

Traf District News

October 2025 – Edition 279

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Bendigo Bank closure “frustrating” to Yarram locals

By Jordan Ross

At the end of September, the Bendigo Bank Yarram branch closed its doors permanently. An announcement, made in June, confirmed the “difficult decision”

to close Yarram and nine other regional branches including Korumburra.

Bendigo Bank argues that in an age of online banking, less people are visiting physical branches. A spokesperson

claimed that only 26% of Yarram customers have visited the branch in the last year.

Local resident and vice-president of Yarram & District Progress Association, Kevin Mackin said that

the community has been working hard, “trying to find a solution.”

They’d suggested options for the branch to have shorter hours and offer fewer services.

However, “Bendigo Bank has been particularly unwilling to discuss, negotiate or consider any option, other than their course of action,” he said.

All this means that Yarram customers will need to travel 64 km to the next closest commercial branch in Traralgon. There is a closer community bank in Toora, but Mackin says the bank has automatically transferred the accounts to Traralgon. He said that this only “added insult to injury.”

Mackin said that the decision and the preceding talks with the bank has destroyed its reputation in the town.

Federal Gippsland MP Darren Chester called the closure a “disgraceful decision.” He said the Bendigo Bank liked to promote itself as the better big bank, “but when it comes to shutting country branches, the Bendigo Bank is proving to be just as bad as the rest of them.”

With over 2100 bank branches closing between 2017 and 2023, locals are hoping that support for regional banks can come from higher up. In the last few years, there has been a Federal Regional Banking Taskforce which released a report in 2022 and a Federal Senate Inquiry into Rural and Regional Affairs which made recommendations last year.

Banking Code of Conduct was proposed which would mean banks need to meaningfully engage with the community and discuss potential impacts that would come

from branch closures. The idea of a publicly owned bank was also discussed. In theory, a publicly owned bank would act in the interests of the community rather than shareholders. It was also recommended that Bank@Post services offered by Australia Post need to be improved.

For Trafalgar residents, our branch is protected as a community bank, meaning it’s owned by locals. It was opened by local business owners in the early 2000s that recognised that regional banks would be under threat.

The Trafalgar Community Bank recently had its branch refurbished, with manager Torina Johnston ensuring they are “here to stay.”

For Yarram, “a community bank is [the] preferred model,” Mackin said.

“The community bank in Trafalgar has been supportive, helping us to understand the difference [between community and corporate branches],” he said.

“We recognise the value of what they give to the local community,” he said, noting that the Trafalgar branch recently hit a milestone, \$2 million given back to the community.

In the meantime, Mackin confirms the community “haven’t given up hope.”

Editor’s Note: Please note this story was written prior to the scheduled closure of the Yarram branch but published afterwards. We will continue to follow this story and provide updates when necessary.



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Traf District News

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

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Editor’s Note

When submitting letters to the editor please include your full name, postal address, email address and contact number. Your privacy will be respected and your details will not be printed in the paper.

Letters to the Editor

Good afternoon Editor,
Answering your question, Permanent Library in Trafalgar.

Yes we need a permanent Library in Trafalgar. The myli mobile bus is wonderful when it is staffed.

For years I have been interested in a permanent library here in Trafalgar for community reasons.

It is possible to download the Borrow Box App and enjoy reading ebooks, epress & audiobooks all free with

a myli library number. This doesn’t help people with loneliness which is a big reason we go to the library. Having somewhere where you don’t have to buy a coffee to stay is important. Not everyone can afford to travel to

Moe & Warragul.

I hope the money can be raised for a permanent location and I feel that volunteers could help with paid staff to run it.

(name and address supplied)

SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO: EDITOR@TRAFNEWS.COM

Coroner finds distraught father responsible for fatal accident

On a long stretch of Seven Mile Road approaching Trafalgar, seven-year-old Harley Smith and his father Conan, died when their vehicle collided with a northbound truck last year.

Coroner Audrey Jamieson concluded Mr Smith deliber-

ately drove into the truck in what can only be described as a horror month for the young family.

Three days before, the boy’s mother, Amy Galea, died from an aggressive form of cancer, which was diagnosed only two weeks earlier.

Just hours before the collision, Mr Smith set fire to the family home in Longwarry, handed \$6,000 to a neighbour to cover the cost of Ms Galea’s funeral and left the house with Harley and two pet dogs.

The coroner found that ‘the truck driver was unable

to take any evasive action’ when the Subaru driven by Mr Smith veered in front of him.

In the weeks prior, Mr Smith and Harley visited Ms Galea at Monash Medical Centre before her death.

Witness statements indicated Mr Smith was worried about how he would manage as a single father, both financially, and as Harley’s caregiver. Harley had been earlier diagnosed with autism and was being home schooled by Mr Smith.

If you need support, or you know anyone who needs support, reach out to Lifeline on 131 114 any time of day, or call Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636. Help is at hand.

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‘Just A Farmer’ - a vital movie and a must see.

Free screening on Wednesday October 22

The film uses the power of storytelling to illuminate the silent struggles within Australian farming communities, raising awareness of mental health issues and the lack of comprehensive medical support in rural areas, fostering empathy, and driving the conversation around mental health.

‘Just A Farmer’ transcends traditional cinema, authentically portraying the challenges and triumphs of a resilient farmer in rural Australia. This film journey amplifies the often-overlooked voices of rural communities and sheds light on mental health struggles.

It's more than a movie; it's a dedicated movement creating awareness, dismantling stigmas, and impacting the well-being of rural Australia. ‘Just A Farmer’ breaks new ground, fostering understanding, inspiring col-

lective action, and assuring individuals they don't face darkness alone.

‘Just A Farmer’ is a compelling drama that authentically portrays the impact of suicide on a rural Australian family, shedding light on critical mental health issues in farming communities. The film celebrates the resilience of farmers' wives and community support amidst heartbreak, set against the captivating backdrop of rural Victoria.

The story unfolds as Alison is left to manage an ailing farm and an alcoholic father-in-law after her husband's sudden death, navigating the challenges of rural life. The film explores generational trauma, love, loss, and the undeniable resilience of a farming community in the face of tragedy.

This film is the brainchild of Victorian farmer Leila McDougall who saw

the need and then wrote the screenplay, and decided then to act in it as well to keep costs down. Yet the movie is anything but amateurish and it is in fact a polished and powerful movie. Leila and her husband also funded the production by raising \$500,000 against their farm. That is commitment.

The film is more than a narrative; it's a testament to the resilience of farming families. It addresses mental health, generational trauma, and the struggles of rural life with warmth and heart—a universal story with a powerful emotional connection.

The film will be shown at The West Gippsland Arts Centre, Warragul on Wednesday October 22. Admission is free but booking is essential.

Traf District News has partnered with SilkRoad Community Inc. of Trafalgar, to raise the money to

put this movie on without an admission charge. We are grateful to Black Dog Ride, WA and for the majority of the funding and further generous financial support from Community Bank Trafalgar and District.

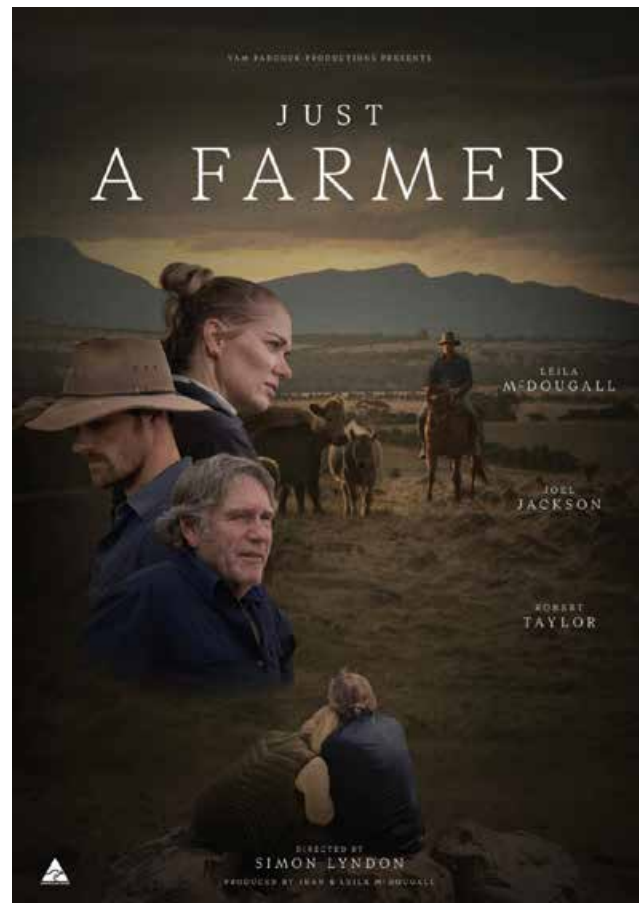
Doors open at 4 pm with a short introduction and a short address from Monash Federal MP, Mary Aldred. The film will commence around 4:30 pm and we will have professional counselors on hand, if the movie raises any concerns they can be dealt with confidentially and quickly.

We will also have Baw Baw Shire Councillors present.

The bar will be open after the showing and - if you wish to make a night of it - there are plenty of restaurants nearby.

Admission is free but registration is a must.

To register, go to WGAC.com.au or call 5624 2456



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Mayor leads repatriation journey to Mornington Island

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Danny Goss has led a history-making journey to Far North Queensland to repatriate 37 precious cultural items from Baw Baw Shire back to the rightful custodians, the Lardil People of Mornington Island. On August 29, the Mayor embarked on his journey.

Upon arrival, he was met by Mornington Shire Council Mayor Mr Richard Sewter who hosted a morning tea at the local arts centre, where the official handover took place.

Mayor Danny Goss said the repatriation journey was deeply meaningful and a significant step on the path to reconciliation.

“We’re honoured to return 37 important cultural items to their rightful custodians — the Lardil People of Mornington Island. It’s a small but significant step towards a more respectful and united future,” he said.

“These items are some of the first examples of works that the Lardil people began creating for commercial sale. Since learning of their significance and rightful origin,

council has been fully committed to returning these cultural treasures home.”

Mayor Goss said that this move is *“about doing what’s right... and recognising the deep cultural connections that first peoples have with their heritage.”*

As previously reported in the Traf District News, the artefacts were brought to Warragul in the 1980s by Colin and Elizabeth Goldberd who had purchased the pieces from the Lardil community. The family later gifted the collection to the West Gippsland Arts Centre, where the artefacts were safely kept and displayed for a short time. After learning that it is culturally insensitive for them to be displayed outside of the lands of their custodians, the artefacts were safely placed into storage, where they were rediscovered in 2023.

To council’s knowledge, this process has not been embarked on before, outside of established galleries and museums. Council obtained letters of support from both the Elders of Kurnai Nations and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, and importantly, the Lardil

People, who look forward to having the items returned to their rightful Keeping Place.

Mayor Cr Danny Goss said this was a rare process — especially outside of national galleries and major institutions.

“We hope this demonstrates how the local govern-

ment can play a meaningful role in reconciliation,” the Mayor said.

“With the support of the Lardil People, the Kurnai Nations Elders, and the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, we’re proud to be part of a movement work-

ing to restore Indigenous cultural heritage.”

Following a special smoking ceremony on May 9 in Warragul, planning began for the artefacts’ journey home where they will once again serve their true purpose: passing on culture, stories, and identity.

The decision to repatriate the items was endorsed by Baw Baw Shire Council at the February 5, 2025 council meeting. The cost of repatriation was covered by the Mirndiyan Gununa Aboriginal Corporation who receive Australian Government funding to facilitate these types of projects.



Welcoming the 37 culturally precious artefacts back home to Mornington Island.



Baw Baw Shire Mayor Cr Danny Goss and Mornington Shire Mayor Mr Richard Sewter at the official repatriation ceremony on Mornington Island. Images supplied.



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Rehoming pets

By Diana Mattea



A furry friend at the Baw Baw Pet Expo. Image supplied.

Pet owners may face the difficult decision to rehome their beloved pet. Changes in personal circumstances may force the pet owner to consider new home alternatives.

So this prompts an important question, do animals have rights?

Definitely. Animals' rights matter and should be properly legislated in every state to recognise them not as objects, or property, but as sentient beings. The ACT passed legislation to reflect the same in 2019. I know we can do better calling out to every state ensuring all an-

imals are treated in good welfare and working towards simplifying legislation.

Mandating clear legislation across the country supports our judiciary system to confidently and accurately serve justice against perpetrators, whilst defending animal welfare. Many countries have recognised animals as sentient beings in law.

Recently, an abhorrent situation involving a rescue farm sanctuary located in Warragul came to light, where animals were received and left in cages as the organisation was overwhelmed. The organisation was un-

able to cope with the influx and improperly provided care. When officers entered the property, animals were found in cages.

These vulnerable animals relied on humans to be kind and to be cared for. Through no fault of their own, they were surrendered by their owners believing they would find them a new home.

Fortunately, the person responsible was brought before the magistrate receiving a fine and good behaviour bond. This situation raises serious questions.

Did the organisation call out for help from other rescue groups? Most are well connected offering guidance and support avoiding these types of situations. What are the core values of the organisation? Were pet owners falsely promised humane conditions upon surrender? Was the organisation a registered rescue group within the shire?

Pet owners cannot assume all rescue groups conduct their business virtuously, offering genuine care. Registered animal welfare charities should be scrutinised.

The other perspective is not to vilify the good work of foster carers, dedicated volunteers protecting animals for an organisation because of a few people not doing the right thing by the animals. The public's perception can sour hesitating to donate money or goods. Raising funds, daily tasks feeding and cleaning, is an enormous task for these groups and any negative publicity negates what they are trying to achieve. Most groups are voluntarily administered.

Pet owner responsibility

Animals adopted from shelters, pound and rescue groups are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped, eliminating unwanted litters and promoting good pet health. This is where problems begin. If you take on a pet, please ensure the above procedures.

Where do I start the rehoming process?

Ask family and friends.

Discuss with your vet intentions to rehome, open and honest conversations are crucial. They may or may not provide recommended rescue groups.

Reach out to your pet trainer.

Search pet rescue websites (details noted below). The sites provide great information in many areas of the industry.

Seek out negative comments if the group or individual has acted inappropriately towards animals.

Ask the local council pound for suggestions, remembering most groups communicate among the rescue network. Baw Baw Shire Council offers an adoption and rehoming service through its Municipal Animal Pound. Residents can contact them to discuss their individual circumstances.

Be honest with dog assessors at shelters and rescue groups. They may refuse if dogs are deemed aggressive or display unacceptable behaviour.

Rescue groups may be charity registered, not-for-profit, relying on private and government donations (website details noted below).

Ensure the rescue group is registered, legitimate and foster carers vetted. Would you surrender your children to anyone? Is the group ethical? Do they promote unacceptable ideology counteracting genuine animal welfare?

Animal shelters either private or council may be an option. Unfortunately, animals for various reasons are put to sleep. This can be confronting but is a reality. Some rescue groups dedicate their efforts accepting animals listed on the kill list, offering the animal a greater chance of life. They are placed in foster care preparing the animal for adoption.

Research the rehoming process, view the group's website, and carefully read the fine print. An online application will be required to be completed, signed, and submitted. Be familiar with the process. Some resources to check out are:

- RSPCA (<https://rspcavic.org/>)
- Facebook page Aussies Against Animal Abuse
- Rescue Directory (www.petrescue.com.au)
- Australian Charities and not-for-profit commission (www.acnc.gov.au/for-charities)

Foster carers

Foster carers provide an important service. Animals are cared for in their home observing and learning the pet's personality and temperament in preparation for adoption. They are an asset to any welfare organisation.

Cat and dog carers residing in Baw Baw Shire can become a registered foster

carer through the Voluntarily Enrolled Foster Carer (VEFC) scheme. Registering is not mandatory. When more than five animals are fostered, the carer must register their premises as a domestic animal business because they are classed as a shelter.

Animal Welfare Victoria are informed of all registered animal foster carers within the municipality.

Legislation

Animal welfare legislation is complicated (Alliance for Animals link below). Navigating our way to understand Baw Baw Shire's authority, animal rescues and shelters must comply with the following acts and regulations: Domestic Animals Act 1994; Baw Baw Shire Community Local Law 2024; Baw Baw Planning Scheme; Local Government Act 1989 & Local Government Act 2020; and a proposed Bill in the Victorian Parliament, which would be the Domestic Animals Amendment Bill 2025.

To all pet owners, if you are facing economic challenges and unable to properly care for your pet, please seek help from friends, family, and neighbours. Most people are good human beings willing to help. Please do not dump animals in rural areas, instead, reach out to your local vet and genuine animal welfare groups for guidance.

Lastly, an acknowledgment to our exceptional professional vets providing animal care. Without your love and passion animals would be denied healthcare they deserve. Thank you Trafalgar and Newborough Vet Centres, Moe Veterinary Centre and beyond.

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The Nielsen Tour of Denmark

By Peter Ryan

Recently, during June and July, a group of current and former members of the local community completed an epic bikepacking adventure through the Kingdom of Denmark. *The Nielsen Tour of Denmark*, consisted of relatives connected to the well known Nielsen family - part of the Trafalgar district since the 1930s.

The group gathered in Copenhagen with their bicycles and subsequently spent the next three weeks traversing the Danish countryside closely following the Baltic Sea Cycle Route. Also known as National Cycle Route 8, it's part of a larger cycle network crossing the archipelago - linking towns and communities, with over 11000kln of sign-posted routes. The Danes could most certainly teach us a thing or two about connection, mobility and integration of transport modes - the bicycle playing an integral role in everyday life. Mostly following the Baltic Sea, the trail completes a figure of eight heading in a Westerly direction to Jutland, before returning to Copenhagen via the Great

Belt and a series of islands, including ferry trips. Upon returning to the Danish capital, the group had clocked up an impressive 1150kms in the saddle.

The group was fortunate to enjoy extended stopovers with Danish relatives in Nyborg, Middelfart and Egtved. The highlight of the trip, the hospitality extended towards the Aussie visitors, was simply first class. Attempts were made to get 'our' Queen Mary to join the riders for some of the journey, but alas, Frederick was not so keen on the idea. A unique and rewarding experience for all which strengthened their family heritage and bond to "Beautiful Denmark."



(From left to right) Peter Ryan,
Glenn Roberts, Peter Ryan,
Neil Rankin, Graeme Rankin.



(From left to right) Peter Ryan, Glenn Roberts, Peter Ryan, Neil Rankin, Graeme Rankin.



MP Mary Aldred champions regional journalism

By Jordan Ross



Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred speaks with year 12 students from Marist Sion College in Warragul.

MP Mary Aldred has used time in the federal parliament to champion regional newspapers, saying that “in triumph and tragedy, there’s someone who always turns up for regional Australia, and that’s the local newspaper.”

“Across towns and regions throughout Australia, the local paper weaves the threads that hold communities together... local news keeps

people connected not just to events but to one another,” she continued.

MP Aldred named the regional newspapers in her electorate of Monash, including the South Gippsland Sentinel Times, the Warragul and Drouin Gazette, the Latrobe Valley Express, the Philip Island Advertiser, and our very own Traf District News.

“Regional journalists show up to meetings no-one else attends,” she said, a statement which rings true.

Between 2020 and 2022 over 100 regional newspa-

pers in Australia ceased printing or moved to online-only publishing. The pandemic hit the industry hard and many businesses don’t have the funds to advertise anymore. Of course, many people are also finding their news elsewhere.

For the Traf District News, our only revenue is advertising, given that our newspaper is free for all locals to enjoy - an important aspect of a community newspaper. But many businesses are struggling at the moment and understandably need to cut back on advertising expenses. This

leaves our newspaper, along with many other regional newspapers, vulnerable.

Aldred says there could be a solution. In 2023 and 2024, there was consultation on the News Media Assistance Program which should mandate \$3 million of spending on advertising per year from 2025-26 for regional newspapers.

She also called on the government to finalise legislation to ensure Meta, TikTok and other platforms “join the negotiating table in good faith,” after the tech giants did not renew their deal

with Australian publishers and stopped paying for Australian news content on their sites.

“There has never been a more important time to support our regional and local publishers. I’m calling on the federal government to get its act together and come good on commitments made which are well past their due date,” she said.

Aldred turns up for Baw Baw students

While back in her electorate, MP Mary Aldred took some time to speak to stu-

dents at Marist Sion College in Warragul. She spoke to students about civics, parliament and the local community, calling it “one of the best parts of [her] job.”

“It was a terrific opportunity to speak to local students about some of these responsibilities, and hear their ideas on policy and local issues. It’s always wonderful to engage with young people across the Monash electorate, who have bright ideas, great questions and are committed to making a contribution to our local community,” she said.



October exhibitions at 'The Station Gallery' Yarragon 10.00am to 3.00pm Wednesday to Sunday: Mixed Media group and Alene Bonser's 'Little Treasures'.

Saturday, October 18, 8.30am to 1.00pm, De-Stash Market, VRI Hall Art Space, 128 Queen St Warragul.



bawbawartsalliance.org.au for more details



Melina BATH MP

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MelinaBathMLC



Mary Aldred addressing The House of Representatives during her first speech. Image supplied.

Rokeby to Noojee Trail upgrades completed

By Jordan Ross



New trail surface and entrance signage as part of the major upgrade project. All images supplied.



Baw Baw Shire Councillors joined Harriet Shing MP to officially cut the red ribbon.



Cr Adam Sheehan, Cr Brendan Kingwill, Cr Jess Hamilton, Deputy Mayor Cr Tricia Jones, Cr Suzanne Allen, Cr Kate Wilson and Cr Paul Pratt at the trail entrance alongside trail riders and their horses.

The Rokeby to Noojee Trail reopened at the end of August, with the unveiling of the \$4 million upgrades to the 15 kilometre trail that commenced last year.

Upgrades include new granite and concrete surfacing for steep sections to improve durability and ease maintenance, redeveloped car parks at the Rokeby entrance, new signage includ-

ing wayfinding and trail markers, and improvements to the Neerim South and Apex lookout platform. The Neerim South and Apex lookout platform now has an upgraded carpark, new toilet block, and a new lookout spot.

All of these improvements will improve user experience, create better connections between communities, and make the trail safer and more accessible.

helped to beautify the spaces and educate users on their travels. The result is a high-quality, shared trail that celebrates our rich history with natural vistas,” he said.

“None of this wonderful work would have been possible without the \$3 million funding boost from the Victorian Government. We are grateful for the continued investment in our Shire,” said Cr Sheehan.

Baw Baw Shire Council Deputy Mayor Cr Tricia Jones was in attendance at the opening, alongside Cr Suzanne Allen, Cr Jess Hamilton, Cr Brendan Kingwill, Cr Paul Pratt, Cr Kate Wilson, and Cr Adam Sheehan who delivered a speech to mark the occasion.

East Ward Cr Adam Sheehan said it was fantastic to celebrate the improvement of this much-loved community asset.

“What once served as a vital connection for trains and travellers in years past has now been reimagined as a destination trail for walkers, runners, cyclists and nature lovers, both locally and those visiting from far and wide,” said Cr Sheehan.

“While much of the upgrades have improved the function and stability of the trail, many of them have

As mentioned by Cr Sheehan, the State Government contributed \$3 million through its Regional Tourism Investment Fund.

Labor Member for Eastern Victorian Harriet Shing called the trail upgrades “a huge win for locals, visitors, and nature lovers alike.”

Official proceedings were followed by a showcase of Baw Baw Shire’s best local produce from key local tourist drawcards. Led by Messmates Dining, one of Baw Baw Shire’s three hatted restaurants, the offering included produce from Five Tales Farm, Alpine Trout Farm, Maffra Cheese Company, Ashridge Truffles, and Messmates own farm produce.

Council is continuing to advocate for funding for a second stage of upgrades and construction of the trail from Neerim South to Noojee.



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Wayne

FARNHAM MP

MEMBER FOR NARRACAN

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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@bawbawshire.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.aldred.mp@aph.gov.au	03 5614 3600
Member for Narracan (State Electorate)	Wayne Farnham	Email: wayne.farnham@parliament.vic.gov.au	03 5623 1960
Education / Childcare			
Nido Early School Trafalgar		Email: trafalgar@nido.edu.au Website: https://nido.edu.au/early-schools/vic/trafalgar/	03 5633 1233
Trafalgar High School		Email: generaloffice@trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au Email: Trafalgar.hs@education.vic.gov.au Website: https://trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au/	03 5633 1733
Trafalgar Primary Early Learning Centre		Email: trafalgar@ykinders.org.au Website: https://ykinders.org.au/centres/trafalgar/	03 4311 1592
Trafalgar Primary School		Email: trafalgar.ps@education.vic.gov.au Website: https://www.trafps.vic.edu.au/	(03) 5633 1566
Trafalgar Primary School (Before and After School Club)	Holly	Website: https://www.oshclub.com.au/find-us/trafalgar-primary-school/	0439 735 713
Sport			
Trafalgar Bowls Club	Ian Miles	Email: trafalgarbowlsclub@bigpond.com Website: https://trafalgarbowlsclub.com/	03 5633 1274
Trafalgar Boxing Gym	Shane Cameron	Email: box_on_box_all@hotmail.com Webite: https://trafalgarboxingclub.wordpress.com/ Website: https://trafalgarcricketclub.com.au/ Email: trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com	0408 962 764
Trafalgar Cricket Club	Liam Durkin	Email: trafalgarfnfc@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Football Netball Club	0402 556 338
Trafalgar Football Netball 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			03 5623 4017

Trafalgar Pickleball Club		Facebook: 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 Football Club		Email: committee@tvfc.com.au Website: www.tvfc.com.au	
Other			
Baw Baw Arts Alliance	Sue Murphy	Email: president@bawbawartsalliance.org.au Website: https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au/bcms/	0428 866 417
BawBaw Sustainability Network	Malcolm McKelvie	Email: bawbawsn@gmail.com Website: bbsn.org.au Facebook: Baw Baw Sustainability Network	0490 485 370
BetterMental Together	Kerry Rantall	Email: bettermentall@gmail.com Website: https://bettermentall.com.au/	0477 115 666
Earls Rd Landcare Group	Jim Whiley	Email: info@lcln.com.au Website: https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/westgippsland/earls-road/	0423 832 122
Jade MacGregor Legal	Jade MacGregor	Email: reception@jmacgregorlegal.com Website: https://jmacgregorlegal.com/	03 5644 0000
Rotary Club of Trafalgar	Michael Fozard	Email: mrfozard@bigpond.com Facebook: Rotary Club of Trafalgar	0418 513 092
St John's Church (Trafalgar) St. Jariath's Church (Yarragon)		Email: Trafalgar@cdsale.org.au Website: https://www.stjohnstrafalgar.com.au/	03 5633 1166
Trafalgar Campdraft	Cheryl	Email: gcasecretary74@gmail.com Website: https://www.gippslandcampdraftingassociation.com/ Facebook: Trafalgar Campdraft Association Inc	0416 166 027
Trafalgar Cemetry Trust	Howard Jones	Email: trafalgarpubliccemetary@dcsi.net.au Webite: https://australiancemeteries.com.au/vic/bawbaw/trafalgar.htm	03 5633 2282
Trafalgar CFA (non-emergency)		Facebook: Trafalgar Fire Brigade	03 5624 1900
Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce		Website: https://www.trafalgarchamber.com.au/ Facebook: Trafalgar Community Notice Board	
Trafalgar Community Notice Board			
Trafalgar District News	Jordan Ross	Email: editor@trafnews.com	03 5633 2591 0432 889 930
Trafalgar Farmers Market		Email: Silkroadcommunitymarkets@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Farmers Market (Silk Road Community Markets)	0417 131 316
Trafalgar Historical Society	Jean Huffer	Email: historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com	03 5633 1960
Trafalgar Holden Museum		Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: https://trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au/	03 5633 1684
Trafalgar Lions Club	David Koschade	Email: trafalgarlions@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Lions Club	0428 331 157
Trafalgar Mens Shed	Leigh Shepherd	Website: https://mensshed.org/sheds/trafalgar-mens-shed/ Email: glenys_barnyard@yahoo.com.au	0427 757 505
Trafalgar Opp Shop	Glenys Brennan	Facebook: Trafalgar Opp Shop	03 5633 2788
Trafalgar Police Station (non-emergency)		Email: TRAFALGAR.UNI@police.vic.gov.au	03 5633 1188
Trafalgar Probus Club	Glenda Mynard	Email: glendamtraf@gmail.com	0458 332 149
Trafalgar Public Hall	Tanya Stanley	Email: trafalgarpublichall@gmail.com	0409 015 662
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Imagining Hazelwood as a thriving economic hub

By Trevor Colvin

Seven years ago Moe South resident Nina Burke took a good look at Hazelwood and instead of seeing a huge tract of land where a power station had been and a massive hole in the ground, Nina imagined it differently.

Nina allowed herself to dream of what it could become and saw the possibility to turn this massive asset into a thriving economic hub, creating much needed jobs and income for the Valley.

Nina shared her dream with others and founded a community group titled Great Latrobe Park, and for the past seven years they have been working to enrol local and state government and the mine owners in the vision.

When Hazelwood shut down it cost a lot of jobs. Yallourn is also scheduled to close soon with another massive cost to the community in lost jobs. Add in the cost of the closure of the native timber logging industry last year and The Valley economy is taking a serious nose dive, which will get worse. It is expected that Gross Regional Product in our region will drop from \$7 billion to \$5 billion per annum. Indications are one in ten jobs will disappear at a cost of \$350 million annually. When jobs go, business closures follow closely, homelessness, poverty and social issues rise.

But all is not lost, and it is not all gloom and doom, if the vision of GLP is enacted upon and these massive mines - starting with Hazelwood - are developed into vibrant economic projects,

creating businesses and jobs and bringing wealth and stability to Latrobe Valley.

Fortunately, Hazelwood mine owner, Engie Australia is supportive of such rehabilitation and development. Writing recently in The Latrobe Valley Express, Jamie Lowe, head of regulation and compliance, welcomed Great Latrobe Park's interest and agreed Hazelwood could be developed to include tourism and industry.

Hazelwood occupies four thousand hectares, which is bigger than the city of Melbourne, and the lake could hold more water than Sydney Harbour. Yallourn is even bigger and the two are geologically connected. Nina and her group see both being developed to provide much needed economic and social stimulus.

So, what could it look like?

Tourism, the lake

Imagine international quality hotels cut into the wall, overlooking this massive lake. Golden beaches with safe swimming areas for families. Yachting, kayaking, diving, fishing, sailboarding and more. Cafes and restaurants catering to all tastes and budgets.

A zipline running to a floating island nature reserve in the lake.

Along the shores of the lake, an international golf course, a large nature reserve for bushwalkers and birders, a tourist railway ferrying visitors around the area - eventually this train would also serve the rehabilitated Yallourn mine.



This massive mine could be turned into a huge lake and developed to bring new money and jobs to the Valley through local and international tourism. And there is time to develop it.

Sporting facilities, picnic areas, perhaps an underwater viewing platform.

Imagine a large Indigenous centre to help us all better understand our first peoples, and acres and acres of parklands.

Industry

Hazelwood produces billions of litres of hot water; free energy which could bring whole new green industries to Latrobe City. Agriculture, and aquaculture could and would make good use of this readily available energy source.

Among the agricultural hot houses would be spas and baths for locals and international visitors to enjoy.

None of this is impossible. In fact it is all very possible and fortunately there is time to develop it and it doesn't



Hazelwood produces billions of litres of hot water - free energy which could be used to develop aquaculture and agriculture industries and a healthy spa tourism industry.

have to be developed all at once. Repurposing would be gradual and that would ease the cost pressures.

In his letter in the Latrobe Valley Express, Jamie Lowe

signalled that perhaps some smaller parcels of land could be made available as and when needed.

Traf District News will continue to report on this

topic which could once again turn The Valley into a thriving and vibrant economy.

Disclosure: The writer is also a member of the Great Latrobe Park Committee.

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An update from the Baw Baw Arts Alliance

By Carol Monson

For the Baw Baw Arts Alliance October 2025 is proving to be a busy month starting with a wide range of activities for 'Seniors Week', commencement of the 'Arts and Makers Market' for the Summer and the regular displays of Art from local Artists in 'The Station Gallery', Yarragon.

The Arts Alliance has a wonderful array of free activities in the first week of October when Seniors week is celebrated. These free workshops range from creating a wet felted vessel to portrait drawing, creative textiles and mixed media. Each activity has a different tutor so check availability by going to <https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au>

As well as the above, the Arts Alliance has different exhibitions at the 'Station Gallery' in the former Yarragon Railway Station on Princes Highway, Yarragon. In October is an exhibition by the Trafalgar painting group alongside new Artworks form well known local painter Alene Bonser. You will not be disappointed that you have taken the time to see these displays.

Two activities worth remembering over the next few weeks are the Arts and Textiles De-Stash Market and the Warragul Arts and Makers Market. On Saturday, October 18 at the VRI Hall, Queen Street, Warragul between 8.30 am to 1.00 pm are great opportunities to buy textiles,

tools, books, paints, threads and other Art supplies.

While sorting through Textiles don't forget the Arts and Makers Market in the TAFE carpark right next door. There you will find a wide range of beautifully created one off Art works at affordable prices by local Artists.

Don't forget the beginning of November when 'Poetry Bauhaus' has performances in the Commercial Hotel in Warragul on Sunday, November 2 at 2.30 pm. Contact Yvette Stubbs on 0447 640 038 for information about exciting writing workshops before the performance readings.

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



Jeweller Claire Seymour (left) and market organiser Marlene Ogden (right).

Baw Baw Shire appoints new CEO



Tilla Buden will take over as Baw Baw Shire CEO in November. Image supplied.

The Baw Baw Shire has announced Tilla Buden as its new Chief Executive Officer. Buden brings extensive leadership experience and a strong track record in community development and social policy, making her well placed to guide Baw Baw Shire through its next exciting chapter of growth and development.

She has held executive roles at Bayside City Council, the City of Greater Dandenong and Yarra Ranges Council, with expertise spanning organisational leadership, sustainable service design, major project deliv-

ery and community-centred innovation.

Buden has spent the last 18 months leading the Community & Customer Experience division at Bayside City Council, overseeing Community Care and Wellbeing, Arts, Libraries, Customer Service and Experience, Communications and Engagement. Tilla is recognised for her collaborative style and strong partnerships across councils, communities and government.

Baw Baw Shire Council Mayor Danny Goss said Council is delighted to welcome Ms Buden to the role.

"This is a pivotal time for Baw Baw. With a new Council group, a new Council Plan and now a new CEO, we are setting the stage for a strong and vibrant future. Tilla's leadership skills, strategic vision and genuine commitment to community will be invaluable in helping shape that future," Cr Goss said.

As CEO, Ms Buden will lead the organisation's dedicated staff, oversee delivery of the Council Plan, and work in partnership with Councillors, community and stakeholders to ensure Baw Baw Shire continues to thrive as a great place to live, work and visit.

Tilla shared that she is "honoured" to join Baw Baw Shire at such a dynamic moment in its journey.

"Council plays an important role in supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities through quality, innovative and community-focused services and infrastructure," she said.

"I look forward to partnering with the Mayor, Councilors, our staff and the community to deliver on the vision of a sustainable, healthy and thriving Shire."

"Collaboration with staff, local communities, partners and government will remain

central to how I lead and the outcomes we achieve together," she said.

Mayor Goss shared thanks for John Bennie for his support and dedication during his interim appointment.

"We would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Mr John Bennie for his leadership as Interim CEO since March. We are confident that a supportive and thorough handover will take place over the coming weeks as we prepare for Tilla to transition into the role."

Buden will formally commence in the role on 17 November 2025.

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A cryptic lunch!

By Glenda Mynard of the Trafalgar & District Probus Club

What is a cryptic lunch? This is the question many members of the Trafalgar & District Probus Club asked when this event was added to our calendar. We were advised to bring a sense of adventure, an appetite and a sense of humour. Thirty members were involved in this event. Some in the kitchen prepared the mystery dishes and the rest eagerly seated awaiting their lunch.

Proceedings commenced when each diner was presented with a menu and we were given five minutes to put in our complete order for entree, main and dessert. This menu contained 24 items to choose from but the item number was followed by a cryptic phrase. To decipher anything in five minutes was next to impossible for most diners, so they randomly hoped for the best and jotted down numbers for each course. To add to this dilemma, utensils, serviettes etc, were also part of the 24 items on the menu so if you were unlucky with your choices, you hoped your meal was finger food.

The probus motto is “fun, friendship & fellowship” and

this was certainly evident from the buzz in the room as diners awaited their first course. The entree appeared and plates contained a weird variety of food such as sandwiches, mini pavs, and jelly, for example. Unless your cryptic order contained utensils, you had to use fingers. I was lucky enough to have a knife included on my plate. My edible item was jelly, a difficult finger food so a knife made it a little easier, but still a challenge to get the jelly from the plate to my mouth - I didn't think licking the plate was acceptable.

One diner, Jon, eagerly awaited his main course but was very surprised when his order resulted in a glass of water (nature's wonder) and a toothpick and knife on his plate. Nothing to appease his appetite, so he just had to wait and hope he'd made better choices for dessert.

Once the three cryptic courses were finished, diners were able to help themselves to left overs, and select appropriate cutlery and a serviette, if desired. Most attendees enjoyed the experience and had plenty of delicious food in the end.



Jon, waiting for some food while Sharley had better luck with her cryptic choices.



Andy Milbourne, educating older drivers. All images supplied.

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Gardivalia ‘Festival of Gardens’ 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ed irises and orchids and large Irish Strawberry trees.

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

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

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

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

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



Fiona's Garden in Warragul.



Old Neerim Schoolhouse Garden.



Garden in Trafalgar East.



Lois' Garden in Drouin.



Ice Creek Garden.



Dot's Garden in Willow Grove.



Tall Timbers.



Wrens Wood.



Lake View.



Great News!

**Gardivalia
will OPEN on
Saturday &
Sunday, Oct
25 & 26**

For more information visit www.gardivalia.com.au

Lions Club public speaking success for local students

By Patricia Mulqueen

It was a week of achievement and celebration for students at St Joseph's Primary School, Trafalgar with 13 senior students stepping up to take part in the Lions Club Public Speaking Competition.

Organised by Lions Club member Pat Tatterson, the event was judged by Joanna Reekie from the Lions Club, alongside former staff members Glenda Mynard and Lucy O'Connell.

Students impressed the audience with their preparation and confidence, with standout performances from

William Finken and Zarah Boyle. William claimed first place in the Grade 3/4 section, while Zarah secured top honours in the Grade 5/6 category.

Both students advanced to the local schools' final, where they again triumphed by winning their respective age groups.

The school community, together with the students' families, expressed great pride in William and Zarah's achievements and wished them every success as they prepare for the district final.



From left: Pat Tatterson (Lions Club organizer), Glenda Mynard (judge), Trish Mulqueen (Principal), Joanna Reekie (Lions Club) and Lucy O'Connell (judge). In front students William Finken and Zarah.



The school and local winners are Zarah Boyle and William Finken.



Group photo of judges and students who participated. All images supplied.

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COUNCIL News

Australia Day Awards 2026

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN.

The annual Baw Baw Shire Australia Day Awards ceremony honours and acknowledges individuals and groups who have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years.

Nominations for the 2026 Australia Day Awards are open now until **October 24, 2025**.



Upcoming Council Meetings:

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

Wednesday 8 October – 9.30am

Annual Financial and Performance Statements

Wednesday 22 October – 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

Baw Baw Connect – Have Your Say, Your Way!

Council currently has two community engagement opportunities open for consultation!

- Trial Mobility Spaces
- Australia Day Awards Nominations

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



YOUR SAY,
YOUR WAY.

Our Roads. Your Roads. Better Baw Baw Roads.

Roadside Mowing Update

The first round of rural roadside mowing is now underway across Baw Baw Shire!

This work helps keep our roadsides safe and tidy by improving visibility along rural roads. Crews will be moving across the Shire over the coming weeks, with the entire rural network to be completed before Christmas.

Please slow down and take care when driving near mowing equipment. Thanks for your patience while we carry out this important work!

Upcoming Events:

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



Just how safe is our drinking water?

By Rosemary Cousin

Every day when we turn on our taps, we expect that drinkable water - fresh, clean, uncontaminated - will be readily available for drinking, showering, cleaning and gardening. But just how confident can we be that our water supply is exactly what we expect and need?

Between 2017 and 2024, Gippsland Water conducted over 115,000 pesticide tests of our drinking water, searching for 100s of pesticides.

This information is generally not publicly provided because if pesticide levels don't exceed drinking water guidelines, they do not have to be reported in the authority's annual drinking water quality reports.

In February 2025, Friends of the Earth lodged a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to obtain results of Gippsland Water's detection of pesticides in drinking water between 2017-2024.

Given the serious nature of the toxic chemical residues found in its pesticide monitoring program, Gippsland Water's residential populations deserve a response to these findings, and better

monitoring and reporting in future of our drinking water quality.

What the FOI data revealed: There were 111 pesticide detections over this 8-year period - that's about 14 incidents per year. In all, 21 different pesticides were detected in nine drinking water supplies. Gippsland Water's pesticide risk assessments showed Moe as the most significantly at risk, followed by Seaspray, Neerim South, Mirboo North and Briagolong. This article reports on the Moe and Mirboo North water supply test results.

Moe

Moe has two sources of drinking water, the Tanjil River and Narracan Creek. 47 of the 59 pesticide detections occurred at Moe (Site 1), with 12 occurring at Moe (site 2). Moe Water Treatment plant provides drinking water to Moe, Darnum, Newborough, Yallourn North,

In Trafalgar and Yarragon, more raw water was tested at two locations. About one third of the tests were conducted at two locations: one on Narracan Creek and the other on the Tanjil River.

- The highest number of pesticide detections (42%) were in the Narracan Creek catchment between 2017-2024.
- The most frequently detected pesticides at this location were 2,4-D (17) [a component of the defoliants heavily used in the Vietnam War], Triclopyr (14) and MCPA (7). Other pesticides detected included: Bromacil, Picloram, Metolachlor, Prometryn, Fluproponate and 2,4-DB.
- Of the 111 pesticide detections, 53% occurred in the domestic water supply for Moe.

Mirboo North

Mirboo North's water supply is sourced from the northern Little Morwell River catchment. A large section of the catchment is forested, but there are also farms in the catchment.

- The herbicide Bentazon was detected 11 times in raw water at Mirboo North water treatment

- plant between 2017-2024. Bentazon is registered for use in Victoria to control broadleaf weeds in some types of bean crops. It is also allowed to be used on lawns. According to FoE records Bentazon has only been detected in one other water supply in Australia.
- Triclopyr was detected once in treated water at 0.1% of the Australian Drinking Water guidelines. The average level of Bentazon in raw water between 2017-2024 was 0.007µg/L (with the highest level being 0.2µg/L in October 2018, or 0.05% of the Australian drinking water guideline).
 - Other pesticides detected at Mirboo North include: Paraquat, 2,4-D, Metribuzin, Atrazine, Picloram, Prothios and Terbufos.

- The Terbufos detection was the highest in terms of drinking water concerns, representing 2.2% of the drinking water guideline in April 2020.
- Only 4 of the pesticides detected at Mirboo North have ecological guidelines, with a detection of Paraquat in December 2018 being 6.2% of the 99% default guideline level. This is the first time that Paraquat has been detected in a domestic water supply in Australia, according to FoE records. Paraquat is a highly controversial herbicide linked with Parkinson's Disease. Paraquat has been banned in 70 countries.

Pesticides can find their way into drinking water supplies mainly through runoff, accidents and spray drift, also from firefighting but

mainly agriculture, council roadside maintenance programs and domestic gardening. Pesticides leaching offsite into waterways are generally not tested in Victoria with water authority data being the main source of determining what pesticides are being sprayed where and which are ending up in drinking water supplies.

Of the 21 pesticides found, 16 (76%) have guideline levels published in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (which haven't been updated since 2011). In terms of ecological guidelines 8 of the 21 pesticides (38%) have guidelines. (Some guidelines e.g. for Atrazine and 2,4-D have not been updated for a quarter of century). For 62% of the pesticides types detected it is therefore unclear what the ecological impact could potentially be.

For further information on the Gippsland Water pesticide monitoring results, contact anthony.amis@foe.org.au



LOOK OVER THE FARM GATE: HELP A MATE!

Farming families are invited to a series of free Community BBQ's, to support those in their community doing it tough in dry season conditions.

11.00am to 2.00pm

Wed 1 Oct: Trafalgar Football Netball Club
Wed 8 Oct: Neerim South Football Netball Club
Tue 14 Oct: Ellinbank Football Netball Club

ALSO ATTENDING:
AgVic, NEX Business Farming Wellness, Head2Health, GippsDairy, Food & Fibre Gippsland.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:
Baw Baw Shire Council with funding from the National Centre for Farmer Health.

This event is supported by a Look Over the Farm Gate grant provided by Agriculture Victoria under the Victorian Government's 2025 Drought Support Package. #LookOverTheFarmGate





Bendigo Bank

Community Bank
Trafalgar & District

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
Baw Baw Arts Alliance painting exhibition Works by Alene Bonser	October 4, 2pm	Station Gallery, Yarragon
Barkin' Mad Ultra 2025 Forest trail running. Register at raceroster.com	October 4 & 5	Rokeby Recreation Reserve
Trafalgar Garage Sale Day More info on facebook	October 12, from 8am	Across Trafalgar
Baw Baw Arts Alliance Markets Arts and Textiles De-Stash Market + Warragul Arts and Makers Market	October 18, 8:30am - 1pm	VRI Hall, Warragul
Gardivalia Festival of Gardens - Open Gardens Weekend For more information: www.gardivalia.com.au	October 25 & 26	Across the Baw Baw Shire
Baw Baw Arts Alliance Poetry Bauhaus	November 2, 2:30pm	Commerical Hotel Warragul

Supporting your community **5633 2783**

103a Princes Highway, Trafalgar



Harriet Shing MP

MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA

Your voice in the Eastern Victoria Region

216 Commercial Road, Morwell VIC 3840
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1300 103 199 [harrietsHINGMP](https://www.facebook.com/harrietsHINGMP) [@ShingvWorld](https://www.instagram.com/ShingvWorld)

Authorized by H Shing, 216 Commercial Rd, Morwell.



A look at life in a retirement village

Traf District News went behind the gates at Encore Retirement Village to ask some of the residents how they find living is such a community. We hope these resident comments will help anyone looking at such a move and we will bring you more in the November issue of this newspaper.

Editor's Note: We will bring you the views of some of the women at Encore in the November issue.

Les

Editor: Les and Janet were among the first to move into Encore and Les is its most senior resident.

"My wife Janet and I lived out on a farm a few miles out of Thorpdale, and at that

time we were having worries. People were coming in and raiding sheds and all that. We didn't feel really safe, so we decided to move.

"I think this was one of our better decisions to come down here and I can always remember the first night we slept here. We woke up and we said to one another, 'well, that was good'.

"We feel safe. We're in a gated area, although our house at the time was sitting on its own because it was one of the first built.

"And as it's grown, as the community's grown, I've felt that it's very much like Thorpdale when I was a kid and grew up and married. A good sense of community.

"You know everybody in the village. Everybody doesn't

mingle, but a majority do. One thing that always tickles me is that you can be sitting out in your garage and people come walking along. They don't walk on footpaths. They walk straight up the middle of the road. And if a car comes along, it's got to stop and talk to them.

It's just like the old days. I enjoy it. I enjoy it immensely.

"I find one of my better decisions in my life was coming down here in my old age."

Russ

Editor: Russ is a retired farmer and moved to Encore with his wife Marge. Although officially retired, Russ spends a lot of time helping out on the family farm.

"Well, we've now been living in Encore for six years,

and I couldn't think of anywhere better to be, particularly at our age.

"The community, the residents and the management are terrific, particularly when you're not feeling well, which is not uncommon at our age. They're always there to assist. Without being too intrusive, we certainly haven't found that. They'll help when required.

I enjoy getting out away from the village, participating in my son's farming activities whenever he might give me something to do.

And my wife, she is not so well and she's quite happy, very happy, in a secure environment. That's a big thing, I think, the security of the village, where you're living with

a group of people, like-minded as in age and welfare.

And yeah, we couldn't be more than happy in here and we are pleased we came in."

Mick

Editor: Mick and his wife moved into Encore a couple of years ago to enjoy the freedom to travel in retirement.

"I can't tell you what all retirement villages are like, I can only tell you what it's like in this, but I reckon they're all different.

"So after a fairly lengthy decision making process we came into this retirement village on the basis of the quality of the resources here in terms of the homes etc.

"The size of them and the freedom of them in terms

of them being, if you like, a real home.

"We were needing to relocate from the big family home, with five bedrooms but now no children, so we were literally downsizing and the big toss up was, do we stay in the town where we were, or move.

"But in effect it is a sense of belonging to a community and what you make it, rather than what the community itself is, and I think that's important.

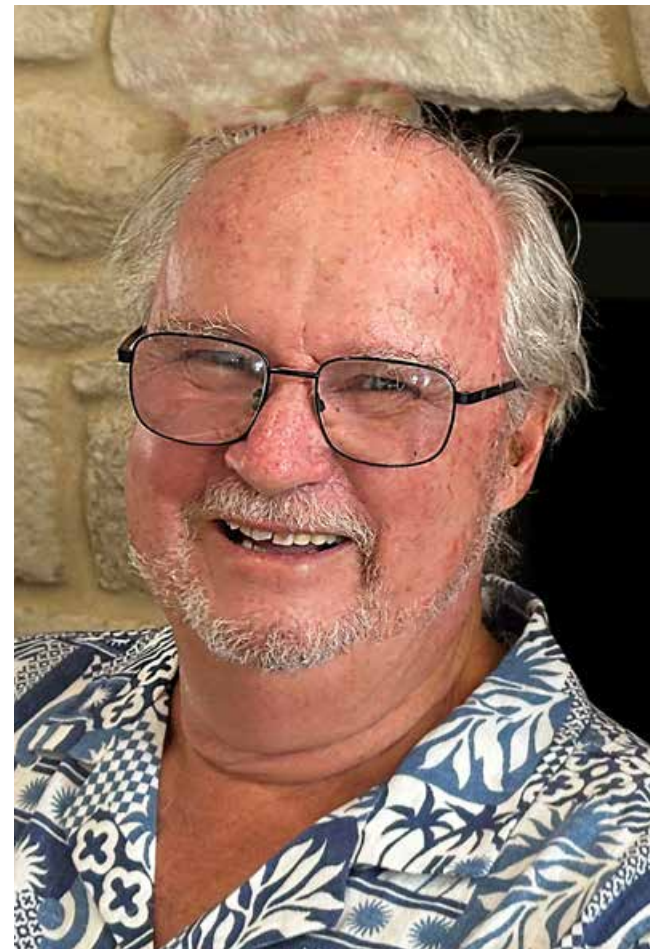
"So if someone's considering living in a retirement village, I reckon look at a lot of them because they won't all suit you. Don't look at one and say it doesn't suit, or that it does suit, still check it out against others because they're all different, that's what I found."



Les



Russ



Mick



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Community Bank
Trafalgar & District

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MEET THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT BAKE IT SOW IT OR GROW IT



Ross Turner Apprentice Encouragement Award

By David Koschade

The Lions Club of Trafalgar will be holding its annual Russ Turner Apprentice Encouragement Award on October 15. The club established this award in 1997 to honour the memory of the late Russ Turner, a respected Trafalgar businessman working in the automotive industry.

One of his qualities was the ability to get alongside young people just starting out in the workforce, and, by assisting them to develop their skills and self-confidence, he helped them achieve their full potential.

The Trafalgar Lions Club established this encouragement award as a means of continuing this practice. It is awarded to the applicant who judges determine would benefit from it the most, not necessarily the highest achiever.

To be eligible for this award you must have completed at least one year of Certificate 3 or 4 apprenticeship or traineeship in your chosen field. You must either live or work in the immediate

area of Trafalgar and be under the age of 25 as at October 3, 2025.

When your application is received your employer/supervisor will be contacted and asked to provide some general comments so that we can better appreciate your work situation. Let your employer/supervisor know about this award and that we will be in contact with him/her shortly.

You will then be asked to attend a brief interview with our award committee, which is a team of members of the Trafalgar Lions Club. At the interview they will talk with you about your experiences and challenges as an apprentice / trainee.

When the award committee has made their decision, all participating apprentices / trainees will be invited to attend one of the Trafalgar Lions Club regular dinner meetings, where the successful applicant will be announced, at which time, they will be presented with a cheque for \$1000.

We believe that all applicants will enjoy and benefit from participating in the Russ Turner Apprentice / Trainee Encouragement

Award selection process. Previous applicants who continue to fit the criteria are welcome to apply again in 2025.

Application forms are available from Trafalgar & District Community Bank. Applications close on Wednesday October 8.

For further information or to apply please contact Ian Bosma on 0407 254 337 or David Koschade on 0428 331 157.



The 2024 Award. President Trevor Byrne presents a \$1,000 cheque to Reanna Dunston with Judge Sue Pye.

Phone charger destroys Trafalgar home

By Trevor Colvin

The family of four woke at 3am to smoke and flames and the unmistakable pitch of fire alarms. They all got out safely, including two pet dogs, but the home was a write-off. Had it not been for the local volunteer fire brigade arriving within seven or eight minutes, the fire would have spread to neighbouring homes in this quiet little Trafalgar court. Let's take a moment to thank these incredible volunteers who risk their own lives for the benefit of our community.

The lady of the house was in bed at the end of a long day, doing some texting and catching up on her mobile phone. She fell asleep. The problem in this case was that the phone was being charged at the time and it is likely it became smothered in blankets or a pillow.

Lack of ventilation is a major contributing factor when batteries catch fire. Any battery in charge mode must have air movement; or danger lurks. Your writer knows this having lost a home to fire

because of batteries being charged in too tight a space with poor airflow. It is a costly lesson to learn and such fires are more common than most of us realise.

Max Hill is a retired policeman who is now professionally involved in the fire insurance investigation business. Max has visited many homes lost to fire so Traf District News asked Max to give us some pointers about what we need to do to be safer. Max provided the following advice and next month this newspa-

per will go into this subject in much more detail, including talking to the local fire brigade, a look at insurance, and other issues around batteries and fire.

Power Boards: Max points out that most of us use power boards made very cheaply in China. If the connection from the lead you plug in to the brass receiving ports (which you can't see) is loose, there is a real possibility of fire. A spark reaches 3,700 degrees and that is enough to melt plastic and

start a fire. Answer: Consider better quality boards and stay safer.

Ceiling Fans: When a ceiling fan rattles it almost certainly means a bearing is worn. That can cause a very hot spark and start a fire, possibly in the ceiling where it might take longer to be noticed. Answer: if your fans rattle, replace them.

Extension Leads: Max told us about a lead that was plugged into a wall socket but not attached to any tool or device, but still it caused

a house fire. Answer: unplug anything that is not in use.

Old Laptop: Max told us of a young man with a fifteen year old laptop which he placed under his bed when he went to sleep. The laptop was switched off but still it caused a fire, perhaps because the battery and connections were old and loose. Answer; be aware there are dangers even when a device is turned off. Answer: be aware old technology can be a fire hazard.

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Image supplied by Adobe Stock)

CELEBRATE AN INSPIRING TRAFALGAR CITIZEN

TRAFALGAR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

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

Title: (Mr, Mrs, etc.) FIRST NAME: SURNAME:

Street/postal address:

Contact number: Email:

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

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

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

SELECTION CRITERIA:

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

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

PLEASE ADDRESS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA IN YOUR NOMINATION:

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

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

NOTES:

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

NOMINATOR’S DETAILS: (Please complete your details)

Title: (Mr, Mrs, etc.) FIRST NAME: SURNAME:

Street/postal address:

Contact number: Email:

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

Title: (Mr, Mrs, etc.) FIRST NAME: SURNAME:

Street/postal address:

Contact number: Email:

WHERE TO SEND THE NOMINATION:

Send the completed nomination and supporting details to either:

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

No other methods of lodging the form are accepted.

Applications close on 31 October this year.

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

Rules of Entry:

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

.....

(Nominator’s signature)

.....

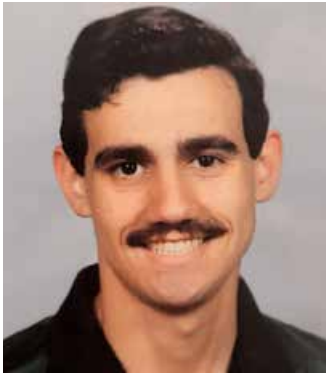
(Date)

More info on the awards

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

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

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



Ambrose Bajada



Kerry and Jason Rantall



Classy cats romp to flag

By Davyd Reid. Supplied by The Warragul and Drouin Gazette.

A record crowd of almost 5000 people saw Neerim-Neerim South finish with the Elinbank District football and netball double.

The Cats' senior football team put in another impressive performance to prove too strong for the challenger Trafalgar, comfortably winning 11-11 (77) to 3-8 (26) to finish premiers and champions.

The Bloods were able to keep in touch early, with an impressive first quarter defensive effort holding the Cats to just two goals.

But they were unable to sustain it as the Cats ran away with it across the contest.

The Cats took advantage of a turnover to finally break the deadlock in the ninth minute.

Neerim-Neerim South captain Dean Stringer found overlap from defence to set up the next goal, passing through centre-half-forward to set up a running goal.

Co-coach Tom Muir gave the first quarter a tick de-

spite the tight tussle, with players coming from the bench impacting.

He implored the Cats to get the ball in the hands of wingers Lachlan Guy and Ayden Ramm, while also holding for an open option for the key forwards.

He also warned them to watch Brad Hoffman, who would drift back to intercept across the contest, and reinforced it would take a four-quarter effort to lock away the result.

The Cats moved further ahead through a 50-metre penalty before Nathan Bayne converted from a strong mark in front of goal.

Mason McGarrity snapped around the body as the Cats went to half time with a handy 28-point lead, having kept the Bloods goalless.

Ramm escaped on the wing to find Luke Kinder on the lead, the forward converting from some late contact as the Cats continued on their way.

After Dylan Farrell appeared to have his opponents' measure, strong follow up work set up a goal for Eddie McGillivray as the Cats doubled their half time lead to 56-points.

With the scoreboard not in the home team's favour, at the final break coach Shane Brewster encouraged his players to have a crack.

And, there was a big cheer from the home crowd as the Bloods finally broke through for their first goal early in the final term.

Still the Cats were finishing with a run as McGarrity snuck in another shot, only to soon run around another as Neerim-Neerim South closed in on the desired result.

The Bloods snapped through their second and soon made it consecutive goals, but the damage had been done as the Cats closed out a strong victory.

Co-coach Kody Wilson capped his league best and fairest win with another best afield performance to add a second medal.



Neerim-Neerim South's Will Papley (right) escapes a diving tackle from Trafalgar's Dylan Gauci in the third quarter. All images supplied.

Excellent Eagles win

Supplied by The Warragul and Drouin Gazette.

Ellinbank has added another chapter to its remarkable C grade history, scoring a 15-goal victory against Trafalgar to reclaim the premiership.

The Eagles, who had lost the past two C grade grand finals, were determined to make amends. And, their fast start reflected that intent.

They piled on 14 goals in the opening quarter to lead 14-7 at the first break.

Trafalgar responded in the second quarter, lifting the intensity through the midcourt and converting more from chances.

The Bloods closed the gap to just four goals at half-time, 23-19, and threatened to

swing momentum their way. But Ellinbank steadied after the break, showing the experience and composure that has made them such a force in this grade.

The Eagles dominated the third term, outscoring Trafalgar 15 goals to six to build a commanding 13-goal lead. The Eagles also rotated their

goal scorers seamlessly, with Stefanie Backman, Daphne Hodge and Kristi Brinksmas all contributing to the scoring load.

With the shooters finishing confidently and defensive pressure forcing turnovers, Ellinbank took a stranglehold on the contest and entered the last change ahead 38-25.

From there, the Eagles never looked back, finishing strongly to secure a 50-35 victory and underline their status as the most consistent club in C grade over the past decade.

Best on court: Ellinbank centre Cassandra Charles was a standout, controlling the tempo and driving her team forward, to be rewarded with the umpires' best on court honours.



Tigers too tough

Supplied by The Warragul and Drouin Gazette.



Minor premiers Lang Lang collected the Ellinbank District reserves premiership, but it didn't come without a challenge from Trafalgar in what proved the closest contest of the day.

The Bloods were able to keep in touch and even had the lead during the second quarter, but it was the Tigers who held on 11-3 (69) to 9-2 (56).

It was an arm-wrestle early as play concentrated between the arcs, before Lang Lang locked it away in their forward 50 to eventually

break through courtesy of senior fringe player Tyler Guan.

Trafalgar's Zack Brown took the opportunity after he was bumped after his kick, putting through the goal to level the scores.

Brodie Kiss converted as the Tigers began a mini charge, Jackson Ventura drifting forward to put through another after some front on contact.

Kurt Batt snuck in a nice set shot as Lang Lang looked to run away, increasing the margin to 17-points.

Josh Dwyer put through a set shot on the siren to swing

the momentum as the Bloods made a run of four consecutive goals to take back the lead.

Eventual best on ground medal winner Brayde Bosman had one early in the second term before Matthew Swenson moved the Bloods further in front.

The Tigers kept in touch through Tadhg O'Riordan, only for Trafalgar to run one through just before the siren to re-establish the seven-point buffer.

Guan scored early in the third term to trigger another swing in momentum, the Tigers putting through three in a row.

Two goals from Swenson to close out the third term kept the Bloods in touch, the Tigers heading for home with a narrow seven-point lead.

Bosman, Keegan Tullett, Toby Radford, Swenson, Darcy Brock and Jamie Hines were working hard to keep the Bloods in it.

One last team effort helped Lang Lang over the line, with the first two goals proving enough of a buffer despite a late goal to Bosman.

Cats are champions

By Emma Ballingall. Supplied by The Warragul and Drouin Gazette.

Neerim South has been crowned A grade premiers and champions of the Ellinbank and District Football Netball League.

The Cats had a 12-goal win over Nilma Darnum in front of a record crowd at Trafalgar.

In near perfect netball conditions, Neerim South never looked in doubt, blasting eight of the first 10 goals within the opening seven minutes. A stunned Nilma Darnum began to shuffle positions in an attempt to find answers, with the surprise move of Melanie Cook into goal attack sparking some momentum for the Bombers. But, by quarter time, the Cats were well in control, leading 18-8.

Nilma fought to settle into the contest and created passages of play through the midcourt. However, Neerim’s relentless pressure and accuracy stretched the lead to 37-23 at half-time. Goal attack Kimberley Edwards was unstoppable, piling on 27 goals in the first half alone, as the Cats took firm control of the decider.

The Bombers showed grit after the break, with Hayley Purcell and Skye Rees working tirelessly in the circle

to keep their side in touch. Their efforts narrowed the gap briefly in the third quarter, but Neerim’s attacking speed and Edwards’ composure under the post kept the scoreboard ticking. The Cats led 50-37 at the final change.

Mia Muir (nee McGarrity) was tireless at wing attack, seeing off multiple opponents from Nilma across four quarters and continuing to drive the Cats into attack.

With the premiership and champions title on the line, Neerim maintained the intensity in the last term. Nilma pressed hard but couldn’t close the gap as Neerim’s structures and clinical finishing held firm.

The final score read Neerim South 63 defeated Nilma Darnum 51, a result that not only secured the premiers-champion crown but also underlined the Cats’ dominance in 2025. After the siren sounded, stalwart captain Kasey Tymkin held the trophy aloft alongside coach Christie Urie, a fitting image to mark their undefeated season.

Best on court: Neerim South goal attack Kimberley Edwards finished with a remarkable 48 of her side’s 63 goals, sealing her best on court honours.

Gippsland Soccer League roundup

The weekend after the football and netball grand finals, Trafalgar Victory were declared the Gippsland Soccer League Senior Men’s champions, beating the Leongatha Knights, 3-0 at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve. They had defeated Korumburra in the semifinals after finishing second on the regular season

ladder with 10 wins, 2 draws, and 2 losses.

The women’s title was won by Phillip Island who crushed the Leongatha Knights 5-1. Phillip Island had gone undefeated all season, scoring 142 goals and conceding just 7 across 18 games. Trafalgar had finished fourth on the ladder and were knocked out by Phillip Island in the semis.

Gippsland Soccer League Grand Final Results

Senior Mens	
Leongatha Knights	0
Trafalgar Victory	3
Senior Womens	
Philip Island	5
Leongatha Knights	1
Mens Reserves	
Philip Island	3
Inverloch Stars	0
U17 Mixed	
Drouin Dragons Maroon	6
Leongatha Knights Blue	1
U15 Girls	
Drouin Dragons Yellow	1
Philip Island	2
U14 Mixed	
Wonthaggi	4
Philip Island Penguins	1

Ellinbank & District Football Netball League Grand Final Results

NETBALL					FOOTBALL						
A Grade					Seniors grand final						
Neerim South	18	37	50	63	Neerim South Cats	2.3	5.3	9.8	11.11	(77)	
Nilma Darnum	8	23	37	51	Trafalgar Bloods	0.1	0.5	3.8	3.8	(26)	
B Grade					Reserves grand final						
Neerim South	9	17	23	28	Lang Lang Tigers	4.0	5.0	9.3	11.3	(69)	
Ellinbank	5	15	26	36	Trafalgar Bloods	2.1	6.1	8.2	9.2	(56)	
C Grade					U18						
Ellinbank	14	23	38	50	Ellinbank Eagles	1.3	3.9	8.11	11.13	(79)	
Trafalgar	7	19	25	35	Buln Buln Lyrebirds	0.2	1.4	1.5	6.6	(42)	
U17					U16						
Longwarry	8	18	28	39	Bunyip Bulldogs	3.3	4.3	6.3	9.6	(60)	
Lang Lang	8	18	30	35	Poowong Magpies	1.1	1.2	2.3	2.4	(16)	
U15											
Catani	8	17	27	33							
Poowong	5	14	19	25							
U13											
Lang Lang	5	16	21	29							
Buln Buln	1	5	12	18							

Mishap causes chaos in Churchill football grandfinal

By Jordan Ross

The North Gippsland Football Netball League also finished up, with the finals taking place on Saturday, September 13.

At Gaskin Park in Churchill, Woodside defeated Traralgon-Tyers United, 84 to 71, in the seniors division. The final was close until the end, with both teams going goal for goal with each other. In the end, Woodside, who finished second on the regular season ladder, kicked clear in the final quarter and secured the premiership.

In the senior reserves, it was Traralgon-Tyers who got the better of Woodside, with a dominant 34-point margin,

kicking 9 goals to their opponents’ 4. Woodside had scored an upset over the minor premiers Heyfield in the preliminary finals but were unable to maintain that moment. Traralgon-Tyers player Brady Poel kicked five goals on the day.

However, the most eventful final of the day was the U18 thirds between Churchill and Heyfield. Heyfield won 100 points to Churchill’s 90 in the end; however, the first time the siren rang, there was a very different score. Churchill was up 78 to 77 when the siren originally rang. Overjoyed, local fans stormed the field as the Churchill players celebrated. But then there was a

disagreement between the umpires and some confusion with the scoreboard, some claiming the score was actually 77-all and therefore a tie.

A tie it was, and the players had to come back out to play. Heyfield booted three goals to Churchill’s one and won the day and the premiership.

In the end, Blake Lindrea was a star for the winning team, kicking 4 goals. Phoenix Cox, Archie Brooker, and Beau McDiarmid, Luke Dwyer, and Mac A Birss were also named best players for the team on the day.

In the Netball there was some success for the home team Churchill, defeating Sale in the A Grade league.



Photographed by Samuel Moon.

State government backing First Nations athletes

By Jordan Ross

The Labor state government is encouraging more First Nations athletes to take part in sport with a new round of the Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program being delivered.

More than \$67,000 has been allocated to 19 projects, from sports carnivals to trav-

el and equipment expenses. The program delivers grants of up to \$1,000 for team uniforms and equipment, and up to \$2,500 for travel costs per team so clubs can participate in both Victorian and national tournaments.

One of the 19 recipients is the Moe based Gippsland Wrens Sporting Club.

They'll receive more than \$1,600 for new uniforms for the under 10's girls and boys basketball sides.

Team manager of the Gippsland Wrens Sporting Club, Cody Hood said, "Thanks to this support our junior basketball teams can compete in local tournaments across the Latrobe Valley in

Gippsland. It enables them to participate with pride and feel connected as a community."

Minister for Community Ros Spence said that the program "makes participation easier."

"We're proud to back First Nations athletes to play the sports they love," she continued.

Since 2020, the Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program has provided almost 500 grants to community sport clubs and First Nations individuals, building stronger connections between the community sport sector and Victoria's Indigenous communities.

Member for Eastern Victoria, Harriet Shing said "these grants are such an important and positive way to support First Nations athletes to participate in training and competition."

"This will help more players of all ages and abilities to get involved and get active," she said.

Sporting upgrades coming to Gippsland

By Jordan Ross

Major upgrades are taking place at Ted Summerton Reserve in Moe. The much-loved sporting ground will be transformed into a modern, accessible hub for sport and community events. This is a big win for local sports fans, with the reserve being Moe's primary cricket and football venue.

Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing called the ground "an important hub for the community in Moe."

"These further works will make a huge difference to one of the most popular and well-loved grounds in the region," she said.

Upgrades to pavilion, lighting and scoreboard are just some of the refurbishment coming to the venue. The playing surface will

also receive some much needed love.

Home to several local sports clubs, Ted Summerton Reserve has also hosted pre-season AFL and AFLW matches and Big Bash League cricket. These upgrades will improve local sports participation and ensure that the ground can continue to host sporting events.

The project is being delivered as a joint project between the Latrobe City Council and the state government. Local company, Langden Constructions was awarded the contract for the project. Evergreen Turf will undertake the oval redevelopment

MP Harriet Shing was joined by Latrobe City Mayor, Dale Harriman and fellow councillors for a ceremonial breaking of ground.

Mayor Harriman said that this project will make a "real difference" for local clubs, players and supporters.

"With modern facilities and better access, we're proud to be creating a venue that not only supports local sport but also has the capacity to welcome larger competitions and showcase our region," he said.

A wider collection of projects, the Gippsland Sports Package, will also see upgrades in Morwell.

"These upgrades will give local players, clubs and fans the top-quality facilities they deserve, while helping to bring more major sporting events to the heart of Gippsland," said MP Harriet Shing.

The Ted Summerton Reserve upgrades are expected to be completed in late 2026.



MP Harriet Shing joins the traditional sod turning ceremony, symbolising the breaking of ground for this project. Image supplied.



(From left to right) Cr Tracie Lund, Cr Adele Pugsley, MP Harriet Shing, Mayor Dale Harriman, and Deputy Mayor Sharon Gibson. Image supplied.

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