UPGRADES COMPLETED AT TRAFALGAR BMX TRACK – PAGE 2

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Trafalgar CFA members volunteer at the Bathurst 1000

By Marcus Barker

Trafalgar CFA members Mark Walshe, Glenn Goodin, and Marcus Barker, along with ex-member Matthew Bailey, spent a week volunteering as fire marshals at the Bathurst 1000 held in the first week of October.

For Mark and Glenn, it was their third year, and both Marcus and Matthew were first-year rookies.

As recognition of being volunteers we were each given four day passes and a powered camp site.

We parked our wagons in a circle and had a fire pit in the middle!

We spent the first couple of days resting after the drive up but also walking around the entire 6.4 kilometre track circuit, which was amazing, as seeing it on TV doesn't really give you a sense of how steep and tight it is.

Then, on Wednesday, we met up with the rest of the volunteer fire marshals who were from all over Australia and three even flew out from New Zealand, numbering around 50 people.

Once acquainted, we set about loading each of the six fire vehicles with a large foam bomb and six fire extinguishers, along with other equipment.

These vehicles are stationed around the track and are sent out onto the track as required.

As fire marshals we were spread out along the pit lane in readiness for any fires that may break out on either the race cars or the garages.

We looked after two garages each, but in actual fact, you could just say that we babysat fire extinguishers for four days!

We woke each morning at 4:45am and signed on, picked up our breakfast and lunch packs before meeting at the fire shed for a briefing.

We worked one hour on and one hour off through the day until 6pm.

They were long days, and we had very sore feet by the end of the day, soothed only by a couple of cold beers.

We had the very best positions on the whole circuit, being able to witness what was happening in the pit garages and rubbing shoulders with the drivers.

Around 470 people volunteer for trackside roles like flag marshals, fire marshals, medical, recovery, communications, and track safety.

The event relies on these volunteers to be able to put on such a wonderful event.

Mark Walshe, Marcus Barker, Glenn Goodin and Matthew Bailey in the pit lane

The fire marshal's view of the garages

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Traf District News

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Council to continue fortnightly red general rubbish bin collections

Baw Baw Shire Council has voted to continue fortnightly red general rubbish bin and weekly FOGO bin collections.

A Notice of Motion was raised by Cr Danny Goss at the August Council Meeting, requesting Council Officers to provide a report detailing the costs and implications of returning to a weekly collection of the red general rubbish bin in Baw Baw Shire.

Cr Goss raised the Notice of Motion in response to community feedback received after the change in frequency of collection for the red general rubbish bin and green Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) bin, which coincided with the introduction of the FOGO program.

A petition, with 6139 signatories (3997 of which are from Baw Baw Shire), in support of reverting back to a weekly red general rubbish bin collection was also tabled at the August Council Meeting.

In July this year, Council introduced FOGO.

Under this new program, residents can now place their food scraps in the green FOGO bin alongside their garden clippings.

A Special Consideration Program (SCP) was also introduced to provide support, for those with exceptional waste needs, following this change.

The eligibility categories are for households that create additional waste from the following:

- Medical condition and/or disability
- Two (or more) children in nappies
- Large family, experiencing financial hardship

If you fall into one of the above categories, the SCP will provide an additional 120L general rubbish bin for free.

Alternatively, you can request an upgrade to a 240L, if you would prefer to have only one red general rubbish bin.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Councillor Kate Wilson said Council had voted to maintain the fortnightly red general rubbish bin collections and weekly FOGO collections.

"Council acknowledges the concerns that have been raised and will consider what more we can do to support our community to navigate the change.

"The facts are, returning to a weekly red bin collection would increase Council's contractual costs by approximately $173,000 per annum, in addition to passing on an increased waste charge to every household, whether they need the additional service or not.

"It would be premature for Council to incur these costs with a forthcoming State Government election that may cause a change to waste policy mandates," Cr Wilson said.

"The amount of waste we currently send to landfill is unsustainable; diverting unnecessary waste from the red bin is one key way to reduce landfill costs and the change in collection frequency is the most effective way to improve diversion rates.

"Over the last two months, Baw Baw Shire has reduced the amount of waste we are sending to landfill by 44 per cent, compared to the 25/26 Financial Year average.

"This shows the program is working and we are now better managing significant amounts of waste that was previously sent to landfill."

Baw Baw Shire Council wants to remind residents there is also free recycling for soft plastics, textiles, and polystyrene at Council's four Transfer Stations, including Lardner, Trafalgar, Erica and Neerim South.

Accepted soft plastics include shopping bags, bubble wrap, bread bags, biscuit packets, confectionary packets and frozen food bags.

Council is also currently investigating a bin latch trial program to assist residents in keeping bin lids closed.

Bin latches are easy to install and stop the lid from opening to prevent waste escaping or animals opening the lid, but don't impair truck tipping.

How does your candidate rate?

With the upcoming state election, with help from an Arabian proverb, you can discriminate four types of candidate:

Those who know not and know not they know not;

Those who know not and know they know not;

Those who know and know not they know;

Those who know and know they know.

The second will listen.

The fourth is wise, shun the other two.

Upgrades completed at Trafalgar BMX track

Riders are in for a smoother and safer experience following completion of improvement works at the Trafalgar BMX track.

Recent upgrades include a complete track regrade with jumps, straights and berms reshaped and enhanced to provide a safer, faster and more enjoyable riding.

The project also included drainage improvements to support the track's long-term sustainability and resilience.

Baw Baw Shire mayor Cr Kate Wilson said it was great to see this project complete and ready for riders to enjoy.

"Facilities like this play an important role in encouraging active recreation and creating opportunities for young people to stay active and connected within the community," the mayor said.

"We thank the community for their patience while we delivered this project and we're happy to see the facility reopened, refreshed and ready for use."

East Ward Cr Brendan Kingwill said the project is all about supporting the growing BMX community.

"The aim of this project was to create a space where young riders can build confidence, stay active and have fun in a safe environment close to home," Cr Kingwill said.

"We appreciate the support of the local BMX community throughout the planning and delivery of these upgrades and look forward to seeing riders enjoy the refreshed track into the future."

Baw Baw Shire Mayor Cr Kate Wilson and East Ward Councillor Brendan Kingwill were joined by local BMX riders at the recently upgraded BMX track in Trafalgar this morning

Valued at $26,000 this investment reflects Council's continued commitment to supporting local sport and active recreation infrastructure.

Planning for Traf's 150th anniversary has begun

By Mick Bourke

Planning for Trafalgar's sesquicentenary (150th) anniversary celebrations in 2028 have begun with the formation of an organising committee.

The organising committee consists of Mick Bourke OAM, Judy Bishop, Jade MacGregor (Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce and Industry), John Weymouth (Trafalgar & District Historical Society), Michael Fozard OAM (Trafalgar Rotary Club), Jamie Marslen, Sue Murphy (Baw Baw Arts Alliance), Darren Wallace OAM, Mel Kemp and Moriah Taylor representing Community Bank Trafalgar & District.

Cr Brendan Kingwill, representing Baw Baw Shire Council, has a standing invitation to attend committee meetings as a guest.

While the anniversary is still two years away, the committee has started planning for the celebrations, with the dates being selected for the celebrations being 20 to 22 October 2028.

This weekend was selected as it falls at the same time the original Battle of Trafalgar occurred on 21 October 1805 when Britain's Lord Nelson defeated a combined French and Spanish naval fleet near the Cape of Trafalgar in Spain (after which our town is named).

What will happen over that weekend is yet to be worked through; however, it is hoped that the whole community will be involved.

The committee is also considering whether to publish a book on Trafalgar's past 50 years (1978-2028) to build on John Adam's *So Tall The Trees*, which was published in 1978 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Shire of Narracan.

Consequently, *So Tall The Trees* covered much of the first 100 years of European Trafalgar's history.

The organising committee will provide regular updates regarding the celebrations.

Community organisations, businesses and residents within Trafalgar are asked to start thinking of appropriate activities to celebrate Trafalgar's sesquicentenary.

Local towns Moe and Yarragon have also formed organising committees for the 150th anniversary of their communities in 2028.

Why 2028 is the appropriate year to celebrate our 150th anniversary

The following is taken from artificial intelligence software and subsequently verified by Trafalgar & District Historical Society.

Trafalgar's European history extends back to the first land selections in the Narracan district from 1875, with local historical tradition dating the establishment of the township to 1876.

The decisive event in the creation of modern Trafalgar was the arrival of the Gippsland railway.

Trafalgar railway station opened on 1 August 1878, establishing the railway township around which the present town developed.

During 1879 the settlement rapidly acquired the characteristics of a functioning township.

The post office opened, land was formally reserved for a State school, Crown town lots were surveyed and offered for sale, judicial arrangements were established, substantial improvements were already present on town allotments, and Trafalgar Primary School opened in October.

By 1881 Trafalgar was an established community.

The year 2028, therefore, marks 150 years since the establishment of Trafalgar as a railway township.

The 150th organising committee, therefore, believes that Trafalgar recognises this milestone, while also celebrating the earlier settlement and the people whose efforts created the town.

The logo for Trafalgar's 150th anniversary

It's True: Roman philosopher Pliny the Elder believed that spirits refused to obey people 'afflicted' with freckles.

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Local artists create their first exhibition

By Judy Bishop

Trafalgar local, Amy Chaplain, and David Shields, principal at Thorpdale Primary School, are collaborating to exhibit their talented artworks at the Thorpdale Traveller's Rest Hotel and Distillery this month.

Amy is also excited to launch her first picture story book, Waldo Armadillo, filled with her delicate watercolour paintings.

Since graduating from visual arts at Monash University's Gippsland campus, David has travelled the world and built his career as a teacher, but he never really stopped drawing and painting.

Over the past 15 years in particular, art has become an important part of his life outside of work.

He's sold more than 80 original paintings and hundreds of prints over that time, but strangely enough, has never actually stopped and developed a complete body of work specifically to exhibit.

He feels extremely lucky to have landed the principal job at Thorpdale Primary School, only 20 minutes from his hometown of Churchill.

There are plenty of things he loves about working there: the kids, families, community and staff – but one of the unexpected ones has been the drive to and from work each day through what he thinks is some of the most beautiful countryside in Australia.

Thorpdale Primary School's principal, David Shields touching up a landscape painting for the exhibition

That drive became the inspiration for the series of artworks he will display.

"I didn't really want to paint perfect postcard images of the district. Instead, the works are a bit of a journey through the ordinary, everyday Thorpdale landscape – the roads, paddocks, potato fields, creeks, buildings and little landmarks that locals probably drive past hundreds of times."

"I've tried to capture some of the raw beauty in those familiar scenes and hopefully make people look at them a little differently."

He feels fortunate to work alongside Amy Chaplain at the school and is in awe of her delicate touch with watercolour.

When Amy invited him to exhibit some work with her at the Thorpdale pub, it gave him the push he needed to finally develop a proper series.

"I loved the idea of creating a collection that could honour the town and district, while also challenging me to keep developing as a landscape painter."

Amy is a proud local teacher's aide and front of house staff member at Thorpdale's primary school and Traveller's Rest Hotel.

Outside of her busy careers, she is also a self-taught artist and now officially a self-published author of picture storybook, Waldo Armadillo.

Amy has been drawing and painting since the age of four and has enjoyed doing creative projects such as classroom magazines, a YouTube series, and personalised cards throughout primary and secondary school.

As a young adult, Amy started up a small hobby business, Amylee Gifts, and began taking on commissions for personalised watercolour cards and paintings for local (and sometimes national) buyers.

David Shields and Amy Chaplain at Thorpdale Primary School

She received an honourable mention in the 2026 Field and Game Australian Duck Stamp Competition.

After years of hand painting all the illustrations herself and producing an entertaining manuscript, Amy has finally published her rhythmic tale of Waldo, an armadillo who struggles to hunt around the beautiful Amazon Rainforest.

This adorable character was derived from her pets' personalities and the manuscript itself holds humour inspired by her students over her nine years of working in education.

This duo exhibition shall take place from Sunday, 22 November for four weeks.

Both Amy and David will be present throughout selected days of the exhibition for meet and greets, and book signings.

"A huge thank you goes out to Jill and Sean at the Travellers Rest Hotel for making this exhibition possible," said Amy.

David and Amy will be present for the official opening on 22 November from 12pm to 2pm

The exhibition will be open Thursday through Sunday from 12pm to 2pm.

Upon request, the exhibition can also be viewed during dinner service between 5:30pm and 8pm from Thursday through Saturday.

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When the lights go out in Trafalgar, the local golf club is set to become a place the community can turn to

By Liam Wyllie

Trafalgar Golf Club is set to become a community hub for energy resilience after securing funding through the Victorian Government's 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program.

The project, led by the Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN) through its Energise Gippsland initiative, will establish the West Gippsland club as a resilience site capable of providing power to charge mobile phones or laptops, access hot water and heat up meals for the local community during extended outages.

The project was brought to the club by GCCN Energise Gippsland Project Officer and Trafalgar Golf Club member Chris Barfoot, who presented the opportunity to the club's board before preparing the successful application.

Trafalgar Golf Club president Chris Griffin said the club immediately recognised the benefits of the project.

"We immediately recognised the benefits this project could bring to the club and the wider Trafalgar community," Griffin said.

"It will provide greater resilience during power outages while also helping us reduce energy costs and deliver long-term financial benefits for the club."

The project comes after Trafalgar experienced two significant power outages, with the community left without electricity for periods of around five days.

Barfoot said those outages, along with the Black Summer bushfires in Mallacoota in 2019-20 and, more recently, the devastating storm that affected nearby Mirboo North in 2024, highlighted the need for greater community resilience during major events.

"In some of the recent bushfires we found that there wasn't energy back-up hubs to provide resilience options for communities under threat – Mallacoota was a clear example of this," Barfoot said.

"My view was to develop a community resilience centre that could provide services to the community that would include charging mobile devices, hot showers, heating and cooling, cooking, refrigeration, parking and power for caravans and mobile homes."

The project will deliver a backup solar and battery system supported by a generator, with the equipment also able to be relocated to other sites when required.

The backup system includes 35kW of solar panels, 107 kWh battery storage and a 40 kW generator.

There are also portable batteries provided by GCCN that can be used to support homes and community facilities during outages.

For Trafalgar Golf Club, the system is expected to deliver immediate savings of approximately $10,000 a year in electricity costs, allowing the club to redirect funds towards its community programs, facilities, course and members.

But its greatest value could come during an emergency.

The clubhouse could provide residents with access to power to charge mobile devices, heating and cooling, while the club's commercial kitchen could potentially be used to process food that would otherwise be lost during prolonged power outages.

The system would back-up the community hub and compliment GCCN's distribution of portable generators and batteries to households, farmers and other members of the community needing to protect essential equipment and frozen goods.

The versatility of the system was an important consideration for Barfoot, with the containerised unit able to be packed up and moved to another location when required.

The project has already attracted interest from local government, emergency management services and the military, with organisations exploring how the model could be used as part of broader disaster response efforts.

For Trafalgar Golf Club, the project represents an opportunity to play a role beyond the boundaries of the golf course.

Established in 1909, the club is now set to become a place where the community can gather, access essential services and remain connected when extreme weather or other events disrupt the region's power supply.

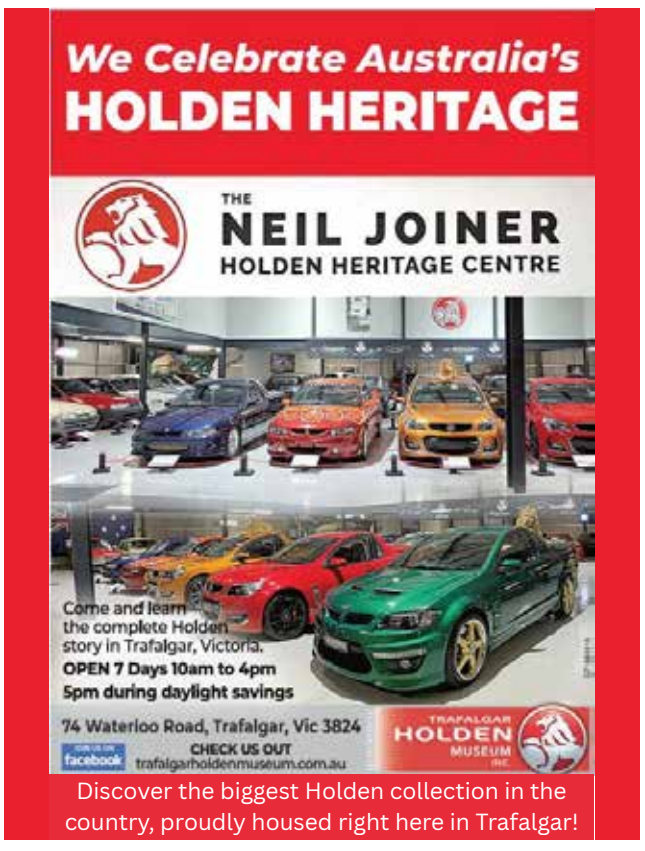
"It is important that we look at opportunities to build resilience into our communities," Barfoot said.

"The golf club is a great location to provide that service because it already has the facilities, space and connection with the local community."

Source: Golf Australia

Trafalgar Golf Club's 35kW solar panels

Battery and generator at Trafalgar Golf Club



BESS at Traf East

The first Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Baw Baw Shire has been given the green light for development at Trafalgar East.

One of three BESS proposals for the shire, the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) signed off on the development, granting planning permission for the Rowells Road development.

Another BESS planning applications at Shady Creek is currently under review by Planning Minister Sonya Kilkenny, while the BESS at Yarragon North has been approved.

The $550 million Trafalgar East development will include BESS units, inverters and transformers, control, operation and maintenance rooms, a switchyard, a 220 kilovolt (kV) substation, internal access roads and boundary fencing.

The BESS footprint will be across 18 hectares of the 147 hectare site in the farming zone. The property was previously used as a goat dairy.

Despite significant levels of concern among objectors about location of a BESS on agricultural land, the DTP determined the proposal "does not adversely affect the use of the land for ongoing farming activities (cropping and livestock grazing)."

The officer's assessment also stated the development would not prevent or impede the ability of surrounding properties to continue agricultural activities.

Officers said the loss of 18 hectares of land for agricultural production represented 0.02 per cent of agricultural land in the shire.

"The agricultural assessment finds that, based on the agricultural capacity of the site, the Giddi BESS development will result in a reduction of $153,360 in agricultural value in the region.

This represents a reduction of 0.057 per cent of agricultural production in the Baw Baw municipality," the report stated.

In relation to fire concerns, the report stated officers had considered potential fire hazards and the permit incorporated safety design recommendations in accordance with CFA requirements, including fire breaks, site access and appropriate separation.

Developer ib vogt, in September, welcomed the minister's decision.

ib vogt senior development manager Terry Daly said they were excited for the project to be approved and aimed to begin construction in 18 months.

Mr Daly said the development, known as Giddi BESS was on track to provide 360-megawatt (MW) storage capacity and energy to the regions - in a similar timeframe to when 1480 MW of Yallourn coal generation was being withdrawn from the system.

However, Mr Daly said there were a number of steps to complete before a construction start date could be confirmed.

He said the next major steps included securing a grid connection agreement with VicGrid and securing finance for the project.

"We look forward to continuing to work with the surrounding community as detailed design and project delivery progresses.

This includes working with the community to identify preferred community benefits projects, and finalising nominations for the community reference group," Mr Daly said.

DTP received 36 submissions including one letter of local support and 31 objections.

Baw Baw Shire also objected, raising multiple concerns including loss of agricultural land, land use compatibility with farming and noise and visual impacts.

Objectors have no right of appeal.

A letter to submitters last week stated the proposal met objectives of the Baw Baw planning scheme and would "contribute to supporting Victoria's energy security and transition to renewable sources of energy."

"Victoria's Renewable Energy Action Plan, 2018 and Victoria's Climate Change Strategy, 2021 both outline the importance of battery storage projects in Victoria's renewable energy transition and the role they play in stabilising the electricity grid.

"While the project is not located within a declared renewable energy zone (REZ), it has been sited adjacent to the existing transmission line, minimising the requirement for additional infrastructure to connect the project into the grid," the officer's assessment stated.

Officers also said the proposal would create employment opportunities during construction and operation, encouraging long-term regional employment opportunities.

The planning permit approved by the minister requires the developer to submit a number of plans before construction starts detailing landscaping design, environmental management, traffic management and noise assessment.

The developer also must establish a complaints investigation and response plan, as well as a complaints register.

ib vogt also lodged an application earlier in September for stage two of the Trafalgar East development for a solar farm on Embletons Road.

Source: Warragul & Drouin Gazette

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Minister approves Yarragon North BESS

A second Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) was approved in Baw Baw Shire last month, just one week after the first development received State Government approval.

Planning Minister Sonya Kilkenny gave the green light to a BESS development on farm zoned land in Yarragon-Shady Creek Road at Yarragon North.

The approval came one week after a BESS development was given the go-ahead at Trafalgar East, also in the farming zone.

A third application has been submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on land at Shady Creek, while there are two proposals for farming land in Bunyip in Cardinia Shire.

While the loss of agricultural land was a primary concern for objectors, including Baw Baw Shire Council, the DTP assessment determined the development would not adversely affect use of the land for farming activities.

The $345 million development includes a 210-megawatt (MW) BESS and associated infrastructure, connection into the existing transmission network and a two lot subdivision to create an 18 hectare parcel for the BESS and a 32 hectare lot for the existing dwelling and agricultural uses.

The application was originally lodged by ZEN Energy Group.

DTP acknowledged ZEN Energy Group was in liquidation, and its activities would now operate under the new business name of Southern Charge, which would remain a joint venture participant in ZEBRE, who owned the project.

There were 25 objections to the application, largely from surrounding property owners and farmers. Objectors have no right of appeal.

Baw Baw Shire also objected, raising multiple concerns, including loss of agricultural land, land use compatibility with farming and noise and visual impacts.

The application showed plans for the BESS to be setback from the Yarragon-Shady Creek Rd access, with the nearest non-stakeholder dwelling located about 782 metres from the site.

In approving the application, the DTP stated the project would create local employment opportunities in both construction and operation stages.

While acknowledging agricultural land loss was a "commonly raised objection" and a primary concern of council, the assessment found the 18 hectares of land required for the BESS represented only 0.02 per cent of agricultural land within the shire.

The assessment determined the BESS would occupy only a portion of the overall site, "with the majority of the land remaining available for ongoing agricultural use."

"The proposal does not adversely affect the use of the land for ongoing farming activities (cropping and livestock grazing) on the remainder of the property, and it does not prevent or impede on the ability for surrounding properties in the farming zone to continue to use their land for agricultural purposes.

"The proposal has generally been sited to protect the key biodiversity values on site, respond to fire risk, and ensure only a minor reduction in local agricultural production," the report stated.

The officer's assessment said the project was supported by Plan for Victoria (2025), which sought to ensure regional communities would "attract and benefit from investment in renewable energy – wind, solar and battery storage – projects."

"While the project is not located within a declared renewable energy zone (REZ), it has been sited adjacent to the existing transmission line, minimising the requirement for additional infrastructure to connect the project into the grid," the report stated.

The final report stated the proposal had considered potential fire hazards and incorporated safety design recommendations in accordance with CFA requirements, including fire breaks, site access and appropriate separation.

One of the objectors provided an acoustic peer review, prepared by L. Huson and Associates Pty Ltd, which claimed the proponent's noise assessment was defective. However, the officer's assessment did not agree with the findings of the review.

Source: Warragul & Drouin Gazette

A busy month for Trafalgar Lions Club

By Jenny Heggart

Trafalgar Lions Club members have had a busy month.

It started with a very successful day hosting a BBQ at the Ellinbank and District Football Netball League (EDFNL) grand finals at Trafalgar.

It was nonstop cooking and serving sausages, onions and hamburgers.

Thanks to the Trafalgar Football Netball Club for this fundraising opportunity.

The following day was spent catering for the Lions District Cabinet meeting and the district semifinals of the junior public speaking competition.

Our club representatives, Will and Kaleb, spoke very well, but didn't qualify for the District Final.

The public speaking skills of all the students involved were very impressive.

Another BBQ held was supporting the Bettermentall Mind over Miles 24 hour walk/run.

The participants did an amazing job, in sometimes adverse weather.

The BBQ profit, along with donations, allowed the club to donate $440 to this worthy cause.

International news of the floods in Nepal caused shock worldwide at the damage caused.

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) provided $200,000 immediate relief.

Beyond this initial phase, there will also be a need for rebuilding homes, restoring community facilities and helping families regain their livelihoods.

LCIF is asking all Lions Clubs worldwide to support this cause.

Our Lions Club donated $1000 to this Appeal, at our first October meeting.

The second vice president of our Lions district, Sel Giambruno, spoke at a dinner meeting late in October where it was good to learn about what is happening in the wider Lions organisation.

If you would like any more information about Lions, please contact President Mike Hornby on 0408 033 921.

David Gibbs, David Koschade, Jess Rosenboom and Wendy Moon at Bettermentall's Mind over Miles event

Pauline Wheller, Neil Grimshaw, Janie Grimshaw, Lyn Gibbs, Jenny Heggart and David Gibbs at the EDFNL grand finals

Ian Bosma and David Gibbs on the BBQ at the EDFNL grand finals

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Proposal to review town-entry signs

By Mick Bourke

A proposal was forwarded to Baw Baw Shire Council in mid-September to review the town-entry signs for each of the shire's towns and localities to individualise each entrance sign to represent that town or locality.

The current signs for each of Baw Baw Shire's towns have been in existence for some years now, and unfortunately, were designed without any community consultation, and are considered by many to be extremely bland.

The proposal, which is supported by Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, requests council review the 201 town-entry signs for each of its 79 towns and localities so that they reflect the character of their respective communities.

This must be done through community consultation to ensure that the signs most accurately reflect each local community.

To ensure that this occurs, there must be at least four steps, with the first three steps involving community consultation, so that each town or locality selects the sign that best reflects that community:

1. Council announces that new town entrance signs are to be installed, and there is the opportunity for each town to personalise theirs with a logo/image that represents their community. As part of that announcement, council will call for submissions, with people submitting drawings, photos or images that may be appropriate;
2. after reviewing all submissions, council has its graphic designer turn them into the motifs for the new proposed town entrance signs. All designs are then released to the public to vote on;
3. after the vote, council announces which designs had been voted for; and
4. due to the large number of towns and localities, roll out of the signage be implemented over a period of time as determined appropriate.

It is acknowledged that this consultative process is time consuming; however it is one that will reflect well on the council.

By way of example, Moira Shire Council, in northern Victoria, involved its community in designing motifs for each of its towns' signs in 2020.

Our council, on the other hand, unilaterally designed a generic sign for each of its towns.

The outcome between the two shires shows a much more interesting and inclusive approach taken by Moria Shire Council to each town's identification than our shire's current, bland town entrance signs.

Moira's town signs show the motif placed front and centre and is an integral part of the entrance sign, while at the same time, highlighting the town is part of Moira Shire.

In preparing the proposal, Moira Shire's manager of communications and engagement was approached.

She said that "... because of the multi-phase approach we took to this project, it did take a number of months to complete (including all the internal planning as well as the two phases of engagement, then installation onto signage; it was around 9 months). However we had a great level of engagement from our community who all took a lot of interest and ownership over the designs."

The following signs are examples of the town entry-signs in that shire following that community consultation.

Barmah is on Murray River and is well known for the old punt service that continued from the 1860s to the 1960s, carrying people and vehicles (including horses, wagons and gigs in the early days) between NSW and Victoria before the connecting bridge was built.

Moira Shire, by encouraging the residents in each of its towns to come up with a design that the residents believe identifies their respective town, now have town entry signs in which the residents are not only proud of, but also have ownership of their sign.

In contrast, the town entry signs in Baw Baw shire, such as Trafalgar's current sign, through their lack of vibrancy, do not encourage excitement for their residents or encourage people passing through to stop to visit the area.

This could change through community imagination.

As an example, a mock-up of what Trafalgar's town entry sign could look like formed part of the proposal.

Current Trafalgar town entry sign

This is what Trafalgar's town entry sign could look like

Like Moira Shire's signs, the centre motif shows the character of each individual town or locality, while it is surrounded by the name of the town and council's logo.

These latter two elements of each town-entry sign would be incorporated into each sign, the only difference for each sign being the motif selected by the community.

Council, as yet, has not responded to the proposal other than to say it has been received.

Trafalgar workshop celebrates the power of connection

Following the success of a Kintsugi Heroes community workshop held in Trafalgar earlier this year, local residents are being invited to come together once again to discover the power of storytelling, meaningful conversations and shared experiences.

Trafalgar and nearby residents are invited to participate in *The Art of Storytelling – Finding Gold in Your Story*, an interactive workshop presented by not-for-profit organisation Kintsugi Heroes and proudly sponsored by Community Bank Trafalgar & District.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, 19 November 2026, from 5pm to 8.30pm, at the Trafalgar Community Centre.

The upcoming event builds on the success of Kintsugi Heroes' *Art of Conversation* workshop, held in Trafalgar in August 2026, which brought community members together to explore the importance of meaningful conversations, listening and human connection.

The August workshop demonstrated the value of creating welcoming spaces where people can share experiences, connect with others and discover how much they have in common.

Now, Kintsugi Heroes is returning to Trafalgar with an opportunity for participants to explore their own stories and the experiences that have shaped their lives.

Gippsland author, storyteller and Kintsugi Heroes volunteer, Sarah Rosse, who developed the workshop, believes some of our most meaningful stories are found in ordinary everyday moments.

"Often, when we ask someone about their story, they'll tell us they haven't done anything particularly interesting or that they don't have a story worth sharing," said Sarah.

"But everyone has a story. Sometimes it's about the people who influenced us, the places we called home, the friendships we formed or the moments that quietly changed the direction of our lives."

"We don't always recognise the value of these experiences until we take the time to reflect on them."

Inspired by the Japanese art of Kintsugi, where broken pottery is repaired with gold to highlight rather than hide its cracks, the workshop explores the idea that every life contains stories of wisdom, courage, connection and meaning.

Through guided reflection, storytelling activities and conversations with others, participants will explore personal memories, identify meaningful experiences and begin shaping a story they may wish to share or preserve.

Sarah said the upcoming workshop was a natural progression from the conversations and connections encouraged through the earlier event.

"The Art of Conversation is about creating opportunities for people to connect through meaningful conversations. The Art of Storytelling takes that a little further by encouraging us to reflect on the stories we carry and why they matter."

"One of the things I love most about storytelling is how one person's memory can spark another person's story."

"Someone might talk about their childhood home, their first job or a family tradition, and suddenly someone else remembers something they haven't thought about for decades."

"These conversations remind us that although our experiences may be different, there is often so much that connects us."

Sarah believes regional communities like Trafalgar and surrounding towns hold an incredible collection of stories that deserve to be remembered.

"Think about the people who have lived, worked and raised families in our communities. The changes they've witnessed, the challenges they've overcome and the lessons they've learned."

"So many of these stories are never recorded, simply because nobody thinks to ask about them. Sometimes the greatest gift we can give someone is the opportunity to share their story and know that someone is genuinely listening."

The workshop is suitable for people of all backgrounds and experiences, including those who have never considered themselves writers or storytellers.

Participants will receive a companion guide containing reflective activities and storytelling prompts they can continue exploring after the workshop.

There is no expectation to share personal experiences, with participants encouraged to reflect and contribute at their own pace.

Sarah hopes attendees will leave with a greater appreciation of their own experiences, a deeper sense of connection and perhaps the beginning of a story they would like to preserve for future generations.

"Your story doesn't have to be extraordinary to be meaningful. It simply has to be yours."

Sarah also acknowledged the importance of local community support in making opportunities like this possible.

"We're incredibly grateful to Community Bank Trafalgar & District for sponsoring this workshop and supporting opportunities that bring people together through storytelling."

"Investing in connection and community is so important, and we're delighted to be returning to Trafalgar to offer another opportunity for local residents to come together."

While the workshop is free, bookings are essential. To book please email Sarah Rosse at sarahrosse@kintsugiheores.com.au

Meet the Locals – Glenda and Morris Mynard

By Judy Bishop and Julie McCulloch

Glenda and Morris Mynard have been familiar faces around Trafalgar for many, many years.

Aside from a brief time when Morris was a child, he has lived in Trafalgar all his life.

Glenda grew up on her family farm in Hazelwood and moved to Trafalgar when she and Morris married in 1983.

Their three sons, John, Brian and Scott and their families, all live close enough for regular family get-togethers and they have seven grandchildren to spoil.

Family History

Morris's great-grandparents, Christopher and Elizabeth Mynard, arrived in Melbourne from England in 1912 and farmed on the Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp.

Their third child was Jack, Morris's father, and their fourth son, Stan, and his wife Muriel, first came to Trafalgar in 1934.

Jack married Edna Whiston from Cora-Lynn and they lived in Trafalgar.

Morris is the eldest brother of Suzanne, Chris, Gill and Gay.

Glenda's great-grandparents emigrated from Ireland.

Her grandparents, James and Anne (née Browne) Lawless, settled on a soldier settlement block on the Morwell River at Hazelwood.

They named the farm Prospice.

Their son, Jack, was one of five sons, and he married Pat Luscombe from Sale.

Three generations of the Lawless family farmed on Prospice.

Glenda is the eldest daughter of Jack and Pat, and sister to Kay, Anthony and Julieanne.

Early Years

When Morris was born, his family lived in Trafalgar in an old shack, just down the road from where Glenda and he now live on Settlement Road.

Morris's family moved to Cora Lynn so his mother Edna could nurse his grandmother.

The family then moved to Dandenong, then Catani, then back to Trafalgar when Morris was in grade two or three.

Outdoor activities were important to Morris and his siblings as they grew up.

Morris was a member of scouts and the Trafalgar swimming club; he also camped and played football.

Football then gave way to motorcycles and 4-wheel driving.

Morris was around 16 when he started dancing.

"A mate started dancing and offered to take me along, he said, 'if you don't get up and have a go you can walk home.'"

His mum said, "you'd better learn to waltz," so she taught him the waltz, dancing around the kitchen table.

Glenda was born in Morwell Hospital.

She had a "wonderful family childhood on the dairy and beef farm."

Alongside her parents and siblings, an uncle, aunt and seven cousins also lived on the family farm and "everyone was expected to "pitch in and help'."

She joined Yinnar Young Farmers at 16 while still at school, which took her all over the state, following activities, balls, and whatever else was on.

As she grew up, Glenda spent a lot of time on the family farm.

She started dancing and local dances were popular, and many young people met their future partners on the dance floor.

Morris and Glenda met at the Moe 60/40 dance around 1977.

They married in 1983 and Glenda moved to Trafalgar.

Working lives

Morris started an electrical fitting apprenticeship with the State Electricity Commission (SEC) in 1968 and qualified in 1972.

He worked with the SEC for 23 years then took a redundancy which allowed him the freedom to work for himself.

He then did all sorts of things such as truck driving and manufacturing things in his workshop.

He had a business cutting and repairing butcher blocks and travelled all over Victoria approaching butchers for work.

He developed a gadget for getting 4-wheel drives out of a bog.

It was patented, manufactured in his workshop, and sold all over Australia.

Glenda would have been happy to stay on the farm but set off to Ballarat where she went to Aquinas Teacher's College and studied primary teaching for three years.

"I thought, you know, hardly been to Melbourne much in my life, and then I was off to Ballarat."

After qualifying, she came home and taught at Lumen Christi School, in Churchill.

She also obtained her Bachelor of Education through the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education.

When Glenda and Morris met, Morris had already been working for some years, and Glenda had just graduated and was saving up for a trip overseas with a friend.

When Glenda's friend decided not to go, Morris stepped in.

In 1980 they travelled Europe for five and a half months, visiting 30 countries.

Morris took a small recorder as a diary and "yacked to it" daily.

In London, they realised how expensive an apple was, $2.50.

At home it was just "pick one off the tree".

After the trip, Glenda taught at St Vincent's school in Morwell.

When their children came along, they took priority and for a few years she ran a swimming program for a local school.

In 1990 a position with St Joseph's school in Trafalgar came up as a Reading Recovery Teacher.

The school wanted to train someone to teach one-on-one, grade one students who needed extra attention, to boost their reading and writing skills.

Glenda wasn't quite ready to start full-time work again, as their youngest child was only three years old, but decided she could do it part time.

This work led to small group work in literacy and numeracy, and she trained as an Extending Mathematical Education teacher.

She also spent 20 plus years working in the school library.

"This was a joy to share books with the students and encourage a love of reading".

Volunteering

Morris joined Trafalgar Rural Fire Brigade when he turned 16 years old.

He feels honoured that in 2007 he received a life membership of the Brigade.

Glenda remembers family functions where a call-out would come and he "just came home when he came home."

Fire volunteering was a 24/7 commitment.

Morris and Glenda Mynard

For Morris, "the most valuable thing that the CFA ever had is support from family."

He spent 37 years with the Moe State Emergency Service.

For many years he was involved with other volunteers in maintaining the Uralla Reserve, doing track construction, maintenance and clearing fallen trees after windstorms.

Glenda and Morris were involved with collating, folding and distribution of the Traf News for about 20 years.

Glenda still distributes the paper around part of the town each month.

Glenda was happy to be living in Trafalgar and not too far away from the farm and family in Hazelwood.

She taught part-time after marrying and when children came along, was happy to be a stay-at-home-mum.

Having children meant meeting other people in playgroup, kinder and school and this all helped to mix into the Trafalgar community.

Volunteering for Glenda was "a lot of being involved with the kids, whatever activities they were in."

She volunteered her time with playgroup.

When the children went to school, she was on the school council for a while.

"I suppose I think if you're part of a group and you're able, you should have a turn at the roles somewhere, pick one that you think you can do."

Glenda joined Probus while working part-time and attended meetings.

When she retired, she could fully enjoy all the activities Probus offered.

She was president of Trafalgar & District Probus Club in 2023 and has been on the Committee for about seven years and now writes reports for the Traf & District News on the monthly Probus guest speakers.

Living in Trafalgar

Glenda and Morris have been active members of the Trafalgar Community for all their married lives.

Trafalgar has been home to their sons, with opportunities to join cubs and scouts, play football, soccer and basketball, to gain apprenticeships and to start families of their own.

"We think Trafalgar is a great place to live, small enough not to get lost, big enough to have the right shops, not too far away from Melbourne, the coast, the mountains, hospitals and larger towns when you need them."

Bayleys take practical approach to innovation

Farmers by their very nature are an inquisitive lot.

They love to look over their neighbour's fence to see what's happening next door.

North of Trafalgar, there is quite a bit going on.

Father and son Ian and Rob Bayley, who run Blackwood Grazing, are nothing if not innovative.

Blackwood is a fifth-generation family farming business built around two substantial and closely connected enterprises: a 1500 head Angus beef breeding and growing operation, and a piggery of around 500 sows.

Ian Bayley established the piggery with his father, Ralph, during the 1980s as a way of diversifying the family business.

Rob now manages much of the piggery operation while working alongside Ian across the broader Blackwood farming enterprise.

The Angus business operates across several farm blocks in West Gippsland and the Strzelecki region.

The Bayleys breed Angus cattle and grow progeny on pasture, with a strong focus on efficient grass production, livestock performance and making the best use of each property.

Measurement and recording play an important role in their decision-making.

Trafalgar farmer Rob Bayley with children Molly and Hughie

Rob Bayley and son Hughie checking the cattle

Pasture growth, animal weight gain and production costs are monitored to help compare the performance of different mobs and farm blocks and guide decisions around stocking rates, feeding, selling and seasonal risk.

A defining feature of Blackwood is the integration between the piggery and the beef enterprise.

Effluent from the piggery is treated as a valuable nutrient source rather than a waste product.

It is distributed across the grazing properties through both a travelling irrigator and tanker or spreader trucks.

This returns nutrients to the soil, supports pasture production and helps reduce the business's reliance on purchased fertiliser.

Blackwood has also invested in a biodigester system that captures methane produced from piggery effluent.

The methane is used to generate electricity for the site, while heat produced through the system can also be reused within the piggery.

Along with lowering energy costs, the system reduces greenhouse-gas emissions and significantly improves odour management.

It is a strong example of an environmental investment also delivering practical and financial benefits to the farming business.

The Bayleys' willingness to trial new ideas also extends to their fodder conservation program.

They are testing alternative ways of covering silage pits, including lime and paper pulp.

These options are being assessed on their cost, labour requirements, ability to reduce spoilage and effectiveness in preserving feed quality.

Their story highlights a practical approach to innovation, where each part of the business is considered in relation to the whole.

By measuring performance, reusing resources and being prepared to test different systems, the Bayleys continue to improve the productivity, resilience and long-term sustainability of their farming operation.

Source: Latrobe Valley Express

Blackwood Grazing principals, Rob and Ian Bayley

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Councillor Comments

By Brendan Kingwill

As we head towards the end of another busy year, there's plenty of good news to share across our East Ward, from community grants to local improvements and upcoming events.

Firstly, congratulations to the 35 community groups across Baw Baw Shire sharing in more than $137,000 through Council's latest Community Projects Grants.

It's fantastic to see so many East Ward organisations benefiting, including the Trafalgar and Yarragon Lions Clubs, Narracan Hall, Thorpdale Mechanics Institute, Trafalgar Golf Club, Rawson Cricket Club and Trafalgar Holden Museum.

Funding will support everything from new equipment and facility improvements to community events, including the Hallora Marathon and the East Ward Community Singing Series.

These grants might seem small, but they make an enormous difference to volunteer-run organisations.

Our community groups are the backbone of our towns, and I sincerely thank everyone who gives their time to keep them going.

If you haven't applied yet, keep your eye out for the next round.

Another positive outcome is the commitment to build a new concrete footpath in Nayook.

During October, my fellow East Ward Councillors and I joined Council officers and residents for a community information session.

It was terrific to hear directly from locals and see such a positive result.

I've always believed the best outcomes come when Councillors, officers and residents sit down together, listen and work towards practical solutions.

Our local markets are back, with Rokeby, Trafalgar, Jindivick and Thorpdale all hosting events throughout November and December.

The Yarragon Arts Council also has a performance scheduled for 22 November, while December will feature community singing events across four East Ward halls.

These events are a wonderful opportunity to get out, catch up with neighbours and support our local businesses and volunteers.

Nominations have now closed for the 2027 Baw Baw Australia Day Awards, and I look forward to seeing our outstanding community members recognised in January.

We have some incredible people across our towns who quietly contribute so much without expecting anything in return.

A small group of residents are currently in the planning stage of what will be a terrific celebration of our town.

Information about this will be circulated through this paper so keep an eye out.

As we approach Christmas, thank you to everyone who continues making our communities great places to live.

For me, being a Councillor is about listening, being accessible and delivering practical outcomes.

We continue to advocate for the second oval, footpath improvements and continual work on our roads.

There's always more to do, but let's also celebrate the good things happening around us.

Until next time, look after one another, support local and I'll see you around the East Ward.

$50,000 donation brings smiles to Andrews House

Andrews House staff displaying a thank-you poster in appreciation of Trafalgar Opportunity Shop's generous donation

Residents and staff at Andrews House are celebrating a generous $50,000 donation from Trafalgar Opportunity Shop, with the funds set to enhance the wellbeing and lifestyle of residents.

The remarkable contribution reflects the generosity of the Trafalgar community and the dedication of the Opportunity Shop's volunteers, whose hard work continues to make a meaningful difference locally.

Representatives from Trafalgar Opportunity Shop recently visited Andrews House to formally present the donation, joining staff and residents for a special celebration and an opportunity to say thank you.

The funds will be used to support activities and initiatives that enrich the everyday lives of residents, with a focus on wellbeing, enjoyment and connection.

Importantly, residents will have a say in how the money is spent.

At a recent residents' meeting, those living at Andrews House were invited to share their ideas about how the donation could best be used, ensuring their interests and preferences help guide future plans.

Andrews House lifestyle coordinator, Merita Rawlyk, said the generous contribution was greatly appreciated and would provide opportunities to further enhance residents' quality of life.

The occasion was also an opportunity to recognise the volunteers behind the Opportunity Shop's fundraising efforts, with a thank-you hamper presented as a small gesture of appreciation.

Andrews House manager, Lucy Lewis, joined Merita in welcoming Opportunity Shop representatives Sue Murphy, vice president, Sharon Hardman, secretary, and incoming president Isobel Roberson for the presentation.

Residents also joined in expressing their appreciation, with colourful thank-you signs capturing the spirit of the occasion.

West Gippsland Healthcare Group extends its sincere thanks to Trafalgar Opportunity Shop volunteers and the wider community whose ongoing support has made this wonderful contribution possible.

Their generosity is a reminder of the difference a caring community can make in the lives of local residents.

Celebrating the $50,000 donation. Pictured from left: Merita Rawlyk (Andrews House lifestyle coordinator), Lucy Lewis (Andrews House manager), Sue Murphy (Trafalgar Opportunity Shop vice president), Sharon Hardman (secretary) and Isobel Roberson (incoming president)

Andrews House resident Ray Outhred joins in the celebrations

Andrews House resident Lorraine Andrews shares in the appreciation of the generous donation

October Church Services

St John's Catholic Parish
54 Waterloo Road, Trafalgar

Parish Priest: Fr Bernard Buckle

St John's – Virgil Mass – Saturday's at 6pm

St Jarlath's – Rollo Street, Yarragon, Mass – Sunday at 10am

Contact - (03) 5633 1166, trafalgar@cdsale.org.au

Trafalgar District Uniting Church
36 Contingent Street, Trafalgar

Reverend Moira Dodsworth – 0447 957 772

1 November – 10am Holy Communion service at Yarragon Uniting Church, lunch to follow this service

8 November – 10am special service at Trafalgar District Uniting Church to open the new building extension

15 November – 10am service at Newborough Uniting Church

22 November – 10am service at Trafalgar District Uniting Church

29 November – 10am service at Yarragon Uniting Church

Contact – Reverend Moira Dodsworth – 0447 957 772

St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church
40 Contingent Street, Trafalgar

Services are held every **Sunday at 9:30am** (except for the fifth Sunday in a month)

The children's ministry, JAFFAS, is held on Wednesdays from 3:30-5pm. Parental permission is required.

On 29 November, a special service will be held at 11am to recognise the start of Advent with Bishop Richard Treloar of the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland attending.

The Parish includes two smaller centres that meet in Thorpdale at 11am and Yarragon at 8:30am on the second and fourth Sunday's of the month.

St Mark's -The corner of Robinson and Johnstone Street in Thorpdale

8 and 22 November - Holy Communion Service at 11am

The children's ministry, JAFFAS, is held on Monday's at 3:15-5pm. Parental permission is required.

St Mark's – St David's Uniting Church - 9 Campbell Street, Yarragon

8 November and 22 November – Service at 8:30 am

Contact – Minister, Dean Spalding – 0421216825

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Remember When...

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

The Trafalgar News

3 November 1976

Trash and Treasure Sale

Brown's Garage

Saturday, 6 November 1976

Items for sale include washing machines, TVS, stoves, lounge suites, radios, tables, bikes, S.S. sink, bath heaters, beds, wardrobes, electric equipment and many other sundry goods.

Organised by Lions' Club of Trafalgar

Wednesday, 10 November 1976

Silence

Tomorrow, Thursday November 11th, marks the 58th anniversary of Armistice Day, commonly known as Remembrance day.

Recognition of the occasion in Trafalgar will be marked by a wreath–laying, involving Narracan Shire, R.S.L. Sub-branch , other organisations and the public.

On the 11th hour of the 11th day you are asked to pause for a minute's silence in memory of those who had died at war.

(At that time it was customary for the Milk Factory whistle to sound across the town , and for all all people in the streets and shops to stop until the whistle sounded again at 11.01 am.)

Parents on School Council

Trafalgar High School has elected four parent representatives to the newly-formed School Council. The new council will have 13 members, with the power to co-opt another four members.

Parents elected to the council are Messrs. R. Witty, R. Denereaz, K. McColl and W. Stephens. Ladies' Auxiliary representative is Mrs. J. Brock: Parents' and Citizens' representative is Mr. R. Balfour.

The council will also include another student representative, four teachers and the school Principal, Mr. T. McGrath.

Country Roads Board, Traralgon Division

The Country Roads Board will be commencing demolition of the buildings on the corner of the Prince's Highway and McCrorey St. within the next two weeks. These are the old Victorian Producers' buildings and old T.A.B. building.

Wednesday, 17 November 1976

Immobile library

Narracan Shire mobile library has become immobile – temporarily.

Library operator, Mr. Alan Petschak, said today the Council's engineering department expected the book mobile to be off the road for about two weeks due to a mechanical breakdown.

24 November 1976

No Risk

Australian Savings Bonds 9.8%

Traf News

November 2016

Dairy Grants Provide Welcome Relief For Farmers

The United Dairy Farmers of Victoria (UDV) have welcomed the State Government's roll out of development grants to ease some of the burden caused by the current milk price crisis. The State Government today announced grants of up to $5000 will be made available to eligible farm businesses... the UDV had played a key role in getting the grants package across the line ...

(Note : At this point the 2016 Trafalgar local paper was a monthly paper, revived in 1999 from the earlier weekly Trafalgar News which had gone into recess in 1986)

Bill Morgan celebrates his 111th birthday

Victoria's oldest man has celebrated his 111th birthday at the Cumberland View Aged Care Home on 23 October 2026.

Bill Morgan was born in Melbourne on 23 October, 1915 and is the second oldest known man in Australia.

The supercentenarian served as a Presbyterian minister for almost half a century across Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

During his career, Bill was posted to various locations to serve as a minister, including Trafalgar.

Bill was also a passionate athlete and played rugby for Victoria.

While serving in Trafalgar, he played for the Trafalgar Cricket Club and famously arrived late to the 1949/50 first-grade Grand Final because he was finishing a church service.

He later served as the vice-captain for their 1950/51 and 1951/52 premiership teams.

Happy Birthday Bill!

Victoria's oldest person and former Trafalgar resident, 111-year-old Bill Morgan cuts his birthday cake. Photo: 7 News

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Trafalgar Probus celebrate seniors month

By Glenda Mynard

Trafalgar & District Probus Club started Seniors month with a bang.

Our general meeting occurred on 1 October and members were invited to attend wearing clothes from the 70s era, as this was the time when Probus was first established in Australia.

We had 70 members and seven visitors attend the meeting but only a few wore 70s gear, probably because the others couldn't find their miniskirts or flower power shirts!

Our newest member, Glenda Jones, was inducted by president Pam McGarrity and we hope she enjoys the many activities in our club.

Wayne Farnham, our Member for Narracan in the Victorian Parliament, was our guest speaker.

He was proud to say "I've lived in West Gippsland almost all my life. I grew up here, went to school here, started my family here and grew my own business here."

He comes from a large family. His mother immigrated to Australia from Italy, and he is the youngest of eight, with five sisters and two brothers.

His father George began his construction business, Farnham Developments, in 1974.

Following Wayne's education at Warragul Technical College and time at Yallourn SEC, he worked alongside him for 24 years.

In 2012, Wayne established his own construction company, Farnham Built, and has been self-employed ever since.

His next step was entering Parliament and he had little idea what he had got into, but he soon learnt.

His maiden speech to the House was a very nervous affair, as he couldn't read his notes from shaking, so he placed them down, only to have his legs shaking like a minor earthquake.

"We need to do everything we can to ensure that the community we have is one we'll be proud to leave to the next generation, and I'll be working every day to help make that happen," he said.

One area Wayne's working on, is the lack of funding for the regional areas.

Approximately 25 per cent of Victoria's population is in regional areas, but only 12 per cent of funding is allocated to regional areas.

Wayne will be pushing for what he calls a "fair share."

He mentioned West Gippsland Hospital and plans for a new hospital, including facilities and accommodation for training nursing and other medical staff.

Following the meeting we enjoyed a BBQ lunch prepared by Trafalgar Lions and some members supplied salads and desserts.

Our club has enjoyed many activities during October, including our regular coffee catch-up in Trafalgar, our dine out at Warragul Country Club and our monthly walk at the Immigration Park in Morwell.

Our book group met to discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt and it was enjoyed by all.

A small group met to make Christmas cards and our garden group enjoyed the sights and smell of a garden just out of Trafalgar.

A highlight of the month was our annual caravan & cabin trip.

This time we enjoyed the Bairnsdale area and we explored Buchan Caves, went on a cruise on the Gippsland Lakes and had a combined meal with the Bairnsdale Probus Club, where we were entertained by a Bush Poet.

Tina, Gabby and Sharley in their 70s gear

Glenda Jones is welcomed by president Pam McGarrity

Members enjoying our Seniors month lunch

Our guest speaker, Wayne Farnham

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Vale Francis (Frank) Fennell

By Jean Huffer

Bishop Greg Bennett, Frank Fennell and Fr. Bernard Buckley on Frank's 100th birthday in February 2025

Family and friends gathered at St. John's Church, Trafalgar on Thursday, 1 October to join with Parish Priest, Father Bernard Buckley, in a Requiem Mass to farewell Frank Fennell, who had worked and lived among them for almost a century.

Frank was born in Melbourne on 20 February 1925. His parents were James and Mary Fennell.

He was their first child, and was followed by a sister, Eileen and a brother, Donald (Don).

The young family relocated to Trafalgar in the latter half of the 1920s.

After renting for a time, they moved into the new house James built on the corner of Princes Avenue and the highway. Frank lived here, apart from a short time in his youth in Melbourne, for the rest of his life.

Frank started school at the newly opened St. Joseph's, Trafalgar, on 9 March 1930.

It was at a time when the Great Depression was beginning to really hit home after the worldwide financial crash of 1928.

Life was not easy, and was to become even more difficult, as the 1930s progressed.

As did many young people of the time, Frank left school after completing grade 8, the so-called merit year.

The foundations of his life-long Catholic faith were laid down firstly in his family circle, and secondly by the work of the Josephite Sisters who taught him during his childhood.

By the time he left school, the world's finances were starting to improve; but the shadow of World War Two was beginning to envelop the world.

Most of Frank's working life was spent as a fitter and turner with the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, apart from a short time in his early years in Melbourne.

He worked at the Yallourn Workshops and was credited by some of his workmates as being one of the best tradesman there.

He certainly knew how to operate the lathe. He remained living at home.

He had a strong devotion to his family, especially to his mother, whom he remembered fondly. It seemed no one could bake a cake as well as she could!

Life was not all work. Frank played cricket with the Trafalgar club from 1954 to 1967, and later took up golf.

He also bought a car, a Holden, which he continued to drive right up until recently.

Frank had a very strong sense of social justice; it was one of the things this usually quiet man was voluble about.

He was outspoken in his defence of the poor and underprivileged and he was a foundation member of the Trafalgar Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in August 1969, where he continued to serve until the mid 1990s.

Frank retired from paid employment at age 65, but as many retirees know, this was more of a change of activities.

Frank spent his time looking after the grounds of St. John's, mowing lawns, looking after the garden and doing odd jobs as they came along.

He also acted as Sacristan, keeping all the altar vessels and brassware shining brightly.

He set up the altar for Mass, at times helped out with funerals and did odd repairs and lawn mowing at his old school.

His efforts did not go unnoticed.

For his 80th birthday, the Parish approached the then Bishop, the late Rev. Jeremiah Coffey, an Irishman like the Parish Priest of the time, the late Rev. Fr. Tom O'Connell, and an application was sent to Rome for a Papal medal in recognition of his services to the Church, and to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The application was granted, and Frank became the first recipient of that particular Papal medal in the Catholic Diocese of Gippsland.

Frank also spent much of his time working at the Trafalgar Cemetery, again mowing, weeding and generally maintaining the graves.

This was duly noted by the Narracan Shire Council when he received an Australia Day Award for his services to the community.

Frank was to be seen around the town for many years as he walked up to do his shopping at the bakery and the supermarket.

He was also a familiar visitor to the library bus where he would visit on Friday mornings after Mass, to sit at the computer and keep up with world news.

He was largely self-taught in computer skills which he took on very late in life.

Throughout his life, Frank remained a man who preferred to live with routines.

He was content with his own company and did not give too much conversation unless, it was to question something which had caught his attention, or to talk about the politics of the day.

He was a child of the Depression who had learned very early in life to live frugally; but also to donate generously to those in need.

As well as a telegram from the King, Frank received another special Papal blessing on his 100th birthday, so it was very fitting that the recessional hymn which was sung as his coffin left the church was *Faith of Our Fathers*, and that he was laid to rest in the Trafalgar Cemetery which he had served so well.

Vale Laurence Edward Plozza

26-11-1937 to 21-7-2026

Laurie was the eldest child of Ted and Nancy Plozza and brother to Catherine and Gary.

His paternal grandfather Bernardo Plozza was from Brusio, Switzerland, and his paternal grandmother Caterina Ferrari was from Tirano, Lombardy in northern Italy.

His maternal great grandfather, Peter Johnson was from Copenhagen, Denmark.

Laurie's maternal grandfather, Frederick Booth was a Trafalgar butcher during the first half of the twentieth century.

Laurie grew up on the family dairy farm at Trafalgar East, purchased by Bernardo in 1909, moving from Walhalla, where six of his seven children were born.

Laurie was educated at Trafalgar East Primary School and Yallourn Technical College. As a teenager he joined the Young Farmer's club, the Trafalgar East badminton club and the Trafalgar Car club.

In January 1963 Laurie married Evelyn Willis. They had three sons, Andrew, David and Timothy.

Laurie was a member of the Trafalgar Apex club for 14 years and was president in 1973/1974.

He was also president of the Trafalgar East Primary School Council. Laurie was a dairy farmer for 60 years.

Long time Trafalgar resident, Laurence Plozza

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The truth about tetanus

Dr. Jared Waddell-Smith

How does standing on a rusty nail cause tetanus?

As it turns out, it's got nothing to do with the rust, it's all about the wound.

Tetanus is caused by a bacterium *(Clostridium tetani)* which is all around us; on surfaces, in the soil, and living within the gut and on the skin of healthy animals and humans.

It forms very resistant spores which can survive heat and dry environments, remaining dormant in the environment for years.

When those spores find themselves in a moist environment with low oxygen (such as a deep wound from a rusty nail, or a large wound with dead tissue such as a severe burn), the spores activate and the bacteria starts to reproduce within the wound.

After a few weeks, toxin is released which moves through the body and affects the nervous system, leading to progressive muscle spasms.

Without treatment, a distressing and painful death is the final outcome.

Treatment is intensive and not always successful, particularly in high risk species such as horses.

Most infected horses are euthanised for welfare reasons.

Different species of animals have different levels of sensitivity to the disease, with humans, horses and sheep being particularly susceptible, and cattle, cats and dogs being slightly more resistant.

Any situation where tetanus bacteria manage to contaminate an area of low oxygen within the body can lead to tetanus.

For horses, hoof abscesses, penetrating wounds or dental disease are potential risks.

In cattle and sheep, wounds from castration procedures are a common source of infection.

For dogs, trauma from bite wounds, or infection during tooth eruption in puppies are potential causes.

For us humans, tetanus occurs more commonly in the developing world where there is limited access to vaccination, and where unhygienic medical practices occur more frequently (such as poor hygiene during childbirth).

The available tetanus vaccines work extremely well at preventing tetanus.

The recommendations for vaccination vary dependent upon species and risk level.

Vaccines work by showing the immune system a sample of a potential pathogen, allowing it to produce the necessary antibodies and to prime other components of the immune system to be ready for future exposure.

Therefore, they are best given as a preventative before exposure occurs.

Because the tetanus bacteria take time to grow and start releasing toxins, a booster vaccine given at the time of an injury can potentially prevent clinical tetanus from occurring in cases where previous vaccination dates are not known.

Vaccination is recommended in all horses because of their high susceptibility to the disease and the high fatality rate.

Tetanus is included in routine vaccinations in livestock, with sheep and goats recommended to have a minimum of a 3-in-1 vaccination schedule, and cattle a minimum of a 5-in-1 vaccination schedule.

Tetanus is not part of a routine vaccination schedule for dogs and cats, due to their lower susceptible and the low frequency of the disease.

Vaccination can be considered for dogs in situations of higher risk, such as dogs fed carcasses as a regular part of their diet.

For people, tetanus is included in multivalent vaccinations such as DTPa (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), and boosters are often given after injury such as deep penetrating wounds, including dog or cat bites.

I have included some human based information in this article as part of a One Health approach.

One Health recognises that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent.

For specific medical advice for yourself you should see your doctor, who specialises in animals of the two-legged variety.

A deep dog bite was the last time Dr Jared had to have a tetanus vaccination

The Chronic but Iconic Chronicles

Your battery is allowed to recharge

By Bobbie Viney

Ah, the holidays.

Family, food, fun, chaos... and approximately 47 people asking, "What are we doing next?"

Next? I need three to five business days to recover from this interaction!

But seriously, for those of us living with chronic illness, the holiday period can be a bit of a mixed bag.

We want to enjoy ourselves, see our people and make memories — but sometimes our bodies have other plans.

This is where I like to think about battery theory.

Imagine your body is a phone.

Some people wake up at 100 per cent, some of us wake up at 70 per cent or 40 per cent ... or please plug me in immediately!

The frustrating part is that things other people don't even think about can drain our battery.

Showering, shopping, cooking, socialising, or standing for too long.

Even getting through a particularly chaotic Tuesday!

The trick is learning to pace your battery rather than waiting until it hits 0 per cent.

Easier said than done, right?

Just know you don't have to attend every event, stay until the end, cook everything yourself or pretend you're fine when you're running on fumes.

It's okay to say, I need a rest.

It's okay to have a quiet day.

It's okay to leave early.

It's okay to ask for help.

And most importantly, it's okay to enjoy yourself without doing everything.

Sometimes protecting your energy means you'll actually have more of it available for the things that matter, like sitting with your family, laughing with your kids, catching up with a friend or simply enjoying a cuppa in peace.

So this holiday season, please remember:

You are not lazy.

You are not letting anyone down.

You are not wasting your time by resting.

Your battery needs charging too.

And remember, you don't need to feel guilty for plugging yourself in.

Stay Iconic!

Happy Holidays

B x

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Trafalgar Remembers

Remembrance day will be commemorated at the Trafalgar Cenotaph at 11am on 11 November. The following are stories of three locals who fought in either World War One or World War Two.

Three locals who made the supreme sacrifice

By Paul Altamore, CSM

The war memorials, or Cenotaphs, throughout the Baw Baw Shire commemorate the men and women of their local areas who served our Nation in time of war and made the supreme sacrifice.

They include some of the first war memorials to be raised in Victoria following World War One, or as it was known then, The Great War.

The Trafalgar and Yarragon cenotaphs were dedicated shortly after World War One, both funded through local public subscriptions.

The Yarragon Cenotaph was dedicated on 17 July 1920, and the Trafalgar Cenotaph on 7 December 1921.

Both are amongst the oldest War Memorials in the Shire, and since their initial dedication have been updated to reflect World War Two and other subsequent conflicts.

Amongst the 57 names commemorated on the Yarragon Cenotaph, from both World Wars, is that of N. Stewart who, as Flying Officer Stewart, DFM (Distinguished Flying Medal) was killed in a flying accident in England in September 1943.

The Trafalgar Cenotaph lists 44 names from both World Wars and among those listed is that of C.W. Giblett.

Private Giblett was killed in action at Fromelles in 1916 and has no known grave.

Flying Officer Neil Gordon Stewart DFM

400497 – Flying Officer Neil Gordon Stewart DFM

Neil Stewart was born at Benalla on 17 October 1918, the son of Alexander and Emma Stewart.

The Stewarts were dairy farmers on Roberts Road, Yarragon.

Neil worked on the family farm and was in the process of qualifying in accountancy when he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 14 September 1940.

Qualifying as a Sergeant pilot he was posted to 148 Squadron Royal Air Force flying Wellington Bombers which supported the 8th Army in North Africa.

For his service with 148 Squadron, Sergeant Stewart was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM).

His citation published in the London Gazette reads as follows:

"Sergeant Stewart has completed 41 operations entailing 264 hours. He has set an example of determination which has been rewarded with some remarkably successful results. He has completed his tasks quietly and methodically. He has attacked Tobruk on 18 occasions. On 31st July 1942, he attacked shipping in jetties which caused an explosion and fire. On the night of 2nd August 1942, in spite of cloud over the harbour, he finally obtained a bead on a ship after several attempts. The cloud obscured the results. On 22nd August 1942, he started a fire in the battle area, and again on 28th August. On 24th September 1941, he made four runs on LG 102 and his bombs burst amongst aircraft. This NCO has continued to operate longer than a normal tour with keenness and has set a fine example for other NCO's in the Squadron."

In December 1942, the Squadron was disbanded and its aircrew and equipment were transferred to other units.

Sergeant Stewart was commissioned to Flying Officer and posted to instructional duties with 27 Operational Training Unit in England.

On the night of 10 September 1943, Flying Officer Stewart was the senior pilot overseeing a pilot under instruction of a Wellington Bomber which took off from Lichfield, detailed to carry out night dual circuits and landings.

At around 10:45pm, the aircraft came in to land on the Hixon runway but touched down too far along the airstrip.

The throttles were opened and the aircraft began to climb without any hint of trouble, but it dived into a house less than a mile south west of the airfield.

It was thought likely that the flaps were raised in error for the undercarriage.

All six crew members were killed.

Flying Officer Stewart is buried in Chester Cemetery in Cheshire and is commemorated on the Yarragon Cenotaph.

2639 – Private Cecil Woods Giblett

Cecil Woods Giblett was born at Portarlington, Victoria in 1892, the son of Albert and Elizabeth Giblett (née Allen) from Trafalgar.

He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on 3 August 1915, giving his civilian occupation as farmer, and next of kin as his father, Albert.

Private Giblett was allocated to the 6th Reinforcements of the 23rd Battalion and embarked for overseas service onboard the troopship HMAT Ulyssess on 27 October 1915.

Following further training and initial service in Egypt on 29 April 1916 he was taken on strength of the 59th Battalion for service in France.

The 59th Battalion was part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

The 5th Division was one of the allied units tasked to spearhead the offensive against German positions at Fromelles in France.

The Battle of Fromelles was fought from 19 to 20 July 1916 and was the first major engagement for Australian troops on the Western Front.

Private Cecil Woods Giblett

The attack was intended as a diversionary operation to prevent the German Army reinforcing the Somme where a larger Allied offensive had commenced on 1 July 1915.

The attack on Fromelles proved disastrous, with over 5000 Australians killed, wounded or captured as they tried to cross open ground under heavy machine gun and artillery fire.

The attack failed to capture or hold the German positions, resulting in the 5th Australian Division having to rebuild its strength before it could be recommitted to offensive operations.

On the evening of 19 July 1916 Private Giblett's D Company, 59th Battalion, was part of the attack at Fromelles where he, along with many of his company, became a battle casualty.

Private Leslie Tatterson, from Trafalgar, who knew Giblett, provided the following information regarding his friend's death: "Cecil Giblett of my D Company was killed going over the top at Fromelles 9th July 16. I cannot give better information. There is no doubt about it. We were engaged in the advance attack in the evening when the whole of our line was badly cut up".

Another member of Private Giblett's Battalion, Private Percy Freckleton from Rokeby, also told Albert Giblett that his son was mortally wounded "near some stream or ditch and it was very steep and anybody helpless would just roll into the water and of course in running water would be carried away."

Private Cecil Giblett has no known grave.

His name is commemorated on VC Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial Panel in Fromelles, the Trafalgar Cenotaph and the Narracan Shire Honour Board.

The personal details in this article were largely provided by members of the Stewart and Giblett families, who gave their permission for this article to be produced.

Photo Sources: Australian War Memorial

Trafalgar's Lt Kenny was an air ace

Lieutenant Edward Kenny scores three aerial victories in one day

Did you know that in 1918, Lieutenant Edward Kenny scored three aerial victories in the one sortie on 3 August 1918.

Born in Trafalgar in 1888, Edward Kenny was an accountant before enlisting in the 4th Light Horse in July 1915.

He departed Australia in November 1915 and was taken on strength at Helipolis in March 1916.

He transferred to the Australian Flying Corps in January 1917 and completed flying training in Egypt before graduating as a pilot on 3 July 1917 and posted to No 1 Squadron (1SQN) Australian Flying Corps (AFC).

AFC was the branch of the Australian Army responsible for operating aircraft during World War I, and the forerunner of the Royal Australian Air Force.

Lieutenant Kenny scored his first aerial victory on 28 April 1918.

On 3 August 1918, he attacked three Albatross aircraft forcing one to land and shooting down two others in 40 minutes.

By the end of the war, his tally was seven victories earning him recognition as an ace.

All victories were recorded when he was flying a Bristol fighter.

He was also noted for flying reconnaissance missions.

In January 1918, he was one of five 1SQN pilots to photograph a 624 square mile (1620 square kilometre) area of the Turkish front which was crucial to the production of accurate mapping for General Allenby's land offensive in Palestine.

He survived a crash when his aircraft struck a telegraph pole when it was conducting a night landing at Nuran, Persia (now Iran).

Lieutenant Kenny was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in September 1918.

The citation read:

"Since joining the squadron in July last this officer has carried out 360 hours flying strategical and photographic reconnaissances."

"He has, in aerial combats, destroyed one enemy machine, driven down two out of control, and forced four to land."

"During recent operations he has shown great gallantry on numerous occasions in attacking ground targets from very low altitudes in face of hostile fire."

One of the lesser-known Australian air aces, Kenny survived the war returning to Australia in March 1919 and his appointment terminated in June.

Source: Air Force Association-South Australia Division

Lt Kenny and his crashed aircraft at Nuran, Persia. Photo: Australian War Memorial Digital

Trafalgar Community Directory

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

Organisation	Contact	Email/Website	Phone
Baw Baw Shire Council			
Baw Baw Shire Council		Email: bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Website: www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Home	03 5624 2411
Baw Baw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Adam Sheehan	Email: adam.sheehan@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Facebook: @adam4bawbaw	0461 515 690
Baw Baw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Brendan Kingwill	Email: brendan.kingwill@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	0474 652 435
Baw Baw Shire Councillor (East Ward)	Kate Wilson	Email: kate.wilson@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au Facebook: Kate Wilson - East Ward Baw Baw Shire Council	0460 829 001
Members of Parliament			
Member for Monash (Federal Electorate)	Mary Aldred	Email: mary.aldred.mp@aph.gov.au	03 5614 3600
Member for Narracan (State Electorate)	Wayne Farnham	Email: wayne.farnham@parliament.vic.gov.au	03 5623 1960
Education / Childcare			
Nido Early School Trafalgar		Email: trafalgar@nido.edu.au Website: https://nido.edu.au/early-schools/vic/trafalgar/	03 5633 1233
Trafalgar High School		Email: generaloffice@trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au Email: Trafalgar.hs@education.vic.gov.au Website: https://trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au/	03 5633 1733
Trafalgar Primary Early Learning Centre		Email: trafalgar@ykinders.org.au Website: https://ykinders.org.au/centres/trafalgar/	03 4311 1592
Trafalgar Primary School		Email: trafalgar.ps@education.vic.gov.au Website: www.trafps.vic.edu.au	(03) 5633 1566
Trafalgar Primary School (Before and After School Club)	Holly	Website: www.oshclub.com.au/find-us/trafalgar-primary-school/	0439 735 713
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School		Email: office@trafalgar.catholic.edu.au Website: www.trafalgar.catholic.edu.au	5633 1151
Sport			
Trafalgar Bowls Club	Ian Miles	Email: trafalgarbowlsclub@bigpond.com Website: trafalgarbowlsclub.com	03 5633 1274
Trafalgar Boxing Gym	Shane Cameron	Email: box_on_box_all@hotmail.com Webite: trafalgarboxingclub.wordpress.com	0408 962 764
Trafalgar Cricket Club	Liam Durkin	Website: trafalgarcricketclub.com.au Email: trafalgarcricketclub@gmail.com	0402 556 338
Trafalgar Football Netball Club	Brett Tonkin	Email: trafalgarnfc@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Football Netball Club	0477 636 648
Trafalgar Golf Club		Email: golf@trafalgargolf.com.au Website: www.trafalgargolf.com.au Facebook: Trafalgar Golf Club	03 5633 1110
Trafalgar Outdoor Pool		Email: bawbaw@ymca.org.au Website: https://bawbawpools.ymca.org.au/trafalgar-outdoor-pool	03 5623 4017
Trafalgar Park Community Hub		Facebook: Trafalgar Park Community Hub	0418 513 092
Trafalgar Park Croquet Club		Facebook: Trafalgar Park Croquet Club	
Trafalgar Pickleball Club		Facebook: Trafalgar Pickleball Club	
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Trafalgar Polocrosse Club	Gill Massey	Email: trafalgarpoloxclub@gmail.com	0455 440 062
Trafalgar Pony Club	Denise Marriot	Facebook: Trafalgar Pony Club	0411 890 299
Trafalgar Tennis Club	Sue Klemke	Email: trafftennis@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Tennis Club	
Trafalgar Victory Football Club		Email: committee@tvfc.com.au Website: www.tvfc.com.au	
Other			
Baw Baw Arts Alliance	Sue Murphy	Email: president@bawbawartsalliance.org.au Website: www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au/bcms/	0428 866 417
BawBaw Sustainability Network	Malcolm McKelvie	Email: bawbawsn@gmail.com Website: bbsn.org.au Facebook: Baw Baw Sustainability Network	0490 485 370
BetterMental Together	Kerry Rantall	Email: bettermentall@gmail.com Website: bettermentall.com.au	0477 115 666
Rotary Club of Trafalgar	Michael Fozard	Email: mrfozard@bigpond.com Facebook: Rotary Club of Trafalgar	0418 513 092
St John's Church (Trafalgar) St. Jariath's Church (Yarragon)		Email: Trafalgar@cdsale.org.au Website: www.stjohnstrafalgar.com.au	03 5633 1166
Trafalgar and District Community Homes Inc.	Geoff Hill	Email: TDCH@outlook.com.au	0499 004 299
Trafalgar Campdraft	Cheryl	Email: gcasecretary74@gmail.com Website:www.gippslandcampdraftingassociation.com Facebook: Trafalgar Campdraft Association Inc	0416 166 027
Trafalgar Cemetry Trust	Howard Jones	Email: trafalgarpubliccemetery@dcsi.net.au Webite: https://australiancemeteries.com.au/vic/bawbaw/trafalgar.htm	03 5633 2282
Trafalgar CFA (non-emergency)		Facebook: Trafalgar Fire Brigade	03 5624 1900
Trafalgar Chamber of Commerce		Website: 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 Website: www.traffarmersmarket.com	0417 131 316
Trafalgar Historical Society	Jean Huffer	Email: historicalsocietytraf@gmail.com	03 5633 1960
Trafalgar Holden Museum		Email: info@trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au Website: trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au	03 5633 1684
Trafalgar Lions Club	David Koschade	Email: trafalgarlions@gmail.com Facebook: Trafalgar Lions Club	0428 331 157
Trafalgar Mens Shed	Leigh Shepherd	Website: https://mensshed.org/sheds/trafalgar-mens-shed/	0427 757 505
Trafalgar Opp Shop	Isabel Robertson	Facebook: Trafalgar Opp Shop	0438 261 479
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
Trafalgar Farmers Market Fresh produce, local crafts, and community	Saturday, 7 November, 9am to 1pm	McGregor Park, Trafalgar
Yarragon Arts Council - Aura Go & Matthew Kneale Aura Go on piano and Matthew Kneale on bassoon playing Rachmaninov Cello Sonata.	Sunday, 22 November, 3pm to 4pm	Yarragon Studio, 515 Yarragon South Road Cost involved. Contact christinaflann@gmail.com for price an bookings
Walhalla Goldfields Railway - Train Rides 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 Visit website for more information: www.walhallarail.com.au
Electric Vehicle Expo Curious about electric vehicles and what they could mean for your household, your budget and the future of transport? Come along to the Baw Baw Sustainability Network's Electric Vehicle Expo and discover the latest in electric cars, charging technology and sustainable transport.	Thursday, 26 November 2026, 6pm-9pm	By donation Yarragon Uniting Church Hall, Campbell Street, Yarragon
Thorpdale Market Enjoy live music, food vans, arts & crafts, jewellery, plants, home wares, trash and treasure, distilled products, face painting, henna body art, metal art, fresh Thorpdale grown potatoes, a community sausage sizzle and much much more!	Sunday, 6 December, 10am-2pm	14 Johnston Street, Thorpdale.

Supporting your community 5633 2783 103a Princes Highway, Trafalgar

COUNCIL News

Make a splash in Warragul

You told us that you wanted the Warragul outdoor pool open earlier in the season and we listened!

The outdoor pool at the Warragul Leisure Centre is now open and you can find the new opening hours here by visiting **https://bawbawshire.co/swimming** or scan the **QR code.**

Family day care educators wanted

Are you an Early Childhood Educator looking for a change? Consider Family Day Care.

Baw Baw Shire's Family Day Care is an award-winning service and provides a rewarding career opportunity for anyone local to the area that is interested in childhood education.

If you have a minimum Certificate 3 qualification in Early Childhood Education, experience with children, can provide a warm, secure and family focused environment, and want to build your own successful home based child care business, we would like to hear from you.

For more information, visit: **https://bawbawshire.co/become-an-FDC-educator** or scan the **QR code.**

Remembrance Day 2026

Several commemorative services will be held across Baw Baw Shire on Wednesday 11 November in honour of Remembrance Day.

Guests are encouraged to arrive 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the service.

To find your nearest service, visit **https://bawbawshire.co/RemembranceDay** or scan the QR code.

For enquiries, please contact your local RSL or Baw Baw Shire Council on 1300 229 229.

Baw Baw Connect – *Have Your Say, Your Way!*

YOUR SAY, YOUR WAY.

Council currently has one community engagement opportunity open for consultation!

- Community book boxes

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

Upcoming Council Meetings:

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

- **Wednesday 11 November at 5.30pm (Mayoral election)**
- **Wednesday 25 November at 1pm**

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

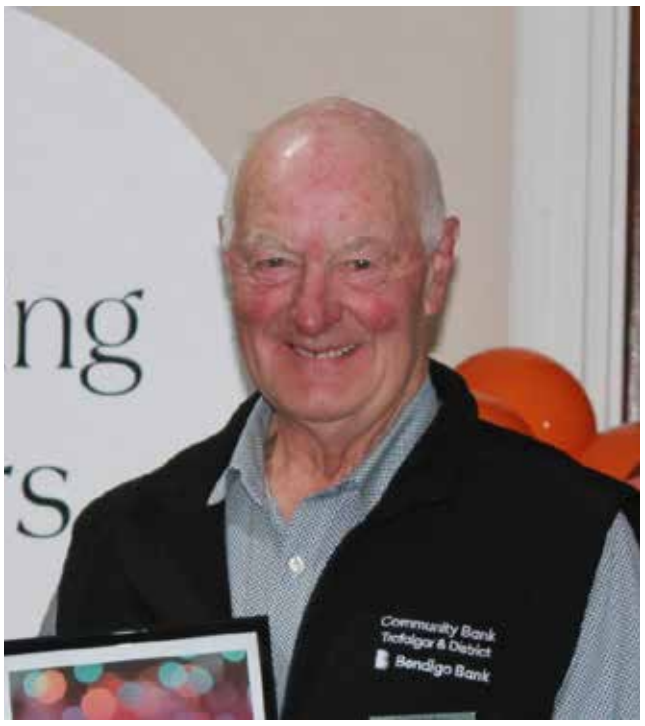
For a full list of the meetings for 2026, visit **www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings**

An opportunity to help shape the future of our community

By Debbie Di Sisto

As the Annual General Meeting of Trafalgar & District Financial Services Ltd (TDFS), is being held on Wednesday, 4 November at 6:30pm at Trafalgar Bowls Club, I would like to acknowledge the retiring director, David Balfour.

David joined the board in 2019 and has made a valued contribution to TDFS over the past seven years.



Retiring director, David Balfour

As chair of the Board Community Investment Committee, he helped guide funding towards initiatives that have delivered lasting benefits across our region.

He was also a familiar and enthusiastic presence at community events, proudly representing TDFS and strengthening our connections throughout the community.

On behalf of the board, I thank David for his service, leadership and commitment to both our company and community, and wish him every success for the future.

As the franchisee of Community Bank Trafalgar & District, in partnership with Bendigo Bank, TDFS continues to deliver local banking services, while reinvesting profits back into our region.

Through this unique model, more than $2.18 million has been returned to our community, supporting local projects, organisations and initiatives.

To help continue this success, we are seeking experienced and community-minded individuals to join our board of directors.

We are particularly interested in people with skills and experience in finance, governance, risk management, legal or compliance, business leadership, community development or stakeholder engagement.

Just as importantly, we are looking for individuals who are passionate about our community and committed to its long-term success.

Serving as a director of TDFS is an opportunity to contribute to the governance and strategic direction of a community-owned company that delivers both commercial and community outcomes.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a director of Trafalgar & District Financial Services Ltd, please contact chair Debbie Di Sisto at ddisisto@tdfs.com.au.

Thank you for your continued support of Community Bank Trafalgar & District and the work we do together to strengthen our community.

J MacGregor Legal Acquires Documents from Simon Parsons & Co.

By Bryce Grimshaw

Following the closure of Simon Parsons & Co, we are pleased to announce that J MacGregor Legal has acquired custody of all deeds and security documents previously held by the firm.

Simon Parsons & Co operated offices in Morwell, Warragul and Sale.

The transferred documents are now securely stored at our office.

What Is Included in the Transfer

The documents we have taken into safe custody may include certificates of title, wills, powers of attorney, mortgages, deeds and agreements.

The transfer also includes documents originally prepared by Kevin Davine & Sons in Warragul and later held by Simon Parsons & Co.

For us, this is an important opportunity to expand the support we offer to communities across Gippsland and build on our earlier growth following our acquisition of O'Halloran Davis in Moe several years ago.

If Your Documents Were Held by Simon Parsons & Co

If your deeds or other documents were held at Simon Parsons & Co, we will contact you as we work through the transferred records.

This process will take some time, and you do not need to take any immediate action.

If your contact details have changed, or you believe Simon Parsons & Co held documents on your behalf, we encourage you to contact us.

We can then check whether we hold documents for you and ensure that our records are up to date.

For enquiries or to update your contact details, please contact our office on (03) 5644 0000.

Seniors Festival a hit at the Baw Baw Arts Alliance

By Carol Monson

For many people who fit into the category of senior, the free creative art offerings from the Baw Baw Arts Alliance (BBAA) during the recent Seniors Festival, were a highlight.

Charcoal drawing at the VRI Hall in Warragul was the first activity offered and many learned new skills because everyone, both experienced and those less so, were catered for.

Other creative offerings covered creating small books, watercolour, mixed media, gelliprinting and wet felting.

All of these took place under the guidance of BBAA artists at no cost to the participants.

The beauty of this not for profit organisation is that it also welcomes everyone throughout the year to participate in the weekly art offerings at the VRI Hall and Artspaces in the former Trafalgar Railway Station.

Following the Seniors' week of creative activities, one of the more recent ventures by the Arts Alliance is the open invitation to members of the public to participate in free art activities at the VRI Hall in Queen Street, Warragul, on the third Saturday morning of each month.

The group who created their felted vessels during Seniors Week

Mixed media creators at work during Seniors Week

Coming up on Saturday, 21 November from 9:30am to 1:00pm is a watercolour workshop.

All materials are supplied and participants will experience the joy of painting under expert guidance with no cost to them.

Not to be missed at the Station Gallery during the month of November are two interesting exhibitions.

Julie Wickham has called her beautiful paintings *For the Love of Nature.*

These will hang in the section known as On the Wall and you are sure to be captivated by her exquisite brushwork.

In the main gallery members of the BBAA Tuesday fibre and fabric group are exhibiting for the first time.

Formed less than two years ago this group meets every Tuesday at the VRI Hall and has pursued a wide range of processes and new skills to bring together a thoughtful and challenging display called *Re-inspired.*

Members have cyanotype works, photos printed on fabric, paper mixed with fabric, recycled objects, landscapes created from crumpled fabric and paper.

The exhibition calls for a re-defining of the words fibre and fabric.

Join the artists at the official opening at 2pm on Saturday, 7 November at the Station Gallery in Yarragon.

For more information see https://www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au

The green is calling, Trafalgar Bowls Club ready to roll on opening day

By Kyen Jenkins

On Saturday, 19 September the Trafalgar Bowls Club officially opened its greens for the start of the 2026/27 season.

The season looks to be a promising one for Trafalgar as an influx of new and keen members have allowed the club to enter four divisions in Saturday Pennant and three Divisions in Midweek Pennant.

On our opening day we provided last year's club tournament winners with their trophies and awards; an eight pin was handed out to a division one rank who won eight shots on an end against Morwell last season, and finally we handed out a few super veteran badges to members that turned 80 in the past year!

Female club champion, Helen Robertson, and branch manager, Torina from Community Bank Trafalgar & District, completed our commemorative bowl and officially opened our Blue Lagoon and the Swamp for the season.

In the afternoon members had a barbeque, and the opening round of the club mixed pairs had commenced.

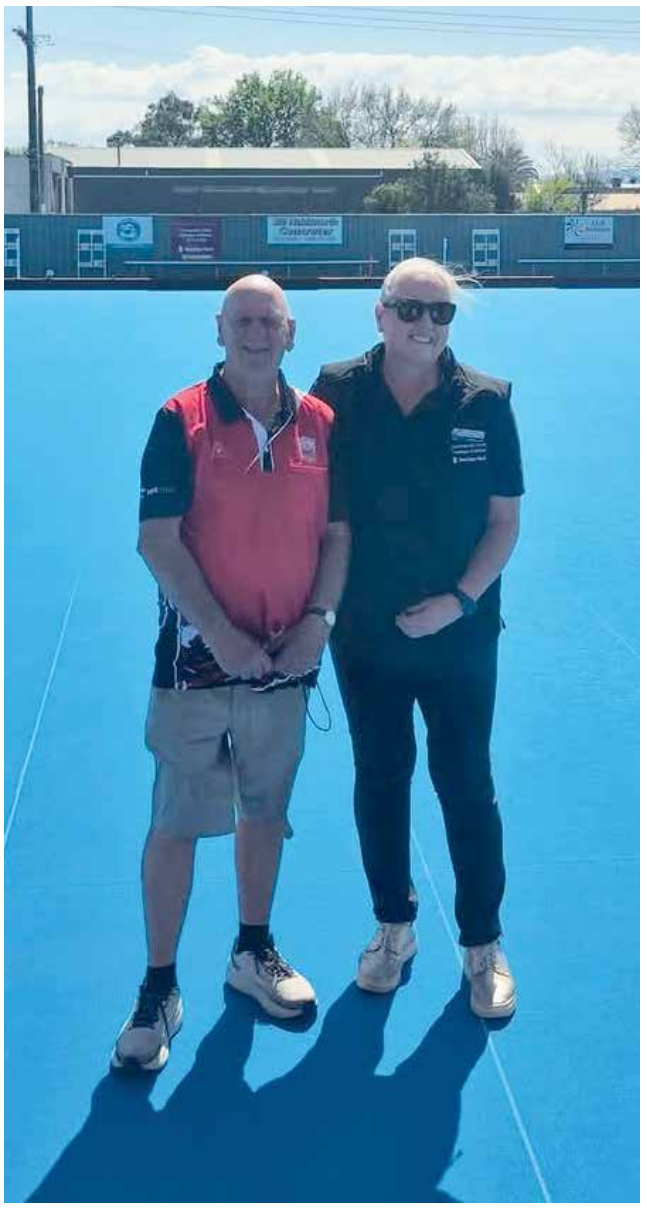
It was a great day and it set the tone for what is going to be an amazing season.

If you are interested in playing bowls in season 26/27 don't hesitate to pop down on a Thursday or Friday night and introduce yourself to our great members.

New bowling members will receive a brand new pennant shirt free of charge with membership.

Torina from Bendigo Bank Trafalgar having a bowl

Female Club Champion Helen Robertson having our commemorative bowl to open the greens



Club president Ian Miles stood with Torina from zCommunity Bank Trafalgar & District on the Blue Lagoon

Lachlan Wyatt awarded Traf Victory life membership

Lachlan Wyatt was awarded life membership of Trafalgar Victory Football Club at its recent presentation night.

Becoming just the eighth life member in Trafalgar Victory Football Club's 30-year history, this recognition is a testament to Lachie's incredible dedication, passion and commitment to Trafalgar Victory over the past 18 years.

Since joining the club in 2008, Lachie has worn many hats.

From striker, goalkeeper, women's and junior coach, committee member, club president, league delegate and countless volunteer roles behind the scenes, there isn't much he hasn't done!

One of his greatest contributions was his tireless work over five years helping turn the vision of the Turra Pavilion into a reality, leaving a legacy for generations of players and families to come.

Even after stepping down as president, Lachie's commitment has never wavered.

He continues to give his time to developing players, supporting coaches, recruiting and helping our club grow.

Most recently, he coached our juniors to an undefeated season and the club's first-ever junior grand final victory.

But beyond the achievements, it's Lachie's passion for people and his willingness to put the club first that truly make him deserving of this honour.

As was beautifully said during his presentation:

"Community clubs are built by people."

"After 18 years of service, Lachie's contribution is no longer simply part of Trafalgar Victory's history — it is part of the foundations on which this club stands today."

Lachie, from everyone at Trafalgar Victory, thank you for the countless hours, hard work, sacrifices and unwavering belief in our club, and congratulations on becoming our newest life Member.

An honour thoroughly deserved.

Lachie Wyatt is awarded Trafalgar Victory Football Club's life membership

Trafalgar Junior Football Club hosts presentation day

By Michelle Cheatley

Under 10s award winners

Under 12s award winners

Under 14s award winners

Trafalgar Junior Football Club (TJFC) has two main aims for our players: the development of their football skills and that they have fun doing it.

This year we definitely achieved these goals, and when we achieve these two things, success follows.

All of our teams were very competitive and to have had two teams in the finals was an amazing result for TJFC.

With 15 registered players for the Under 8s, we had the ability to enter two teams across the four Warragul and District Junior Football League (WDJFL) run carnivals.

One of which we had the wonderful opportunity to host at home.

The Under 8s also had the chance to play an opening match versus Garfield's Under 8s in our regular home and away season, along with a half time match versus Longwarry alongside the Senior Club.

A fabulous season was had.

The Under 10s were able to finish the home and away season on five wins and snuck into the finals, finishing eighth on the ladder.

They had a cracking back half of the season playing well connected football, coming to an end with a loss in the elimination final.

Ted Cheatley was awarded the Laurie Watt Memorial Award.

Carter McKenzie won leading goal kicker and Hendrix Ally was recognized as most improved.

Grayson Fanning was awarded the most determined award, Harry Gray received the coaches award and River Rantall won the rising star award.

Huge growth in skills, teamwork and competitiveness was shown in this young group; these players have very bright futures.

The Under 12s, coached by Trafalgar Football and Netball Club (TFNC) senior coach Shane Brewster, had a fabulous season.

Every player showed a love for football and improved their skills and abilities each week.

Judd Edwards was awarded the best and fairest award and Archie Dove was awarded the runner up best and fairest.

The most consistent award went to Ryder Rantall, and the most determined award went to Logan Gaskell.

Will Rollason received the most improved award and Chaise Hicks-Lowjen won the coaches award.

Jondy Keay won the Peter McGrath Memorial Award.

The Under 14s were able to finish the home and away season on eight wins and five losses, ending up sixth overall on the ladder.

They had an incredible season led by co-captains Cooper Brewster & Charlie Franke along with vice captain Eli Hawkes.

Their season ultimately came to an end in the elimination final.

Congratulations on a wonderful season and an enormous thank you to all involved.

Cooper Brewster was awarded the best and fairest award and Charlie Franke was awarded runner up best and fairest.

Mason Grujic was recognized as the most consistent player, Leo James was the most determined and Eddie Gibbon was the most improved.

The coaches award went to Riley Fallon and the player's player award went to Griffin Hoiles.

Arthur Walters was awarded the Graham Favet Memorial – Senior FC Award.

TJFC was incredibly blessed with the wonderful coaches we had in the 2026 season.

We thank both Will and Luke for their encouragement, time spent developing, and relationships built with their players.

We look forward to you both continuing to play a role in the 2027 season.

To Shane, your football knowledge and experience was incredibly valuable for our Under 12s; the Under 16s are in amazing hands.

We wish you all the best for next season with them, along with the Seniors.

To our returning coach Rick, the dedication you continue to show TJFC is immense, and we look forward to another fantastic season with the Under 8s.

To our new coaches, Shane Zahra and Dean Gray, we welcome you both to your new roles with TJFC and look forward to supporting you in the 2027 season.

Thank you both for coming on board; exciting times ahead!

Any sponsors interested in coming on board in 2027 can contact Mitch to discuss various sponsorship packages available at 0447 249 498.

The TJFC committee in 2027 will consist of: Matt Hoiles, Will Cheatley, Michelle Cheatley, Christy Hoiles, Dean Gray, Shari Fanning, Mitch McIntosh, Kimberley Rowlings & Britt Ally.

TJFC are seeking expressions of interest for an Under 14s Coach; please contact the club via email – trafalgarjfc@outlook.com if you are interested.

The Goanna's cricket season commences

The first weekend of the new cricket season saw the Goannas Over-70 team preparing for a clash with the Essendon Veterans.

The weather made sure no play would take place, but Essendon have agreed to look at a replacement fixture later in the season.

The Over-60 team's season commenced on Sunday, 11 October, with the Goannas hosting the Canterbury Over-60s team in Rosedale for our first game at that venue.

It was good to see a few new names on the Goannas score sheet, with some 'younger' players coming through!

At Rosedale, Canterbury won the toss and batted. Bernie Symons had a magnificent opening spell of five overs, taking 2/4. With Ian Freshwater (1/4) chiming in for an early wicket, Canterbury were in trouble at 3/8.

They were eventually all out in the 39th over for 113. Neil Meredith 1/12, Rob Bacchetti 1/19, Peter Anton 1/8, Ray Smith 2/5 and Rob Taylor 1/4 were the successful bowlers.

Goannas fielders mostly held their catches, with Freshwater two, Ray Floyd, Meredith, John Daddo and Smith taking catches, while a Smith return to Meredith saw a run out.

Smith, 23 before being bowled, and Graeme Ingle, 15 retired, opened the innings brightly before Ingle and Freshwater showed us all how to run between the wickets!

Freshy, awarded player of the match, made a very good 40 retired from 30 balls.

Rino Metlikovec made a few before Daddo and Taylor saw the Goannas home in the 21st over.

The Goannas Over-50 team also started their season on 11 October, with an away game against the Eastern Hawks Over-50 team at the Tormore Reserve in Boronia.

The Hawks won the toss at Boronia and asked the Goannas to bat first.

They compiled 8/171 from their 40 overs, with 'old hand' Graeme Rankin making 38 and new captain Anthony Bloomfield retiring at 50.

Brett Debono, 22, and Geoff Stewart, 21, were the best of the rest.

In reply, the Hawks were able to pass the Goannas score 7-down in the 37th over, with Simon Forbes taking two wickets, debutant Hiran Rajapakse, three and David Wolfe, one.

In the field Chris Anders had a stumping, Bloomy and Stephen Rogers took catches and Forbes effected a run out.

The Over-60 team also played a cup game at home against the Eastern Dragons on Sunday, 18 October.

Goanna Ray Smith edges on to the wicket and is bowled

The Over-70 team's round two game was an away game against the South Gippsland Seniors and took place in the week of 19 October.

In a new concept, seven of the 30+ Over-60 clubs have agreed to play in a cup competition for points during the season.

The Over-50 team will also play a home game against Ballarat on 15 November, while the Over-70 team will travel to Outtrim on Tuesday, 20 October, to play the South Gippsland team.

This season, for the first time, there will be National Championships for each five-year age group from Over 50 through to Over-80.

The Goannas will be represented at all of these, and are hosting the Over-60 Championships, in the Latrobe Valley, from 21-26 November.

Any cricketer in Gippsland over the age of 50, who would like to play against their own age group, are invited to call the Goannas secretary, Ian Gibson, on 0427 376 776.

The Eastern Hawks beat the Gippsland Goannas

By Chris Malone

The Gippsland Goanna's over 50s travelled to Tormore Reserve on Sunday, 11 October and experienced the amazing facilities in Boronia.

The experienced Goannas recruited well in the off season with the addition of quality players in David Wolfe, Michael Hack, Brett Debono, Darrin Canning and Hiran (the Doctor) Rajapakse.

The early Goanna's arrived at the ground and took the covers off to unveil a grassy, green wicket. The toss was lost and we were thrown in to bat.

The Hawks made the interesting decision to open the bowling into the wind and with spin.

When the first ball was a half tracker outside stump and Graham Rankin smashed it to the fence, we were away.

Things slowed a little from there, with Hack and Rankin knocking it around and being 0/28 at the first change of ends.

Graham Rankin went on to make a solid 38 with some classy cricket shots.

Solid contributions from Debono 22 (who looked very good until doing a calf - officially old now) and Geoff Stewart 21 set the innings up ready for skipper Anthony Bloomfield to make a better than run a ball 50 as the innings was almost closed, the Goanna's finishing on 8/171 at the completion of their 40 overs.

The Goanna's stuck with the three bowler rotation to open the innings, and the Hawks got off to a flyer with boundaries coming consistently.

The first wicket fell at 75 in the 11th over after Hiran bowled a half tracker and it was well caught by Bloomfield at mid-wicket.

After the top three batsmen left, the game began to swing in momentum, with the cagey Simon Forbes (2/28) suddenly being on a hat trick after some handy work behind the stumps by keeper Chris Anders.

He thought a full toss on leg for the hat trick ball might have got it done, but surprisingly that wasn't the case.

Forbes managed to have a direct hit from mid-wicket.

The game got incredibly close as wickets fell quickly near the end. This was not helped by one of the Hawks players deciding he needed to leave early.

This may or may not have been to get his hand checked after dropping a catch at mid-off.

Hiran finished with 3/29 and Wolfe was the other wicket taker to be the pick of the Goanna's bowlers, with the game all tied up and no bats left in sheds it was tense watching until James Morris guided one through gully for two runs to bring up the win for Hawks with three overs to spare.

Laura Whitney is life member

At the 2026 presentation night held on 3 October, Laura Whitney was awarded life membership of the Thorpdale Football Netball Club

Laura's journey with Thorpdale began in the early 2000s as a junior netballer, where she quickly made her mark.

From multiple junior and senior best and fairest awards, to representing Mid Gippsland Football Netball league, and celebrating an A Grade premiership in 2011, Laura has achieved so much in the blue and white.

But it's Laura's contribution off the court that truly makes her special.

From coaching and mentoring the club's netballers to volunteering, umpiring, attending meetings and helping wherever an extra pair of hands is needed, Laura continues to give so much of her time to our club.

Her dedication, kindness and genuine care for everyone around her have played an important role in strengthening our netball program and shaping the future of the club.

Laura is someone who never asks for recognition, yet deserves every bit of it.

Life membership is a reflection of years of loyalty, commitment and service, and the club couldn't think of a more deserving recipient.

Congratulations, Laura!

Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do for Thorpdale.

The club is incredibly lucky to have you.

Junior footballers and netballers are recognised

Trafalgar Junior Football Netball Club players, families and supporters came together to celebrate the future of the Bloods at its 2026 Junior Presentation Night hosted by Moe Racing Club on 18 September.

It was a fantastic night recognising another terrific season from our junior footballers and netballers, celebrating the hard work and commitment shown by all of our young Bloods throughout the year.

A huge congratulations to all of the award winners on their well-deserved achievements.

Most importantly, thank you to every player, coach, team manager, volunteer, parent and family member who contributed to our junior program throughout 2026.

Our juniors are such an important part of our club, and we're incredibly excited to see what the future holds for this talented group.

Traf District News

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