



# Traf District News

May 2026 – Edition 285

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## Traf's Aging Firefighting Fleet Raises Concerns

Trafalgar Fire Brigade, founded in 1927 as a Country Urban Fire Brigade before transitioning to a Country Fire Brigade in 1945, is approaching its 100-year milestone in 2027.

Throughout that century of service, the brigade has relied heavily on its firefighting fleet, now the focus of growing concern among members of the local community.

The brigade currently operates three vehicles: a tanker primarily used for grass and bushfires; a pumper for structure fires; and a forward command vehicle (FCV) used for support.

However, the frontline appliances are now significantly aged, with the tanker

built in 1997 and the pumper in 2006.

This places the average age of the brigade's operational appliances at 24 years, well above the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) recommended average of 15 years for frontline firefighting vehicles.

NFPA standards are widely regarded as best-practice benchmarks internationally.

Sources close to the brigade expressed frustration at the ageing equipment: "This tanker has served the community well and still does what it can, but it's no longer fit for purpose," one source explained.

"In recent years, reliability issues have become more fre-

quent both on the fireground and during training."

They also highlighted ongoing safety concerns.

"Volunteer firefighters are still expected to ride on the back of this tanker when travelling to incidents and training.

"No other registered truck allows this because of safety risks, yet firefighters are still placed in that position.

"And being only two-wheel drive, it's manageable on flat terrain but dangerous on steep or off-road conditions."

Traf District News has been informed of several breakdowns, where the tanker's pump failed to operate; a critical malfunction that could endanger lives during an emergency.

While the Country Fire Authority's (CFA) district maintenance officers provide routine servicing, concerns remain about the lack of manufacturer guidance for vehicles approaching three decades old.

"They just fix each issue as it appears," a source said.

"One of the pump failures came down to a 50 cent fuse buried deep behind a panel. On another occasion, a fault knocked out the radios, UHF, and low-water alarm.

"To fix it, the maintenance team had to remove the passenger seat to access the wiring."

The low-water alarm is a mandatory safety feature on CFA frontline appliances, working in conjunction

with crew protection spray systems designed to increase firefighter survival during burnover events.

Responsibility for renewing the CFA fleet lies with the state government. However, multiple reports earlier this year have suggested that funding is insufficient to address ongoing fleet ageing, with many tankers continuing to exceed recommended service lifespans.

One community member contrasted the situation with the resources provided to political leaders.

"The Premier rides in a chauffeur-driven hybrid sedan that's only a few years old, while local firefight-

ers are riding on the back of a decades-old tanker in extreme heat.

"How does that pass the pub test?" the community member said.

Despite the ageing fleet, residents of Trafalgar and surrounding areas continue to express confidence in their volunteer firefighters, who remain committed to doing everything possible with the equipment available.

Community members concerned about the condition of local emergency assets are encouraged to contact their state member, opposition leader, or the Premier's office to raise the issue of funding and fleet renewal.



Trafalgar Fire Brigade's ageing 29-year old tanker, way passed the National Fire Protection Association's recommended age of 15 years for frontline firefighting vehicles

## Cemetery honours our veterans

On a typical 18 April morning, the Trafalgar cemetery was transformed into a moving tribute ahead of Anzac Day, as a band of more than 70 enthusiastic volunteers assembled in the rotunda for a moving working-bee.

In a heartfelt community effort, Trafalgar Public Cemetery Trust and Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL sub-branch, together with a dedicated group of volunteers, proudly erected 288 flags plus a number of poppies in honour of veterans laid to rest in graves or whose ashes are within the cemetery.

This year's display marks a significant increase from 156 flags in 2025, made possible

through the diligent research undertaken by Howard Jones, the cemetery's secretary, who identified an additional 132 veterans.

Poppies were also carefully placed in the ashes section, Garden of Far Horizons, ensuring all who served were respectfully remembered.

We have now identified and recognised a total of 306 veterans laid to rest within the cemetery with 18 of those in the Garden of Far Horizons.

Included in that number are seven women, two doctors and 96 World War 1 veterans – a remarkable legacy of service within our community.

Continued on page 3.

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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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**Traf District News OFFICE**  
107 Princes Highway,  
Trafalgar VIC 3824  
admin@trafnews.com  
www.trafnews.com  
Follow us @trafnews



**EDITOR**  
Mick Bourke OAM  
editor@trafnews.com

**PUBLISHER**  
Traf News Inc.

**ARTICLES**  
editor@trafnews.com

**ADVERTISING SALES CONSULTANT**  
Lucy Gatti  
advert@trafnews.com

**GRAPHIC DESIGN AND PRODUCTION**  
Alana Moon  
alanamoo@icloud.com

Editorial and advertisements can be submitted via our website or by email: articles at editor@trafnews.com and advertisements at advert@trafnews.com

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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

### Fuel crisis hitting local businesses

I'm writing to highlight the ongoing impact of rising diesel prices on regional businesses, particularly those in transport and agriculture.

For businesses like ours, diesel isn't just a line item, it's the biggest expense of the business.

When fuel prices climb, the effect is immediate and unavoidable.

Transport operators feel it first, but the flow-on impact quickly reaches agriculture, construction, and just about every sector that relies on moving goods or machinery.

There's often a perception that when prices go up, businesses are simply increasing margins.

The reality is quite different.

In most cases, price adjustments are made to just keep pace with rising input costs, and simply are to maintain viability.

Without these adjustments, businesses would quickly find themselves operating at a loss.

Agriculture is particularly exposed, and one of the key challenges is fixed or contracted pricing, especially in a dairy region like ours.

These arrangements work well when conditions are stable, but when input costs such as diesel and fertiliser rise sharply, producers and contractors are left absorbing the increase.

In many cases, this results

in a direct erosion of already tight profit margins.

From planting, through to harvest and distribution, diesel is embedded in nearly every stage of the agricultural process.

As costs rise, farmers and contractors are forced to absorb what they can and pass on what they must, often with limited flexibility.

Ultimately, this creates a ripple effect that reaches the end consumer.

Higher freight costs, increased production expenses, and rising operational overheads all contribute to upward pressure on prices across the board.

What this means for the broader community is, as margins tighten and dispos-

able income reduces, businesses and farmers alike are forced to delay or scale back investment in new machinery, vehicles, local services and employment and that reduction in spending flows directly into regional communities, slowing economic activity at a local level.

Regional communities like ours rely heavily on transport and agriculture.

Understanding the pressures these industries face is important, particularly in times of volatility.

Businesses aren't seeking to profit from these increases, they're working harder just to stay in the same position.

Jamie Marslen  
Director, Gippsland Soil Solutions, Trafalgar

## Neighbourhood Houses Need Funding

It was encouraging to see recent coverage highlighting the risk to funding for Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria. I'd like to add some local context for readers in Trafalgar and surrounding communities.

There are more Neighbourhood Houses in Victoria than McDonald's.

I am a Trafalgar resident and have the privilege of managing the Traralgon Neighbourhood Learning House, one of four in the Latrobe Valley.

For those in Trafalgar, your nearest Houses are in Moe, opposite Elizabeth Street Pri-

mary School, and Warragul on Normanby Street.

Each Neighbourhood House reflects the unique needs of its community. Some focus on social connection and reducing isolation; others provide volunteering opportunities, learning programs, food relief, or support with digital literacy.

Some even offer showers and basic hygiene services.

While the services vary, the purpose is consistent: to create a welcoming place where people can connect, feel supported, and belong.

At their heart, Neighbourhood Houses are about people. They are places where you can walk in, see a fa-

miliar face, and feel part of your community.

As your article highlighted (Traf District News, April 2026), the reality is that our future is uncertain. We rely heavily on state government funding and, in real terms, are operating with around 20% less funding than a decade ago.

Despite this, we are expected to maintain the same hours, deliver the same programs, and respond to increasing demand driven by rising cost-of-living pressures.

Recently, I stood alongside hundreds of colleagues from across the state on the steps of Parliament to amplify the

#KeepTheDoorsOpen campaign.

It is encouraging to have bipartisan support, and I remain hopeful that the value of Neighbourhood Houses will be recognised in the upcoming state budget.

If we want strong, connected, and resilient communities in places like Trafalgar and across Gippsland, we must ensure these vital local services are properly funded into the future.

You can support this by connecting with your local House—whether by participating, volunteering, or writing to your local MP.

Phoebe Hicks  
Traralgon Neighbourhood Learning House

**SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO: EDITOR@TRAFNEWS.COM**

## Lifetime achievements to Yvette and Carolyn



Gazette editor and local Trafalgar resident Yvette Brand (left) with former editor Carolyn Turner after receiving their Rural Press Club of Victoria's Lifetime Achievement awards

Traf District News congratulates former Warragul & Drouin The Gazette's former editor, Carolyn Turner, and current editor Yvette Brand on being presented with Lifetime Achievement awards by Rural Press Club of Victoria (RPCV) in late March.

The awards were presented to 19 past and present long serving journalists, editors and photographers in recognition of their services to regional and rural media.

"These people have made a significant and lasting impact on our industry and their communities and it's a privilege to be able to honour them in this way," RPCV's president Kellie Lazzaro said.

Both Carolyn and Yvette began work at The Gazette as 17-year-old cadet journalists, which was the beginning of long careers telling the stories of local people and a commitment to regional journalism.

Carolyn retired in August 2022, handing the reins to Yvette as the paper's editor.

The Gazette has long assisted Traf District News by providing articles that are Trafalgar-based.

We particularly congratulate Yvette, who is a long-term Trafalgar resident, having grown up in Thorpdale, went to school at Trafalgar High School, and has lived in Trafalgar for more than 30 years.

Source: Warragul Gazette.

# Cemetery honours our veterans

By Robyn Gunn

*Carried over from page 1.*

Sadly, there remain 11 unmarked graves, reminder of the work still to be done to ensure every grave is properly acknowledged.

On a positive note, Commonwealth War Graves grants have been approved for three of the World War 1 veterans:

Joseph Walter Hulley, who enlisted at age 35

Charles Jacob Brache who enlisted aged 25

James Thomas Speakman, who enlisted at aged 23 and later serviced in the Citizens Military Forces during World War II.

Each step brings us closer to ensuring every veteran is recognised and remembered with the dignity they deserve.

At the conclusion of the flag installation, a morning tea was held in the rotunda to thank all those who volunteered their time and effort erecting poles, attaching flags, placing poppies and assisting with the morning tea.

It was truly an outstanding effort.

A big thank you to Jim Crowe and Paul Altamore, the president and secretary respectively of Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL for their ongoing support.

This significant visual tribute provides a meaningful benefit to families and the wider community, acknowledging and celebrating the remarkable service and sacrifice of those who served during times of war.

It also offers a special opportunity for family, friends, young people and the general public to visit, explore, and reflect on rich history.

Visitors are invited to experience the spectacular scene of flags gently blowing in the breeze across the hillside, alongside the beautiful gardens of poppies – a powerful and moving tribute.

The flags flew from 18 April to 2 May.

Lest We Forget.

(Editor: An article and photos of Trafalgar and Thorpdale's Anzac Day commemorations will appear in our June edition)

\*Robyn is a co-chair of Trafalgar Cemetery Trust



The historical grave of Trooper Michael Byrne, who was killed in action at Gallipoli on 30 August 1915. Engraved on the grave-stone are the words 'Soldier son of Pierce and Anastasia Byrne'



Archer and Alex Moon enjoy the morning tea after helping with the flag-planting working bee at Trafalgar Cemetery



A small section of Trafalgar Cemetery showing some of the 288 flags erected to commemorate service personnel buried or whose cremated remains are in the cemetery

## Traf District News

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# Bulldogs on the market

By Bryce Eishold

One of Bill Robinson's biggest regrets in life is not asking his father more about the history of vintage tractors before his death a decade ago.

The retired Thorpdale farmer inherited his infectious passion for mainly German-built Lanz Bulldogs from his late father, Len Robinson, who died in December 2016.

Now, after decades of collecting and restoring vintage tractors, the 74-year-old has made the decision to sell his prized collection after progressively retiring from farming in recent years.

"My father always collected tractors and worked on them, and once I retired, I was able to do the same thing," Mr Robinson said.

"Dad's first tractor was a Bulldog and that's where he developed a passion for them and I carried that on.

"I just wish I had asked him more about them when he was alive."

The Bulldogs were popular during the Second World War because of their versatility and ability to run literally on the smell of an oily rag.

"During the war, there wasn't much fuel around so to have something that would run on crude oil as well as sump oil or diesel was a big advantage," Mr Robinson said.

Mr Robinson and his wife, Jude, grew spuds for 40 years and ran cattle and sheep on 160 hectares at Thorpdale, but made the decision to sell a majority of the property in 2012 with retirement in their sights.

It allowed Mr Robinson, who moved to Thorpdale from Underbool, Vic, in the north-west of the state when

he was two months old, more time to focus on restoring and preserving vintage tractors.

"They're mainly Lanz Bulldogs and most people would know they are a German-built tractor," he said.

"They are a single-cylinder machine that starts with a blow lamp."

"You use the blow lamp to heat up the hot bulb and then you put the steering wheel into the crankshaft and swing it over by hand to make it start."

Fuel is injected to the hot bulb once it is heated, allowing the engine to ignite.

The collection includes 12 Lanz Bulldogs, ranging from 17-50-horsepower, a grey Ferguson and a grey and gold Ferguson both from the early-1950s, a Chamberlain 40KA, plus two late-1940s Massey Harrisons.

All but two of the tractors have been restored to original condition.

"I think the quickest restoration I did from scratch to finish took about six months,

but a lot of them I spent about 12 months on," Mr Robinson said.

"That wasn't full-time though, that was in between fishing trips and other things like that."

Eighteen tractors, a restored 1418 Mercedes Benz tray truck, and a 1947 Oldsmobile will be included in the 14 June on-property auction by Martin Evans Auctions.

His most-prized tractor is a 1935 Lanz Bulldog crawler, rescued by his late father, who found it sitting in a paddock at Woodside in South Gippsland as a wreck.

"One of the Bulldogs came from Pinnaroo, SA, a few came from Queensland, one came from just down the road and another came from just the other side of town," Mr Robinson said.

"I think they will go to established collectors.

"The grey Fergies could be put back to work on hobby farms because they are quick to start and have PTO linkage, unlike the Bulldogs."

The Robinsons have since listed their remaining four hectares, including vast shedding once used for spuds, on the market and plan to move to Trafalgar.

"Jude suggested I keep a couple, but I've made the decision that they all have to go, because it would be too hard to find a shed suitable for them in town," Mr Robinson said.

"It might be a bit of a shock to the system moving into town, but the time comes around for most of us."

[Editor: on-site inspections are on Saturday, 6 June and Saturday, 13 June between 12-2pm both days, with the on-line auction on 14 June. Details can be obtained from the agent, ME Auctions]

Source: Stock & Land



Thorpdale's Bill Robinson with his late father, Len, who died in December 2016 standing beside a German-built Lanz Bulldog.

## Community grant for new station pump

By Mark Walshe

Trafalgar Fire Brigade received funding from Community Bank Trafalgar & District to purchase and install a new pump to the water tank at its fire station.

This pump will be used to recycle rainwater from the water tank attached to the rear shed at the premises.

"The brigade has the facilities to test and repair hoses and completes this not just for ourselves, but also for the surrounding brigades in the Trafalgar area," said brigade captain Mark Walshe.

"As part of the testing procedure, we require to fill a

hose completely with water at pressure to test our repair patches and inspect for leaks coming from hoses or the couplings.

"By having the capability of using the water tank to fill the 30metre long hoses, using the pump to get to the pressure required, and then drain the water back to the tank, we create a more environmentally friendly process by not having to use mains water and dump the water back down the drains".

Hoses are a critical tool for firefighting, and having damaged or leaking hoses can strongly influence the

impact of firefighting efforts when required.

Local business, JB Pumps, completed the install at the fire station.

Cpt Walshe continued, "We engaged Jamie from JB Pumps to assist with the supply and install, and he went out of his way to make sure we were looked after, and that everything worked as it should."

Trafalgar Fire Brigade thanks Community Bank Trafalgar & District for its continued support, especially with the latest upgrade, which benefits not just the brigade but the environment as well.



Bill Robinson with his most-prized tractor, a 1935 Lanz Bulldog crawler.

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The grey water recycling system funded in part by Community Bank Trafalgar and District, and brigade funds collected as donations.

# Share your CCTV to help solve crime

Community members are being encouraged to share footage from their home security systems and dashcams with police as part of a joint campaign by Crime Stoppers and Victoria Police.

The "Is Your Footage the Missing Puzzle Piece?" campaign asks residents to help police with their investigations and work towards keeping communities safe by sharing their CCTV footage with Crime Stoppers.

Across the state, home CCTV and dashcams capture incidents including suspicious activity in neighbourhood streets, car break-ins and aggravated burglaries, often with information that could assist investigators.

Baw Baw police service area acting senior sergeant Alicia Leger said community footage could make a "huge difference" in police investi-

gations and urged residents to become familiar with how their security systems work.

"CCTV footage can provide key details we need to solve crimes," she said. "One key detail could make a world of difference."

Acting snr sgt Leger said timestamped footage could prove beneficial in court settings and can be more reliable than eye witness recounts.

Additionally, multiple cameras in one location can help police determine the direction an offender travelled or if any further offending occurred.

Crime Stoppers Victoria chief executive Stella Smith said community-captured footage could make a significant difference in police investigations and help prevent further offending.

"Victorians are increasingly playing an active role

in community safety, and the information they provide is making a real difference," Ms Smith said.

"Home security systems and dash cams are capturing important details every day. Licence plates, distinctive clothing, vehicle types or suspicious behaviour can help police identify offenders and link incidents together."

Ms Smith said many people already shared footage within neighbourhood social media groups but reporting it directly to Crime Stoppers via their online platform, ensured it could reach investigators.

"Small details can become the crucial piece of evidence that helps police progress an investigation or stop further offending from occurring," she said.

"It is a simple process to upload images or videos and it can be done on a mobile or computer. You can even choose to remain anonymous."

Victorians can upload footage and make a report anonymously at [www.crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://www.crimestoppersvic.com.au)

# Nappies needed to support local families

By Melina Bath

The Nationals' Member for Eastern Victoria Region, Melina Bath, is calling on the community to get behind families doing it tough by donating nappies to The Nappy Collective.

Ms Bath said that, while her office serves as a local collection point, helping ensure unused and new nappies reach babies and toddlers whose families are struggling to afford essentials, she encourages a Trafalgar business or community organisation to assist by being a Trafalgar drop-off point, and her office can collect from there.

"Every week, my office hears from local people experiencing financial pressure," Ms Bath said.

"For many, the rising cost of living is forcing heart-breaking choices and no parent should have to choose between buying food or buying nappies."

Since 2013, Australians have donated more than 10 million nappies through The

Nappy Collective, helping thousands of families facing crisis, homelessness, or financial hardship.

Ms Bath said that in tough times, the generosity of locals becomes more meaningful as local donations go straight back into our local community.

"The beauty of this project is in its simplicity as many households have leftover packs their children have grown out of and donating them makes an immediate difference for another family."

"Nappies collected through my office are passed to local charities and community groups who supply local families requiring support."

"My office in Franklin Street, Traralgon, is easy to

access and every packet donated, big or small, helps.

"Our region has a proud history of looking out for one another, supporting The Nappy Collective is a simple act that brings real relief to families and I thank locals for showing kindness in times of need."

Any Trafalgar business or community organisation willing to being a Trafalgar drop-off point can contact Ms Bath's office at Jenni.Rohde@parliament.vic.gov.au or phone 0437 750 806

In the meantime, please drop nappy donations to Melina Bath MP office, 181 Franklin Street, Traralgon.

For more information on The Nappy Collective, visit [www.thenappycollective.com](http://www.thenappycollective.com)



Member for Eastern Victoria Region, Melina Bath, is calling on the community to get behind families doing it tough by donating nappies to The Nappy Collective

# Fire Danger Period ends in Baw Baw Shire

While seasonal fire restrictions have eased, residents are reminded that fire risk has not disappeared, and care must still be taken when using fire in the open.

With the end of the Fire Danger Period early last month, some activities such as private burn-offs may now be permitted.

However, these must be conducted in accordance with local laws and safety requirements.

Residents are encouraged to check conditions carefully and ensure they are complying with all relevant regulations before lighting any fire.

Residents are reminded that:

- Burn-offs must be conducted safely, with appropriate equipment on hand.
- Fires must be supervised at all times and fully extinguished before being left.
- Total Fire Ban days can still be declared and will override all other permissions.

Baw Baw Shire Council also encourages residents to

continue maintaining their properties and reviewing their fire plans as part of year-round preparedness.

For more information about the Fire Danger Period, visit the CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

Baw Baw Shire Local Laws and Permit requirements can be found here [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Resident-Information/Local-Laws-and-Permits](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Resident-Information/Local-Laws-and-Permits)

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# Judy reflects on her life in Dubai

By Judy Bishop

Gosh, it's been 18 years since I wrote regular articles about my new, vibrant experiences of living and teaching in Dubai.

What was meant to be a two-year interlude became an exciting 12 years of professional and personal opportunities in a safe, creative country.

Reflecting on the raging war in the Middle East, I've been turned inside-out with concern for both my friends and colleagues living there still, and for the plight of our much-beloved UAE.

I've read so much doom and gloom; that the world's busiest airport is shut down, their tourist industry dead, businesses leaving in droves.

I'm assured this is exaggeration and friends are exceptionally proud of how the country is keeping them safe.

You may have heard how, from the first instance, all stranded travellers had

their hotel stays extended with both food and accommodation paid for by the government.

Also, it became an offence to publish any negative war action on social media.

Through regular texts with friends, some first comments were:

- I never would have believed my children would look out the window and say, "There goes another missile!"
- When the missile alerts go off on the phone, we all go to safety away from any windows. While it's still scary, it's become the new normal.
- The UAE is doing a brilliant job keeping us safe.

Like the Covid experience, schools are closed and it's back to online teaching/ learning, not a favourite choice by teachers or students.

Blasts and alerts during facetime don't help!

One friend, particularly traumatized after the Qatar bombing, took her children back to Ireland to do online schooling from there, which was awkward with the time zone issues.

They're returning now in the hope the ceasefire will persist.

But most are becoming more confident to go about their day, riding bikes and playing golf, and shopping. "It's all just less hectic with mainly only residents about."

Following the ceasefire announcement, the UAE Ministry of Defence sent this to all residents:

"Since the onset of the blatant Iranian attacks, UAE air defences have engaged a total of 537 ballistic missiles, 26 cruise missiles and 2,256 UAV's"(drones).

This has been a new normal which, thankfully, I am not living here in Trafalgar.



## Judy Bishop: "I'm off to Dubai"

Well, the opportunity has come and I realise I have taken it! I'm off to teach at Deira International School in Dubai, United Arab Emirates for a minimum contract of two years; to a fast growing, desert city being built for tourism; to a school doubling in size each year with at least 15 different nationalities in one classroom; to an apartment in a compound. How extreme is that!

After fifteen ongoing years at Trafalgar Primary School and many more before that as short term contracts, I know I'm cutting the umbilical cord on job security and my country-town life style. With that comes a flood of memories and experiences here, which of course will be mine to keep. Like many others here, I grew up on a bush-cleared, soldier-settlement farm (at Coalville). So I've cherished the occasions when each year my class can go to Ray and Val Giles magnificent garden for children to catch yabbies and play in the creek. The annual Red Hill Day has stayed popular, where over 150 kids walk up to Davey's bush to light fires and cook their lunch. Most recently I was excited to take all the infants ponding at Morrison's dam on School Road. It's more than a pity that the flooded drain full of tadpoles across from the school no longer exists. I left Mirboo North High School and teenage life at Thorpdale (Girl Guides, tennis, netball, school drama) to live in Hawthorn and attend Burwood Teacher's College. Married life in Melbourne and Echuca was followed by bringing up two children back here in Thorpdale with my father, Ross Bishop, a local builder.



Traf News' front page of July 2008 story of Judy Bishop leaving Trafalgar to teach in Dubai



Judy enjoying one of many reunion gatherings with friends in Dubai.

## Are you being scammed?

This Scam Alert is a joint warning from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and the National Anti-Scam Centre's Scamwatch.

### What's happening

Criminals are committing fraud by taking control of mobile phone numbers or making unauthorised changes to phone accounts. Once they gain access to your phone, they can receive verification codes, reset passwords, restrict access to your systems, and get access to a wide range of services that rely on your mobile number for security checks, including:

- your bank accounts
- myGov

- subscription services
  - rewards programs.
- Some people are at risk of mobile number fraud when their email account is compromised. Mobile phone fraud can also occur when scammers gain access to your ID documents or passwords through phishing attempts and following data breaches.

### Who's at risk

Anyone with a mobile phone number can be targeted by this scam. However, people who know or suspect they have been in a data breach may be at greater risk of being targeted.

Warning signs to look out for:

- Unexpected alerts about changes to your mobile account;
- Verification codes you didn't request;
- Account login attempts or password reset emails you didn't initiate;
- Your phone suddenly stops working, shows no signal or switches to 'SOS only'.

### If you've been affected

- If your phone stops working unexpectedly or you notice suspicious activity, contact your bank immediately then contact your phone provider.
- Change passwords on all your devices and online accounts and notify your bank or card provider straight away.
- Monitor your bank statements and account

activity for anything unusual.

If a scammer has your personal details, contact IDCARE on 1800 595 160 for support.

### To stay protected

**STOP.** Don't click unusual links, down attachments or install Apps you weren't expecting.

These can be used to steal your personal information.

Don't share your ID document or numbers unless you are sure of who you are dealing with.

**CHECK.** Check whether it's really your telco company by calling back using the phone number on a bill or official website or app.

Check your account regularly for unusual changes or activity.

Ask your telco how they would normally contact you and be cautious of contact that differs from this.

**PROTECT.** Secure your personal details and accounts by using strong, unique passwords or passphrases and update them regularly.

Where you can, use multi-factor authentication. Delete emails, including emails you send, with ID documents attached so they can't be accessed if your email is ever compromised.

If your ID is lost or stolen, contact your telco and bank immediately and replace the documents.

To report scams and find more info go to [www.Scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.Scamwatch.gov.au)



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# The Trafalgar Story Continues...

By Jean Huffer

After the shortage of building materials in the post-war period, there was a building boom in the town in the 1950s with, amongst others, new municipal saleyards (1950) and a new Trafalgar Park Bowling Club (1952).

There was a big celebration in Trafalgar in 1955, a "Back To..." which was widely publicised with many former residents returning for the weekend's activities including the celebration of the founding of Radio 3TR which had commenced

broadcasting in 1931 with the first regional commercial licence - the work of Mr. Frank Berkery.

Its original building was in Contingent Street at the back of Treloar's store (now the site of the gymnasium on the highway), 3TR was sold to the Herald and Weekly Times in 1932 and moved to Sale.

St. John's new Catholic church was built in 1955, and also a new Presbytery in 1959.

Other new buildings were the Presbyterian 'A' frame church (1959), new classrooms at the primary school

(1955) and the new Infant Welfare/Kindergarten (1959).

New service clubs were founded in Trafalgar, with the advent of the Rotary Club of Trafalgar in 1955, and Apex Club, in 1959.

The 1960s were ushered in with a continuation of progress - the swimming pool was opened in February after many years of local fund raising, and the high school was established in the grounds of the primary school in portable classrooms until the new building was ready later in 1963.

New classrooms had already been added to the primary School again in 1960 and in 1962.

In June, 1961, St Joseph's School moved into its new classrooms which replaced the old wooden ones erected in 1932.

There was a new golf clubhouse erected in 1965.

These developments were a result of the post-war baby boom, and the influx of people into the area, due to the job opportunities offered by the expansion of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SEC) and small industry in Moe and the Latrobe Valley.

Trafalgar was on the move.

There was an SEC office and showroom in the town.

Johns and Waygoods, the grid flooring plant in McCrorey Street, was employing 29 men, and the Milk Supply Factory was converted to the production of award-winning cheeses in 1967.

Gas supplies from the Lurgi Gas Plant in Morwell were switched on in 1960, and the

# Have your say on future of water services

Gippsland Water is encouraging community members to help plan for the future of the region's water and wastewater services through pop-up events across Baw Baw Shire.

Residents will be able to speak face to face with Gippsland Water team members, ask questions and provide feedback to help inform the 2028-33 Price Submission and 2027 Urban Water Strategy.

These two important documents outline future services, prices, infrastructure investments and plans for water security.

There will be the opportunity to sign up to the organisation's Sounding Board, where community members receive invitations to engagement activities that guide future decisions and outcomes for the organisation.

Pop-up events throughout Baw Baw Shire include:

- Drouin Woolworths, Wednesday, 6 May, 10am - 2pm
- Yarragon Craft Market, Saturday, 16 May, 8am - 2pm
- Neerim South Recreation Reserve, 16 May, 10am - 2pm

To keep up to date with future pop-up events visit [www.gippswater.com.au/letstalk](http://www.gippswater.com.au/letstalk).



3TR Original Building as it was in 1955. It commenced broadcasting in 1929



Trafalgar Sale yards - date unknown.

water supply was improved with the duplication of the pipeline from the Sunny Creek off-take basin into the reservoir.

The population increased from 1774 in 1961 to 1832 in 1971.

Further organisations were formed as local peoples' interests developed.

A senior citizens' club was established in 1967.

Trafalgar Lions' Club was formed in 1969, and received its charter in 1970, the same year as the pony club was set up.

In 1969, the Car Club was able to reopen the speedway built in the 1950s near the cemetery.

There was always something to do, even though the advent of television had led to the final closure of the local picture theatre after a screening of "Treasure Island."

Photos and research material from Trafalgar and District Society's Collection

# Trafalgar & District Historical Society's Gazette is coming

By Di Ireland

The next Trafalgar & District Historical Society's (T&DHS) Gazette is on the way.

The T&DHS Gazette is published in April, July and October/November, with the 2026 April edition available soon from the Post Office and Newsagency for \$5.

Meetings are held on the third Friday in February, June, August (annual general meeting) and October, with an annual dinner in November.

Working bees are held every Friday from 2-4pm, except public holidays.

Visitors and helpers are always welcome.

The next T&DHS will be on 19 June at 2pm in the old kindergarten residence.

Our purpose is *Preserving the Past for the Future*, and the rapid changes happening in Trafalgar make this increasingly important.

If you would like to know more, or want to offer some help, our president John Weymouth can be reached on 03 5633 1756.

You will find us at 30 Contingent Street, next to Trafalgar Public Hall.



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# Impact of shrinking congregations

By Rachael Lucas

(Editor: this article relates to the Anglican congregations in the Briagolong area., however, it is reflective of diminishing congregations in Christian churches across Australia, including Trafalgar. Consequently, it should be read with Trafalgar in your mind's background).

Reverend David Perryman runs two services each Sunday, one of which has just one attendee.

It's a Sunday morning in Briagolong, 115km east of Trafalgar, and Reverend David Perryman, equipped with a file of readings, sheet music and a guitar, prepares a dash of Holy Communion wine and a single wafer biscuit.

His service begins at 8:30am, when the congregation — comprising a single parishioner — arrives at the 118-year-old All Saints Anglican church.

Bruna Robinson, who has attended Sunday mass at Briagolong for 28 years, enjoys discussing the lessons of faith with Reverend Perryman, comforted by the notion

that someone cares for her in the face of life's challenges.

She recalls when the church, now slightly dishevelled with cobwebs and abandoned Christmas ornaments, was once a gathering place for the local community.

But now, she's the lone and soon-to-be last parishioner at All Saints, which was recently marked for closure.

## Mobile ministry

Reverend Perryman delivers two ceremonies each Sunday — an 8:30am service in Briagolong or Munro on alternating weekends, followed by a main service in Stratford, which is live-streamed and attracts viewers from interstate, overseas and a local nursing home.

But it's a race to get from one service to the next.

*"It is a bit of a mad dash, and it makes it really difficult when you are just offering that ministry and that worship and then you're running off down the road,"* he said.

The Parish of Avon, comprised of Stratford, Munro, Briagolong and the Dargo

district, once included the Dargo church, which closed in 2012.

The Holy Trinity Stratford service has been live-streamed since the COVID pandemic.

At St Mary's in Munro, built in 1922, anywhere from four to seven parishioners can attend a service.

As church buildings age and maintenance falls behind schedule, Reverend Perryman and his volunteer team contend with everything from possums to spiders, gum leaves, fallen branches and storm damage.

Besides the hall and fire station, the 1922 church in Munro is the only other public building in the town.

For Elizabeth Bates, who has attended the Munro service on and off for 50 years, preserving the Munro church is about preserving town infrastructure, legacy and identity.

*"The people who built this church and the families that I've known who've passed away now, they worked so hard to build the Christian*

*faith in this community for us, and I just want to enjoy it,"* she said.

*"I really miss the intimacy, the feeling of worship with a group of people.*

*"It's not the same on social media as it is to come here. It's something that is really important in my life. It gives me strength."*

The dilemma of aging, under-utilised buildings is forcing the Anglican church to think creatively about finding new ways to deliver services.

The All Saints Anglican church in Briagolong was consecrated in 1908 and will be closed and sold off this year.

With the forthcoming sale of the Briagolong church, a less formal incarnation of the Briagolong service has already been trialled at the Briagolong Community House, attracting a gathering of about seven people.

*"The church building may shut, but the church is still gathering,"* Reverend Perryman said.

## New pathways forged

At Holy Trinity in Stratford, established in 1868, children run around a kindergarten table beside a lectern, as Reverend Perryman rushes through the back entrance to tune his guitar and rehydrate for the 10am service.

*"We do try and offer a bit of everything for everyone,"* he said.

The church has merged a free-range Sunday school, craft, live music and audio-visual projections with the more formal, traditional elements of a service.

*"It can be a bit chaotic, but what I really love is seeing everyone being able to find a place and everyone being able to be involved, being able to have a voice and be included,"* he said.

As life becomes more financially and socially difficult for people, in an era where stripped-back social interactions have become the norm, Reverend Perryman's inclusive philosophy extends to a vibrant calendar of parish-organised activities.

From music for young children and parents to fami-

ly movie nights, men's breakfasts, fundraising raffles, dinners, the annual church fete and Blessing of the Pets, low-cost opportunities for social connection extend to the broader community.

*"I'm very thankful that I don't run this race alone,"* Reverend Perryman said.

*"Anything that we do here or out in the community is only made possible because of our wonderful volunteers."*

But with limited funds, eroding infrastructure and an aging population, Reverend Perryman believes fresh perspectives and creative thinking are critical for the long-term sustainability and relevance of regional parishes.

*"At some point ... the conversation has to change from just trying to do 'more with less', to actually trying to be strategic in how we approach this from a different direction,"* he said.

*"We need to find an out-of-the-box way of doing ministry and being a church."*

Source: ABC Gippsland




Reverend David Perryman conducting a Sunday Mass in front of his congregation comprising a single parishioner, Bruna Robinson, at Briagolong's All Saints Anglican church



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# Jim Balfour was a community leader



Jim Balfour gave incredible service to many district communities. If there was a board, Mr Balfour was usually on it

His father, James Miller Balfour's involvement included time as a member of the Brighton City Council (1930 to 1931), elected to the Victorian Legislative Council (1936-1943), chairman of the Board of Finance of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Member of the Ormond College Council at Melbourne University, vice-chairman of the Geelong College Council, a member of the Charities' Board of Victoria, president of the West Gippsland Hospital, trustee of the Melbourne General Cemetery, a past director of the Australian Natives' Association and chairman of the Victorian Dried Fruits Board.

So it is no surprise that Jim Balfour took on similar roles to his father.

Balfour Street, Newborough is named after James Charles Murray Balfour, more popularly known as Jim.

Jim was a member of the Narracan Shire Council and local member of state parliament.

He was well known in the local community, not only for his role as a parliamentarian, but for his involvement in numerous community organisations over a very long period of time.

Trafalgar's Balfour Park on Trafalgar Primary School's original site on the corner of Anzac and School roads was named after him.

Jim was born in Windsor in 1914 to James Miller and Katrine Balfour.

His father was a model of community involvement for his son to follow.

Any reading of the local Advocate newspaper will see his name regularly mentioned in reference to community groups and local issues.

Just a few examples include being elected to the RSL War Services Fund Willow Grove Group and president of the Farewell Committee for Willow Grove for local service men and women during World War 2, chairing welcome home functions at the end of the war, joining the Moe Bush Fire Brigade (1946), president of Latrobe School Committees Association (1946), president of the Moe High School Advisory Committee, closely involved with promotion of a new hospital in Moe from 1947 onwards, supporting industries to move to Moe under a government decentralisation policy - the list could go on.

In addition, he was called on to chair functions, attend debutante balls, speak to community groups and use his political influence to gain new facilities for Moe such as schools, a new police station, an infant welfare centre and a home for the Moe & District Historical Society.

He could certainly claim a proud history of community involvement.

He lived in Trafalgar on his retirement until his death in 1990.

The information and photograph for this article was supplied by Moe District Historical Society. Latrobe Valley Express kindly permitted Traf District News to re-produce it.

# The Strickland family story

by Frank Strickland

Tom and Ivy Strickland arrived in Gippsland in 1929 to make their life on the Narracan farm, eight kilometres south of Trafalgar.

Their first child, Kitty, was born on 21 August 1930. Kitty rode her horse to Narracan Primary School, a distance of three miles, when she was old enough to handle Ted, the difficult nag.

Tom and Ivy shopped in Trafalgar once a week, taking the horse and jinker as they had no car.

Rogers Road didn't exist as it is today.

The road descended from Rogers' property down a steep incline to join the top of School Rd.

Tom and Ivy had to walk up the steepest sections to assist the horse.

In January 1939, their second child was born. Ted, who, like Kitty, went to Narracan Primary School, then he attended Yalourn Technical School for secondary education.

Ted rode his bike to Trafalgar on Monday and boarded with Craig and Ivy Thomas until Friday.

On Friday, Tom would fetch him home with bike secured under the open boot lid of his 1939 Vauxhall car.

Their third child, Frank, was born in January 1946.

He also attended Narracan Primary School, then to Mirboo North High School, as the school bus conveniently turned at the farm gate.

In February 1952, Kitty married Graham Brown.

He worked as an SEC linesman, while Kitty reared their four children.

Graham's father, Les, farmed the land which is now 'The Oaks Estate', and the land Eric Johnson is developing now.

Kitty and Graham's son, John, built on the third title accessed off Old Thorpdale Road.

Kitty and Graham had four children: Betty, Jeanette, John and Lynda, who all grew up in School Road, Trafalgar, and attended the Trafalgar primary and high schools.

Ted married Lynne Palmer in June 1962.

Lynne was the third of four girls, Elwynne, Gwen and youngest Verna.

They grew up just about opposite the Strickland farm, and Lynne and Verna attended Narracan Primary, and all four children attended Mirboo North High School.

Ted and Lynne's children, Julie and Peter, attended Tr-

afalgar Primary School and Mirboo North High School.

Citizens of my age remember Lynne as a primary teacher in both Trafalgar State School and St Joseph's Catholic School.

Ted was the briquette man and a milk tanker driver, then a school bus driver in his later years.

On 27 October 1978, Frank and Alison married in their lounge room in Unit 5, 32 Dodaides Rd, Trafalgar.

Alison nursed at Latrobe Valley Hospital, Moe and Latrobe Regional Hospital, Traralgon, While Frank worked for Fowler and Sons.

Their daughters, Louise and Jane, attended Trafalgar Primary School and Trafalgar High School.

The Strickland family have been connected to Trafalgar for three generations.



Ivy's 80th Birthday Dec 1986. From left: Kitty, Ted, Ivy, and Frank Strickland

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# Monthly Councillor Update

By Brendan Kingwill, East Ward Councillor



Hi everyone, Brendan Kingwill here—your local East Ward Councillor. I'll be popping into the paper each month with a quick update on what's happening around Yarragon/Trafalgar and nearby communities.

It's also a chance for you to have your say, so if there's

something you'd like raised, feel free to reach out.

There's been a lot going on lately, with one big theme driving most conversations, *growth!*

Our towns are expanding quickly, and the challenge is making sure infrastructure and access meets this growing issue.

Late last year we tried a new way of consulting with the community to try and get as many voices to council's ears as possible.

It was held in Trafalgar Community Centre, and was well attended.

The data and outcomes from that meeting are being

analyzed now, and some significant outcomes are sure to be experienced.

It was a new concept but many might remember them as a "town hall meeting".

More work needs to be done but a great first step in keeping council connected to residents.

You've probably noticed roadworks on key connections to Warragul and Moe.

Planning is also underway for upgrades to Waterloo Road in Trafalgar, with a focus on improving safety, drainage and traffic flow as we meet the growing demands.

Community facilities are part of the picture too. Trafalgar Library has still been flagged for development, with council looking at how the service will support a growing population.

Nothing major is locked in yet, but discussion and funding applications are on the table.

The number of young children in the shire is expected to jump significantly, and kinder demand in Trafalgar alone could nearly double by the end of the decade.

While we can manage in the short term, we're likely to see a shortage of places from 2027 without new facilities.

That's why early years infrastructure is now a key advocacy priority, alongside Princes Highway upgrades, better public transport, and improved health services in the area.

The second oval for Trafalgar is still high on our list.

This has been flagged as a Tier 1 priority for advocacy, targeting all political parties for the upcoming election.

We are attempting to get a commitment from the State government to secure the funds needed.

Last month, we officially opened Angela Malacarne Park at Yarragon.

It was a fantastic day with a great turnout from the community.

The park is a wonderful mix of Yarragon's history and modern facilities, and a big credit goes to the Yarragon community for fighting to keep the site almost seven years ago.

We've also seen the completion of the new Downton Park clubrooms—an outstanding upgrade and something the town can be really proud of.

An official opening date is yet to be confirmed.

That's it for this month. If you've got an issue, idea, or just want to chat, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Contact details: email: [brendan.kingwill@bawbaw-shire.vic.gov.au](mailto:brendan.kingwill@bawbaw-shire.vic.gov.au), phone: 0474 652 435

## Fuel crisis impacts locals

By Mick Bourke

Traf District News, last month, surveyed locals who follow it on its Facebook page.

The respondents numbered only 18, so the survey is not big enough to be considered reliable or 'statistically significant', however, it gives an indication of the impact the current fuel crisis is having to people living in Trafalgar and surrounds.

Of the respondents, 72 per cent live in Trafalgar and

11 per cent in Yarragon. The remainder live outside Baw Baw Shire.

The survey showed that the majority of people are feeling isolated, with 55.6 per cent of respondents saying the current fuel situation made them feel less able to leave their usual area or more isolated than usual.

The same percentage say the fuel crisis is having a significant impact on

their household's ability to travel normally.

Getting to work, school and necessary appointments is also more difficult than earlier this year before the fuel price increase.

Almost two-thirds (61 per cent) said it was now harder to travel to work, school, medical, shopping, and appointments generally, or to visit family, with 88 per cent having to cancel an import-

ant trip to work, medical, school, appointment or family because of the fuel crisis.

Half of the respondents said they have reduced or cancelled trips they would normally make by car, while 72 per cent used trains or buses more often than usual.

The survey shows that it is timely to look out for neighbours, friends and family who may be adversely affected by the current fuel prices.



Yarragon's Angela Malacarne with Cr Brendan Kingwill at the opening of the Yarragon park named in her honour

## Demands for fuel action for regional Victoria

Two local Government Opposition members, one in the Victorian parliament, and the other in the Federal parliament, have called on the respective Victorian and Commonwealth governments to do more to help rural and regional people during the current fuel crisis.

The Nationals' Melina Bath told state parliament last month that regional Victoria faces an escalating diesel crisis and demanded the government prioritise fuel supplies outside of the tram

tracks to keep agriculture and transport moving.

Ms Bath said farmers across eastern Victoria rely on a stable and sufficient supply of diesel to sow, grow and harvest crops, manage livestock operations and transport produce.

"Without immediate action that prioritises fuel supply regionally, our food supply chain is at direct and imminent risk.

"For weeks, The Nationals consistently called for the fuel excise to be halved before it was actioned, but we also called on the govern-

ment to prioritise regional fuel security to safeguard food production and the transportation industry."

She said that despite repeated clear warnings on the unfolding crisis, the state and commonwealth governments continued to ignore the severity of the fuel shortages outside metropolitan areas.

"Diesel scarcity and high prices are already disrupting agriculture, driving up operational costs and threatening the availability and affordability of essential goods on our supermarket shelves," said Ms Bath.

She further said that every delay in the government's response places greater pressure on farmers who cannot operate.

"It also negatively impacts every household who depend on a reliable and affordable food supply.

"Fuel security is a fundamental necessity for the functioning of farms, freight, emergency services and regional and peri-urban households – it's not optional.

She said that the state government must take decisive steps to ensure fuel security

is prioritised to protect the people who feed our state.

**School buses must be prioritised**

At the Federal level, Member for Monash Mary Aldred said prioritising diesel for regional school buses must be factored into the government's fuel security plan.

Ms Aldred wrote to the prime minister last month to push for school buses to be considered an essential service.

Ms Alfred said that it follows schools across Monash sharing concerns with her

that the fuel crisis could impact bus fleets, disadvantaging regional schools and students.

"Unlike urban schools where public transport, or walk or ride options are available, schools in my electorate have hundreds of families who completely depend on school buses for their children's commute to and from school," Ms Aldred said.

"I urge the prime minister to prioritise diesel for regional school buses to ensure regional children and families are not disadvantaged," Ms Aldred said.

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# Probus welcomes new member

By Glenda Mynard

At Trafalgar District Probus Club's April meeting, our new president, Pam McGarrity welcomed new member Debra Knox.

Pam also awarded a ten-year pin to Anne Brennan.

During the month, members enjoyed a pleasant walk around the Mitchell Estate in Moe.

While on the walk, a local resident, Jock, on his yellow mobility scooter, was a wealth of knowledge about the wetlands and the general area.

Another outing was to Peter and Jenny Flahavin's garden in Hill End.

We admired beautiful native and deciduous trees

which the couple had grown over many years.

One feature of this peaceful landscape was beds of roses passed down from previous generations, some more than 100 years old.

Dine outs for the month were at the Criterion Hotel Trafalgar and an evening meal at the Travellers Rest in Thorpdale where the meals were fantastic.

As a little extra we had a special guided tour of the distillery and bar downstairs in the old cellar which had been brought back to life in the most magnificent way.

Our guest speaker was Don Jeffries, a retired scientist, who informed us about "All Things batteries".

Civilisation has progressed through the steam age, internal combustion, electrical, silicon chip and now we're in the battery era. They make our lives better and cleaner.

Research continues and sodium batteries may soon compete with lithium batteries.

These are emerging in Australia as a safer, cheaper and more sustainable alternative to lithium-ion for home storage.

Come and visit us on the first Thursday in May at 10 am.

We meet at 36 Ashby st Trafalgar and you would be most welcome.



Anne Brennan receives her 10-year Probus badge from president, Pam McGarrity

# Walking with my dog

By Carole Sell

Another beautiful start to the day in Trafalgar.

Birds are up and doing what birds do, and I wonder what the day will bring.

The mountains behind my home are bathed in early mist so it's time to hit the road.

I am retired and moved here with my young Schnauzer puppy 'Rocky' two years ago, and have discovered it's the best thing I have ever done.

I knew no-one but, on our first walks around town, Rocky and I decided we would say "Good morning" to all we saw and met and see if we got a reply.

We started off and yes, an early walker like us waved and said "Good morning" back.

Then came more on other morning walks.

It's grown now and I feel great meeting and having a yarn with those I see.

It's been with the same people and kids every day over the two years.

Being part of their day, getting footballs out of trees, putting newspapers in boxes and picking up rubbish bins dropped in gutters add to my day.

There have been sad times seeing ambulances on the streets I walk and wondering if all is going to be okay and if it's anyone I have come to know.

Please, let's start the days by saying "Good morning" to all we see. You will be surprised how good this feels.



Carole Sell with Rocky



Probus president Pam McGarrity welcomes new member, Debra Knox



Trafalgar District Probus members, from left: Garry Willis, Jon Purvis and Ross Pethybridge enjoying a chat during the club's April meeting



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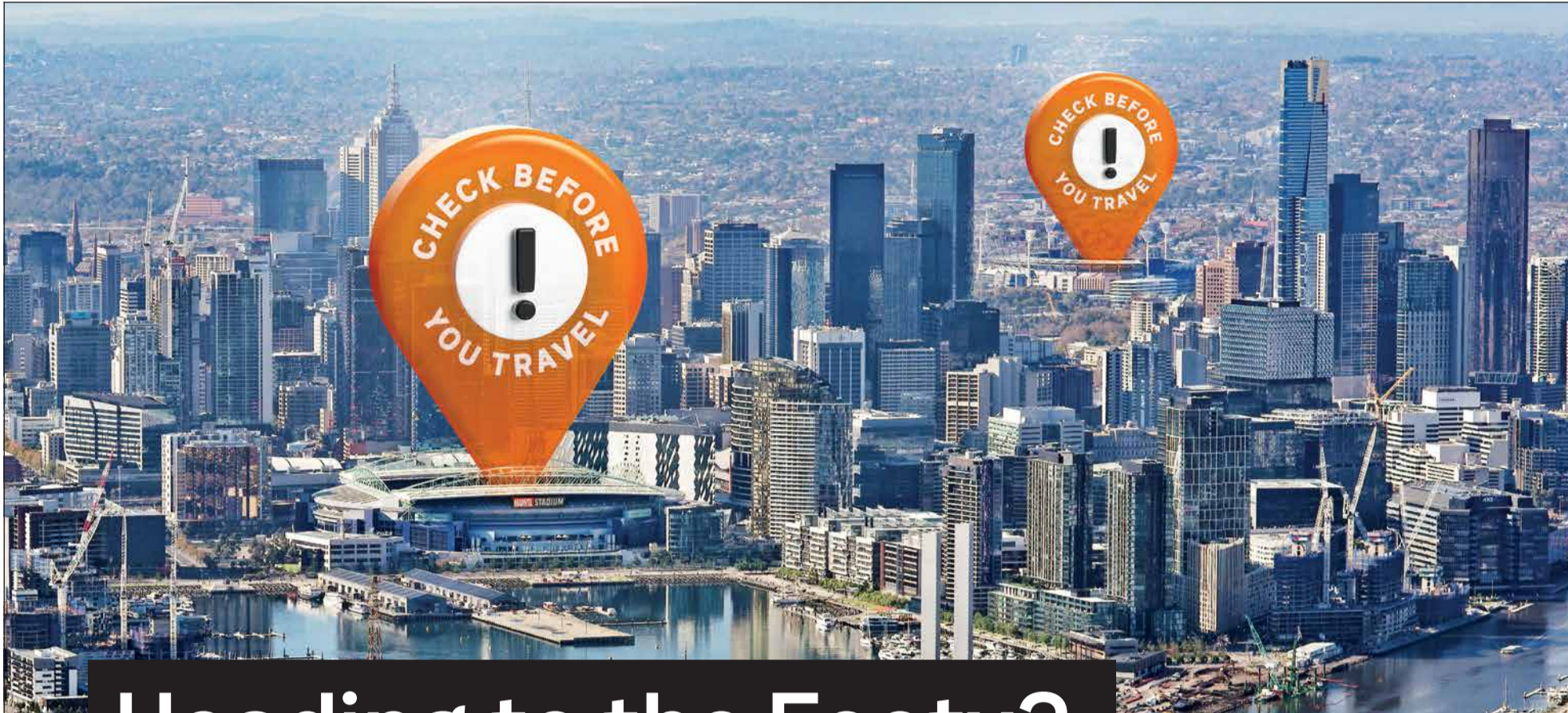
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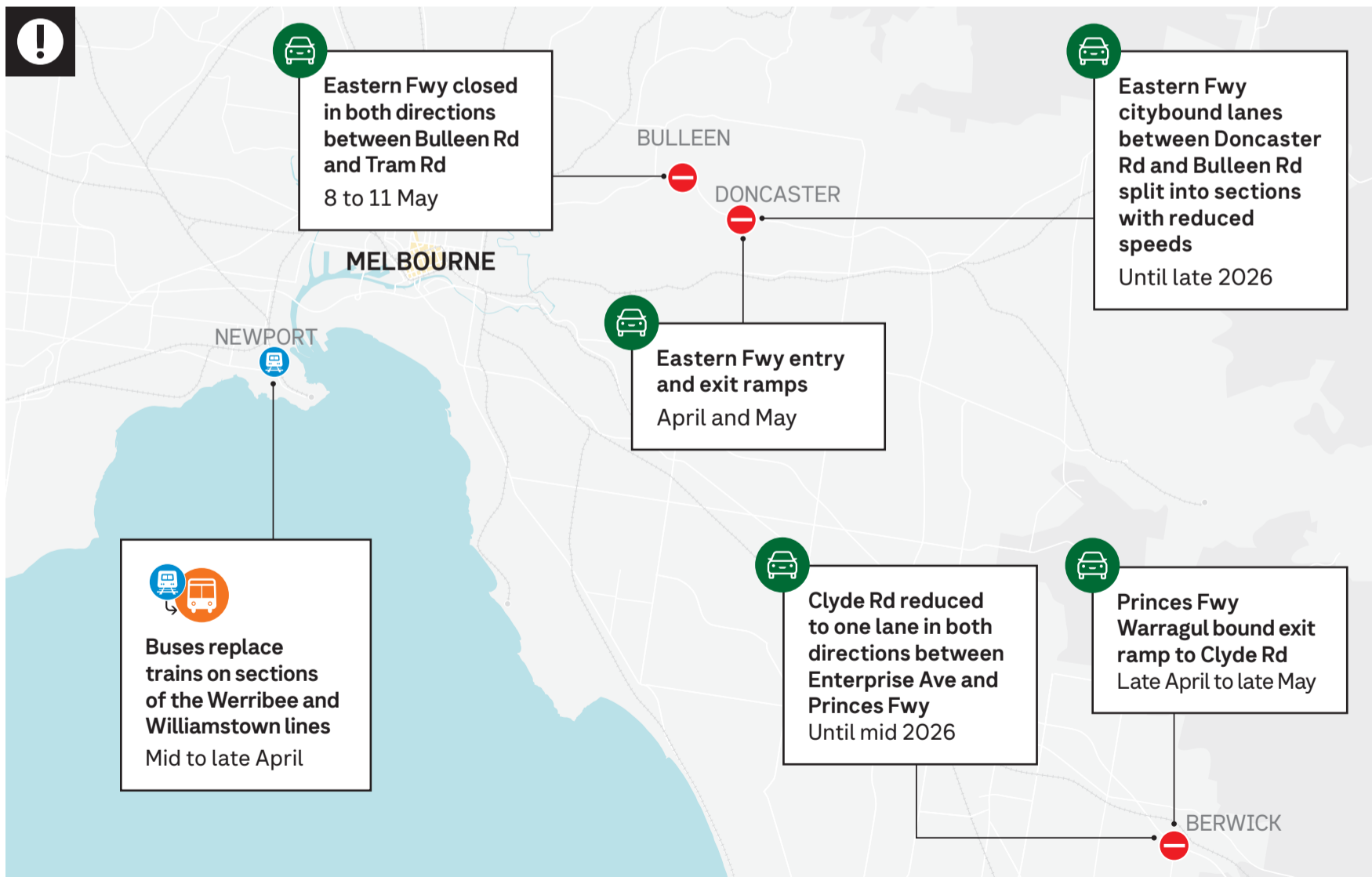
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# Heading to the Footy?

Victoria’s Big Build continues works across the state with buses replacing trains on the Werribee and Williamstown lines and road disruptions on Clyde Road and the Eastern Freeway. These works could impact your travel around Melbourne to attend AFL games.



Avoid delays and check before you travel at [bigbuild.vic.gov.au](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au)



## New Manager To Lead Immunisation services

Taking effect from 1 July, HCA Healthcare Australia (HCA) will take over Council immunisation services for residents in the Baw Baw Shire, City of Casey and Cardinia Shire, following endorsement of a new shared service contract late March by the three councils.

HCA will provide all immunisations covered by the National Immunisation Program, including infant community sessions, school immunisations, municipal flu programs, and assessment and catch-up services.

Baw Baw Shire Council said the new contract will deliver greater efficiency and cost savings for the councils and improved health care for residents who will be able to attend immunisation sessions in any of the three municipalities, with the benefit of coordinated bookings and consent processes, and dedicated helplines.

The three councils currently have a shared contract with Kernow Environmental Services, to provide immunisation services in each of the municipalities.

With the current contract due to expire, it was an appropriate

time to review the service and consider any opportunities for improvement.

A comprehensive review was undertaken, which included community consultation to better understand the community's needs and how people use the service, resulting in an updated contract and scope for the service.

Council says that following a competitive tender process, HCA was chosen for its ability to meet the current and future needs for our growing communities.

Baw Baw Shire mayor, Cr Kate Wilson said, "Immunisation is a vital health service that is highly valued by the community as a key element in improving the overall health and wellbeing of our residents."

"We were also impressed with the range of programs that HCA will provide, which will contribute to improving overall health and wellbeing across our region and have a positive impact on the broader community."

Councils will work with the current provider, Kernow Environmental Services, to ensure a seamless transition and implement the change.

## Yarragon breaks record for Good Friday Appeal

The community of Yarragon raised a whopping \$61,281.56 for the Royal Children's Hospital's (RCH) Good Friday appeal.

It was the community's biggest effort yet, raising \$20,000 more than last year, and bringing the 12-year total to an incredible \$428,557.97.

The funds go towards supporting unwell children at the RCH, and their families.

Many local businesses and individuals put in time, effort, and donations and organised events to help contribute to the appeal.

Community Bank Trafalgar & District helped make this year's Easter egg hunt a huge success, with 160 children joining in the fun and more than \$2000 was raised on the day.

Yarragon Lions Club Australia and the Lions on Mane Op Shop, Yarragon were major sponsors.

Yarragon Hotel raised \$9500 throughout the year, Yarragon Bowls Club raised \$2991, Yarragon Men's Shed raised \$2500, and a local family with a daughter in the RCH raised more than \$2300 through their photography business - With love, Maisie.

Many other local businesses donated items which were raffled and auctioned at the Monster Raffle drawn at the Yarragon Hotel over the weekend, contributing \$18,588 to the final tally.

One of the main organisers of the appeal, Bree Wright, said she was speechless when they tallied the final amount.

"I was so surprised. I was thinking a few days before the Friday that it might start with a five. I couldn't speak when we realised how much it was."

"I was overcome with the amount of support we received, particularly with how

tough everything is at the moment," Ms Wright said.

"We are so grateful to every single person who has supported, donated, volun-

teered, and shown up over the years, it simply wouldn't be possible without the support of everyone."

Source: Warragul Gazette



Yarragon locals Bree and Maddi with Mel and Bec from Community Bank Trafalgar & District at this year's Easter Egg Hunt, which raised over \$2000, contributing to a whopping \$61281.56 raised by the Yarragon community for the Good Friday Appeal

## St Joseph's students celebrate Easter

By Katie Balfour



Jesus (Charlie) is laid in the tomb



Jesus (Charlie) dies on the cross



Jesus (Charlie) meets the women of Jerusalem. From left: Eleanor, Skyla, Zara, Lilly, Jack

Grade 6 students from St Joseph's Primary School, Trafalgar, delivered a powerful re-enactment of the events of Good Friday at St John's Church.

Their presentation, rich in reflection and reverence, deeply moved the audience.

The church was filled with students, families, and parishioners who gathered to share in the solemn and prayerful retelling of the Passion.

The performance offered a meaningful conclusion to the school term and provided a thoughtful transition into the Easter holidays.



Yarragon Station Gallery

Wednesday April 29 to Sunday, May 31, 2026

'Tickled Pink'

A Bbaa organised Art Exhibition and

'Reflections on Scotland'

Carol and Russell Monson



bawbawartsalliance.org.au for more details

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03 5174 7066 MelinaBathMLC

# What's new with animal treatment

By Dr Jared Waddell-Smith



The world of medicine and surgery is always changing and evolving, as new knowledge is gained and new products or pharmaceuticals are developed.

The following is a brief summary of some developments that have occurred in recent years which have improved the way we treat veterinary patients:

- constant glucose monitoring devices, which are stuck to the skin and give repeated values throughout the day and night, have largely replaced hospitalising dogs and cats for blood glucose testing;
- identifying allergic skin disease as the triggering cause in the vast majority of ear infection cases in dogs. Controlling the allergy with anti-inflammatory treatments results in reduction of

the yeast overgrowth and can sometimes return the ears to normal without antibiotic or anti-fungal drugs being required, and can also prevent new infections developing;

- medication to increase clearance of glucose gives us an alternative option for managing some feline diabetic cases without insulin injections;
- new drug choices for skin allergies, which can help us avoid the side effects that can occur with older steroid treatments;
- when dogs tear their cranial cruciate ligament (ACL tear), there is now good evidence that surgery to rotate

the bone at the end of the tibia close to the knee, gives better long term outcomes than older techniques, particularly in larger dogs. Dr. Jackson has trained in a technique called a TPLO and we are able to offer this surgery to select patients and avoid the need for referral;

- medication given prior to veterinary appointments and hospitalisations to reduce fear and anxiety. Despite best efforts to provide a calm environment, a clinical setting can be scary for our patients. There is good evidence to say that we can achieve better long term outcomes (i.e., less fearful patients), with a pro-

active approach to providing medication to reduce anxiety prior to appointments;

- monoclonal antibody treatments are targeted therapies which bind to and deactivate specific signalling molecules within the body. Currently available are three different medications targeting skin allergy (dogs) or pain from osteoarthritis (dogs and cats);

- compounding medication has become more popular. We are able to request for medications to be prepared in a specific way for a specific patient, such as getting a liquid form of medication which is usually only

available in a tablet form, or ordering a flavoured paste which is more palatable to a fussy patient; and

- there is an ever-expanding range of complex specialist procedures and diagnostic options becoming more readily available, offering the potential for treatment of conditions which were previously not able to be treated. Such conditions might include referral to ophthalmologists for surgeries such as cataract removal, neurologists for advanced imaging such as MRI, surgeons for spinal surgery, oncologists for anti-cancer treatments, and dentists for root canal treatments.

## Farewell to Arms

Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL secretary, Paul Altamore, a former warrant officer in the Australian Army, was farewelled from the Australian Defence Force on 27 March 2026, with a Regimental Dinner held at Kokoda Barracks in Canunga, Queensland.

Although warrant officers are members of the Sergeants Mess, the dinner, which included a number of officers and other ranks, was conducted in the Kokoda Barracks Officers Mess.

This was the culmination of 46 years' service in the Australian Army.

Paul enlisted in June 1980, and following service with the Royal Australian Corps of Infantry, transferred to the Australian Intelligence Corps.

During his Regular Army Service between June 1980 and July 2017, Warrant Officer Class One Altamore served in Land Command, Theatre and Strategic postings throughout Australia.

He also saw operational and active service in the South West Pacific, East Timor and the Middle East.

On discharge from the regular army, Paul transferred to the reserves where he was posted as an instructor at the Defence School of Intelligence in Kokoda Barracks, serving in this capacity, supporting instructional and training activities, from late 2017 up until March 2026.

Paul joined Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL Sub-branch in May 2019.

He was appointed its treasurer in 2021, serving in that

role until 2023, before becoming the sub-branch's secretary in 2024 and 2025.

At the sub-branch's recent annual general meeting last month and subsequent committee meeting to elect office bearers, Paul was re-elected as its secretary for another 12 months

Unfortunately no photos are available of Paul at the Regimental Dinner, as it is custom for attendees to leave their phones (and, therefore, their cameras) out of the way in case a phone rang during the Loyal Toast, or whilst the dining president is making his speeches, etc.



323127 Recruit Altamore, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, August 1980



Warrant Officer Class One Altamore, CSM. ANZAC Day at Vassey House, 2013



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# COUNCIL News

## FOGO kitchen caddies are coming!

This month, Baw Baw Shire Council will begin delivering kitchen caddies to households with a standard Council waste collection service as part of the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) program, which will commence in July this year.

Keep your eyes peeled for the caddies, which will also include a roll of certified compostable liners and an information pack.

Caddies can be used to collect and empty your food scraps into your existing green bin along with your garden clippings.

The introduction of the FOGO program will see the frequency of the green bin collections increase to weekly, while the red general rubbish bin will be collected fortnightly, as more than half of what is normally placed in the average red bin can be composted or recycled.

A new, local industrial composting facility in Morwell will process your FOGO materials into compost and soil conditioner.

For more information on this program, visit [www.bawbawshire.co/FOGO](http://www.bawbawshire.co/FOGO)

## Baw Baw Connect

Council currently has two community engagement opportunities open for consultation!

- **Draft Annual Budget 2026/27** (open until 14 May)
- **Draft Civic Arts and Public Arts Policy** (open until 13 May)

Visit [www.bawbawconnect.com.au](http://www.bawbawconnect.com.au) to Have Your Say, Your Way!



## Upcoming Events:

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



## Upcoming Council Meetings:

The following Council meeting will be held in May 2026 in the Fountain Room, West Gippsland Arts Centre.

**Wednesday 27 May – 5.30pm**  
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 2026, visit [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings)



# Farming News

The articles on this page are provided by Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action staff

## Managing pests and weeds from introduced fodder

If purchasing fodder to see the farm through to the autumn break, or build reserves coming into winter, don't forget to consider the increased risks of introducing pests and weeds to the property.

There are key steps that farmers should follow to minimise the risk of introducing and spreading unwanted weeds and pests.

To minimise the risk of these weeds and pests establishing across your farm, make sure all purchased fodder is fed in a designated containment area, feedpad or sacrifice paddock, which has been sited to mitigate risks.

Feeding out in restricted areas allows for better observation of any new plants germinating. It enables quick eradication and control of any weeds or pests that might emerge, therefore reducing the risk of these becoming established in the area.

If looking to source fodder from interstate, Agriculture Victoria is providing a free and tailored service to suppliers, transporters and

farmers to help them to efficiently navigate the permit requirements to bring feed into Victoria while managing biosecurity risks.

When purchasing feed, farmers are encouraged to request a Commodity Vendor Declaration with every load.

Commodity Vendor Declarations contain background information about the fodder source, including whether it has been sprayed or treated with chemicals that are still within a withholding period (WHP), export slaughter interval (ESI) or export animal feed interval (EAFI).

When buying from interstate, there are no restrictions or permit requirements for fodder coming from the Northern Territory (NT) or Tasmania (Tas).

Fodder coming from all other jurisdictions requires either a plant health certificate or a permit issued by Agriculture Victoria.

This is to protect Victoria from exotic pests and pathogens that could be spread by transported fodder, including:

- annual ryegrass toxicity – a seed-transmitted nematode found in Queensland (Qld), Western Australia (WA), South Australia (SA) and New South Wales (NSW)
- green snail – an invasive snail species found in WA
- red imported fire ant – an invasive ant species found in Qld and small zones in NSW
- electric ant – an invasive ant species found in Qld.

A plant biosecurity permit will be issued free of charge for fodder movement. If an inspection of fodder by Agriculture Victoria is required on its arrival to Victoria (which will be stipulated as a permit condition), the cost of this inspection will also be waived as part of the current drought support package.

For more information on entry conditions and documents required to move fodder, visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/drought-support/moving-hay-and-fodder-across-states](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/drought-support/moving-hay-and-fodder-across-states)

## Cool weather still driving hay fire danger

Cooler conditions across Victoria may suggest reduced haystack fire risk, but moist hay continues to heat internally and remains a significant hazard.

Producers are urged to maintain regular monitoring of baled and stacked hay, as no current technology reliably tracks internal hay temperatures.

Dairy Extension Officer, Michele Jolliffe said the real danger in hay is what you can't see, so regular checks remain the strongest protection against fire.

"Simple actions like testing temperatures and watching for warning signs can prevent a heating haystack from becoming a dangerous ignition," said Ms Jolliffe.

"Warning signs such as steam, roof condensation, mould, acrid smells or humid air near stacks should prompt immediate checks to prevent heat build-up and potential ignition.

"Most heating occurs within the first fortnight after baling, although hay can still reach ignition point up to eight weeks later especially during fluctuating autumn temperatures.

"Cooler weather can hide the risk, but moisture in hay can still spark trouble if vigilance drops," said Ms Jolliffe.

Using a crowbar inserted for two hours remains an effective temperature test, and a bar too hot to hold indicates a dangerous internal temperature above 70°C.

If hay is heating, stacks should be carefully pulled apart to release heat, with water supply and trained personnel on standby to prevent ignition.

Producers should avoid walking on stacks due to potential internal charring, any extra weight on the stack may cause the stack to collapse and cause serious injury.

If there is the slightest risk of a fire starting due to wet hay, never keep machinery in the hayshed and don't allow children to play in or near heating stacks.

Further information on hay fire risks is available on the CFA website, and seasonal support is accessible at [agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au) or by calling 136 186.

## Burn piles can be risk to stock

Farmers looking to ignite burn piles when fire restrictions are lifted are being urged to be cautious with stock.

Of particular concern are contaminants left in ash and debris from treated pine posts, which landholders may be burning after replacing fences damaged in recent fires.

Agriculture Victoria Veterinary Officer Dr Lydia Nicholson said a case near Wangaratta served as a sobering reminder of how well-intentioned actions can pose serious risks to livestock.

"During a disease investigation, several cattle were found dead after displaying severe neurological signs – staggering, blindness, and collapse," she said.

"Post-mortem examinations and laboratory testing were conducted, but the key breakthrough came during a discussion with the landholder.

"It was revealed that a bonfire had recently been lit on the property, and the burn pile included treated timber."

Treated timber, which is commonly used in fencing, yards, and landscaping, is often preserved with copper chrome arsenate (CCA), a

chemical that protects wood from rot and pests.

Dr Nicholson said CCA contains arsenic, which becomes significantly more toxic when the timber is burnt.

"Burning concentrates the toxin and leaves behind ash and debris that can be highly palatable to livestock. In this case, every animal that had access to the burn site died," she said.

"This tragic outcome highlights the importance of being vigilant about what goes into your burn piles. Even small pockets of contamination can lead to fatal consequences when stock gain access."

Landholders should also be aware that many common garden plants can be toxic to livestock and access can be fatal, particularly on small properties where animals may reach household gardens or where clippings are dumped into paddocks or burn piles.

Dried clippings can pose an even greater risk, as they often become more palatable while retaining toxicity.

Plants such as some sugar eucalypts, oleander, yew, foxglove and rhododendrons can cause severe illness or sudden death often affecting the heart, nervous system or gastrointestinal tract.

Recently, a case was investigated where garden clippings containing Oleander was placed on a burn pile resulting in multiple deaths of horses on a property.

For further information contact your local veterinarian or Agriculture Victoria veterinary or animal health officer.

Further information can be found at [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals)

## Drone operator fined following spray-drift incident

A south-west drone spraying business was convicted and fined \$15,000 in the Colac Magistrates' Court recently, as a result of charges being served relating to spray drift from aerial spraying via a drone.

Agriculture Victoria Manager of Regulatory Operations, Daniel Bode said remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) technology was becoming an increasingly important part of chemical users' toolkits.

"As use of these chemical application technologies increase, it's important for people to understand they carry similar risks to other application methods.

"The regulatory frameworks that are in place, including licencing requirements and restrictions on when and how these sprayers can be used, are there to help operators manage that risk," he said.

The magistrate stressed

that where modern technology such as drone spraying is used, wind speed must be very closely monitored and that readings must account for complex terrain.

His Honour further emphasised that a clear message needed to be sent regarding the importance of due diligence and careful decision-making when applying agricultural chemicals and noted the high maximum penalties applicable to the offences, observing that they reflected the seriousness with which the legislature regards breaches of this nature.

In May 2024, the company undertook aerial spraying at a property in Barongarook. Following the spraying, Agriculture Victoria investigated reports of grass along a neighbouring property's boundary fence turning yellow.

Around four hectares of land was damaged, resulting in around \$26,000 in costs to re-sow, replacement hay,

seed and fertiliser costs and loss of income.

An incident report concluded the spray drift occurred from chemical application due to factors including wind speed, holdfast rate, release height, droplet size and manual flight. As a result, the spraying affected plants or stock outside the target area.

"The risk of spray drift from an RPA or drone may be less than from a traditional aerial application method like fixed wing aircraft or helicopters, but the data modelling suggests it is still more than from ground-based spray units," Mr Bode said.

For more information about your obligations when applying chemicals from an RPA, visit

[agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/chemicals/licences-and-permits/licences-for-aerial-spraying-of-agricultural-chemicals](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/chemicals/licences-and-permits/licences-for-aerial-spraying-of-agricultural-chemicals)



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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
<b>Baw Baw Shire Council</b>			
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
<b>Members of Parliament</b>			
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
<b>Education / Childcare</b>			
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 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
<b>Sport</b>			
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	
<b>Other</b>			
Baw Baw Arts Alliance	Sue Murphy	Email: president@bawbawartsalliance.org.au Website: https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au/bcms/	0428 866 417
BawBaw Sustainability Network	Malcolm McKelvie	Email: bawbawnsn@gmail.com Website: bbsn.org.au Facebook: Baw Baw Sustainability Network	0490 485 370

BetterMental Together	Kerry Rantall	Email: bettermentall@gmail.com Website: https://bettermentall.com.au/	0477 115 666
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	
St. Jariath's Church (Yarragon)		Website: https://www.stjohnstrafalgar.com.au/	03 5633 1166
Trafalgar and District Community Homes Inc.	Geoff Hill	Email: TDCH@outlook.com.au	0499 004 299
Trafalgar Campdraft	Cheryl	Email: gcsecretary74@gmail.com Website: https://www.gippslandcampdraftingassociation.com/ Facebook: Trafalgar Campdraft Association Inc	0416 166 027
Trafalgar Cemetry Trust	Howard Jones	Email: trafalgarpubliccemetery@dcsi.net.au Website: https://australiancemeteries.com.au/vic/bawbaw/trafalgar.htm	03 5633 2282
Trafalgar CFA (non-emergency)		Facebook: Trafalgar Fire Brigade	03 5624 1900
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Trafalgar District News	Mick Bourke	Email: editor@trafnews.com	03 5633 2591
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/	0427 757 505
Trafalgar Opp Shop	Glenys Brennan	Email: glenys_barnyard@yahoo.com.au Facebook: Trafalgar Opp Shop	03 5633 2788
Trafalgar Police Station (non-emergency)		Email: TRAFALGAR.UNI@police.vic.gov.au	03 5633 1188
Trafalgar Probus Club	Glenda Mynard	Email: glendamtraf@gmail.com	0458 332 149
Trafalgar Public Hall	Tanya Stanley	Email: trafalgarpublichall@gmail.com	0409 015 662

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## 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
<b>Warragul Parkrun</b>	Every Saturday 8am	Brooker Park, Warragul
<b>Trafalgar Farmers Market</b>	First Saturday of Each Month	McGregor Park, Trafalgar
<b>Longwarry Fire Brigade Market</b>	First Sunday of Each Month	Longwarry Fire Station
<b>Rokeby Market</b>	Second Saturday of Each Month 8am to 12:30pm	Rokeby Recreation Reserve
<b>Warragul Farmers Market</b>	Third Saturday of Each Month	Logan Park Warragul
<b>Trafalgar Playgroup</b>	Every Thursday 9:30am to 11am	Scout Hall, Trafalgar
<b>GCS – Raising Awareness One Drive at a Time Inc</b>	Every Friday 11am to 3pm	Moe Neighbourhood House
<b>Croquet at the Traf Hub</b>	Every Saturday 10am	Traf Park Croquet Cub Ashby Street
<b>Try pickleball in Trafalgar</b>	Every Tuesday 6pm	Trafalgar High gym
<b>Parkrun Rokeby Crossover Rail Trail</b>	Every Saturday, 8am to 9.30am	Rokeby Crossover Rail Trail, 2 Ash Grove, Rokeby,
<b>Community Art Event: Mythological Creatures</b>	Saturday, 2 May 10am to 4pm	West Gippsland Arts Centre (Level 2), 1 Civic Place, Warragul
<b>Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid Information Session</b>	Tuesday, 5 May 3pm to 4:30pm	Walhalla Mechanics Institute, 98/108 Main Road, Walhalla
<b>Drouin Craft and Produce Market</b>	Saturday, 16 May 9am to 1pm	Civic Park, Young Street, Drouin
<b>Yarragon Community Craft &amp; Produce Market</b>	Saturday, 23 May 9am to 1pm	Waterloo Park Yarragon, Princes Highway, Yarragon
<b>Yarragon Arts Council</b>	Sunday, 24 May 3pm to 4pm	
<b>Ellinbank Farmers and Producers Market</b>	Saturday, 30 May 8:30am to 12:30pm	Ellinbank Public Hall, 10 Community Place, Ellinbank



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216 Commercial Road, Morwell VIC 3840  
 harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au  
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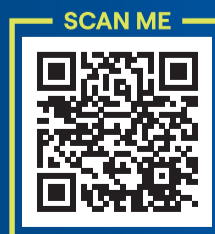


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# The Year That Was: Celebrating Success at Trafalgar Bowls Club

By Christopher Bortignon

Another successful year is in the books at Trafalgar Bowls Club.

Weekend and midweek pennant teams thrived, with both divisions 1 and 3 from Saturday and Division 1 from Tuesday making grand finals.

Unfortunately, the results on the final day of the year didn't go our way, but to earn spots in three grand finals is a mammoth effort to be celebrated.

Congratulations to Matt Coutts and Helen Robertson on becoming this year's Bendigo Bank Singles Champions, overcoming David Cook and Pat Tatterson respectively.

A special shout out also goes out to father and son David and Nathan Cook, on winning the Region Pairs Championship, going onto the State play offs in Bendigo in March. Details of the outcome of their effort will be in the next edition.

Trafalgar Bowls Club would like to thank all our members, sponsors and supporters alike for their contributions towards what was an excellent year for the club.

With preparations already begun for the next season, we welcome anyone interested in lawn bowls to pay us a visit and talk to one of our friendly members about getting involved.



Runner up David Cook and Singles Champion Matt Coutts



Winners of the Jenkins Hardware Triples. From left: Matt Schreyer, Ken Capper, Ted Kuklinksky) with Piper and Sarah Jenkins in front



Nathan and David Cook following their Regional Pairs win with their no. 1 fan, Helen



Runner up Pat Tatterson (marker Jo Reekie) and Singles Champion Helen Robertson



Men's Fours Champions. From left: Ted Kuklinksky, Mick Fleming, Matt Schreyer and Noel Rubenstein



Division 1 Mid-Week runners-up to Newborough. Back, from left: Adam Proctor, Matt Ogilvie, Ian Miles, Matt Coutts, Matt Schreyer, Paul Dawson. Front, from left: Mick Fleming, David Cook, Pat Tatterson, Noel Rubenstein, Nathan Cook, Sue Robinson

## Traf finishes runner-up in weekend and midweek pennant

By Michael Holroyd

Extensive rain meant the Saturday pennant grand finals of Strzelecki North were re-scheduled in March.

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 against Ian Miles and his rink of Noel Rubenstein, 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 de-

feated Matt Schreyer and his rink of Graham Hill, Ted Kuklinksky 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.

Midweek3 bowls grand finals were held Tuesday, 3 March.

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.

Sheryl Atkinson and her rink of Liam Jones, Alan Ryan and Scott Jones defeated Matt Schreyer and his rink of Paul Dawson, Mick Fleming and Adam Proctor 20-13.

Sammy Atkinson and her rink of Maureen Leighton, Bluey Flanigan and Alan Grubb defeated Nathan Cook and his rink of Pat Tatterson, Noel Rubenstein and David Cook 20-18.

Ian Miles and his Trafalgar rink of Sue Robinson, Matt Ogilvie and Matt Coutts defeated Phil Mustoe and his rink of Fran Clark, Paul Gallagher and Jo-Anne Michael 26-25.



Weekend Division 3 grand final runners-up team: From left: Col Carmichael, Heather Taylor Sue Robinson, Peter Dart Derek Jones, Barry Leicester, Paul Dawson, Peter Jonas Vial Clymo, Alex Brodie, Wayne Hurst, Kathy Geisler, Darvi Horner, Terry Robertson, Peter Watson Frank Farrugia, Luke McFarlane



Weekend Division 1 grand final runners-up team. Back from left: Kyen Jenkins, Matt Ogilvie, Mat Leicester, Adam Proctor, Matt Coutts, Tim Fraser, Tommy Lodge, Matt Schreyer, Chris Bortignon. Front from left: Peter Rosenboom, David Cook, Mick Fleming, Ted Kuklinksky, Noel Rubenstein, Ian Miles, Graham Hill, Nathan Cook.

# Cricket club presentation: Rhys is club champion

By Liam Durkin

Trafalgar Cricket Club held its presentation for season 2025/26 recently, with Rhys Holdsworth being recognised on multiple levels.

The senior presentation was held at the Criterion Hotel, where the cricket club took over running the pub's weekly Friday night raffle this season.

The pub and cricket club worked closely together to see the raffle well-supported, with strong patronage and sponsorship reciprocated through the local community.

The presentation provided an opportunity to thank

and acknowledge all who contributed during the season.

The players who committed were to be commended, for what was a challenging season at times as numbers fluctuated dramatically.

As a result, both senior teams missed finals. This was the first time in a decade Trafalgar did not have a senior team in finals.

The First XI finished mid-table competing in the Warragul District Cricket Association's highest grade (Division 1) with a five-win, seven-loss season an accurate reflection of its performances.

The Second XI (Division 3) won only three games, although it should be noted the side was virtually the Third XI (Division 5) from the previous season after a mass exodus of players on the eve of the season.

When greater availability allowed, performances improved, notably when the Second XI put up a score of nearly 200 against the eventual grand finalist in the last round before finals.

Unfortunately, lack of numbers meant the club had to withdraw its Third XI a season after winning the premiership. A quite ridiculous set of circumstances.

On a more positive note was some outstanding individual performances.

Club champion Rhys Holdsworth took another step toward the level of greatness, winning the league's Division 1 batting aggregate.

Rhys scored 585 runs at 53.18, with a highest score of 166.

The club had three other centurions this season.

Alex McKenna scored two tons, (112 not out vs Hallora and 126 vs Iona), while Aiden George became arguably the club's best multi-format play-

er, by scoring centuries in a one dayer (101 not out vs Hallora) and a twenty20 (116 vs Buln Buln). Aiden is the only player in club history to score a century in all three formats.

Aiden was also named in the All Gippsland XI for his performance at representative level.

Alex and Rhys were named in the WDCA team of the year.

At club level, Rhys won the Richard Errington Medal as First XI best-and-fairest for a record seventh time.

Unsurprisingly, he also won the George Browne Memorial as club champion.

David Bremner Junior was the most prolific bowler, winning his second First XI aggregate and taking his 200th senior wicket during the season, with best bowling of 6/19.

Brem stood up in the line of duty this season, bowling bulk overs in the absence of injured pair Jackson Noonan and Zack Brown.

Brown managed to take his 100th A Grade wicket during the campaign, and Holdsworth 250 well thought out wickets.

Steve Asmussen and Owen McLeod-Agland took

five wicket hauls for the Second XI.

The Second XI best-and-fairest was won by Shane 'Rabs' White, who also won the batting and bowling aggregate.

Rabs led the pub raffle with his trusty crew of Col Parnall, Adam Carlson, Stokesy et al.

Young gun Olly White was named rising star, and looks to have a bright future ahead.

Scott Moorhouse was a deserved winner of the Ray Burgess Perpetual Trophy for best club person.

Ray's grandson Cooper made the presentation to Moose, who again did a power of work behind the scenes either mowing the oval or cooking Thursday night meals.

Junior presentation was held separately, with all players from the under 11s, under 13s and under 17s congratulated for their efforts.

All players were to be commended for their sportsmanship, and the club hopes to see these kids continuing with their cricket in years to come.

The club received outstanding support from a number of local businesses,

who allowed the funding of a number of key measures.

The club purchased covers this season, and a new range of merchandise including baggies, sports bags, jumpers and two-day pants.

A huge thanks to Holdsworth Concreting, RJ Low Master Builders, CM & MF White Builders, C.G.C Brock Electrical, Community Bank Trafalgar & District, Directional Financial Planning, Kim McFarlane Criminal Lawyers, Valley Septics, The Spud Shed, Murphy's Meats, S&S Hire, Durkin Produce, Jade Macgregor Legal, K.A.T Electrical, Firewatch, Criterion Hotel Trafalgar, Trafalgar Lions Club and Trafalgar High School for their ongoing commitment.

The Trafalgar Cricket Club's next point of call will be the annual meeting at a date to be announced.

The club will keep an active presence in the offseason, with the pub raffle continuing.

Keep up to date with all things cricket by following the club's socials.

New players and members are most welcome.

For more information, email: [trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com](mailto:trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com)

## Finals action for Willow Groves' Wolves

By Liam Durkin

Willow Grove Cricket Club qualified for its first A Grade finals series since 1982 in March.

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 suburb 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.

Thing 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, women, veterans and juniors).



Trafalgar Cricket Club best club person for season 2025/26, Scott Moorhouse.



Trafalgar Cricket Club First XI centurions, Aiden George, Rhys Holdsworth and Alex McKenna.



Trafalgar Cricket Club Second XI five wicket hauls, Owen McLeod-Agland, Zack Brown and Steve Asmussen.



Trafalgar Cricket Club rising star, Oliver White.

# Junior Tennis End Of Season And Awards

By Luke Bryant

The 2025-26 junior tennis season finished with pizza, chips and a friendly hit of tennis by players and parents on Friday, 20 March.

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

There were four junior teams this season that competed in the Baw Baw Tennis Association.

The Section 3 team had a great year and got through to the grand final, but unfortunately was defeated in a close match, with both teams playing some incredible tennis on the day.

The Section 5 beginners section had a great year

with a modified format of easy-to-learn rules.

Josh Barrett was the worthy recipient of the 2025-26 Molly Ryan Encouragement Award.

Now in its 12th year, this award continues to be a fitting memorial to Molly Ryan's encouragement and support of Trafalgar's junior tennis players over many years.

Josh received his award in recognition of her great enthusiasm, encouraging his fellow team mates and enjoyment of the game.

Also receiving awards were Bella Dehaas (most determined), Oscar Barrett (most improved), Elliot Radic (best first year player) and James Bryant (most consistent) for the season.



Trafalgar Junior Players



Trafalgar Junior Tennis award recipients with awards: Bella Dehaas, Josh Barrett, Oscar Barrett, James Bryant



Trafalgar Section 3 team: James Bryant, Shailah Middleton, Hudson Dehaas and Oscar Barrett. Absent Roy Wang

# Yarragon Panthers Back Home

By Rob Cusworth-Warner

Many of our readers would be aware that local footy commences at 8.45 on a Saturday with the Under 16s and the gates manned by 7.00am.

Those at Yarragon will remember that the old clubrooms at Downton Park Reserve were demolished 16 months ago with temporary school classrooms, portable offices and shipping containers provided for players and umpires last season.

The players were required to walk half naked in the elements to get to showers.

This arrangement was not ideal but served the purpose for this season.

Baw Baw Shire Council advertised the contract for new digs, which was won by Kubale Constructions Pty Ltd in Warragul in January 2025.

At the time, the project was expected to be completed by approximately March 2026.

With early wet weather, progress was a little slow with the earth works.

By February this year, club personnel and interested locals kept a close eye on the building.

Despite official handover not yet achieved by early April, Kubale was very accommodating as the club was able to commence setting up some of the interior, particularly in the spacious kitchen area and club bar.

The first game was against neighbours Nilma Darnum on Saturday, 11 April.

In the week prior, and particularly from Wednesday to Saturday, many hands, including Kubale workers,

were required to clean up, and late on Friday night some intrepid committee members headed to their homes somewhat pleased to be ready to man the gate at 7.00 next morning.

There was a good crowd of supporters in attendance on a very cold wintery day that had the canteen people on their toes for the duration.

The club would be extremely pleased to be back to the position they enjoyed two years ago.

So sure of the commencement day, the committee had organised a social event in the new rooms which can accommodate 100 guests from 6.00 pm.

With Mojo Jacket providing the music a great night was had. Several players even got into Karaoke.



Works begin on the new Downton Park clubrooms in July last year

## Odd one out when it comes to rule changes

By Liam Durkin

Of course West Gippsland has to be different.

Local footy will see none of the new rule changes introduced at AFL level this season - except the West Gippsland Football-Netball Competition.

Players competing in West Gippsland will play last touch between the arcs, and six-six-six as part of the new rules.

West Gippsland has long harboured ambitions to overtake the Gippsland League as the 'premier' competition in the region.

By being the only competition in Gippsland to play 'new rules', it is obvious West Gippsland is trying to one-up its rival - however trivial.

Debate has raged for some years surrounding the standard of the two leagues.

West Gippsland is considered the strongest 'minor' league in Gippsland, and has arguably been strengthened thanks to member clubs not far from Melbourne's fringe in Nar Nar Goon and Philip Island.

It is generally accepted that the top West Gippsland teams would be competitive in the Gippsland League.

The bottom few sides however mean the drop off is significant.

Last season, there was a five-game gap between eighth and fifth in West Gippsland.

Former Drouin player and now Garfield coach Ed Mor-

ris offered the following measured and unbiased thoughts.

*"It's really good footy the West Gippsland, it's still a rung below the Gippsland League,"* he said in a recent interview on community radio station 3BBR.

*"Nar Nar Goon are super-strong, but I wouldn't say they'd be a top team straight away in the Gippsland League - they'd definitely be competitive and push finals."*

*"It's different footy as well. Gippsland is bigger grounds, little bit more skilled, West Gippsland's probably more contested."*

Often one way to judge the standard of play is to consider how long the ball spends on the ground in each competition.

That however can be predicted on conditions.

*"Mid Gippsland is far more physical than the others, due to heavier grounds and the rainfall they get. North Gippsland grounds are superb and don't get the rain which enables you to play a quick brand of footy,"* former Trafalgar and Churchill premiership player Chris Kyriacou said in a 2020 interview with the author.

Circumstances can also dictate how a game is played.

Former Carlton player Dylan Buckley, who played a one-off game for Mid Gippsland club Toora a couple of seasons ago, said it was the most difficult type of football he'd ever played in.

## Start of football and netball seasons

By Jamie Marslen

Trafalgar Football Netball Club would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our sponsors and supporters for their continued backing heading into the 2026 season.

Your support plays a vital role in allowing our club to operate, grow, and provide opportunities for players of all ages.

As we move through the early part of the season, it's pleasing to see all teams taking the field and representing the club with pride.

While it's still too early to fully judge performance outcomes, the signs are encouraging.

With a few games now under our belt, there is a strong sense that we are building to-

wards a positive and competitive year across both football and netball.

Off the field, the club continues to focus on creating a strong community environment.

We have a number of social events planned throughout the season and encourage everyone to get involved.

These events are a great way to connect with teammates, families, and the broader Trafalgar community.

To stay up to date with upcoming events, game day information, and club news, be sure to follow our Facebook page for regular updates.

We look forward to seeing everyone around the grounds as the season progresses.

## Goannas Compete In Recent Veterans Carnival

Trafalgar's Graeme Rankin was a member of the Gippsland Goannas Over-60 cricket team in March which participated in the annual Echuca Veterans cricket carnival during March.

Overall, 30 teams entered, with some of them being a combination of two or more of the veteran clubs spread around the state.

The Goannas were in Division 2, having spent most of

the previous 12 carnivals in Division 1.

In game 1 the Goannas played the Mornington team and made 6/125 from its 40 overs.

Mornington managed to pass the Goannas in the 39th over to finish at 3/126.

Game 2 at Cohuna was to be against Hamilton, but due to the adverse conditions the game did not go ahead.

In game 3, the Goannas batted first and compiled

7/205 against the Research team, which completed its innings at 7/193.

The Goannas had finished 2nd in its pool with these results and played off for 3rd/4th against Yarra Valley Vets (YV).

YV batted first and compiled 6/162, while the Goannas managed to have 3 of the first few bats retire.

Just as well, as the last three wickets were all run

out, allowing Graeme Ingle and Ray Smith to return to the crease and polish off the last 12 runs in the final couple of overs.

The Goannas finished at 8/166.

The Goannas thus finished 3rd in Division 2, and will remain there for the next carnival.

Best performances for the Goannas with the bat were Ingle, with three innings

for 65 runs and two not out scores, Smith, three innings, three not outs and 64 runs, Murray Moore, three innings, three not outs and 56 runs, Neil Meredith three innings, one not out and 51 runs, and Jim Armstrong batted three times for one, not out and 69 runs.

With the ball, Meredith took 3/58 for the week, Rob Bacchetti 3/57 from two games and Smith 2/44, while

Graeme Rankin, Rino Metlikovec, Ingle, Andy Slevin and Armstrong all picked up one wicket.

Bernie Symons and Metlikovec both broke down in Game 1, and Bacchetti and Ian Gibson were drafted into the team for the final two games.

Peter Anton, Ray Floyd, Col Carmody and Chris deVent were the other Goannas to take part in the carnival.



The Goannas winning Day 3 team



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