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July 2026 - Edition 287

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Darren awarded OAM

by Bonnie Collings

Trafalgar resident Darren Wallace was awarded with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in last month's King's Birthday honours, recognising his service to the local community through a range of roles over the past 35 years.

When he first learnt he would be receiving the award, Darren said he had to read it a few times to take it all in.

"As the King's Birthday approached, I've had mixed emotions (about the award) including imposter syndrome," he said.

"On reflection, when I look back at the past 35 years, what I've achieved has obviously ticked the criteria boxes of the award. I've written many CFA award applications-I just never considered someone would write one for me, so thank you, whoever you are."

Darren's OAM recognised his lengthy service with the CFA, both with the Trafalgar brigade and as a member of the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria board, his time on school council for Trafalgar primary and high schools, involvement with the Community Bank Trafalgar and District, and his service as a Baw Baw Shire councillor.

Darren became involved with the school council and CFA about 35 years ago, both for very different reasons.

"At the time my son was starting primary school and I thought, if the teachers could see that I'm interested in my child's education,

then they would be too," Darren explained.

"That turned into 15 years all up. Six on the primary school council and nine on the secondary school council, including five years as school council president."

Darren said there were many highlight moments.

"I was on the primary school council when the roof went from flat to pitched, I was on the secondary school council when the funding was secured to extend the ECA centre, and I was school council president during the 50-year celebrations of the school."

Joining the CFA was a different story, one born out of a simple favour for some friends.

"Two of my mates who I played tennis within Trafalgar were both members of the fire brigade running team," Darren recalled. "The only issue was, I'd need to join the brigade to be able to run."

Six years later, Darren was secretary of Trafalgar Fire Brigade. Another six years on, he was named brigade captain, a position he held for 10 years.

Darren is now District 9 State councillor and sits on the Board of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria, the peak body representing CFA volunteers.

"Becoming captain of the Trafalgar brigade was certainly a highlight along with leading a team of 15 local CFA members to fight the Tasmanian fires in 2015," Darren said.

"We were located in the region that suffered the most damage, the area between Dunalley and Eaglehawk Neck."

Darren served the east ward on Baw Baw Shire Council from 2016 to 2024.

He said standout moments included opening the Turra Pavilion and creating a K-12 school precinct with the opening of a new kindergarten.

Another highlight was chairing the Yarragon development committee, which worked through planning and development of the Angela Malacarne Park and Downtown Park Pavilion Upgrade.

When asked what inspired him to serve the Tra-

falgar community, Mr Wallace said he wasn't sure, just that it was something he did.

"I'm not sure, many might say it's some form of illness," he joked.

"Seriously though, I'm born and bred Trafalgar, it's just in me."

Darren encouraged more people to volunteer in their community, but emphasised the importance of having support from the people you love.

"For those who want to get involved, do it. You learn so much about yourself and your community along the way," he said.

"You don't do this alone; (you need to) get your family's support as they will spend



(Editor: Darren joins a select group of Trafalgar residents who also have been awarded the OAM after their names; they being Mick Bourke, Dr James Brown, Michael Fozard, Dorothy Hoare, Ray James, David Williams, Dookie Brock (dec'd) plus a former Trafalgar resident, Evelyn Margaret Mary 'Judy' Hall).

many hours or days without you, in my case. I couldn't have done any of this without the support of my wife and family. I may have done the work, but I believe they deserve the award."

Source: Warragul Gazette

Travel by train on your bank card

By Aidan Knight

It's finally here. Gippsland commuters travelling between Southern Cross and Traralgon are now able to tap on and off V/Line services with their phone wallet, smartwatch, or physical bank card.

Following an initial test phase limited to the Craigieburn, Upfield, Ballarat and Seymour lines, which was cancelled after two months for the free-travel period brought in as a fuel-cost relief by the state government, 'tap and go' is now available on a further 11 lines.

Before that, a six-month pilot ran exclusively on local buses within the city of Wangaratta, concluding in May 2025.

Alongside Gippsland and the four former trial lines, customers travelling on the Sunbury, Pakenham, Cranbourne, Metro Tunnel, Werribee, Williamstown, Sandringham, Frankston, Stony Point, Bendigo and Geelong lines can now get to where they need to go without the use of a myki.

This came into effect on 7 June.

The remaining Metro lines (Mernda, Hurstbridge,

Lilydale, Belgrave, Alamein and Glen Waverley) were completed on 14 June.

The access is currently limited to trains, with further announcements in coming weeks regarding expanded rollout until all trams and buses are also included.

"Tap and go means one less card in your wallet and one less thing to worry about on your journey," state Transport Minister Gabrielle Williams said.

"Victorians are already saving money with half-price fares. Now we're making public transport easier to use too."

The cost of the project is reported to be \$2.8 billion, with completion expected in 15 years, following a delay attributed to the contracted upgrade company, Conduent, shifting its business focus away from public transit midway through the revamp.

All 'tap and go' fares are charged at full price, so concession users, seniors, and youth under 18 are advised to continue using their designated myki when travelling.

Anyone who prefers to continue using myki can still do so.

Source: Latrobe Valley Express

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Traf District News

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

Traf District News is published by Traf News Inc. Approx. 3,400 copies of Traf District News are distributed each month to homes and businesses.

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ISSN 1444.1608

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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

Dear Editor
Since the Federal Budget, I've spoken to many hurt and angry veterans across our community. Their message is clear.

The Federal Labor Government's decision to impose a \$5,000 cap on allied services for veterans in its Budget is a terrible decision.

Australia asks extraordinary things of the men and

women who serve our nation. In return, our commitment to them must not end when they take off the uniform.

Many veterans rely on allied health services as an essential part of managing their service-related injuries and conditions.

Allied health services are not a luxury - they are essential.

I've listened as those with complex or chronic needs

have told me a \$5,000 cap won't go close to covering the care they require.

These veterans may be forced to go without treatment, worsening their conditions or the burden of care falling to families and household budgets.

Let me be very clear - I strongly oppose and will fight against a \$5,000 annual cap on allied health services

for veterans, and so will the Coalition.

Already in Parliament I've called on the Albanese Government to immediately reverse this decision.

To our veterans in Monash - you fought for our country, and I will fight for you.

Mary Aldred MP
Federal Member for Monash

Meet the staff

Colin Matthies – Book-keeper

Colin is a semi-retired accountant, who joined the Traf News team this year alongside his similar role with the Trafalgar - Thorpdale RSL.

His family moved to Trafalgar over 20 years ago to access Trafalgar High School, rather than their youngest son traveling in by train from Morwell.

At this time Colin took on his own private bookkeeping business, after leaving the motel he and his wife Tracey

owned and operated in Morwell for 9 years

Prior to this he was employed in local government as a financial manager, both at Leongatha then Maffra.

Like many accountants, he found himself treasurer of various groups, in particular, Morwell Rotary Club within which he has been presented with the esteemed Paul Harris Sapphire Award.

"Rotary has offered friendship, leadership and service to others, which I have enjoyed over the years," Colin said.

He continues to support the annual Gippy Rocks Festival, a festival featuring music and dances of the 50s.

He and his wife Tracey having been keen dancers for over 20 years.

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House and the Lions Wilderness Village in Licol also feature as interests, alongside bush camping and bike riding.

"There is nothing like sitting around a campfire in the bush, with some friends, refreshments and telling stories to relieve stress," reflected Colin.



Thanks for contributing your monthly balance sheet and financial report to the Traf News Inc committee of management Colin.

Aged Care community consultation in Trafalgar

The Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the Department) seeks to publish a regional, rural and remote aged care policy framework and work plan, to ensure accessible, safe and quality aged care services regardless of where a person lives.

The Department is interested visited Trafalgar on 17 April to understand any barriers or gaps which may exist, to better understand the preferences of senior Australians for aged care services, and to explore innovative and place-based solutions to address gaps and meet needs

An invitation was issued to all residents over 65, their relatives neighbours and friends.

This meeting was attended by about 25 people- some with issues regarding the delivery of aged care in our town and region and others seeking information.

Chief among the concerns was the matter of transport-

once you have to leave the town for appointments, etc., it becomes very difficult to travel if you no longer drive.

The re-introduction of a community bus was strongly recommended.

Another issue was the need for consistency in delivery of care, both of personnel and time.

It was pointed out that older people do have lives to live and do not sit at home just waiting for their provider to turn up.

Also noted was the discomfort some felt when a stranger appeared at their door for personal care or domestic assistance, and of the time taken from the service to explain to someone new how the service worked.

Assessment for in-home care and care packages was another area of concern and frustration for people, particularly in regard to reliance on computer skills, etc., for communication and the de-personalisation of systems.

For example, assessment by phone is a growing trend in regional areas but seems inappropriate for assessing an older person's degree of immobility, general health and care needs.

It was also something unknown to the two department representatives who took this information back to Canberra for discussion.

All in all, the meeting was worthwhile as it gave people a chance to say how they were finding aged care here and

offer some suggestions as to how it might be improved.

The meeting in Trafalgar was part of a consultation process being carried out across the regional Australia.

If there are people out in the local community that may have other issues or concerns, please send your details to Rotary Club of Trafalgar, Michael Fozard on 0418 513 092 or email mrfozard@bigpond.com so that they can be passed on to the department.

Distribution Volunteers needed

Due to shorter days and winter travellers, we have several distribution areas needing volunteers, either as regular helpers or for call in when others are unavailable.

If anyone is keen to help by walking the streets of Anzac Road through to Summerlea

Street, we'd be grateful.

Special thanks to Helen Spackman who has regularly delivered a large number of papers over the last few years.

If you are interested, please contact Judy Bishop on secretary@trafnews.com or mobile: 0402 204 770

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Council is neglecting recreation precinct

By Jamie Marslen

For far too long, Trafalgar Recreation Reserve has been consistently overlooked when it comes to meaningful funding opportunities and infrastructure investment from Baw Baw Shire Council.

This is despite council itself recognising the importance of the precinct two decades ago.

The Trafalgar community released a strategic plan for the recreation precinct in February 2005 and presented it to council in April of that year with a recommendation that a more detailed plan be developed by council.

Baw Baw Shire Council commissioned the Trafalgar 2030 Land Use Strategy Land Review Background Report in February 2006, which included a recreation needs analysis.

Coincidentally, the Turra farm adjoining the recreation reserve came on the market in 2006.

The community members that developed the 2005 plan subsequently successfully submitted to council later that year that it purchase the farm.

Once purchased, the community members then had to persuade council to not sell half the land to recoup some of the purchase price.

As an aside, the purchase of the Turra farm would not have been possible without the Trafalgar community having prepared its 2005 recreation precinct strategic plan.

Council subsequently commissioned the Trafalgar Recreation Precinct Master Plan, which was formally adopted by Council on 25 March 2009, which was later reviewed in 2014 and 2019.

Both the 2009 masterplan and the two reviews identified a wide range of significant infrastructure needs and long-term priorities for the reserve, including:

- A new senior-sized oval (165m x 135m);
- Refurbishment of the existing main pavilion;
- Upgrades to meet AFL, cricket and netball requirements for female-friendly change rooms and umpire amenities;
- External access toilets and improved social spaces;
- Investigation into sustainable water solutions for the reserve;
- New enclosed synthetic cricket training nets/multi-use facility;
- Formalised parking for 200 vehicles on the western side of the reserve;
- Traffic management and safety improvements around Oval 1;
- Consideration of a central playground location when renewed;
- Investigation of an additional entry from Contour Road;
- Oval 1 improvements including automatic irrigation, perimeter fencing and drainage works;
- Additional parking and potential CFA training facilities on the eastern side of the soccer precinct.

The reality is that very little of this vision has been delivered.

What the community ultimately received was were new soccer facilities in 2012

and the new Turra pavilion, in 2020.

The Turra pavilion is now utilised by the boxing gym, yet it still faces an empty paddock where the planned oval was never constructed.

The facility was originally intended to service future users including the Trafalgar Junior Football Club and Trafalgar Cricket Club, however much of that broader vision has effectively been mothballed.

Council often points to works completed between 2014 and 2018 as evidence of progress. These included:

- A new player and officials shelter at the netball courts;
- Playground fencing upgrades;
- Reserve Road entry works including kerb and channel, fencing, drainage and footpaths;
- A gravel carpark servicing approximately 50 vehicles;
- LED netball lighting upgrades;
- Soccer pitch lighting improvements.

While appreciated, these works fall a long way short of the commitments and expectations outlined in the adopted master plan.

Even some of the completed works are now showing significant decline.

The playground fence, once highlighted as an upgrade, is now in such poor condition that parents are forced to stand guard to prevent children from running onto the roadway through damaged sections of fencing.

Equally concerning is council's failure to follow through on its own governance commitments.

The Recreation Strategy 2017–2027 specifically states:

'Review all Recreation Reserve Master Plans every four (4) years to update outstanding recommendations and to ensure they are still relevant.'

The strategy further states that regular reviews are necessary to ensure plans remain current and responsive to the needs of council, clubs and the broader community.

Despite this commitment, no four-year review has occurred since the 2019 update.

Many within the community feel this is because a genuine review would highlight the lack of investment and long-term commitment into the Trafalgar Recreation Precinct when compared

with other sporting facilities across the shire.

What makes this situation even more frustrating is that the reserve continues to survive largely because of volunteers.

The precinct operates under an overarching reserve committee made up of one council representative and delegates from each user group including senior football, junior football, cricket, soccer, boxing and the Lions Club.

The main oval, surrounding ground and netball facilities are maintained almost entirely by volunteers from either the Trafalgar Football Netball Club from April to October or the Trafalgar

Cricket Club from November to March.

These volunteers undertake tasks including mowing, whipper snipping, herbicide spraying, fertiliser applications, seeding, verti-draining, selective weed spraying, branch collection and general maintenance.

Trafalgar is a proud sporting and community town.

Our clubs continue to do the heavy lifting, our volunteers continue to show up, and our user groups continue to work together for the benefit of the wider community.

The question now is whether council is prepared to show the same level of commitment to the future of the Trafalgar Recreation Precinct.



Masterplan map showing current and proposed recreation facilities

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Thorpdale Potato Festival to celebrates 50 years

The Thorpdale Potato Festival is preparing to celebrate an incredible milestone.

It's fifty years since the first festival began in 1977, with festivities set for 7 March 2027.

The festival committee is currently working behind the scenes to bring this special event to life, including securing sponsorships to support what has become an iconic celebration.

The festival not only showcases Thorpdale's proud potato-growing heritage and surrounding community, but also gives back, with proceeds reinvested into the community to support local groups and initiatives.

The festival draws visitors from far and wide, all coming to experience the unique charm of Thorpdale.

For this 50th anniversary, plans are underway to honour the festival's rich history, while also celebrating how far it has come.

To help bring this history to life, the committee is calling on the community.

If you have any old photos, memorabilia, or keepsakes from past festivals, it would love to hear from you.

These items will help create a special display, showcasing the stories and memories that have shaped the festival over the years.

Let's come together to celebrate the Thorpdale Potato Festival and the community that makes it so special.

If you have something you're happy to share, please contact the committee at hello@thorpdalepotatofestival.com.au or via its Facebook page.



David Lloyd in the potato sack race with Jack Farrell behind him in the 1986 Festival

Strong economic future the focus of new four-year strategy

A new strategy has been endorsed by Baw Baw Shire Council (council) setting out a clear road map to grow the local economy and tourism sector over the next four years and beyond.

Set to put Baw Baw Shire on the map, the *Economic Development and Visitor Economy Strategy 2026-2030* will guide council's work to support local industry, small businesses, attract investment, create new jobs and grow local tourism.

Unanimously endorsed by councillors at the 27 May council meeting, the new strategy has been developed in close consultation with community and industry to ensure a collaborative approach towards a strong economic future.

The strategy provides a framework for strategic planning and decision making that balances the needs of the community, local businesses and the environment, ensuring economic growth and prosperity that benefits the entire community.

The five key pillars of the strategy are:

1. Diversify and strengthen the local economy
2. Develop regional workforce and skills capacity
3. Plan for sustainable growth and infrastructure
4. Strengthen the visitor

economy and tourism infrastructure

5. Champion sustainability and economic resilience

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Cr Kate Wilson said a prosperous and resilient local economy was at the heart of the new strategy.

"Over the next four years, we will work closely with local businesses, tourism operators, community groups and industry stakeholders to ensure our local economy continues to grow and thrive for the benefit of all", said Cr Wilson.

"This strategy is about building a strong and sustainable future for Baw Baw. Agriculture and tourism has long been the backbone of our economy, but as we continue to grow we need to realise more opportunities to bring new businesses, jobs and training opportunities to the region.

Council will collaborate across sectors, communities, industries and all levels of government to create opportunities, foster shared prosperity and a robust, forward-looking economy that reflects local strengths and responds to local needs.

Key partners include Agriculture Victoria, Destination Gippsland, Food and Fibre Gippsland, Lardner Park, Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort among many others, as well as state and federal government departments.

Water supply remains secure despite drier winter forecast

Gippsland Water's water supply systems remain in a strong position despite a drier winter outlook, as El Nino conditions are predicted to reduce the likelihood of rainfall.

While the Bureau of Meteorology has indicated that winter rainfall has a fair chance of being below average across Gippsland Water's service area, current forecasts indicate the coming winter is unlikely to be among the driest on record.

Managing director Sarah Cumming said the region's

drinking water supply systems were well-placed to meet customer demands.

"Our supply systems are well-prepared, and our water storages are at healthy levels, with Moondarra at 90 per cent and our portion of Blue Rock at 79 per cent capacity," Ms Cumming said.

"Careful planning, ongoing investment in infrastructure and active storage management allows us to remain resilient, even when conditions are drier than usual."

Ms Cumming said while winters typically bring lower

water use, milder conditions could drive higher demand this year.

"It's important that we all work together to keep our water storages stable and we remind our customers to follow the permanent water saving rules and remain mindful of water use all-year round."

Permanent water saving rules apply year-round and include:

- Always using a trigger nozzle on hand-held hoses.
- Watering gardens with a sprinkler only between

6pm and 10am. Gardens can be watered at any time using a hand-held hose, a watering can or a bucket.

- Water must not be used to clean hard surfaces such as concrete, paths and driveways.
- All fountains and water features must use recirculated water.

For more information on Gippsland Water's supply, visit www.gippswater.com.au/watersupply.



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Mirboo North-Trafalgar Road petition

A petition has begun to force the state government to take immediate action by proving funding to deliver a permanent infrastructure solution to the section of road known as ‘The Thorpdale Slip’ on Mirboo North-Trafalgar Road, eight kilometres south of Trafalgar.

Organised by Darnum resident who regularly uses the road, Irene Broadbent, the petition draws the attention of the Victorian parliament’s Legislative Assembly (lower House) to the poor state of the Thorpdale slip, which, according to the preamble in the petition, continues to worsen due to the lack of appropriate funding.

Locals say it has been an issue for more than 50 years.

Ken Rogers, who lives just off the road south of The Thorpdale Slip with his wife Sue, travels on the section of the road at least two times most days of the week.

“The Thorpdale Road slip must be one of Victoria’s longest running road problems,” said Ken.

“For more than 50 years we’ve watched surveys and studies come and go, yet the slip remains and the road continues to move sideways down the hill.

“What frustrates locals is that it is the gateway to one of the state’s most

fertile and picturesque farming districts.

“Victoria can build tunnels beneath the Yarra River and deliver major engineering projects, yet a permanent solution to this landslip still seems beyond reach.

“After half a century, locals are entitled to ask when will the talking stop and the fixing start, concluded Ken

Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) advised that landslide activity affects the area around Mirboo North-Trafalgar Road and requires detailed assessment and consideration for repairs, and that routine maintenance crews have undertaken recent works

along this location and continue to conduct fortnightly inspections of the road to monitor hazards.

A DTP spokesperson said, “Investigations into short and long-term plans for Mirboo North-Trafalgar Road are currently underway.

“This is a complex site, with a long history of movement, and a thorough investigation is required to ensure a safe and sustainable solution is identified.

“We will continue to make sure people can keep moving while these investigations continue”.

A permanent solution to the issue is required as the Thorpdale Slip section of the

road is subject to constant movement, which is said to be pushing the critical road down the hill.

Consequently, DTP is constantly required to rebuild the section of road using gravel and temporary solutions.

This is considered a dangerous section of the road for local users, such as school buses, heavy vehicles, primary producers and other road users that have no alternative route through the area.

Thorpdale and the surrounding areas are some of the most important primary production areas in Victoria, with 70 percent of brushed potatoes transported through the area annually.

The failure to permanently repair and upgrade The Thorpdale Slip section of the road is placing countless Victorians who use the road at risk every day according to the petition’s preamble.

Interested people who wish to sign the petition on-line can do so by typing in ‘Mirboo North-Trafalgar Road petition’ into their favourite search engine.

Alternatively, hard copies of the petition can be found in Trafalgar at BKs, IGA and The Spud Shed supermarket, as well as Thorpdale bakery, craft shop and hotel, plus

Gippsland Food and Wine at Yarragon.



Trafalgar’s Ken Rogers travels over The Thorpdale Slip at least two times on most days of the week

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No renewable energy zones in our backyard

Despite Baw Baw Shire not being declared one of Victoria's renewable energy zones (REZ), battery storage systems are planned within the shire.

REZ areas are identified as the best places for wind, solar and battery projects according to VicGrid, which has declared the Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone.

Located between Morwell and Sale, it's been identified as the area best suited for wind, solar and battery projects in Gippsland.

The Gippsland Shoreline Renewable Energy Zone has also been declared.

This zone is not designed to host onshore wind, solar or battery projects.

Instead, it's a defined planning area for offshore wind developers to run underground cables from the shoreline to the electricity grid.

There are currently three proposed battery energy storage systems (BESS) in Traf District Ness' catchment area:

- Darnum BESS (Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia), which is a 200 megawatt (MW) / 800 MWh battery at Shady Creek/Darnum. It will connect to the existing 220 kV transmission infrastructure.
- North Yarragon BESS (ZEBRE) is a 210 MW battery proposal at Yarragon North.
- Trafalgar East BESS (ib vogt) will be a 360 MW battery proposal on an approximately 18-hectare site.

Ward Councillor Brendan Kingwill said, "Baw Baw Shire Council has repeatedly stated that the locations of the proposed batteries are unsuitable.

"This prime agricultural land should be protected.

"With bushfire overlays, protected species and farming activities all at risk, it is against our planning scheme to introduce industrial activities into the area. No other development is allowed in these locations

"These battery projects have confirmed, once operational, that it will only create two on-going jobs.

"So their argument for employment is not supported.

Cr Kingwill said, "This is not a renewable debate, it's about protecting our food chain and the rights of the surrounding community".

VicGrid is the Victorian Government body responsible for planning, procuring and managing the state's electricity transmission network and REZs.

As coal-fired power plants retire, VicGrid is coordinating the transition to renewable energy.



Map provided by VicGrid showing Gippsland's renewable energy zone (grey shaded area) and shoreline renewable energy zones (blue shaded area)

BESS application for Traf East

A planning permit application lodged with the State Government has outlined plans for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and hybrid solar farm at Trafalgar East.

The development was flagged to nearby residents late last year and was followed by community consultation before the formal planning application was lodged with the Department of Transport and Planning.

The application was on public exhibition until 29 June.

Developer, ib vogt Development Australia Pty Ltd (ib vogt), is proposing the two stage project be devel-

oped across two properties with a combined area of 360 hectares.

Stage one, at 59 Rowells Road, includes installation of a 360-megawatt (MW) BESS, a substation, and a 220 kilovolt (kV) connection to the existing AusNet transmission line.

The property is currently used for growing commercial feed for cattle and sheep, and includes a goat dairy.

The Trafalgar East Hybrid Solar Farm will be stage two of the project and includes installation of an additional 200 MW BESS and a 200 MW solar power generation array configured with a single 200MW point of connection.

Stage two will be located across the remainder of the Rowells Road property and an adjacent property at 363 Embletons Road which is currently used for grazing beef cattle.

Community consultation identified several key themes reflecting community priorities and concerns. Almost 80 per cent of people identified fire risk as the major concern while 77.8 per cent were concerned about use of agricultural land for the development.

Some participants supported renewable energy development, recognising the role of battery storage in supporting energy re-

liability and the broader energy transition.

ib vogt acknowledged opposition to renewable energy projects had increased among farming communities across Victoria, with several advocacy groups arguing such developments threatened agricultural livelihoods.

Referring to the Gippsland's Views 2024 report, the application documents stated there was a more 'balanced perspective' in Gippsland with many residents recognising the environmental benefits of renewable energy.

Survey data also suggested Baw Baw Shire residents held a slightly more positive outlook with 44 per cent of

respondents believing their local area would benefit from the energy transition, compared to 42 per cent in Gippsland.

Addressing concerns about the impact on the loss of agricultural land, the ib vogt application stated Baw Baw Shire had 89,885 hectares of agricultural land, most of which was used for livestock grazing.

"A loss of 18 hectares as a result of the proposed BESS development represents 0.02 per cent of the total agricultural land" in the shire.

ib vogt said community feedback had led to refinements to impact management measures, commitments to ongoing engagement, and consideration of community benefit initiatives.

The application included a number of expert assessments including fire management, noise and traffic.

The application acknowledged there was 'stress and anxiety' among nearby residents and property owners about potential bushfire risk.

The fire assessment report determined there was a low to moderate fire risk within the BESS and the landscape was well suited to minimise fire entering the site.

The report stated the low risk was largely due to design considerations including an integrated fire detection and suppression system within each battery unit, multiple

above ground firefighting storage tanks and a minimum 10-metre perimeter fire breaks and vegetation clearance zones.

A noise assessment prepared by WSP consultants stated the predicted noise levels from stage one, and cumulatively from stages one and two, determined noise-sensitive areas complied with Environment Protection Authority noise limits for day, evening, and night periods.

ib vogt said the project would "contribute to the emerging character of the site and surrounds as a renewable energy hub through effective land use planning, whilst enabling the rural and agricultural character of the wider area to be maintained."

The application stated the project allowed for immediate access to existing high capacity transmission infrastructure, removing the requirement for new transmission lines; and, achieved good separation from nearest neighbours, with the closest neighbour about one kilometre away.

"The project footprint is largely utilising heavily disturbed flat land currently hosting industrial scale sheds, and associated agricultural infrastructure. Accordingly there are minimal visual or environmental impacts," the application documents stated.

Source: Warragul Gazette

Double Standards

A Shady Creek farmer has criticised the 'double standards' of planning that allow for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to be developed on prime agricultural land.

Anthea Day and Trevor Saunders operate family farming operations in the Yarragon and Shady Creek area.

They fear their properties will be impacted by two proposed BESS developments by ZEN Energy in Yarragon-Shady Creek Road, Yarragon and Samsung in Darnum-Shady Creek Rd, Shady Creek.

Ms Day said they had recently sought two developments on separate properties, both within the farming zone, and both had been refused.

Yet she said, it appeared an industrial style development could seek approval.

On their 445 hectare Araluen Road property, Ms Day said they wanted to develop another farm storage shed, located in a cluster of existing sheds including the dairy.

However, because of the recently approved sand resource area overlay, they have been told it would not be approved.

Similarly, on their Yarragon-Shady Creek Road property, where they milk 500 cows, they sought to develop a second house to accommodate staff.

She said the 260 hectare property was on two titles and the existing house would be located on a separate title to the proposed house for staff.

Ms Day said they would have accepted consolidating the titles.

Instead, they were told the application for a second house would be refused because it was on prime agricultural land.

"It's double standards in planning.

"There are four generations of our family who have farmed this land and this (the BESS development) will tear our lives apart," she said.

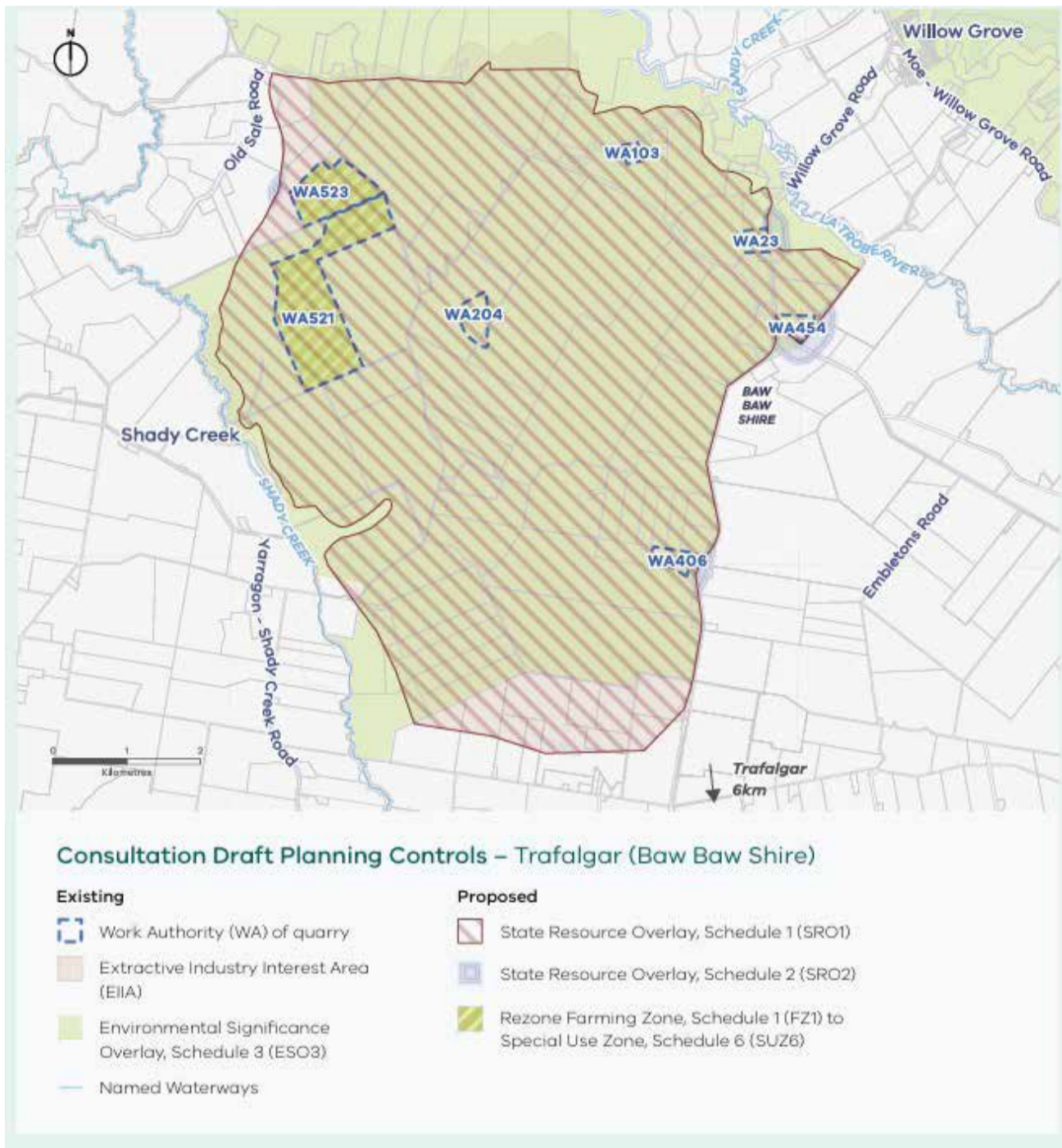
The BESS developments are defined as a 'utility installation' under the Baw Baw Planning Scheme, and triggers the need for planning approval within the farming zone.

In its planning permit application on behalf of ZEN Energy, Aurecon stated it was "considered that the impact on availability of agricultural land in the Baw Baw Shire area will be minimal."

Source: Warragul Gazette

State overlay approved for Traf farmland

By Courtney O'Brien



A State Resource Overlay (SRO1) will be applied to a Trafalgar sand resource area in an effort to protect quarry supplies over the long term for construction purposes.

Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny last month approved three new Strategic Extractive Resource Areas (SERA) covering Trafalgar, Lang Lang and Oaklands Junction.

The SRO1 seeks to ensure land use and development close to the site is compatible with and won't inhibit existing and future extractive industry operations.

It also applies a buffer up to 250 metres outside the SERA boundary and extends from quarries within the SERA that have been granted a work authority.

The SERA boundary takes in an area about six kilometres north of Trafalgar, north of Orchard Road in the south, extending up to Old Sale Road in the north, Willow Grove Road to the east, and Shady Creek to the west.

Greater controls will now apply to what landowners and farmers in this area can and can't do on their land.

"It's difficult to say what it might prevent in the future.

"It's understood that stone and resources need to be preserved, but Gippsland is going to be become an increasingly important food bowl and that would possibly be limited by this. It's not entirely explicit what now can't occur with this overlay on there," said Baw Baw Shire mayor Kate Wilson, who agreed farming development may be hindered.

"It certainly will on those sites, or it will be a very different permitting process to get through, unless they are seeking a permit for quarry operations, in which case that's got easier passage.

"Now they can operate as a defined work authority.

"It's much simpler for that to go through than it would've been before this overlay was added."

The Department of Transport (DTP) website states that under the SRO1/SRO2, permits would be triggered for any construction or work

that exceeds 200 square metres and subdivision of land less than 40 hectares; and would require referral to the department administering the mineral resources.

"It is slightly different from the farming zone, where some uses can occur under the strategic extractive resource area - like accommodation and education precinct - that are currently prohibited in the farming zone, so there's some detailed changes there," Cr Wilson said.

DTP has specifically outlined that accommodation, leisure and recreation, winery, retail premises, education centre, hospital, place of assembly, veterinary centre, crematorium and funeral parlours will require a permit.

DTP initially consulted with local government and community about the potential changes in October/November 2024.

In December 2024, council submitted a summary of concerns to the department around the conflict between local planning processes and state overlays.

Cr Wilson said those concerns had been largely ignored, and council now has very little control over the area.

Council-owned roads will continue to be used as primary routes by a greater number of heavy vehicles travelling to and from new and existing quarries.

Cr Wilson does not believe the Victorian government had, as yet, offered compensation or funding to upgrade or maintain the roads, and agreed it was an example of the state government taking from resource rich regional areas while offering little in return.

The Trafalgar SERA is strategically significant for extractive industry because of its long-term production potential, proximity to infrastructure and development projects supported by transport networks.

It is estimated to contain 620 million tonnes of high-quality sand suitable for high-grade construction products.

Source: Warragul Gazette

Headway invitation to upcoming event

Headway Gippsland is inviting local community members to attend its upcoming community event, *All Abilities in Action – Connecting the Community*, taking place on Wednesday, 8 July at Trafalgar Community Centre, between 10am-3pm.

This is a free, inclusive community event designed to bring people together through music, dance, creativity and connection.

The day will feature a variety of activities, including live music and dance per-

formances from all abilities, musicians and performers, line dancing led by Linda Pink from LV Country Line Dancers, rock 'n' roll activities, quiet craft sessions, and opportunities for attendees to connect with local welfare and community support services.

Federal member for Monash, Mary Aldred MP has confirmed her attendance, highlighting the importance of supporting inclusive, community-led events that bring people together across Gippsland.

Headway Gippsland has been proudly supporting people with disability across Gippsland since 1981.

Over the past two years, it has received grant funding to deliver its Art and Talent Expo in celebration of International Day of People with Disability.

These events have showcased the creativity, skills and talents of people with disability while strengthening inclusion and community connection.

Building on this, *All Abilities in Action* continues our

focus on creating opportunities for participation, celebration and community engagement in a welcoming and relaxed environment.

Headway Gippsland would like to see community members to attend on the day and experience the event firsthand.

Attendees will also enjoy a complimentary sausage sizzle and access to a coffee van on the day.

Please put the event in your calendar so you don't miss this event.

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The Brown's home on 'The Range'

By Jeanette Hayward

The newly subdivided land on School Road Trafalgar, 'The Range', was once owned by my grandparents Les and May Brown.

To my understanding, the 7.3 hectare (18 acre) allotment and the adjoining 2 hectare (5 acre) allotment to the east

were purchased by Les when he, May and their son Graham (my father) moved back to Trafalgar from Sydney after the end of World War II, in the late 1940s.

They also owned a 3.6 hectare (9 acre) allotment on Giles Road, where my brother John Brown, his son Andrew,

Andrew's partner Sam, their five-year-old son, Hayden John Brown, and two-year-old daughter, Chelsea Jane Brown now reside.

The 3.6 hectares had been given to Les by his father George Samuel Brown, who was a blacksmith and later owned a car dealership on McCrorey Street, which the IGA supermarket and car park now occupies.

The Brown family has a long history in Trafalgar.

In 1887, Samuel Brown and his wife Mary Ann (nee Stanhope) travelled from Mepunga near Warrnambool to Trafalgar with their nine children.

Samuel and the eldest three boys, John 19, James 17 and George 15, led pack horses, while Mary and the six youngest, Emily aged 12, Francis (nine), Mabel (eight),

Elsie (six), Arthur (four), and Alfred one-year-old, rode in a wagon with the supplies and goods they brought with them.

Samuel selected several blocks of land including one fronting, and north of, the future Princes Highway about 1km east of Trafalgar, and another at the corner of the future Loch's Creek and Mills roads.

Another three children, Charles, born 1888, Ethel, born 1890, and Allan, born 1892, were born after the family's arrival in Trafalgar.

Samuel and Mary's descendants married into various well known families in the area-Matheson, Matthews, McGrath, Fletcher, Fisher, Ashby, Davey.

On my line, seven generations of Browns have lived in Trafalgar; Samuel, George



May, Graham and Les Brown in the 1940s when they lived in Sydney, prior to returning to Trafalgar and buying the land which is now 'The Range'

Samuel, Leslie George, Graham Leslie, John, Andrew, and siblings Hayden and Chelsea.

'The Range' was sold by Graham Brown to Eric Johnson in about 1993.

Although none of the Browns now live on 'The Range', Les and May Brown's

little brick house at 21 School Road is a reminder of our association with the land.

*Jeanette (nee Brown) acknowledges her siblings, Betty Williamson, John Brown and Lynda Kane, and our mother Kitty Brown (nee Strickland)



Les and May Brown's home at 21 School Road, built in 1964

David takes on Hamer Hall

By Bonnie Collings

It's not often that community musicians have the chance to play with world-class performers in a professional venue, but local double bassist and conductor of the Gippsland Symphony Orchestra, Trafalgar's David Williams, recently had that chance.

Under the baton of conductor Nathaniel Griffiths, David and more than 40 community musicians joined the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) at Hamer Hall in May for a special performance of Rachmaninov's Symphony No 2, as part of the orchestra's "Symphony in a Day" program.

David was one of four community double bass players in the concert, but this wasn't his first rodeo.

He has performed in seven Symphony in a Day concerts, treating every experience as a chance to improve his skills.

"You're playing with top line conductors, playing next to and sharing a (music) stand with some of the best players in Australia," he said.

"We come in as amateur, non-professional musicians, wide-eyed and enthusiastic and then we get to sit with them and play. It's one of those experiences is very hard to put into words."

David said having the opportunity to play alongside a "world standard orchestra" like the MSO inspired him to give the performance his all.

"You hear sports people talk about when they play in a

good team, they become better players," David said.

"Well I sat next to a guy named Rohan, he is just a monster of a player and I just loved it, it really inspired me and I just went for it.

"There were a couple of moments that weren't 100 per cent from my side of things, but just to play with him and have that urgency and that attention to detail that (MSO players), you go to a whole different level.

"There's no slow tempos – they rehearse and play as if they're doing one of their regular concerts and you just have to keep up."

Also playing in David's section was MSO double bassist Suzanne Lee, who has a special connection to David and to Gippsland.

David met Suzanne in 1988 when he was a student at Melbourne University. His double bass teacher at the time wasn't recognised by the university and he needed to find a new teacher.

"I actually rang the MSO, and said look I'm looking for a bass teacher ... I ended up talking to Suzanne and she became my teacher," David explained.

"In my second year I decided to pursue jazz and our lessons stopped. I thoroughly enjoyed my time studying with her."

About three decades later, the pair was reunited, and got along like no time had passed.

"Thirty-odd years passed, and in the last three MSO performances I've done, I've played with Suzanne," David said.

"We had such a great time together, I really enjoyed the opportunity to play with her."

Suzanne also has a connection to the Gippsland Symphony Orchestra – her brother-in-law is the principal French horn player.

David said his experiences playing with the MSO filter back into how he teaches and conducts with the Gippsland Symphony Orchestra.

"I played a piece with the MSO earlier in the year and I'm playing that piece now with the community orchestra," he said.

"Going into rehearsals, the way I'm playing it is as if I'm still with the MSO because I remember how they played it.

"I treat it like professional development."

At the end of the Symphony in a Day performance, the community players were given their own special bow. David said the moment left him feeling "like a million bucks",

"There are no words that can truly convey how I feel about those people and the way they encouraged us, let us make mistakes, and they did it with good grace and a smile," he said.

"We walked away feeling a million bucks. They're a very special group of people."

Source: Warragul Gazette



Trafalgar's double bassist David Williams (right) with his former teacher and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra double bassist Suzanne Lee



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Meet The Locals: Jean Huffer

Jean Huffer is a well-known identity in Trafalgar, both as a past Trafalgar High School teacher and as an untiring volunteer in the Trafalgar and District Historical Society and St John's Catholic Church, Trafalgar.

With husband Laurie and their four children, David, Andrew, Robert and Margaret, their family life developed to include local sport and both primary and high schools.

Growing up

The youngest of four children, Jean's family lived during the depression and before World War II in Croydon where she was born.

When war broke out her father joined up and her mother returned with the four children to her family home in New Zealand.

She came back to Australia with the children in 1941 and settled near family friends in Moonee Ponds.

Jean's father came home from being a prisoner of war in Italy and then Germany, understandably suffering post-traumatic stress.

Like many city families then, they travelled about by tram and, for entertainment and keeping up with the news, sat around the table in the warmer kitchen listening to the radio.

This changed in 1956 when the family gathered to watch the Olympic games on the newly purchased television set in the dining/lounge room.

Two more children were born after the war, Judith and Lynette, so with a family of six, it was always a busy household.

The five girls and one boy were encouraged to seek out

scholarships and make the best of themselves.

All of them started school at Bank Street State School in Ascot Vale, and Jean, Judith and Lynette transferred to St. Monica's Moonee Ponds, later gaining scholarships to St. Columba's Essendon.

After gaining a further scholarship at the end of her matriculation year (Year 12), Jean went on to be awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree and Diploma of Education at Melbourne University in 1960, the first in the family to do so.

Her first teaching appointment was at Moe High School in 1961.

Teaching

Both Jean and Laurie were teachers and, as was the case for a married woman in the State system at the time, Jean received two-thirds of the male rate of pay and had to resign when she married.

Married women could only teach as temporaries, with no chance of promotion or superannuation.

This situation later changed, but in the meantime, Jean continued teaching wherever in the state Laurie's more highly paid appointments took them.

Temporary part-time jobs were her only option.

Newly married life started in Korumburra in 1962 with seven years in a friendly country town, followed by a rowdy, rough school in Bacchus Marsh.

Those were the days of big classes of up to 50 students.

Both preferred country life to teach and raise their growing family, so jobs for Laurie emerged at Trafalgar High School (senior teacher), then as the principal at Yallourn High School (three

years until it closed), Nathalia and then Moe High School.

Meanwhile, Jean taught at Numurkah Technical/High School and ten years at Trafalgar, mostly History and French and several years at the School Support Centre in Morwell.

During these contracted jobs, the family of now four children lived in several seriously substandard rentals, motivating them to buy or build three houses in that time.

When their new garden in Nathalia was finally producing fruit on their trees, they were off to Moe!

Not happy that this nomadic life wasn't detailed in their marriage contract, Jean was relieved when in 1983 they built their current Trafalgar home of now over 40 years residency. Laurie retired in 1992.

Historical Society

Being a history teacher, Jean was asked to join the Nathalia Historical Society, which she enjoyed.

When in Trafalgar, Cheryl Weymouth invited her to attend a meeting at which Max Gibson was the guest speaker, talking about local history.

Jean suggested they form an historical society, which began in 1985, including Yolanda Reynolds and Max and later Sylvia Hill and Jack MacDonald.

They were offered the office and cloakroom at the Senior Citizens Centre as a home by Narracan Shire Council.

Yolanda procured useful photos from the Warragul Gazette, and they acquired printed newspaper copies dating back to 1904 from the old printing rooms above Lesley Langdon's florist (cur-

rently the 'Eat Live Fresh' coffee shop.)

Now their resources include an extensive archive of documents, maps, cemetery records, memorabilia and photos.

A gazette is published every quarter and historical information is regularly published in the local newspaper.

This friendly group continues to meet every Friday from 2.00 – 4.00pm at the old kindergarten building at 30 Contingent St, offered to them by Baw Baw Shire Council.

The historical society's members work on projects, cataloguing, restoring and housing a huge range of historical material; but with people often visiting to research and ask questions.

Jean has stayed on all these years, working hard to maintain these commitments.

St John's Catholic Church

Jean attended her first Catholic mass when in grade four, which left a lasting impression, and she became a Catholic, following her father's faith.

She has been a member of the local parish community for 43 years, becoming one of the first lay ministers to the sick, to support the ailing Father Tom O'Connell.

Since her retirement, she has visited local people for 30 years, when they were unable to attend Mass, bringing them Holy Communion and enjoying their hospitality and companionship.

Alongside this, Jean has been president of Trafalgar's St. Vincent de Paul Conference often working with the Moe Conference and particularly visiting and helping people in need of petrol and food in the Trafalgar parish.



Both Laurie and Jean were awarded Trafalgar Citizens of the year in 2013, in grateful recognition of their huge contribution to the Trafalgar community.

Reflection

Jean has witnessed the changes in Trafalgar over time, going from the being the centre of the Narracan Shire to a lesser town in the Baw Baw Shire.

Shops on the north side of the highway were removed when the highway was upgraded, but you could still buy everything you needed.

Today locals must travel out of town for that variety.

Now as a retiree, Jean has appreciated that Trafalgar is a good place in which to grow old.

After Laurie died, she has had no fear of living alone, with useful services and neighbours available to help.

"Strangers will smile and greet you and I know lots of people around about" she said.

Her sister Judy, who was always a close aunt to her children, has moved into town and is a wonderful companion.

While Jean was a regular image walking the town, her hip and knee surgery then a stroke and a serious fall last year has slowed her pace.

However, her sharp wit and community commitments have not faltered.

Thank you Jean for all that you are and do here in Trafalgar.



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Traf Lions conducts public speaking contest for primary schools

By David Koschade

Lions Club of Trafalgar recently held its annual Junior public speaking contest last month.

This program aims to encourage students to participate in public speaking, help build their confidence and allow them the opportunity to hone their natural skills, in front of a variety of audiences, with the freedom to present their speech, unaided and uninhibited, allowing the audience to see their unique, charismatic personalities.

It allows students to use their imagination, as well as expanding their research skills and knowledge on the topics that are chosen each year.

It increases the students' ability and opportunity to communicate to a wider audience – which includes their family, friends, teachers and Lions members.

Teachers are enjoying the program and making it part of their class curriculum as it incorporates story writing, research, speaking in front of the class, etc.

The contest has two categories - grades 3 and 4, and 5 and 6, and begins with rounds at individual schools.

The subject for grades 3 and 4 was: If you could go on a holiday anywhere in Australia, where would you go and why? and for 5 and 6 was: If you could have dinner with anyone in the world (a real person past or present), who would it be, why, and what would you serve them for dinner?



Trafalgar, St Joseph's, Thorpdale, Narracan and Tanjil South primary schools each sent two students to participate in Trafalgar Lions Club's junior public speaking contest. From left: Madeline Forrester (Tanjil South Yr 5-6), Evie Mara (Thorpdale 3-4), Georgina Fowler (Trafalgar 3-4), Macey Serong (Narracan 3-4), Yasmine Mynard (Trafalgar 5-6), Paislee Gouge (Tanjil South 3-4), Natasha Ihnatiuc (Narracan 5-6), Jack Parker (Thorpdale 5-6), Will Finken (St Joseph's 3-4) and Kaleb Jamieson St Joseph's 5-6).

A total of 84 students from five local primary schools – Trafalgar primary, St Joseph's, Thorpdale, Narracan and Tanjil South – participated in the Trafalgar Lions contest.

The two winners from each school then participated in the Lions Club Final.

All spoke well and displayed confidence and talent that most of us couldn't imagine having at that age (or even now!).

The overall winners were Will Finken (grades 3 and 4) and Kaleb Jamieson (grades 5 and 6), both from St Joseph's Primary School, Trafalgar.

They will go on to compete in a semi-final in September, with the winners from that round then compete in the final at the Lions District Conference in October.



Trafalgar Lions Club's public debating contest winners Will Finken (left) and Kaleb Jamieson (right) with Trafalgar Lions Club secretary and junior public speaking chairperson Pat Tattersson

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Jesse Hasthorpe was a local pioneer

Hasthorpe Place, Moe is named after the Hasthorpe family of the Tanjil district, with a number of descendants living in Trafalgar and surrounds under differing surnames.

These include, in addition to families with the Hasthorpe surname: Griffin; Grima; McClelland; McCrorey; O'Brien; Rankin; Savige; and Vincent.

Long-term locals will identify most, if not all, of the above surnames also have connections with other families of different names.

The lane originally ran from Moore Street through to Anzac St as a laneway behind the George St shops.

Both the eastern and western ends of the lane have been closed off and built on, but the rest remains as it was in the 1800s.

The family originated in England where John and Susan Hasthorpe had seven children, one of whom was Jesse, born in January 1835.

At age 21, he decided to emigrate to Australia, and on arrival, tried his luck on various gold fields in Victoria without much success.

He moved to New Zealand where he stayed for three years before returning to Victoria and moving to Gippsland and the Russell Creek goldfields north of Moe.

He opened a butcher's shop to serve the miners and when a gold rush took place in the Tanjil area, he moved his business to Tanjil.

In partnership with Henry Godridge, he also built the Tanjil Hotel.

He selected 400 acres (162 hectares) of land on Tanjil River in the 1870s, and leased Selectors Arms Hotel in Moe (later called Club Hotel).

In 1886, his wife Esther held the licence for the hotel.

He also opened a butcher's shop in Moe, and in 1893-94, had the contract to deliver mail from Moe to Tanjil via Willow Grove three days a week.

As Jesse settled into the local community, he became involved in several local organisations.

In 1884, he donated the land in George St on which the Moe Mechanics Institute was built and was elected a trustee of the Institute.

He successfully stood for the Narracan Shire Council in 1884-85, 1887-88 and 1893-

94. He was elected shire president in 1888.

He was a member of Moe Football Club Committee and the committee of management for the Moe Racecourse and a trustee of the Moe Cemetery in 1889.

He was also appointed as a Justice of the Peace.

Jesse married Esther Varney in 1863, and they had 15 children, four of whom died in childhood.

In 1906, at the age of 70, he moved to NSW and Esther joined him some time later.

They were so well regarded by the community that when they decided to move to Kyogle in NSW, a special function was held in the Moe Mechanics Institute where Jesse was given a farewell gift of a gold watch and chain.

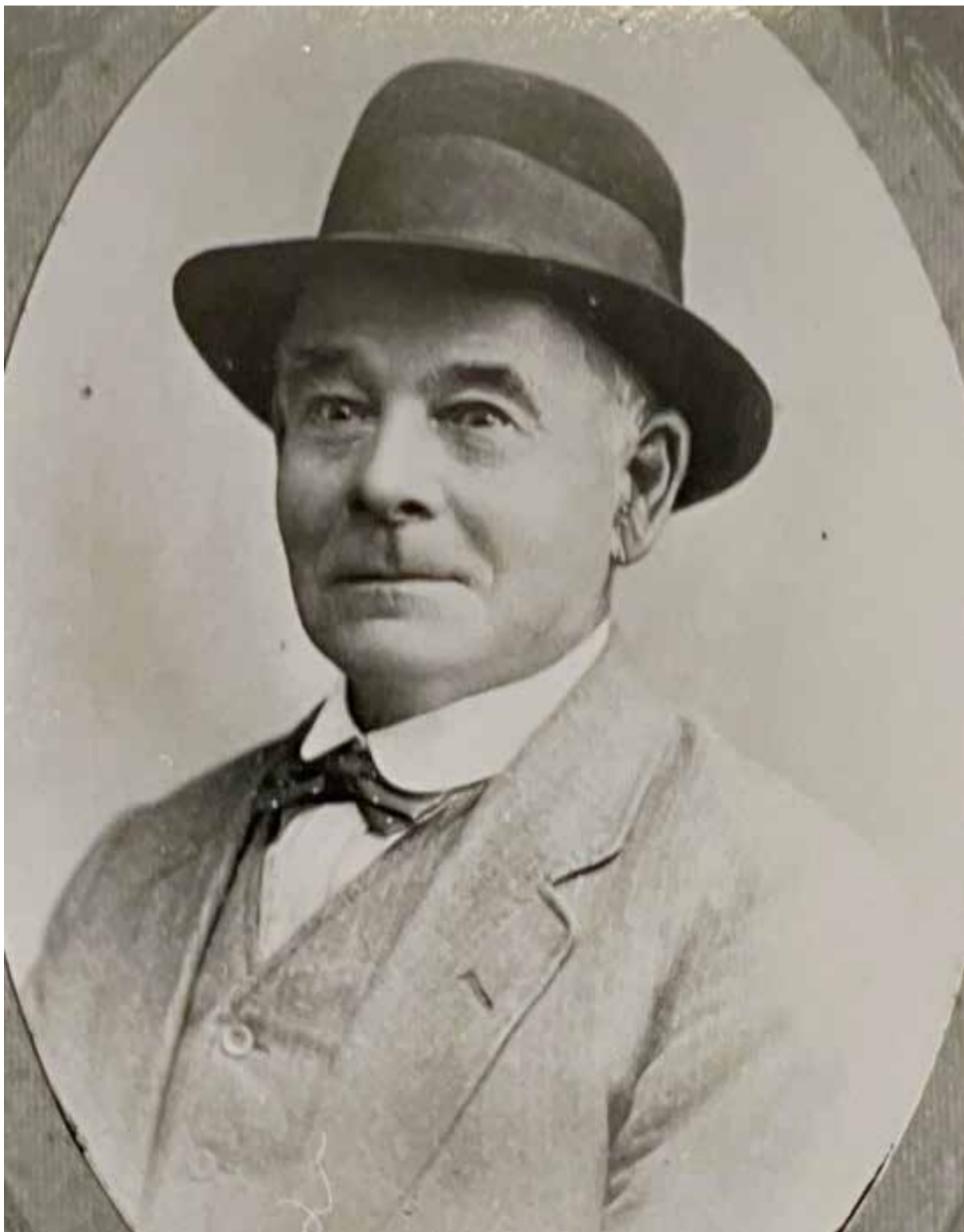
A second function was also held at Willow Grove.

On his death in 1925, Esther moved back to the Tanjil area to be near family.

A detailed history of the family is included in Settlers and Selectors by Joan Hasthorpe and Gay Rogers.

Information and photograph supplied by Moe District Historical Society.

Source: Latrobe Valley Express

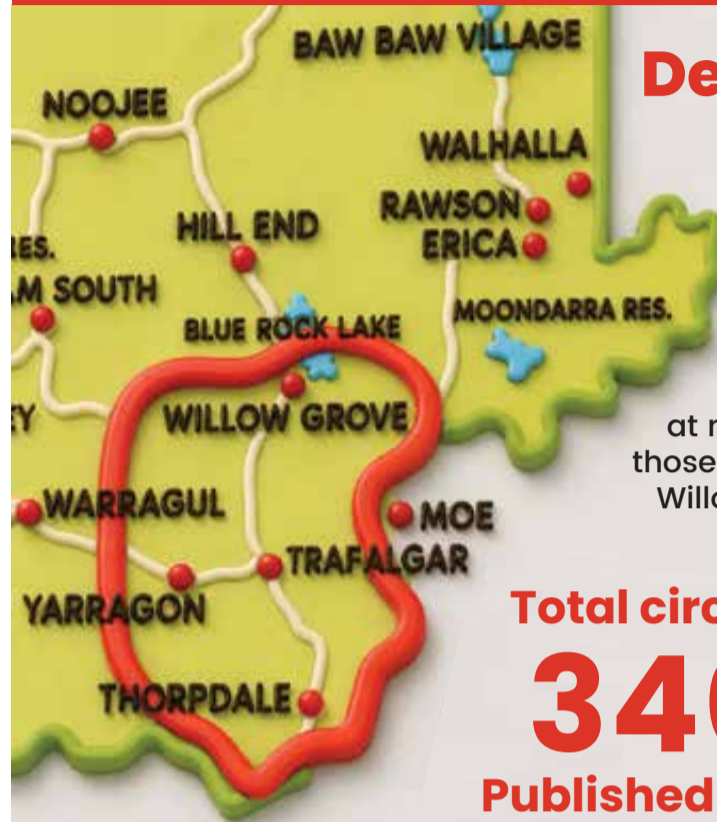


Jesse Hasthorpe gave outstanding service to the broader district surrounding Trafalgar

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WGHG thanks its volunteers

West Gippsland Health-care Group (WGHG) celebrated National Volunteer Week in May with a special recognition lunch, honouring the invaluable contribution of our volunteers, including those from Trafalgar and surrounding district.

Held at Warragul Country Club, the event brought together volunteer groups from across the organisation to celebrate their dedication and service to the community.

This year's National Volunteer Week theme, 'Your

Year to Volunteer' highlighted the many opportunities and personal rewards that volunteering can bring.

The theme was reflected throughout the event, recognising both long-serving volunteers and those newly inspired to give back.

Representing the WGHG Wig Library, volunteers Ellen and Petra spoke on the enjoyment of volunteering and why they chose to take part.

"I volunteer because of the dedication and commitment of the volunteers who came before me," Petra said.

"To put it simply, I volunteer because they did."

WGHG Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Kelly also thanked volunteers for their ongoing commitment to supporting patients, families, visitors, and staff across the health service.

"Thank you to every single one of you for all that you do," Ms Kelly said. "We simply could not do this without you."

The event was attended by WGHG senior leaders, including executive director of people and culture Cathy

Portelli, and board members Sarah Lukies, Felix Pintado, and Rob Barr, who joined in acknowledging the vital role volunteers play across our health services.

During the lunch, several volunteers were recognised for achieving significant service milestones.

Congratulations to the following local volunteers for their service milestones:

Ann Farr: 10 Years, Trafalgar Op Shop

Sharon Hardman: 10 Years, Trafalgar Op Shop

Isabel Robinson: 15 Years, Trafalgar Op Shop

WGHG's volunteer program continues to grow, with 41 new volunteers recruited over the past 12 months, helping to further enhance patient and visitor experiences across our campuses.

With the program's growth, WGHG was able to



Back row from left: Merita Rawlyk (Lifestyle coordinator) Barb Buckley and Tammy Waddington-Smith (Lifestyle Assistants) Toni Hibbert and Dawn Moore. Front row from left: Deidre Crawly, Elaine Carmody, Maree Walsh and Sheila Johnson

reintroduced the Wig Library and social visitor program in our Haemodialysis unit over the past year, with plans underway to resume social visits to palliative care patients in the near future.

Anyone interested in volunteering with WGHG is encouraged to contact volunteer coordinator Sarah Kelly via email at sarah.kelly@wghg.com.au or by phone on 0458 488 543.

Community grants program delivers over \$141,000

Baw Baw Shire Council has conditionally supported over \$141,000 in community grants to 41 local community groups and non-profit organisations, funding the delivery of equipment purchases, community events and programs.

The grants have been conditionally supported through the second round of the Community Projects funding stream for 2025-26, which opens twice each financial year and forms part of Council's overarching Community Grants program (which includes both Community Projects and Minor Capital Work funding streams).

Baw Baw Shire Council mayor Kate Wilson congratulated the recipients for their outstanding applications and community spirit.

"Through this program we're proud to be able to provide funding support to a variety of local special interest groups, sporting clubs, and local progress associations.

"We were pleased to see applications for a wide range of community events, projects, programs, environmental initiatives, and equipment purchases", said Cr Wilson.

"As council, we're proud to provide valuable funds to local organisations that are out there making a positive impact in our community.

"These groups are a fundamental part of Baw Baw shire's thriving and vibrant community, and we look forward to seeing these projects come to life over the next six months!"

A reception event will be held in July to celebrate the

2025-26 grant recipients and their respective projects.

Local organisations to be provisionally awarded grants are:

Downton Park Community Asset Committee: \$5,000 to support the installation of appropriate AV equipment;

Trafalgar Men's Shed: \$5,000 to purchase an Industrial 508mm Helical Cutter Head Thicknesser;

Trafalgar Park Community Hub: \$1,734 to support website development project;

Willow Grove and District Playgroup Inc: \$5,000 to purchase children sized table, chairs, bookshelves and mini play set outdoor play equipment;

Yarragon Arts Council Inc: \$4,000 to support the Yarragon Studio Winter Feast 2026 musicians.



Local volunteers who attended the WGHG volunteer lunch are, from left: Sharon Hardman, Diane Turner, Aija Owen, Dianne Ireland, Tina Deusbury, Ann Farr, Gaye Mynard







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Liz is top artist

Trafalgar artist Liz Bowley won the major award, 'The Best Depiction of the Tanjil Valley' at the recent Tanjil Valley Art Show.

Sunny days encouraged almost 600 visitors to the Tanjil Valley Art Show held over the King's Birthday long weekend.

Held in the former Hill End Primary School, now community centre, this was the nineteenth art show, which was officially opened by deputy mayor Cr. Suzanne Allen.

Cr Allen was a former student at the school.

Designed to encourage artists and photographers to record the beautiful area, waterways, farming, flora and fauna, native bush, buildings, machinery and human activities, the major topic for the Art Show is "From the Tanjil Valley to Baw Baw".

As well as 2D Art and photography, other sections include 'Little Treasures' (miniatures), which has an open topic and 'Mini Portraits'.

Encouraging children's art is an important aim and open topic sections exist for 14-19 year-olds and under 14s.

As well as individual entries, school entries from

Trafalgar, Willow Grove, Tanjil South, Yallourn North and Rawson primary schools are displayed in the former Fumina South school building in the grounds.

Children proudly point out their displayed masterpieces to parents and grandparents!

Youth photography is also well represented now that phone photography makes it easier.

The major award, 'The Best Depiction of the Tanjil Valley' was won by Trafalgar artist Liz Bowley with her entry titled 'Ringbarked'.

The presentation was made by Community Bank

Trafalgar & District board director, Sally Neenan.

The community bank is the major sponsor for the art show.

Many thanks are also extended to the many other sponsors who generously sponsor each award.

The Tanjil Valley Art Show would not exist without such support.

As a non-profit organisation, any surplus from raffles and donations is returned to the community to support school art programs, local fire brigades, Landcare, etc.

A seat has also been placed on the Blue Rock Lake walking track.



Trafalgar's Liz Bowley with her painting 'Ringbarked' judged 'The Best Portrayal of The Tanjil Valley'

Different art styles on display at Station Gallery

In the Station Gallery, Yarragon, during July there will be two very different exhibitions from artists with quite different approaches.

This typifies the range of practising artists who are members of Baw Baw Arts Alliance (BBAA).

Each month the gallery helpers, who are all volunteers, curate exhibitions that are always worth more than one visit.

Deborah Churchill is one of the artists well known in Gippsland, but particularly in Baw Baw Shire where she has lived for many years, and been an editor on the Yarragon Community Newsletter team.

Deb is a mixed media artist who can consistently produce works that require a great deal of concentrated attention because of their detail, colour, design and the strong narrative in each one.

Deb creates from the heart and presents viewers with questions that may not be answered.

That is for you, the viewer, to decide.

Don't miss these detailed Mixed Media works that are partly autobiographical but also lead us to question our own identities.

What does the world really know about you, the viewer?

At the same time, long term exhibitor, painter, mosaic artist and continuous contributor to the arts in Baw Baw Shire, Alene Bonser, has teamed up with friend and painting colleague, Gael Smith, to present their latest paintings in oils.

Their works are on a smaller scale than Deb Churchill's but quietly demand you look more closely.

They are hanging in the section called 'On the Wall' in the Station Gallery and will have you reflect on the beauty of a more traditional approach to painting.

One of the more recent ventures by BBAA is the open invitation to members of the public to participate in free art activities at the VRI Hall in Queen Street, Warragul, on the third Saturday morning of each month.

The next workshop is Gelli Printing on Saturday, July 18 from 9.30am to 1.00 pm.

You need have no expertise to enjoy this time of playing around with paint and print.

Another recent venture is the Teal Room Challenge.

Introduced by gallery manager, Sue Murphy, a new challenge to produce a small

work of art in any media of your choice.

There is no entry cost but you must be a member of BBAA, and that, in itself, will give you many opportunities to develop your artistic skills.

The next challenge is to create a vessel in your chosen medium.

For more information see www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au



Jeff Thege, secretary of Baw Baw Arts Alliance and Deb Churchill, mixed media artist, with one of Deb's that is works displayed in Yarragon's 'Station Gallery' in July

Do you care for our planet?

A relaxed monthly catch-up for people who care about our planet is available with Baw Baw Sustainability Network (BBSN).

Join BBSN members for a friendly, open conversation about climate, community, and what can be done together.

Whether you're deeply involved or simply curious, you're very welcome.

Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at Violet & Ivy, 137 Queen St, Warragul.

The next meet-up is on Monday 6 July, 10:00am-12:00pm.

People are welcome to come along to share ideas,

concerns, and inspiration-or simply listen, connect, and enjoy a coffee together.

Some of the topics to talk about are:

- Climate impacts
- Food and sustainable living
- Transport and housing
- Plastics and waste
- Politics, education, and community action
- Everyday practical solutions

You can stay for a quick cuppa or settle in for a longer, meaningful conversation.

All are welcome, so drop in anytime between 10am and 12pm.

For any questions, BBSN can be contacted by email hello@bbsn.org.au

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Melbourne songwriter showcases Trafalgar Holden Museum

Trafalgar Holden Museum features front-and-centre in a new video from Melbourne singer songwriter Les Thomas, in his tribute to the days of local manufacturing.

His song, *The Last of the Old Holdens* is about a beloved family Holden passed down through generations, becoming a symbol of endurance, identity and changing times.

The clip features Les sitting in an immaculate HD Holden parked in the Trafalgar Holden Museum, and also includes footage from the former Fisherman's Bend Holden factory.

"I grew up in what was the old working-class suburb of Williamstown," Les said.

"My dad was a sheet-metal worker. He drove a Holden, as did my grand-dad. I used to drive a VP Commodore with a red spoiler, so for me, this song is deeply personal."

The song is intimate and quietly political, and speaks to the lives of ordinary Aussies navigating economic uncertainty, social change and the erosion of community connection.

Les said he chose Trafalgar Holden Museum because it showcases a magnificent collection that symbolises Australian history, culture and identity.

"It's a real tribute to the local community, with so much passion put towards its maintenance. The volunteers made us feel very welcome," Les said.

"Making this video in Gippsland was all the more symbolic, considering the Latrobe Valley is undergoing its own questions about how a community transitions from a major industry."

The Last of the Old Holdens has already been supported by ABC Country's Grass Roots and has resonated strongly with listeners across generations.

It was produced by Les Thomas and features Ben Franz (The Waifs) on pedal steel and bass, Trev Fernandez on piano and organ, and Justin Olsson on drums.

To watch the video, search *The last of the old Holdens-Les Thomas* on your favourite search engine.



Melbourne songwriter Les Thomas at Trafalgar Holden Museum where he recorded his song *The Last of the Old Holdens*

Former Holden Employees Reunite at Museum

By Anne Schembri

The Holden community came together recently for a special Ex-Holden Employees Day at Trafalgar Holden Museum, bringing together former Holden employees to reconnect, share memories and celebrate the legacy of one of Australia's most iconic brands.

The event provided an opportunity for ex Holden workers to revisit the museum's displays while catching up with former colleagues and friends.

Stories and memories were exchanged throughout the day, highlighting the strong sense of connection that continues long after Holden's manufacturing years.

The day also offered something special for museum visitors, with members of the public able to meet and chat with the people who helped build Holden's history.

Former employees shared personal experiences and behind-the-scenes insights, creating a unique and memorable experience for attendees.

Joining the event were members of the Drouin Variety Big Bash crew members, who are preparing to depart this month on their charity road trip to raise funds for disabled and disadvantaged children.

The museum is proud to support the Variety Big Bash team and welcomed the opportunity to help promote the important work they undertake for children and families in need.

Ex-Employees Day continues to be an important event on the museum calendar, celebrating not only Holden's history, but also the people, friendships and stories that remain an enduring part of its legacy.



Drouin Variety Club members at the recent Ex-Holden Employees Day at Trafalgar Holden Museum

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The Army visits Trafalgar High

Senior Students who are exploring careers in defence were treated to a special presentation from Australian Army's sergeant Fletcher Browne and corporal Bayley Glover.

The soldiers represent different trade pathways young people can take, with sergeant Browne working as a fuel specialist, and corporal Glover is an electrician.

The presentation covered all roles in the Australian Defence Force in each of the three services; army, air force and navy.

Owen Landmeter, a year 11 student, has been preparing for a pathway in defence for some time, including participating in cadets in the community at 304 Army Cadet Unit in Newborough.

Owen said the information session was great, providing a lot of information that he can share with his family about what both his VCE and post Year 12 pathway will look like.

Owen said students heard about a range of options from bridging courses to direct ATAR pathways, highlighting that there is no single route into Defence careers – just many opportunities tailored to strengths and aspirations.

Trafalgar High School careers teacher Gabrielle Evans said the ADF team shared personal experiences, training insights, and information about scholarships, apprenticeships, and university-supported programs.

School captain Brodie Forrest said, "The presentation provided inspiration and excitement for students."

He felt many of his peers who attended are now exploring options they had never considered before in ADF pathways and shared his appreciation for the school's careers team for arranging the opportunity for students to hear directly from army personnel.

Students attend Shrine commemoration

Melbourne Legacy ran its Annual Anzac commemoration for students on 5 May.

A number of Gippsland schools attended, with Tra-

falgar High School represented by represented by Izik, Jordan, Ben and Brodie at the Shine of Remembrance.

The aim of the service is both to mark the contribution of Australian defence forces in war and peace-keeping work but also to introduce and explain the traditions that young people will see at local dawn and Anzac Day services.

Now in its 94th year, the ceremony featured formal proceedings, including attendance by Lieutenant-Governor Professor James Angus AO, who addressed the crowd on why the occasion remains of profound importance to our national identity.

On arrival at the ceremony, the Lieutenant-Governor spoke with Brodie, who is in Year 12 and a school captain, asking him a few questions about the school, travelling by V/Line to the city and participating in the service.

Izik, who is in Year 7, was very keen on learning more about Guard of Honour

from the Melbourne High School cadets.

Brodie and Jordan, from Year 8, laid a wreath during the ceremony on behalf of our school community during the commemorative service.

Principal Brett Pedlow thanked Izik, Jordan, Ben and Brodie for joining other secondary and primary school students from around Victoria in keeping the Anzac spirit alive by commemorating the sacrifices made by the brave Australians who have served our country.

Speakers of the House

A team of three students from travelled to the Victorian Parliament house in Melbourne on 20 May to take part in the 2026 Victorian Students' Parliamentary Program.

Baxter Hankinson of Year 11, Riley Taylor-Bowman and Nathan Markovich of year 9 rose to speak before an assembly of students from all over Victoria, worked in committee to craft legislation, and voted to pass a law

regarding Facial Recognition Technology and Privacy.

Trafalgar High School principal Brett Pedlow said, "As a school we congratulate these students for taking on this opportunity to learn how parliament works and for getting up very early to make it there on time!"

He noted that after the event, the school posted details of the session on Facebook, and now our local member Wayne Farnham MP has replied offering the students a visit and tour with him on a sitting day.

Baxter said, "Trafalgar High School has offered me several extension and excursion opportunities this year, and in coming weeks is taking us on a tour of the Melbourne Supreme Court" as he thanked his teachers and school leadership for making these experiences possible.



Baxter speaking in the Parliament



Australian Army's sergeant Fletcher Browne and Owen Landmeter



From left: Izik, Jordan, Ben and Brodie in front of the Melbourne Shrine as part of Melbourne Legacy's Anzac commemoration on 5 May



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Probus visits The Shrine

By Glenda Mynard

A group of Trafalgar District Probus members took advantage of a beautiful warm, sunny autumn day, in May and boarded the free train to the Big Smoke for a day of adventure.

We were heading to the Shire of Remembrance. To get there we decided to experience the Metro Train.

When the V/Line train reached Flinders Street Station, we merely had to walk underground to the Town Hall Station and get on the next train to Anzac Station, only one stop so we didn't get lost!

The short walk was clean, shiny and quiet and there were plenty of helpful Metro people to assist us if needed.

We alighted at Anzac Station and when we popped up to ground level, out on the

edge of Saint Kilda Road, the majestic Shrine was only a hop, skip and a jump away.

We headed inside the visitors centre to book a guided tour and enjoy a cuppa beside the knitted wall of red poppies.

Our knowledgeable young guide was full of fascinating facts. The original Shrine was opened in 1934, with the opening ceremony attended by over 300,000 people.

This was over one-third of Victoria's population at the time.

Sixty-four per cent of the money needed to build the Shrine was donated by ordinary people.

Despite severe financial hardships and high unemployment during the 1920s and 1930s, the community raised the massive construction funds in just six months.

The Shrine was built to honour Victorians, who served in World War 1, but now it serves as a place of remembrance and a museum dedicated to all Australians who have served in any conflict or peacekeeping operation.

Following the Second World War, the Shrine was expanded. Queen Elizabeth II lit the eternal flame on the Memorial Forecourt in 1954.

Later, in 1985, a dedicated post-1945 Memorial was added to honour Australians in conflicts such as Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam.

The Shrine underwent major redevelopments in 2003, which introduced the underground visitors centre and courtyard.

In 2014, the extensive Galleries of Remembrance allowed the memorial to

broaden its historical focus to include the full spectrum of Australian service from 1850 to the present day.

Every one of us felt the solemnity of what so many sacrificed to ensure the freedom we all enjoy today.

This was especially so in the core sanctuary which houses the stone of Remembrance. It is engraved with the biblical quote *Greater love hath no man*. This area was designed so that exactly at 11am on 11 November (Remembrance Day) a precise aperture in the roof allows a ray of sunlight to hit the word LOVE.

This is re-enacted every half hour when there is a three minute memorial service with a light ceremony for visitors to experience.

To explore the Shrine and all it has to offer would take more than a day, and while we enjoyed what we saw, we certainly have plenty of displays left to ponder in the future.

Back home

Members were also able to enjoy catch ups closer to home-coffee and chat, a beautiful walk at Blue Rock Dam and an evening dine out at Traf Thai.

At our general meeting, our guest speaker was local identity, Geoff Pickburn.

Geoff served in the RAAF retiring with the rank of Wing Commander. He was born in Sydney, and because his father was a Chaplin in the RAAF, the family regularly moved to various bases around Australia.

It was no surprise, down the track, that Geoff ended up as an Air Traffic Controller in the RAAF.

Part of his service was two years in Darwin.

Extra trout into Blue Rock Dam

About 200,000 extra rainbow trout are being released into Victorian waterways, including 35,000 into Blue Rock Lake at Willow Grove.

The release will provide a boost to new and experienced fishers seeking to snag a tasty catch this spring.

From Gippsland to Horsham, 19 lakes across the state are being stocked with more trout.

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) chief executive officer Travis Dowling said the rainbow trout being released were advanced yearlings weighing about 50 grams. The trout will be ready to catch once released.

"These bonus stockings provide a variety of fishing

opportunities, from wilderness experiences for seasoned anglers to family-friendly adventures for beginners and novices. So, Victorians of all skill levels can look forward to an even better chance of success before year's end," he said.

"We will stock an extra 35,000 trout at Blue Rock Lake on top of the 80,000 trout it will receive this year," he said.

The rainbow trout are just some of the 30 million fish the VFA has released into the state's waters over the past three years, as part of the Victorian Government's record-breaking stocking program.

Source: Warragul Gazette



Trafalgar District Probus Club members at The Shrine of Remembrance's crypt with their guide. From left: Glenda Mynard, Elly Fallon, Barb Butterworth JP and Julie Phillips



Former RAAF Wing Commander Geoff Pickburn (centre) was the guest speaker at Trafalgar District Probus Club's May general meeting. With him is speakers' organiser Greg Lamb and vice-president Barb Butterworth JP

Cyclone Tracey hit during this period. His family were evacuated and ended up in Yallourn, while Geoff spent 10 weeks back in Darwin.

The RAAF was very good at supporting airmen and their families.

Geoff had so much to share that we didn't get to hear about the rest of his career or what he does in retire-

ment, but I do know that often you will see him tending to the green at the community hub in McGregor Park.

He happened to mention that he was awarded a Member of the British Empire (MBE) for Services to Air Traffic Control.

Time was up before he had time to share any more details.

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Successful Bunnings Fundraiser for Trafalgar Public Hall

By Andrea McDonald

The Trafalgar Public Hall committee would like to thank everyone who supported our Bunnings BBQ fundraiser over the King's Birthday long weekend.

It was a very busy and successful day, and we are pleased to announce that we raised an impressive \$1,900 profit for our community-owned hall.

These funds will help with the ongoing maintenance and improvements needed to keep the hall operating for community use.

A special thank you goes to the members of Trafalgar Lions Club who generously gave their time and assistance throughout the day.

Their support was greatly appreciated and played a big part in making the fundraiser such a success.

Trafalgar Public Hall is a valuable community asset, and its committee always looking for people who are willing to get involved and help ensure its future.

At present, its committee consists of only four members—Andrea MacDonald, Eva Moscato, Ian Bosma and Wombat Lyons—who would love to welcome some new faces.

We are particularly interested in hearing from anyone with handyman, maintenance, or practical skills who may be able to assist with the upkeep of the hall.

If you would like to become involved or find out more about joining the committee, please get in touch with Andrea McDonald (0448 377 505) or Eva Moscato (0419 895 901).

Even a small contribution of time can make a big difference to the future of our community hall.

Thank you again to everyone who supported our fundraiser and helped make the day such a success, in particular the public hall committee thanks Murphy's Meats and the IGA in Trafalgar for their great donations.



Ian Davison and Ian Bosma hard at work at Trafalgar Public Hall's Bunnings fundraiser

What is an Enduring Power of Attorney, and do I need one?

By Jade Macgregor

An enduring power of attorney (EPOA) is one of the simplest documents you can put in place to protect yourself and your family if illness, accident, or age affects your ability to make decisions.

It allows you (while you have decision-making capacity) to choose a trusted person or people to make financial and/or personal decisions on your behalf if you later can't.

An EPOA can cover practical things like paying bills, managing bank accounts, dealing with Centrelink or service providers, selling or maintaining property, and making everyday lifestyle decisions.

The key benefit is control: you decide who will act, what powers they have, and any limits or conditions, rather than leaving those decisions to others in a crisis.

Without an EPOA, families can find themselves stuck when urgent decisions need to be made. Banks and institutions may refuse to deal with relatives, even spouses or adult children, if there is no legal authority.

This can mean unpaid bills, frozen access to funds needed for care, delays in arranging accommodation, and conflict between family members about "what should happen."

In Victoria, where there is no valid appointment in place, the usual pathway is an application to the Victorian

Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for the appointment of an administrator (for financial decisions) and/or a guardian (for personal and lifestyle decisions).

That process takes time, requires evidence, and can be stressful and expensive for families—often at the very moment they are already dealing with a medical emergency or major change in capacity.

There are also important ongoing consequences once VCAT is involved.

A VCAT-appointed administrator may be required to account for decisions and file ongoing reports with VCAT, particularly where there are significant assets or where the tribunal considers oversight appropriate.

This can include keeping detailed records, complying with conditions imposed by VCAT, and seeking permission for certain transactions.

While these safeguards can be necessary when there are risks of mismanagement or disagreement, they can create an administrative burden and delay day-to-day decision-making.

Putting an enduring power of attorney in place early can help avoid the need for a VCAT application in many cases, reduce stress for loved ones, and ensure decisions are made by the person you chose—promptly, lawfully, and in line with your wishes.

Article provided by J Macgregor Legal

RSL meals still attracts full house

By Mark Walshe

June has been another enjoyable month at the Trafalgar RSL, highlighted by our recent meal and raffle night held on Friday 12 June.

With *Catering by Jay* once again delivering a quality spread, members and visitors were treated to a satisfying evening of good food and great company.

The relaxed atmosphere made it easy for people to linger, chat and reconnect, and the raffle added an extra touch of excitement to the night. It was pleasing to see

such a strong turnout, and the photos taken on the evening capture just how much these gatherings are valued by our community.

Beyond the dining room, the sub-branch continues to offer more for members to enjoy.

Our library has recently welcomed a selection of new books courtesy of the Yarragon Book Fair, giving members even more opportunity to explore military history, personal accounts and a range of interesting reads.

It's well worth taking the time to browse the collection next time you're in the rooms.

Thank you to Yarragon Book Fair and Yarragon Fire Brigade for the book donations.

Our Friday afternoon 'sip-



Some of the many members and guests at Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL Sub-branch's monthly meal night

pers' also continue to grow steadily in popularity.

Open to the public from 4:30pm each week, these casual get togethers provide a great chance to unwind at the end of the week in a friendly and welcoming setting.

Looking ahead, we remind the community that Viet-

nam Veterans Day will be observed on 18 August 2026.

Details of local commemorations will be shared in next month's issue.

To stay up to date with all that is happening, we encourage you to search for and follow Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL Sub-Branch on Facebook.

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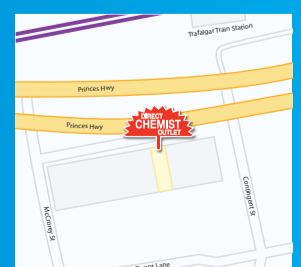
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Trafalgar Community Directory

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

Organisation	Contact	Email/Website	Phone
Baw Baw Shire Council			
Baw Baw Shire Council		Email: bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Website: www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Home	03 5624 2411
Baw Baw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Adam Sheehan	Email: adam.sheehan@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Facebook: @adam4bawbaw	0461 515 690
Baw Baw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Brendan Kingwill	Email: brendan.kingwill@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	0474 652 435
Baw Baw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Kate Wilson	Email: kate.wilson@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Facebook: Kate Wilson - East Ward Baw Baw Shire Council	0460 829 001
Members of Parliament			
Member for Monash (Federal Electorate)	Mary Aldred	Email: mary.alred.mp@aph.gov.au	03 5614 3600
Member for Narracan (State Electorate)	Wayne Farnham	Email: wayne.farnham@parliament.vic.gov.au	03 5623 1960
Education / Childcare			
Nido Early School Trafalgar		Email: trafalgar@nido.edu.au Website: https://nido.edu.au/early-schools/vic/trafalgar/	03 5633 1233
Trafalgar High School		Email: generaloffice@trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au Email: Trafalgar.hs@education.vic.gov.au Website: https://trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au/	03 5633 1733
Trafalgar Primary Early Learning Centre		Email: trafalgar@ykinders.org.au Website: https://ykinders.org.au/centres/trafalgar/	03 4311 1592
Trafalgar Primary School		Email: trafalgar.ps@education.vic.gov.au Website: www.trafps.vic.edu.au	(03) 5633 1566
Trafalgar Primary School (Before and After School Club)	Holly	Website: www.oshclub.com.au/find-us/trafalgar-primary-school/	0439 735 713
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School		Email: office@trafalgar.catholic.edu.au Website: www.trafalgar.catholic.edu.au	5633 1151
Sport			
Trafalgar Bowls Club	Ian Miles	Email: trafalgarbowlsclub@bigpond.com Website: trafalgarbowlsclub.com	03 5633 1274
Trafalgar Boxing Gym	Shane Cameron	Email: box_on_box_all@hotmail.com Website: trafalgarboxingclub.wordpress.com	0408 962 764
Trafalgar Cricket Club	Liam Durkin	Website: trafalgarcricketclub.com.au 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: 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: trafalgarpolocrossclub@gmail.com	0455 440 062
Trafalgar Pony Club	Denise Marriot	Facebook: Trafalgar Pony Club	0411 890 299
Trafalgar Tennis Club	Sue Klemke	Email: trafftennis@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Tennis Club	
Trafalgar Victory Football Club		Email: committee@tvfc.com.au Website: www.tvfc.com.au	
Other			
Baw Baw Arts Alliance	Sue Murphy	Email: president@bawbawartsalliance.org.au Website: www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au/bcms/	0428 866 417
BawBaw Sustainability Network	Malcolm McKelvie	Email: bawbawsn@gmail.com Website: bbsn.org.au Facebook: Baw Baw Sustainability Network	0490 485 370
BetterMental Together	Kerry Rantall	Email: bettermentall@gmail.com Website: bettermentall.com.au	0477 115 666
Rotary Club of Trafalgar	Michael Fozard	Email: mrfozard@bigpond.com Facebook: Rotary Club of Trafalgar	0418 513 092

St John's Church (Trafalgar) St. Jariath's Church (Yarragon)		Email: Trafalgar@cdsale.org.au Website: 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: gcasecretary74@gmail.com Website: www.gippslandcampdraftingassociation.com Facebook: Trafalgar Campdraft Association Inc	0416 166 027
Trafalgar Cemetry Trust	Howard Jones	Email: trafalgarpubliccemetry@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
Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce		Website: www.trafalgarchamber.com.au	
Trafalgar Community Notice Board		Facebook: Trafalgar Community Notice Board	
Trafalgar District News	Mick Bourke	Email: editor@trafnews.com	0409 512 672
Trafalgar Farmers Market		Email - contact@traffarmersmarket.com Website: www.traffarmersmarket.com	0417 131 316
Trafalgar Historical Society	Jean Huffer	Email: historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com	03 5633 1960
Trafalgar Holden Museum		Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: 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

PLEASE DIRECT ANY CHANGES TO EDITOR@TRAFNEWS.COM



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
Trafalgar Farmers Market Fresh produce, local crafts, and community	First Saturday of Each Month Weekends 10am, 12pm, 1:30pm	McGregor Park, Trafalgar
Walhalla Goldfields Railway - Train Rides All aboard a very special journey down Stringer's Creek Gorge	Wednesdays 10am, 12pm. Also running daily during the school holidays.	Walhalla Station Visit website for more information: www.walhalarail.com.au
Paint & Snack Holiday Workshop Paint your masterpiece for free. All supplies provided including fancy snaps. For ages 12-17	Wednesday, 1 July: 1-3pm	Trafalgar Community Centre, 105 Princes Hwy, Trafalgar
Football & netball: Buln Buln v. Trafalgar	Saturday, 11 July	Buln Buln Recreation Reserve
Yarragon Arts Council - Yundi Yuan Adelaide-based pianist Yundi Yuan has performed widely across Australia as a soloist, accompanist, and chamber musician. Highlights include a recent performance at the opening concert of the Hong Kong String Orchestra's Australian Debut Tour in 2025	Sunday, 12 July: 3-4pm. Cost \$37	Yarragon Studio, 515 Yarragon South Road, Yarragon Cost & booking: www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1531644
Football & netball: Trafalgar v. Catani	Saturday, 18 July	Catani Recreation Reserve
Willow Grove Winter Market A new & exciting winter market hosted by the Willow Grove CFA held indoors at the heated & spacious Willow Grove Hall. Enjoy a large variety of stalls from local & surroundings areas	Saturday, 20 June: 8.45am-1pm	Willow Grove Community Centre, 12 Moe Willow Grove Road, Willow Grove
Football & netball: Trafalgar v. Bunyip	Saturday, 25 July	Trafalgar Recreation Reserve
Business Event Series - AI for Business Introduction to AI for Business - Want to know how to introduce AI into your business?	Monday, 20 July: 4-6pm	Cost \$15 includes finger food https://collections.humanitix.com/2026-business-in-baw-baw-event-series?h=3dSMk-7MICWFDWq-1nOu_OE-IXkvUSzdYhfQxYP-kX_Rg&t=17700908274388
Yarragon Community Craft & Produce Market Showcasing a range of local produce, art and crafts	Saturday, 25 July: 9am-1pm	Waterloo Park Yarragon, Princes Highway, Yarragon

Supporting your community 5633 2783 103a Princes Highway, Trafalgar



COUNCIL News

Give your green thumb a workout this July!

Help revegetate an important reserve in Drouin as part of the 2026 National Tree Day event campaign.

Council will run its own activity at the Amberly Acres Bushland Reserve in Drouin, with an aim to increase natural biodiversity and give community members a chance to affect positive change in the local area.

When: Sunday 26 July
from 10am – 1pm

Where: Amberly Acres Bushland Reserve – located within Robin Hood Estate Reserve Nottingham Court. Location adjacent to Billabong Court, Drouin

For more information, visit:

www.bawbawshire.co/NationalTreeDay2026



Bin it better with FOGO

There's no more time to waste, Baw Baw Shire is ready to roll with the new Food Organics and Garden Organics service, which will kick off on 6 July 2026.

You should have your new kitchen caddy by now, which can be used to collect your food scraps, for emptying into your existing green bin.

Once the service commences, the green bin will be collected weekly and your red general rubbish bin will be moved to fortnightly, due to the reduced landfill waste.

To find out more, visit bawbawshire.co/FOGO



Upcoming Events:

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



Upcoming Council Meeting:

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

Wednesday 22 July – 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

Remember When...



The Trafalgar and Yarragon News

Thursday, 15 July 1926

R.S.L. Welfare

Trafalgar Meeting Tonight.

Soldier settlers and other R.S.L. delegates from all parts of Victoria will assemble at Anzac House on Wednesday next, 21st inst. When the annual conference will be held.

This Thursday evening the Trafalgar Branch will meet in the memorial hall to elect delegates and discuss the agenda paper.

Mr. Groom, district inspector, will attend and explain the clauses of the amendment Act and the concessions these entitle local men to apply for...

Branches of the League in this district have several items on the agenda papers for the settlers' and branch conferences.

The position of the League will be revealed as satisfactory.

The State Council will meet on the Wednesday night.

Thursday, 29 July

Builder. - Mr C. Ball, bricklayer, general contractor etc., of Trafalgar announces that he is prepared to undertake all classes of work.

Chimneys, coppers etc., built, and estimates submitted for any job.

Mr. Ball has the contract for the new Anglican church, at Trafalgar, and is a first class tradesman.

Personal

Mr. McWilliams, one of the founders of the Country Party, who has had 25 years' Parliamentary experience

visited Trafalgar on Monday. He is associated with a city newspaper.

Fire Brigade Movement

The Shire Secretary, Mr. Shanahan has recently received the following communication relating to the formation of a Fire Brigade in Trafalgar:-

Offices of the Board, Melbourne, 22/7/26

Mr. Shanahan Dear Sir, - I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 21st inst., and to advise that your council's application will be placed before this Board at the next meeting.

I have discovered that the previous correspondence on the subject was addressed to the Chief Officer, by Mr. Colquhoun.

The Trafalgar News

Wednesday, 7 July 1976

PRICE OF BUTTERFAT SHOULD BE \$1.45

Dairy farmers needed to receive \$1.45 per lb. to run their farms as a business

Three members of the Government's Rural Committee were told this on Friday when they visited Warragul on Friday

(Ed: \$1.45 is worth \$122 today. 1lb (pound) is 500 grams)

B.E.M. to former Trafalgar Man

A former Trafalgar resident, Mr. Jack Green, has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the rural industry.

Mr. Green is a dairy extension officer with the Department of Agriculture. He now lives in Ringwood.



Trafalgar Fire Brigade, 1927

He first came to Trafalgar as a child at the age of 9, with his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs Jack Green.

Traf News

July 2016

Perseverance Pays for Plumber

By Lea Mether

Sarah Murray always wanted to be a plumber just like her Dad, but until recently nobody ever gave her a chance.

Not because she wasn't good enough, or hard working enough, simply because she's female...

She sent out more than 40 resumes in her home town of Mansfield and then Gippsland, and knows her gender was the deal breaker for some plumbing companies and contractors, because they told her so.

Eventually her perseverance paid off when her resume landed in the mail box of Moe plumber, Lee Donovan.

Folding of Lioness' Club

By Lyn Sephton

After 36 years of serving our community, regretfully the members of the Li-

oness Club have found we cannot continue.

In 1970 the Partners of Lions' Club members got together to form a Lions' Ladies' Auxiliary, and in 1980 it was decided to become a Lioness' Club. The first President was Joan Collier.

During that time (36 years), the members of the Lioness' Club have raised \$130,000. much of which has been distributed within our local Community

(Ed: \$130,000 in 2016 is equivalent to \$175,230 today)

Every Cup Counts

Trafalgar residents made every cup count in the fight against cancer at a Biggest Morning Tea event on May 9.

The Australia's Biggest Morning Tea was hosted by the Catholic Women's League and raised \$616.

Cancer Council Victoria is hoping to recruit a record breaking 11,400 hosts this year, with the aim of raising \$ 3.5 million, with several events held locally in the Baw Baw Shire in May and June.

(Ed: \$616 and \$3.5 million in 2016 are equivalent to \$830 and \$472 million today)

MACBETH

Trafalgar High School Form 5 students visited the Traralgon theatre yesterday to see Ramon Polanski's production of Shakespeare's Macbeth.

The students are studying the play as part of the Form 5 English course.

They were accompanied by school principal Mr T. McGrath and Mr K. Bishop.

1976 article

STONEMAN'S ELECTRICAL

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Advertisement placed in The Trafalgar News, 1976

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What a life! What a hard-working advertising medium!

Lodge your advertising for any country newspaper at this office.

TRAFALGAR NEWS

Advertisement placed in The Trafalgar News, 1976

The Trafalgar Story continues

By Jean Huffer*

In the early 1990s, economic theories brought about considerable change which hit Trafalgar hard.

In 1988, the Milk Supply Factory closed down when its operations were moved to Drouin.

With the amalgamation of the shires in 1994, further jobs were lost in local government due to the formation of the new Shire of Baw Baw with its major offices in Warragul.

There are now no shire offices in the former Narracan Shire offices building, which is up for sale.

The Shire Depot was sold which involved further job losses.

Meanwhile the State Electricity Commission was being broken up.

Private companies introduced new, less labour intensive technology than past methods, so that employment prospects were further diminished.

Town businesses were feeling the competition from the bigger shopping complexes in the Latrobe Valley, and the deregulating of shopping hours.

A number of businesses closed. There were vacant shops in the town. There was no-one then employed at the railway station.

Tickets were to be purchased at the newsagency.

Service Clubs declined. Apex closed down in 1997, and other club memberships fell.

The RSL building was leased for other purposes as the sub-branch numbers had declined, and for a time it was amalgamated with Moe.

It has since returned to its Trafalgar home as the Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL Sub-branch.

The cenotaph has been relocated from its original site on the highway, and the building and its surrounds reflect a new life as a place for veterans to gather, and for the community to celebrate Anzac Day, as well as a suitable memorial to those who were lost to the district in wars.

In 2000, Trafalgar was a small country town with a population of around 2300 people.

It continued to have an attractive residential area, with many colourful and well cared for gardens. It was, in part, a dormitory town with an aging population.

Trafalgar and District Community Homes Inc. (formerly Fairview Homes) had constructed four more flats, opened in December, 1999.

Andrews House, a home for the aged, opened in School Road in 1997. Extensions were added in 2004.

There were numbers of houses replaced with units for older residents and farmers retiring into the town.

New housing estates appeared on once good farming land, as the farms on the town's fringes were being sold to developers.



Thomas Treloar's store circa 1930s on the site of the current gymnasium site

The first was Brock's Paddock, now Ferguson Place in December 2001.

Davey's property east of the town became Meadows' Estate in 2004, and Holly Dell on School Road, formerly owned by O'Mearas, then Tony Rikken, became Brindlewood Estate in 2005.

In all, some 400 blocks were created.

Presently land to the west of the town-Echo Glen farm is being developed, and house prices have increased.

In the 1990s, Merv Swinger took over the old Milk Supply Factory building, and revamped it as a thriving rural machinery business.

The building currently houses Trafalgar Holden Museum, initiated by the late Neill Joiner—but that's another story in itself.

Alto Motors expanded and is now under the management of the next generation.

The town entered the computer age with a computer business run by Ed and Heather Haywood, first in the Milk Supply Factory shop, and then in the building in Contingent Street, which had been occupied by the Davine's firm of Solicitors.

While still trading as Ed-Comp, it is now managed by Bryce Coulson.

A Men's Shed was established in the former guide hall under the auspices of Trafalgar Uniting Church (guiding ceased here in February, 2007).

The Men's Shed is currently in premises of its own in Wellington Street on land donated by the Uniting Church, and is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Perhaps the greatest change in the business area occurred when the supermarket relocated to new premises in McCrorey Street in 2009.

There had been a general store/food store on the Con-

tingent Street/ Main Street site for nearly 100 years.

The old property has been sold and now houses the gymnasium.

One of our older businesses-R.R. and H.C. Jolly Pty. Ltd- was founded in 1951 by Russell Jolly. His grandfather, George, had selected 12 hectares (30 acres) on Duggans Road in 1899.

Five generations of the family have worked in the Stock and Station Agents/ Real Estate business. It was sold to John Kerr and Co. of Moe in 2010.

Thus, another chapter of the town's history closed.

Meanwhile, new shops were built behind the bakery on McCrorey Street, the former site of the State and Commonwealth banks.

The bakery replaced the CBA in 2004, and like the other three coffee shops offer cheerful meeting places for the locals.

Community Bank Trafalgar and District—affectionately known to the locals as 'the Bendigo', opened in November, 2003.

It returned its first dividend to shareholders a few years later, and is contributing greatly to the town by way of grants and sponsorship for local needs.

The ANZ Bank was refurbished in 2009 but sadly followed the example of the Commonwealth and no longer has a physical presence in the town.

However, to end on a hopeful note, Trafalgar is again growing, and the 2021 census showed a population of 4,337. This year's census may see that number increase.

* Jean is a committee member of Trafalgar and District Historical Society



The Trafalgar RSL Hall in 2002 when it was leased to West Gippsland Hospital

Councillor's Comments



ty work together towards a shared vision.

This redevelopment is about far more than a building.

It represents a significant investment in the future of sport, recreation and community connection in Yarragon.

On behalf of council, I would like to acknowledge the generations of volunteers who have dedicated countless hours to the sporting reserve across all sports and codes.

Their commitment, hard work and community spirit have helped build the vibrant sporting culture we enjoy today.

They are the backbone of local sport, and it is fitting that this redevelopment recognises and honours their enduring contribution.

Importantly, the completion of the pavilion is not the end of our investment in local sporting infrastructure.

Looking ahead, a key priority will be reviewing the Master Plan for the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve and progressing the long-awaited development of a second oval to meet the needs of our growing community.

Another issue that continues to impact local residents is the ongoing slip on Thorpdale Road.

An online petition is currently calling on the State Government to commit to a permanent solution and restore this vital transport link.

If you are unable to locate the petition online or through my Facebook page, hard-copy petitions are available at BK's Takeaway, Trafalgar IGA, Thorpdale Bakery, Thorpdale Hotel, Yarragon IGA and Gippsland Food and Wine. I encourage residents to add their support and help demonstrate the importance of this road to our local communities, businesses and economy.

Residents should also be aware that Baw Baw Shire

Council's Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service will commence on 6 July.

Most households should now have received their kitchen caddy and information pack. If you have not received yours, please contact Council as soon as possible.

I am also pleased that funding has been secured for new seating at the Thorpdale Cenotaph.

The need for additional seating was raised during

this year's ANZAC Day service and, with the support of council officers, the project is now moving forward. While a relatively modest initiative, it will provide a comfortable place for residents and visitors to pause, reflect and pay their respects throughout the year, while also enhancing future commemorative services and community gatherings.

Finally, council will soon consider the adoption of the 2026/27 Annual Budget.

The budget outlines the services, projects and infrastructure investments that will support our growing community over the coming year.

I look forward to its adoption and to continuing to advocate for practical investments that strengthen our towns, support local families and businesses, and deliver positive outcomes across the Shire.

Last month was a particularly rewarding month, highlighted by the official opening of the new Dowton Park Sports Pavilion in Yarragon.

It was a privilege to join community members, sporting clubs, volunteers and fellow Councillors in celebrating the completion of this outstanding facility.

Valued at \$3.965 million, the pavilion has been a project I have been passionate about for many years.

Its planning, design and delivery have been exemplary and stand as a testament to what can be achieved when council and communi-

Young artists invited to bring water saving messages to life

Gippsland Water is inviting local students to take part in the annual National Water Week poster competition.

Local students are encouraged to design a poster based on this year's theme: water heroes: make every drop count.

For the first time, the competition has expanded to include years 7 and 8 students, giving more students the chance to get involved.

Managing director Sarah Cumming said the competition encourages students to learn about responsible water use.

"It inspires students to think about everyday actions

they can take to help protect this precious resource for future generations," Ms Cumming said.

"We're looking forward to seeing how students interpret the theme and the creative ways they share messages about saving water."

Some simple tips to help local students become water heroes may include taking four-minute showers, making sure there are no leaking taps, or using a sponge and bucket to wash the car.

There are a range of prizes up for grabs, with local winners automatically entered into the state competition.

Entries close at 5pm on Friday, 11 September.

Local winners will be automatically entered into the statewide poster competition as part of National Water Week.

For competition information and how to enter, visit www.gippswater.com.au/nwwpostercompetition



Goodstart Early Learning Morwell's artwork finished equal second in Victoria for the 2025 competition

New BMX Pump Track in Warragul

Works now underway on a fantastic new community asset, pump track in Warragul, which will benefit local riders, including those in Trafalgar and surrounds.

The family-friendly pump track will be the first of its kind in Baw Baw Shire, with the course set to provide a source of entertainment and activity for a range of skill levels and ages.

A pump track is a bike circuit of dirt or asphalt featuring small, rolling bumps and berms, designed for riding without pedalling, but instead pushing or 'pumping' to gain momentum.

The pump track is designed as an integrated yet distinct feature adjacent to the existing playground and skatepark at Burke Street Park, with intentional separation for safety.

It connects seamlessly with the park's layout, complementing the playground and skatepark to create an all-rounder recreation precinct.

There will be a beginner and intermediate track loop with features such as a typical roller, double roller and hipped roller, advanced hipped jump, catch berm and an advanced transfer option, for the more experienced riders.

There will also be spectator seating, bike racks and a rest platform.

Baw Baw Shire Council has worked closely with the local Cycling Project Reference Group on options for cycling infrastructure in the shire and is confident this new track will help fill a gap in this space.

Baw Baw Shire mayor Kate Wilson said this was a fantastic example of council

working with the community and is excited for the adventures ahead for local bike enthusiasts.

"The pump track was identified by the Baw Baw Shire Cycling Project Reference Group as one of their [sic] top priorities for the area, and I'm so excited to this concept come to fruition," she said.

"Beginner riders can navigate the inner junior loop, while intermediate and advanced riders follow the outer loop, ensuring a seamless experience for both groups," she said.

This project is thanks to a joint funding venture between Baw Baw Shire Council and the Victorian Government, who contributed \$120,000 and \$480,000 respectively.

Works are expected to be complete by the end of June 2026.

Source: Warragul Gazette

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2027

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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 trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au

Firefighters multi-scenario training exercises

By Sally Neenan

A crew of five fire fighters from Trafalgar Volunteer Fire Brigade participated in the bi-annual Baw Baw Group (the group) exercise on 31 May.

These exercises bring together crews from across the Group to improve skills and build inter-brigade relationships in a supportive learning environment.

Each year an exercise is run prior to summer focusing on wildfire skills and then another prior to winter focusing on responding to structural incidents.

This year the Group was fortunate to be given access to the Ellinbank SmartFarm, and this presented not only

an opportunity to practice a number of critical skills, but also for brigades across the group to gain familiarity with this unique facility.

The exercise was split into two sections, an all in large scale industrial fire scenario, followed by a round robin on specialist skills.

The main scenario was based on a fire starting in a 20 metre by 20 metre steel shed with the advice that three people were still inside.

The shed had a large solar panel array, a chemical storage area, and was partially filled with stock fodder, to add some realistic complexities to the scenario.

The incident was set up as a real major event would be,

requiring us to go through a staging area and be briefed prior to responding.

The Trafalgar crew all had great opportunities to test out its skills; new members Lincoln Graham and Jacob Brooks wore breathing apparatus sets for the first time under the instruction of Jake Murphy, and all three were taken through the steps of conducting an internal search and rescue by experienced Group leaders.

Kate Wattochow was coached on different ways to set up the pump when operating as part of a strike team, and Sally Neenan stepped up as crew leader, working with the Incident Controller on radio messaging.

Following the scenario, the brigade went through a skills sessions on how to do a 'size up' or initial risk assessment, on complex facilities, a tutorial on ladder use (which finished with the sage advice that ladders are a last resort due to their inherent risks, advice which extends to real life), and familiarisation on the new fire alarm panel the facility has recent installed.

Experienced members of Trafalgar Fire Brigade, Danny Mynard, Marcus Barker, and Brian Mynard worked as instructors and event coordinators along with senior members from the other brigades within the Group, and their support is essential for the training to occur.

The activities were structured to cater for all experience levels, from brand new recruits to seasoned crew leaders and instructors and was paced so that everyone got an opportunity to challenge themselves whilst being fully supported by experienced personnel.

Firefighter Sally Neenan said "In my two years as an operational member of the CFA, I have attended all of the Group exercises and found them to be of great value to not only develop skills, but to meet and work with fire fighters from neighbouring brigades and get used to how their trucks and equipment work in peace time.

"Previous winter exercises have involved multi vehicle collisions, mass trauma events, electric vehicle fires, and chemical leaks.

"These scenarios are incredibly important to train on but are difficult for individual brigades to facilitate on a weeknight training session, so the Group exercises are critical to build our response capability."

Trafalgar Fire Brigade is currently recruiting for new fire fighters and non-operational members and I'd like to encourage anyone who is keen to support our community and challenge themselves, to submit an expression of interest at www.cfa.vic.gov.au and we'll be in contact.



Trafalgar fire Brigade members participated in the bi-annual Baw Baw Group exercise on 31 May. From left: Firefighters Sally Neenan, Jacob Brooks, Lincoln Graham, Jake Murphy, Kate Wattochow. Photo: Kathy Geisler

Liver fluke

Dr. Jared Waddell-Smith BSc. BVMS



Historically we had considered liver fluke to not be endemic in our area – the only cases diagnosed through our clinic had been in cattle which had been transported in from other areas.

In recent years however, we have had positive detections through abattoir samples, and herds detected with

positive cases where the cattle were born and raised on the local property.

Therefore, we need to consider liver fluke as a possible cause of disease in our area. It affects many species including cattle, sheep, goats, horses, pigs, various wildlife and rarely, humans.

Adult liver fluke is a flat leaf-like parasite living within the bile ducts of the liver.

Huge numbers of eggs are passed every day, which make their way via the bile into the intestines and are passed in faeces.

The eggs hatch in warmer weather, and the erupting larvae has to swim quickly to find and enter the body of a particular type of snail.

Various life cycle stages follow and eventually leave the snail, swimming around to then latch onto and form a cyst on pasture.

This cyst is then eaten by an unsuspecting host animal and hatches within the intestines.

The larva migrates through the intestinal wall into the liver and spends weeks migrating through the liver, before finally lodging in the bile ducts as an adult fluke for the lifecycle to repeat again.

The signs of liver fluke can vary depending on the severity of the infestation.

Animals can be anaemic and weak, not gain weight as expected, and may develop

fluid under the jaw from low blood protein (commonly known as bottle jaw).

Dairy cows may lose weight and have a significant drop in milk production. Yearlings are more likely to be affected than adult cattle.

Because the signs can be subtle in milder infections, liver fluke could be having a negative impact on a herd's health and production, but go undetected.

A less common complication known as black disease can cause sudden death.

This is a rapid bacterial infection of the liver because of the damage from migrating larvae.

Making sure livestock have had the appropriate

routine vaccine schedule (eg 5-in-1 or 7-in-1) reduces the risk of this disease occurring.

Due to the nature of the life cycle of this parasite, it only occurs where water is present on the ground.

Properties where livestock graze in wet areas from flowing springs or low-lying swampy areas are at risk of liver fluke because it provides habitat for the snail and allows the swimming stages of the parasite to find its host.

One possible method of preventing liver fluke is to have these areas of the property fenced off, however this is obviously not practical on all properties.

Liver fluke eggs can be detected in sedimentation tests (this is different to a regular worm egg count), or antibodies (indicating exposure to the parasite) can be tested in blood or milk samples.

We can assist you in investigating cases of ill-thrift and weight loss.

The following websites have excellent and more detailed information for those interested: General liver fluke information <https://wormboss.com.au/liver-fluke/>

Parasite treatment and prevention programs <https://paraboss.com.au/annual-program/central-victoria-and-tasmania/>

Trafalgar's longest serving teachers

Kathy is Gippsland's Best Art Teacher

St Joseph's Catholic School's Kathy Grass is an experienced primary school educator with 47 years' teaching experience.

She has taught in both government and Catholic school settings across Victoria.

Her teaching experience includes positions at Glenthompson Primary School, Cobram Consoli-

dated School, Coomoora Primary School, Warragul Primary School, Nilma Primary School, St Kieran's Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School.

Throughout her career, she has taught a range of specialist subjects including Art, Library, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Science, Sustainability and Digital Technologies.

In addition to specialist teaching roles, Kathy has also

worked as a classroom teacher in Years 4, 5 and 6.

Kathy is an inspirational teacher who specialises in teaching art.

A talented and proven artist herself, she is passionate about sharing her skills and helping students develop their own creativity.

Students at our school deeply appreciate her engaging and imaginative art lessons, and they know that Ms Grass consistently delivers high-quality, inspiring learning experiences.

Passionate about engaging students through creative, hands-on learning experiences, Kathy is committed to helping every child develop confidence, curiosity, a love of learning, and the ability to discover their own passion in life.

Adding to the warmth of her classroom environment, Kathy often brings in her beloved griffon dog, Oakley, who serves as our school's therapy dog and is adored by students.

Celebrating Fiona McLaurin – Our Longest Serving Staff Member

Fiona McLaurin began her journey at Trafalgar High School as a physical educa-

tion (PE) teacher. In March 1982, originally joining the school to co-teach with Mary Prince.

What was meant to be a one-year role has become an incredible 40+ year connection to the Trafalgar High School community.

Over the years, Fiona has taught PE, geography, VCE PE, health and human development, and junior health, while also taking on many leadership roles including school sport coordinator, regional sport coordinator, level coordinator, student wellbeing, and disability and inclusion roles.

Reflecting on the early days, Fiona remembers a smaller school community, with around 300 students, fewer classes, two staffrooms, longer lunch breaks and a strong local connection.

While technology, facilities and the size of the school have changed, the beautiful grounds, mountain views and supportive community have remained a constant.

The most rewarding part of Fiona's career has been working alongside wonderful staff and positive students, while having opportunities to support students and schools beyond Trafal-

gar High School through regional roles.

Some highlights include seeing students continue passions they discovered at school and coaching successful sporting teams, including the 2025 badminton team receiving the Spirit of Sport Award.

Describing Trafalgar High School as "diverse, inclusive and creative", Fiona is

proud to still enjoy coming to work, continuing to learn and helping students achieve their goals.

Her advice to new staff?

Build strong relationships, especially with office staff, and get involved beyond the classroom through sport, excursions, camps and activities to truly connect with students and the wider school community.



Emotional and financial harm scams

Scamwatch is running a campaign to help people spot the signs of a relationship scam.

Relationship scams (also called romance or dating scams) happen when someone pretends to be interest-

ed in you so they can take your money.

They build trust, then ask for money, gifts, or your personal details.

They may also try to get into your bank or online accounts. Some scammers also

push fake investments, including cryptocurrency.

They may ask you to move the chat to a private messaging app so it's harder to trace.

They might say they live or work overseas.

They may avoid meeting in person or on video.

They may also invent an emergency (like a hospital bill, travel issue, or legal trouble) to pressure you to send money quickly.

If you think you or someone you know may be in a relationship scam, remember: scammers can be very convincing.

They use feelings to control people and may try to cut them off from friends and family. It is never the victim's fault.

Help is available.

Who's at risk

Anyone can be targeted.

Scammers often go after people who want connection or support online.

You may be at higher risk if you:

- use dating apps or social media to meet new people
- are newly single, have recently lost someone close, or are going through a big life change
- feel lonely and want ongoing contact
- have money set aside to invest (including in cryptocurrency).

What it can look like

These scams feel real. Here are some common examples:

Romance baiting scams: These can be short. They may start on a dating app and then shift into a fake cryptocurrency or investment scam.

Long-term romance scams: The scammer builds a close bond over months or years. Then they make up a crisis (like a medical emergency, work problem, or travel issue) to get money from you.

Warning signs to look out for:

- They say they love you or want a serious relationship very quickly;
- They ask you to move the chat to another App;
- They won't video call, won't meet in person, or always cancel meetings;
- They ask for money, gift cards, cryptocurrency or bank transfers;
- They ask for personal details such as your ID, passport or address, or access to your accounts or device;
- They tell you not to talk to anyone else and say

you should only trust them.

If you think it's a scam

If something feels wrong, pause.

Think about what you know about the person and what they are asking for.

- Never send money or personal information even if the person promises to repay you.
- Talk to someone you trust. Tell a friend or family member what's happening. Scammers rely on secrecy.
- Check who they are by doing a reverse image search on their photos. Look for details that don't match, or a story that keeps changing. Be careful if the profile looks too perfect.
- Keep proof. Save messages, screenshots, usernames, phone numbers, bank details, and receipts.
- Report the profile to the app or platform, then block the person
- If you've sent money, contact your bank straight away.

Census night is coming soon

The next Australian census will be held on Tuesday 11 August 2026.

The census is the largest collection of data undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Emily Walter, Census National Spokesperson, said that now is a good time to remind people why every answer matters.

"The census provides some of the country's most valuable statistics.

"It's a snapshot of who we are and how we are changing, informing what we need now and into the future," Ms Walter said.

Census data informs planning for schools, health care, transport and infrastructure.

It is also used to help plan local services for individuals, families and communities.

"An example of the importance of census data can be seen in how Playgroup Australia uses it to understand emerging community needs and modern Australian families," Ms Walter said.

"Census data helps them plan the timing and locations of playgroups to accommodate working parents, while also identifying gaps in their network.

"Playgroups have become more vital than ever for pro-

viding trusted, community-based spaces that support early childhood development, social connection and parental wellbeing."

The ABS has been preparing to make sure everyone in Australia can take part in the census.

"The ABS will provide a range of ways for the public to complete the census this year, including online or via a paper form," Ms Walter said.

"Additional support will also be available for people who need it, including Census field staff, phone and online services, information hubs in public spaces and translated material."

Farming News

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

Case study - suspect lesser loosestrife toxicity

Most producers would agree that 2025 was a challenging year for feeding livestock.

With limited pasture availability, many animals were grazed in unusual locations and on unconventional forage sources.

It's often in years like this that unusual disease events occur - as was the case for one unfortunate south west dairy farmer who experienced suspected lesser loosestrife toxicity.

In autumn 2025, after the afternoon milking, the farmer placed 120 mixed-age dairy cattle onto the only green feed available - a dried-up swamp.

This area was usually underwater and had never previously been grazed.

The following morning, when the farmer went to collect the cattle, he found 12 animals dead.

The remaining cattle ranged from slow and trembling to apparently normal.

The herd was immediately moved to a known safe paddock and provided with ad-lib hay and lick blocks, and local veterinarians were called.

Despite prompt veterinary treatment, the affected animals failed to respond as expected.

With no improvement seen, the Victoria District Veterinary Officer (DVO) was contacted, and a Significant Disease Investigation was opened.

The local DVO and an Animal Health Officer (AHO) attended the property promptly. Necropsies were performed, blood samples collected, and epidemiological information gathered, including identification of plant species present in the swamp.

A local agronomist confirmed the presence of lesser loosestrife (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*), an annual spreading herb commonly found in damp or seasonally flooded areas such as swamps.

The plant has small, narrow leaves resembling rosemary, and produces pink, blue, or purple flowers, although flowers were no longer present at the time.

Samples were taken to the AgriBio laboratory in Melbourne for urgent analysis.

The following day, results confirmed lesser loosestrife toxicity.

In total, 70 of the 120 cattle died, most within the first 24 hours of exposure.

Lesser loosestrife wasn't identified in the rumen contents of the deceased animals so it couldn't be definitively confirmed as the cause.

However, the epidemiology, clinical signs, and pathology findings strongly suggest it was responsible.

The 50 cattle in the herd that survived have not since shown any clinical signs.

While this was a tragic outcome for the producer involved, it's a strong example of how local vets, DVOs, AHOs, agronomists, and pathologists collaborate in rapid investigation of unusual livestock disease events.

If you notice sudden deaths, significant illness, or unusual clinical signs in livestock, contact your local veterinarian, DVO, or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

If you see unfamiliar or unusual plants in your paddocks, seek advice from your local agronomist.

Find out more about Agriculture Victoria's emergency animal disease preparedness at Emergency animal diseases | Animal diseases | Biosecurity | Agriculture Victoria

Find out more about the Significant Disease Investigation Program at Significant Disease Investigation (SDI) program | Animal diseases | Biosecurity | Agriculture Victoria

Tap into valuable soil moisture data this season

Farmers statewide are encouraged to subscribe to Agriculture Victoria's Soil Moisture Monitoring Cropping Report e-newsletter for real-time soil water data in their region.

The report summarises data from underground probes at 20 monitoring sites across Victorian cropping regions as part of Agriculture Victoria's Soil Moisture Monitoring (SMM) project.

Agriculture Victoria Seasonal Risk Agronomist Dale Boyd said the newsletter aims to be both informative and educational about seasonal rain events and how far they have soaked down into the soil profile.

"The newsletter describes what is happening at each reference point and provides resources to help you learn more about understanding the deep soil moisture probe graphs," Mr Boyd said.

"If you invest some time in learning how to interpret moisture probe graphs, you can really reap some benefits."

"For example, after the large volume of rain in March, you could ask 'what was the deepest sensor to react to the rain?'"

Where feasible Mr Boyd validates the sensor findings in the paddock with coring tubes and says it's promising to see moisture still evident in the profile.

The sites record soil water content at one source point from 30 centimetres (cm) down to 1 metre as a reference point for a paddock.

Some key findings noted in the current report include:

- Summer weed control remains critical to conserving soil moisture;
- Cropping regions north of the divide are showing improvement due to March rainfall increasing stored soil water;
- Several grain growing areas still have deep soil moisture deficits following a dry summer;
- Regions with decile 9 March rainfall are showing strong recovery and soil profiles that are at least half full receiving more than 100mm of rain during March;
- Districts that received rainfall greater than 150mm (decile 10 or highest on record) are more than 75 percent full and many have deep moisture that is 100 percent;
- Overall, soil water app data is showing mixed trends with notable increases at Ouyen (88 percent) and Coonooer Bridge (88 percent) while other areas remain low in the south west around Hamilton (12 percent) and Lake Bolac (29 percent).

Read the latest copy of the Soil Moisture Monitor e-newsletter on the Agriculture Victoria website at <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/newsletters/soil-moisture-monitoring-in-cropping-regions>

For drought support, including grants, technical advice and mental health services, visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

Turn challenges into opportunities at conferences

Explore ways to turn today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities at Agriculture Victoria's BestWool/BestLamb and BetterBeef Conferences.

The two-day event, on 23 and 24 June at The Goods Shed in Ballarat, has a packed agenda of keynote addresses and sessions, allowing participants to tailor their day to their interests and needs.

Agriculture Victoria's Jen Alexander said the BestWool/BestLamb and BetterBeef Networks are long-standing extension programs which continue to support Victoria's sheep and beef industries with practical, relevant information.

"The networks connect producers through producer groups, and include access to up-to-date research, opportunities for skill development and knowledge building, as well as networking and learning from others," Ms Alexander said.

"We know the conferences give producers the opportunity to step away from

the farm, connect with fellow producers, share experiences and gather fresh ideas for the future."

The event opens on Tuesday, 23 June with the BestWool/BestLamb Conference, followed by a combined industry dinner that evening, and the BetterBeef Conference following on Wednesday, 24 June including a Feeder Steer Masterclass.

"Attendees can expect a mix of keynote addresses and concurrent sessions with a producer focus that will inform and challenge while providing insights from across the sheep and beef industries."

Some of this year's keynote speakers include:

- John Francis (Agrista): speaking on both days, John will challenge how producers think about risk, revealing why mindset, not markets, may be the biggest driver of profit
- Ricky and Marni Luhrs (Moralla Merino): Hear how Merino producers

Ricky and Marni utilised the knowledge gained from a BestWool/BestLamb Conference, to give them the confidence to create a resilient whole farm system

- Prof. Peter McGilchrist (University of New England): Peter, one of the Feeder Steer Masterclass speakers, will explore what's next

in beef eating-quality improvement beyond marbling, including red meat yield, tenderness and ageing.

Full program details are available on the conferences website: agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/networks/betterbeef-network/bestwool-bestlamb-betterbeef-conference



Photo: ABC

Football's future?

by Nicholas Duck

A number of Gippsland football netball league officials have questioned the direction of football in the region after a meeting with AFL Gippsland in late May.

Representatives from all leagues were joined at Lowanna College by members of AFL Gippsland, AFL Victoria, Netball Victoria and the regional umpire associations to launch the development of the Gippsland Charter - a 10-year game plan for the future of football in the region.

The Gippsland Charter will be developed across three steps.

The first, a 'Lay of the Land' report, involves discussions with clubs and leagues to identify priorities and is expected to last until February next year.

From there the priority activities will be agreed upon, before final approval and implementation from 2028 onwards.

While the meeting had long been in the works, some league officials expressed disappointment in the direction it took - specifically around one issue.

Discussions around player numbers, particularly those in juniors and how many were making the jump to senior football, continue to rage as clubs report struggles.

Mid Gippsland president John Schelling said the meeting "didn't really meet my expectations."

"We have junior numbers drying up so I was hoping

there would be more about community clubs and how best to help them but it never really went there," he said.

Mid Gippsland, which includes Thorpdale and Willow Grove, has endured limited number in its junior ranks in recent years, having only been able to reintroduce under 16s football this season after absorbing several sides from the Central Gippsland Junior Football League.

Even still, the numbers don't paint the prettiest of pictures.

Despite fielding 13 senior football clubs, the league's under 16s has just six teams and the under 18s has seven.

"It's tough, some have (numbers), some haven't ... we're just trying to provide smaller clubs a chance to field junior teams for their future."

Some of the region's larger leagues like the Gippsland League has just one club missing a junior contingent (Sale in the under 18s). For other leagues who primarily feature smaller towns, like Mid Gippsland, that number drops off.

Ray Wall, the president of Ellinbank and District, which includes Trafalgar and Yarragon, said while his league's numbers were solid, the writing was on the wall.

"My view is things will have to change," he said.

"Some people are living in denial. The demographics are changing - farms are growing, families are shrinking."

Mr Wall said although numbers were less of an issue

in Baw Baw due to it being "a growth area," the further out you go the harder things are.

"We're there (numbers-wise) but it's not brilliant ... it's been through a lot of hard work from the clubs."

AFL Gippsland reported an increase in numbers across the board at the meeting from the same date last year.

"I've heard that for 35 years, but clubs are falling away," Mr Schelling said.

"I think we need more concentration on individual clubs instead of leagues. There wasn't a lot of that community focus."

"The meeting was okay but it was just another 'make you feel good' meeting which we don't need. We need something more worthwhile."

Source: Warragul Gazette

Trafalgar's view

By Jamie Marslen*

The greatest threat to grassroots football isn't a lack of passion, it's a lack of time.

Young people are choosing between earning a wage and playing football, and volunteers are carrying an ever-increasing load to keep clubs alive.

The increasing cost of living has changed priorities for many 16 to 21-year-olds.

Young people are entering the workforce earlier or taking on additional hours to meet rising expenses and achieve financial independence.

The constant influence of social media, where success is often measured by possessions, travel and lifestyle, creates pressure to earn more and keep pace with perceived expectations.

For many, that means sacrificing recreational and community involvement for paid employment.

This doesn't necessarily mean kids stop playing organised sport it means other options become more attractive like basketball or esports with different scheduling like indoor midweek night games rather than the weekly commitment for six months to play football or netball.

Not all of these decisions are fuelled by the kids themselves as parents or 'gameday taxis' have found themselves time-poor and are looking to claw back some time to themselves at the expense of sitting at the local footy for 5-6 hours on a Saturday including travel.

The decline is systemic, starting at the outermost regions of Victoria and moving

inwards towards the cities swallowing up and spitting out smallest town clubs first with its insatiable appetite before moving on.

But at the core, grassroots football remains the foundation of the game; its where all AFL players start from, yet it often feels as though the greatest burden falls on the clubs with the fewer resources.

If community football is to remain healthy, greater investment is needed from the AFL into country junior participation, volunteer support and player retention programs.

Funding that reaches local clubs directly will have a far greater impact than initiatives they are delivering at the moment.

*Jamie is Trafalgar Football Netball Club's president



Rhys is among the best in Gippsland

By Liam Durkin

Trafalgar cricketer Rhys Holdsworth has been named in the Gippsland Cricket team of the year for his efforts last season.

The Gippsland team is selected from the top performers across all Gippsland cricket leagues.

The left hander topped the Warragul District Cricket Association (WDCA) batting aggregate, scoring 585 runs at an average of 53.18.

A move to the middle order proved a masterstroke, with the seasoned veteran able to play his naturally attacking game against the older ball.

He added another century to his career tally during the season, making 166 against Iona.

There was also five half-centuries for the season from 12 hits. Only once did he fail to reach double figures.

A match-winning 80-ball 73 against Longwarry in mid-November was the start of a strong run of form.

From that game, he went: 58 not out, 47, 37, 46, 0, 166 and 51.

Holdsworth's season saw him climb further in the club's First XI aggregate toward the magical mark of 10,000 runs.

Not surprisingly, he was the runaway winner of the Richard Errington Medal, awarded as the best player in the First XI.

It was his seventh Errington Medal.

He was also named in the WDCA team of the year.



Trafalgar cricketer Rhys Holdsworth was awarded for his outstanding season, with selection in the Gippsland Cricket team of the year.

\$3.965 million sports pavilion now open at Yarragon's Downton Park

A red ribbon has been cut on a brand new \$3.965 million sports pavilion at Yarragon's Downton Park following an official opening celebration early last month.

Following demolition of the old pavilion and a year-long redevelopment, the new modern facility has been designed to support the growing needs of local clubs, families and visitors, providing high-quality amenities to service the community into the future.

The pavilion features upgraded change rooms, accessible and female-friendly facilities, coaches' box and timekeeper's room, a multi-purpose social space, a canteen, storage areas, improved parking and viewing areas for spectators.

Sustainability features, including energy-efficient lighting, solar panels with a battery and water-saving systems have also been incorporated into the build.

Sporting clubs, community and officials gathered on Saturday, 6 June to formally open the new facility ahead of the Seniors game where home team Yarragon Panthers played Buln Buln in the Ellinbank and District Football Netball League.

Baw Baw Shire mayor councillor Kate Wilson hosted a formal opening ceremony with addresses from Minister Harriet Shing MLC on behalf of the Victorian Government, East Ward councillor Brendan Kingwill, and Ross Follett, president of the Downton Park Recreation Reserve Committee.

Cr Wilson said the project gives a significant boost to Yarragon's sporting future.

"For decades, Downton Park has been a bustling hub of sporting activity in Yarragon. As the town has grown, the need for a new modern facility has been clear. We're proud to deliver a facility that reflects the passion and pride of Yarragon and will continue to support participation in sport for men and women of all ages and abilities", said Cr Wilson.

"We're incredibly thankful to both the Australian and Victorian Government for their generous support and investment in grassroots sport in regional communities like Yarragon."

The project has been a joint venture between all three levels of government.

Baw Baw Shire Council contributed \$1.9 million, the Federal Government contributed \$1.75 million through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, and



the Victorian Government contributed the \$250,000 balance through Sport and Recreation Victoria.

East Ward Cr Brendan Kingwill congratulated all involved in the project for working together towards a fantastic outcome.

"The planning and delivery of this pavilion has been nothing short of exemplary and is a real testament to what can be achieved when Council and community come together", said Cr Kingwill.

"On behalf of council, I acknowledge the generations of volunteers who have contributed so much to this sporting reserve across all sports and codes.

"Their countless hours of hard work and commitment have helped shape what we see today. They are the backbone of local sport, and we are proud to honour that legacy through this redevelopment.

"With the project now complete, we are not just celebrating a building, we are looking to the future. Yarragon now has a facility that will support the next generation of athletes and create opportunities for growth and connection for years to come."

The design was shaped through close consultation with grassroots sporting clubs including Yarragon Football Club, Yarragon Junior Football Club, Yarragon Netball Club and the Yarragon Cricket Club, to ensure designs met the needs of a wide range of users.

Local sporting groups have welcomed the upgrade, noting it will enhance player experience, attract new members, and enable the town to host larger competitions and events.

Source: Warragul Gazette

Celebrating the opening of the new sports pavilion at Yarragon's Downton Park are Ross Follett (chairperson for DPRRCAC), Baw Baw Shire councillor Brendan Kingwill, Jake Borsato (YCC club president), Member for Eastern Victoria Minister Harriet Shing, Baw Baw Shire mayor Cr Kate Wilson, former councillor Peter Kostos, Jackie van de Burgt (YFNC and YJFC volunteer), James Harvey (YJFC president) Sarah Jesson (Yarragon FNC canteen manager), and Brad Hosking (secretary for DPRRCAC). Acronyms: DPRRCAC - Downton Park Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee; YFNC - Yarragon Football Netball Club; YJFC - Yarragon Junior Football Club; YCC - Yarragon Cricket Club

TFNC Comes Together for Midseason Ball

By Fiona Hennessey

Trafalgar Football Netball Club (TFNC) celebrated in style on Saturday, 13 June, hosting a successful midseason ball at the Downtowner in Warragul.

With a strong turnout of approximately 100 players and supporters, the evening was a fantastic showcase of club spirit and camaraderie.

Attendees dressed to impress and enjoyed a lively atmosphere as the season's efforts paused for a well-earned night of celebration.

Entertainment for the

night was provided by the popular Fallout Coverband, featuring Bek and Reevesy, who kept the dance floor busy from start to finish.

Their energy and crowd-favourite tunes ensured there was no shortage of dancing, laughter and enjoyment throughout the evening.

The event proved to be more than just a social gathering, reinforcing the close-knit connections that underpin the club. By all accounts, the midseason ball was a great night for the TFNC.



From left: Britt Larkin, Michelle Jinks, Andrea Coulthard



Enjoying the TFNC's midseason ball are, from left, Abbey Sneddon, Kaitlyn Thompson, Tessa Sneddon



From left: Luke Cameron, Rocco King, Hardy Kenny, Ryan Dyke



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