

# Traf District News

September 2026 – Edition 289

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NEWS

A vision decades  
in the making

PAGE 8



NEWS

A lap of Australia  
on the Big Pig

PAGE 11



NEWS

Faltum to  
lead Vics

PAGE 21

## Vietnam veterans commemorated at Trafalgar

By Paul Altamore, CSM

The Trafalgar-Thorpdale RSL Sub-Branch commemorated Vietnam Veterans Day, on Tuesday, 18 August with a service at the Trafalgar cenotaph followed by light refreshments in the sub-branch's hall.

Vietnam Veterans Day is commemorated on 18 August, which is the anniversary of the Battle of Lang Tan in 1966.

This year is the 60th Anniversary of that significant action.

The service was attended by approximately 35 veterans, members, and guests commencing at noon with a gathering at the cenotaph.

The service was conducted by sub-branch president Jim Crowe who served with 2 RAR/ANZAC Battalion during its second tour in 1970/71.

Jim was the master of ceremonies for the service.

Bill Kilday, who served with 6 RAR on their tour of Vietnam in 1969/70, spoke about the Battle of Long Tan

and retired army major Sandra Pleash presented a brief history of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

Wreaths provided by Leonie Gracie were laid at the cenotaph representing the RSL sub-branch and Vietnam veterans.

Mayor Kate Wilson and councillor Brendan Kingwill also laid a wreath on behalf of Baw Baw Shire Council.

Marcus Barker and Peter Battye served as flag attendees for the service, raising and lowering the Australian

and New Zealand national flags with precision at the appropriate times.

Grady Edwards organised and operated the sound system for the Last Post, Rouse, and National Anthem.

At the service's conclusion, Jim Crowe made a presentation to Carol Saunders, the widow of Vietnam veteran Dusty Saunders, along with Dusty's daughter and great-grandson, of a commemorative box detailing his service details and records.

This initiative has just been instigated by this

Sub-branch for departed service veterans.

Following the service, all adjourned to Trafalgar-Thorpdale RSL Sub-Branch's hall for a catch up, a few drinks and light lunch.

Pauline Barker and Wilma Franklin worked the kitchen, providing sandwiches, soups prepared by Tracey Chambers and Pauline Barker.

Scones were also provided.

Their combined efforts ensured that none went hungry or thirsty.

Vietnam Veterans Day is commemorated every year by this sub-branch.

Particularly significant is that it was Vietnam veterans who were instrumental in re-raising the sub-branch.

These included former sub-branch president and life member Ray James OAM, former secretary, the late Paul Erbs, and our current president Jim Crowe, as well as other service personnel and their spouses from the Vietnam War era.



Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL Sub-Branch vietnam veterans who attended the service on 18 August, from left (standing) Bill Kilday and Jim Crowe. Sitting, from left, Tom Pye and Ray James OAM. Photo credit: Marcus Barker



Some of the 35 veterans, sub-branch members and guests who attended the Vietnam Veterans Day commemoration at Trafalgar Thorpdale RSL's cenotaph. Photo credit: Wilma Franklin

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

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## 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

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the committee on creating the Future Direction survey, which offers two clear options: focusing on the local community in the style of Traf News, with articles mainly from Trafalgar, or adopting a more regional approach in the style of Traf District News, which gave an opportunity to be heard to surrounding communities.

The paper was resurrected in 2023 by my late husband, Trevor Colvin, and myself, Susie Foletta, after we had relocated to Trafalgar.

Between us, Trevor and I have over 50 years of experience in the newspaper

industry, and we understood the vital need for a local newspaper - but one that is also economically sustainable.

I do, however, need to clear up something mentioned in the article.

Traf District News was borne out of Trevor Colvin's vision for the paper to include towns within the surrounding district of Trafalgar, who were largely without 'a voice', if you will, to also share what is going on in their communities.

The paper was not relaunched to 'attract advertising from a greater area', as intimated in the article.

It was purely to provide a platform for people, or

ganisations and businesses to share what is occurring in their communities while not ignoring some matters the editor, in his wisdom, thought might have been of interest and/or benefit to the communities.

Given that the paper was to 'stand on its own two feet', so to speak, businesses from 'further afield' choosing to advertise in TDN was, naturally, not discouraged.

Together with many community members, we volunteered our time to produce a fresh-looking paper that reflected Trafalgar's growth and change.

We employed a young part-time trainee journal-

ist; as well as a part-time salesperson to help balance the financial aspects of the publication.

Our goal was never solely to increase advertising revenue but to create a meaningful and vibrant community resource that would benefit the community and its many businesses.

Communities are always evolving, and Trevor and I passionately wished for the paper to reflect this ongoing change.

The local Traf district community is wonderful, and I sincerely wish the best for the future direction of the paper.

Susie Foletta  
Trafalgar

## Change of editors

The August edition was the last of interim editor Mick Bourke, who produced the May-August editions.

Rachel Thornby was appointed the new editor, commencing in August with this edition being her first.

An article on Rachel appears elsewhere on this page.

Mick thanks the organisations, clubs and individuals who contributed to the paper over the past few months.

## Correction

In last month's 'Meet the staff' article on page 2, it mentioned 'Trevor and Suzie Colman'.

It should have read 'Trevor Colvin and Susie Foletta'.

We apologise for the incorrect names.

## Meet the Staff



**Rachel Thornby - Editor**

Rachel begins her role as editor of the Traf District News with this September edition, working alongside Mick Bourke over these next few months.

Looking for a career in journalism after completing a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) majoring in media communications and creative writing at the University of Melbourne, Rachel is excited by this opportunity to learn and engage with the Trafalgar community.

"Although I am not currently living in Trafalgar, I visit my family who live there regularly and love the town and community."

"I truly believe in the importance of local news and read each edition of Traf News when I visit."

Having enjoyed both reading and writing during

high school in Queensland, Rachel enrolled in a wide variety of classes during her arts degree, especially inspired by opportunities to talk with people and share their stories.

Rachel has been a sub-editor for the theatre review magazine 'The Dialog' and was its interim editor during the 2025 Fringe Festival. She also contributed to the University magazine 'Farrago' as a writer.

Alongside her studies, she has worked on campus in hospitality.

While only a few weeks into the new role here, Rachel has spoken with many Trafalgar residents online and expects to be in town each month to meet with the editorial committee.

We welcome Rachel to our wonderful Traf District News and wish her well for a successful career alongside the support of the Trafalgar community.

**SEPTEMBER 2026  
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**Advertising Bookings  
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## Trafalgar & District Historical Society Receives Grant

The Trafalgar & District Historical Society would like to thank the Trafalgar Lions Club for their recent grant of \$700. This was most welcome and has been put towards the postage of our Gazettes. As the only income for the Society is from our membership subscriptions and the sale of our Gazette, the increasing cost of postage is significant.

The latest Gazette is now on sale at the newsagency and the post office for \$5. It contains Part 2 of John Hanley's account of the Trafalgar telephonists working on the telephone exchange in the 1950s and 60s, as well as another Lost Towns story - this time about Toombon. If you would like any information about the Society, all our details are on the back cover of the Gazette.

## Trafalgar men arrested over Yinnar South kidnapping

Latrobe Criminal Investigation Unit members have arrested two men, one from Trafalgar and one from Trafalgar East, and a woman following a kidnapping in Yinnar South on 26 July.

It is alleged that a 45-year-old Wallan man attended the address of a woman known to him for a pre-arranged meeting, about 11.40am.

When the victim arrived, the female had left the address and two males unknown to the victim, but alleged to be known to the woman, allegedly attended the property and began assaulting the victim.

The offenders put the victim in a vehicle, before allegedly stealing his vehicle and taking the man to nearby bushland.

The victim managed to escape from the offenders and attended an address on Creamery Road for assistance and called 000.

The victim was taken to hospital with significant injuries.

The 38-year-old woman from Yinnar South was located by police and arrested. She has since been released pending further enquiries.

A 35-year-old Trafalgar man was arrested in Trafalgar on 28 July.

He has been charged with kidnapping, false imprisonment, intentionally causing injury, theft of motor vehicle, theft, assault with a weapon, assault in company, and reckless exposure of a police officer to risk by driving.

He was remanded to appear at Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court on 31 July where he was further remanded in custody to appear before Latrobe Magistrates' Court on 10 November.

A 42-year-old man from Trafalgar South was arrested on 28 July and subsequently charged with kidnapping, false imprisonment, intentionally causing injury, theft of motor vehicle, theft, assault with a weapon, and assault in company.

He has also been remanded in custody to appear before the Latrobe Magistrates' Court on 10 November.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online at [www.crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://www.crimestoppersvic.com.au)

## Council introduces FOGO special consideration program

The Baw Baw Shire Council has introduced a special consideration program to support households under the new Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) program.

The FOGO program was introduced in July 2026 and requires residents to place food scraps into their green bin rather than the general waste red bin.

As a result, green bins are now collected weekly and general rubbish bins are collected fortnightly.

"While the FOGO program is here to stay, we understand that for many of our local families, fortnightly collec-

tions of the 120L red general rubbish bin doesn't provide enough capacity, so we've introduced a program to help manage this," said Baw Baw Shire Mayor Cr Kate Wilson.

The eligibility criteria for the special consideration program include those that create additional waste from the following:

- Medical condition / disability
- Two (or more) children under four years of age, in nappies
- Large Family, experiencing financial hardship

Those that are eligible for the special consideration

program are able to receive an additional 120L general rubbish bin for free or can request an upgrade to a single 240L bin.

"The FOGO program is a critical program and is mandated by the State Government via its new standardised household waste and recycling system. It seeks to divert more waste away from landfill and create better recycling outcomes across Victoria," Cr Wilson said.

To apply for the special consideration program, an application form can be found on the Baw Baw Shire Council website.

## Creative Harvest festival turns 10

Baw Baw Sustainability Network (BBSN) started in Trafalgar in 2007, when about twenty people met to talk about what they could actually do to live more sustainably in their local area.

Almost twenty years on, BBSN continues to advocate for more energy efficient homes, productive gardens, and healthier lifestyles.

BBSN thinks everyone deserves a home that's comfortable to live in and cheap to run.

BBSN hosts community talks on the last Thursday of each month on everything from renewable energy and electric vehicles to zero waste, local food systems, and community resilience.

The point of its work isn't to make anyone feel guilty; it's to give people information and something practical they can do to make their lives and communities better.

BBSN focuses on real homes and gardens so people can see how sustainability can work in practice.

Its Creative Harvest festival is part of that same idea.

For its tenth year, Creative Harvest, the main fundraiser for BBSN, will return on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 January 2027.

Private food gardens across West Gippsland will open to visitors for one weekend.

Real food gardens, real gardeners, no theory, just practical ideas and advice.

If you love growing your own fruit and veggies, and you love seeing how others

grow theirs, then Creative Harvest will throw open the garden gates for you.

Whether you're a seasoned gardener, a backyard beginner or simply someone who loves wandering through a beautiful garden, there'll be plenty to discover, learn and enjoy.

There's already plenty happening behind the scenes as preparations for Creative Harvest 2027 get underway.

Gardens are being confirmed, ideas are sprouting, and a wonderful crop of

workshops is taking shape, with plenty more exciting plans growing away in the background.

Creative Harvest is only months away.

Tickets go on sale from 1 November, so mark the date in your calendar and get ready to join in for another celebration of food gardens, growing, creativity and all the good things that come from getting your hands into the soil.

Creative Harvest welcomes experienced garden-

ers, those just starting out and anyone interested in seeing what local gardeners are growing and creating.

The festival provides an opportunity to visit gardens, share ideas and learn from others in the community.

The organisers can't wait to open the gates and share all the wonderful things that have been growing behind the scenes!

Keep an eye on:

[www.creativeharvest.org.au](http://www.creativeharvest.org.au) for all the latest festival news.

**It's true: Until 1949 there was no such thing as Australian citizenship. It wasn't until the Australian Citizenship Act came into operation in 1949 that citizen status existed here. Prior to that, Australians were British subjects.**



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# Have a Chat continues to grow

by Nicholas Duck

Trafalgar mental health charity Bettermentall has continued to expand as it looks to help the community through its 'Have a Chat' sessions.

Run by husband-wife duo Jason and Kerry Rantall, the organisation has begun to offer a variety of services to bring people into the fold, including a running group, a youth group, a fishing group and homelessness outreach services.

Topping off all that is the classic morning Have a Chat community barbeque sessions, which continue to grow in popularity.

"The Have a Chat group on Thursday is growing all the time," Jason said.

"I remember when we first started if we got two people we'd go 'wow' and sometimes

it'd just be me and Kerry sitting there going 'what are we doing here?' Now, never ever under 20 and anything up to 50."

The sessions welcome community members of all walks of life to the Bettermentall hub in Contingent Street to enjoy some food and talk about all manner of topics.

Whether it's something serious like mental health or life's struggles to something much lighter like the weekend sport, everyone is welcome and nothing is off limits.

Key to that, according to Jason, is the hub's open doors, creating a wide space both indoors and outdoors.

"I know for me in my anxious times when I wasn't well to go to somewhere new there

had to be no boundaries. And any boundary I'd meet, that would be my excuse to go 'alright, this isn't for me.'

"We have the doors wide open, we have an outdoor area and we have people greeting people," he said.

"There's no program as such or expectation because those things can push people away too.

"People sort of know we're a mental health place so the conversation easily goes there without any force or without feeling there's a need to."

Also new are meditation and breathwork sessions following the morning barbeques, which have also seen increasing numbers.

"A lot of the guys are like I was, saying I'm not going to do that stuff. My mum men-

tioned it years and years ago when I was unwell and I said 'I'm not doing that weird fish slapping stuff' and now I live by it.

"And it's a morning and night thing for me," Jason said.

"As soon as you get nervous or anxious you pick up your phone and scroll or you grab a beer or a smoke. You do all these distracting things that are external that only bring very temporary peace.

"But when we start to practice meditation and mindfulness and awareness we can bring calm to ourselves at any time."

Newly founded initiatives like an early morning running group and a fishing group that heads out to Blue Rock Dam every week have seen more people engaged.

Regardless of what the activity is, Jason said it was about the conversations they helped facilitate.

While Bettermentall would love to keep expanding, things are always challenging from a financial perspective.

"It's costly for us. Even though we get some help from the local community, there's still a high cost with what we're doing," he said.

"The actual funding is limited because we're not Victoria-wide or Australia-wide. So it's very hard to keep asking from the same community to help.

"We're still surviving on the fundraiser run I did last year. The outgoings are greater than are the incomings. We've got to be creative, and we've had to be from the

start because we've never had funding."

What keeps Jason and Kerry going are the success stories.

"Some of the success stories are unbelievable ... I can't handle seeing people in pain. It hurts, it really hurts. So to be able to give back, even if it's just planting the seed or the seeds already planted and we're watering it, whatever part we are isn't the big thing, it's to see someone change their life.

"It's not about glory and look at what we've done, it's about seeing the people achieve."

To donate to Bettermentall or to see their weekly sessions, head to the Bettermentall Facebook page.

(Source: The Warragul & Drouin Gazette)



Trafalgar's Jason Rantall, who with his wife Kerry, runs Bettermentall

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# Support for Traf East BESS

By Lorraine Bull

I am writing in support of the Giddi battery energy storage system (BESS) (Stage 1) proposal at 59 Rowells Road, Trafalgar East.

As the electricity supply shifts from coal to other sources there is need to underpin variable generation with storage.

I am an older person who has lived most of my life in Latrobe Valley where the population has endured pollution from coal fired generation for decades.

The impending closure of Yallourn, Loy Yang A and B will have serious economic impacts, requiring firm government plans to support the region.

I am actively supporting the transition to renewable generation which is reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with power production.

I hold positions of secretary of Baw Baw Sustainability Network (BBSN) and

treasurer of Latrobe Valley Sustainability Group.

Both groups are incorporated not-for-profit organisations with a physical presence which promotes climate action to their communities, including the many supporters and members.

My submission reflects their position on battery storage.

BBSN has a published statement on BESS which is available on the website at <https://www.bbsn.org.au/position-statements>

The need for climate action is obvious.

Australia has signed the Paris Agreement and has a net zero emission target by 2050 but will struggle to achieve this, and construction of renewable energy projects is slowing.

The Victorian government has declared renewable energy zones and I note that the Giddi BESS is outside the Gippsland REZ.

In my view, all regions have a responsibility to act on climate change, and should not be left to areas which have traditionally borne the burden of coal-fired generation, such as Latrobe Valley.

As renewable energy is variable, the security of the grid will depend on storage of peak energy production to be released in times of peak usage. Victoria has a legislated storage target of at least 2.6GW by 2030 and 6.3GW by 2035.

There may be some system advantage to having BESS located along transmission lines in addition to their concentration around terminal stations e.g., Hazelwood Terminal Station will have Wooreen, Gippsland, Morwell and Tramway Road BESS clustered around it, with possibility of others being added.

Large scale BESS are inappropriate to be located in residential areas, particular-

ly due to their size which requires multiple hectares.

Hence, it is inevitable that agricultural land will be sought, challenging those who live in the affected area, and questioning their personal values as opposed to the greater good of the state.

It falls to the authorities to determine a safe and equitable solution.

Ibvogt is an experienced renewable energy developer and has engaged early with local neighbours and taken their viewpoint into consideration. Community consultation was enlightening.

Giddi BESS is proposed to be located below transmission lines on 18ha of disturbed land, one km from the nearest neighbour, with no loss of native vegetation. Their documents show that they will use a safe thiumion phosphate battery with CATL EnerC+306 technology, enclosed in cooled containers with remotely moni-

tored fire detection and fire suppression systems.

The Fire Risk Management Plan includes wide access roads and adequate water supply will be maintained onsite, in accordance with CFA requirements. Noise and light levels will be minimised, as will traffic disruption during construction. There will be compensation payments to neighbours, including reduced electricity cost. A community benefit scheme will be established to provide multiple advantages to the local community.

I would like to make the following suggestions:

1. The community benefit scheme is concentrated on Trafalgar East and Trafalgar, which is approximately 11 km from the site.

Moe is 4km from the site and should be included in the benefit sharing plans and the committee which makes the decisions.

2. A range of job skills are required and I hope that an effort will be made to source services from the local businesses, and include apprentices.

3. There will be a fire break of at least 10 meters inside the perimeter fence. External planting is planned for screening.

Native vegetation has been mostly removed from the immediate area. Could the width of the screening belt be expanded and include native species which would support migratory animals, birds and insects?

This would enhance the range of proposed benefits. GLAWAC may be able to provide advice on appropriate species and supply the workforce.

4. Ensure that there is a mechanism for complaints and suggestions, and that they will be sensitively handled for the duration of the project until end of decommissioning.

## Residents reject solar proposal

Developers of a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Trafalgar East have unveiled plans for a 320-hectare solar farm on an adjoining property.

But, farmers and community members have voiced strong objection to the proposal, largely based on the loss of agricultural land for the development.

ib vogt hosted a community information session at Trafalgar in early August where plans for the company's hybrid solar farm were discussed.

The company's stage one development includes a 360 MW BESS on land in Rowells Road.

A planning application for the project was lodged with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) in December and is currently awaiting the minister's decision.

The solar farm forms stage two of the development on a separately owned property in Embletons Road.

The proposal includes a 200 MW BESS, a 200 MW solar array, inverters and transformers, prefabricated buildings for control, operation and maintenance, a 220kV substation, internal access roads and boundary fencing.

Like the BESS site, ib vogt said the site had been selected due to its proximity to existing transmission infrastructure, separation from neighbouring properties and location on previously modified land.

Community members are concerned the development will lead to a significant loss of agricultural land.

ib vogt senior development manager Terry Daly admitted community members were concerned the development was taking away agricultural land.

"We are very aware of the agricultural issue. We appreciate this is currently used for cattle and is considered cattle country.

"It will be still available for agriculture, just not cattle. I know it's cattle country but there's nothing wrong with using it for sheep production," he said.

Mr Daly said the total area of land was 360 hectares, which included two privately owned properties. He said the solar farm was expected to be developed across 320 hectares.

He said concerns were similar to previous issues raised in relation to the proposed BESS development, but fire risk and the visual impact on surrounding properties were main concern areas.

He said the fire risk was "complicated" and while there had been two incidents of battery fires in Australia,

there was "nowhere near the same level of risk with the solar farm" because there was not the same level of heat as batteries.

He said there had been extensive discussion with the CFA about water tanks on site.

During last week's information session, some residents called for a public meeting where all residents could hear the developer's presentation and hear questions in an open forum.

Mr Daly defended the choice to hold an information session rather than a "town hall style event" where only "noisy people" asked questions and dominated the meeting.

Trafalgar East resident Peter Anderson said there was strong opposition expressed by residents at the session, with an exit poll indicating an "overwhelming rejection" of the solar project.

Mr Anderson said community members wanted confirmation of the project's staged footprint and any plans for future expansion.

"The Trafalgar meeting highlighted deep local concern about the proposed solar/BESS development and a strong desire for greater transparency from the developer and clarity from planning authorities.

"Residents are seeking concrete answers about the project's full scope, commu-

nity benefits, and the process by which decisions will be made," he said.

Mr Anderson said residents also wanted clear information on proposed community benefits and how they would be delivered by ib vogt.

A planning permit application for stage two, the hybrid solar farm, is expected to be lodged with DTP this month.

(Source: The Warragul & Drouin Gazette)

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# Aldred urges local businesses to have their say on cyber security



Members of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Cyber Security and Small to Medium Enterprises, including Monash MP Mary Aldred (second left)

Federal Member for Monash, Mary Aldred, has been appointed as one of two members of the Federal Opposition to the House of Representatives Select Committee on Cy-

ber Security for Small to Medium Enterprises. The new committee will examine cyber security risks and barriers facing small and medium-sized businesses. “For a small business, even a minor cyber security

incident can have devastating impacts,” Ms Aldred said. “From scam messages to phishing attacks and malicious software, our inquiry aims to understand the threats they face and how they can be better protected.”

“Submissions have just opened and I’m encouraging small to medium businesses in Monash, as well as local chambers of commerce and business groups, to take part by sharing their cyber security issues,” she added. “Additionally, any local SME is welcome to get in touch with me directly to share what they see as the most significant risks and support needs fac-

ing small businesses on cyber security.” The committee has already had its first meeting, and will examine some of the barriers facing small businesses, including time, tools and resources available. Ms Aldred is one of the few federal Members of Parliament to have worked in the area of cyber security and technology prior to entering parliament, and also worked full-time in her parent’s family-run small business before that. “Supporting small business is something I’m particularly passionate about, and I’m keen to engage on the challenges business-

es face of cyber security threats to ensure they have the best support and tools available, particularly from a regional point of view,” Ms Aldred said. The Committee is chaired by Federal Labor MP Sally Sitou. The inquiry will consider:

- **Cyber maturity** - How prepared Australian small and medium-sized businesses (including not-for-profits) are to deal with cyber threats.
- **Government guidance** - Whether the cyber security advice provided by Government is

adequate, suitable and accessible.

- **Cyber standards** - Whether clear and appropriate cyber security standards exist.
- **Access to services** - How easy it is to find and purchase suitable cyber security services in Australia.
- **Employee training** - How important staff training is for improving overall cyber security.
- **Supply-chain participation** - How cyber maturity affects ability to work with Government or large companies.

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# The chronic, but iconic, chronicles

By Bobbie Viney

**H**i Trafalgar! I'm a local mum, wife, business owner, and, among many other things, someone living with chronic illness and a permanent ileostomy.

Over the past few years, my life has looked very different from what I once imagined.

Living with Crohn's disease has meant hospital stays, surgeries, uncertainty, setbacks and learning how to navigate a body that doesn't always cooperate.

Eventually, after an incredibly challenging period, I became an ileostomate.

And while having a stoma is a huge part of my life, it certainly isn't all of it.

That's why I'm excited to be bringing you this new column in the Traf District News.

The Chronic, but Iconic, Chronicles will be an honest, practical and sometimes

light-hearted look at life with chronic illness.

We'll talk about the things that don't always make it into everyday conversations — including living with an ileostomy, the emotional side of illness, mental health, hospital experiences, body image, relationships, parenting, returning to work, friendships and finding your confidence again.

We'll also talk about something I think is incredibly important: support.

Sometimes people living with chronic illness don't need someone to fix things.

They need someone to listen, they need understanding, patience and the reassurance that they aren't alone.

Sometimes family and friends also need help understanding what their loved one is experiencing too.

My hope is that this column can help break down

some of the stigma and awkwardness around topics that can be difficult to talk about.

If one person reads an article and thinks, "Oh, thank goodness — it's not just me," then it will have been worthwhile.

Most importantly, I'd love this to become a conversation rather than simply something I write at you.

If there is a topic you'd like me to cover, a question you've always wanted to ask, or an aspect of chronic illness, ileostomy or mental health you'd like discussed, I'd love to hear from you.

You can get in touch at [bobbiepollyandibd@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiepollyandibd@gmail.com).

So, here's to honest conversations, a bit of humour, plenty of heart — and everything in between.

See you next time,

Bobbie x

# Longwarry closure brings dairy's pain home

**T**he country's peak dairy farmer representative body says July's news that Lactalis's Longwarry processing plant will close reflects the mounting pressures facing Australia's dairy industry.

Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) president Ben Bennett said the news was first and foremost about people, acknowledging the pain this decision will cause workers, their families and the local businesses that rely on the site.

"It will take time for the employees, their families and the Longwarry community to come to terms with today's decision," Mr Bennett said.

"While this is a commercial decision by Lactalis, it is another reminder that Australia's dairy industry is operating in an increasingly challenging environment."

During the ACCC's assessment of Fonterra, ADF raised concerns about increasing consolidation across the dairy industry and the importance of maintaining strong competition and regional processing facilities.

"Today's (22 July) decision reinforces why competition and processing capacity matter. Every factory that closes undermines dairy communities and makes the industry that little bit smaller.

"Governments cannot keep saying they support food security, sovereign manufacturing and stronger regional communities while making it harder and more expensive to make food in this country.

"Rising energy prices, increasing regulation, growing compliance obligations, escalating input costs and trade settings that expose Australian producers to heavily subsidised imports are steadily eroding Australia's dairy industry."

Mr Bennett said the dairy industry needs governments to stop adding costs and start backing Australian dairy.

"Unless these underlying issues are addressed, Australia will continue to lose investment, dairy factories, jobs and, ultimately, dairy farms.

"No one wants to see more factories close or more dairy farms disappear from regional Australia. We need policies that strengthen the competitiveness of Australia's dairy industry before more communities feel the impact.

"Today it's one factory, but this should concern every Australian who wants to keep seeing fresh Australian dairy products on supermarket shelves and in their fridges."

In a response to how many dairy farmers in the Trafalgar, Yarragon, Thorpdale and Willow Grove areas would be affected by the closure, Lactalis did not provide the numbers sought; however, advised Traf District News that it collects milk in Gippsland from 51 suppliers.

It further advised that milk from the Gippsland region has been processed at Longwarry and Rowville. In future, it will be processed at Darnum and Rowville.

## AusAlert launches 1 October

**A**usAlert will become a vital part of Australia's emergency warning systems on 1 October.

Some of Trafalgar's residents may have received a test on 27 July.

### What is AusAlert?

AusAlert is a new national warning system that uses the latest technology to send emergency messages to compatible mobile devices during local and national disasters.

AusAlert messages keep communities informed so

they can take action, saving lives and property. It's another way we're helping to keep Australia safe.

### AusAlert background

AusAlert was created in response to the 2020 Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.

It found that mobile-device-based emergency warning systems are especially effective at keeping communities informed during disasters.

### About the AusAlert system

AusAlert lets the Australian Government and emergency services organisations send alerts to compatible mobile devices.

It's just one of the many ways helping to keep Australians safer during local and national emergencies and disasters.

To receive an AusAlert during a disaster or emergency, there is no need to register or download an app.

Everybody near the area affected by the emergency will receive an alert if they have a compatible mobile device.

This includes visitors to the area and people using roaming on their device.

AusAlert will eventually replace the existing SMS-based alert system, which is called Emergency Alert.

### What to expect

In an emergency, an AusAlert may be sent to your mobile device.

It may vibrate and make a siren-like sound for about 10 seconds.

The alert may contain information such as:

- the type of emergency (for example, bushfire or flood);
- where it is;
- how serious it is;
- the actions you need to take;
- where more information can be found;
- the name of the organisation that sent the message.

AusAlert is just one way to stay safe in an emergency. It's important you don't wait to receive an AusAlert before acting in a disaster.

Everyone must still prepare themselves and have an action plan.

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# Meet the Locals – John Weymouth

By Julie McCulloch

John has been a familiar figure around town for many years. People will know him from his years working with his father “Jack”, in J. H. Weymouth Pharmacy (later Weymouth & McKenzie Pharmacy); and then with his years working with Latrobe Valley Real Estate in Moe and in Trafalgar, with land and stock agents, R.R and H.C Jolly.

If you walk or drive the streets of Trafalgar in the mornings, you will see John on his walking routine of around 4 km, to pick up the daily newspapers from the newsagents.

## A brief family history

John (Peter John) was born in 1943 at St. George's Hospital in Kew. His ancestral history stems from Devon in England and his great-grandfather's emigration to Tasmania, then a move to Sydney.

John's paternal grandparents were Rachel Jones and Alma Richard Weymouth. John's maternal grandparents were Thomas and Henrietta Watson. Alma was a pharmacist and Thomas a tailor.

John's father, “Jack” John Weymouth was born in Sydney. He moved to Cootamundra, where he met Dulcie Watson, John's mother. They married and moved to Melbourne where they had two children, John and his younger sister, Helen.

Jack completed a pharmacy apprenticeship in 1945. He was financed into the Trafalgar pharmacy by a drug wholesale company, as was the established practice at the time. He boarded in Trafalgar until he could afford to

buy a house, then Dulcie and the children joined him.

## Education

John's schooling began at the Trafalgar State School, situated on the land that is now Balfour Park. John's secondary schooling was at Caulfield Grammar School.

The family moved to Brisbane for a short time, where John's father did some relieving work. The weather, being much warmer than Victoria, John remembers walking to school in “shorts, shirt and bare feet”.

The family returned to Trafalgar and John studied Economics and Arts at Monash University in Clayton. He remembers Clayton as a “raw suburb”, with “unmade streets, the potholes you could just about drown in”.

## Working life

John worked with his father in the Trafalgar pharmacy, then located on the north side of the Princes Highway; Jack moved the business to the south side as part of the reconstruction of the highway in the 70s.

When John's father died, John had a break from work and one of his projects was to build the house he and Cheryl built in Trafalgar. He also built flats in Contingent Street, opposite Macgregor Park and opposite the Presbyterian Church.

An opportunity came up with Latrobe Valley Real Estate in Moe and led to real estate work in Moe and then Trafalgar with Jolly's Stock and Station Agents.

## Marriage and family

John and Cheryl (nee Bond), married in 1969. Cheryl was from Morwell. Their 4

children, Rebecca, Jessica, Lincoln and Alexander, have 2 children each; in John's words “each kid has 2 kids.”

Asked, “what are you most proud of in your life in Trafalgar?”, John replied, “the kids of course,” and in his reply, included family, and the house he and Cheryl built where they all lived.

John and Cheryl's house was designed by an architect mate of John's. It was built in 1974. John and Cheryl have pictures of one of his children, “in the mud at the back here where we were terracing the backyard”.

John has continued to live in the house since Cheryl's death, and kids and grandkids visit regularly.

## Theatre and the Arts

While schooling in Caulfield, John became involved with backstage theatre, “set designing and so-forth”. Music became an interest; Norman Kay was his music teacher; Norman went on to be a well-known actor. John would spend weekends “helping with sets and building sets, cleaning sets, stuff like that” at The Little Theatre in South Yarra.

John's interest in the Arts continues. John is a member of the West Gippsland Arts Centre and a member of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance.

## Car sports

Cars have been another special part of John's life. He thinks this began when his parents went to Melbourne on buying trips for the pharmacy, and he would come back with “a little dinky toy”.

“That's what started me.”

John and his mates all had cars at 18. They became

involved with the Gippsland Car Club. A hillclimb track opened on Latrobe Road in Morwell and they all raced there.

John first raced a GT Cortina, “a lovely little car”. He also raced his Sunbeam Alpine.

John and his son Alex raced Alex's Mark I Ford Escort in the late 1990s to 2000s.

A new social club associated with the Gippsland Car Club was formed with friends. Later, John joined the Gippsland Sporting Classic and Car Club in Warragul.

The Gippsland Car Club track was taken over by Energy Australia for the extension of the Yallourn Open Cut. Energy Australia financed a new hillclimb track in the Haunted Hills, called Bryant Park. It is recognised as the best purpose-built hillclimb track in Australia.

John was on the committee of the Gippsland Car Club in the early days, and consequently he was involved with several hillclimb championships. He also spent time as editor of “Valve Bounce”, the Club magazine.

John is a current member of Sunbeam Car Club of Victoria and can now claim to be the longest serving member. He spent time on the committee of the Gippsland Sporting and Classic Car Register.

## Trafalgar's seismic change

Today, the Princes Highway runs through Trafalgar with the railway station, carpark and recreational area to the north, and shops to the south.

The original Princes Highway, with shops to both the north and south of the high-



John in his garden, standing beside a metal garden sculpture he recently purchased and set in a rock circle garden built by Cheryl.

way, sharply moved through the notorious “S bend”, most markedly from the West.

The curve was the site of many serious accidents. Plans to straighten the highway meant all buildings on the north side of the highway were to be demolished.

As these changes were occurring, John held positions of secretary and treasurer of Trafalgar's Chambers of Commerce. He remembers many of the changes that took place.

Meeting discussions focused on the welfare of the town's businesses that were affected. How many could relocate to the south side? Where would they relocate to? How many would close?

The shops on the north were demolished from late 1976 to mid-1977.

A new newsagency was built on the site of the present newsagency. L.E Giles and & Sons Mall was constructed and was occupied by a baker, butcher, hair salon, fruit & vegetable shop, a curtain drapery shop and a fish & chip shop. Current businesses in the mall are Murphy's Meats, Gracie's Bakery and Fish Bits.

John's father built a new pharmacy on the site of the current pharmacy. He built four new shops on the site now occupied by Luxe on Mane Hair Studio, Trafalgar OPP Shop, Trafalgar Chiropractic Centre and Haven Tattoo Studio.

Some of the businesses that did not relocate included the town's barber, Micky Donohue, dentist, Dr Ray Speck, John Blacker's radio and TV shop and Mrs Sullivan's fruit & veg shop.

## Traf's Historical Society

John is currently the President of the Trafalgar & District Historical Society. His wife Cheryl was the Society's first vice-president in 1985. For a while, both dropped out of the Society, but then re-joined in the '90s after their family had grown up.

John's experiences of living in Trafalgar, knowing people through the pharmacy and real estate businesses, Trafalgar's Chamber of Commerce, and general involvement in Trafalgar's community, are invaluable to people who enjoy learning about Trafalgar's history.

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# Trafalgar Lions' Circle of Wood

By Pauline Wheller



David Koschade and Merv Moon cutting kindling for bagging

You have heard of the Circle of Life I am sure, but have you heard of the Circle of Wood?

This is what I am calling it to show the journey of how all that wood arrives at Trafalgar local IGA Supermarket.

Through the dedication and hard work of our Lions volunteers, the work begins.

Each Monday morning at approximately 8.30, they arrive at the shed located at the local football ground, ready to perform the Circle of Wood.

To begin the journey, the wood is delivered to the shed by Lions Club member Ian Bosma, then Rhys Holdsworth with his trusty equipment pushes it into the shed ready for the process to begin.

Larger blocks are delivered separately.

The large blocks are split with a wood splitter then stacked up until dried out.

Once dry, the next step begins.

Hardwood is cut into sizeable pieces for sale. Wood is also split into smaller sizes for kindling.

Now it is the next step; wood to be labelled and bagged.

The waste sawdust is bagged and given to Trafalgar Fire Brigade to assist it in the cleaning up of accidents.

It is now time for the final stage of this Circle of Wood.

Both the hardwood and kindling are packed onto the trailer and driven to the supermarket ready for the sales.

Phew! A well-deserved cuppa at 10.00am finishes the day.

Sometimes we are lucky enough to share delicious scones with jam and cream with compliments of Pat Tatterson.

A visit is well worthwhile to see how the process of bagging and labelling happens.

A thank you to Trafalgar IGA for assisting us in this venture.

## The punchline

So now is the punchline.

We are an ageing group in this amazing club.

Membership is open to men and women aged 18 and over.

If you are interested in joining Trafalgar Lions Club and want more information, please contact either the club's membership chairman, Alan Smith on 0410 089 430 or president Mike Hornby on 0408 033 921



Pauline Wheller and Gina Tommasini bagging kindling for sale

# Trafalgar Holden Museum is celebrating Peter Brock

Trafalgar Holden Museum is inviting Holden and motorsport enthusiasts to come together on Saturday, 12 September, for a special Peter Brock Celebration Day, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the passing of the Australian motorsport legend.

Museum president Jen Middleton said the day is an opportunity for fans to remember, not only Brock's incredible achievements on the racetrack, but also the lasting impact he had on generations of Australians.

"Twenty years on, Peter Brock continues to inspire generations of Australians.

"This day is about celebrating his incredible legacy and giving fans the opportunity to share the memories that made Brocky such a Holden legend," said Jen.

Visitors will have the opportunity to explore a special Peter Brock exhibition featuring vehicles, memorabilia and displays celebrating the life and remarkable career of the man affectionately known as the 'King of the Mountain.'

A highlight of the day will be the Peter Brock Dedication Wall, where visitors are invited to share their own memories, stories and tributes to one of Australia's most loved sporting icons.

To make the day even more enjoyable, the museum will be providing a free sausage sizzle for visitors, making it the perfect opportunity to spend time with fellow Holden enthusiasts and celebrate Brock's enduring legacy.

With more than 100 Holden vehicles and thousands of Holden artefacts on display, the Trafalgar Holden Museum is Australia's largest museum dedicated to Holden history and offers something for visitors of all ages.



Australian motorsport legend, the late Peter Brock, who will be celebrated on Trafalgar Holden Museum

Everyone is welcome to join this special commemorative event on Saturday, 12 September, from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm at the Trafalgar Holden Museum.

For more information, visit the museum's Facebook page or website.





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# A lap of Australia on the Big Pig

By Marcus Barker

Most people who have ridden motorbikes all their lives dream of one day riding a lap of Australia.

I know in Trafalgar that Peter Tuck, Ray James and David Graham have done just this.

In late May, I had wondered what I was going to do for the next couple of months as I had nothing planned.

Realising that this could be a great time to do my solo lap of Australia I put the idea to my long-suffering wife and she encouraged me to go for it.

Next came two weeks of frantically getting the Big Pig a major service and two new tyres before packing it with my clothes, camping gear, cooking gear and a handful of tools and spares.

Why is my bike called the Big Pig?

It is a BMW R1200 GSA and weighs around 260 kilograms without all my gear so she's not a sports bike but in my

opinion, the bike best suited for long distance cruising.

I set off on 5 June with my son Callan, who accompanied me for the first two days to Sydney.

The weather was typically southern Australian, cold and wet but we were both excited to be on our way.

My route took me up the east coast to Cooktown in far north Queensland, however, the threat of a lot of rain around the NSW north coast briefly took me inland to stay dry.

Then I returned to Cairns and turned west to Karumba on the Gulf of Carpentaria and on to Mt Isa.

I then took the Barkly Highway across to the Stuart Highway where I turned north to Darwin.

At the half-way point of the trip, my wife Pauline flew from Melbourne to Darwin and spent a week with me and we had a great week together in the Kakadu National Park.

In Darwin the Big Pig had an oil and filter change and

another new rear tyre fitted to get me home.

After a great rest, I was itching to be back on the bike, so I left Darwin to return to Katherine where I turned west to head towards the Kimberlys and Broome which was one of the most spectacular parts of the ride.

On my way through Broome, I was fortunate to reconnect with my wedding's Best Man, Ralph, who I had not seen for more than 40 years.

He and I were in the Royal Australian Navy together, but he settled in Broome, and I in the eastern states so we have not had the opportunity to get together since.

It was a great time reminiscing about the shenanigans that we got up to as young sailors, and maybe I won't divulge what was said!

Broome to the bottom of Western Australia I have discovered is a very long way with great attractions here and there but not much in between.

One memorable section was a 30-kilometre road between Pemberton and Northcliffe which runs through a Karri forest.

The trees are massive and the smell of the forest absolutely intoxicating, a must do if you're ever over there.

The last leg was the ride across the Nullabor which I just loved.

Camping in very remote spots with no one around and no light pollution is where you really get to appreciate the natural beauty of the night sky.

I arrived home on 22 July, which was 42 days and 17,558 kilometres later, not including the week I had off in Darwin.

What did I enjoy the most about the adventure?

I really enjoyed the remote camping, the long days of thinking, the vastness of our beautiful country and the interactions I had with so many strangers every day.

I was generally in bed by 7.30pm and up at 5am so maybe the best part of the day was having a cup of coffee as I watched the sun come up.

What could have been better?

My cooking equipment limited my ability to cook much at all so my diet consisted mainly of 2-minute noodles or Ben's Original rice with a can of flavoured tuna which is delicious but gets a bit repetitive!

I can recommend the ride to anyone who has ever contemplated it.



Map of Australia showing Marcus Barker's trip on his Big Pig



Marcus Barker (left) and his son Callan leave Trafalgar at the start of Marcus' epic solo trip around Australia

## Trafalgar Men's Shed AGM

The Trafalgar Men's Shed will hold its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 2 September at the shed in Wellington Street (next to the Community Gardens) at 12.30pm.

This is an important time for any club or organisation because part of the process in conducting the meeting is to elect office bearers for the next 12 months.

The men's shed committee consists of a president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary, and to support them we have 42 members in total.

A friendly reminder to the blokes in the local community looking to balance out their weekly schedule, the shed offers a safe and friendly environment where men can talk, learn new skills and be part of a bigger community and be involved in meaningful activities and projects.

The current members would agree that the biggest part of attending is the mateship or friendships that are formed.

Being unemployed, retrenched, or retired, many men no longer have someone to talk to, be it about sport, politics, health, or just a sounding board for the many changes occurring in their lives.

The friendships that are formed at the shed allow these discussions to occur.

The participation in meaningful activities or projects also gives confidence and pride and a sense of accomplishment.

We offer membership to all men which allows you access to a pleasant kitchen/dining room, woodwork room, metal work shop, and a hobby room, plus excellent tools and machines to work with.

At the AGM we invite men in the community to come along for the meeting; you never know, you could be a future committee member after signing up to be a member.

If you have administration skills you would be very welcome, as our current committee is in its 3rd year and a change in one or more positions would be advantageous for the shed - new members bring new skills, ideas and personalities.

We recently purchased a new industrial thicknesser (woodwork machine) compliments of a \$5000 grant from the Baw Baw Shire.

Sometimes items such as the thicknesser seem out of reach for small clubs and organisations, but these grants make it possible, so, thank you to the Baw Baw Shire

Community Grants Program and the staff involved who give great support to the applicants.

We are open Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 9am-3pm.

If you are on a morning walk or just out and about, call in and introduce yourself.

The urn will be on and you will be made welcome.

For further information call Ron Fletcher at 0405 100 218.



One of Marcus' campsites. He spent most nights camping in his tent in the bush



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# Planning ahead

By Glenda Mynard

Shelly Hoskins was our guest speaker this month and she spoke about Senior Rights Victoria.

The government supports this organisation which provides information, support, advice and education to help prevent elder abuse and safeguards the rights, dignity and independence of older people.

Shelly's message to us was "plan ahead" while we are young & strong.

Planning ahead puts the choice in our hands.

They provide a free service where older people can talk confidently about their experiences and choose their preferred course of action.

Older people have the right to:

- Live in safety
- Be treated with dignity and respect
- Make their own

decisions, even if they seem wrong to others.

There may come a time when you are unable to make decisions for yourself.

Unlike a Will, which outlines your wishes after you die, the following documents can help you outline your wishes while you are living.

**- Enduring Power of Attorney:** the person you appoint to make financial and/or personal decisions for you.

For example: Financial decisions like paying bills, or personal decisions like where you live.

The person you appoint to make decisions on your behalf should be someone you trust to do the right thing by you and should be willing and able to take on the job.

**- Medical Treatment Decision Maker:** appoints someone to make medical decisions as they believe

you would make them if you were able.

**- Advanced Care Planning:** includes instructions about specific medical and personal care.

Do it now while you are healthy and well.

Get the paperwork done, but more importantly, chat with your family or trusted person you wish to appoint.

Let them know your thoughts and wishes so if it becomes necessary for them to act on your behalf they know what you want and why.

Capacity to make decisions may be affected by such factors as illness, injury or cognitive decline.

If you have capacity, you can always make your own decisions even if you have appointed an attorney but by planning ahead you can have peace of mind that your wishes are known.

In August, we also welcomed new members Norm & Cheryl Witt who are looking forward to attending some of the Probus activities on offer.

We enjoyed a soup & sandwich lunch prepared and

served by our members, following our meeting.

A highlight of the month was attending the Maltese Museum in Morwell, the first in Australia.

We were given a personalised tour by Mario who explained the rich history and culture of Malta.

Many Maltese people emigrated to Australia in the

1950s and 1960s, a time when Australia needed labour.

Migrants came to the Latrobe Valley as the power industry was being established and abundant work was available.

They bought treasures and keepsakes with them from their homeland and lots can be found in this Maltese Museum.

This museum adjoins the Maltese Community Centre which is a meeting place for the large Maltese community in Latrobe Valley.

It was here that we enjoyed a superb meal.

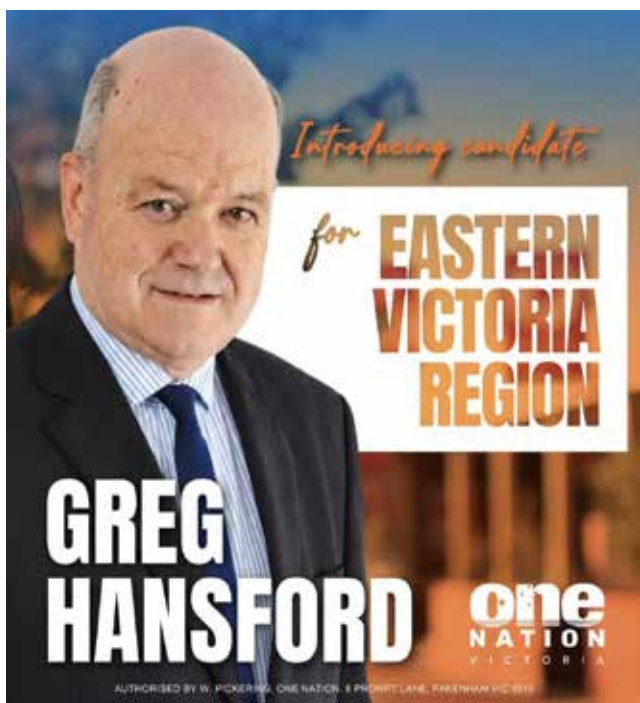
If you wish to enjoy a delicious lunch, visit on a Sundays 11am and see the delights and history in the museum.



New members Norm and Cheryl Witt are welcomed to the Probus club by Vice president Barb Butterworth



Greg Lamb and guest speaker Shelly Hoskins from Senior Rights Victoria.



**F**OGO continues to be a hot topic across our community following the introduction of the new service in July.

I understand there have been plenty of questions and some challenges for households adjusting to fortnightly general rubbish collections.

If you are finding the change difficult, I encourage you to contact Council's

Customer Service team to discuss your circumstances and see whether you may be eligible for assistance through the Special Consideration Program.

The program is there to help households that may have difficulty managing their waste under the new collection arrangements.

There is also some good news for pedestrians around the gym, with the footpath currently being repaired to remove the lip that has been a concern.

It's important that our footpaths are safe and accessible, and I'm pleased to see this issue being addressed.

This time of year also means AGM season, which has kept me busy attending meetings with commu-

nity organisations across the district.

With around 17 public halls, multiple recreation facilities and many other community groups holding their annual general meetings and elections, it has been a great opportunity to catch up with the people who keep our communities going.

One thing that continues to stand out is just how fortunate we are to have so many dedicated volunteers.

Whether they are running a community hall, supporting a sporting club, managing a recreation facility or organising local events, these volunteers give countless hours to make our towns better places to live.

Looking further ahead, there is already plenty of ex-

citement building around 2028, when both Yarragon and Trafalgar will celebrate their 150th anniversaries.

Committees are now being formed and planning is beginning for what promises to be a very special year.

Yarragon's celebrations will take place in March, followed by Trafalgar's in October.

One hundred and fifty years is a remarkable milestone, and I'm looking forward to seeing our communities come together to celebrate their history, recognise the people who have shaped them and look towards the future.

It's going to be a great year of celebration for both towns — and the planning has already begun!

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## St Joseph's students celebrate Japanese culture

Students at St Joseph's Primary School, Trafalgar celebrated Japanese culture with a colourful day of hands-on activities, food, art, dance and learning as part of the school's Japanese program.

Led by Susan Taylor, known to students as Taylor Sensei, the celebration gave students the opportunity to explore Japanese traditions in an engaging and memorable way.

Students arrived dressed in Japanese-themed outfits or in red and white, the colours of the Japanese flag, adding to the excitement of the day.

Throughout the day, children rotated through a range of activities including Japanese cooking, a Japan-themed Kahoot quiz, dancing, cherry blossom painting, origami, calligraphy and making sumo sock puppets.

The celebration concluded with students learning a brand-new Japanese dance together on the asphalt, bringing the school community together through movement, music and culture.

The event was a memorable day filled with creativity, laughter and cultural learning.

St Joseph's Primary School thanked Taylor Sensei and the dedicated Year 6 leaders for organising a successful celebration that helped students develop a deeper appreciation of Japanese culture.



Students completing calligraphy



Taylor Sensei with student Nyah



Grade 5 and 6 students helped to prepare and serve noodles for the school

## 100 Days: St Joseph's Trafalgar foundation students celebrate a special milestone

Foundation students marked an exciting classroom milestone this week as they celebrated 100 days of school with their teacher, Miss Tanysha Cruwys.

The students had been eagerly counting each day since the start of the school year. When the long-awaited day finally arrived, there was plenty of excitement as the class came together to celebrate all they had learned, achieved and enjoyed so far.

Throughout the day, the students completed a range of activities based around the number 100 including creating colourful artworks using 100 stickers, practising counting to 100, colouring activities and making necklaces with 100 Cheerios.

One of the highlights of the celebration was dressing up as 100-year-olds. The students loved arriving in character and sharing plenty



Miss Tanysha Cruwys with some of the Foundation students

of smiles and laughter with their classmates.

The celebration was a joyful way to recognise the Foundation students' first 100 days at school and the many memories they have already made together.



Students making artwork with 100 stickers

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# CELEBRATE AN INSPIRING TRAFALGAR CITIZEN

## TRAFALGAR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

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

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

Street/postal address: .....

Contact number: ..... Email: .....

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

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

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

**SELECTION CRITERIA:**

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

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

**PLEASE ADDRESS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA IN YOUR NOMINATION:**

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

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

**NOTES:**

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

**NOMINATOR’S DETAILS:** (Please complete your details)

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

Street/postal address: .....

Contact number: ..... Email: .....

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

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

Street/postal address: .....

Contact number: ..... Email: .....

**WHERE TO SEND THE NOMINATION:**

Send the completed nomination and supporting details to either:

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

**No other methods of lodging the form are accepted.**

**Applications close on 31 October this year.**

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

**Rules of Entry:**

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

.....

(Nominator’s signature)

.....

(Date)

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# Upcoming bushwalking weekend

By Carolyn Dyke

The Strzelecki Bushwalking Club is inviting bushwalkers from across Gippsland to a special combined clubs' weekend.

This 'gather round' of Gippsland's walking clubs shall take place on the weekend of the days 24/25 October and shall showcase the majestic Erica/Rawson and Walhalla areas.

The weekend will feature eight guided walks with four offered each day.

The program has been carefully constructed to cater for a wide range of walkers, from those seeking an easier option to experienced hikers looking for a challenging adventure.

We are lucky to live in a very beautiful part of Gippsland, and the walks will include journeys into Alpine areas and the Walhalla area which shall focus on the history of our early pioneers.

Some of the walks will travel on iconic trails of the region with other opportunities to travel on tracks that are largely unknown.

Some people will be ticking off a bucket list walk while others maybe choosing to travel on a trail that they did not even know existed.

This event has been organized by Strzelecki's walks Co-Ordinator, Jim Rowley, who has been working tirelessly over the last few months to organize this event.

Jim, together with a group of knowledgeable and competent walk leaders, shall guide participants throughout the program.

An invaluable addition to the weekend is the comprehensive walk booklet prepared by our resident cartographer, Martin Norris.

The booklet contains detailed maps and a thorough description of each walk.

The booklet is beautifully illustrated with photos of the local landscapes and locals of days long gone by.

The booklet is an excellent resource to help walkers prepare for their weekend and help them enjoy their chosen walks.

Martin's expertise in this area has produced a resource that will be accessed by walkers well beyond this event.

Another feature of the weekend will be the social event on Saturday evening at the Erica Hotel.

This event will provide walkers a chance to socialize with each other and compare notes after a long day on the trail.

The exact numbers of walkers expected in the region over this incredible weekend are still unknown as the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club has only recently sent out invitations.

However, we have received an early influx of walk registrations which is indicative of a "bumper weekend".

The Strzelecki Bushwalking Club is fiercely supportive of our local areas, and we expect this event to be a huge economic gain to the Erica/Rawson/Walhalla townships with potentially hundreds of

walkers and visitors in the area for the weekend.

We have directed walkers to the various accommodation options, and many have already made bookings in the area.

It is highly likely that walkers will sample the local coffee shops and eateries after long days of walking.

Of course, the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club hopes that many of the walkers enjoy the event and will return to the area in the future.

What a great way to enjoy a spectacular area of Gippsland and to help local businesses at the same time.



Martin Norris (left) and Jim Rowley, walks coordinator of Strzelecki Bush Walking Club (right)



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# Understanding Fleas

Dr. Jared Waddell-Smith BSc. BVMS V5409



Spring is here.

The weather is still pretty grim but it will start to warm up soon, and with the warmer change we start to see an increase in dermatitis cases due to fleas.

The most common flea found in both dogs and cats is known as the cat flea (*Ctenocephalides felis*), with the dog flea being much less common.

They're an interesting little critter with a clever life cycle.

When eggs get laid by the fleas, your dog or cat becomes a salt and pepper shaker, dropping the eggs wherever they go; in the house, outdoors, on your furniture, in their kennel, etc.

Within the next 10 days the egg will hatch and a cute little larva enters the world.

This little critter gets around munching on the flea faeces which has also dropped everywhere the eggs have, and other dust components like our dead skin cells.

Flea faeces contains dried blood and is a nutritious source of food for the larvae.

Once the larvae have finished their Hungry Hungry Caterpillar adventures, they

move away from light to find a dark and humid little nook to spin a cocoon.

This might be between floorboards, in carpet, in the dirt around your dog's favourite resting place.

Inside this cocoon there is certainly no butterfly forming; instead we get a flea.

This transition can be as short as a few weeks in warmer conditions, so this is why more flea infestations occur in summer.

Importantly, in less favourable cooler conditions, these cocoons can be viable for months before the flea arrives.

The newly hatched flea is like a homing missile; first moving toward the light, and then in response to vibrations and shadows of an animal moving overhead, it uses its huge legs to spring up into the air and finds its new home on your dog or cat.

If you're really lucky, it might even start biting your legs (don't worry, they don't breed on us).

After 24 hours feeding on your pet's blood the fleas start to breed, and each female flea lays approximately 50 eggs every day.

So in warm conditions with a faster progression through the life cycle stage and with large number of eggs being laid, a huge flea population can build up quickly.

There are a range of options for treating or preventing a flea population.

The key is understanding this lifecycle.

If there is a current flea infestation, on any given day there will be new fleas emerging.

- There are various flea shampoos and rinses. These drugs are usually quite effective; you will kill every single flea on the dog at the time of the wash. But within days, the drugs have worn off, new fleas jump on, and more eggs have been laid. This means we have ultimately only put a small dent in the population, since the adult fleas on the animal are only a small percentage of the overall flea population.

- The original flea collars relied on a powder which worked its way off the collar and onto the pet's coat. Again, the drugs work effectively to kill fleas, but they don't spread very well. Some fleas die, some don't, so breeding continues and the cycle continues.

- Flea bombs and professional pesticide treatments can be very helpful in a severe infestation. Those cocoons the larvae spin are quite sticky however, and all the debris that sticks to them helps to make them resistant to chemicals. They are also usually found in a nice deep location, where the sprays don't reach as well. So you'll kill off some, but the flea population will persist. There is some risk of toxicity to pets, particularly cats, so precautions need to be taken after the treatment is done to limit risk of excessive exposure and toxicity.

- When spot-on products became available, they were

revolutionary. They finally offered a sustained effect. You apply the product and for the next month, every single flea which lands on the dog or cat dies, no new eggs are laid, and the cycle is finally broken; hoorah!! But very importantly – one month is not enough. Remember those pesky cocoons can live for many months. So if we only do one or two treatments, our flea numbers drop dramatically, we think we've cured the problem, we stop treating and BOOM! A few months later they're back with a vengeance, and then we think the product has failed. There is one brand of collar which gives controlled release of the medication to spread over the skin in a similar way to spot-ons, which is much more effective than the older style collars.

- We now have many oral products on the market as well. These flavoured tablets or chews give the same sustained action as the spot-ons, without any risk of being washed off. They also carry a little less contamination risk to the environment, with evidence that spot-on products can leave more of the drugs in pet hair to be picked up by birds or washed down the drain.

- More recently, we have the option of an injection in dogs. The medication is in a crystalline form which absorbs at a slow steady rate, giving flea control for one year.

- When it comes to natural options, the best ones are the trusty washing machine

and a vacuum cleaner. A hot wash will be able to kill off the cocoons, and the vibration of vacuuming will stimulate eruption and jumping behaviours of juvenile fleas ready to be sucked up and removed from the household.

- There are all sorts of strategies to kill fleas with garlic, apple cider vinegar, essential oils and various other remedies, with minimal success. Essential oils are chemicals extracted from plants often used for relaxation in aromatherapy. One of the reasons you might choose to use essential oils for fleas is because of concerns around possible side effects or toxicity from regular flea treatment products. Essential oils certainly can kill fleas at high doses in a test environment, but this same chemical toxicity that affects the fleas also causes toxicity to dogs and cats when ingested or applied to the coat at high enough concentrations to be killing fleas.

Troubleshooting:

If you feel like you have 'tried everything' but still have fleas, then the life cycle is somehow continuing.

There may be a gap in treatment - for a recommended monthly product, five weeks between treatments instead of four can leave a week's worth of breeding before the next treatment.

There could be untreated patients providing a breeding location; for example, only treating the dog and not the cat.

There may be a source of flea eggs such as a neighbour-

hood cat which frequents your yard.

There may be a dosing issue (splitting doses between pets resulting in an under-dose, or selecting a product for a smaller dog or cat which is below the effective dose).

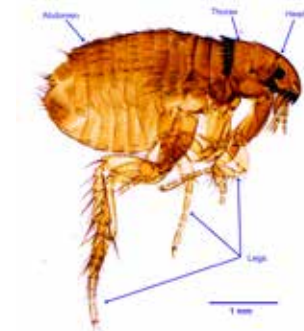
Relying on some of the older treatment strategies (flea bathing, older-style collars) can allow breeding to occur as explained above.

There is potential resistance to the medications in some flea populations – whilst they may still work if the fleas are sensitive to it, we no longer recommend products containing fipronil due to potential for treatment failure.

In summary – if you have issues with fleas, use an approved product at the approved dosing strength and frequency, over an extended period to give time for all those fleas to emerge from their cocoon slumber.

Consider the once yearly injection (dogs only) to achieve these goals.

You can combine this with regular washing of bedding, cushion covers, blankets etc, and frequent vacuuming.



## Farming News

Update your PIC for the new financial year

More than 57,000 updates were made to Victoria's Property Identification Code (PIC) register last year, highlighting the importance of keeping property details current.

With the new financial year now underway, Agriculture Victoria is encouraging livestock owners to check that their PIC details are up to date.

Agriculture Victoria Livestock Traceability Manager, Ben Fahy, said a PIC is re-

quired for every property where livestock are kept.

"It's also a legal requirement to keep the PIC up to date.

"PICs help us contact livestock owners quickly during emergencies such as bushfires, floods and disease out-

breaks and are a key part of Victoria's livestock traceability system, along with livestock identification tags."

Mr Fahy said PIC records played an important role in Agriculture Victoria's response to the 2026 summer

bushfires, which affected 1300 PIC-registered properties across north east and western Victoria.

"PICs are the number one way we identify who to contact during emergencies.

"We started contacting people with PICs the

next day, to see if their animals were ok and whether they had any urgent animal welfare needs."

Mr Fahy said the new financial year was a good time for landholders to check if their PIC details were up to date.

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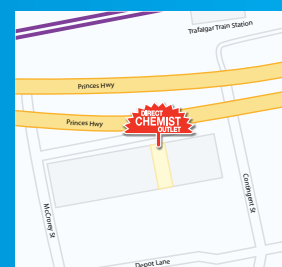
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# Baw Baw Arts Alliance holds Annual General Meeting

By Carol Monson

The Baw Baw Arts Alliance (BBAA) recently held its Annual General Meeting at the 'Station Gallery' in Yarragon.

This gallery is managed by the Arts Alliance along with two other properties, 'Artspace' at the Trafalgar Railway Station and the VRI Hall in Queen Street, Warragul.

President, Jessie McLennan, opened the meeting by

welcoming Deputy Mayor of Baw Baw Shire, Suzanne Allen and Councillors Trish Jones and Brendan Kingwell.

McLennan thanked organisations who have provided ongoing support to the Arts Alliance including Regional Arts Victoria, Baw Baw Shire, Community banks in Trafalgar and Drouin and 3BBR.

In her final report McLennan spoke about her own

ongoing commitment to the work of the Arts Alliance in developing the Creative Arts in the Baw Baw shire.

Having been president from 2010-2012 and again in 2024-2026, McLennan was able to comment on a number of strengths of the Alliance.

One is the succession plan for the president to change every two years thus enabling the organisation to remain

active, dynamic, and responsive to community needs.

Other strengths are having a vision that encompasses the ongoing development of a creative arts environment which supports the well-being of the community.

Despite being a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers, the Baw Baw Arts Alliance continues to grow, increasing the range of Arts opportunities through workshops, drop-in groups, exhibitions, support for developing and professional Artists via the retail space for Artwork and the 'Arts and Makers Market'.

The list of events and activities run by the Arts Alliance is extensive and McLennan paid tribute to the many volunteers needed for such extensive programs.

The volunteers run drop in Art groups, coordinate rosters, serve in the gallery shops, curate and hang the

regular exhibitions, work on the management committee, conduct annual NGV children's activities, record Artist interviews, publish poetry, organise a range of markets, arrange Art activities for members of the general public, promote Art through the combined Baw Baw Arts Alliance and Warragul Rotary Easter Arts Sale, maintain regular publications and a web site to keep people informed of the exciting opportunities for Artistic creativity available in the Baw Baw Shire.

This is an exhausting list.

At the Annual General Meeting, Councillor Trish Jones, presided at the annual elections and presented the new Baw Baw Arts Alliance Committee of Management to guests at the meeting.

The new president for 2026 is Deborah Churchill.

Jeff Thege continues as secretary, Prue Barridge con-

tinues as Treasurer, Anita George is vice president and Jessie McLennan assumes the role of past president.

General committee members are Janine Richardson, Carol Monson, Sue Murphy, Michelle Beer, Zoe Clark.

In concluding, McLennan congratulated Deborah Churchill on being elected as the 2026-2027 president of the Baw Baw Arts Alliance.

McLennan herself moves into a role she has held previously, that of market co-ordinator, which she will share with Annie Laughon

The meeting concluded with a presentation from Anne Lorraine, director of the Warragul Art Studio Gallery (WAS), who spoke of various aspects of running an Art Gallery, including the restoration of the 1930s Art Deco style, former farmhouse, in which WAS is housed.

For more see <https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au>



From left to right, Prue Barridge (treasurer) Sue Murphy, Jessie McLennan, (immediate past president) Carol Monson, Deb Churchill (2026 to 2027 president), Rob Salada (Director of Community Bank, Drouin and District) Jeff Thege (secretary) Zoe Clark, Janine Richardson, Michelle Beer, Anita George (vice president)

## Join an arts group with the Baw Baw Arts Alliance

By Carol Monson

Having just had its annual general meeting the Baw Baw Arts Alliance (BBAA) has every right to pat itself on the back for the achievements of the past twelve months.

What some may not know is that, aside from running a gallery shop and staging regular exhibitions in the 'Station Gallery', Yarragon, Bbaa provides a great many drop in groups in a wide range of creative Arts.

The Artspace in the Trafalgar Railway Station and the VRI Hall on Queen Street, Warragul, are the venues for these vibrant groups that range in size from five participants to fifteen or more, depending on demand.

At Artspace in Trafalgar Railway Station, Trish Smithson runs an exciting new group called ArtStudio 2.

Where you can learn to draw and paint.

Trish has many drawing and painting skills and is keen to share these with others.

She will introduce all in the group to using a sketchbook, basic techniques for drawing and painting using pen, brush, pencil, ink.

There will be some traditional techniques taught.

People may also bring work they want to continue. Trish will be in the Artspace



Deb Churchill at an NGV Kids on Tour earlier this year. Deb has a Wednesday group in the Trafalgar Artspace.

every Wednesday from 11am-1:30pm during school terms.

Next door in Artspace 1 from 10:30-2 is Deb Churchill, newly elected president of the Alliance, running her Artstudio 1 group making books, cards, scrappy dolls, mixed media and writing.

Take any projects you are working on because the primary aim is

to enjoy yourself, meet like-minded people and share skills.

Deb has skills in a variety of areas and loves to teach others.

Also starting up in Art Space 1 at Trafalgar Rail-

way Station is a project based knitting group for beginner knitters.

Experienced knitters are also welcome.

You will have all materials provided for each fun project. Tuesdays 10am-1pm weekly.

For details ring Michelle on 0419 028 961.

A must for those who love the Arts but may not have the time to go to a formal group is the Jewellery Fair in the VRI Hall on Saturday, September 19 from 9am-2pm.

For the many other groups see the website: [www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au](http://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au)

## Bendigo Bank Boosts Local Scouts with \$500 Grant

The 1st Trafalgar Scout Group has received a welcome \$500 boost from Trafalgar Bendigo Community Bank under its Community Grant scheme, helping the group purchase essential equipment for its leaders and young members.

Group Leader Siân Mizzi was presented with the cheque at a recent handover and expressed the group's appreciation.

"The Group is enormously grateful for the donation, and it will allow them to purchase a much needed printer for the leaders and youth can use for their programs and achievements awards," she said.

Mizzi said the group plans to buy an Epson Ink Tank printer, which will provide economical printing for program materials, records and youth achievement awards.

Trafalgar Bendigo Community Bank has been a consistent supporter of the 1st Trafalgar Scout Group over many years, providing a series of useful grants

that have helped the group continue its work with local young people.

The latest donation continues that strong community partnership.



From left to Right. Mel from Trafalgar Bendigo Bank, Mal Stanford, Siân Mizzi - Group Leader and Craig Moon from 1st Trafalgar Scout Group



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Authorised by H Shing, 216 Commercial Rd, Morwell.



# 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<br>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<br>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<br>Facebook: Kate Wilson - East Ward Baw Baw Shire Council                                | 0460 829 001   |
| Members of Parliament                                   |                  |                                                                                                                                     |                |
| Member for Monash (Federal Electorate)                  | Mary Aldred      | Email: mary.aldred.mp@aph.gov.au                                                                                                    | 03 5614 3600   |
| Member for Narracan (State Electorate)                  | Wayne Farnham    | Email: wayne.farnham@parliament.vic.gov.au                                                                                          | 03 5623 1960   |
| Education / Childcare                                   |                  |                                                                                                                                     |                |
| Nido Early School Trafalgar                             |                  | Email: trafalgar@nido.edu.au<br>Website: https://nido.edu.au/early-schools/vic/trafalgar/                                           | 03 5633 1233   |
| Trafalgar High School                                   |                  | Email: generaloffice@trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au<br>Email: Trafalgar.hs@education.vic.gov.au<br>Website: https://trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au/ | 03 5633 1733   |
| Trafalgar Primary Early Learning Centre                 |                  | Email: trafalgar@ykinders.org.au<br>Website: https://ykinders.org.au/centres/trafalgar/                                             | 03 4311 1592   |
| Trafalgar Primary School                                |                  | Email: trafalgar.ps@education.vic.gov.au<br>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<br>Website: www.trafalgar.catholic.edu.au                                                   | 5633 1151      |
| Sport                                                   |                  |                                                                                                                                     |                |
| Trafalgar Bowls Club                                    | Ian Miles        | Email: trafalgarbowlsclub@bigpond.com<br>Website: trafalgarbowlsclub.com                                                            | 03 5633 1274   |
| Trafalgar Boxing Gym                                    | Shane Cameron    | Email: box_on_box_all@hotmail.com<br>Webite: trafalgarboxingclub.wordpress.com                                                      | 0408 962 764   |
| Trafalgar Cricket Club                                  | Liam Durkin      | Website: trafalgarcricketclub.com.au<br>Email: trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com                                                       | 0402 556 338   |
| Trafalgar Football Netball Club                         | Brett Tonkin     | Email: trafalgarnfc@gmail.com<br>Facebook: Trafalgar Football Netball Club                                                          | 0477 636 648   |
| Trafalgar Golf Club                                     |                  | Email: golf@trafalgargolf.com.au<br>Website: www.trafalgargolf.com.au<br>Facebook: Trafalgar Golf Club                              | 03 5633 1110   |
| Trafalgar Outdoor Pool                                  |                  | Email: bawbaw@ymca.org.au<br>Website: https://bawbawpools.ymca.org.au/trafalgar-outdoor-pool                                        | 03 5623 4017   |
| Trafalgar Park Community Hub                            |                  | Facebook: Trafalgar Park Community Hub                                                                                              | 0418 513 092   |
| Trafalgar Park Croquet Club                             |                  | Facebook: Trafalgar Park Croquet Club                                                                                               |                |
| Trafalgar Pickleball Club                               |                  | Facebook: Trafalgar Pickleball Club                                                                                                 |                |
| Trafalgar Ping Pong Club                                |                  | Email: trafalgarpingpongkings@gmail.com                                                                                             | 0418 598 174   |
| Trafalgar Polocrosse Club                               | Gill Massey      | Email: trafalgarpoloxclub@gmail.com                                                                                                 | 0455 440 062   |
| Trafalgar Pony Club                                     | Denise Marriot   | Facebook: Trafalgar Pony Club                                                                                                       | 0411 890 299   |
| Trafalgar Tennis Club                                   | Sue Klemke       | Email: trafftennis@gmail.com<br>Facebook: Trafalgar Tennis Club                                                                     |                |
| Trafalgar Victory Football Club                         |                  | Email: committee@tvfc.com.au<br>Website: www.tvfc.com.au                                                                            |                |
| Other                                                   |                  |                                                                                                                                     |                |
| Baw Baw Arts Alliance                                   | Sue Murphy       | Email: president@bawbawartsalliance.org.au<br>Website: www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au/bcms/                                          | 0428 866 417   |
| BawBaw Sustainability Network                           | Malcolm McKelvie | Email: bawbawsn@gmail.com<br>Website: bbsn.org.au<br>Facebook: Baw Baw Sustainability Network                                       | 0490 485 370   |
| BetterMental Together                                   | Kerry Rantall    | Email: bettermentall@gmail.com<br>Website: bettermentall.com.au                                                                     | 0477 115 666   |
| Rotary Club of Trafalgar                                | Michael Fozard   | Email: mrfozard@bigpond.com<br>Facebook: Rotary Club of Trafalgar                                                                   | 0418 513 092   |

|                                                                 |                |                                                                                                                                       |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| St John's Church (Trafalgar)<br>St. Jariath's Church (Yarragon) |                | Email: Trafalgar@cdsale.org.au<br>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<br>Website:www.gippslandcampdraftingas-sociation.com<br>Facebook: Trafalgar Campdraft Association Inc | 0416 166 027 |
| Trafalgar Cemetry Trust                                         | Howard Jones   | Email: trafalgarpubliccemetery@dcsi.net.au<br>Webite: https://australiancemeteries.com.au/vic/bawbaw/trafalgar.htm                    | 03 5633 2282 |
| Trafalgar CFA (non-emergency)                                   |                | Facebook: Trafalgar Fire Brigade                                                                                                      | 03 5624 1900 |
| Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce                                   |                | Website: www.trafalgarchamber.com.au                                                                                                  |              |
| Trafalgar Community Notice Board                                |                | Facebook: Trafalgar Community Notice Board                                                                                            |              |
| Trafalgar District News                                         | Rachel Thornby | Email: editor@trafnews.com                                                                                                            | 0494 781 569 |
| Trafalgar Farmers Market                                        |                | Email - contact@traffarmersmarket.com<br>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<br>Website: trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au                                                     | 03 5633 1684 |
| Trafalgar Lions Club                                            | David Koschade | Email: trafalgarlions@gmail.com<br>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<br>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                |                |                                                                                                                                       |              |

Bendigo Bank

Community Bank  
Trafalgar & District

## What's On around Trafalgar

If you have an event, please feel free to send information to us (editor@trafnews.com). Trafalgar District News is distributed in Trafalgar, Yarragon, Thorpdale and Willow Grove.

| Event                                                                                                                                                                                             | Date/Time                                                                                          | Location                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Home Care Workers Emergency Readiness Workshop</b><br>Free professional development forum for CHSP, HACC PYP and NDIS funded home care workers by Baw Baw Shire partnering with the CFA        | Friday, 4 September, 8:45am to1pm                                                                  | Warragul Golf Club, 41 Sutton Street, Warragul<br>Contact Cherie Howe 0474 211 913                   |
| <b>Trafalgar Farmers Market</b><br>Fresh produce, local crafts, and community                                                                                                                     | Saturday, 5 Septem-ber, 9am to 1pm                                                                 | McGregor Park, Trafalgar                                                                             |
| <b>Yarragon Arts Council - Timothy Young</b><br>Timothy Young is one of Australia's most promi- nent and versatile pianists, performing as a cham- ber musician, recitalist and concerto soloist. | Saturday, 5 Septem-ber, 3pm to 4pm                                                                 | Yarragon Studio, 515 Yarra- gon South Road<br>Contact christinaflann@gmail.com for price an bookings |
| <b>Walhalla Goldfields Railway - Train Rides</b><br>All aboard a very special journey down Stringer's Creek Gorge                                                                                 | Weekends 10am, 12pm, 1:30pm. Wednesdays 10am, 12pm. Also running daily during the school holidays. | Walhalla Station<br>Visit website for more infor- mation: www.walhallarail.com.au                    |
| <b>Father's Day</b>                                                                                                                                                                               | Sunday, 6 September                                                                                |                                                                                                      |
| <b>Lego Club</b><br>Young lego builders aged 17 and under can take part in monthly themed challenges                                                                                              | Saturday, 12 Septem-ber, 10:30-11:30am                                                             | Warragul Library, 75 Victoria Street, Warragul<br>Contact Warragul Library 56222848                  |
| <b>Ellinbank &amp; District Football Netball League Grand Final</b>                                                                                                                               | Sunday, 13 September                                                                               | Trafalgar Recreatcreation Precinct                                                                   |

Supporting your community

5633 2783

103a Princes Highway, Trafalgar



# COUNCIL News

## Get Ready, Get Techy, GO!

**Baw Baw Shire Council is proud to support a series of sessions being held across the Shire to build emergency readiness and resilience, within the community.**

The Get Ready, Get Techy, Go! sessions are being held during September and October.

The sessions will cover bushfire planning and safety and go through resources available to help prepare for these kinds of events.

The following workshops will be held:

- Home Care Workers Emergency Readiness Workshop, 4 September, 8.45am to 1pm, Warragul Country Club.
- Willow Grove Emergency Readiness Community event; 2 October, 5.30 – 8.30pm at the Willow Grove Hall.
- Seniors Festival Emergency Readiness Workshop, 20 Oct, 2 – 4pm, Warragul Country Club.

Email Cherie Howe at [Cherie.howe@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:Cherie.howe@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au) for more information.

## Special Consideration Program here to support FOGO rollout

Baw Baw Shire Council has introduced a Special Consideration Program (SCP) to support members of our community with the new collection schedule for the red general rubbish bin.

In July, Council introduced the Food Organics Garden Organics program, and under this new program, residents are now required to place their food scraps in the green lid bin alongside their garden clippings.

The introduction of this program also saw a change in frequency for collection of the green FOGO bin to weekly and the red general rubbish bin to fortnightly, and the SCP is here to provide support, following this big change.

To find out more and to see what the eligibility criteria is, visit [bawbawshire.co/FOGO](http://bawbawshire.co/FOGO) or scan the QR code.



## EMPLOYMENT EXPO THIS MONTH!

**Baw Baw Shire Council will host the annual Employment Expo in September this year.**

**When:** Wednesday 30 September

**Time:** 10am – 1pm

**Where:** Fountain Room, West Gippsland Arts Centre

**Stay tuned to our website and social media channels for more information!**

## Upcoming Council Meeting:

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

**Wednesday 14 October – 5.30pm**  
Ordinary Council Meeting

All community members are welcome to attend in person or tune in via the Live Stream on our website.

For a full list of the meetings for 2026, visit [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings)

# Remember When...



Compiled by Jean Huffer from newspapers held by Trafalgar & District Historical Society

## The Trafalgar and Yarragon News

9 September 1926

### Someone Blundered

#### Football Train Early

It was generally expected that the special football train to Garfield on Saturday would depart later than for the ordinary matches as there was so much less travelling.

Consequently, it was with astonishment that word was received on Friday night, that the time of departure was half an hour earlier than usual!

At this late hour it was of course impossible to let the general public know of the altered time table.

The result was disastrous for all concerned.

The attendance at the semi-final was the smallest seen in the association for many years, although the day was fine.

It was estimated there were 300 passengers less through the train leaving so early! The gate takings were only £50!

### Correspondence.

#### Immodest

To the Editor of the "News"

Sir – If all the papers were to express the same opinion as that of the last issue of the "News" there would, I am sure, be an end of the capering around the hall and calling it dancing.

If what we saw at Trafalgar was the Charlston, then we don't want to see it again. There is nothing graceful

about it, and also it is immodest. I am not a prude, but think this latest fad needs to be cut out. – Yours, WALTZ.

Trafalgar, Sept. 6/26

### Thursday, 16 September 1926 IN FAVOUR

#### Potato Growers Unite

The Potato Growers' Association of Gippsland, which was formed at a meeting at Garfield a few weeks ago, is already established on a lasting basis,

So far the growers of Trafalgar District have not actively interested themselves in the matter; but the time is ripe for action.

If a meeting were convened, full information could be obtained from the Garfield people....

### Personal

Cr. Hunter has been elected president of the Narracan Shire Council for the current municipal year at the usual presidential allowance of £90

In a wire from Banka Banka in Central Australia, yesterday, the Rev. Prickett stated that he and Mr. T. McCrorey of Trafalgar were having a most successful trip on their journey round Australia,

### Thursday, 23 September 1926

#### FAST MEN

##### Pass Through Trafalgar

The popularity of cycling was further emphasized by the interest in the Sale to Melbourne road race on Saturday.

Several of the front and middle markers were go-

ing well at Trafalgar but the three scratch men were first to the winning post.

H. Oppeham, who lost time on the Haunted Hills through his chain coming off, finished four minutes in front of the second man...

### Thursday, 30 September 1926

#### TRAGIC

##### Back to the City

A soldier settler recently left Trafalgar to take a job in the city.

He is a married man with a family.

After five years on a farm property he could see no hope of getting ahead with things.

His farm was alright but he was under capitalized.

He said that if a man with sufficient capital acquired the place, he would do alright "I was gassed", he said, "and will find it hard to carry on with indoor work".

## The Trafalgar News

### Wednesday, 1 September 1926

#### CANBERRA GIVES \$323,000 FOR RURAL ROADS

Narracan Shire is to receive \$323,000 for its rural roads.

This was announced yesterday by the Minister for Transport, Mr. Nixon.

Narracan's allocation is the third largest grant to a Victorian municipality and the second largest in Gippsland. (Tambo Shire gets \$348,000)....

Federal Member for Mc-Millan, Mr. Barry Simon, was among petitioners to Mr. Nixon, to ensure the full amount of \$7.5 million to Victoria, was allocated to Victorian municipalities.

#### GIAE COULD BE SITE FOR NURSE SCHOOL

Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education has been recommended as the site for a school of nursing to serve Gippsland hospitals.

An institute representative has indicated that the school could be incorporated into the campus within as little as 12 months.

#### BREAD UNDER FIRE

Australia's basic white family loaf comes under fire in the latest issue of CHOICE, the magazine published by the Australian Consumers' Association.

Prices are spiraling; but we still can't match the quali-

ty of New Zealand's basic loaf. Looking at the laws that govern bread making, the ACA calls for an end to the practice of bleaching white flour with chemicals, a procedure which is already banned in New Zealand.

## Traf News

### September 2016

#### LONG TAN REMEMBERED

With the Cenotaph bathed in glorious sunshine, local Veterans were joined by students of Trafalgar High School and members of the public to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

This is now recognized as the most significant Australian engagement of the Vietnam War.

Among those present at the Cenotaph was Edna Mynard, aunt of Private Colin Whiston who lost his life at Long Tan.

## Thea Durkin Retires From Probus

There are times when we receive a letter from a member who has come to that stage when it is time to retire from Probus, and this month we received notice from Thea Durkin that it was her time after nearly 25 years with the club.

That goes back to the first year of Probus in 1993, and is an amazing effort to support the club for so long.

## Local Laws To Keep CBD Safe and Clean

### Shopping Trolleys

Dumped shopping trolleys are unsightly and are often in locations that cause a hazard to pedestrians or motorists, such as roads, walkways, parks and gardens.

A \$300 infringement may be issued to anyone found to be dumping a trolley.

# More than just boxing

By Shane Cameron

At Trafalgar Boxing Gym, we believe boxing is about much more than learning how to throw a punch.

Boxing is a sport that builds character, discipline, confidence, respect, resilience and determination — qualities that can benefit people in every part of life.

Training in a boxing gym provides people with a positive social environment where they can meet new people, make friends, support one another, and work towards their personal goals.

Everyone starts somewhere, and our gym is a place where members can encourage each other and celebrate progress together.

Boxing teaches you that improvement doesn't happen overnight.

It takes commitment, patience, hard work, and the willingness to keep going when things get difficult.

These lessons help build strong character. Boxing teaches discipline by encouraging you to turn up and put in the work.

It develops resilience by teaching you to overcome challenges.

It builds confidence as you learn new skills and see yourself improve.

Most importantly, boxing teaches respect — respect for your coach, your training partners, your opponents, and yourself.

Our regular boxing classes are held on Tuesdays from 6-7pm and on Thursdays from 6-7pm at Turra Pavilion, behind the Trafalgar Soccer Club.

Whether you're looking to improve your fitness, learn boxing, build confidence, develop self-defence skills, or simply become part of a positive local community, we'd love to have you come along.

Juniors Welcome – 11+

We're also looking for more junior members aged 11 and over to join our club.

Boxing can be a fantastic activity for young people, helping them develop fitness, coordination, discipline, confidence, focus and respect, while being part of a supportive team environment.

Our goal is to help young people develop skills and character that can benefit them both inside and outside the gym.

Trafalgar Boxing Gym is also looking for volunteers to help around the club.

If you have boxing experience, sporting experience, or simply enjoy being involved in your local community, we'd love to hear from you.

Experience is recommended but not essential — a willingness to help and contribute to the club is what matters most.

If you're interested in volunteering, or you'd simply like to have a quick chat and find out more, please contact us on: 0480 032 866

Come and Be Part of the Community.

Trafalgar Boxing Gym is proud to be a local club where people can train, grow, make friends, and support one another.

It's not just about becoming a better boxer — it's about becoming a stronger person.

Come down to Turra Pavilion, meet the team, and see what Trafalgar Boxing Gym is all about.

Everyone starts somewhere. Your journey starts here.

TRUE VALUE  
HARDWARE

The all new  
TRUE VALUE

TRAFALGAR  
HARDWARE

New proprietors  
Gary & Sarah  
Jenkins

22 Contingent Street  
Trafalgar

Ph: 5633 1444

In 2016, Sarah and Garry Jenkins were the new owners of Boyle's Hardware on the original site where the business began in 1937.

when it's  
milk fever  
and the chips are down

CALCIJEC  
will save the day

When the cow's down Calci-Jec Plus will get the animal up on its feet.  
Calci-Jec Plus contains Calcium, Borogluconate, Magnesium, Phosphorus, Dextrose... all that is needed to get your prize animal back on its feet in a minimal period of time.  
The incidence of Milk Fever can be greatly reduced by administering Calci-Jec Plus to heifers soon before and after calving.  
CALCIJEC PLUS ALSO FOR GRASS TETANY.

WEYMOUTH  
& MCKENZIE

Amcal  
Chemist TRAFALGA

Weymouth's Pharmacy has changed hands several times since the 1970s, and is now Trafalgar Chemist's - a member of the Direct Chemist chain.

# Faltum to lead Vics

Trafalgar cricketer Nicole Faltum has been appointed Victorian women's captain for the 2026/27 season.

Cricket Victoria says the appointment reflects Faltum's continued growth as a leader.

Having previously led Victoria in Sophie Molineux's absence, Faltum will begin the season as the program's official captain, providing continuity from day one of preseason as Victoria looks to build on the reflections and learnings from last summer.

Faltum has spent recent seasons learning from Bairnsdale-born Molineux,

whose appointment as Australia's all-format captain has created the opportunity for a new Victorian leadership group to lead the program on a full-time basis.

Molly Strano will also support the duo as a member of the leadership group.

Strano's wealth of experience and deep understanding of successful teams and programs will provide invaluable support to the group, Cricket Victoria said.

Cricket Victoria's Head of Female Cricket, Kirby Short said the leadership appointments reflected both the evolution of the playing group

and the environment the program is striving to create.

"Our growth as humans and leaders is not linear, and Nicole is a great example of that," Short said.

"One of the strongest outcomes from our review last season was the alignment that exists across the program. There is genuine clarity around the standards we want to uphold, the environment we want to create and the way we want to represent Victoria.

"Nicole has been central to those conversations. She leads with care, honesty and accountability, and she's someone who genu-

inely wants every player to become the best version of themselves.

"We're excited by the opportunity this leadership group has to shape our environment from day one of preseason and continue building a program that allows people to develop and perform, whilst remaining true to themselves."

Faltum said it was a privilege to officially lead the state she has proudly represented throughout her career.

"I'm incredibly proud to have the opportunity to lead a group that is committed to growing together. This group means a lot to me, and I deeply care about the people in our changeroom," she said.

"We've spent a lot of time reflecting on where we want to go as a program and what we want to stand for. There is real buy-in from everyone, and I'm excited to help create an environment where people feel comfortable being themselves while also challenging each other to improve every day.

"I believe our individuality is one of our greatest strengths. Everyone brings something different, and if we can create an environment where people feel empowered to be authentic while putting the team stan-



Victorian captain and Trafalgar local Nicole Faltum

dards and values first, I think this will give ourselves the best chance to succeed.

"There is a real sense of pride in this playing group. We feel strongly about representing Victoria, we care about one another, and we're determined to keep raising

the standards of what this team can do and become."

Faltum played cricket and went to school in Trafalgar before heading downtown.

Victoria had a disastrous 2025/26, finishing winless in the Women's National Cricket League.



Nicole Faltum catching up with old teammate Brodie Burgess at Trafalgar Cricket Club last year

## Mighty Maskiell's riding double

By Liam Durkin

Trafalgar jockey Jason Maskiell saw out the racing season on a high note.

He secured a riding double under winter sunshine at Moe Racing Club's midweek meeting on Tuesday, 21 July.

The weather acted as some recompense after the club's previous meeting on 3 July was abandoned four races in.

The track was rated a Heavy 9 for the entire meeting.

Maskiell rode the winner in the Race 4 Immerse Within Maiden Plate over 1628 metres, and the Race 5 Gippsland Finance Solutions BM66 Handicap (1628m).

The former saw Nongotaha lead at the 400m mark to hold on by just over a length for Pakenham trainer Rachael Cunningham.

Maskiell got a win closer to home in Race 5, winning for Moe's John Pascoe on board Red on Red.

It was Maskiell's seventh win riding the gelding.

The eight-year-old showed just what a warrior he is, putting in a solid run to lead most of the way around.

"He's super, he's been a really good horse to me. This is probably his best prep, he's got better as he's got older," Maskiell told Racing.com's Gemma Rielly post-race.

"I would have liked to of covered but the way he rode across, I didn't think I was going to get in ... just had a lovely time out in front and he really picked up."

Moe welcomed some prominent names to the meeting, including the Trent Busuttin-trained Keen Observer. The two-year-old colt is the half-brother of 2014 Golden Slipper winner Mossfun.

Keen Observer ran second in the Race 3 Ladbrokes Mega Multi Maiden Plate (1017m), won by the John McArdle-trained Regal Vanguard.

The meeting started with an upset, after \$12 outsider Heavy Haulage blitzed to the line for John Price in the Race 1 The Makeup Hub Maiden Plate (1217m).

Mighty Mystic put in a similar run to easily win the Race 2 Lavish by P & Co Maiden Plate (1217m) for John Allen. Three Reel Roses, trained by Henrey Dwyer, had a close win on the outside in the Race 6 Clearview Radiology BM62 Handicap (2447m), holding on from Silver Pledge.

Race 7, the Ladbrokes Odd Surge BM62 Handicap (1017m) was the closest of the day. Less than half-a-length separated places two to four, with the winner, Blondie's Award for Shane Nichols and Hayden Black, coming from fourth to win narrowly.

Struggle Street defied its own name to win the Race 8 Moe Optical BM62 Handicap (1217m), leading at both the 800m and 400m to hang on for Reece Goodwin.

While the 2025/26 racing season is technically finished, it is merely administrative in order to break up the calendar. As such, Moe's next meeting is Thursday, 13 August.

(Source: Latrobe Valley Express)



Trafalgar jockey Jason Maskiell celebrates his riding double.

# Blues brothers reunion

By Liam Durkin and Kerry Strobridge

(This article is a combined effort from Latrobe Valley Express and one of the reunion's organisers, Kerry Strobridge. The other reunion organisers being Speedy Winderlich and Charlie Howell).

Thorpdale Football Netball Club held its 50-year reunion for the 1976 senior premierships on 8 August.

It was great to see several of the premierships players at the reunion.

Spud Regulski, Doc Rowlings, Allan McLure, Greg Wheildon, Trevor McDevitt, Alan Cairns, Geoff Mullen, Speedy Winderlich and Tony Sheriff (trainer/committee member), as well as 1976 president Frank Powell all attended on the day along with their partners, reminiscing about the game and enjoying each other's company.

Several other supporters also attended the reunion.

The reunion was capped off with Thorpdale's seniors coming away with a win on the day.

One of the stories which was shared about grand final day: Newborough had its red, white and blue balloons around the ground.

Pat Regulski (wife of Spud) went around with a pin popping all the red balloons to make them blue and white with the Newborough supporters chasing her around the ground.

1976 also was the inaugural start of netball at the Mid Gippsland League, where Thorpdale were one of the founding teams.

The inaugural team for Thorpdale consisted of Billie Kennedy, Julie (Beecher) Hillbrick, Shirley (Pickering) Peters, Rhonda Pickering, Dianne (Myers) Roach, Raelene Millsom, Sherrie Coates, Julie Love, Cheryl (Mullen) Borg, Sue McKenzie and Tracey Chambers.

To start playing, the netballers had to chip back the grass on the original court which is on the west side of the clubrooms, and this was retarred with tar and sawdust so that they had a court to play on.

A far cry from the court that the girls play on today.

The retarring of the court was done by Trevor Chambers with help from Bill Dyke.

Not the best of surfaces but at least it was playable.

In the early years, the team played on several various courts such as grass at Maryvale at the APM and Morwell East at Crinigan Road.

Since most of the team were still too young to drive, they had to rely on their parents to get them to the league meetings for that first year.

## The grand final

At the time, Thorpdale was very lucky its percentage was good as that is how it made it into the finals.

Coming from fourth position, it ended up taking the premierships from Newborough by 11 points.

Newborough had four teams in and by all accounts its seniors should have won, but Thorpdale had other ideas.

The Blues defeated Newborough by 11 points in that year's Mid Gippsland Football League grand final, 17.9 (111) to 14.16 (100).

Thorpdale found form at the right time, winning two cut-throat eliminators after only making finals on percentage.

It was the median in a three-year stretch that saw a team come from fourth on the ladder to win a premiership against Newborough.

Trafalgar won from fourth in 1975, Thorpdale the year after, and then Yarragon in

1977 (its sole Mid Gippsland senior flag).

Somewhat amazingly, just one of these clubs are still in Mid Gippsland.

The Bulldogs broke a run of four consecutive grand final defeats when it saluted in 1978.

Thorpdale was captain-coached by Buck Moncur, and was aided by having Gippsland League goalkicking icon Ian Jennings in its line-up.

Jennings, who kicked close to 700 goals for Moe (including three tons) spent his twilight years with Thorpdale.

He topped the MGFL goal kicking in his two years in the league (1975-76), kicking 91 and 136 goals respectively.

He kicked six goals in the grand final, and was among the players, along with best-on-ground Ted 'Spud' Regulski.

Some other prominent names in the team includ-

ed Ross Winderlich (father of Jason) and the Rowlings brothers; the late great Graham (known to all as 'China') and Brian (similarly known as 'Doc').

The year ended up being a very memorable one for the brothers, as Barry also won a premiership playing with Hawthorn.

A report published after the grand final ended up being quite prophetic: "Even if they (Thorpdale) should turn back into a pumpkin next year, the hope for some other little team is there".

Thorpdale did in fact turn into a pumpkin the next year (or perhaps more accurately - spuds), going from premiers to wooden spooners.

Virtually the entire side packed up and left, including Jennings, who returned to the major league for a one-off stint with Yallourn North.

How little has changed: small clubs still relied on recruits 50 years ago.



Premiership players at the reunion. Back, from left: Doc Rowlings, Spud Regulski, Tony Sheriff, Geoff Mullen, Trevor McDevitt. Front, from left: Speedy Winderlich, Alan Cairns, Allan McLure, Greg Wheildon and Frank Powell.

## 300 games for Michael Ablett

Michael Ablett (Abby) celebrated his 300th career game on 15 August against Lang Lang.

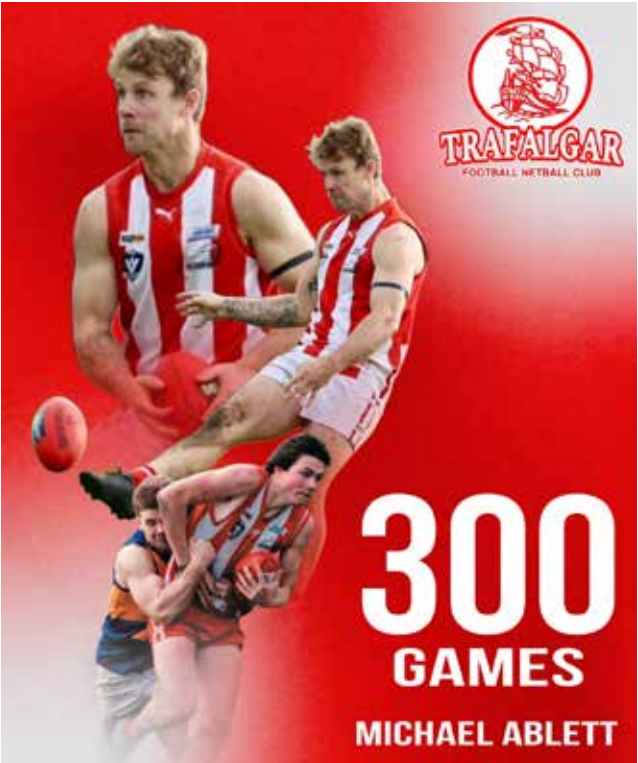
A football journeyman, Abby's football career has seen him represent Drouin, Yarragon, Warragul Dusties, and Ellinbank before arriving at Trafalgar at the beginning of 2025.

Since joining the Bloods, he has been a fantastic addition to its senior side and quickly earned the respect of all his teammates.

An ever-reliable lockdown defender, Abby played a huge role in last year's finals run, highlighted by a sensational preliminary final performance and being named our 2025 Best Finals Player.

Composed and reserved by nature, Abby simply goes about his business each week and lets his football do the talking.

His journey to 300 games is a tremendous reflection of his commitment, durability and class, having performed at a high level for such a long period of time.



## Yarragon milestones

### 500 Goals – Tayla Green

A massive congratulations to Yarragon's A Grade GS, Tayla Green, who yesterday hit 500 goals (plus 25) for the 2026 season, with four more rounds to go.

Week after week, Tayla has been an absolute power-

house in the goal circle, with her accuracy, composure and consistency.

For much of the season, Tayla has led the netball A Grade goal shooting leaderboard for the Ellinbank Football Netball League, and she currently remains in the number one position.

It's a remarkable achieve-

ment and a reflection of the impact she's had every time she steps onto the court.

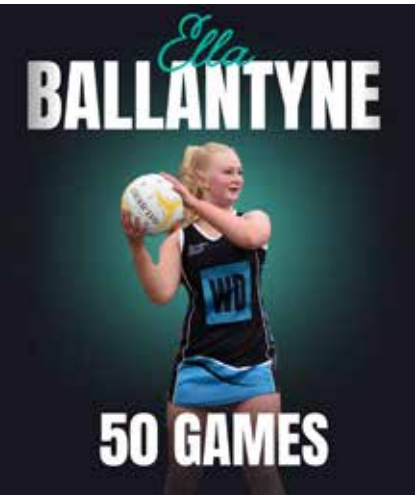
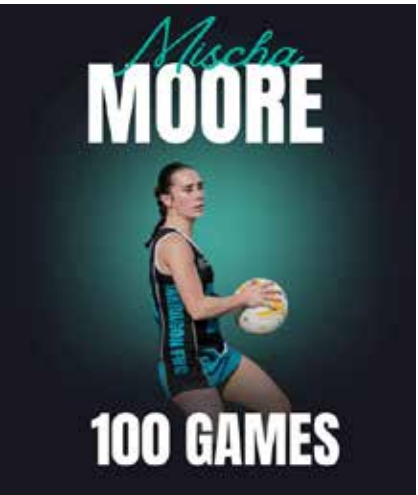
### 100 Games – Mischa Moore

Mischa Moore celebrated 100 games for Yarragon Football Netball Club on 25 July, an incredible milestone and a testament to her com-

mitment to the club over many years.

### 100 Games – Ella Ballantyne

Ella Ballantyne celebrated 50 games for Yarragon Football Netball Club on 15 August, an exciting milestone and a testament to her commitment to the club over the years.



# Traf players in inter-league carnival



Trafalgar Football Netball Club's four Ellinbank & District Football Netball league's representatives in July's inter-league game against West Gippsland Football Netball league. Left to Right, Jake Dinsdale, Lachlan Gringhuis, Cooper Hammond, Noah Ally

**C**ongratulations to Trafalgar Football Netball Club Under 16 interleague representatives Noah Ally, Cooper Hammond, Lachlan Gringhuis and Jake Dinsdale on their selection in the inter-league game against West Gippsland League at Lang Lang on 15 July.

Representing Ellinbank & District Football Netball League (EDFNL), the club is proud of its four U16s representatives.

Although West Gippsland Football Netball League was too strong, our league skipper, Trafalgar's Jake Dinsdale, was awarded best on ground for the EDFNL with a

strong game in the ruck and forward, where he kicked a goal in the third quarter.

Noah, Lachlan and Cooper also competed well and impacted the game.

Well done to the lads, and also to all other players across football and netball that played in the inter-league games—a great achievement.

## TFNC football and netball highlights

### Jace reaches 300

**H**istory was made on 25 July when Jace Butler reached the outstanding milestone of 300 senior games for Trafalgar Football Netball Club, joining one of the club's most exclusive groups.

In an achievement that is simply extraordinary, every one of Jace's 300 club games has been played at senior level—not a single reserves game.

To reach 300 games is a remarkable achievement, but to play all 300 in the seniors is something truly special and a feat that very few footballers will ever accomplish.

Affectionately known to so many as Skinny, Jace has etched his name among the

greatest players in Bloods history, compiling one of the most decorated careers ever seen at the club.

His many accolades include:

- 2005 and 2006 U18s Best and Fairest
- 2006 U18s League Best and Fairest
- 4x senior premiership player in 2009, 2010, 2012 & 2018
- Senior captain, including premiership co-captain in 2012
- 2x senior Best & Fairest in 2014 and 2019
- 4x Team of the Year selections in 2013, 2014, 2019 and 2023
- Member of 2x Trafalgar Football Netball Club's

Team of the Decades (2000-2009 & 2010-2019)

- Mid Gippsland Football Netball League Interleague Representative

But what truly makes Jace a Bloods legend isn't his contribution on the field alone, but the even greater impact he has had off it.

Jace has always been willing to put the team & club first, having previously held leadership, committee and assistant coaching roles.

Cool, calm and composed no matter the situation, he's someone you can always rely on and someone who is always there to support those around him.

A great mate and an ever-reliable teammate, Jace has earned the respect and admiration of generations of players through the way he carries himself.

Ask anyone who has shared the field with him, and they'll tell you how much they've loved pulling on the red and white alongside Skinny. We are undoubtedly a better football club because Jace Butler has been, and continues to be, part of it.

The club's historian, Paul (Mopsy) Taylor provided Traf District News with the following list of the club's players who reach 300 football games as of 25 July:

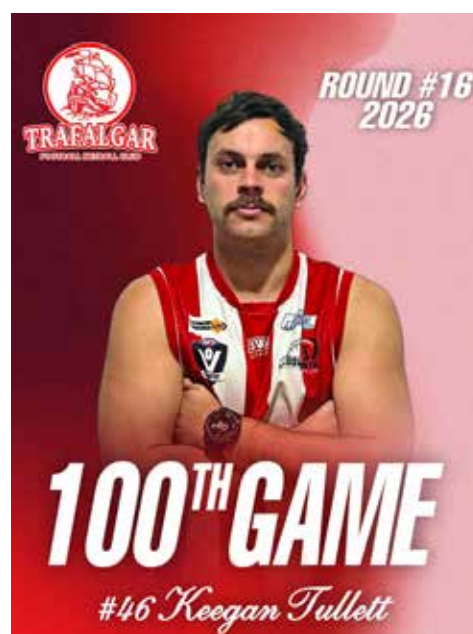
- Chris De Haas: 335
- Brian Sim: 330
- Matt Swenson: 326\*
- Duncan Ireland: 309
- Geoff McMillan: 303
- Jace Butler: 300\*
- \*still playing



300-gamer Jace Butler after the game with his brother, Klay



Three youngsters supporting Jace Butler during his 300th game



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