

Traf District News

November 2025 – Edition 280

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Community events bring farmers together

By Jordan Ross

Through September and October, a series of community barbecues were held, with the intention of bringing local farmers together.

The Look Over the Farm Gate – Help a Mate! initiative had events in Neerim South, Ellinbank, Buln Buln, Longwarry, and Trafalgar. The events were an amazing opportunity for farmers to support each other with the stresses of farming in dry season conditions, as well as provide access to important support resources.

Mayor of Baw Baw Shire Cr Danny Goss said the sense of community amongst local farmers is obvious.

“There is no denying farming is a tough job, even more

so in the harsh and dry conditions we are experiencing now. It’s great to see farmers taking a few hours off their land to relax, connect, and access important support services,” said Cr Goss.

He also thanked the Lions Clubs and Country Women’s Associations for providing catering, adding that “the opportunity to share a meal and talk to each other was appreciated by all attending.”

All local primary producers were invited to attend. Information and support services from the Baw Baw Shire Council, Head2Health, Agriculture Victoria, GippsDairy and Lifeline also attended the events.

This is a particularly important time to provide sup-

port for Victorian farmers. Much of the state has been experiencing rainfall deficiencies since 2023 which has continued through winter and spring this year.

Many primary producers are being stretched financially as they must source and pay for limited supplies of water, as well as hay and grain from as far away as Western Australia.

This series of events was delivered by council with funding from the state government through Agriculture Victoria and the National Centre for Farmer Health. These community events are part of the \$67.2 million drought relief package provided by the state government earlier this year.



Local farmers and support services gathered at Trafalgar Cricket Club for a community barbecue.



Lunch and conversation at the Buln Buln community barbecue.



Support agency representatives from the Longwarry community barbecue. All images supplied.

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Traf District News

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Baw Baw Shire is heading out to Trafalgar

Council is running an open community consultation on Tuesday November 18 from 4pm to 6pm at the Trafalgar Community Centre.

Councillors and council officers will join the community to talk about the future of Trafalgar.

“We decided to go straight to the community... so we have a clear path forward,” said Cr Brendan Kingwill.

The sale of the Trafalgar Business Centre, the adoption of the Trafalgar Structure Plan, and the development of the second oval will be key discussion points, however, Councillor Brendan Kingwill was keen to ensure that the session will be “driven by the community.”

“This is all about giving people in the community a direct chance to give input rather than hearing about the current plans.”

Cr Kingwill said it would be important to hear from community groups and clubs as well as the wider public.

“We [need to] make sure that the major stakeholders in Trafalgar are personally invited to make sure we get all the right people in the room at the right time and bounce ideas off people and get a plan going forward,” he said.

Cr Adam Sheenan is also “very excited” to meet with the community and “hear what’s on their minds face-to-face.”

Council will also seek community feedback at the event on the proposed upgrade of the kindergarten in Contingent Street, options to maximise

use of the community centre, and playground equipment renewals.

“I’m hopeful to get a clear and strategic plan for Trafalgar and am looking forward

to some good outcomes,” said Cr Kate Wilson.

Council is excited to engage the community and encourages locals to attend the event to help inform council

decision-making moving into the future.

Registration details will be available on council’s website closer to the date – www.baw-bawshire.vic.gov.au



East Ward Councillors Adam Kingwill, Kate Wilson, and Adam Sheehan. Photographed by Trevor Colvin.

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New sport pavilion underway in Yarragon

By Jordan Ross

Construction is well underway for the new sporting pavilion at Yarragon's Dowton Park. Following demolition of the existing outdated facility, a concrete slab has been poured, and

both the structural steel and lightweight framing are now in place. Preparations are also underway for roof truss installation.

The \$3.9 million project is a part of the Baw Baw Shire Council's capital

works program, totalling over \$46 million infrastructure investment in 2024/25. The Rollo Street park project in Yarragon is also currently underway.

East Ward Councillor Adam Sheehan said the new

pavilion would help to put Yarragon on the map for junior and senior footy, netball and cricket.

"We recently had a site walkthrough which gave us a great opportunity to see the emerging structure and visualise the layout of each room. The quality of the work is exceptional," said Cr Sheehan.

"Once completed, this new facility will provide a welcome boost to grassroots sport for the Yarragon community and surrounds," he continued.

Of the \$3.9 million project fund, \$250,000 has been invested by the state gov-

ernment and a further \$1.8 million contributed by the federal government.

Mayor Danny Goss said that this collaboration "is a great example of all three levels of government working together to deliver the infrastructure that local communities want, need and deserve."

The new pavilion will improve the site's accessibility with additions such as handrails and improved women's changerooms.

Electrical mains have been connected to the upgraded power pillar, water connection works are

scheduled for completion soon, and construction of the separate timekeeper's room and coaches' box is nearly complete.

Over the coming months, next steps will see installation of plaster walls, concrete pavements and connecting paths, internal fit outs and other essential service connections.

Local contractor, Kubale Constructions Pty Ltd, is overseeing the works.

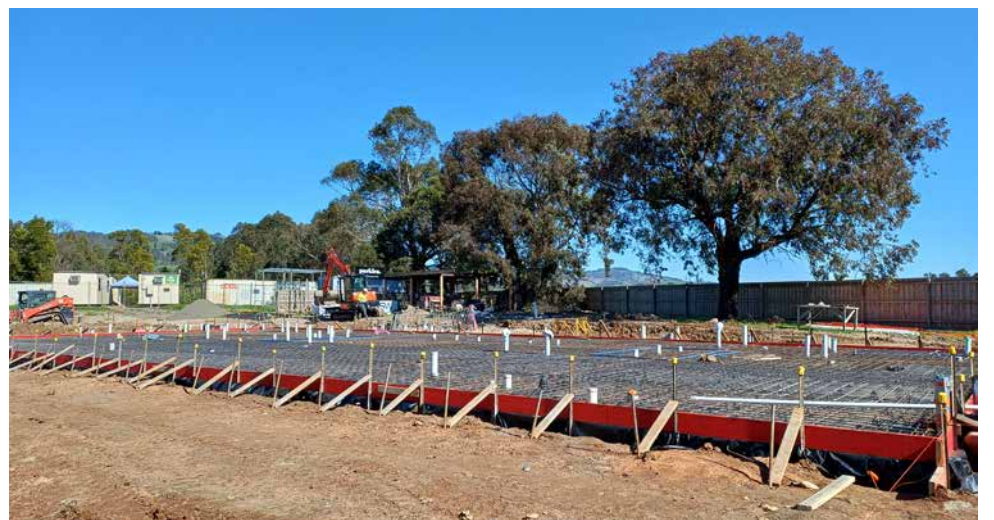
The pavilion should be completed in March 2026 and ready for use soon after.



Construction is underway at Dowton Park. All images supplied.



Structural steel and lightweight framing are now in place for the pavilion.



The new pavilion will include more accessible infrastructure, meaning everyone can participate at Dowton Park.



The concrete slab for the pavilion has been poured.

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Kurnai elders unhappy with Victorian Treaty

According to reporting in the Herald Sun, Gippsland Indigenous elders are unhappy with the Allan government for using their traditional language to name the state's proposed representative body under the new Treaty bill. They have said Kurnai traditional elders have not approved of the use of the name, Gellung Warl, and this goes against cultural protocols.

Victoria's historic Treaty - the first of its kind in any Australian jurisdiction - was announced by the Labor government in September. The First People's Assembly of Victoria will be expanded to include 33 representatives elected by First Nations people in Victoria.

But Kurnai elder Cheryl Drayton says traditional owners were never consulted on the use of their language and opposed the new body being set up despite the legislation passing through the Victorian Legislative Assembly in October. The Treaty still needs to be approved by the Legislative Council, but is expected to pass with the support of Labor and the crossbench.

"Under our customary law people just can't come onto country or do things relating to country, without at least speaking to the elders and getting consent," Ms Drayton told the Herald Sun.

"There was no consent given, but they are doing it anyway and they are being very disrespectful."

She indicated there was a divide between Indigenous groups in Melbourne and many regional traditional owners.

Ms Drayton said the Kurnai Elders do not support Treaty in this form and were strongly opposed to their language being used.

According to the Herald Sun, Another Kurnai elder, Pauline Muffet, has written a letter to Premier Jacinta Allan and government members sharing her *"deep concern about the cultural breach."*

"To use our language to name a political body that the Kurnai people do not support is not only inappropriate, it is also harmful," she wrote. *"It misrepresents our stance and risks turning our sacred words into symbols of a process we have not endorsed."*

She also called for the name to be changed. The First Peoples Assembly of Victoria have been working towards the Treaty for around a decade. Assembly members represent communities across five regions that cover Victoria: Metropolitan, South East, South West, North East and North West.

Kurnai man Peter Hood and Gunaikurnai man Troy McDonald represent the South East Region in the Assembly.

A spokesperson for the Assembly said the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria consulted with the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages, traditional owner groups members, elders and knowledge holders for specific advice on the use of language names in the statewide Treaty.

"For the use of the name Gellung Warl, formal permissions were sought and obtained from the Gunai Kurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation."

Nationals spokesperson for Aboriginal Affairs, Melina Bath called for the name to be changed, saying *"The elders should be paid respect and it is disappointing that the government didn't show enough respect to communicate and didn't ask the elders permission to use the Kurnai word."*

Editor's Note: Traf District News will cover the Victorian Treaty in further detail in December. We have obtained or will seek comments from Cheryl Drayton and other Kurnai members, local politicians including opposition members such as Wayne Farnham MP and Melina Bath MLC, the government, and other stakeholders.

Eco-friendly changes to waste collection coming in 2026

From July 2026, local residents with a council kerbside waste collection service will be able to place food and garden scraps into their green bins as part of a new Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) service.

The State Government's Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 requires all Victorian councils to provide access to a standardised four stream household waste and recycling system, including a Food and Garden Organics service, by July 2027.

Currently, over 53 per cent of waste found in the average red general rubbish bin is made up of food and garden organics, glass recycling or mixed recycling. That means more than half of what is placed in the average household general rubbish bin could be composted or recycled.

By making the move to place food scraps in the green bin, residents will help reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill, reduce EPA landfill levy, waste disposal and transportation costs, create high quality compost, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Once the service is introduced, locals will be able to use their green bin to dispose of food scraps and leftovers including meat, fish, raw and cooked bones as well as other items like dairy, egg, spoiled foods, citrus and onion, that cannot be easily composted at home. Households will be provided a small indoor bin and compostable liners to help with the transition.

This change will also mean that the red general rubbish bin will only be collected fortnightly, while the green FOGO bin will be collected weekly.

To support the introduction of FOGO services Baw Baw Shire Council has partnered with other local councils to secure a 15-year contract for the processing of green organic waste with local business PineGro Products, based in Morwell.

PineGro is developing a new industrial composting facility in Morwell which will process and transform food and garden organics into valuable compost and soil conditioner. These will return nutrients back to the environment through use in Victorian parks, gardens and farms.

For more information, visit bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/resource/recovery



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A look at life in a retirement village (Part 2)

By Trevor Colvin

Last Month Traf District News interviewed three men who live in the Encore Retirement Living to find out what it is that they like about living in a retirement village.

This month we asked the same question of three women residents.

Gwen

"I think the people who are here are all lovely. The staff look after us well. I think everybody should, in their older age, feel protected and looked after, and that's what we have here.

"I think a lot of people leave it too late. They need to come here while they're still healthy, while they're still mobile, and get into the swing of it. We visited other retirement villages before we chose to move here, a number of folks said to me they left it too late.

"We like the fact that it's a happy community, we feel safe, and everybody looks after everybody else without living in each other's pockets.

"This village is good for people who are on their own. They've got increased security. They've got people around them.



Gwen

"Another great thing is that people can go away for months at a time and their house is still looked after.

"How comfortable and cozy are these places? We're just so lucky."

Ann

Editor: Before moving to Encore, Ann and her husband lived in a large retirement village not far away and she says they didn't like it for a number of reasons, but she is delighted to live at Encore. She is especially thrilled that since her husband passed away after they arrived, how other residents have been so supportive and caring of her.

"I love the idea of a community centre, because you can do many different things. There are some things that I'm not interested in, but there are other things that I am. And I think it covers a wide range.

"The book library is fantastic. I love the library. There's always plenty to read.

"The new gym is fantastic. I'm not a swimmer, so I can't comment on the pool. But the swimmers seem to love it.

"I love the idea of the gates locking at night. I re-



Ann

ally appreciate the security that brings.

"This villa was ideal for my husband because there are no steps. Everything is flat, which is great. I think we all can get clumsy and a single level villa with wide doors is a great feature.

"And I generally get on with everyone. I can honestly say there's no one here that I don't like. You know, I think we've all got something, we've all got something to offer each other.

"And the friendship, the security, like I said, I keep saying that.

"I like having a little garden, because I can go out into that and when I just don't want anyone, I can just close the door and that's it.

"Just me and the dog. And I think it's fantastic that we can have dogs, because dogs are amazing, especially when you're on your own, the company and the love they give. And it's always, when you're walking here, and I walk every day, usually early and there're not many people around, you're always meeting someone and you're



Cathy

talking. So you've got that social interaction.

"And there are so many different activities. I went to the Morning Melodies in the community centre and I thought, oh, I won't know any of these songs, but I was singing away to all of them. I knew them all!

"I also love that this place is quiet. You know, you haven't got noisy neighbours. There's nothing... Like I said, I can't see anything negative about living here."

Cathy

"My mum and dad went to a retirement village after years and years of resisting and they absolutely loved it. They were so wrong thinking that...and I remember the first day I helped move them into their unit, I thought, oh my God, I could live here.

"You know, nice, generous sized unit. And so that was in the back of my mind and they both became quite ill and I had teaching commitments. So I was sort of stuck in the southeastern suburbs.

"But in my heart, I always wanted to be in the country because I had horses and, you know, I had them on agistment so I'd get out into the country and get fresh air and relaxation.

"And I also used to spend a lot of time on my aunt and uncle's farm from when I was a kid. And that was like my paradise.

"So I started looking online and over at least two years, I must have looked at every retirement village in Victoria. And in my mind, I wanted coastal or country, but for what I wanted, which is a villa like this, going coastal and wanting to go to the Peninsula, well, that was beyond my price range. So I thought, okay, so it's country and I ac-

tually looked around Ballarat because I have family history in Ballarat and I have a cousin there.

"There were some nice ones there, but it was a bit far away from the rest of my family. I just started looking at properties further and further from the southeastern suburbs.

"And I remember I found another place near here which I really liked but they didn't have a vacancy for months and months and months.

"So one day, I just Googled retirement villages near Warrigal and found Encore. I looked at it online and it started off with a drone going down Flagship Drive and I saw all the colours are Australian landscape colours. Then the drone did a big sweep and I got a view of the Strzelecki Ranges. And I just thought, that's it for me.

"As soon as I drove in the gates, I just knew. So...and it had everything.

"The units were just perfect. The two bedrooms, the flexi room, and built in brick. I've got a double garage, which I need for my junk!

"Oddly enough, the community centre at that stage wasn't that important to me. I just wanted it to look nice. But that's such a bonus now. The fireplace and all that sort of thing.

"And being gated is important to me. Security; especially now with what's going on with home invasions and so forth. It just makes me feel that much safer.

"The management is fantastic. Rosa, the manager, and Anne-Marie and Shaz in the office, their care for everybody is above and beyond what you'd expect. I really appreciate that. They've really helped me settle in.

"When you move into a place like this, you don't know what the community's going to be like. But I've just been welcomed so warmly. People aren't in your face but they are there when you need them.

"Everyone is friendly. You can go for a walk around the village and have chats everywhere. One day I set out at 11 o'clock and got home at 1:30 and that was just walking around the block!

"I just think how privileged we are to live here. It is so beautiful. You know, from my lounge room, I can see the Baw Baw ranges that way and I can see the Strzelecki ranges in the other direction.

"And you go for a drive toward Mirboo North, and the first time I went there, my head was like on a swivel, because it's just breathtaking. And I'll sit here sometimes in the lounge room, and a crimson rosella will land on the fence... or the black cockatoos, which I love.

"And I've seen little wrens and pardalopes, and all sorts of things. So it's just beautiful. And I hear a kookaburra sometimes.

"Another good thing about living here is there's no pressure on you here to join in. It was only when I typed in retirement villages near Warragul that it came up. And I thought, why isn't anyone talking about this? I just love it here. I love it!

"This is a step-free village, which is very important as we get older.

"The owner has put quality into this village. He's put a lot of thought into it.

"The villas are one level, ambos can come in and out, double glazing everywhere, 10-foot ceilings. It's wonderful!"

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Proposed RV camp site for Trafalgar

A proposal for a free, recreation vehicle/ caravan (RV) short-term campsite at Trafalgar Recreation Precinct has been submitted to Baw Baw Shire Council.

The proposal, submitted by local resident Mick Bourke OAM, recommends the establishment of a free, short-term RV stay area in Trafalgar to address a significant gap in suitable facilities for RV travellers along the Princes Highway corridor between Rosedale and metropolitan Melbourne.

As there are no free camp sites with appropriate facilities, that is, toilet, potable water and dump point, along Princes Highway between Rosedale's Wellington RV Park in East Gippsland and the western and northern sides of Melbourne, the proposal says Trafalgar in particular, and Baw Baw shire in general, need a free, short-term RV stay area with appropriate facilities.

The only free camp area within Baw Baw Shire along Princes Highway is at a busy roadside rest area at Longwarry North with toilet and

water facilities, which allows overnight (24 hour) stops.

Just 'over the border' in Cardinia Shire, at Bunyip North, known as Bunyip River Rest Area, is a free camp which has no facilities.

The proposal targets self-contained RVs for stays of up to 72 hours as it aligns with increasing national trends in low-cost, non-commercial RV accommodation.

Three key objectives are identified in the proposal:

- RV tourism will be attracted to Trafalgar and district, which will stimulate the local economy;
- It addresses a regional shortfall in accessible, low-cost RV facilities with essential services in Baw Baw Shire; and
- It supports strategic alignment with Baw Baw Shire's Economic Development Strategy and Destination Gippsland's (Visit Gippsland) visitor economy goals.

Identified locations

RVs that stay for short periods of time require facilities that are both aesthetically pleasing and functional. Two sites are identified as suitable for free, short-term RV stay areas in Trafalgar: Trafalgar Recreation Precinct; and MacGregor Park Lane.

The preferred site is Trafalgar Recreation Precinct, with the non-preferred site being MacGregor Park Lane.

Preferred location: Trafalgar Recreation Precinct

Trafalgar Recreation Precinct is the preferred site due to its existing public amenities, and recreational appeal. With the installation of a dump point and potable water access, it will provide all that is needed for short-term RV accommodation.

It is located 1km from Trafalgar's CBD and is sufficiently separated from residential premises.

Non-preferred site: MacGregor Park Lane

MacGregor Park Lane is also considered an appropriate site due to its proximity (approximately 200 metres)

to the town centre, existing public amenities, and recreational appeal.

However, even though no direct consultation has occurred, it is probable that a number of residents directly adjoining this site would object to its location for a RV site.

Benefits

The benefits of a free, short-term RV stay area will vastly exceed the costs through:

- boost to local business revenue (estimated up to \$100/day per RV);
- enhanced visibility and visitation of local attractions and events;
- potential to gain 'RV Friendly Town' status through the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA);
- increased tourism opportunities, further highlighting the natural beauty of the shire; and
- strengthened community facilities (e.g., dump point usable by local RV owners).

Estimated Costs

Minimal infrastructure investment is required through installation of:

- a dump point and tap, with CMCA co-sponsorship likely for the dump point top;
- external potable water tap, away from the dump point;
- water-proof tourism brochure cabinets; and
- signage.

Ongoing costs will include maintenance of the toilets,

and possibly rubbish bins if the latter are provided.

Seven case-studies across Australia are identified in the proposal. All identify economic benefits to their respective community, with one showing a return of almost \$8 to its community for every dollar invested.

Community and Stakeholder Support

Support for the proposal, through letters of support attached to the proposal has been received from various clubs and organisations.

Amongst those are Trafalgar Football Netball Club, Trafalgar Cricket Club and Trafalgar Lions Club, who were specifically approached for support as they will be directly affected by the preferred site. Trafalgar Boxing Gym, a co-tenant of the recreation precinct also provided a letter of support.

The proposal's author also randomly approached 12 Trafalgar residents who regularly travel by caravan and stay at town-based free RV sites similar to the one identified for Trafalgar.

All of these residents support the concept of a short-term RV stay in Trafalgar.

in The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia's Self Contained Vehicle (SCV) Policy as amended from time-to-time) be permitted to camp in the preferred site;

3. upon the successful development of the free, short-term RV stay area, Baw Baw Shire Council apply to join the CMCA's RV Friendly Towns Program;
4. Baw Baw Shire Council review and amend its Recreational Vehicle Strategy 2020-23 to include Trafalgar;
5. Baw Baw Shire Council install a dump point and associated equipment next to the public toilets at the preferred free, short-term RV stay area. As part of this recommendation, Baw Baw Shire Council approach CMCA to sponsor a dump point top;
6. Baw Baw Shire Council install an external potable water tap to the toilet block at the preferred free, short-term RV stay area;
7. Baw Baw Shire Council purchase and install weather-proof cabinets to store local tourism brochures and receipts from RV campers on goods and services purchased while staying in Trafalgar.

The proposal is currently with Baw Baw Shire Council for its consideration.



The proposed site at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve.

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Trafalgar & District Historical Society turns 40

By Dianne Ireland



The Historical Society celebrated their 40th anniversary. Image supplied.

A well-attended open afternoon was held recently for the local Historical Society to celebrate a remarkable 40 years, during which time they have lived up to their motto of ‘Preserving the Past

for Our Future’. A vast collection of newspapers, documents, artifacts and much more has been donated, purchased and catalogued over these 40 years. Much of this was on display for visitors to look at, with local history books and the Society’s Gazettes available for purchase. The Historical Society meets every Friday afternoon in their rooms at 30 Contingent Street, Trafalgar.

Enquiries may be directed to historicalsociety-traf@gmail.com or Jean on 5633 1960



Image supplied.

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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 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
GCS - Raising Awareness One Drive at a Time Inc Community outreach service and mental health support	Every Friday 11am to 3pm	Moe Neighbourhood House
Baw Baw Arts Alliance Poetry Bauhaus	November 2, 2:30pm	Commerical Hotel Warragul
Remembrance Day Celebrations	November 11 11am	Trafalgar & Thorpdale RSL
Trafalgar Community Consultation Council wants to hear from the community.	November 18 4pm to 6pm	Trafalgar Community Centre
The BRAG Fun & Float Fly 2025 Enjoy the sport of RC plane flying	November 22 to 23	Blue Rock Road, Willow Grove
Community Bank Trafalgar & District		
Scholarship Program Applications opening	December 1	
Aruma Art Exhibition Celebration of local disabled artists	December 3 to 5	McGregor Park Hall, Trafalgar
Christmas Twilight Market	December 12 4pm to 8pm	Waterloo Park, Yarragon

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



Should housing be a human right?

By Jordan Ross

Given the current housing crisis - in which more than 122,000 people were estimat-

ed to be experiencing homelessness at the last census in 2021, and with house prices having risen 6.2% in the past

year - Australians are vulnerable when it comes to housing security. This makes the question posed in the head-

line particularly relevant and it's a question recently answered by the Australian Capital Territory, which enshrined housing as a part of their Human Rights Act.

The law was passed through the ACT Legislative Assembly with support from Labor and The Greens. The territory's Human Rights Commissioner, Dr Penelope Mathew, said that it brings "the ACT closer toward fully realising the right to adequate housing and a more comprehensive human rights framework for all Canberrans."

This is also a question being discussed in Victoria.

While Victoria does not have a Human Rights Act, it does have the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006. It protects 21 fundamental rights, some of which include:

- "Right to recognition and equality before the law".
- "Right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief".
- "Right to freedom from forced work".

So if housing was considered a human right in Victoria, what would that look like?

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of their background. In the ACT, this legislation means that the territory's government will need to consider the right to housing when making decisions and developing policies. It will particularly advocate for the rights of people in social or public housing, renters, and those experiencing homelessness. It also provides constituents with the ability to challenge decisions and laws made by

the government to ensure the right is being upheld.

"Adequate housing is about more than just shelter. It is the right to live somewhere in security, peace, and dignity. If people don't have safe and stable housing, many other fundamental rights are at risk," Dr Penelope Mathew said, while ACT Greens leader Shane Rattenbury - who introduced the bill - said that it will "reshape the way we think about housing... treat[ing] housing not as a private asset... but as a foundational social good."

This last statement feels increasingly true. Houses are treated as a commodity rather than a necessity. Even when the housing crisis is discussed, it feels as if much of the framing is surrounding the idea that if young people are not able to buy homes, they won't have that asset to support themselves and their families in retirement - and not through the lens that this crisis really means that many people are without a secure and stable place to live.

The Victorian Greens first introduced a bill (Human Rights and Responsibilities Amendment (Right to Housing) Bill 2025) to the Victorian Legislative Council in June, with debate taking place in August. The primary sentiment is that it is right for every person to have adequate housing.

"We are offering something all MPs across the political spectrum can agree on - that everyone has a right to a safe and affordable home," said Greens housing spokesperson Gabrielle de Vietri.

In August, the Council to Homeless People called for bipartisan support for the bill, urging Premier Jacinta

Allan and Opposition Leader Brad Battin to vote in favour of enshrining housing as a human right. They argued that every Victorian needs a "guarantee of safe and dignified housing" because without it, there are "dire consequences for quality of life."

However, neither Labor or the Liberals supported the legislation. Labor MLC Ryan Batchelor said "that [it] will not build a single home" and that their focus is on improving house affordability and tackling homelessness.

If that's what the focus is currently, then let's look at the situation at hand. A study released by The Guardian last year found that people experiencing homelessness are dying at an average age of 44, more than 30 years less than the national life expectancy, with exposure to violence and a lack of access to healthcare being some of the main causes. Research from the Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing found that secure housing leads to decreased rates of hospitalisation, reduced transmission of infectious diseases, and improved mental health.

In Victoria, the homelessness crisis is growing. 102,000 Victorians sought help from homelessness services in the 2023-2024 financial year. Reporting from earlier this year found that in Gippsland, over 7,500 households were on the Victorian Housing Register for social housing, and 572 households reported sleeping rough in the past year.

So perhaps a new approach is needed. A new framework to view housing as something that is essential and not a commodity or asset.



Image by Garry Patten, from Pixabay.



COUNCIL
News

Spring into
action and
explore

BAW BAW THIS NOVEMBER.

The weather is warming up and there is lots to see and do across Baw Baw Shire. Visit Council's website for the low down on the region's favourite walks, cycling trails, parks, playgrounds, arts and events.

Looking for inspiration? Explore Baw Baw's temperate rainforest and experience the beautiful flora and fauna along the newly completed Rokeby to Neerim Trail upgrade.

Remembrance Day

A number of commemorative services will be held across Baw Baw Shire on Tuesday 11 November in honour of Remembrance Day. Guests are encouraged to arrive 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the service.

To find your nearest service, visit www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/RemembranceDay

For enquiries, please contact your local RSL or Baw Baw Shire Council on 1300 229 229.

Upcoming Council Meetings:

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

Wednesday 12 November – 5.30pm
Statutory Meeting to elect Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Wednesday 26 November – 1.00pm
Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Upcoming Events:

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





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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			
Baw Baw Shire Council		Email: bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Website: https://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Home	03 5624 2411
Baw Baw Shire Council- lor (East Ward)	Adam Sheehan	Email: adam.sheehan@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Facebook: @adam4bawbaw	0461 515 690
Baw Baw Shire Council- lor (East Ward)	Brendan Kingwill	Email: brendan.kingwill@bawbaw-shire.vic.gov.au	0474 652 435
Baw Baw Shire Council- lor (East Ward)	Kate Wilson	Email: kate.wilson@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Facebook: Kate Wilson - East Ward Baw Baw Shire Council	0460 829 001
Government Members			
Member for Monash (Federal Electorate)	Mary Aldred	Email: mary.albred.mp@aph.gov.au	03 5614 3600
Member for Narracan (State Electorate)	Wayne Farnham	Email: wayne.farnham@parliament.vic.gov.au	03 5623 1960
Education / Childcare			
Nido Early School Trafalgar		Email: trafalgar@nido.edu.au Website: https://nido.edu.au/early-schools/vic/trafalgar/ Email: generaloffice@trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au	03 5633 1233
Trafalgar High School		Email: Trafalgar.hs@education.vic.gov.au Website: https://trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au/ Email: trafalgar@ykinders.org.au Website: https://ykinders.org.au/centres/trafalgar/	03 5633 1733
Trafalgar Primary Early Learning Centre		Email: trafalgar.ps@education.vic.gov.au Website: https://www.trafps.vic.edu.au/	(03) 5633 1566
Trafalgar Primary School		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/ Website: https://trafalgarcricketclub.com.au/ Email: trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com	0408 962 764
Trafalgar Cricket Club	Liam Durkin	Email: trafalgararnfc@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Football Netball Club	0402 556 338
Trafalgar Football Net- ball Club	Brett Tonkin	Email: golf@trafalgargolf.com.au Website: https://www.trafalgargolf.com.au/ Facebook: Trafalgar Golf Club	0477 636 648
Trafalgar Golf Club		Email: bawbaw@ymca.org.au Website: https://bawbawpools.ymca.org.au/trafalgar-outdoor-pool	03 5633 1110
Trafalgar Outdoor Pool		Facebook: Trafalgar Pickleball Club	03 5623 4017
Trafalgar Pickleball Club			

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 Foot- ball 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.bawbawartsal-liance.org.au/bcms/ Email: bawbawsn@gmail.com Website: bbsn.org.au Facebook: Baw Baw Sustainability Network	0428 866 417
BawBaw Sustainability Network	Malcolm McKelvie		0490 485 370
BetterMental Together	Kerry Rantall	Email: bettermentall@gmail.com Website: https://bettermentall.com.au/ Email: info@icln.com.au	0477 115 666
Earls Rd Landcare Group	Jim Whiley	Website: https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/westgippsland/earls-road/	0423 832 122
Jade MacGregor Legal	Jade MacGregor	Email: reception@jmacgregorlegal.com Website: https://jmacgregorlegal.com/	03 5644 0000
Rotary Club of Trafalgar	Michael Fozard	Email: mrfozard@bigpond.com Facebook: Rotary Club of Trafalgar	0418 513 092
St John's Church (Trafalgar) St. Jariath's Church (Yarragon)		Email: Trafalgar@cdsale.org.au Website: https://www.stjohnstrafalgar.com.au/	03 5633 1166
Trafalgar Campdraft	Cheryl	Email: gcasecretary74@gmail.com Website: https://www.gippslandcamp-draftingassociation.com/ Facebook: Trafalgar Campdraft Asso-ciation Inc	0416 166 027
Trafalgar Cemetry Trust	Howard Jones	Email: trafalgarpubliccemetery@dcsi.net.au Webite: https://australiancemeteries.com.au/vic/bawbaw/trafalgar.htm	03 5633 2282
Trafalgar CFA (non-emergency) Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce Trafalgar Community Notice Board		Facebook: Trafalgar Fire Brigade	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	03 5633 1960
Trafalgar Holden Museum		Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: https://trafalgarholdenmuse-um.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) Trafalgar Probus Club	Glenda Mynard	Email: TRAFALGAR.UNI@police.vic.gov.au	03 5633 1188
Trafalgar Public Hall	Tanya Stanley	Email: glendamtraf@gmail.com	0458 332 149
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Remembering C. J. ‘Jack’ McDonald

Members of the Trafalgar and District Historical Society were saddened to hear that Jack had passed away on August 14, aged 95. He had been a member of the society since 1989.

Jack came to Trafalgar at age two, when his parents, Elizabeth and Cyril, moved from New South Wales in 1929. As a child, he attended Trafalgar Primary School and gained his Merit Certificate in 1943, aged 14. In the following year he com-

menced his working life at the local newspaper office, ‘The Times’ as a typesetter which left him with a life-long interest in newspapers and printing. He later worked as a tiler with Wally Matthews, then at Ern Cook’s various quarries. and for a short spell at the SEC.

Many of Trafalgar’s golfers will remember Jack, as his final employment was as green keeper at the Trafalgar Golf Club, from which he retired after thirty years, in June, 1997, aged 67.

Jack himself, was a member of the Moe City Rifle Club where he enjoyed the accuracy of target shooting. Jack maintained his fitness programme walking each morning from his house on Old Thorpdale (Giles) Rd., to the newsagents’ on the highway, and back, to buy a paper. This kept him well informed about local happenings as he stopped to talk to people he met on the way. He managed to keep up with this practice until within a few months of his death – and never used

even a walking stick! He was also a keen gardener – mostly growing vegetables which found their way on to many of his neighbours’ tables, having been quietly distributed as he walked.

In retirement, Jack spent a lot of his time researching and writing the history of Trafalgar and district. Readers will remember his articles “Remember When...” in the

local paper. In addition, he wrote many articles for the society’s Gazette, and was an ace proof reader for us for many years (it was suggested Jack could spot a typo at ten metres!). Jack was our ‘go to’ man for information on Trafalgar’s past people and events. He was our publicity officer, and worked hard at encouraging people to join the society.

Apart from his various articles, Jack’s signature work for the Gazette was the poem on the back page. Many of these reflected Jack’s own view of life – honesty, loyalty, courage and hard work. We certainly miss him as a source of local information. He was a good man, a colleague, and a friend who was happy helping to document the history of his hometown.

Council opposes solar battery locations in the shire

By Jordan Ross

Brendan Kingwill moved a motion at the Baw Baw Shire Council meeting held on Wednesday October 22 regarding local battery energy storage systems.

The motion, which was unopposed, requested that council note the Victorian Transmission Plan and the Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone, and write to the state government to request more details around planned or potential renewable energy projects in the area.

Amendments to the motion were made to strengthen the council’s response and investigation, and to formally oppose the planned location of the batteries.

Council is concerned about using agricultural land for solar battery storage facilities and many locals seem to share those concerns; the Fountain Room at the West Gippsland Performing Arts Centre was packed out. Ecological and environmental concerns of the battery placement were also at the front of mind for some concerned residents.

“People are worried about the impacts of these developments, they’re worried about their livelihoods, they’re worried about their land,” Cr Kingwill said.

“This is not about Net Zero, this is not about renewables... this is about the destruction of

some of the best agricultural land in the world,” he said.

Cr Ben Lucas said that it feels like farmers are “under attack,” while Cr Jess Hamilton also raised concerns about the constant sound and lighting that will be projected by the batteries, and the impact of that on nearby residents and wildlife.

Councillors declared that they will fight these projects as long as they remain in their current locations.

Editor’s Note: This story progressed quickly right at the end of our production timeline. As it is a big topic, we thought it was important to cover briefly, but more extensive coverage will come in December.



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New citizens welcomed into Baw Baw

By Jordan Ross

At the end of September Baw Baw welcomed 51 new citizens from 23 countries during a citizenship ceremony.

The ceremony, which took place on Australian Citizenship Day, was held in Warragul and was attended by Baw Baw Shire Mayor Cr Danny Goss and Councillors Ben Lucas, Jess Hamilton and Adam Sheehan, Mary Aldred MP, Federal Member for Monash, Wayne Farnham MP, State Member for Naracan, and Melina Bath MP, State Member for Eastern Victoria Region.

In front of a crowd of supportive family and peers,

people of all ages and cultural backgrounds took their citizenship pledge and received their official certificate. The conferees now calling Australia home have been welcomed from countries such as Brazil, Czechia, China, Iran, New Zealand, South Africa, Ukraine, Zimbabwe and many more.

Australian Citizenship Day is an opportunity for all Australians, regardless of their birth place, to reflect on the meaning of their citizenship. The day prompts us to think about our nation, what unites us, take pride in our democratic values, and to celebrate the role citizens play in shaping the nation.



Mary Aldred MP, Federal Member for Monash, citizen Oleksandra Chorna, Baw Baw Shire Mayor, Cr Danny Goss and Baw Baw Shire Councillor, Ben Lucas.



Melina Bath MP, State Member for Eastern Victoria Region, citizen Jianqiang Zha, Baw Baw Shire Mayor, Cr Danny Goss and Baw Baw Shire Councillor, Cr Adam Sheehan

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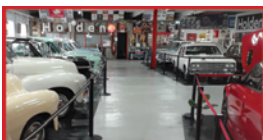


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Celebrating fun and friendship in retirement

By Glenda Mynard of the Trafalgar & District Probus Society

October was the month that thousands of older people throughout Australia celebrated Probus Month with a series of activities highlighting “fun and friendship in retirement”. It’s all part of Probus’ endeavour to help retirees stay engaged and connected within their local communities.

Trafalgar & District Probus Club started the month with a display of their gifts and talents at our general monthly meeting followed by a two course lunch. We were able to admire beautiful paintings and art work, embroidery and beautiful wedding dresses. Members displayed cards, history research, a model steam en-

gine, as well as noodling for gemstones.

Probus’ purpose is to provide opportunities for retirees and semi-retirees to come together to make new friends and participate in a wide range of activities, designed to keep their minds and bodies active. Probus Clubs are non-political and

non-fundraising. It’s all about social gatherings promoting fun and friendship – and it doesn’t cost a lot.

This year’s theme for Probus Month is “Reinvent Your Retirement” and Probus Clubs everywhere have a very big “welcome mat” for new members during October.

During this month members attended a walk along the Moe Rail Trail, a visit to beautiful spring gardens in Trafalgar, coffee catch-ups

at some of the local cafes, enjoyed the RAAF band in Warragul, a picnic at Rokeby, gathered at our book or craft or games group, and we finished the month with some members attending seniors’ day at Gumbuya World.

Probus is an organisation dedicated to bringing together retirees with similar interests. Probus Clubs offer a range of activities including trips and outings for members, depending on their in-

terests, lifestyle and location. Probus Club members meet monthly, to enjoy the company of like-minded fellow retirees and listen to interesting guest speakers

For further information about the Probus Club come along to our next general meeting on November 6 at 10:00 am at 25 Ashby St, Trafalgar, where our guest speaker will be our local Councillor Brendan Kingwell.



Judith Johnston enjoys Probus month lunch.



Tina Phipps receives a 20 year pin from President Tina Hambleton.

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The importance of pet insurance

Dr. Jared Waddell-Smith of the Trafalgar Veterinary Clinic

We get asked commonly about pet insurance, and whether it is 'worth it'. It is important to note that we are not experts in insurance and are certainly not financial advisors, but we do see the positive role insurance can have and therefore can offer some insights.

Veterinary bills can be expensive, and they can also be annoyingly unpredictable; why is it that a horse manages to cut their leg on a Sunday, or the dog starts vomiting at 6pm?! Veterinary costs have only increased as the levels of care available have also improved. More and more of us want the best care possible for our pets, but have to deal with the realities of what this can mean financially.

Vets make decisions every day that are impacted by finances. Whether or not to run a test, whether or not to prescribe a particular treatment, whether a more costly surgical treatment option is necessary, or whether a cheaper medical treatment might get an acceptable outcome; these medical considerations are balanced against the financial burden involved. Sometimes an owner may be able to justify an initial treatment (for example surgery to remove an intestinal blockage), but if there is a severe complication (such as failure of the gut to heal) and a second surgery is needed to save the patient, there is no financial capacity for any further surgery, and the pet may need to be euthanased to prevent suffering. What pet insurance offers is the chance to be able to take the finances out of the discussion, and to base the decisions on what is 'best' for the animal, or likely to give the best chance of a good outcome.

Oftentimes there can be a range of choices available; it can be completely appropriate to manage a condition in a more minimalist way without significant risks and to still get a good outcome. Your vet will be able to discuss the benefits and risks of various options with you.

Pet insurance premiums are often seen as quite high. As is the nature of insurance, the companies that provide the insurance must make more in premiums than what they pay out in claims, for it to be a viable service. Most insured animals are likely to have multiple claims made against their policy. Compare this to home insurance, where many policies never have a claim made against them, and we can start to see why the monthly cost can be significant.

The best time to insure a pet is when you first get them. Don't give them a chance to even sneeze before you take out the policy! Unlike private health insurance for people, there are very few 'waiting periods' in pet insurance. Any pre-existing conditions will not be covered for the life of the pet. So for example, a puppy that has treatment for a rash will likely not be covered if it turns out they have allergic skin problems. You can still get insurance later, just be aware any pre-existing conditions won't be claimable under your policy.

Many policies (but not all) are now available as 'Gap-Only' which we have signed up to at our clinics. The claim can be submitted by us directly through the insurance portal; if the claim is successful then the insurer pays the clinic directly for the covered amount,

and the client then only pays the 'gap', which is usually about 20% of the fees for most policies. So a \$500 bill will then only require a \$100 payment.

Alternatively to insurance, you may prefer to keep money aside for your pet's care. This is a great option because you are keeping the money aside yourself instead of paying it out in premiums to an insurance company. This may be a good strategy if you have many pets to insure and the premiums become a larger cost. It can still be a difficult decision to use those savings for pet care, when there are many other important things to put money aside for.

In summary; an insurance policy can allow you to choose a higher level of care without some of the potential

financial stress, or to avoid the position of not being able to choose your preferred treatment plan for your pet. For this reason we do recommend pet insurance. You should always read the fine print when choosing a policy. Knowing what types of conditions are covered and any limits applied to your benefits is important to avoid future disappointment or anger if conditions are unexpectedly not claimable.

Some approximate example costs of emergency or surgical treatments (highlighting why having an insurance policy can be a lifesaver) are listed below:

- Snake bite treatment - one vial of anti-venom is around \$1100. The total for treatment with hospitalised care

for recent cases in our clinics has been around \$3500. This can increase further for severely unwell animals that require referral for intensive care in overnight emergency centres.

- Investigation for a sick patient of unknown cause, with blood testing, x-rays and initial hospitalised treatment - \$1500 within the first 12 hours.
- Injectable medication for severe allergic skin disease - \$220 per month ongoing
- Lump removal surgery with pathology - \$1500 - \$1800.
- Emergency surgery for pyometra (life

threatening uterine infection) - \$2000 - \$3000

- Surgery for a dislocating kneecap - \$3000.
- Specialist surgery for a total hip replacement - \$12,000.
- Gall bladder removal at a specialist hospital - \$6000, sometimes exceeding \$15,000 for intensive care in severe complicated cases.
- Emergency veterinary ambulance transport for a severely unwell patient, from your local clinic to an emergency centre in the city - \$1800.
- Abdominal surgery for an obstruction (eg rope toy or corn cob) - \$3500 - \$5000.



Freddie, relaxed, knowing his recent veterinary treatment was covered by his insurance policy. Image supplied.



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Trafalgar & District**

Mountain biking could be coming to Drouin

By Jordan Ross



Blake, Cody and Brodie with Cr Ben Lucas. All images supplied.



Jett with Cr Danny Goss.



Melina BATH MP

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 MelinaBathMLC

On Wednesday October 15, the Baw Baw Shire Council held a community briefing in Drouin to discuss potential plans for a mountain bike jump park in the town.

Locals gathered for an interactive session where passionate young mountain bikers and their families could provide thoughts and ideas. There were over 20 people in attendance.

“Their ideas, energy, and enthusiasm were exactly what we needed as we work to design a space that’s safe, exciting, and built with the people who’ll use it most,” said a council spokesperson.

Council has just hosted a community briefing at

the start of October as well, marking the first in a series of opening briefings - indicating that they are keen to engage the community and encourages locals to attend the event to help inform council decision-making moving into the future.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Cr Danny Goss commented on the session, “Today was a great opportunity for us to open the doors and engage the community in the first of what will become a regular series of briefings. Council is committed to hosting open community briefings on topics of community interest and significance.”

He said he “hope(ed) to do more over the coming weeks and months,”

East Ward Councillor Brendan Kingwill credited the Mayor as an “advocate for the opening briefings.

“[We have] confidential briefing[s]. That’s where a lot of sensitive information is shared. But when we’ve got things that we want [input for] or that community is strong about, that’s when we do an open briefing,” Cr Kingwill explained.

A previous open briefing on flood mapping saw submissions from 17 locals discussing flood mapping across the shire. The session facilitated robust discussion between councillors, council officers, and the community.

Mayor Goss emphasised these opening briefings give council the opportunity to be “transparent and [engage] with our community.”

Keep an eye out for future opening briefings.

Community Bank · Trafalgar & District

Need help with the costs of study?

Applications are invited from eligible students who require assistance with tertiary education costs in 2026. Applications open 1 December 2025. For more information contact Moriah Taylor on 0402 106 088 or email marketing@tdfs.com.au bendigobank.com.au/scholarships

COMING SOON





Council is keen to engage with the community in a series of open briefings and consultations. Pictured here are the current Baw Baw Shire Councillors including Deputy Mayor Tricia Jones and Mayor Danny Goss (centre).

40 Years On! The story of The Trafalgar & District Historical Society

By Jean Huffer

Trafalgar and District Historical Society is celebrating 40 years since its small beginnings in August, 1985. We have come a long way since then, and perhaps we can allow ourselves a little self appreciation for our achievements over the years.

We started with a group of enthusiasts, after a meeting of the Anglican Mothers who had invited Max Gibson along as a guest speaker. Max had a great interest in history generally, but a particular interest in local history, especially of Trafalgar East where he had grown up and still then lived. He struck a chord with like-minded people that day, and so we were off!

Max became our first president. The foundation society members were: Yolanda Reynolds, Glenys Ralls, Ken and Wendy Savage, Ken Tattersson, Iris Pywell, Dianne Ireland, John Dineen, Louise Hughson, Max Gibson, Nina Ireland, Cheryl Weymouth, Dorothy Farrow and Jean Huffer.

We met in the Trafalgar High School staff room at first, every two months on the third Thursday night. Our annual membership fee was \$5. We began the collection. There were the early newspapers - not in the best of condition - which had rested in the loft of the former news office which had become a florist shop on the corner of the lane running from Contingent St. to the car park (now 'Eat Live Fresh' site). After sorting and repairing these, we eventually got a grant to put them on 'Trove'. The grant was not enough for reproducing the papers in digital format from 1904 to 1924, so the Society dipped into its hard won funds for the extra \$4000. Consequently people can now search these papers digitally for free. The newspaper collection continued, and still continues to the present day, and as local papers do, yields much detail of the progress and life of the district.

It is presently available for serious research. At first we could not collect artifacts as the collection was scattered around our houses; but eventually the Narracan Shire gave us a grant of \$100 which we used to purchase three filing cabinets, and the use of the office and the cloak room in the Community Centre, at a rental of \$60 per year. This was not a popular move with the Senior Citizens' Club, as at first we had to share the office for their meeting days until the shire built a reception desk for the seniors in the front corridor of the building. It seems the shire was hoping to open up its public buildings for wider community use at the time. However as time passed we all settled down together. Some of the seniors became members and were very helpful in contributing. Sylvia Hill joined us, and was a great help with photos of Yulingah School from her youth, as well as stories of the Ashby family and photos of early Ashby Street. Rex Bateson was also a great supporter - he built our first book cases for us to fit the space available in the office.

Once we were in our office, we were able to look for a computer to help keep records. Someone mentioned that the SEC was renewing its machines, and may have one to donate. Enquiries were made, and one sunny Friday afternoon we went out to Loy Yang to collect our first computer! This was to be followed by a more up-to-date desktop model, plus two laptops, purchased with a 'Seeds of Renewal Grant' of \$5,000, from the A.N.Z. Bank which - at the time - had a branch on Main Street, Trafalgar. The bank offered grants for regional towns of under 15,000 in population.

This year we have been fortunate to receive a grant of \$2000 from the Community Bank - this time affiliated with the Bendigo Bank. This was toward updating our computer stock with a desk-

top and two laptops - which are used for keeping records, copying photographs, and writing historical stories. We also purchased a new flat bed scanner, capable of scanning negatives to print out as photographs.

The total cost was in the vicinity of \$5,000, and the difference was met from the society's funds. Our photographic collection began largely through the work of Yolanda Reynolds, and later Jack McDonald. We produced two calendars with photos mostly of various stages of the town and district with accompanying stories for each picture. These sold well, as did Yolanda Reynold's earlier sets of historical postcards cards. These sales set us up with a little money in the bank to pay for the materials needed for acid-free storage cards, large storage boxes, and tape. We were also able to have some photos framed with special glass to prevent fading. We are still working on storing the growing collection at our weekly Friday working bees, and have literally hundreds of photos now to name and care for. Now we can scan photos and return the originals to their owners, while adding to the growth of the digital collection.

By the time we were celebrating our 25th anniversary, our membership fees had risen to \$15 per year and the Gazettes to \$3 each. The first edition of the Gazette in 1985 sold at \$1 per copy. Presently it retails at \$5 per copy. We continue to document the history of our local area, and have written much of it in the 111 editions we have produced in the 40 years. We have recorded the stories of many local individuals, sporting teams, clubs and institutions. We have written about many major events, and changes in our schools, churches and businesses. Glenys Ralls' annual article on the changes in Trafalgar township and the district are an on-going resource for the study of changes in the de-

velopment of the town. We have maintained a monthly article in the Traf News for much of its life - mainly the work of Jack McDonald's 'Remember When' column. We still endeavour to contribute to the current iteration of the local paper - The Trafalgar and District News - and hope people find our stories of interest. Noel Erbs, a former president of the society, produced a well researched account of the street names of Trafalgar and the history of the 'Young Farmers' Club' was printed by the Society in booklet form, celebrating its activities from its local formation in 1953 to its later time of 1981.

We preserve the stories of past members of the district - we receive many requests for information on the people of our past, so we store photos and any relevant information for our genealogical enquirers. Another source of information is the map collection. Our earliest map is of 1883, and has settlers' names on it. We also have copies of the early cemetery records and school records. Sadly, because of the loss of the Narracan Shire records in the fire of 1934, we do not have much in land records. We have minute books and collections of ephemera from the now defunct organisations in the district, as well as a limited number of family histories whose authors availed themselves of our collection in their research. Due to the skills and ongoing work from our three most recent members we are now on Facebook, the ever-present cataloguing is progressing, and new articles are being written for the Gazette.

So what can we hope for in the next 40 years?

We are moving into the digital age. Information will be available with a tap on a computer or on a similar device. What a wonderful world for the researchers of the future! However, the information available will only be as good as that which is entered

into data bases and scanned for photographs and maps - information that is from the primary sources we collect. We are working to keep alive the people and events of the past so that they are not lost in the speed and progress of the present.

We need people to help us achieve this - people happy to donate a little of their time and skills whenever convenient to them, to help with data entry, improvement of photographs, scanning, naming people in photographs, storing photos on acid-free card, and helping with the many enquiries which come our way.

The Baw Baw Shire has now housed us in the flat and office at the front of the former kindergarten building. We have outgrown them already, so I will conclude with that famous statement which resonates with all the people who hope for better things in the future: "I have a dream..."

My dream is a little more humble than Martin Luther King's. I hope that in the next 40 years we will finally have a proper purpose-built library, centred in Trafalgar, to service the much larger population projected for the

area. This library will include meeting rooms for our various community groups, as well as room for displays of artifacts from our past, and storage for the Historical Society's collection which will be accessed using electronic devices. There will be a large workroom for the library staff, and another for Historical Society members who will meet regularly at working bees to continue recording electronically, all the acquisitions being donated to the Society. Keeping the catalogue up-to-date and answering all the enquiries which arrive in the Society's emails, or are made in person, asking for our assistance, are all part of the work that needs to be done. Anyone who can help any part of this dream to be realised is most welcome!

Working bees are on Friday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. (except for public holidays)

Come and join us!

Editor's Note: On behalf of TDN, I congratulate and applaud the society on their continued contribution to our local community. Here's to another 40 wonderful years of historical knowledge and preservation!



A photo from the society's collection. The first St. Mary's Church of England on Contingent Street.



The Public Hall, Library and Shire Offices before the 1934 fire on Contingent Street.

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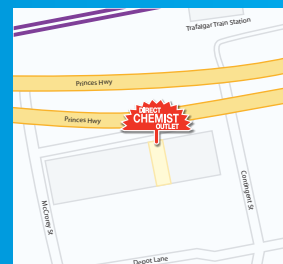
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Art-Ability: Gippsland

By Jordan Ross

Aruma, a disability support service, is hosting an art exhibition, Art-Ability: Gippsland in December. It's a must visit event for art enthusiasts and budding artists.

This event will celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPWD) on Wednesday December 3, but will run through to December 5, at McGregor Park Hall, Trafalgar.

The exhibition will showcase local, talented, disabled artists within Gipps-

land and will importantly, provide a space for the community to connect and celebrate the IDPWD. The exhibiting artists and their families will attend the opening to celebrate their success. All in the local community are invited to come along as well and view the wonderful art display.

For those who want to display their art, entries are now open and will close on November 21.

Mary Aldred MP - who will be in attendance - is excited

for the upcoming event and what it will represent the local community.

"This is a great opportunity to bring our community together for International Day of Persons with Disabilities and I congratulate the organisers for the huge amount of work they've put into preparing for the exhibition."

"It's also a really meaningful way to acknowledge the person behind the disability, and see not just their challenges but their gifts and talents as well," said Ms Aldred.



Aruma art exhibitions have been held across Australia. This event was in Nowra Hub in New South Wales. Image supplied.

Demolition commenced at Exhibition Hall

Demolition works began in late October at Exhibition Hall in Warragul.

Exhibition Hall had been closed to the public in December 2024, due to extensive damage and the potential risk to occupants.

At a council meeting in March 2025, councillors voted to permanently close and demolish the building, due to the substantial cost of repairs and infrequent usage.

Council worked closely with the operators of a playgroup, which has been housed at Exhibition Hall since the 1980s, to support their ongoing operation at another location. Baw Baw Play Group, formerly the Warragul Playgroup, can now

be found in their new location at 4 Oak Street, Drouin.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor, Councillor Danny Goss, said Council had been arranging the salvage of various materials from the building prior to its demolition.

"Steel from the site is being recycled while bricks and concrete will also be used for road base," Mayor Goss said.

"A salvage company will come in to collect things such as timber, door handles, windows, and doors in good condition."

"We are making a very conscious effort to ensure limited amounts of waste will go to landfill."

"A shed is also being salvaged to use as storage in Logan Park."

"Smaller assets and equipment, like fridges and furniture, have already been re-located for use at other sites including the West Gippsland Arts Centre and Burke Street Pavilion."

"We have also ensured all in date and relevant firefighting equipment has been placed in other council sites where upgrades were required."

James G Morrison builders have engaged Gravity Demolition who commenced the demolition after receiving the appropriate permit.

The site will be remediated following the demolition, with crushed rock set to be sheeted at the location.

Any decisions about the future of the site will be considered by council in the future.

Some short-term changes have been made to local traffic, with a one-way period on Exhibition Lane due to temporary fencing, which will restrict access and limit the spread of debris.



Baw Baw Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Danny Goss stands at the entrance to the Exhibition Hall building.



Harriet Shing MP

MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA

Your voice in the Eastern Victoria Region

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Live4Life Gippsland Crews join forces for an exciting day out

Live4Life participants from across Gippsland got together recently for an exciting day out at Allambee Camp.

Youth mental health ambassadors (the “Crew”) from the Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland and Wellington Live4Life communities, joined forces to celebrate teamwork and self-confidence at the outdoor adventure camp located near Yarragon.

It was a day of high adventure with participants making the most of the camp’s giant swing, flying fox and vertical challenge high ropes course.

There was lots of fun to be had on the ground as well, with informal games and billy carts rounding out the day.

Live4Life is a fabulous initiative available to rural and regional communities to support and improve young people’s mental health and wellbeing. The program is designed to increase mental health knowledge among secondary school aged students and their communities, reduce mental health stigma, and reduce barriers

that might prevent young people from seeking help and support.

Councillor, Paul Pratt, says Baw Baw Shire Council is proud to support the Live4Life initiative and he is

pleased to see communities coming together in this way.

“A day like this is a great opportunity for Live4Life Crews from across the region to learn from one-another, build new connections

and friendships and just have fun.”

Participants took the opportunity to learn about the mental health awareness activities and events each community had planned. This is

the first time groups from across Gippsland have been brought together in this way and there are plans to run more events in the future, rotating across each of the four participating LGAs.

For more information on Live4Life visit www.live4life.org.au. If you or someone you know needs help you can call Lifeline on 13 11 14, Beyond Blue on 1800 512 348, or Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800.



Youth mental health ambassadors (the “Crew”) from the Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland and Wellington Live4Life communities joined forces to celebrate teamwork and self-confidence at Allambee Camp. Image supplied.

PROTECT YOUR EYES IN STYLE



WARRAGUL OPTICAL

The Turner Family



Update from the Arts Alliance

By Carol Monson



Liz Bowley holding her mother's painting at the garage sale. Image supplied.

News from the Baw Baw Arts Alliance often focuses on exhibitions and activities that are about to take place and while these are important, every now and then there is a good news story worth sharing.

Liz Bowley, a long term member of the Alliance and well known Gippsland painter of Australian landscapes, had an unusual surprise at a recent Arts Alliance garage sale at the Trafalgar Artspace, when she discovered a painting of an Australian landscape for sale. This turned out to be one by her mother, Gwen Mauger, who died in 1977, aged 62. Gwen was a member of the Sherbrooke Art Society and exhibited there. She also had lessons with Max Casey who, at the time, was one of the 'Twenty Melbourne Painters'. When she began painting, Gwen felt that women painters were discriminated against so she signed her work 'Gwyn'. Her husband, also an artist, was supportive of her work and the picture discovered was framed by him.

You will be able to see some of Liz's own work during December 2025 to January 2026 on the walls of the 'South Brew' café and restaurant in Warragul.

During November, the fascinating work of two artists, Chris Lawry and Ross Jacka, can be seen in the Station Gallery, Princes Highway, Yarragon. Chris is new to the Baw Baw Arts Alliance so it is a pleasure to be able to display her intricate tonal, lino cut prints at the same time as the bright, abstract, acrylic paintings of long-time member of Bbaa, Ross Jacka.

With the gift giving of Christmas on the horizon, keep in mind the regular Arts and Makers Market which takes place on the third Saturday of each month right through from October to April. The market has a large range of individual, handmade quality artist creations for you to browse through at the market in the TAFE carpark Warragul between 8.30am and 1.00pm on November 15.

A little closer to Christmas, on Friday, December 5 between 6.30pm and 8.30pm the Arts Alliance expects the VRI Hall in Queen Street, Warragul, to be filled with music, food, laughter and lots of talk about the arts at a creative get-together. You do not have to be a member to enjoy this function.

For all things art related see the Arts Alliance space on: <https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au>

Grants for fishing clubs open

The Nationals' Member for Eastern Victorian Melina Bath is encouraging local angling clubs to apply for funding through the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grant Program.

The program offers grants of up to \$10,000 per club to support projects such as:

- Fishing tuition for multicultural groups, women, Indigenous people, and all-abilities participants
- Club open days
- Member training and public events
- Guest speaker nights
- Club IT upgrades
- Club website development
- Clubroom improvements
- Equipment that benefits all members

"Fishing is an accessible, low cost recreational activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages, it's a wonderful experience that families can participate in together," Ms Bath said.

"It promotes mental well-being by encouraging people to slow down, connect with nature and enjoy peaceful moments away from the hustle of daily life, while supporting the regional economy through tourism, tackle shops, and community events."

"Whether casting a line from the shore, jetty, or heading out on a boat, fishing offers a unique blend of relaxation and excitement."

Ms Bath said a successful grant can help angling clubs make small but meaningful improvements to their operations and run activities that encourage more people to get involved in and enjoy the benefits of fishing.

"I encourage our local fishing groups to take advantage of this opportunity."

Applications for the 2025-26 funding round are now open and will close on November 30, 2025.

For more information or to apply, including program guidelines and eligibility criteria, visit vfa.vic.gov.au/strongerfishingclubs



The Nationals' Member for Eastern Victorian Melina Bath is encouraging local angling clubs to apply for funding through the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grant Program.



COUNCIL News

ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

Could you be cuddling up with a new pet this winter? By adopting an animal from our municipal pound, you're providing a loving home and a second chance at life, and in return you'll get unconditional love and companionship. **It's a win-win.**

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Upcoming Council Meeting:

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

Wednesday 27 August – 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

Baw Baw Connect – Have Your Say, Your Way!

Council currently has one community engagement opportunity open for consultation!

- Draft Road Management Plan

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

YOUR SAY,
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Our Roads. Your Roads. Better Baw Baw Roads.

Did you know debris and litter can block kerbside storm water drains leading to water on the road and increased pollution in our waterways?

We've noticed an increase in residents blowing their leaves and grass cuttings into the streets after doing their yard work. It might seem harmless but it's causing issues with our storm water drainage system and is actually illegal.

Our Infrastructure Maintenance teams work hard to keep our streets and drains clear, but it is everyone's responsibility to ensure we are not contributing to the problem.

Be sure to responsibly clear away your leaves, grass cuttings and other garden debris by utilising your green waste bin.

Upcoming Events:

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



Pickleball catching on in Traf

By Trevor Colvin

It is not tennis. It is not badminton, but it does have elements of both and it is growing in popularity in Trafalgar.

The game uses court markings similar to a tennis court, but smaller. It uses a paddle similar to table tennis, but a little larger. It uses

a plastic ball full of centimetre wide holes which slow the ball down, allowing for delicate lobs. It can be played indoors or outdoors.

There is a two metre non-volley zone either side of the net and a player in that zone must not hit the ball before it bounces.

Scoring is first to eleven points and you can only score on your own serve. Serving rotates giving all players/teams the chance to score.

Despite borrowing elements from other sports, Pickleball is its own game and the people playing it last week were having a lot of fun.

The game was first played in the US sixty years ago, it now has twenty million followers worldwide and even has many professional leagues.

In Australia there are 364 clubs serving 23,000 players and its popularity is growing rapidly.

Coach Michael - a very keen and experienced player - was keeping a constant eye on everyone and helping the players understand the rules and the protocols of the game. Games were quite quick and players moved from game to game, court to court. Most players were old-

er people and none of them were exhausted, so the game suits an older age group.

If you would like to play, the venue is the Sports Pavillion at the Trafalgar Secondary School; Tuesday evening from 6pm. No special gear or experience is necessary.



Boosting participation in regional sport

The Labor state government is supporting more people to get involved in sport with grants for clubs and community organisations, to strengthen and increase opportunities for people living with a disability in regional communities.

Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing has announced that applications are now open for the second round of the Regional All Abilities Participation Grants.

"It's so important that there's room and help for everyone to participate in the sports they love - sport is something that belongs to everyone," she said.

Grants of up to \$25,000 are available in three categories: Equipment and Travel, Inclusion Workforce, and Programs and Disability-led Initiatives.

The grants can be used to purchase specialised or

modified equipment and uniforms, such as sports wheelchairs, sensory balls, throwing frames, accessible starting systems, modified bats and racquets, and other adaptive technologies enabling safe and inclusive participation.

For clubs that already have the right equipment and uniforms, funding can be used to subsidise wages or salaries towards creating a skilled workforce to help boost participation - such as disability sports coaches, support workers, or volunteers who are keen to broaden their skillset.

The funding can also be used to cover travel to competitions and festivals, and for clubs to create their own all-abilities sports programs.

Organisations that support community participation in sport and active recreation such as local clubs, state sporting associations,

disability or self-advocacy groups, and health or disability providers, are encouraged to apply.

Increasing opportunities for more Victorians to participate in sport and active recreation is a key objective of the Labor Government's Active Victoria 2022-2026 - a strategic framework for sport and active recreation in Victoria.

"So many clubs and teams help to make it easier for people with disabilities and their families to get active, and creating an inclusive environment that supports people with disabilities to get involved boosts participation and opens new pathways, whether it's playing, coaching, volunteering, or cheering from the sidelines," said Harriet Shing.

For more information and to apply visit sport.vic.gov.au/funding

Cricketers wanted

By Liam Durkin

The Trafalgar Cricket Club will need to make a decision on its Third XI this month.

Lack of numbers has forced the club to forfeit games in the Third XI so far this season.

The club's committee set a deadline for the Melbourne Cup weekend to ascertain if it will continue to field a third senior side. Cricket is struggling for participation across the region.

Alarmingly, Round 2 of the Warragul District Cricket Association saw three out of four games forfeited.

As it stands, Trafalgar has 28 players confirmed when absolutely everyone is available. This of course is a rarity given players often have family and work commitments.

A number of players have unexpectedly decided to stop playing on the eve of the season, leaving the club scrambling to find replacements.

Additionally, after winning premierships in Division 4 and Division 5 the last two seasons, the motivation has likely also gone for a few players.

At least 10 players from these premiership teams are not playing, while another three are now part-time.

Historically, the club's Third XI has always been hit-and-miss, with the team coming in and out of hiatuses.

The team was resurrected six seasons ago, and given the general age demographic, time has probably now caught up.

Generally, the Third XI also requires its own figurehead to run effectively, which due to circumstance is currently lacking.

All this said, it is clearly disappointing for the club to be in this situation seven months after winning a premiership, and especially after the effort was put into

getting the Trafalgar High oval up and running.

Addressing the issue, the club has put out a call to arms hoping to attract players.

Anyone that may be able to help is encouraged to get in touch with the club via email: trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com or on social media.

All skill levels and experience welcome. Cricket unfortunately appears to be in a sorry state, a result of not moving with the times.

Shorter seasons, Friday night twenty20s after work or Sunday social matches may need to be considered in order to keep participation numbers in lower grades, where the emphasis is on having fun rather than taking things too seriously.

As former Trafalgar cricketer James Blaser accurately said: *"People who love cricket will always play. You have to make it attractive for those who simply 'like it'."*

Cricket milestones

By Liam Durkin

A number of Trafalgar Cricket Club players achieved personal milestones last month.

Rhys Holdsworth, Zack Brown and Liam Durkin each made further marks in the club's more than 130 history, after chalking up further accolades.

Holdsworth brought up 8000 senior runs for the club, as well as 250 wickets at First XI level.

In a statistically prolific career, the left-hand bat is among the top performers the club has ever seen, while he has used his cricket smarts to manufacture the bulk of more than 200 poles bowling right arm variety.

Brown didn't have to wait long to take his 100th First XI wicket, after snaring the first scalp of the season.

Still only in his mid-20s, the opening quick has a

knack for taking wickets, and is already in the top 10 on the club's senior aggregate.

Durkin became the latest member of the 200 club when he played his milestone match in Round 2.

His 200 was made up of 127 games in the First XI, 55 in the seconds and 18 twenty20s.

The club has been fortunate in its recent history to have a number of loyal players.

Of the 13 who have played 200 games, seven are still actively involved with the club: John Asmussen, Christian Burgess, Brendan Dawson, Rhys Holdsworth, Daniel Heathcote, Jackson Noonan and Liam Durkin.

Holdsworth, Noonan, Heathcote and Durkin have also played the best part of 100 days of First XI cricket together - a likely club record.



Liam Durkin became the 13th Trafalgar cricketer to play 200 games last month.



Rhys Holdsworth went past 8000 runs for Trafalgar Cricket Club in Round 2.



Zack Brown has now taken more than 100 First XI wickets.



Council Plan 2025–2029

Building a thriving, healthy and sustainable Baw Baw.

Baw Baw Shire Council has endorsed the following key strategic documents:

- Council Plan 2025–2029
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025–2029
- Asset Plan 2025–2035
- Long Term Infrastructure Plan 2025–2035
- Financial Plan 2025–2035

Developed in response to the 'Shape Baw Baw for the next Four' community engagement campaign, these documents will guide the priorities, services, and initiatives for Baw Baw Shire Council over the next four years. Working together to build a thriving, healthy, and sustainable community.

To view the Council Plan and supporting documents, visit Council's website.
www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au



Politicians see for themselves the need for upgrades

By Liam Durkin

Shadow Federal Minister for Sport, Anne Ruston travelled all the way from Adelaide to see just how badly needed

new facilities are at Trafalgar Recreation Reserve.

The Minister heard how Trafalgar was “15 years be-

hind” the standard expected of local sporting facilities by local business owner and Baw Baw Shire East Ward councillor Brendan Kingwill.

Joining Cr Kingwill on the tour was Baw Baw Shire Mayor Danny Goss, Member for Monash Mary Aldred and Trafalgar Football-Netball

Club and Trafalgar Cricket Club users.

The push for facility upgrades at the reserve has been an ongoing saga for most of this millennium, punctuated by countless design plans, budget constraints and a merry-go-round of councillors and council officers.

Somewhat ironically, a relatively new structural facility actually exists at Trafalgar Recreation Reserve to the north-west of the main oval, but has laid dormant for the best part of five years.

The Turra Pavilion (named after the family who donated the land) was opened in 2021, built to accommodate Trafalgar Victory Soccer Club, Trafalgar Boxing Gym, Trafalgar Football-Netball Club and Trafalgar Cricket Club.

The facility that is needed however is actually a new oval.

Cows are currently minding the site of the future oval, which will alleviate foot traffic during football season, and also provide scope for a long-awaited turf wicket for the cricket club.

Just when shovels hit the ground remains to be seen, as around \$4 million is needed to cover the expected costs.

User groups are still hoping a buyer comes through

to purchase the old Narracan Shire offices along the Princess Highway, Trafalgar.

Baw Baw Shire Council has agreed to divert proceeds from the building sale to oval construction.

The reality however is stark. The two-storey building failed to sell when put up for auction in September 2024, and user groups have been told that without a sale, the task of finding the money to cover construction will be all the more difficult.

The project was dealt a savage blow in the final year of the last council term, after council voted to shift money budgeted for Trafalgar Oval 2 toward upgrading Drouin Recreation Reserve.

As one previous East Ward councillor said at the time, “Central and West Ward councillors ganged up on us.”

In a further cruel, and darkly humorous twist, Drouin Football Club played matches at Trafalgar Recreation Reserve during the last Gippsland League season while the Hawks’ headquarters was being redeveloped.

Baw Baw Shire Council will host community consultation sessions for Trafalgar residents in coming weeks to discuss the situation further.



Senator and Shadow Minister for Sport Anne Ruston, Baw Baw Mayor Danny Goss, Trafalgar Cricket Club committee member Rowan Stokes, Federal Member for Monash, Mary Aldred, Baw Baw Shire East Ward Councillor and Trafalgar business owner Brendan Kingwill, Trafalgar Football-Netball Club president Jamie Marslen, Trafalgar FNC member Kevin Hennessy and Trafalgar CC secretary Liam Durkin.

Back into cricket season

By Liam Durkin

Cricket has commenced at the Trafalgar Cricket Club.

The season began last month, setting off for a six-month campaign.

The First XI started the season with two wins from their first two matches.

Opening the 2025/26 season against traditional rival Drouin, the Ships secured a gritty one wicket win over the reigning grand finalist.

The usual October lush limited scoring at Trafalgar Recreation Reserve, and rain from the days before meant boundaries had to be brought in some distance.

Trafalgar elected to bowl first, and the bowlers restricted scoring in the power play as Drouin slumped to 5/38.

Zack Brown, in the absence of Jackson Noonan (injured), led the attack and finished with 3/20 off eight overs.

Senior leaders Rhys Holdsworth and Aidan George also chipped in with two

wickets each, before having a big say in the result, putting on 71 for the fourth wicket.

The pair had things under control before the game took a turn and the lower order was left with 30 runs to scrounge up.

Young gun Zak Larkin got a crucial boundary away, while Connor Dastey managed to get two over the top to take the side to the cusp of victory.

A critical moment went Traf’s way after a survived run out resulted in three wides.

There was however one final twist when the ninth wicket was taken with scores level.

The last pair of Zack Brown and Michael Fitchett (on debut), got a leg bye to scamper through the winning run.

Fitchett joined English pal Alex McKenna on debut, who got straight into the game with two catches and a stumping with the gloves.

Rhys Holdsworth’s previous life as a groundskeeper also came in handy, mowing the outfield on the morning of the game before sending six balls over the rope.

The next match saw improvisation of the highest order on the road to Iona.

Some serious card shuffling was required as Trafalgar were essentially two bowlers short after injury to George and the absence of Louis Hennessy.

Former first-grade bowlers Daniel Heathcote and Liam Durkin had to bowl the suddenly available overs, and their experience led to four wickets.

Bowling was not easy as a huge crosswind sent a few balls into the paddock, but wickets at semi-regular intervals (and an unfortunate quad injury that saw an Iona player depart in a wheelchair) meant a target of 142 was posted.

McKenna backed up a superb one-hander with the gloves to make 49 at the top.

Powerful driving was a highlight of his innings, most notably when the ball literally bounced over mid off’s head.

He partnered with George, who was forced to knock them around owing to a sidetrain, before Rhys Holdsworth ensured the team stayed ahead of the rate.

Two consecutive fours from Fitchett secured the win.

Numbers unfortunately left the Second XI short in the first two weeks, resulting in one-sided defeats.

David Bremner continued his wicket-taking ways, claiming 3/19 in the first match against Western Park.

Mitch Claridge made his captaincy debut in the game against Warragul, adding another skillset for the up-and-coming keeper who is also coach of the club’s under 17s.

Junior cricket followed the start of the senior season.

Trafalgar is fielding under 17s, under 13s and under 11s this season.

It is not too late to join. All players are welcome. Get in touch with the club via trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com, or on the club’s Facebook page.

Meals are also available every Thursday night after training in the clubrooms.



Trafalgar Cricket Club’s Third XI won the Division 5 premiership during the 2024/25 season.

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