

Traf District News

April 2026 – Edition 284

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Bollies Oodle Farm Stay: Paradise for dogs

By Jordan Ross

Bollies Oodle Farm Stay is a family business, in structure and in heart.

Run by mother Kellie and her daughter Tayla on the outskirts of town off Yulungah Road, the Farm is an idyllic destination for your furry friends. Over the past few years, they've developed a personalised and genuine dog boarding alternative. Kellie stresses that to them, your dog is "not just another number."

The idea for the farm was born out of heartbreak when Kellie lost her husband and Tayla, her father. Kellie, needing to make her own way in life, committed to her passion for dog training, specialising in breeding and

training Groodles. However, Kellie found that her clients and their pets were not having positive experiences with the boarding kennel options available to them. Their dogs came back uncarred for and were regressing in their training. This was the beginning of Bollie's Oodle Farm Stay.

The business offers a range of services. Accommodation for dogs were purpose-built facilities and 20 acres of beautiful, scenic land provides a great experience. Kellie and Tayla also live on the same property as the farm stay, meaning the dogs are really welcomed into the family with round-the-clock care. The facilities can hold up to 30 dogs, but they gen-

erally care for around 15 at a time.

In addition to accommodation, they provide: training, scenic dog walks, post-op and rehab care, and professional or in-house grooming.

The mother-daughter duo are grateful for the help of the Baw Baw Shire Council as well. They'd heard "horror stories" about starting a business, but council support services were "absolutely fantastic" in their support.

But running the farm is not without its challenges, with Tayla admitting that different challenges are "always pop[ping] up."

However, Kellie reaffirms, "everything goes into the dogs or the kennels," and I

don't think she'd have it any other way.

Kellie is the dog specialist, she loves giving the dogs a sense of purpose and says that being around them gives her calmness. Tayla jokes that her mum doesn't holiday as she doesn't like to be away from her dogs for too long. Tayla, whose background is in hairdressing, has the admin and marketing covered.

Working together means they can prioritise family

time as well. Kellie gets to spend lots of time with her young grandchildren and says she is "very lucky" to be so close to her family.

The farm attracts many dogs from Melbourne. Tayla estimates that 90% of their clients travel from the city; as the owners jetset off on holidays, their dogs are experiencing their own regional getaway.

And the pair don't plan on stopping anytime, they're

planning an expansion and are diving into a holistic approach that helps with bringing about calmness.

While the days are long, often starting at 5 am, the work is rewarding. The passion Kellie and Tayla share for caring and training dogs is clear. This is a business built on care, nurture, dedication and dog handling expertise.

More information available at: www.bolliesoodlefarmstay.com.au/home.



Kellie and Taylah who run Bollies Oodle Farm Stay.



The dog farm and its iconic backdrop. All images supplied.



The farm offers dog training.

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See Pg.3 for more information

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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.

Traf District News is published by Traf News Inc. Approx. 3,700 copies of Traf District News are distributed each month to homes and businesses.

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Traf News Inc Committee of Management Formed

Traf News Inc, the publisher of Traf District News, now has a new Committee of Management with other volunteers keen to complete the quota of seven members.

At the March meeting the following positions were filled:

President: Michael Fozard
OAM
Vice President: Mick Bourke
OAM
Secretary: Judy Bishop
Treasurer: Mick Bourke
Committee member: Ric Nicholson

Each of these members bring considerable experience of volunteering within the Trafalgar community, currently holding responsible positions of project management.

The editor, Jordan Ross, has had a huge task taking over the role since the death of the previous editor, Trevor Colvin.

The committee is greatly appreciative of Jordan's contribution these last few months.

The current production team includes: Lucy Gatti in Advertising and Alana Moon (Graphic De-

sign). Colin Matthies is the financial Bookkeeper.

Currently eight locals distribute the 2500 copies to Trafalgar and Yarragon letterboxes and supporting businesses in Trafalgar, Yarragon, Thorpdale and Willow Grove.

Another four volunteer distributors are required to reduce the individual time needed for this task.

Community members are urged to support our local paper by becoming members of Traf News Inc, which requires completing an application form and \$5 sub-

scription. Forms are available through the secretary by email: judy.bishop53@hotmail.com

This membership base provides an important body of support to the paper.

Local sporting clubs, community groups and interested community members are invited to submit articles for consideration to the editor by 15th of each month.

Traf District News is forever grateful for the financial support supplied by the wide bank of advertisers in our region, without whom the paper could not exist.

Fun events to stay active and connected these school holidays

Get ready for a fun-filled school holidays this April as local youth dive into an excit-

ing line up of creative and active events designed to keep school aged kids entertained and engaged.

Run by the Council supported YABBies (Youth Advocates for Baw Baw), the upcoming school holiday program features activities that provide safe and welcoming spaces for young people to connect with friends, learn new skills and try something new.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Councillor Kate Wilson said the program provided a great way to spend time with friends during the break from school.

"The YABBies have done a great job pulling together a range of fun and free events

for secondary school aged kids to enjoy," said Cr Wilson.

"These events give young people something truly exciting and positive to look forward to during the school holidays. They're a fantastic opportunity to build confidence, form meaningful connections and strengthen a sense of belonging in our community."

Some events include: Sushi Making in Drouin on April 8, Paint & Snack in Longwarry on April 14 and Live at the Skatepark in War-ragun on April 17. More information can be found on the Baw Baw Shire website.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers, It's time I announce my departure from the role of editor of the Traf District News. It's been a privilege to be involved in this community newspaper since April 2024, and in the role of editor since January 2025. I've learned a lot about journalism and the newspaper industry, with many thanks to the late Trevor Colvin and his wife Susie. Trevor was a mentor to me during his final year and I will forever be grateful for that. I also learned a lot about Trafalgar and the surrounding townships and shire. For this, my understanding and appreciation for life in regional Australia is much richer. I have also learned about the importance of community newspapers: the power they have to bring people together and share the small stories of everyday Australians. I'd like to thank Lucy Gatti for her

continued work in the advertising role, without her we couldn't afford to print the paper. Thank you to Alana Moon as well: A great friend and a terrific graphic designer. Thanks as well to all the volunteers and contributors who have made this newspaper the way it is during my tenure here.

I wish the Traf District News every success and hope for its continued publication. For now, the paper is in the trusty and reliable hands of Mick Bourke, a former editor who will be taking over in the interim and the search begins for a permanent editor.

I'd finally like to thank Michael Fozzard, the president of our committee, for his understanding and support for my decision to step away. It means a lot.

For those who celebrate Easter, happy holidays!

Thanks
Jordan

Volunteers Needed to Distribute the Traf District News

Are you a keen walker around the streets of Trafalgar or Yarragon?

Can you spare a few hours once a month to help distribute our newspaper to town letterboxes?

We need delivery help with streets between Contingent Street and Dodemaides Rd, Trafalgar, north of Princ-

es Highway, Trafalgar and east of Loch St, Yarragon.

Any contributions are certainly appreciated.

Please contact Judy Bishop 0402 204 770 with any offers of assistance.

Meanwhile, please collect your free copies from several local distributors in Trafalgar and Yarragon.

**MAY 2026
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Neighbourhood Houses under threat due to lack of funding

By Jordan Ross

In February, supporters and advocates of the Neighbourhood Houses organisation rallied on the steps of Victoria's State Parliament. Neighbourhood Houses are local organisations that provide social, educational and recreational activities for their communities. They are connected together under a state organisation.

Back in October of last year, the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria launched a Keep Our Doors Open campaign. They've been calling on the state government to increase their funding to \$11.7 million to avoid the risk of the closure of up to 200 neighbourhood houses across the state.

"Rising costs, growing community demand, and

eroded core funding are forcing houses across the state to cut hours, staff, and programs," said Keir Paterson, CEO of Neighbourhood Houses Victoria.

"Without urgent action, communities risk losing the safe, inclusive spaces thousands of Victorians rely on every week."

The rally was supported by political parties across the spectrum.

Local Nationals MLC, Melina Bath said, each week more than 185,000 Victorians access Neighbourhood House services in their local communities – many of these are in regional Victoria where access to support is most limited.

"Neighbourhood House staff and volunteers are work-

ing incredibly hard to support our communities, but without adequate funding, programs will be cut and services reduced and some face closures," she said.

"The Nationals are calling on the Allan Labor Government to guarantee their future by delivering funding certainty as our regional and rural towns cannot afford to lose their local Neighbourhood Houses."

The Greens and the Victorian Socialists have also called on the government to increase support and funding for Neighbourhood Houses in recent months.

The state budget - to be released in May - will deliver the answer to whether these calls have been enough to save houses across the state.



The Keep Our Doors Open Rally on the steps of parliament. Melina Bath MLC with representatives from Neighbourhood House organisations. Image supplied.

Australia's Largest Holden Museum

Locals who haven't visited the Trafalgar Holden Museum in a while may be surprised by just how much has changed. The museum has recently welcomed several vehicles from the famous Garry Rogers Motorsport team, adding an exciting piece of Australian racing history to the collection. New displays exploring Holden's design story have also been added, giving visitors a look behind the scenes at how some of Australia's most iconic cars were created. Adding to the excitement is a special ute display celebrating 75 years since the launch of the very first Holden FX Ute.

Since opening in 2014, the Trafalgar Holden Museum has grown into the largest Holden museum in the

country - and quite possibly the world. With more than 4,000 square metres of display space, the museum is home to over 100 vehicles

and thousands of Holden-related items that tell the story of one of Australia's most recognisable brands. Many locals say they've never been

through the doors, but with so much history right here in town, it might be time to see what's in your own backyard.



Museum secretary Anne Schembri, museum president Jenny Middleton and Steve Dimopoulos MP at the opening of a new exhibition last year.

Traf District News

EDITOR

Position available

Traf News Inc., is seeking an editor.

The person is responsible for the production of Traf District News.

The incumbent works in a team including the reporters, graphic designer and advertising officer

For this position you need good organisational, communication and grammatical skills, and be able to work with people

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Swap Meet raises money for local sporting clubs

Trafalgar's Annual Swap Meet came early this year. Moved from its usual November date to March 22, the event was a great success as always. 150 stall holders set up shop with around 2000 visitors attending.

Held at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve, funds raised from the event will go to support senior and junior teams

from Trafalgar Football and Cricket Clubs. The team was hoping to raise over \$10,000 for the cause.

Vendors were selling all sorts, from small trinkets to larger car parts.

The day started at 5am with 30 volunteers joining together to ensure the day was a success. The event was held thanks to the Trafalgar and Yarragon Lions Clubs.




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



Better Mental Run Club

By Peace Ijiyera



Jason (right) and some friends during his 10-day 800km run last year.

What's better than running solo? Running together. On a Thursday morning at 5:30, you can catch Jason Rantall and a group of enthusiastic runners pacing through the streets of Trafalgar. This run group kicks off Bettermentall's weekly 'Have a Chat' Thursdays. Bettermentall is a mental health wellbeing charity that provides support for people in the community. Bettermentall has been in operation since 2017 and recently became registered as a charity. Together with his wife Kerry Rantall, Mr Rantall works to provide a safe space for people to come and receive mental health support through activities, mentoring, counselling, and even through just having a chat. Promoting positive mental health is important to Mr Rantall who has been on quite a journey himself.

"I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, OCD, psychosis, anxiety, depression, all those things and used alcohol from the age of 14 to try and get peace from those thoughts and feelings that I was going through as a youngster...[I was a] chain-smoker, alcoholic, very unwell, physically, mentally. At the age of 44 [I] decided to make some changes through my wife saying she'd had enough and couldn't deal with the way life was and the way I was, and things had to change. So I made changes, and the first change I did was I decided to stop smoking and start running the very next

day." For Mr Rantall, running has been "the catalyst to a great deal of changes."

"I started running and it became something after I practiced it for a long period of time...something that I liked," he said. "Over time it became part of what I do, through running I've changed a lot of things." Over the years, Mr Rantall has participated in run challenges, raising money and spreading awareness about mental health. Last year Mr Rantall took part in running 801km in ten days and has plans to complete more run challenges in the future.

With his new found way of life, Mr Rantall knew it would be remiss of him to not share the light; he wanted to give back. "I like giving hope to others to show them what's possible and what we can achieve and change."

"I found that two of the biggest changes for me looking back [was] that connection with people and movement," he said.

"Our run club is not just a run club, it's for people to come along, move your body, be around people. We run five k's or ten...we're hoping to get some walkers involved so they have their own little group... then we have coffee and chat afterwards at our hub in Trafalgar, just to create that belonging for people and get people up and moving."

Mr Rantall spoke about the importance of connection and movement. "...As soon as you're feeling some-

thing that doesn't feel good, don't sit in there and let your mind get lost in it, get up and move yourself out of that and go and connect with others."

"When I talk about movement, people look at me and think about the 100s of k's and the crazy endurance running I do now, but you don't have to do that. Movement is just getting out of the space you're in, sitting on the couch or wherever you are, and actually moving even if it's just out the front door [to] smell the roses and look at the sky and not be stuck, isolated in your room and then move on from there... it doesn't have to be anything major, just move your body. Get moving."

For Mr Rantall, it is important to create services like this for people as he didn't have it when he was on his journey. "I was born in the 70s, you didn't talk about this stuff and being a male, you definitely didn't talk about it... I had no one, I was told not to and that's the way I lived.."

"I didn't have it and I know the difference it would've made if I had had someone there showing me the way."

The run club meets at 5:30am at Bettermentall HQ, (36 Contingent Street Trafalgar) The run club is open for everyone and dogs and bikes are most welcome. From 10am to 12pm, is the 'have a chat' community barbecue

where everyone in the community is invited to indulge in some egg and bacon, play games, or simply, have a chat. Mr Rantall encourages people to understand the power that is in talking and connecting with others. "Get out there and talk to others because other people can give you a different perception on what's going on. If you're lost in your own, you know what you know and you just keep going around in circles. But when you share...we can start to get different ideas and see from different perceptions". As part of Bettermentall's 'have a chat' Thursdays, breathwork and meditation sessions are also available

from 12pm to 12:30pm. After which, Bettermentall takes the fun out to the community, hosting their 'have a chat' outreach service weekly at Apex Park Moe and fortnightly at Warragul's Eastern Park. At the parks, they host a community barbecue and give out clothes, blankets, food and sanitary items for people in need.

Bettermentall is breaking stigmas one run at a time, and showing that truly, community is better together. Visit Bettermentall's Facebook page for more information.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, phone: Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636 or Lifeline 13 11 14.

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New Yarragon park opens

A new park in Yarragon has opened, with its name honouring a local legend. The Angela Malacarne Park, located on Rollo Street at the site of the former Yarragon Primary School, opened on March 21.

The official opening was well attended by the local community. Baw Baw Shire Councillors and Harriet Shing, Member for Eastern Victoria were also in attendance.

The former school grounds has been redeveloped into a community focused space, and renamed to honour Mrs Malacarne, who taught at the school for nearly 39 years, and attended it herself as a student.

The official opening on Saturday not only celebrated the park's new name but also saw the official unveiling of its new features, following a complete refurbishment, which transformed it into a new community asset.

Included in the upgrades was the planting of more than 60 trees, the development of a walking path, bike racks, seating and a drinking fountain. New signage and fencing was also installed.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Councillor Kate Wilson said she was incredibly proud of the transformation to the park, but prouder of its new name which celebrates someone who has put so much time into the Yarragon community.

"A couple of years ago, Council took the unusual step of seeking an exemption to

the commemorative naming principle in the Naming Rules, to rename Rollo Street Park, Angela Malacarne Park," she said.

"We were thrilled when this was granted by the registrar, and it was no surprise that through our community engagement exercise we found out that this renaming also had the full support of Baw Baw Shire locals," Cr Wilson said.

Cr Brendan Kingwill, who attended the Yarragon Primary School when Mrs Malacarne taught there, spoke about the value that this long-term resident has added to the area.

"In 1963 Ms Malacarne returned to the primary school, where she worked for the next 38.5 years before retiring on 19 June 2002," he said.

"During her time at Yarragon she worked under 12 different principals, saw exceptional change to the curriculum and teaching methods, and taught at least 800 local children, later teaching the children of former students. She even taught her own sons."

"Mrs Malacarne has also been involved as a volunteer in the canteen for the Yarragon Football, Tennis and Cricket Clubs, and the Cath-

olic Church – her service to Yarragon has been immense."

Angela Malacarne Park is now open for the community to visit and enjoy and has been updated thanks to a joint funding venture between Baw Baw Shire Council, who contributed \$434,689 and the Victorian Government, who funded more than \$1.52 million.

In 2025 Council received the Excellence in Geographic Place Naming Award for the collaborative efforts of the Major Projects and Governance teams, after being successful in seeking an exemption to name the park after Mrs Malacarne.



Angela Malacarne speaks at the opening ceremony. All images supplied by the Baw Baw Shire Council.



The park was officially opened on March 21.



Angela Malacarne speaks at the opening ceremony.



Mayor Kate Wilson at the opening.



Councillor Brendan Kingwill at the opening.



A tree that remained from the original site.



The new Yarragon park.

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Arts Alliance celebrates a range of art styles in March and April

By Carol Monson

Every month at the 'Station Gallery' in Yarragon the Baw Baw Arts Alliance changes the exhibition. During March there were displays of very different forms of art. In the main gallery display, a young Artist new to the Baw Baw Arts Alliance, Alycia Wilson, had a range of beautifully vibrant paintings of birdlife. Alycia captured the exotic nature of birds and conveyed her own passion for birds and her art through colour, texture, design and shape.

Each year the Arts Alliance has committed to providing support for a young and emerging Artist to display and further develop their work and Alycia was this artist for the first half of 2026.

Also during March was a smaller exhibition of felt work by members of the Friday Fibre group. Jenny Tulloch, Heather Brimblecombe, Marlene Ogden and Karen-Anne Jones have worked

together over the last 11 years because all share an interest in textile arts, their friendship being strengthened over a mutual passion for felt making. From framed, tiny and intricately detailed felt works to larger works, some using natural dyeing techniques, this was an exhibition to inspire anyone to take up the art of felting. The exhibition was a testimony to the strength and value of all the drop in creative Art groups run by the Baw Baw Arts Alliance in the Trafalgar Railway Station Artspace and the VRI Hall in Queen Street Warragul.

Coming up in April are two 'not to be missed' exhibitions of paintings. In the main gallery space of the Station Gallery in Yarragon, well known Gippsland landscape painter, Wendy Twyerould, will have a range of completely new paintings. In the smaller, more intimate gallery space called 'The Wall', an Artist new to the



The group of felters, left to right, Heather Brimblecombe, Karen-Anne Jones, Marlene Ogden, Jenny Tulloch.

Arts Alliance, Leon Morgan, displays his beautifully executed paintings of aspects of Australian life.

The 'Station Gallery' in Yarragon is open from Wednesday through to Sunday from 10am to 3pm.

J MacGregor Legal welcomes Bryce Grimshaw as partner

We are delighted to announce that Bryce Grimshaw has become a Partner of J MacGregor Legal.

Raised in Trafalgar, Bryce is the youngest son of well-known Trafalgar residents Neil and Janie Grimshaw and the grandson of the late Ray 'Grimmy' Grimshaw and Betty Grimshaw (née Rowlings).

Bryce attended Trafalgar Primary School before continuing his education at Marist-Sion College in Warragul. He grew up playing both junior and senior football for the Trafalgar Football Club as part of the third generation of the Grimshaw family to represent the club. His grandfather Ray, his father Neil (who was a mem-

ber of Trafalgar's senior 1975 premiership team) and his brothers Matt and Heath also played for the club, with Heath and Bryce both having played senior football together. This longstanding family involvement highlights Bryce's strong connection to the local community.

Bryce's interest and passion for the law led him to study at Victoria Law School, where he graduated in 2015 with Honours. He was admitted as an Australian Lawyer to the Supreme Court of Victoria in 2018 and as a Solicitor to the High Court of Australia in 2021. Since entering the legal profession, Bryce has gained valuable experience in Commercial Law, Property Law and Estate

Planning, working across both Melbourne and regional law firms.

Bryce commenced with J MacGregor Legal in 2024 where he took on new clients and matters in Commercial Law and Estate Planning. Since joining our team, Bryce has assisted many clients with business transactions, the preparation of wills and powers of attorney and the provision of clear and practical legal advice.

We congratulate Bryce on his appointment as Partner and are grateful for his ongoing contribution to J MacGregor Legal. We look forward to his continued leadership and dedication to our clients and community.



Alycia Wilson in front of one of her vibrant paintings of birds.

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Probus celebrates members at AGM

By Glenda Mynard

Trafalgar & District Probus club recently held their AGM, which was attended by 75 people and followed by a luncheon. Bev Neilson was awarded her 25 year pin and is one of our older members of the Club.

We also paid tribute to 3 members who are retiring. Bob and Bev Jones joined in 2015 and in that time Bob has served on the Committee for 6 years and was President in 2019. Bev had the role of Library monitor and she and Bob organised monthly Dine-outs for about 5 years. Bob Moss has been a member for 22 years and in that time had taken on the roles of President, Secretary and newsletter editor and spent about 10 years on Committee.

A new Committee was installed and will be led by President Pam McGarrity for the coming year. Trafalgar & District Probus Club has been running for 33 years but the Probus organisation in Australia is celebrating 50 years since the first club was formed.

From its beginnings, Probus has been built on a simple but powerful idea — that retirement should be a time of connection, curiosity and enjoyment. Sponsored originally by Rotary, Probus clubs were created to help people maintain the friendships, interests and sense of purpose that can be so important after leaving full-time work. Half a century on, that founding vision remains as relevant as ever across Australia

today. Probus clubs offer far more than regular meetings. They are places where friendships are formed and sustained, where members share knowledge and experience, and where new interests are discovered. Through guest speakers, outings, travel groups, book clubs, walking groups and countless other activities, Probus encourages lifelong learning and active participation in community life.

Just as importantly, Probus plays a quiet but vital role in supporting wellbeing. By reducing social isolation and fostering inclusion, clubs help members stay mentally, socially and physically engaged. In towns like Trafalgar, Probus strengthens community fabric through

volunteering, local involvement and the collective wisdom of its members.

Reaching fifty years is a testament to the dedication of countless volunteers who have given their time to lead clubs, organise activities and welcome new members. It also reflects the enduring appeal of an organisation that adapts to changing generations while staying true to its core values of friendship, fellowship and fun.

Trafalgar & District Probus are going to mark this milestone with a picnic on April 13 at Moss Vale Park. Come and celebrate with us if you would like.



New president Pam McGarrity with past president Tina Hambleton.



Bob and Bev Jones.



Bev Neilson accepts her 25 year pin from Tina Hambleton.



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SEAL Information Evening

Year 7, 2027


5pm-6pm, Wednesday 29th April 2026

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Further Enquiries:
Amanda McQualter, SEAL Program Coordinator
5633 1733




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Maintenance to railway station

By Mick Bourke



Workers from Direct Property Building Services replacing weatherboards and window frames on Trafalgar Railway Station's building as part of larger maintenance works.

Maintenance work on Trafalgar Railway Station's building was completed early last month.

The works were delivered by Direct Property Building Services on behalf of VicTrack.

They included replacing guttering, weatherboards, plaster, and window frames, as well as painting and other minor works.

"VicTrack is carrying out repair works to the Trafalgar Station building, which will continue to be leased by the Baw Baw Arts Alliance as a community and arts space," said a VicTrack spokesperson.

"Baw Baw Arts Alliance has installed solar panels on the station building to help reduce electricity costs, using funding the group received from VicTrack's Community Grants Program."

Baw Baw Arts Alliance has leased the Trafalgar Railway Station building since 2015 under a community sublease with VicTrack, following the building's restoration under the Victorian Government's Community Use of Vacant Rail Buildings Program.

The group will now occupy the building under a direct community lease with VicTrack so it can continue to be used by local people as an exhibition and arts space.

VicTrack's community leasing program enables not-for-profit groups and local councils to lease buildings, land and other assets from VicTrack at a significantly reduced rent so they

can provide benefits to their local communities.

VicTrack has run two rounds of its Community Grants Program, which enables not-for-profit groups that lease VicTrack assets for community purposes to apply for small grants to support them with their activities and help them upgrade and manage the assets they lease.

The Community Use of Vacant Rail Buildings Program involves restoring disused station buildings in regional towns, some of which have been vacant for decades, so they can be used by local community groups.

Leasing of the railway station building has a long

history, going back to at least 2003 when Trafalgar Community Development Association (TCDA) approached Ian Maxfield, the then Member for Narracan to encourage VicTrack to fill the building's vacancy by advertising in Traf News.

Nothing came of that, so that by 2013, the railway station building was then in a state of disrepair due to lack of maintenance and being unoccupied by a tenant.

As such the state of the building reflected badly on the town's image to those people who stop to use the toilet block adjoining the railway station.

Consequently, Traf News, TCDA, Trafalgar District

Historical Society and Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce and Industry led a campaign to reinvigorate the railway station.

Discussions held between those community organisations, together with community involvement since at

least 2002, indicated a strong willingness on behalf of the Trafalgar community for its railway station building to be restored, and then maintained through it being occupied by community group(s) or local businesses.

In about 2015, Community Bank Trafalgar & District, after negotiations with VicTrack, took out a lease on the building, and sub-leased it to Baw Baw Arts Alliance, which has been the tenant to this day.

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
Rokeby Market	Second Saturday of Each Month 8am to 12:30pm	Rokeby Recreation Reserve
Warragul Farmers Market	Third Saturday of Each Month	Logan Park Warragul
Trafalgar Playgroup Runs during the school terms	Every Thursday 9:30am to 11am	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
Croquet at the Traf Hub	Every Saturday 10am	Traf Park Croquet Cub Ashby Street
Try pickleball in Trafalgar	Every Tuesday 6pm	Trafalgar High gym
Baw Baw Pet Expo Treat your pets and family to a day of fun.	April 6 From 10 am	Burke Street Park Warragul
Sushi Making Register at https://events.humanitix.com/sushi-making-drouin	April 8 1:30 pm - 3 pm	Drouin Community Hub
Paint & Snack For young people aged 12 - 17	April 14 1 pm - 3 pm	Longwarry Public Hall
Live at the Skatepark action-packed youth	April 17 11 am - 4 pm	Warragul Skatepark
ANZAC Day Services	April 25	

MARY ALDRED

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MONASH

Scan to contact me

☎ 03 5614 3600

✉ mary.aldred.mp@aph.gov.au

Authorised by M Aldred,
46C Albert St, Warragul VIC 3820

Supporting your community 5633 2783 103a Princes Highway, Trafalgar

The importance of Traf District News

The following article, re-produced with permission of its author, renowned Australian cricket journalist Peter Lalor, highlights the reduction in the commitment of the owners of many of the world famous newspapers, in particular as it relates to sports sections of leading newspapers.

While our community newspaper has no issues with its sports section, the issues raised by Peter show the pressures being placed on newspapers, including Traf District News.

While our newspaper is not to the same prominence of the newspapers mentioned in Peter's article, it does show the importance of having it in our community.

Peter's article, with its strong sports focus, is, none-the-less, equally relevant to us.

When reading this article, please have our community newspaper, as a whole, in the forefront of your mind as it shows the winds of change hitting the newspaper industry.

Following is an extract of Peter Lalor's article, which has been reduced in words due to the size of his original article:

The Washington Post sports section, like The New York Times' before it, is no more.

The Times axed its sports department and outsourced its reporting to The Athletic in 2023.

The Post's sports journalists, editors and sub-editors were among 300 sacked in early February as the billionaire Jeff Bezos scaled back his commitment to the paper that is not alone in its struggle to navigate the headwinds of a broken business model.

The institution, whose motto had been Democracy Dies in the Darkness, also had to deal with the defection of an estimated 250,000 subscribers when management spiked its editorial board's support for the Democrats at the last election.

The Post will, however, keep on a skeleton staff to cover sport as a "cultural and

societal phenomenon" in the features section.

"This is obviously a uniquely difficult and incredibly difficult decision. Our sports coverage is often superb, our sports writers are among the most talented in our business. Sports has a very proud legacy at the post."

"Unfortunately, we are grappling with just major changes in the way sports news is delivered, shared and experienced across the industry," an executive editor told the Post staff in a group call on Wednesday.

The Post's comment (Peter used a stronger word) was only knee-deep in comparison to The Times' chin-deep explanation of its intentions when it sacked its sports department.

"We plan to focus even more directly on distinctive, high-impact news and enterprise journalism about how sports intersect with money, power, culture, politics and society at large," the editors wrote in an email to The Times's readers three years ago.

"At the same time, we will scale back the newsroom's coverage of games, players, teams and leagues."

These are dark days for sports coverage in mainstream media, and there's a great sadness about this.

They are desperate times, too, in an industry that's financially stricken and one that's struggled unsuccessfully to find a business model for the changed times.

Everyone is poorer because of this.

Michael Miller, The Post's Sydney correspondent, confirmed that he was one of the 300 in a post on social media that said *"I've lost my job. Worse, millions of readers will lose my colleagues' brilliant coverage. At a time of tumult, we need more info, not less."*

Nobody was underestimating the significance of the sackings.

Many words have and are still to be written about the decline of the paper famed for its dogged pursuit of the Watergate scandal, but more recently beset by scandals over its editorial direction

under the [USA] government-appeasing Jeff Bezos.

Former executive editor Martin Baron, the journalist in charge of The Post when it won 11 Pulitzer Prizes, told The New Yorker that the latest round of sackings *"ranks among the darkest days in the history of one of the world's greatest news organisations"*.

The decimation of the sports section will not and should not receive as much attention as what is happening on the front pages, the foreign bureaus of these publications, the arts section and the like, but should not pass lightly.

Remember reading a newspaper from the back first?

Remember reading a physical newspaper?

I know I stopped buying newspapers at least a decade ago, having moved my consumption to digital platforms [How lucky we are to still have a physical Traf District News].

The Post and The Times axed its journalists in one fell swoop.

As alarming as it is, it is not surprising.

For others it's been death by a thousand cuts.

Old-school newspaper journalism as a whole has been struggling to survive since the digital space stole its advertising and then its content.

Not that they aren't trying.

In 2022, Sports Illustrated, a magazine you would genuinely buy for the articles, published a story under Drew Ortiz's byline.

Drew, a bearded young man with a reddish complexion, loved camping, hiking and hanging out on his parents' farm.

Ortiz, you guessed it, turned out to be an AI creation.

News Corp began experimenting with and publishing articles in local publications written by its latest editorial assistant, NewsGPT.

Cash-strapped publishers can't be blamed for such desperate attempts to stay afloat.

At The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald, journalism was underwritten by a Saturday classified section that was as thick as a phone book and the curse of every kid with a paper round who ever had the misfortune of lumping those editions around the streets.

Journalism filled the gaps between the advertisements and was generously encouraged by profits from you trying to sell your car or the contents of your nan's garage.

It was the same for all major and minor newspapers [The importance of advertisements is equally so for Traf District News' survival].

Traditional journalism, good or bad, is expensive, although the latter form can be considerably cheaper.

In Australia, the papers are holding on, but with every passing year, they're further diminished.

As one still-employed senior sports editor said to podcast Cricket Et Al in early February, *"we've been in a crocodile roll toward death for 20 years"*.

Right up to the day I left The Australian, I felt I had the financial and journalistic support of the senior editors.

It was hard to leave, because I'd been proud of the coverage we'd produced and grateful for the backing.

It did, however, feel increasingly awkward to announce you were off to England for the Ashes or India for the BGT (the winner cricket test matches between India and Australia received the Border-Gavaskar Trophy) as bureaus and sections and roles disappeared from the broader paper.

I was aware of the privilege bestowed on the cricket round.

When I joined in the early 1990s, there were around 30 people in the sports department.

The Australian sports section today is, sadly and like so many others, barely a shadow of its former self.

Where once there were at least 30 of us pumping out that section six days a week, by the time I left, there were barely three.



Traf District News hot off the press.

I felt guilty for abandoning them, but I also felt that way you do when you realise that everyone has left the party and it's just you and a couple of other barely conscious revellers who didn't have anywhere else to go.

I was the last sports writer with a round, what the Americans call a beat.

Everyone is struggling.

Where once Australian Associated Press (AAP) could rely on to cover everything everywhere, these days the new-look organisation picks and chooses what it can spend its limited budget on.

Papers have found a way to do more with less.

News Corp has discovered that one reporter can file copy that will go to The Herald Sun, The Daily Telegraph, The Adelaide Advertiser, The Courier Mail and The Australian, etc., and digital content for aggregation sites like The Code.

Ditto the opposition.

They still retain some of the dexterity needed to scramble for the big stories, but there is a worrying trend line as witnessed by what has happened to sports coverage in other countries.

As a result, you still get homogenised but vigorous coverage of cricket and most sports.

You can cover a lot from the television at home as so many digital outlets do these days, but the big stories generally demand your



Renowned Australian cricket journalist Peter Lalor.

presence and the backing of your bosses.

[Peter goes on to mention specific examples of award-winning articles that would not have been possible if the journalists were not present]

I tell these tales to illustrate what is being lost when journalists are not there to report the stories in person.

It's been a perfect storm for the industry.

Advertisers fled, and then an army of new journalists filled the void.

Cheap, digestible and entertaining content is king.

On another front, we find the athletes and teams increasingly establishing themselves as media outlets.

And sports journalists? Well, we're doing our best to make things like this work, and one thing Cricket Et Al (www.cricketetal.com) has proven is that people still want vigorous, present reporting, which is reassuring.

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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 Councillor (East Ward)	Adam Sheehan	Email: adam.sheehan@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Facebook: @adam4bawbaw	0461 515 690
Baw Baw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Brendan Kingwill	Email: brendan.kingwill@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	0474 652 435
Baw Baw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Kate Wilson	Email: kate.wilson@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Facebook: Kate Wilson - East Ward Baw Baw Shire Council	0460 829 001
Members of Parliament			
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.trafaps.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 Website: https://trafalgarboxingclub.wordpress.com/	0408 962 764
Trafalgar Cricket Club	Liam Durkin	Email: trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com	0402 556 338
Trafalgar Football Netball Club	Brett Tonkin	Email: trafalgarfnfc@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Football Netball Club	0477 636 648
Trafalgar Golf Club		Email: golf@trafalgargolf.com.au Website: https://www.trafalgargolf.com.au/ Facebook: Trafalgar Golf Club	03 5633 1110
Trafalgar Outdoor Pool		Email: bawbaw@ymca.org.au Website: https://bawbawpools.ymca.org.au/trafalgar-outdoor-pool	03 5623 4017
Trafalgar Park Community Hub		Facebook: Trafalgar Park Community Hub	0418 513 092

Trafalgar Park Croquet Club		Facebook: Trafalgar Park Croquet Club	
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/ Email: bawbawsn@gmail.com	0428 866 417
BawBaw Sustainability Network	Malcolm McKelvie	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
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)		Email: Trafalgar@cdsale.org.au Website: https://www.stjohnstrafalgar.com.au/	03 5633 1166
St. Jariath's Church (Yarragon)		Email: gcsecretary74@gmail.com Website: https://www.gippslandcampdraftingassociation.com/ Facebook: Trafalgar Campdraft Association Inc	0416 166 027
Trafalgar Campdraft	Cheryl	Email: trafalgarpubliccemetery@desi.net.au Website: https://australiancemeteries.com.au/vic/bawbaw/trafalgar.htm	03 5633 2282
Trafalgar Cemetery Trust	Howard Jones	Facebook: Trafalgar Fire Brigade	03 5624 1900
Trafalgar CFA (non-emergency)		Website: https://www.trafalgarchamber.com.au/ Facebook: Trafalgar Community Notice Board	
Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce		Email: editor@trafnews.com	03 5633 2591 0432 889 930
Trafalgar Community Notice Board		Email: Silkroadcommunitymarkets@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Farmers Market (Silk Road Community Markets)	0417 131 316
Trafalgar District News	Jordan Ross	Email: historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com	03 5633 1960
Trafalgar Farmers Market		Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: https://trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au/	03 5633 1684
Trafalgar Historical Society	Jean Huffer	Email: trafalgarlions@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Lions Club	0428 331 157
Trafalgar Holden Museum	David Koschade	Website: https://mensshed.org/sheds/trafalgar-mens-shed/	0427 757 505
Trafalgar Lions Club	Leigh Shepherd	Email: glenys_barnyard@yahoo.com.au Facebook: Trafalgar Opp Shop	03 5633 2788
Trafalgar Mens Shed	Glenys Brennan	Email: TRAFALGAR.UNI@police.vic.gov.au	03 5633 1188
Trafalgar Opp Shop		Email: glendamtraf@gmail.com	0458 332 149
Trafalgar Police Station (non-emergency)	Glenda Mynard	Email: trafalgarpublichall@gmail.com	0409 015 662
Trafalgar Probuc Club	Tanya Stanley		
Trafalgar Public Hall			

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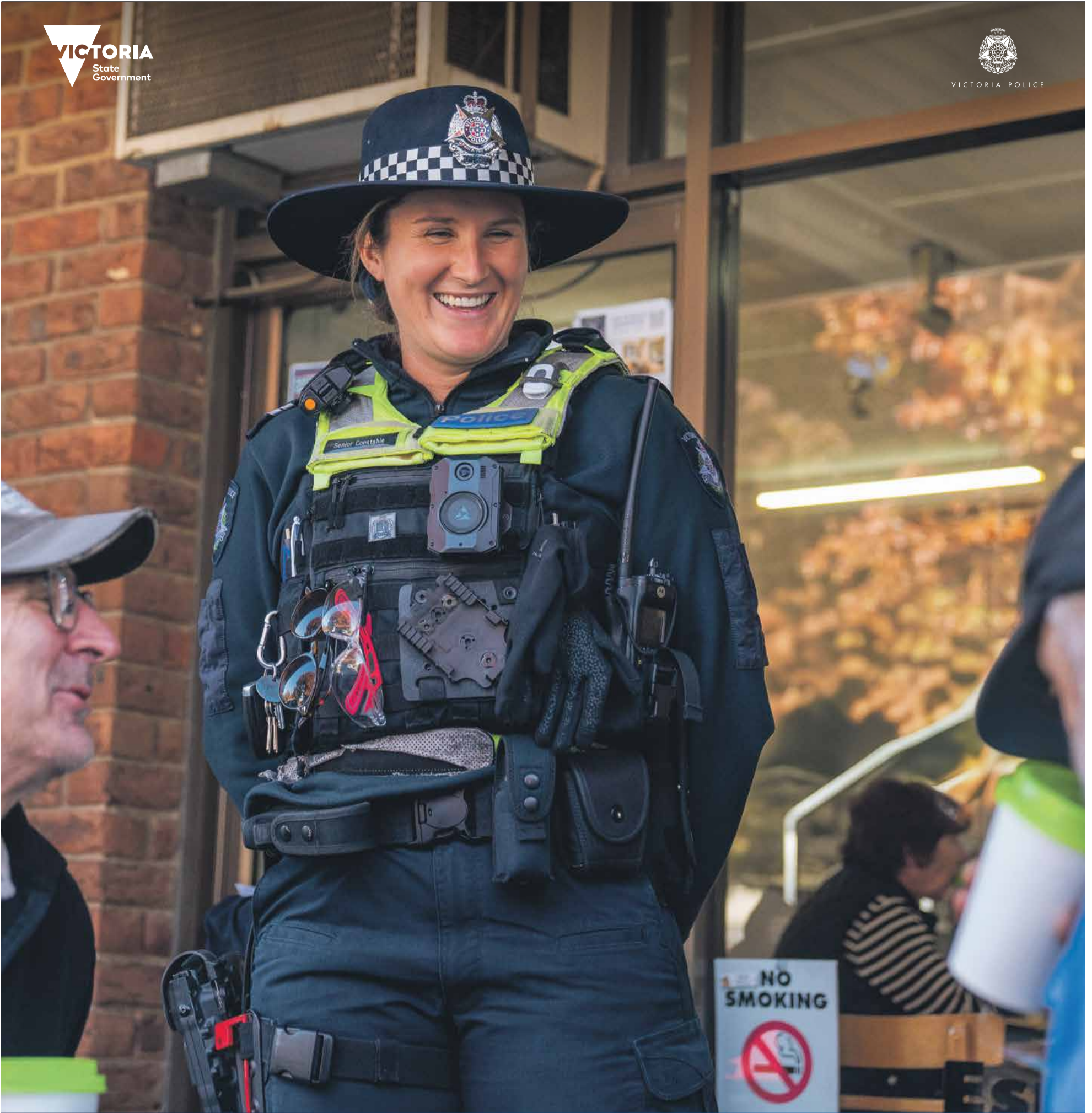



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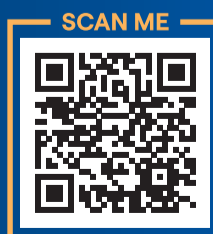
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Willow Grove Post Office: A call to action

It all began in 1889, when the first post office and telephone exchange was established in Willow Grove, for the residents of this small farming community in Gippsland. It started in a small converted old wine shanty at the side of the general store. The building is still there and can be viewed when visiting Willow on Main for a great snack and coffee.

The post office has been operating from this location for over 125 years, but sadly it closed three years ago. Community representation has so far failed to have it reinstated and today there is only a number of post boxes for

residents and one post box for mail, located in an unprotected location. There is also some access to road side deliveries for the farming community. Locals are now seeking a full postal service for the town. And the surrounding areas of the town, including Hill End and Fumina.

The community wants the return of a full postal service, including: parcel processing and account payments banking facilities that are needed by a growing community. Locals consider it critical to the continued growth of the town and the aging population. Unfortunately at this point people have to go to Moe for a number of services, which

is around a 30 km round trip.

At the last census, the population of the town was 650 people and growing with new developments in the pipeline. It is estimated that it will reach 1,000 in the coming years. The town has a pub, a great primary school, sporting facilities and a club, but no post office.

The local MP Mary Aldred has presented the case to the federal parliament but we have no advice forthcoming on its future.

The Willow Grove community is encouraging people to sign their petition. There is a physical version in store, or an online version at change.org.



Post box in Willow Grove



Willow on Main, the former site of the post office.

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The Trafalgar Story Continues...

By Jean Huffer of the Trafalgar & District Historical Society

The 1940s were dominated by the experience of World War II. Many of the district's men and women joined the forces, the Gippsland Light Horse, in 1939.

Those on the Home Front were caught up in fundraising for the war effort. Training was conducted for first aid, ambulance, and rescue work, and evacuation plans were developed in anticipation of a possible invasion.

All road signs were removed, and in 1941, an Evacuation Plan for Trafalgar involved escaping through the hills via Hill End and Noojee to Yarra Junction. Rationing of food, petrol and household goods came into being. 'Austerity' was the catch-cry. Trenches were dug in the schoolyard to provide shelter from air raids. The Red Cross was re-established. (This finally closed in Trafalgar with the death of Mrs. Ruth Sullivan in 1998). The Links of Service was set up and coordinated fundraising. Send-offs and welcome homes were frequently reported in the local papers, as men and women joined up, or, mercifully, returned home.

The names of the thirteen young men who did not return were added to the 31 on the War Memorial from World War I. Finally, in August 1945, it was all over with the surrender of Japan!

As time passed, life returned to normal. However, despite the end of the War, some of its problems remained – rationing continued for some years, and building materials were in short supply. Some of the returning men and women carried scars from their experience of war. PTSD was little known or understood, and the horrors of the war



were replayed for many in continuing nightmares. *Gippsland Light Horse in 1939.*

Gradually, after the War, the district picked up its old rhythms. Football was played again (the Club had been formed in 1888), and the young people went back to the leisure activities, long established in the town – tennis (1903), cricket (1893), golf (1914), angling (1910), cycling (1900), bowling (1915), and shooting (a rifle range was constructed on Murray's property in School Rd. The Rifle Club was gazetted in July 1885. It was dis-established in Nov. 1888 and re-formed in 1905.) The Gun Club was established in the 1930s. Life in post-War Australia gradually began to be more affluent, with more entertainment available and more opportunities for young people in learning and employment. Above all, it was a time of peace, eventually to be punctuated by the outbreak of war in Korea.

Mary Aldred MP continues fight for West Gippsland Hospital

Taking the fight for a new West Gippsland hospital to Canberra, Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred has declared "healthcare should never be a postcode lottery."

Ms Aldred told Parliament that the people of Baw Baw Shire and beyond deserve better than a century-old hospital struggling to keep up with demands of a rapidly growing community.

"I passionately believe that healthcare should never be

a postcode lottery," she said. "But, under state and federal Labor governments, it is."

Ms Aldred said the state Labor government had promised new hospital works would begin in 2023, but no detail of funding or even a draft plan had been put before the Monash community.

"And yet, we've seen \$15 billion wasted as part of union corruption," she said. "They can't turn a sod on a new hospital for West Gippsland, but they can shovel bil-

ions of taxpayers' money into a bottomless pit of waste and mismanagement."

Ms Aldred also strongly criticised Prime Minister Anthony Albanese for his letter to state and territory leaders demanding they rein in hospital spending.

"Don't fund essential new infrastructure - the likes of the West Gippsland hospital - was the message coming from the Prime Minister to the state premiers," she said.

Labelling West Gippsland Hospital as "sewn into the

fabric of our community," Ms Aldred praised the incredible nursing, medical and administrative staff working under stretched resources in a building no longer fit for purpose.

"I put a new hospital for West Gippsland as the number one priority in the Committee for Gippsland's first strategic plan back in 2011, and I've been fighting for a new West Gippsland hospital ever since," Ms Aldred said. "Gippslanders deserve better."

On ANZAC Day & everyday we remember those who served our country so that we may live in peace.

Lest we forget

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Anaesthesia in pets

By Jared Waddell-Smith of Trafalgar Veterinary Centre

Anaesthesia is a commonly performed procedure in pets, but it may feel very daunting to be faced with this possibility.

Each anaesthetic is different and tailored to the specific situation, but there are some common processes that it can be helpful to understand.

Prior to the anaesthetic, a premedication is given. This is usually a combination of medications to provide relaxation/sedation and pain relief. For most, this will be an injection given under the skin or into the muscle once they've arrived at the clinic; this allows your pet to feel relaxed and comfortable during their time in the clinic, and to not get distressed whilst being handled or having intravenous catheters placed.

For some animals which are inclined to react fearfully or aggressively in a clinic environment, it can be beneficial to give medication prior to leaving home, often given the night before and a few hours before they arrive at the clinic. This helps to stop them from 'winding up' before they even walk in the door.

Blood tests can be performed to give a more thorough assessment of your pet's overall state of health. These tests evaluate things like kidney and liver health, blood sugar, red and white blood cell counts and blood protein levels, to give additional confidence that there is no pre-existing disease that might affect safety of the procedure. Whilst these aren't essential to the anaesthetic process, they give useful information and we aim to include them in anaesthesia when possible, partic-

ularly in older pets that have a higher chance of having underlying disease.

Prior to their procedure starting, an intravenous catheter is placed, and then an i/v injection is given to start the anaesthetic. This is given slowly, so just enough is given to get the desired effect. For most procedures, a tube is placed into the airway to make sure normal airflow can occur, and the anaesthetic is then maintained with either inhaled gas, or sometimes with regular i/v infusion of more of the induction drug.

A nurse monitors the anaesthetic throughout your pet's procedure. At our clinics, monitoring includes heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, oxygen levels in the blood, expired carbon dioxide levels and heart conduction with an ECG, and the anaesthetic level can be adjusted accordingly.

Intravenous fluids are given during most procedures except for very short ones, as these help to keep the body hydrated and maintain blood pressure.

During recovery, we monitor the return to consciousness and remove the tube from the airway as they are able to breathe freely and start to swallow normally. Some pets may panic if they feel unsure of their surroundings; they are held and reassured, or sometimes additional sedatives are given to make the recovery as smooth as possible.

The anaesthetic process always carries risk, including a risk to life, because of the nature of the medications given to create a state of unconsciousness, and the impacts this can have on the

circulatory system. Despite this, a closely monitored modern anaesthetic is a very safe process with complications thankfully being extremely rare.

Is your pet too old for an anaesthetic? The short answer is no. Age in itself is not a barrier to a safe anaes-

thetic, and we commonly perform geriatric anaesthesia for dental disease, lump removal surgeries, or investigation of illness with x-rays or ultrasound. What is more important than age, is a careful assessment of their health. Consideration is given to general well being such

as body condition, the presence of disease such as heart disease or kidney disease and blood test results. In an older pet which has a significant health issue or may have a range of health conditions which affect their long term prognosis, then it is important to evaluate the potential

benefits of going ahead with an anaesthetic and surgery, against the possible risks and the expected recovery outcomes, to decide whether proceeding is in their best interests.

We are here to support you through this process if ever your pet needs it.

Veteran Graves to be Marked in Traf

Three graves of World War I veterans at Trafalgar Public Cemetery will receive markers to ensure their service and sacrifice is never forgotten.

Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred announced Trafalgar Public Cemetery Trust would receive a \$1720 grant after a successful application to the Marking (First World War) Private Graves (MPG) Grants Program.

The grant will fund markers for the unmarked private

graves of Joseph Walter Hulley, Charles James Brache and James Thomas Speakman as a lasting tribute to their World War I service.

"This grant will ensure the resting place of three local Diggers are marked and their legacy preserved," Ms Aldred said. "They fought for us, and I commend Trafalgar Public Cemetery Trust for fighting to ensure these courageous men are remembered with the respect they deserve."

Joseph Walter Hulley was born in Thornton in 1980. A farmer, he enlisted to serve

in World War I at the age of 35. He is buried alongside younger brother William Thomas Hulley, who also served in World War I.

Charles Jacob Brache was born in 1890. At age 25, the labourer from Moe enlisted, serving in the 60th Battalion. Charles died in 1954.

James Thomas Speakman was born in Walhalla in 1891. At age 23, the bridge and construction worker enlisted, serving in the 46th Battalion. He later served in the Citizen Military Services (CMS) during World War II.

The MPG Grants Program provides up to \$620 per grave marker to assist individuals, community groups and organisations seeking to honour those who fought in World War I. Trafalgar Pub-

lic Cemetery Trust secretary Howard Jones welcomed the successful grant for the three local veterans.

"We would like to see all our unmarked graves marked," Mr Jones said. "We rely on community donations, we rely on grants to fund that sort of work."

The project is one of several initiatives underway at Trafalgar Public Cemetery to recognise Veterans.

The trust, collaborating with Trafalgar-Thorpdale RSL, will soon place national flags at graves of veterans ahead of Anzac Day. In its second year, the installation of Australian flags - as well as some New Zealand and United Kingdom flags - will act as a visual reminder of their service.



Australian Flags were raised at the Trafalgar Cemetery last year. Photographed by Jordan Ross.



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COUNCIL News

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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.



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



Club champions crowned at Traf Tennis

By Nick Duck. Supplied by the Warragul & Drouin Gazette.

The Trafalgar Tennis Club held its junior and senior club championships last month with great success.

The championships delivered some fun and entertaining tennis for participants and spectators. Ten senior players and 11 junior players entered the competition.

Junior players competed in a round robin tournament for each section, then a knockout competition to sort out boy and girl champions.

Elliot Radic won the section five medal, Ollie Ste-

phenson won the section four medal, James Bryant won the section three medal and Josh Hearne won the section one medal.

Shailah Middleton took out the girls championship honours for the second time, beating Bella DeHaas in the final.

Josh Hearne claimed the boys championship honours for the second time after beating James Bryant in the final.

In the men's championship, there were eight competitors on the day and Luke

Bryant took the top prize, defeating Colin Maney in the final 6-3.

The women's championship was won by Amy Chaplain, who defeated Lara Codling in the final 6-0.

Players at both junior and senior levels demonstrated a high standard of skill, stamina, friendly rivalry and good sportsmanship.

Trafalgar Tennis Club acknowledged committee members and parents for assisting on the day and supporting all the competitors.



The Trafalgar Tennis Club boys champions were Josh Hearne (section one), Ollie Stephenson (section three), James Bryant (section four) and Elliot Radic (section five). Josh also took out the overall boys championship.



Shailah Middleton won the Trafalgar Tennis Club girls championship.



Josh Hearne claimed the boys championship.



Trafalgar Tennis Club women's champion Amy Chaplain and men's champion Luke Bryant.

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Polocrosse takes off in Traf

Supplied courtesy of the Warragul & Drouin Gazette

Trafalgar Polocrosse Club launched its 2026 season hosting its club tournament on 7 and 8 February.

Teams played across four grades during the two day competition.

Winners included: A grade - Sale; B grade - Trafalgar; C grade - Corio; and, D grade - Ballan.

Trafalgar was runners-up in the A and D grades.

Best overall female player for the weekend was Trafalgar player Kim Templeton while Sale player Harry Semmens was awarded the best overall male player.

The club's annual tournament also sees the presentation of the memorial trophy for Trafalgar life member Lawrence Malady for the best number three player during the weekend. The award, presented by Jackie Malady, was won by Sale player Ike Murray.

The Victorian season will continue until Easter with the state championships to be played at Sale.



Trafalgar D grade player Leigh Carroll keeps his eye on the ball in front of his Sale opponent.



Winners at their home tournament are Trafalgar B grade team members (from left) Pat McMahon, Cam Templeton, Billy Rolfe, Kim Templeton, Ryan Dyke and Lenny McMahon.

Traf finishes runner-up in weekend and midweek pennant

By Michael Holroyd. Supplied by the Latrobe Valley Express.

Extensive rain meant the Saturday pennant grand finals of Strzelecki North were rescheduled last month.

Trafalgar played Traralgon in the Division 1 decider, which was moved from Newborough Bowling Club to under the roof at Longwarry Bowling Club.

Traralgon continued its winning way by securing a third Division 1 premiership in a row.

Vin McIlwain and his rink of Tom Irvine, Ian Hisley and Matt Eccles won all eight shots on the last end against Ian Miles and his rink of Noel

Rubvenstein, Mick Fleming and David Cook, 33 to 21, sealing the victory overall for Traralgon, 102-81.

Matt Ferrari and his rink of Trevor James, Ron Sherlock and Nick Turnbull defeated Matt Schreyer and his rink of Graham Hill, Ted Kuklinsky and Adam Proctor, 28-15.

Wayne Lynch and his rink of Pat Trewin, Michael Better and Shane Chapman drew against Tommy Lodge and his rink of Matt Ogilvie, Matt Leicester and Matt Coutts, 19-all.

Trafalgar had a winner with Nathan Cook and his

rink of Peter Rosenboom, Tim Fraser and Chris Bortignon, defeating James Sculkin and his rink of Jedd Ladgrove, Ian Kirkup and Wayne Barnes, 26-22.

Midweek bowls grand finals were held Tuesday, March 3.

Newborough won the Strzelecki North title for Division 1.

Playing Trafalgar at Traralgon, Newborough showed its overall strength during the last three ends of each rink as they gained 10 shots across their three teams to only win by eight shots overall 65 to 57.



Trafalgar A grade player Bryce Templeton juggles the ball into his racket.



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Mighty Maskiell completes treble

By Liam Durkin. Supplied by the Latrobe Valley Express.

Trafalgar jockey Jason Maskiell continued his rich vein of form, winning last month's Stony Creek Cup. It was one of three consecutive winners he rode at the meeting.

Maskiell rode Traralgon Cup-winning horse Station One to victory for Kyneton trainer Liam Howley in the feature race.

He had to see off a stern challenge from 2023 Moe Cup-winning jockey Craig Newitt, who rode second by just 0.3 of a length on board Regal Lion across the 2100 metre distance.

Amazingly, Station One has now won 10 country cups. The cup completed a riding double, coming after Maskiell rode the winner of Race 6.

It just got better however, as Maskiell finished the meeting by riding Hey Bella across the line in Race 8. Newitt rode a winner in Race

3, giving Moe trainer Peter Gelagotis a win for Snakein-the-grass over 1100m.

Sale's Sharyn Trolove won Race 5 with Stewart. Sale Turf Club was connected to late champion Australian thoroughbred Makybe Diva, who had early wins at Sale before going on to win three consecutive Melbourne Cups.

Upon hearing news of her death, jockey Glen Boss said such a feat would never be achieved again. After Makybe Diva's third Melbourne Cup in 2005, race caller Greg Miles, who was in Moe late last year as part of the Melbourne Cup tour, famously declared: "A champion becomes a legend."



Trafalgar jockey Jason Maskiell rides Station One to victory in the Stony Creek Cup.

Northern success

By Blake Metcalf-Holt. Supplied by the Latrobe Valley Express.

Getting it done far and wide. Former Thorpdale footballer Boyd Bailey celebrated after winning the Northern Territory Football League premiership with Nightcliff last month.

His team defeated St Mary's in the Grand Final. Finishing third on the ladder, the Tigers jumped a level come finals, culminating in a 72-point victory in the last game of the season.

Bailey played alongside fellow Gippslander, Moe's Riley Baldi, and kicked two goals in the decider. Former Geelong premiership player Brandan Parfitt was awarded best-on-ground.

Bailey also appeared in the NTFL All Star game, representing the Spears. He was the best out there against the very best opposition, with 25 disposals and four goals. Bailey stepped aside as Morwell

coach after three seasons last year and has moved on to co-coach Sea Lake-Nandaly.

Baildi has departed Moe to step up into the South Australian National Football League.

The former Gippsland League best-and-fairest will play for South Adelaide alongside former Brisbane Lions and Port Adelaide player, Newborough's Sam Skinner.



Finals action for Wolves

By Liam Durkin. Supplied by the Latrobe Valley Express.

Willow Grove Cricket Club qualified for its first A Grade finals series since 1982 last month.

The Wolves entered an A Grade side for the first time in many seasons four years ago, and have built themselves back up after nearly going under just on a decade ago.

Playing in the Cricket Latrobe Valley league, Willow Grove finished the regular season in third position on the ladder.

This meant a semi-final showdown against second-place Rovers for a spot in the Grand Final.

Rovers defeated Willow Grove by 119 runs in the semi-final played at Mirboo North.

A superb effort from Ewan Williams saw Rovers to a total of 242 batting first on a Mirboo North strip that had plenty of runs in it.

Conditions could not have been better for batting, with a true surface and bowling green outfield.

The Wolves' hand was somewhat forced however, given Rovers was the higher ranked team.

As conditions were so good, there remained the chance Rovers could have blocked out on Day 2 to draw its way to the Grand Final.

Rovers openers Liam Little and Tyler Pearce combined for a 53 run opening stand, with the former making 27.

They fell either side of each other, however Rovers veteran Simon Duff steadied the ship with 32.

James Hayter scored 40, but similar to what had taken place earlier, Rovers lost two wickets back-to-back.

At 4/125 the game was delicately poised, but Williams batted with the rest of the card to take the score close to 250.

Willow Grove toiled well, and were rewarded with wickets at semi-regular intervals.

Rovers were nine down at stumps, and batted on into Day 2 to make it 96.2 overs in its innings.

Darcy Walsh took 3/48 with his leg spinners, and younger brother Logan 2/16.

Wolves' veteran Peter Grima was brought into the side for the first time this season, replacing Anthony Wilkes, who had commitments with a veterans team overseas.

Things started disastrously for Willow Grove, with a wicket falling off the very first ball of the innings.

The situation didn't improve much from there, and when Duff took the key wicket of Luke Payton for 39, it was just about game.

Darcy Walsh added some runs with 32 off 42 and was the last man out, leaving the Wolves well short at 123.

While it was a disappointing end for Willow Grove, it should not detract from the season, nor the growth the club has had in recent times.

The Wolves had six teams from across the club play finals this season. (A Grade, womens, veterans and juniors).

Three goals in the first quarter

By Blake Metcalf-Holt. Supplied by the Latrobe Valley Express.

What a start to the new year.

Former Trafalgar footballer Bailey Humphrey couldn't be stopped in the first quarter of the AFL season, booting three of the first four goals for Gold Coast.

The Suns made light work of a fairly depleted Geelong outfit, winning by 56 points at People First Stadium, Gold Coast. While much attention went to the Suns' star recruit, Christian Petracca, Humphrey was given the freedom and space at centre half forward to get off to the best of starts in his fourth season.

The former Moe, Newborough and Trafalgar junior delivered the ball inside 50 within the first 30 seconds of the 2026 campaign, tallying his first major almost instantly.

He then snapped truly from the boundary a few minutes later and was found again midway through the first quarter, subsequently sending through his third goal early on.

Humphrey's fourth and final goal for the game came as the second half opened, and the scary combination of he and Petracca was realised when the two linked up via hands before Humphrey snapped another.

Despite all the noise surrounding his desired departure in the offseason, ironically to Melbourne, Humphrey could be in for his best season yet and fits extremely well in a side eyeing a deep finals berth. Humphrey finished with 15 touches and four goals on the night.



Trafalgar's Bailey Humphrey surged with a four-goal performance, including three in the first quarter, in Gold Coast's Opening Round win against Geelong. Photo: AFL Photos



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