

Traf District News

September 2025 – Edition 278

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Highland cattle at Traf Farmers' Market

By Trevor Colvin

At the August Trafalgar Farmers' Market I was surprised and delighted to see three Scottish Highland cows (also affectionately known as 'Heilan Coos') being introduced to the public. These long-haired, long-horned gentle animals attracted a

lot of attention with kids and adults alike, lined up to look, to smile, to pat and to be photographed.

The oldest of the three is a four-year-old female named 'Murphy' and she was alert and bright and studied everything around her. Weighing in at 400 kilos, this small stat-

ured but solid animal was the major attraction. In the pen with her was her owner and breeder Glenn Adams, who was answering questions and all the time gently currying Murphy's long red coat.

Longhorn Scottish Highland cows have had a checkered existence in Australia.

Scottish immigrants brought small numbers of this hardy breed to Australia from the mid-nineteenth century, but approximately fifty years later, none remained. The breed was re-established in 1954 with the importation of two cows and a bull from Scotland.

Glenn and his wife run Serenity Farm in Yarragon and Traf District News asked Glenn what sparked his interest in this unusual breed.

"Basically, it's just the love of animals. I'm an ex-dairy farmer, and I left dairy farming quite some time ago and just fretted for farming again.

"We used to show Jerseys down at [the] Melbourne Show, and my wife would always disappear and go down to the beef section and look at the Highland cows and always said she wanted one.

"So, I bought one about six years ago, and now we've got about 50 of them running around the paddock.

"These are a heritage-listed breed and the genetic gene pool is getting thin. So, we are all about preserving the purity of the breed.

"We import some semen from Scotland and try and keep that gene pool pure and not mix it with anything.

"When the Vikings turned up in Scotland they came across these in cattle and that's where the cups and drinking horns came from."

Serenity Farm is set in serene country in the hills south of Yarragon and is open to the public to come and spend some time among the animals.

There are more than fifty highland cows and you can picnic among them, take walking tours of the farm, have a photo session with them by a professional photographer on site, and enjoy the quiet energy of the farm and these gentle animals.

While you are there patting and enjoying the cows, Glenn will give you a run down on the breed and what they are doing at Serenity Farm to preserve it. It will be a great family day out.

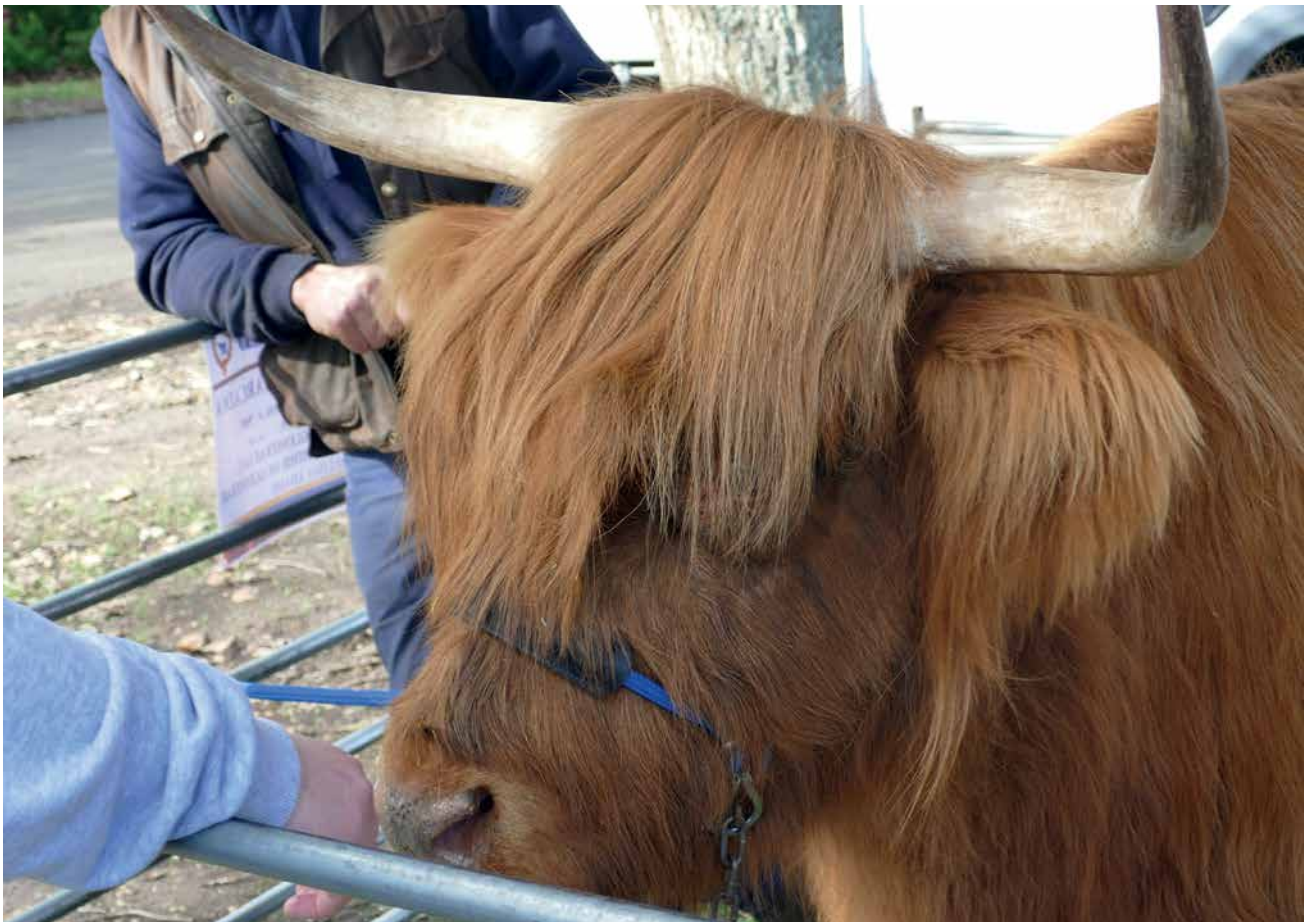
You can contact Glenn Adams via email: glenn@serenityfarm.com.au or through Facebook.



Glenn Adams and 'Murph'. Photographed by Trevor Colvin.



Image supplied.



'Murphy' a four year old Highland cow. Photographed by Trevor Colvin.

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Traf District News

Traf District News is a monthly publication aimed at providing news, entertainment and information to the people of Trafalgar, Yarragon, Thorpdale and Willow Grove.

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National Tree Day celebrated in Drouin

On Sunday July 27, National Tree Day rolled into the Shire again this year. More than 35 dedicated community members made their way to Thomas Maddock Reserve in Drouin to help plant over 900 plants as part of National Tree Day.

The new plants will help to transform the natural habitat in the area and provide vegetation cover. Participating groups included Friends of Drouin's Trees, Drouin Scouts and the Rotary Club of Drouin.

A free community barbecue with refreshments was provided for attendees.

Since Planet Ark's National Tree Day began 1996, over 28 million trees have been planted thanks to the help of five million volunteers. It is Australia's largest tree planting and nature care event.



Cris Vitale, member of Friends of Drouin's Trees.



Ian Swyer, member of Friends of Drouin's Trees. Both images were supplied by Baw Baw Shire Council.

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Newly elected MP Mary Aldred delivers first speech

By Jordan Ross

On July 31, Mary Aldred, newly elected Member for Monash delivered her maiden speech.

MP Aldred said that it was her; *“life’s greatest privilege to rise as the member for Monash and an honour to address the House on behalf of [her] community.”*

Aldred spoke highly of her electorate and thanked them for placing their trust in her.

“Monash is part of the great Gippsland region, where Australia’s richest soil meets the sea adjoining the world’s best beaches. In Monash, it’s callused hands and boots, not suits, that build national progress brick by brick. From dredge to boiler room, pad-dock to milking shed, harvest-er to timber yard, workshop to shopfront, I honour these great Australians. Our national success rides on their shoulders,” she said.

She thanked her supporters, including Senator Jane Hume, State MP Wayne Farnham and newly appointed Opposition Leader Sussan Ley, who visited Monash throughout the election campaign.

“My supporters were there for me every day I was a candidate, which spanned about 18 months—or 538 days if you’re counting,” Aldred said.

She also acknowledged her predecessor Russell Broadbent and said that he and his wife are *“good people.”*

“While we spent the last two years as opponents, the fact is that we were good friends for 20, and it was a privilege to support him over that time,” she said of Broadbent.

Fifty years on from her father’s election to federal parliament and nearly a decade since his passing, Aldred said that *“my dad’s views on the world could be complicated. His love for me was not.”* Aldred noted that she is the



Mary Aldred MP delivered her first speech to Parliament on July 31. Both images are supplied.

1,246th Australian elected to federal parliament, and that her father, Ken Aldred, was the 660th. She also acknowledged her mum, Margie, a former teacher and small business owner, for instilling many values in her.

Aldred has many *“local priorities”* on her radar, including but not limited to a new West Gippsland Hospital.

Aldred has been appointed to several parliamentary roles. She will be the Deputy Chair of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, the Arts and Sport.

Aldred ended her speech with a pledge to her community; *“I recognise that each day I spend in this place is a day closer to when I will leave. I plan to make each day*

count by advancing the cause for which I am here, a passionate belief in the purpose and potential of the people of Monash. To my electorate: I asked for your trust and confidence. You have given me the opportunity of a lifetime. I will work my heart out for you.”

Aldred’s speech was met with applause from her colleagues in the house and on-lookers from the gallery.

Aldred is now encouraging local high school students to enter the 2025 My First Speech competition. The national competition invites year 10, 11 and 12 students to write and submit a 300-word first speech, imagining themselves as a newly elected Member of Parliament and speaking on the issues they care most about.

Three winners, one from each year level, will be flown to Canberra with a parent or guardian to deliver their speeches live in Parliament House.

Aldred said that *“this is an outstanding opportunity for students in our local Monash community to stand up and be heard on the national stage.”*

“I encourage all year 10, 11 and 12 students in Monash to take part... this is their opportunity to advocate on the issues that they are most passionate about,” she said.

Entries can be submitted by September 15 at www.mfs.houseofrepresentatives.gov.au



Aldred’s heartfelt speech was met with applause from her parliamentary colleagues.



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Mary Aldred officially opens her Warragul office

By Jordan Ross and Trevor Colvin

Newly elected Member for Monash Mary Aldred has opened her Warragul office.

Aldred took time to thank her supporters, saying “I wouldn’t be here without you.”

State Member for Narracan Wayne Farnham and Victorian Senator Jane Hume were in attendance, the latter she called one of her “closest friends.”

“Jane was with me every day, every step of the way,” she said of Senator Hume during the election.

Senator Hume also sang Aldred’s praises, saying to the electorate of Monash, “you have this extraordinary woman, this amazing woman, as your representative, and that should warm your hearts.”

Hume even noted that some members of the Labor Party called Aldred “formidable” and the “real deal” after listening to her first speech in Parliament.

Hume also offered some advice to Aldred; “This office, this is not just about four walls. This is the place where you’re going to do all of your listening, all of your learning, all of those building of relationships... then taking back those views to Canberra.”

The office is located at 46C Albert Street, Warragul, VIC. Constituents are welcome to visit and meet Aldred and/or her team on weekdays from 9am to 5pm.



(From left) Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred, Senator for Victoria Jane Hume, State Member for Narracan Wayne Farnham at Aldred’s office opening on August 4. Image supplied.

Trafalgar Farmers’ Market second anniversary

In September 2023, Traf Farmers’ Market moved to the croquet club in Ashby Street, and this large space allowed for significant expansion, accommodating more than fifty stall-

holders and vendors. Traf District News asked market organisers for an update.

Ric Nicolson: “First we have survived the winter markets with loyal stallholders and customers supporting us.

This has helped many stallholders who rely on weekly income, as some markets close over the winter months.

“Secondly the town has adopted the market now as their own and use it as a monthly

catch up and meeting place. This is so important for a small town like Traf with a lot of the population being made up of retired farmers who love getting together for a yarn. It has given the town

a focus and it is great to see so many smiling faces and happy stallholders.”

Leni Teng: “Two years ago, the Trafalgar Farmers’ Market opened with a simple vision of bringing our community together with a make it, bake it, grow it, sew it, theme. Today, that vision has grown into something even more special – a vibrant monthly gathering that has become a cherished part of life in Trafalgar for many.

“For stallholders, the market is more than a place to sell. It’s where small growers, makers, and artisans share their passion, tell their stories, and connect directly with the people who value their work. Every bunch of greens, jar of jam, loaf of bread, and handmade craft, represents hours of care, skill, and love – and it’s all produced within our own region.

“For locals and visitors, the market is a place to slow down, stroll, and savour. It’s where locals meet for a chat over a coffee, children play, and families take home some-

thing grown or made just down the road. It’s where we can support local livelihoods while knowing exactly where our food comes from.

“Over the past two years, the market has also played a quiet but important role in strengthening our community’s resilience. By choosing local produce and goods, we’re keeping money circulating in our region, reducing food miles, and helping small-scale producers thrive. We’ve also seen friendships form, collaborations spark, and a growing sense of pride in what our corner of Gippsland can offer.

“As we celebrate our second anniversary, we want to thank everyone who makes this market possible – the tireless stallholders, the talented visitors who turn up rain or shine. Your support keeps this market alive and growing.

“Here’s to many more years of good food, good people, and good times at the Trafalgar Farmers’ Market – where community and connection are always in season.”



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The future of a library in Trafalgar

By Jordan Ross

A town library has been a popular topic of discussion in Trafalgar for the past few years. The town currently has a travelling mobile library (MYLI) which visits Trafalgar on Tuesdays (9:30am - 12:30pm) and Fridays (11:00am - 1:30pm, 2:30pm - 6pm). It also makes stops in local towns like Thorpdale, Yarragon, and Willow Grove.

The closest permanent libraries to Trafalgar are the Moe Library (approximately 10kms away) and the Warragul Library (approximately 22kms). While these are fairly accessible by train or car, a permanent Trafalgar library would be more convenient.

In 2022, council officially endorsed the old Trafalgar Kindergarten at 28 Contin-

gent Street as the preferred site for a town library.

The library is currently within the Long Term Infrastructure Plan, which outlines council's plan for infrastructure projects over the next 10 years. According to a council spokesperson, "the overarching objective of the Long Term Infrastructure Plan is to provide the right in-

frastructure, at the right time, in the right places, and in a way that represents best value for money and sustainable use of resources."

This plan has been on public display in August and will be reviewed and endorsed by council in October.

Council's endorsed design for the library would cost approximately \$1.3 million.

A council spokesperson told Traf District News that they are seeking funding from the State Government Living Libraries Infrastructure Program, and subject to a successful grant application, the project would proceed in 2026/27.

Under this program earlier this year, the state government announced funding

to deliver new or upgraded infrastructure projects at 19 libraries across.

Minister for Local Government, Nick Staikos said that funding libraries helps foster "lifelong learning."

"We know that libraries are the heart of the communities they serve, which is why we're pleased to support these nineteen community spaces to build lasting change," he said.

Many of the projects that received funding are based in regional areas as well. Morwell Library received approximately \$30,000 for the installation of a kitchenette while libraries in Gisborne and Bendigo will receive more than \$400,000 each for major upgrades.

Research conducted by Philip Hider at the Charles Sturt University - which surveyed more than 100 regional and rural libraries in Australia - found that libraries act as a "community hub" and facilitate connection and engagement within the community. The fact that libraries also carry physical media, such as books and DVDs, as well as having computers, printing services and free Wi-Fi, was seen as important as well.

Former councillor, Darren Wallace endorsed the Contingent St library design back in 2022. Even after his defeat at last year's election, he is "still trying to get the old kindergarten, which is a council building, turned into a static library."

A council spokesperson said "council will explore engaging with the Trafalgar community to finalise any proposed plans in the near future."

With this in mind, what do you think of a permanent library in Trafalgar?



The mobile library, operated by MYLI, in Trafalgar.



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Another chapter in the story of George Eyre's bugle

By Jordan Ross, with thanks to Lynn Mizen of the Warragul RSL

In July, Traf District News reported on the return of a Buln Buln East soldier's bugle to the area. Another chapter in the story of the bugle, thought to have belonged to George Eyre, has emerged.

On August 9, the Warragul RSL held an event to remember George Eyre and share the next chapter in his story.

As previously reported, George Eyre enlisted in 1916 and was shipped to the Western Front. Eyre took with him a customised bugle. Unfortunately, he was killed in action in April 1917 and the bugle was lost. It was recovered when an Australian found it while in England and traced it back to Warragul. It was then donated to the Warragul RSL.

In July, Warragul RSL president Lynn Mizen was able to get in contact with Peter Eyre, the great nephew of George Eyre. George's oldest brother, James had a son, George Herbert who also enlisted and served in World War I. George Herbert was shot and wounded in action and returned to Australia in 1919. In 1946, he and his wife, Hilda, had a son, Peter.

Peter and his wife Jenny attended the event and presented the Warragul RSL with a medal belonging to George 'Bugle' Eyre that Peter's father had come into possession of. There will be a new display at the RSL which includes this medal.

Along with this news, there was also some other news. A WW1 historian, Tim

Lysett, got in contact and believed the bugle to be commemorative and not a military issued bugle.

"There is no question that when the bugle was discovered in Norfolk in the early 1980s, that it was genuinely believed to be from the first World War and that the research conducted at that time to link it to George Eyre was done in absolute good faith," Mizen said.

"Unfortunately, at this point in time, we cannot provide the evidence to prove that the bugle belonged to George Eyre, but nor can we prove that it didn't. Further research and investigation is required and is underway," she said.

Going forward, the bugle will be named the George Eyre Commemorative Bu-

gle and will honour the Eyre family.

Lachlan Wilson from the Traralgon City Band played the bugle at the event, just as he did at the grave of George Eyre in France during the band's European tour, honouring the memory and sacrifice of the fallen soldier.

Sarah and Anthony Lucas, also members of the Traralgon City Band's tour, spoke at

the event, recounting their experiences and paying tribute. Sarah called the opportunity to “honour those like George Eyre who have served and continue to serve [Australia]” a ‘privilege.’”

Sarah spoke highly of the experience. *"To say we learnt a lot is an understatement,"* she noted.

*“We reflect on the fact
that war does not just impact*

those who are fighting, the impact ripples through the towns, countries, families, friends and communities," she continued.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Danny Goss and Deputy Mayor Tricia Jones were also in attendance, with the latter receiving a personal thank you from RSL president Lynn Mizen for her involvement in the process.



Warragul RSL President Lynn Mizen, Peter Eyre, and Lachlan Wilson.



Lachlan Wilson with the Bugle at the Gippsland Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon. Image supplied.

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Critical upgrade complete at Gippsland Water factory

Provided by Gippsland Water

Gippsland Water has completed critical upgrade works on one of its most complex industrial assets, at the Gippsland Water Factory.

The ageing covers on the two industrial wastewater lagoons were replaced at the large-scale wastewater treatment facility near Morwell, which treats waste from Opal's Maryvale Mill.

Industrial waste at the Gippsland Water Factory is treated in the lagoons, by creating an anaerobic environment (no oxygen), which allows microorganisms to break down waste and capture odours and gases before it progresses for further treatment.

Due to the potential risks associated with the concentrations of these gases, thorough planning and stringent safety measures were required.

Acting managing director Nic Moss said the cover replacements were a first for the organisation and potentially for the wider water sector, with no examples of covers being replaced on lagoons

treating pulp and paper mill waste within Australia.

"The successful completion of this project is a testament to the fantastic talent and resources we have here at Gippsland Water," Mr Moss said.

"This site is one of the most critical assets we manage and replacing these covers required a lot of planning, technical analysis and safety mitigation measures."

"Odour modelling and monitoring were also undertaken to ensure it was safe and there were no impacts on the wider community."

Mr Moss said simulated shutdowns of the lagoons prior to work presented a better understanding of how the biological process would behave.

"We worked closely with industry experts to ensure that the project could be completed safely, this included planning for different scenarios and undertaking simulated shutdowns," Mr Moss said.

"The simulation results were used to inform the actual shutdown of the lagoons to ensure the safe replacement of

the covers, by slowing the biological activity and making the microorganisms dormant."

Mr Moss said the project was an example of the strong safety culture at the organisation.

"We knew these covers had to be replaced to ensure safe operations and many teams throughout the organisation came together to provide advice, support and work

through the complexities," Mr Moss said.

"This project is a testament to the safety culture at Gippsland Water, and we should be proud of the outcome."

The Gippsland Water Factory also treats domestic wastewater for numerous towns including Morwell, Traralgon, Churchill, Boolarra, Glengarry, Rosedale and Toongabbie.



Gippsland Water marked a major milestone recently as the Gippsland Water Factory anaerobic covers were replaced. Image supplied.



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Trafalgar Community Directory

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

Organisation	Contact	Email/Website	Phone
Baw Baw Shire Council			
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Baw Baw Shire Council- lor (East Ward)	Adam Sheehan	Email: adam.sheehan@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Facebook: @adam4bawbaw	0461 515 690
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Member for Monash (Federal Electorate)	Mary Aldred	Email: mary.aldred.mp@aph.gov.au	03 5614 3600
Member for Narracan (State Electorate)	Wayne Farnham	Email: wayne.farnham@parliament.vic.gov.au	03 5623 1960
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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
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Trafalgar Victory Football Club		Email: committee@tvfc.com.au Website: www.tvfc.com.au	
Other			
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BawBaw Sustainability Network	Malcolm McKelvie	Email: bawbawsn@gmail.com Website: bbsn.org.au Facebook: Baw Baw Sustainability Network	0490 485 370
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Trafalgar Cemetry Trust	Howard Jones	Email: trafalgarpubliccemetary@dcsi.net.au Webite: https://australiancemeteries.com.au/vic/bawbaw/trafalgar.htm	03 5633 2282
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COUNCIL News

Victorian Seniors Festival 2025

Connect, create and celebrate with the 2025 Victorian Seniors Festival. Get involved and join the fun this October.

To find a Victorian Seniors Festival event near you, visit Seniors Online or keep an eye out for festival guides at Coles, Council offices and many community organisations.

Victorian Seniors Card holders can access eight days of free public transport across Victoria from 5 to 12 October 2025.

This includes travel across all metropolitan services, V/Line train and coach services, and selected regional bus services outside of the myki-enabled area.



Upcoming Council Meeting:

The following Council meeting will be held in September 2025 at the Drouin Community Hub.

Wednesday 24 September – 5:30pm

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

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

Baw Baw Connect – Have Your Say, Your Way!

Council currently has one community engagement opportunity open for consultation!

- Mobility Parking at Warragul Leisure Centre

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Upcoming Events:

For a full list of the current events, visit www.bawbawshire.co/Events-Calendar



Baw Baw Youth Mental Health Ambassadors lead the way

Over 30 Baw Baw Youth Mental Health Ambassadors, known as the ‘Crew’, came together on Tuesday at the Bellbird Park East Pavilion in Drouin as part of the Live4Life Baw Baw program.

Making the most of the opportunity to build their capacity as leaders and develop their event management skills, the Crew focused on plans for mental health awareness activities set to run in local schools later this year.

As part of the day, the Crew also had the opportunity to understand their individual strengths and communication styles, explore different leadership types, and brainstorm ideas to deliver activities in their schools to promote safe conversations and positive mental health messaging.

Councillor Ben Lucas says Baw Baw Shire Council is proud to support Live4Life Baw Baw.

“Raising awareness of mental health, especially for young people, is so important. This program is a wonderful way for young people to get involved, grow their skills and support one another,” he said.

The Live4Life Baw Baw Crew includes students from secondary schools across Drouin, Warragul, Trafalgar and Neerim South.

Since the inception of Live4Life Baw Baw in 2020, more than 3,500 students and community members have participated in the program, and almost 200 students have volunteered to be Live4Life crew members.

One of the most important things adults can do to support young people in rural and regional areas is to undertake youth mental health first aid training.

Live4Life Baw Baw is offering subsidised training opportunities via the Youth Mental Health First Aid Course for the Baw Baw Shire community.

This Youth Mental Health First Aid Course, run over two days, is available to any adult (18 years and over) who would like to learn more about adolescent development, the signs and symptoms of common mental health problems in young people, where and how to get help and how to provide first aid in crisis situations.

Youth Mental Health First Aid training will take place from 9am to 5pm on Tuesday September 2 and Wednesday September 3, 2025 at McGregor Park Hall, Trafalgar. This training is subsidised for the community by Live4Life Baw Baw. Tickets are available via Humanitix.



Zehra Munir, Bree Reynolds (Neerim District Secondary College), Jaylee Falls-Daniels (Trafalgar High School). All images supplied.



Noah Price and Dillon Moorehouse (Trafalgar High School).



Mia Brighton, Ben Champion, Koen Peters, Isaac Pecovnik (Drouin Secondary College).



September exhibitions at 'The Station Gallery', Yarragon, 10.00 am to 3.00pm Wednesday to Sunday. Mixed Media group and painted 'Tree Portraits' by Patricia Smithson-Hill.

Saturday, September 20, 9am to 2pm, Jewellery Fair, VRI Hall Art Space, 128 Queen Street, Warragul.



bawbawartsalliance.org.au for more details



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Homelessness is on the increase and you may be the key to easing it

By Trevor Colvin

We will not fill this article with a lot of statistics but two are important. First, homelessness officially increased in our area by 60% between the 2016 census and the 2021 census and we all know things are tougher now than they were in 2021. We also know that people living rough were very unlikely to

fill in a census form, so the 60% figure could be significantly higher. Secondly, all the agencies dealing with homelessness and poverty report a sharp increase in the need for their services, due in a major way to very noticeable increases in the cost of living.

Jason and Kerry Rantall run Bettermentall Inc. and

they are dealing with this major problem on a daily basis. They are trying to make a difference and they are making a difference, so we asked Jason how the problem can be solved.

"If we expect someone else is going to fix it, nothing will happen. We all need to all have some skin in it, in some form, and start looking after

our own backyard. If we can look after our own community, we can solve the problem in our own community, and then another community can solve its problem and so on."

The first thing toward helping, is to better understand that people living rough are from all walks of life, and all age groups are affected.

"It's from young people, like kids, right through to the elderly, and there's a whole range of reasons. Life gets too big on some, and they end up on the streets because they just can't handle what's going on emotionally and mentally and physically. There's others that have had traumatic experiences, whether it be family violence, and they're escaping to be safe. I mean imagine having to escape to the streets to feel safe. There's violence against women, there's violence in the home, there's a whole range of reasons."

"I know a guy who lost the person he loved most; his wife. They had a home, they had jobs, they had plans; then she died suddenly, and he just couldn't cope. He turned to alcohol, lost his job, lost his house, and was on the streets. So we never know what's happening. And it can be such a quick slip."

Jason wants you and me to know that the homeless aren't all dangerous or unapproachable. They have slipped, for any number of valid reasons and they need help getting back.

Jason continued: *"If people actually heard the stories,*

they'd have a bit more of an understanding why people are where they are. Instead of throwing stones and accusations and judgments at people, if they actually sat and listened to their stories, they would realise that none of them really want to be there."

Jason will argue that we need more and more local people to get involved - ordinary people who could help set up a community hub, or help find accommodation, or volunteer some time at an existing centre, or run a raffle or collect warm clothing. Any one of a hundred things which will help the lost get back on their feet.

Jason says, talk to a homeless person if you see one, just as you would to anyone else. They are people who have lost their way temporarily and just by opening a dialogue you may be helping with their eventual recovery.

If you would like to help Jason and Kerry with their work, or learn how you can do more to end homelessness, contact them on: 0412 418 431. Email: info@bettermentall.com.au. 36 Contingent Street, Trafalgar, VIC 2824.



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MP Melina Bath calls for Labor to support Gippsland women

By Jordan Ross

The Nationals' Melina Bath has called on Labor's Minister for Women, Natalie Hutchins MP, to ensure Gippsland women receive fairer access to free period poverty support - matching the availability in metropolitan Melbourne.

In June, Traf District News reported on a state-wide rollout of free pad and tampon vending machines. Sites included libraries, hospitals, TAFEs, train stations, shop-

ping centres, community hubs and major event spaces. Once the rollout is complete, up to 1,500 free pad and tampon machines will be available at more than 700 public locations across Victoria.

However, Melina Bath says that the government needs to do more work to fix the imbalance between the amount of sites located in metro and regional areas.

"Only five per cent of the machines are in Gippsland,

with none to date located east of Rosedale or on Phillip Island," said Bath.

"Gippsland covers 20% of Victoria's landmass, an area equivalent to Switzerland, to date there's 13 period poverty vending machines installed to service 390 regional and rural towns," she said.

"Local families are facing real financial pressure, and the Allan Government's ongoing failure to deliver targeted and meaningful cost-of-living

support is a blatant dismissal of rural Victoria's needs," she said.

"If Labor is serious about supporting all women, it must abandon its Melbourne-first mentality and deliver fair, statewide access to essential women's health resources."

Melina Bath also said that access to period care products should be prioritised for locations that support disadvantaged people including

foodbanks, neighbourhood houses, Aboriginal corporations, and community health services.

Earlier this year, Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing said that "period products are necessary, and not having access to them impacts women and girls in all sorts of negative ways."

Studies conducted last year found that 65% of Australians who needed period care products struggled

to afford them. This number increases to 74% in rural areas, and to 83% for Aboriginal women.

In the Baw Baw Shire, the vending machines can be found at the Warragul Library, TAFE Gippsland Warragul, TAFE Gippsland Baw Baw Skills Centre, West Gippsland Healthcare Group, and the Drouin Library. There are additional machines in Morwell and Traralgon.



Melina Bath on Daffodil Day in August. Image supplied.



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

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Gardivalia ‘Festival of Gardens’ 2025

Great news! Gardivalia will open on Saturday, October 25 & Sunday, October 26.

Discover Gippsland's most breathtaking gardens this Spring. Gardivalia's garden trail is set to dazzle with blooming backyards, hidden green gems, and floral masterpieces waiting to be explored throughout Baw Baw Shire.

In North Trafalgar, a delightful two acre garden 'Bellissimi Alberi' will bring all your senses alive with forest pansies, birches, magnolias, azaleas, roses and more.

In Darnum you will find 'Gumview', an informal garden with many beautiful

magnolias, camellias, maples, peonies, a clivia collection and many bulbs.

Explore two gardens in Willow Grove, 'Lakeview' and 'Dot's Garden'. View the beautiful views of Blue Rock Lake from 'Lakeview', its old machinery displayed, roses on trellises, camellias, the orchard, and over 70 deciduous trees.

'Dot's Garden' started as a farm and now has 58 small garden beds and many wonderful and amazing sculptures. Willow trees, crepe myrtles, roses, ornamental cherries, flowering gums, elms, magnolias and more. Views look east to the mountains.

Across and up to Icy Creek you will find 'Meander', a seven and half acre garden showcasing rare trees and shrubs against a backdrop of large eucalypts and mountains. Meander through the kitchen garden, mixed borders and woodland paths.

On the Sunday, it's the last chance to visit 'Tall Timbers' in Piedmont, walk through an expansive garden of many acres in a natural bush setting, with additional plantings of many exotic trees and shrubs around the creeks, cascades and large ponds.

Visit the 'Old Neerim Schoolhouse' in Neerim established in 1902, with expansive gardens, abundant

produce, and stunning views. Laurie Collins 'Sculpture Garden' at Jindivick has over 60 metal sculptures in an acre among garden beds and trees and a gallery.

Traveling towards Warragul, visit 'My Ross' at Brandy Creek. Pathways, rock walls, roses, border plantings and a small lake form the structure, with stunning north views to the Baw Baws. On Bloomfield Road visit 'Carlisle' & 'Darley Grange'. 'Carlisle' is a colorful country garden with a number of unusual and cleverly made water features, vibrant roses and seasonal perennials. 'Darley Grange' specializes in 80 different stunning beard-

ed irises and orchids and large Irish Strawberry trees.

In Drouin, visit 'Lois' Garden'. For those who want to know more about succulents this is for you. Full of succulents and cacti, low maintenance, no watering, no hassles.

In Copelands Rd, Warragul you can walk around 'Wrens Wood', a five acre garden with oaks, gums, maples, conifers, roses, buddlejas, rhododendrons, camellias, fruit and nut trees, a vegetable and berry garden, ferns, vines & orchids.

In Warragul, you will find 'Rustic Charm', 'Fiona's Garden' & 'Warragul Community Centre'. 'Rustic Charm' has a

small backyard with rustic, eclectic ornaments, and a mixture of plants and trees. There will be crafts, arts and mosaics on display. 'Fiona's Garden' has many garden rooms on one acre: a show garden, permaculture vegetable and orchard, Bee hives and berries. 'Fiona's Garden' will have a compost making demo at 11am on both days. 'Warragul Community Garden' grows produce, flowers, fruit and herbs with bee-hives, and has a cubby house.

Programs will be available throughout the Baw Baw Shire. For more information and photos please go to our website on www.gardivalia.com.au



Fiona's Garden in Warragul.



Old Neerim Schoolhouse Garden.



Garden in Trafalgar East.



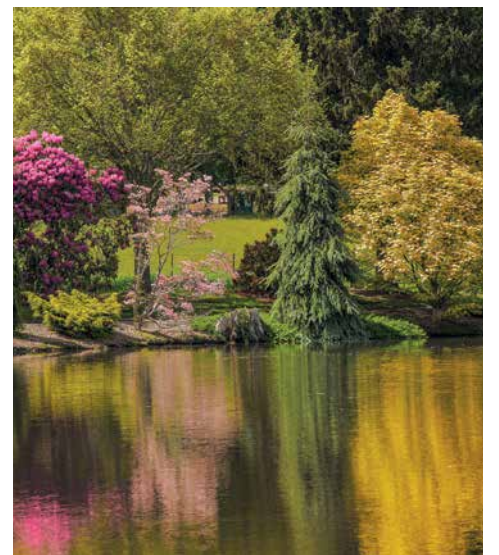
Lois' Garden in Drouin.



Ice Creek Garden.



Dot's Garden in Willow Grove.



Tall Timbers.



Wrens Wood.



Lake View.



Great News!

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Update from the Baw Baw Arts Alliance

By Carol Monson

Winter has been a busy time of the year for members of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance (Bbaa). The recent Arts Gala held at the VRI Hall in Warragul was designed to raise money for construction of a ramp to the entrance of the hall, but it also gave members an opportunity to kick up their heels, dress up and share some performances of

dance, poetry, and music.

During the week following the gala, the annual general meeting of the Arts Alliance was also held in the VRI Hall. President for 2025 and recently elected for the 2026 period, Jessie McLennan, began her annual report with a reminder of the Arts Alliance's vision to inspire, promote, facilitate and encourage a vibrant and creative

arts environment within the community. Jessie then listed some of the many arts activities held during 2025: the Arts Market in the TAFE carpark, the Easter Art Sale, further work to improve the VRI Hall, new drop-in groups at the VRI to add to the existing groups in Trafalgar Artspace, vibrant poetry readings and workshops under the banner of 'Poetry Bauhaus', contin-

ued publication of new editions of 'Catchment-Poetry of Place', jewellery market, another Art and Textile De-Stash market, community art projects, and the list goes on.

See <https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au> for further activities and news.

As well as the above, the Arts Alliance has different exhibitions at the Station

Gallery, in the former Yarragon Railway Station on Princes Highway, Yarragon. In September two exhibitions worth seeing are the vibrant works from the Mixed Media group and 'Tree Portraits' by first time Station Gallery exhibitor but experienced artist, Patricia Smithson Hill.

Dates worth remembering over the next few weeks

are the Jewellery Makers' Fair on September 20 at the VRI Hall from 9am to 2pm, an exhibition opening of 'Alene's Little Treasures', a wonderful series of small paintings by Alene Bonser on Saturday, October 4, at 2pm, Station Gallery, Yarragon, and once again 'Poetry Bauhaus' on Sunday, October 5, Commercial Hotel, Warragul 2.30pm.



Newly elected committee of management (left to right) Anita George, Prue Barridge, treasurer, Jessie McLennan, president, Sue Murphy, Jeff Thege, secretary, Clair Seymour, Marlene Ogden, Carol Monson, Zoe Clark, Deb Churchill, Janine Richardson, past president.



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An update from Probus

By Glenda Mynard of the Trafalgar & District Probus Club

Recently Trafalgar & District Probus Club welcomed new members, Denise Fenton and Josephine Drescher, and one of the first events they enjoyed was our Christmas in July lunch at the Trafalgar Golf Club. As usual, the golf club members spoiled us with a delicious meal in their warm festive setting. Many members joined in the spirit of the day by dressing in bright colours.

Trafalgar & District Probus was fortunate to have two guest speakers at the last meeting. They were both members who we got to know a little better. By the time people join Probus they

have a wealth of experience behind them which we often don't know about.

Ian Murray now lives at Childers but his life has been lived in many places around the world. It started on a family sheep farm at Stanhope. He had an army background as he joined the army cadets while at school. He started his working life as an accountant and went on to join the Nicholas Aspro Company in Chadstone, Victoria. He was sent to Sydney and was involved with sales of medical products. While there his accommodation was in Blues Point Tower where he enjoyed views of the harbour and the Sydney

Harbour Bridge and could watch the Opera House being built. At the age of 24, he was transferred to Jakarta, Indonesia, as the general manager of operations. The company had 300 employees making tablets, capsules, ointments and injectables. At the time there was a lot of unrest in the country and the fact that he was single and had an army background were useful qualities. In Jakarta he lived in a house with 23 people on his staff including a chauffeur, but on the other side of his life, he witnessed people shot in the street. His social life often involved games of golf and socialising with embassy staff. He lived

in Indonesia for 15 years, and the antibiotic product he sold was Naspro, a yellow and blue tablet manufactured in Chadstone Victoria. Ian also worked at their London office and the Pfizer office in New York. He went to South Africa to open new markets and met and married his wife when he worked in India. Another highlight for Ian was being awarded an MBE by the Queen.

Tina Hambleton's life started in England with her grandfather and father both serving in the world wars. At the end of the war her family went to live in Germany where she attended kinder, but they returned to England after a short time where her father worked as an engineer. Tina recalled being looked after by a nanny and living in an environment where children were seen and not heard!

The family decided to venture to Australia and farmed on her grandfather's apple orchard and dairy farm in Western Australia. Tina at first had attended school in Perth but as times became tough, there wasn't enough money to go to a city school. At one place, the four kids lived in a tin shed. Tina and her siblings dug a hole and made their own swimming pool.

Tina was fortunate enough to win a scholarship to attend university and that's where she met her husband. She found herself 18, engaged, and heading east in a Mini Minor. Coming from Western Australia, Tina froze but life moved on and four kids later Tina was able to finish her teaching degree



Beryl & new member Josephine enjoy the Christmas in July lunch at the Trafalgar Golf Club.



Terry Tagliabue receives her 10 year pin from President Tina Hambleton.

and became a teacher librarian. The family had various moves around Gippsland, farming Perendale sheep at Stoney Creek, and establishing a Mirboo North brewery. Tina became involved in a vardo wagon business and continued to rise through

the ranks of teaching to take up positions of principal at Churchill Kurnai College and later at Warragul. Life had been busy and at the age of 59 Tina finally took a 'gap year' and returned to England for a visit. She has now retired and settled in Trafalgar.

Understanding the role of an executor in a Will

By Jade MacGregor, Principal Solicitor, J MacGregor Legal incorporating O'Halloran Davis Solicitors

When planning your estate, one of the most important decisions you will make is appointing an executor in your Will. The executor is the person responsible for ensuring that your final wishes are carried out, your assets are distributed according to your Will, and any outstanding debts or taxes are settled. This role is critical to the smooth administration of your estate and requires a person who is trustworthy, organised, and capable of handling potentially complex legal and financial matters.

Choosing the right executor involves careful consideration. While many people appoint a close family member or friend, it is essential to ensure that the person you choose is willing and able to take on the responsibilities. Executors may need to navigate legal processes, liaise with beneficiaries, and manage disputes, which can be time-consuming and emotionally taxing. For larger or more complex estates, it may be prudent to appoint a professional, such as a solicitor or trustee company, to ensure the estate is managed efficiently and impartially.

It is also worth considering appointing more than one executor or naming a substitute executor in case your first choice is unable or unwilling to act. Open communication with your chosen executor is vital to confirm their understanding of the role and their agreement to take it on. By carefully selecting an executor and providing clear instructions in your Will, you can help ensure that your estate is administered smoothly and in accordance with your wishes, providing peace of mind for both you and your loved ones.

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Dr. Jared Waddell-Smith

Wild animals are commonly found sick or injured, often secondary to human impacts on our environment - being hit by cars, trees being cut down, attacked by dogs or cats, just to name a few. If you come across an animal in this situation, you are able to contact Wildlife Victoria on (03) 8400 7300; they will find local wildlife rescue or carer volunteers to come and collect the animal. Some will require nursing care, others may require veterinary treatment.

If safe to do so, you can collect the animal and confine it in an appropriate secure container for transport to a vet clinic. Most veterinary clinics (including Trafalgar) will be able to receive wildlife and manage their initial assessment and treatment, however it is good to call ahead to check as not all clinics will be able to. The Gippsland community is lucky enough to also have a dedicated wildlife veterinary service (the Travelling Veterinary Service) supported by Wildlife Victoria through donations and a small amount of government funding, which has greatly improved availability of wildlife care.

It is important not to put yourself at risk of injury or illness when trying to handle wildlife. For example - do not attempt to handle and restrain a large animal such as a kangaroo or wombat as this can be extremely dangerous, and bats should not be handled by anyone not appropriately vaccinated due to the risk of Australian Bat Lyssavirus.

The goal of wildlife care is rehabilitation; providing initial medical or surgical

treatment and then nursing care, until they can be effectively released back into their natural habitat. When animals are being assessed, if their prognosis for rehabilitation is poor, then they are euthanased to end their suffering. Attempting rehabilitation of animals which are a poor candidate for release, ultimately ends in prolonged suffering, and sometimes a slow and miserable death. The signs of illness, malnutrition and chronic stress can be easily overlooked by those who are not familiar with them. For this reason, it is an offence to care for wildlife without an appropriate licence in Victoria.

If you are interested in becoming a licensed wildlife carer, there is a link at the following website: <https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/sick-injured-or-orphaned-wildlife/sick-injured-or-orphaned-wildlife>

Examples of animals which are poor candidates for rehabilitation include:

- Adult animals which would require confinement and will not cope with the stress, such as an adult kangaroo with a broken leg
- Very young, minimally developed marsupial joeys, which are not yet big enough to be reared on a teat.
- Birds with severe injuries of the wings and shoulders that will not be able to fly normally.
- Feral species such as indian mynahs or starlings.

Examples of animals which are good candidates for rehabilitation include:



Echidna x-ray. Image supplied.

- Orphan joeys which are developed enough to adapt to bottle rearing.
- Animals with an injury or illness that is likely to respond well to treatment, and in species which tolerate temporary captivity very well.
- Birds with minor wing injuries or concussion from road injury that will cope well with the length of captivity

required for their recovery.

Recent cases through Trafalgar Vet Centre:

In May we treated an adult koala found on the road, presumed to have been hit by a car. He had x-rays taken which found a broken femur in his back leg. He was otherwise in good health, and since koalas can often cope quite well with rehabilitation in captivity, it was decided that he was a good candidate for further treatment. He under-

went surgery the next day, to put a plate in his broken leg. He was then taken into care with an experienced wildlife carer. Unfortunately after an initially strong recovery, he passed away from illness some weeks later.

Although a sad outcome, we have included his case here to show that wildlife do not always cope with captive care, that recovery from injuries and illness can be stressful and can result in death, and why it is import-

ant to choose the right animals to try to rehabilitate, with good welfare always the top priority.

Another case was an echidna, nicknamed "Piglet" due to her fantastic appetite in captivity. She presented in late February with a nose injury and a foot injury. Both were deemed treatable, she received medical attention and was transferred to a licensed carer. Over the next month she developed a severe swelling of one toe, and x-rays identified infection of the bone of the toe, which had obviously not responded to antibiotics.

In April she underwent anaesthetic and had the affected toe amputated, knowing that losing one toe would not prevent her from doing all the digging she needs to do out in the wild. She then went back into care until her surgery was completely healed and after a total of 102 days in care, she was successfully returned to the wild.



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Authorised by H Shing, 216 Commercial Rd, Morwell.



CELEBRATE AN INSPIRING TRAFALGAR CITIZEN

TRAFALGAR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

NOMINEE’S DETAILS: (Details of the person you are nominating. Please provide as much information as possible)

Title: (Mr, Mrs, etc.) FIRST NAME: SURNAME:
Street/postal address:
Contact number: Email:

If you are nominating more than one person, please complete a separate nomination form for each nominee

TRAFALGAR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR CATEGORIES: *(Please select the appropriate category)*

☐ Citizen of the Year award ☐ Youth Citizen of the Year award (aged 25 years and younger)

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Explain how your nominee’s actions have inspired you and contributed significantly to our community. This could be through their voluntary community contribution, work or a combination of these.

- 1. **Word file:** complete the selection criteria at the end of this document
- 2. **Hardcopy:** Attach separate A4 sheet(s) of paper

PLEASE ADDRESS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA IN YOUR NOMINATION:

- 1. The role(s) or area(s) the nominee has excelled
- 2. How the nominee has demonstrated service worthy of recognition
- 3. The impact of the nominee’s contribution on the Trafalgar community in a particular field(s) or group(s)
- 4. The period of time the nominee has made that commitment to the Trafalgar community If possible, include dates of service.
- 5. How this person stands out from others
- 6. Has the nominee’s contribution been recognised elsewhere (e.g., in the media, by other awards, professional/ interest groups or through local government)?

All of these criteria must be addressed to ensure a proper appraisal of your nomination

NOTES:

- The nominee must be, amongst other things, a resident within, or contributes to the community of, the 3824 postcode – see Rules of Entry for all rules
- The judges may seek additional information from the nominator at their discretion

NOMINATOR’S DETAILS: (Please complete your details)

Title: (Mr, Mrs, etc.) FIRST NAME: SURNAME:
Street/postal address:
Contact number: Email:

GUARDIAN’S DETAILS: If you are nominating someone for the Youth Citizen of the Year, please have their guardian agree to the nomination by completing their details

Title: (Mr, Mrs, etc.) FIRST NAME: SURNAME:
Street/postal address:
Contact number: Email:

WHERE TO SEND THE NOMINATION:

Send the completed nomination and supporting details to either:

- **Email:** trafcoty@gmail.com OR
- **Post:** Trafalgar Citizen of the Year, TCDA, P.O. Box 70, Trafalgar 3824

No other methods of lodging the form are accepted.

Applications close on 31 October this year.

The award winners will be announced next year on January 26.

Rules of Entry:

- Nominations must be received by 5pm on 31 October this year
- Nominees will be judged on actions and contributions made that have had a significant impact on the Trafalgar community (including all areas within 3824 postcode)
- Nominations must be the original work of the author and be factually correct to the best of the author’s knowledge. The author may obtain information from other people in the preparation of the nomination
- Nominees must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia and be a resident, or contributes to the community, within the 3824 postcode
- Nominees are not restricted by age except for the Youth award which is open to all young people under the age of 25 years as at 31 October this year. All other Rules apply to Youth award nominees
- The winner (or their guardian) of the Youth Citizen of the Year award will be required to produce a birth certificate if considered necessary
- A successful nominee can only receive the award on one occasion
- All nominations (including any supporting documentation) become the property of the COTY committee
- The final judging of nominations will be conducted by a panel of judges appointed by the COTY committee
- If the judges consider there are no suitable nominees in either category, no award will be made for that category
- The judges’ decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into
- Details of nominations of award winners may be published in local newspapers and in local media such as radio, etc
- Each nominator assures the COTY committee that it is the owner of the information in the nominations and has not breached any person’s rights, including copyright
- By lodging this nomination, the nominator:
 - agrees to the above rules; and
 - if it is a nomination of the Youth of the Year award, by completing the guardian’s details, the nominator has received the consent of the guardian for the youth to be nominated

.....

(Nominator’s signature)

(Date)

More info on the awards

The winners of the Trafalgar Citizen of the Year Awards will be announced next year on January 26.

Earlier this year, Jason and Kerry Rantall won the main award, recognised for their work in the mental health space. They opened the community hub BetterMental.

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



Community Bank
Trafalgar & District

Lions Club of Warragul donate \$68,659 for new medical equipment

The Lions Club of Warragul have donated \$68,659 to West Gippsland Healthcare Group for new medical equipment and surgical beds for the hospital. The significant donation will fund a new nitrous oxide machine, an infant blood sampling machine, and the replacement of West Gippsland Hospital's full fleet of surgical ward beds.

A nitrous oxide machine, also referred to as Entonox or laughing gas, is used in the emergency department for pain relief and sedation during procedures, especially with children. It's a safe and effective way to manage anxiety and pain.

The infant blood sampling machine is a portable blood analyser that delivers real-time, lab-quality diagnostic test results. The machine will be used in the operating theatre and Special Care Nursery, and allows medical staff to obtain small blood samples from babies for instant results that help determine if and what treatment is needed. Currently, larger volumes of blood are required, which is difficult to obtain from an infant.

The 10 surgical ward beds will replace a fleet that is over 10 years old. It is part of a broader five-year plan to replace end-of-life equipment.



WGHC CEO Shannon Wight said that “the Warragul Lions Club generously donates to WGHC year after year, helping us purchase equipment that aids the delivery of safe, quality care to our community. The infant blood sampling machine, for instance, could mean the difference between a sick baby being able to stay here, or being transferred for diagnosis and treatment.

“The next time you enjoy a Warragul Lions Club sausage sizzle, a Christmas cake, buy a book at the Lions Book Fair, or if you order a load of firewood from the club, know that your money is going back into the community’s healthcare,” said Wright.

The next Lions Winter Book Fair is on the weekend of August 30 and 31 at the Darnum Memorial Hall.

(Left to right) Warragul Lions Club Vice President Jeff Tolley, President John White, WGHC CEO Shannon White and Lions Club Secretary Ian Inglis. Image supplied.

Bendigo Bank

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What's On around Trafalgar

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

Event	Date/Time	Location
Warragul Parkrun Reigster at https://www.parkrun.com.au/warragul/	Every Saturday 8am	Brooker Park Warragul
Trafalgar Farmers Market Fresh produce, local crafts, and community	First Saturday of Each Month	McGregor Park Trafalgar
Longwarry Fire Brigade Market	First Sunday of Each Month	Longwarry Fire Station
Warragul Farmers Market	Third Saturday of Each Month	Logan Park Warragul
Trafalgar Playgroup Runs during the school terms	Every Thursday 9:30 - 11:am	Scout Hall, Trafalgar
Trafalgar High School Open Mic Night For Solo artists and bands. More info on instagram at theartsattrafhigh	September 12	Traf High, Trafalgar
EDFNL Grand Final	September 13	Recreation Reserve, Trafalgar
Decipher Dance Midyear Showcase & Open Evening Ticketed event with info at facebook.com/decipherdance1	September 19 5pm	Trafalgar Park Community Hub
Baw Baw Arts Alliaance painting exhibition Works by Alene Bonser	October 4 2pm	Station Gallery, Yarragon
Gardivalia Festival of Gardens - Open Gardens Weekend For more information: https://www.gardivalia.com.au/	October 25 and 26	Across the Baw Baw Shire

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VP Day August 15, 1945

By Jean Huffer of the Trafalgar & District Historical Society

Despite the rejoicing over the end of the war in Europe in May, 1945, Australia was still a nation at war in the Pacific. P.O.Ws from Europe had started returning home since June; but Japan was still an indomitable enemy, refusing to concede defeat. Australians had lived with the fear of invasion since 1941. There had been Japanese incursions with the bombing of Darwin, the capture of the Japanese submarines in Sydney Harbour, and sightings of Japanese submarines off the east coast, the bombing of Broome in the west, as well as the invasion of the islands to the north.

On August 6 the Americans unleashed the atomic bomb on Hiroshima but still the Japanese refused to concede defeat. On August 8 Russia declared war on Japan, and on August 9 a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Allied hopes were rising that Japan would finally capitulate. There was still a group of militarists in the Japanese government who refused to admit defeat, despite the terrible loss of civilian life, estimated at over 150,000, and the collapse of the armed forces.

It was a matter of honour!

The people of the Pacific region waited.

Finally on August 15, the news filtered through to Australia – the Japanese Emperor had declared the Japanese surrender to the people of Japan on the radio on August 14. The war was finally over! The formalities were to be finalised with an uncondi-

tional surrender by Japan later – on September 2 - but the news of August 15 was enough! The war was over!

Australia rejoiced - in the cities and in the country areas people gathered to celebrate. In Trafalgar, the celebrations were held in the Fire Brigade's training ground. People came in from all over the district. The Trafalgar East School students came in to join in the town's excitement and relief.

It was over!

The feeling of relief was immense!

For the past six years, everything in the country had focussed on the war effort. Government control operated in every phase of life. All over the country men had gone to the war and by 1943 the Government had introduced compulsory conscription. Food was rationed, identification cards had to be carried by all adult citizens. Travel was restricted and petrol rationing was introduced. Many cars were fitted with gas producers which looked like large boxes attached to the rear bumper bar or side running boards. They were fuelled by charcoal, but were somewhat of a risk because they produced carbon monoxide. This was not as powerful a fuel as petrol. Black-out curtains were compulsory, and the headlights on cars and trucks were reduced to slits only.

Those men who were not allowed in the armed services as they worked in protected industries such as farming or electricity pro-

duction, were organised in home defence. They had to do training in their spare time, and be prepared to defend the home front in the event of enemy invasion. There was an evacuation plan drawn up for people in this area to escape to the hills if invasion occurred.

All road signs were removed to make it difficult for the enemy to find their way. Schools had dug-outs in their grounds in case of bomb attacks, and in the towns and cities, people had these in their back yards, equipped with bedding and rations. The home guard was also called for duty as 'plane watchers' at night to give advanced warning of enemy attack.

Social life centred on the war effort. Trafalgar had its "Links of Service", who ran dances and entertainments all of which raised money for the troops. Women took up knitting socks again for the army. Popular songs of the time were about the war and were on the radio hit parade. Movietone News reported much of the good news from the war and occasionally, the not-so-good news.

Clothing ration tickets created problems. They were allocated to children as well as adults, and had to be used to buy clothing. If a child was bigger than his/her age group, an application had to be made for extra coupons. Coupons were for very basic wardrobes – hand-me-downs were normal in families, women's fashions changed as skirts were made straighter and shorter. Men's suits were

designed without lapels. Wedding dresses were passed around, or brides wore their usual Sunday best. Catering for wedding receptions, or other social occasions required quite a bit of saving of food coupons among friends, family and neighbours.

Many women re-joined the work force. Some joined the "Land Army" and were sent to supply labour on farms where the men had left for the war. Some married women returned to teaching, having had to resign when they married. In the cities women worked in the munitions factories, and in factories supplying uniforms for the forces having been ordered to work by the Government's Manpower Act. Single women could join the services, no longer just as nurses; but in the army, navy and air force, not so much as combatants; but as replacements in desk jobs for the fighting men.

"War savings" was the dominant form of saving

money. The Government set up War Savings Certificates, for the very small investors; but also ran "Victory Loans" over the period of the war. These were well supported, both by the patriotic, as well as by those who, due to the limitations for spending, because of rationing, found themselves with money to spare for the first time in their lives.

For many adults, the past six years had been filled with anxiety for those fighting overseas, as well as with fatigue from working in many varieties of ways for the war effort while at the same time, "keeping the home fires burning" as the popular song of the day instructed. Austerity had ruled for those years when shortages of food and luxury goods were the rule. Simple pleasures were fewer and farther between, even the football leagues stopped operating as more young men were called up. Consequently August 15 was a day of great joy for Australians.

It was over at last! The boys would soon be home!

For some that joy was tinged with sorrow as the country began counting the cost – so much suffering and hardship, and for some, the boys did not come home, but lay in graves in distant lands.

All over the country new names were added to the war memorials - as they were in our own district - listing the sacrifices made by a new generation of young men and the silent suffering of those who loved them.

August 15, 1945, is a date always to be remembered, even 80 years on, bringing the hope that a world war will never happen again!

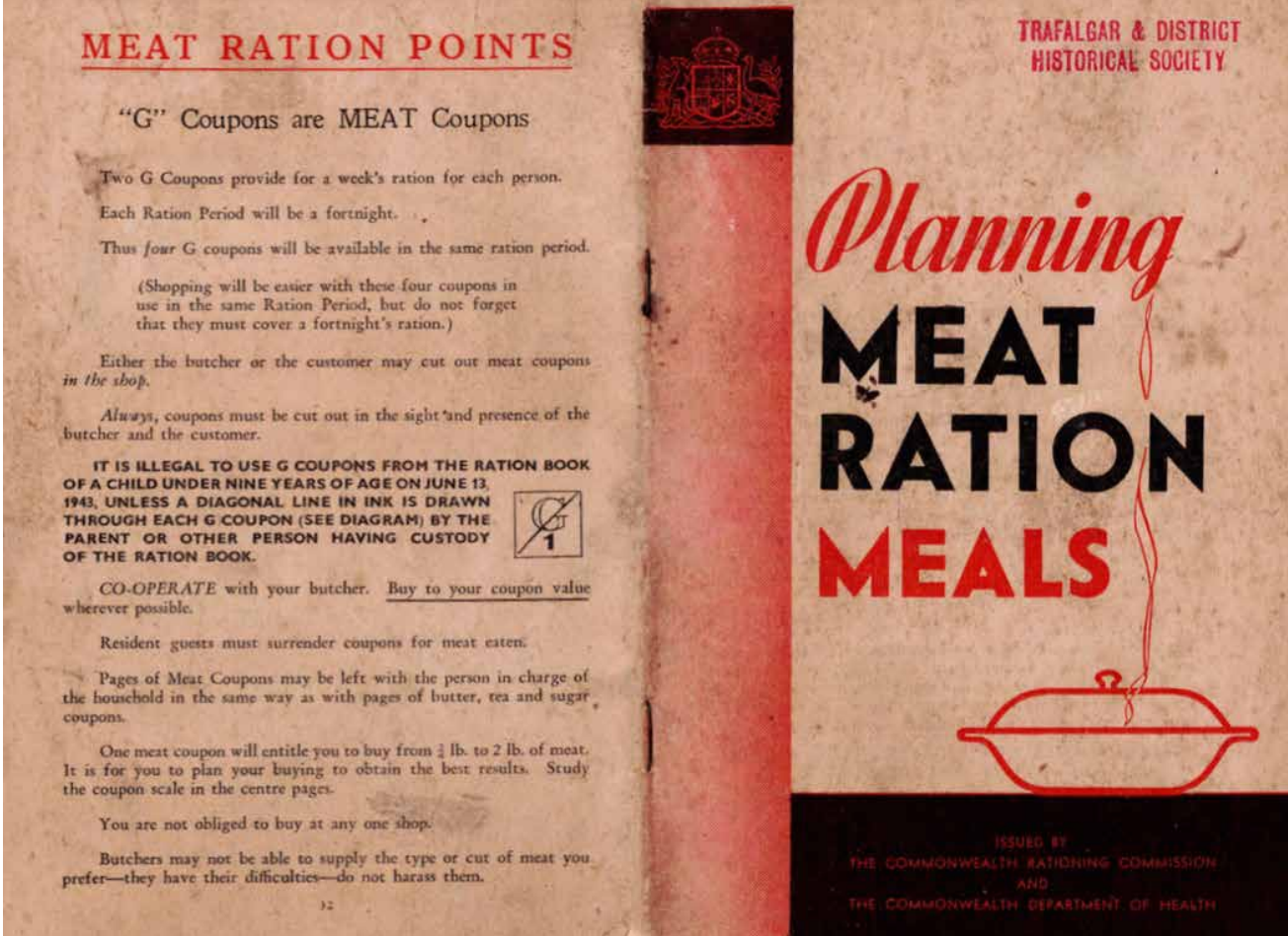
Editor's Note: Traf District News also notes and commemorates the devastating atomic bombings in Japan. These bombings were a humanitarian tragedy and resulted in a great loss of life. Let it continue to serve as a reminder of the dangers of war and nuclear weapons.



Clothing ration card.



Petron rationing stamps. All images supplied.



War time recipes.

Team of the decade selection

By Liam Durkin

Trafalgar locals Dylan Farrell, Grady Cockledge and Joel Bragagnolo were selected in Moe Football-Netball Club's team of the decade.

The trio were among the Lions' leading performers during the late 2010s, after making the move to play at Gippsland League level.

Willow Grove boys Jacob Wood and Tom Long also gained selection.

The team was selected by Moe's senior coaches over the last 10 years in James Blaser (who also grew up in Traf), Lachlan Sim and Declan Keilty.

Criteria for selection was at least two seasons' worth of service.

Moe FNC president, Matt Howlett presented certificates to each player, while also going through year-by-year highlights.

The last decade saw results at either end of the scale, as an overall winning percentage just above 50 indicated.

The Lions have played in three preliminary finals the last 10 years (2019, '23, '24) and missed finals just once since 2017, yet are still chasing an elusive first premiership since 1967.

Season 2023 was the senior team's best year, finishing second on the home-and-

away ladder after losing just two regular season games.

Two rebuilds were necessary, the first as the club continued to recover from having no home ground in the early 2010s, and the second following the pandemic.

A clear generational change occurred after the pandemic, with most of

the club's more senior players retiring. However, out of that saw a host of quality young players emerge, who have now become key senior players.

Other highlights throughout the decade included ending Leongatha's run of 34 consecutive victories in 2023, and winning every away fix-

ture in the same year for the first time in club history.

Peter Ainsworth reached 350 senior games (departing just 11 shy of the all-time Gippsland League record to take a senior coaching opportunity at Newborough) in 2019, and James Blaser and Riley Baldi won the Trood Award and Rodda Medal

as the Gippsland League best-and-fairest in 2017 and 2024 respectively.

Acknowledgements were also made to Manny Gelagotis, who was club president for a record 10 seasons between 2014 and 2023.

Senior captains during the decade were Ben Morrow (2014-16), Blaser (2017-18)

and Wood (2019-24). Wood was honoured with captaincy of the Team of the Decade.

Coaches were: Adrian Burgiel (2014-15), Blaser (2016-18), Sim (2019-21) and Keilty (2022-24).

Blaser, Wood and Long were also named in Moe's Team of the Decade for 2003-2013.



Moe Football-Netball Club Team of the Decade 2014-24 (back) Declan Keilty, Brock Smith, Scott van Dyk, Tyson Biffin, Tom Long, Ben Morrow, Charlie Rieniets, Joel Bragagnolo (front) Jacob Wood, Harri Sim, James Blaser, Trent Baldi, Riley Baldi, Peter Ainsworth and Grady Cockledge. Absent: Darnell Grech, Dylan Farrell, Harry Pepper, Mark Engley, Ash Dugan, Col Sanbrook, Ben Daniher.

Cricket starts next month

By Liam Durkin

Trafalgar Cricket Club will begin its 2025/26 season in a few weeks' time.

The Ships have been working hard on and off field in the lead-up to the new season, with players undertaking indoor training at the Moe Indoor Centre while the committee has everything in order to hit the ground running come the first week of competition.

With the season beginning next month there is general excitement throughout the club and playing group.

All in Trafalgar cricket circles are hoping the season is a successful one, as Trafalgar will again field three senior teams and, in a major boost, junior teams in Under 17s, 15s, 13s and 11s.

Coming off the back of a largely competitive and successful 2024/25 season, the Trafalgar Cricket Club is expecting performances across



The Trafalgar Cricket Club is looking forward to another season.

the grades to display the Ships trademark blue collar spirit as the club seeks further premiership glory.

Trafalgar will this season compete in Division 1 (First XI), Division 3 (Second XI) and Division 4 (Third XI), having won promotion after winning the Division 5 premiership.

This means Trafalgar teams are competing in just about the highest standard possible.

The club receives great support from local businesses and spectators who follow the teams around the district for which it is extremely grateful. Sponsors and supporters allow the club to ex-

ecute its core business which is to provide a place for people to play and enjoy cricket.

If anyone is interested in joining a great family club, please phone club secretary Liam Durkin on 0402 556 338, email trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com, or visit the club's public Facebook page.



Louis Hennessy and Mitch Claridge are gearing up for a big campaign.

Strzelecki Bushwalking Club

By Carolyn Dyke

It takes a team of dedicated volunteers to make the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club run as successfully as it does.

On Saturday August 2, the club conducted a leadership workshop in the Moe library. There were 16 participants who attended the training day to improve their skills and confidence in relation to leading club activities. This increases the confidence of our members to lead activities for our monthly program and enhances the safety as-

pect of the activities. Upskilling members ensures that we have a varied and extensive program of activities on offer.

Experienced walk leaders, Cathy Almond, Martin Norris and Robyn Shingles shared their broad leadership experience with the group. Bushwalking Victoria provides various training units on their website, and these were also covered extensively during the workshop. This intensive six-hour workshop was designed to give new leaders the skills and confidence to lead walks

of their own. The Strzelecki Bushwalking Club also has a strong history of providing peer mentoring to new leaders, which is another very important aspect of assisting new leaders.

Among our group of prospective walks leaders, the SBWC accommodated members of other local bushwalking clubs.

This workshop and morning tea were provided free of charge.

We would also like to introduce another member of our hard-working team,

Matthew Morgan. Matt is our newsletter editor and publishes a fantastic edition every month. The club's newsletter is made freely available to the public on our website. There is a comprehensive list of each month's activities together with trip reports from the previous month.

Matt works in Traralgon and moved to Gippsland from the Cranbourne area to take up employment as a mechanical engineer. Matt loves all outdoor activities such as 4WD and clay shooting. Matt reports that a colleague

recommended SBWC and he was "hooked" straight away. Bushwalking is a great way to indulge in Matt's other passion of photography.

The Strzelecki Bushwalking Club provides opportunities for its members to walk all over Australia and recently we have hosted activities on Flinders Island and as far away as Portland. Next month members are heading off to Western Australia.

Local walks in August include Freemans Mill, Point Leo and Lysterfield Park.

Each month on the second Wednesday, SBWC holds a club night beginning at 7.30pm. in the Trafalgar Scout Hall. There is a different speaker each month and supper is provided. This is a lovely way to introduce yourself to members. Visitors are always welcome.

Further information is available on the website at sbwc.org.au, on our Facebook page or by contacting publicity@sbwc.org.au

Looking for a new hobby? Pickleball Is coming to Trafalgar!

By Peace Ijiyera

On Wednesday July 16, Acting Minister for Community Sport, Gayle Tierney announced 827 grants amassing over \$1 million for sport clubs around Victoria.

The Trafalgar Park Community Hub was granted \$4,000 to introduce pickleball into the local community.

A cross between badminton, tennis and table tennis, pickleball is a sport for all ages and abilities that can be played in singles or doubles, indoors or outdoors.

Secretary of the hub Raewyn McMahon says it is "one of the fastest growing sports in the world."

McMahon says she had seen the popularity of pickleball and was excited to introduce it into Trafalgar, saying it will be a "pretty cool" thing to offer to the community.

She is looking forward to creating a "great little club."

Instructor Michael Murrell is equally as excited to see pickleball introduced into Trafalgar.

A seasoned pickleball player himself, having played in many tournaments, Murrell encourages everyone to give pickleball a try.

Though it is a sport commonly played amongst an older demographic, Murrell

is hoping to see younger players get involved in the sport to create a "different style" of play.

The grant money will cover facilitation, advertising and the creation of a booking system. The money will also cover the purchasing of equipment.

Pickleball will be available to play socially from Tuesday September 16, from 6:00-7:30pm at the Trafalgar Tennis Club.

For more information and updates, please visit the 'TCH Pickle Ball' Facebook page.



Raewyn McMahon and instructor Michael Murrell.



Raewyn and Michael playing indoor pickleball.

World Scout Day honours local heroes in Mount Baw Baw District

By Rick Bradley

August 1 is celebrated around the world as World Scout Day, a time to honour the values, community spirit, and lifelong impact of scouting. It is also the day when the Adult Recognition Awards are announced—prestigious honours given to both uniformed members and dedicated supporters for their continued service and

outstanding commitment to scouting.

These awards are especially meaningful, as nominations come from fellow members, highlighting the deep respect and appreciation held by their peers.

This year, the Mount Baw Baw District proudly recognises seven exceptional volunteers whose efforts have helped shape, support,

and strengthen scouting in the region:

- Shaun Viney was honoured with the Outstanding Service Award for his exceptional contributions to the Caringal Scout Camp, going above and beyond to support youth members and leaders.
- Brett and Phoebe

Hicks were presented with the Meritorious Service Award for their ongoing leadership and invaluable support at 1st Trafalgar Scout Group, as well as their active involvement in numerous scouting events.

- David ‘Sparky’ Morrison, Chris Reeves, and Pam Butler each received

the Silver Wattle Award for their exemplary and sustained service to scouting.

- Lucas Wilson received the Special Service Award in recognition of his dedicated event support and behind-the-scenes work that helps scouting run smoothly.
- The Mount Baw Baw District congratulates all recip-

ients and extends heartfelt thanks for their continued dedication to the movement. Their efforts ensure that scouting remains a vibrant, inclusive, and impactful part of our community.

Traf District News notes that Shaun Viney, Brett and Phoebe Hicks are all Trafalgar residents and congratulates them again for their achievements.

Dastey delivers

By John Cardona and Liam Durkin

Moe United celebrated after winning its ninth Latrobe Valley Soccer League championship last month.

The Red Devils, coached by Trafalgar’s Lee Dastey, secured the title with a 4-nil victory over Monash in the penultimate round.

The result gave Moe an unassailable lead at the top of the LVSL ladder with one round to play. It was Moe’s first league championship since 2016.

A brilliant first half of football saw the Red Devils take a 3-nil lead into the break at Monash Reserve. In what was one of the largest crowds to ever attend a Moe versus Monash derby, the Red Devils’ defence, headed Lachie McKenzie, Chad Shelley, Noah Kane and Brendan Ruddell, repelled most of the Monash forward attacks, which gave the visiting forwards plenty of avenues to goal.

Moe got the breakthrough after 10 minutes of attacking soccer, culminating at the 23 minute mark.

A cross into the box caused a goal scramble, which the Monash defence failed to clear properly, and an alert Noah Kane seized onto the ball and hammered it home from close range.

The Red Devils made it 2-nil after one of the more bizarre passages of play saw the keeper literally kick the ball straight to Moe striker Connor O’Hanlon.

O’Hanlon needed no invitation, and ran in to slot the easiest of chances.

At 42 minutes, Sceney collected a loose ball and then make a run on the right side to dribble his way past two Monash players, and unleashed an absolute right foot



Winning coach Lee Dastey (left) is presented the trophy by league representative Stephen Breheny.

thunderbolt of a drive which rocketed into the roof of the goal with the keeper glued to his spot.

With the 2025 league championship virtually wrapped up, Moe United set out to limit the chances of a late Monash revival. Up front in attack, O’Hanlon was always a constant threat, and was again in the play when he let loose with another crackling drive which rattled the

crossbar. The rebound was met by Matt Shearing, but his header attempt went over the crossbar.

Midway through the second half, a run up the left by Shearing saw him illegally tackled by a Monash defender, and referee Kieran Lenders had no hesitation to award Moe United a penalty spot kick.

Despite calls from the crowd for club favourite

and keeper, Peter Albanese to take the shot, O’Hanlon stepped up and made no mistake. Albo showed there was nothing that could break his ageing body, even getting straight back to his feet after virtually being spear tackled in the first half.

O’Hanlon’s second goal came after 81 minutes, meaning there was little left to do but wait for the final whistle.

Subs were given a run around this time, with the game’s only sour note a late injury to McKenzie forcing him off the field.

Winning coach, Dastey waited until there was around two minutes left before taking in congratulations from the bench.

A somewhat subdued celebration took place on the pitch, with just the league trophy presented.

Moe skippers Shearing and Luke Bathgate proudly lifted the championship trophy.

More players and officials will receive their medals and Football Victoria banner once the season is officially over.

Best players on the day for the Red Devils were O’Hanlon, McKenzie, Sceney and Shelley.

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