes for the treasure hunt.

Community environmental groups shared their local knowledge, helping to inspire future participants to explore our forests

and reserves and care for our environment.

Strong interest was shown in the electric vehicles presented by Toyota and in the activities linked to sustainable living as demonstrated by Gippsland Climate Change Council. Peppermint Ridge Farm's presentation and stall highlighting 'bush tucker' plants was a winner, as was the stall of Radical Soil Care and its range of products to improve soil biology and productivity.

We'd like to thank all the attendees, sponsors, and volunteers.



Live music by local group Saxsation, performing by the beautiful lakeside setting.



Fisheries Victoria assisting children to release trout hatchlings into Blue Rock Lake.



Caroline Hammond enjoying a hug from Tabitha.

Trafalgar Lions swap meet returns

The Lions Club of Trafalgar held a very successful Swap Meet at the Trafalgar Football Oval on Sunday March 23. The annual event returned after a three year hiatus due to varying factors.

A beautiful autumn day greeted the large crowd of buyers and sellers. There were over 140 exhibitors at the event, with many arriving on Saturday to set up their stalls. Gates opened at 6am on Sunday and a steady crowd passed throughout the day. It was pleasing to see the event so well patronized by the Trafalgar community, with well over 1,000 people attending.

While many sought out the bargains that were on offer, we also received many positive comments from buyers simply wanting to support the recycling opportunities that the event provided.

Such a large event involves a lot of organizing. Many thanks to Lion Ian Bosma and his project team. Planning started back in March 2024 and the smooth running of the event over

the weekend reflected their prior experience, organizational skills and time spent preparing. Over 20 Trafalgar Lions volunteered their time on the day.

Trafalgar Lions Club President Trevor Byrne stated that the Swap Meet was one of the Lions major fundraising activities for the year and was pleased that the event was a success.

He noted that the event was supported by volunteers from the Trafalgar Cricket Club who assisted with parking, Trafalgar Scouts for the hot food stall and the Yarragon Lions who provided help with the popular BBQ. He also thanked the Trafalgar Football and Cricket Clubs for the use of the oval and facilities and acknowledged their help in planning for this major event.

Planning will commence soon for next year's event. If you're interested in helping the Lions with the Swap Meet, or with one of the other events we run, email the Lions at: trafalgarlions@gmail.com or on Facebook.



Is someone 'slowing down'?

By Jared Waddell-Smith of Trafalgar Veterinary Clinic

It's that time of the year again, where the days get shorter, the weather starts to cool off, and many of us will notice some changes in our pets' mobility. They might be slower to get off their bed, spend more time sleeping, walk more stiffly or they may even be more irritable.

For most this will be a sign of arthritis, a condition affecting a range of species from humans through to cats, dogs, horses, rabbits and birds. It is a degenerative condition which gets worse over time and whilst it is generally a condition of ageing, even young animals can be affected.

There are progressive stages of the disease which occur - worn cartilage, inflammation and pain, thickening around joints with reduced range of movement, and loss of muscle strength. Underlying conditions can increase the cartilage wear and inflammation, speeding up the progression of arthritis. These include previous joint injuries or

surgery, abnormal conformation which alters the force transferring through joints, and conditions such as hip or elbow dysplasia and medial patella luxation (dislocating kneecaps).

The goal of arthritis management is to slow down the disease progression and to treat the pain it causes. The acronym WET can help us to remember the order of management strategies.

W is for Weight. This is the single most important (and the cheapest) way that arthritis can be managed. Obesity both increases the progression of arthritis and the pain that it causes, so a weight loss plan to get our pets back into an ideal body condition can have the most dramatic effect on their mobility.

E is for exercise. Regular controlled exercise supports strong cartilage, improves joint mobility and better maintains muscle mass, which helps keep the animal comfortable and mobile for longer. It is important to note that excessive exercise will inflame joints and increase

pain, so response to exercise should always be monitored. Unfortunately some pets will need limits placed on certain higher intensity activities such as running, fetch or swimming sessions.

T is for treatment, which covers a range of different therapies

- Nutraceuticals and supplements can be given to provide increased nutrition to joints and to reduce inflammation, including fish oil, green-lipped mussel extract, and various plant extracts such as Boswellia and Biota orientalis. Supplements are not highly regulated, so there are plenty of options on the market which are little more than a tasty treat. It is therefore best to try to choose a supplement or product with evidence of efficacy.

- Biomechanical treatments (physical therapies) include range of motion exercises, massage, muscle strengthening exercises and water-based activities such as underwater treadmills. Providing warm locations to rest also helps with comfort.

- Prescription treatments will often give the most visible improvement in the signs of pain. There are injections available, initially given weekly then reduced to intermittent 'top up' doses, which improve joint lubrication, reduce inflammation and believed to also stimulate cartilage repair. Anti-inflammatory medications are commonly prescribed for arthritis because they reduce the offending inflammation and there is evidence that they can slow down the joint degeneration. These are available in tablet or liquid form and often given daily if required.

- In more advanced cases, medications which target pain in other ways may need to be added to the management plan to help keep our pets comfortable.

We suggest arranging a consultation with your vet if you suspect your pet may be suffering from arthritis, and they can help you with a management plan tailored to your pet's needs.

Uliveto Cinque Cento – Trafalgar’s boutique olive grove

By Diana Mattea

We are fortunate to have a boutique olive grove - Uliveto Cinque Cento - in Trafalgar. Ruth and Guy Bruten operate this grove as well as a business, The Gallery of Good – in which they sell ceramics and hold art workshops. The grove is located on 19 Sunnysburn Road, Trafalgar. Ruth has kindly shared her journey; these are her words. Last month, we presented the first half of the interview with Ruth; this is the second half.

TDN: Olives are forged in history representing peace, what does the olive represent to you?

“I think for me they represent an opportunity to connect with the community. Harvesting takes place with our family and friends and is such a wonderful way to connect with each other, ending with a shared harvest meal - with ultra fresh olive oil of course!”

TDN: When do trees fruit and how do you recognise a good, healthy crop and increased yields?

“Trees usually flower in late Spring and the fruit is ready for harvest during Autumn. The last two seasons we have had terrible yields; last season we had no olives, in line with a worldwide shortage of olive oil that saw bottle locks placed on bottles in the stores in Spain (like we see on some alcohol bottles). It is widely believed that the changing climate conditions are the factors behind this. The prior year we lost a lot of our crop with a savage windstorm in January just as the fruit was setting. That created havoc on our property with lots of damage taking off the entire crop of fruit.

Unlike other crops, rainfall does not really affect oil yield from the fruit. The fruit may appear smaller with less rain, but it usually means the fruit is mostly oil with little water content. Plumper fruit is often a sign of higher water content in the fruit. If we get between 12- 16% yield of oil to fruit weight content we are happy! It varies year to year.”

“As we are so new to it, we are still working out the factors that can make this change.”

TDN: Where is Australia positioned in the olive oil global market?

“Despite Australia producing around 20 million litres of olive oil, this accounts to less than 1% of the global production. Spain is the highest producer, then Italy, Greece, and Turkey. However, what Australia does so well in this space is the quality produced. With so many small producers like ourselves who are concentrating on super fresh products that are often picked and processed within hours, it is hard to go past our own product.”

TDN: How time consuming is the process to produce oil?

“Our vintage press takes about an hour to take the whole olive, macerate it and spin it in an auger before cold pressing it into the most incredible verdant green Extra Virgin Olive oil. We only produce Extra virgin oil at Uliveto Cinque Cento. We are not in it for quantity - only for quality! We mostly keep our varieties separate to enjoy the unique qualities of each variety.”

TDN: How often are trees replaced; what is their life expectancy?



The olive grove. Photo provided by Ruth Bruten

“Olive trees last for thousands of years! We are not planning on replacing ours anytime soon.”

TDN: Describe the labour-intensive process from harvest to pressing.

“We hand pick our crop with a small crew of our own family and close friends. It is a time of year that everyone looks forward to. We start early - often it is very cold (Autumn mornings here can be very crisp!) and aim to pick a couple hundred kilos in the morning to run through the processor and then maybe another hundred in the afternoon. The picking is more

relaxed than it was when we first bought here as to get oil processed offsite required a 500-kilo minimum weight of olives, whereas our machine can only take 100 kilos at a time. It has taken the pressure off and means that it can even be achieved by one person.”

TDN: How many kilograms of olives to produce one litre virgin olive oil?

“Each 100 kg of fruit we get around 15 litres of oil, sometimes up to 17 if it is an exceptional yield.”

TDN: Describe the fruit’s taste when picked. Can it be eaten unprocessed, raw?



Harvested olives. Photo provided by Ruth Bruten

“Olives are entirely inedible when raw. They are unbearably bitter. The fruit must be brined for months to eat the flesh - whereas the oil can be eaten immediately and has a relatively short shelf life. Unlike wine, which often ages beautifully, olive oil is considered past its best after 18 months, so use your oil liberally! Buy fresh and use it!”

TDN: Some people are creatively inspired by nature; how does your olive grove inspire you?

“I think everything about being here inspires me in everything I do. Living a simple life is what brings me the most fulfilment, a life that is centred around being with people I love in a beautiful place sharing beautiful things; be it music, food, or art. And we love to do all of that here.”

“Apart from our olive grove, we have built a building called the Gallery of Good. It is a creative cathedral intended to be a place where all good things are shared. I am an advocate for living a creative life. For me that means to live a life of curiosity, to maintain an outward looking mind that takes joy in active participation in asking questions (and not necessarily ever finding the answer!).”

“The Gallery of Good is my primary workspace as a practicing ceramic artist, but I also teach regular Pottery classes and workshops here and we hold other events, including live Jazz and other music concerts. Our 3 eldest children

are all professional Jazz musicians and we have a wonderful connection to the Jazz community in Melbourne, many of whom have played at our venue. We were incredibly honoured to be nominated in 2024 (or first year of holding music concerts) as Victoria’s Best Regional music venue in the Music Victoria awards. We look forward to sharing more music in the later part of the year.”

“We also have a wood-working studio onsite where our youngest child operates his own fine woodworking business and Guy also makes Acoustic tonewood Guitars and other beautiful pieces alongside working full time in a different job and managing everything else that he does so well! We live a very big life and feel incredibly grateful to have the opportunities we do.”

“Our family is recovering from an incredibly tough past 3 years where one of our children was dealing with a horrible aggressive rare Leukemia that meant a lot of our life was put on hold while we navigated that.”

“We are now looking forward to being able to get back to working on the plans we have for our beautiful olive grove in this very beautiful part of the world. And we are crossing our fingers that come this Autumn we will have some ULIVETO CINQUE CENTO Cold Pressed Extra Virgin Olive oil available to purchase again!”



Distilling olives. Photo provided by Ruth Bruten



Pressed olive oil in jars. Photo provided by Ruth Bruten



COUNCIL News

BAW BAW SHIRE'S Early Childhood Careers Expo IS COMING THIS MAY.

Early Childhood Careers Expo

WHEN: Tuesday 27 May from
9.30am – 12.00pm

WHERE: West Gippsland Arts Centre
(Foyer & Lyrebird room)

Upcoming Events:

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



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We've been working harder and faster than ever on maintaining our drains, clearing almost 100km during the first quarter of 2025!

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Spotted an issue on our roads? Snap a photo and report it via the Snap Send Solve app or online using our Report a Road form.

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



Baw Baw Connect – Have Your Say, Your Way!

Council currently has one
community engagement
opportunity open for
consultation!

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



Upcoming Council Meetings:

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

Wednesday 14 May – 5.30pm

Wednesday 28 May – 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

Cricket club celebrates season

By Liam Durkin

Trafalgar Cricket Club's final point of call for season 2024/25 saw award winners acknowledged at the club's presentation evening.

Presentation was held in the beer garden of The Irish Bar, Trafalgar, where players, sponsors and supporters gathered to toast the season.

Club president, Daniel Heathcote thanked all for their efforts in fielding three senior and three junior teams weekly, paying especial congratulations to the Third XI on winning the Warragul District Cricket Association premiership.

Premiership scorecards were presented to each member of the team.

Formal presentations were also made, recognising outstanding individual seasons.

The Ships had four league award winners, who topped respective aggregates in their competition.

They were: Aiden George (Division 1 batting), Callum Walton (Division 3 batting), David Bremner (Division 3 bowling) and Shane White (Division 5 bowling).

Walton also won champion player for the WDCA in Division 3.

The Englishman, who had come out to Australia on a holiday, needed an extra suitcase for the plane home, after winning the club's champion player (George Browne Memorial) and second grade batting aggregate and average (568 runs at 47.33).

Bremner however won the Second XI best-and-fairest for his 34 wickets at 11.38.

George, in his first season as First XI captain, led superbly, making 356 runs at 32.36 in Division 1 to win the Alan Rankin Trophy and Richard Errington Medal as best-and-fairest.

Jackson Noonan, who joined the 200 games club this season, made it three bowling aggregates in four seasons, after taking 19 wickets in Division 1.

Young gun Zak Larkin was named rising star, while Brenton Faltum was an obvious choice for player of the finals after going through the finals series without being dismissed. Faltum made 51 in the semi-final and 38 in the decider, and finished the season with an average of 216.

Club games record holder John Asmussen won the Third XI batting aggregate with 308 runs, and new recruit White formed part of the eventual premiership-winning bowling attack with 23 wickets at just 8.46. As leaders in the two disciplines, it was perhaps fitting they shared the best-and-fairest.

Speaking of wickets, there was (incredibly), two hat-tricks this season.

Luke O'Neill proved there is no justice in cricket, taking a hat-trick in his first game for the season, along with Leo Connolly getting one in a midweek twenty20.

Noonan, Bremner and Darren Brown also took 'five-fas', while Walton was the lone century maker and TattsLotto winner.

The most important award however was saved till last, and saw Scott Moorhouse receive the Ray Burgess Perpetual Trophy for best club person.

The man known as 'Moose' has put in a power of work behind the scenes over the years, fulfilling just about every position and job imaginable.

Junior cricketers were presented their awards at a separate presentation.

Trafalgar fielded an under 17s and two under 13 teams this season, with senior players Zack Brown, Mitch Claridge, Daniel Van Boven and English imports Walton and James Peart coaching the sides.

Under 17 award winners were: James Pace (batting

and bowling), Ryley Gunn (most improved) and Brodie Gauci (coaches).

Under 13 award winners were: Reid Barnes (Traf Whites batting), Noah Ally (Traf Reds batting), Rowan Blake (Traf Whites bowling), Griffin Hoiles (Traf Reds bowling), Lachlan Van Boven (best all rounder), Jondalar Keay (most improved) and Thanish Paridi (coaches).

The Ships will now take stock over winter, as planning for next season gets underway.

The club welcomes new and prospective players, and has teams for all standards and ages.

If you would like to find out more, email trafalgar-cricketclub@gmail.com



Trafalgar Cricket Club season 2024/25 award winners. Back row: Brenton Faltum, David Bremner, Darren Brown, Callum Walton, Zak Larkin, Shane White. Front row: Jackson Noonan, John Asmussen and Aiden George.

Junior tennis end of season and awards

2024-25 junior tennis finished with a pizza, chips and a friendly hit of tennis by players and parents on Friday 18 March 2025.

It was a great year for juniors with lots of new players trying out the sport and enjoying it!

There were three junior teams this season that competed in the Baw Baw Tennis Association. The Section 4 team had a great year and won the grand final in a close match, with both teams playing some incredible tennis on the day.

The Section 2 junior team finished on top of the ladder, but unfortunately were knocked out in the semi finals. The Section 5 beginners section had a great year with a new format of easy to learn rules.

Shailah Middleton was the worthy recipient of the 2024/2025 Molly Ryan Encouragement Award. Now in its 11th year, this award continues to be a fitting memorial to Molly Ryan's encouragement and support of Trafalgar's junior tennis players over many years.



Trafalgar Section 4 team: Hudson Dehaas, Oscar Barrett, James Bryant, Roy Wang and Shailah Middleton.

Shailah received her award in recognition of her great enthusiasm, encouraging her fellow teammates and enjoyment of the game.

Also, receiving awards were Eli Smith (most determined), Hudson Dehaas (most improved), Roy Wang (best first year player), Jett Marslen (best singles player) and James Bryant (best doubles player) for the season.



Trafalgar Junior Players with awards.

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