

T H E T R E N T H A M
TRUMPET

Thank you to: Adam Kluga | Adele Anderson | Agent Q | Ambulance Victoria | Andrew Greet | Ann-Marie Pedeau | Belle Property | Bette McLaren | Bruce Smith | CFA | Charl Parris | Charles Sherlock | Catherine King MP | Chris Campbell | Christos | Clyve Herbert | Community Bank Trentham & Districts | Community Newspaper Association of Victoria | Cool Country Community Enterprises | Cool Country Men's Shed | Corina Sabo | Corinne Gurry | Cr Brian Hood | David Limmer | David Somerfield | Dawn Bamforth | Digby Plonker | Dogs of Trentham | Donna Jansz | Edyta Wyatt | Elizabeth Toomey | Fay Magee | Fiona Ross | Fiona Watson | Food for Thought | Frances Harkin | Glenda Holmes | Graham Orr | Greg Smith | Hairy Arch | Harley Forgo | Henk Bak | Hepburn Energy | Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife | Hepburn Shire Council | Ian MacBean | Jan Robertson | Jeffery Chua | John McLaren | Joseph Leach | Josie Reid | Kara Rowe | Kate-Ida Lee | Karen Hunt | Karen Ryrle | Karlana Santamaria | Kaz Krasovskis | Kelly Griffiths | Kent Newton | Kerry Proctor | Kevin Smith | KGMG | Kye Theobald | Lions Club of Trentham | Lisa McD | Lisa Shiner | Luke Davis | Madelene Sutton | Malcolm King | Maria Abate | Mary-Anne Thomas MP | Michael Worthington | Michelle Leeder | Mike Greeton | Millie Gellatly | Natalie Poole | Niles Plonker | Paul Healy | Penny James | Peta Sherlock | Peter Parsons | Phil Davis | Quarry Street Reserve | Quinten Smith | Rhonda Holcombe | Richard Goodman | Richard Ryan | Robert Creedon | Rose Wilson | Rural Australians for Refugees | Russell Robinson | Sandy Scheltema | Sandy Watson | Seana Mounsey | Six Word Story | Sophie Guerin | Springs Medical | Spudfest | Spudman | St George's | Stan Falloon | Steve Herbert | St. Mary Magdalen's | Sue Worthington | Susan Marryatt | Sylvia Johnson | Tania Sawyer | The Duke | The Little Gallery | The Mechanics Trentham | The Mount Players | TNC | Tony Burch | Tony Johnston | Tony Van Rensburg | TRATA | Trentham and Districts Life Activities Club | Trentham and Districts Historical Society | Trentham CFA | Trentham Forum | Trentham Community Group | Trentham Cricket Club | Trentham Film Society | Trentham Golf Club | Trentham Public Reserves | Trentham Saints | Trentham Sustainability Group | Trentham Town Survey Group | Trentham Weather Station | Trentham Words in Winter | TUSC | Victoria State Government |

Council news

MECHANICS AT TRENTHAM



Steady progress is being made at the Mechanics at Trentham with windows being installed, charred cladding being applied to the community hall section

of the facility and traditional weatherboards on the original Mechanics Hall.

Recently, members of the Trent Creek Reserve Committee of Management and Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife collaborated with the project Landscape architect to refine the planting list to incorporate species local to Trentham that will thrive under Trentham’s cold and wet conditions.

MAYOR AND DEPUTY



Congratulations to Cr Brian Hood and Cr Juliet Simpson who were elected as

Mayor and Deputy Mayor at the Special Meeting of Council in November. This is Cr Hood’s second term as Mayor, and Cr Simpson’s first term as Deputy Mayor. The next Council meeting is Tuesday 19 December at 5.30pm.

ROADS UPDATE

We have completed our annual gravel road resheet program, with 10km of gravel roads upgraded across nine roads in the Shire. Our sealed roadside slashing program began in early November and we aim to complete it by Christmas.

Our sealed road patching project is underway and our annual road resealing program is scheduled to commence in February 2024. To report an issue with Council-managed roads visit <https://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/request> or phone (03) 5348 2306.

END OF YEAR CLOSURE

Council offices, depots, hubs and libraries will close at 2pm on Friday 22 December and reopen on Tuesday 2 January. Transfer Stations are closed on Christmas Day. Staff involved in emergency management will be on call.

Kerbside collection - There will be no kerbside collections on Christmas Day and New Years Day. From Christmas Day, collections will be pushed back by one day until Monday 8 January 2024. This means if your collection is usually on a Monday (Christmas Day), it will be collected on a Tuesday (Boxing Day), etc.

To report an emergency over the closure period phone 0419 587 955 for animal emergencies (e.g. dog attacks and stock on Council roads) or for all other emergencies phone 0419 583 573.

Councillors and staff wish our community a very happy festive season and a safe and prosperous new year.

PREPARE FOR SUMMER

Hepburn Shire is now in the Fire Danger Period. Find out what you can and can’t do during this time on the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/can. Information for preparing yourself and your property for summer is available at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare. It is predicted to be a hot and dry summer, so please prepare an emergency plan so you know what you will do well before an emergency occurs.

Fire prevention inspections have started and we’re here to work collaboratively with property owners to get their properties ready for the fire season. If you need information on fire prevention inspections or property preparations, contact Ben, our Emergency Management Officer – Fire, on 5348 2306 or email bburgess@hepburn.vic.gov.au

AQUATICS SEASON

Our aquatics season kicks off on Saturday 2 December. Make sure to get down to the Trentham pool. To find out the opening hours of all our Council aquatics facilities visit www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/swimming-pools

COUNCIL PLAN FOCUS AREAS



A resilient, sustainable & protected environment



A healthy, supported & empowered community



Embracing our past & planning for the future



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A dynamic & responsive council

CONTACT US

t 5348 2306
e shire@hepburn.vic.gov.au
w www.hepburn.vic.gov.au

facebook.com/hepburncouncil

Editorial

Hi Trentham!

Our cover really says it all... thanks to everyone who has contributed to, supported and promoted our 2023 Trumpets and sorry to anyone we missed! And this is just a small portion of those who provide their time to make our town and community a great place (as you'll read all about in this issue!)

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season. We'll be back late January with our February edition, and we've some fabulous surprises and initiatives coming for 2024.

Sincerely, thank you Trentham.

Chris & Penny



The Mount Players
SEASON 2024

WILD
Dark Comedy by Mike Bartlett
Director George Benca
23 Feb - 10 Mar

LOOPED
Comedy by Matthew Lombardo
Director Peter Newling
10 May - 26 May

JASPER JONES
Drama adapted by Kate Mulvany
Director David Runnalls
16 Aug - 1 Sep

A BUNCH OF AMATEURS
Comedy by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman
Director Craig Lenaine-Smith
8 Nov - 24 Nov

For full details and bookings
go to www.themountplayers.com
or phone 5426 1892



Mountview Theatre
56 Smith St. Macedon

Trentham Christmas Carols in the Park



Friday 1st of December 2023

Quarry St. Reserve, High St, Trentham

From 6-630pm

Hot Food, Carols & concert

*Local performers & the Trentham Primary School
& of course "Santa" will visit!*

Enquiries - 5424 8291 or 5424 1127

A Free Community Event organized by the



Lions Club of Trentham Inc.

Christmas SERVICES IN TRENTHAM 2023

Sunday 17 December, 7.00pm
Ecumenical Carol Service

St Mary Magdalene's, Bridge Street
followed by supper.

All are welcome to join in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.



St George's Anglican Church (High Street):

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24 December 9.00am
Christmas Day, Monday 24 December 9.00am

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Church (Bridge Street):

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24 December Midnight Mass
Christmas Day, Monday 25 December 8.30am
(both services preceded by carol singing)

About the Trumpet

Acknowledgement of Country

We are proud to acknowledge Dja Dja Wurrung
as the Traditional Owners of this Country.
We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging



The Trentham Trumpet is published on the first of every month except January.

The Trumpet is the community's voice to: share local news and events; engage in topical discussion; provide a platform to express considered views and concerns; contribute to the historical record; and promote local trades and services.

All submissions need to embrace our pillars of inclusiveness, constructiveness and positivity. The editorial team reserves the right to refuse any article or advertising and to edit for length and clarity. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month before. Please forward all items for publication to:

thetrenthamtrumpet@gmail.com

Electronic subscriptions (which we encourage) are available at:

thetrenthamtrumpet.com.au

Printed versions can be found in many retail and community outlets in and around Trentham.

*The Trentham Trumpet
is gratefully auspiced by the TNC.*

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Advertising Rates <i>(from Feb 2022)</i>	Black & White		Colour	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
Width & Height				
90mm x 55mm	\$40	\$400	\$55	\$550
90mm x 110mm (1/4 page)	\$75	\$750	\$95	\$950
190mm x 55mm (1/4 page banner)	\$75	\$750	\$95	\$950
190mm x 130mm (1/2 page)	\$145	\$1,450	\$180	\$1,800
190mm x 265mm (A4)	\$275	\$2,750	\$350	\$3,500

What's on!

Community Groups Listing

thetrenthamtrumpet.com.au/our-community

Lions Schedule

Business Meeting: 3rd Thurs / month
Dinner Meeting: 1st Thurs / month
Farmers' Market: 3rd Sat / month

Sunday Church Services

St George (Anglican) 9am
St Mary Magdalen (Catholic) 8.30am

TNC

see trenthamnc.org.au

Trentham Lions Club

Farmers' Market
16 December 9am-1pm
Trentham Town Square

Trentham Sustainability Group

Farmers' Market Food Swap
16 December 10-11.30am
Trentham Town Square

Life Activities Club

Ladies' Petanque
10am every Tuesday
Trentham Town Square, followed by coffee

Wednesday Walkers

9.30am every Wednesday
Easy town walk
Meet at old Trentham Post Office

Men's Petanque

10am every Thursday
Trentham Town Square, followed by coffee

Knitters, Stitchers, Sewers Craft Group

10am every Friday
Trentham Bowling Club, Park Street,

Mahjong

1pm - 4pm every Friday
Trentham Bowling Club, Park Street





**FIRE
SAFETY**
Planning
Workshop



**FIRE
PLANNING
WORKSHOP**

PLANNING FOR BUSHFIRE CAN BE TOUGH, SO WHY DO IT ALONE?

- *Having trouble getting started?*
- *Not sure if your plan is as good as it can be?*
- *Just need to update your plan?*

Whether you already have a bushfire survival plan or yet to get started, this 2-hour workshop will help you put together a plan that ticks all the right boxes.

Work through your plan with guidance from a CFA specialist in a small group setting

What: **FREE Bushfire Planning Workshop**
Plan for bushfire step-by-step in a small group setting.

Where: Trentham Fire Station, 25 Market St, TRENTHAM

When: 10.00am – 12.00pm Sunday 3rd December, 2023

Contact: West Regional Office on 53295510 to find out more or visit facebook page CFA West Region-Community Engagement for details of other meetings in your area.

Please bring along a pen.

Please note that CFA will postpone community meetings when the Fire Danger Rating is Catastrophic or Extreme and may postpone community meetings if a Total Fire Ban has been declared.

cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare

CFA

Forty years ago Victoria faced one of its most tragic bushfires when 47 people perished, including 14 CFA personnel.

What became known as Ash Wednesday - February 16, 1983 - is indelibly etched in the minds of all Victorians who were touched by the devastating blazes that swept across Victoria. As my colleagues in CFA headquarters constantly emphasise, Victoria is one of the most bushfire prone areas in the world, and Ash Wednesday and other major fires are a recurring reminder of the extreme and unprecedented nature of our weather conditions.

To this day CFA experts say no amount of effort to fight or control the Ash Wednesday fires could have succeeded until conditions improved. Nevertheless, many lessons have been learned since Ash Wednesday, both within the CFA and in the wider community. These include improvements to planning procedures, research, training and resources.

Community awareness is heightened on the eve of every fire season; training is stepped up in CFA brigades across Victoria, including here at Trentham. This year, roles and responsibilities have already been assigned and equipment checked and re-checked for what we believe will be a highly intensive fire season.

By now, everybody should be aware that the **Fire Danger Period has officially started**. For those who don't know - it began on November 20. It is also vital that you familiarise yourself with the Australia-wide Fire Danger Ratings which help you decide what actions to take in the event of bushfires and grassfires.

The four levels of fire danger are: MODERATE (plan and prepare); HIGH (be ready to act); EXTREME (take action now to protect life and property) and CATASTROPHIC (for your survival, leave bushfire risk areas). Understanding your level of risk is the first step in knowing what to do before and during a fire.

If you haven't already started, now is the time to get your properties bushfire-ready. Precautionary measures include:

- clean your gutters of leaves and twigs;
- install metal gutter guards;
- repair or replace damaged or missing roof tiles;
- fit seals around doors and windows to reduce gaps; and
- repair or cover gaps in external walls.

These are particularly important in reducing the impact of ember attacks.

The CFA also recommends smoke alarms be installed in each bedroom and in living areas. A carbon monoxide alarm is also essential outside each separate sleeping area.

Ensure your house number is easily identifiable from the street, even at night. And, one of the most important things you can do to keep your home safe is to keep your house clear of vegetation that might pose a risk. See the CFA or local council websites for more info.

You can also take note of your fire district or the one you are travelling to; stay alert for public fire danger alerts; and identify your closest Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSPs) and CFA brigades. Stay informed through the official VicEmergency app, which brings together vital information from the major government agencies, including the CFA. Our brigades are available for safety information and advice. The CFA website has easy-to-read and up-to-the-minute news and instructions.



On Sunday, December 3, there will be a two-hour Bushfire Planning Workshop at the Trentham Fire Station, 25 Market St, starting at 10 am.

This will be an opportunity to work through your bushfire survival plan with a CFA specialist in a small group setting. Don't forget to bring a notebook and pen.

And finally, on days of imminent threat always remember that leaving early is the safest option to protect yourself and your family.

As we're all taught, leaving early means departing before there are any signs of a fire - not when you see flames or smell smoke. Leaving early can mean avoiding panic, being trapped, making the wrong choices, and risking serious injury and death. Needless to say, it's on hot, dry and windy days that fires start and spread very quickly.

Leaving early is the safest option.

Again, I encourage you to visit the CFA website - cfa.vic.gov.au - for further details.

Please, stay safe everyone.

Paul Healy
Captain
Trentham Brigade

The new Fire Danger Ratings

MODERATE Plan and prepare	HIGH Be ready to act
EXTREME Take action now to protect life and property	CATASTROPHIC For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

There are four levels of fire danger in the new system:

- **Moderate** - Plan and prepare
- **High** - Be ready to act
- **Extreme** - Take action now to protect your life and property
- **Catastrophic** - For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

Fire Danger Ratings will be issued on days when there is a fire risk.

Each fire danger rating will have a clear set of messages including the actions the community can take to reduce their risk.

Ratings are forecast using Bureau of Meteorology data for up to four days in advance, based on weather and other environmental conditions such as vegetation.

The rating is your trigger to take action to stay safe.

Wombat Trail

Reopened!! (High Street to West Street section)

Yay! Many locals and visitors are delighted to be able to again safely walk the attractive Stoney Creek section of the Wombat Trail after works carried out during September-October.

We have recently spotted a Mum pushing a pram, and at least one school-group. A 93 year-old regular walker is very pleased to be again able to wheel her red "Ferrari" walker along the trail to West Street & to wave hello to her favourite cattle, Freddy & Bella.

Where is it?

From the High Street bridge, then along Stoney Creek as far as West Street.

Why was it closed?

Following the June 2021 storm and subsequent flood events during 2022, trees were uprooted, large broken-off limbs blocked the path, flood-waters badly eroded paths, created debris & blocked drainage.

How was it fixed?

Woody debris was cleared, and dangerous overhanging limbs removed. The path was rebuilt and topped with gravel or mulch. Damaged foot bridges were fixed or replaced. Culverts and trackside drainage were installed, realigned or fixed. Some invasive weeds were removed.

Who did the work?

The local volunteer group, Trentham Public Purpose Reserves Committee of Management [responsible for the management of the Reserve], assessed the damage and documented the repair works needed, made the funding application, closely monitored the reinstatement works and arranged payment to the contractor.

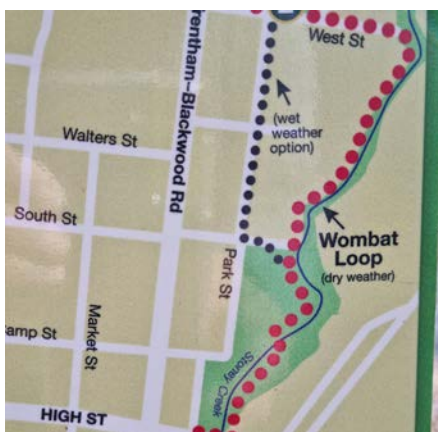
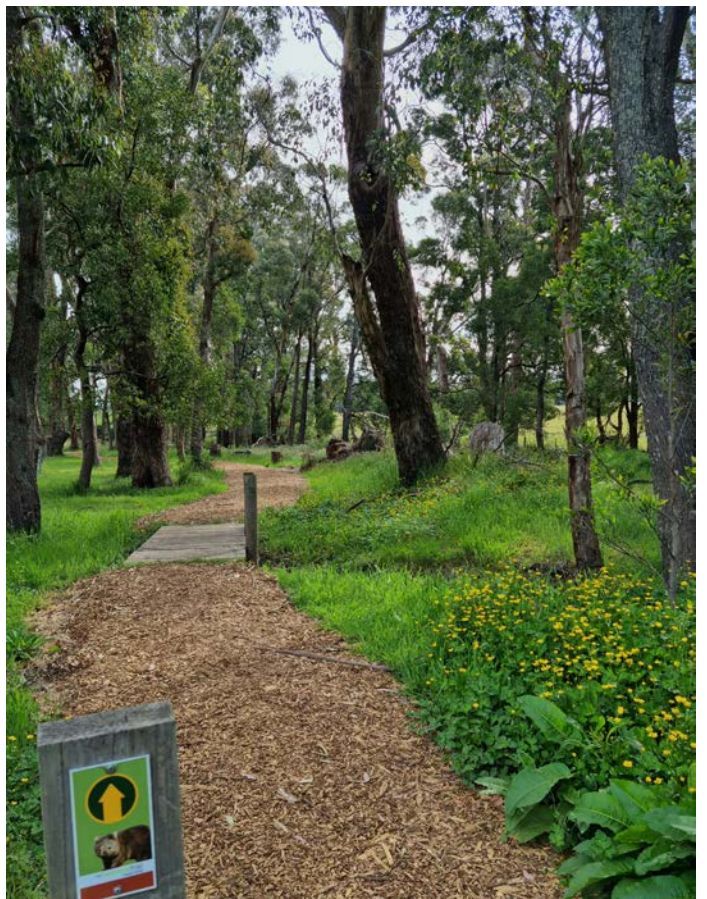
The contractor engaged to undertake the work was Daylesford Landscaping & Earthworks.

Who funded the work?

The rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Reserve has been jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments through a Flood Recovery Grant administered by the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

Friends of Trentham Creeks and Reserves

[see Facebook page]



Right: Map of repaired, reopened trail

Far right: incredible before (top) and after (bottom) pics!

Art @ The Cosmo

McKenzie and King: Newbury and Beyond

2022 was a big year. After moving from the Clarence Valley sub-tropics to the Victorian Central Highlands, old friends and family thought we'd really lost it. But not so, with our low boredom threshold coupled with our desire for new experiences this was the right time to add another page.



Spending the past 20 months creating a new home, cool climate garden and two studios in our new four season in a day environment, and what a fabulous change it's been. Exploring all that the Central Highlands has to offer. Forests, waterfalls, lakes, farmland, markets, music and the arts.

On the creative front, new works in paint and print are emerging and will feature at our first combined exhibition in Victoria at the wonderful Cosmo Hotel in Trentham from January 2024.

Many of these new artworks from Julie McKenzie investigate the changing moods of this unique and inspiring landscape.

While Malcolm King's graphic works celebrate the beauty and vulnerability of this landscape and its creatures from habitat lost, focusing in particular on our native birds that are either threatened or in decline.

In an increasingly troubled world an escape to the country to surround yourself with nature is the tonic we all desire. As Julie often says "Gardening will save the planet."

We hope you enjoy our exhibition and to see you at the Cosmo.

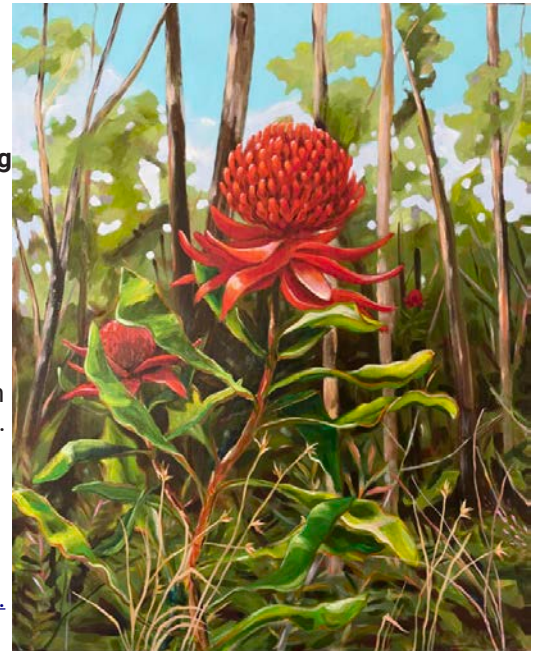
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**Opening 4pm
January 14
2024, showing
until Easter.**

New works from the Newbury studios, paintings and limited edition graphic prints.

kingstudio.com.au

juliemckenzie.com.au



Community Bank Trentham & Districts

Thank You!

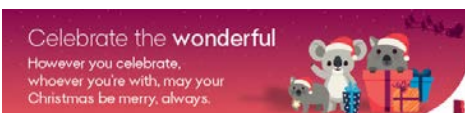
The year is almost over, so it's time to reflect and express our gratitude to the great communities we have been a part of in 2023. A heartfelt thank you to all for your overwhelming support and for always being the extraordinary excellent bunch of people that you are.

With the support of our existing customers increasing their banking facilities, and new customers choosing to bank with our branch, we have been able to continue to support our community with a significant number of sponsorships and grants. It is pleasing to recall what we have been able to achieve over the past year together.

We would like to expand this support further so are calling on the wider community to consider our services, through everyday banking you can make a real difference. We provide a great personalised banking experience with all the products and services you need.

From all of us at Community Bank - Trentham & Districts we are looking forward to continuing our support in 2024 and being there for our community. During the holidays, please find time to celebrate your wonderful, whatever that may be.

37B High Street Trentham ~ 5424 1608



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Councillor's Report

November Council meeting:

- Council entering into a memorandum of understanding with Cresfest to provide financial and operational support to the Shire's latest signature event. Cresfest is up and running and celebrating all things musical and artistic and joins Spudfest, Clunes Booktown, Swiss-Italian and Chillout as iconic signature festivals.
- A report on performance against Council Plan objectives for the first quarter of 2023/24 discloses that 32 of the plan's 34 objectives are progressing on track, with the remaining two not yet scheduled to commence. That's a solid start to the year!
- The adoption of a significantly revised risk management policy. In yet another initiative to bring Council's governance up to required standards the previous ten-year old policy has been overhauled.
- A report on Q1 2023/24 financial statements discloses that Council has invested \$14m to date on storm and flood recovery works, mostly on our road network. This is despite receiving only \$9.5m from state and federal governments. Council continues its commitment to repair works and is advocating to secure additional funding. Progress on the capital works budget is also off to a good start, with expenditure and commitments of over \$10m by the end of September.
- Council noted a condolence motion marking the passing of former councillor and Mayor Tim Hayes of Clunes who made a wonderful contribution to the Shire.



Roads – Regional Roads Victoria have recently advised that they will be undertaking repair works on the Trentham-Daylesford and Daylesford-Ballan roads and have forewarned of disruptions. I will post more details on timing when they are available. Council's website provides details on which organisation is responsible for roads and how to report an issue - [Roads Hepburn Shire Council](#)

Town structure plans – 21 locals appointed onto an advisory body have been hard at work guiding the development of Trentham's new town structure plan. Considerations include population and demographics (growth); land use supply and demand (infill and town boundaries); bushfire risk; biodiversity protection; flooding risk; heritage; Aboriginal culture and heritage; neighbourhood character and urban design; and integrated transport (walking/cycling/public transport). The objective is to create new town structure plans for Trentham, Creswick, Clunes, Daylesford and Glenlyon by the end of our term (October 2024).

Congratulations

- To the wonderful students at Trentham Primary School and Mike Gretton of Kyneton RSL for staging another fitting Remembrance Day ceremony.
- To Bullarto Primary School on the magnificent milestone of 150 years service to the community.
- To Don and Mary Harvey and their organising team for running the 149th Daylesford Show.
- To Trentham Neighbourhood Centre (TNC) on the opening of their new outdoor space – a great addition.
- To Ceri Spain of Belle Property and the team of organisers behind Twilight Night.

Coming soon – watch out for an announcement on the opening of the renovated Bullarto Rail Station. The building replicates its 1930s history and will house a rail museum.

The Mechanics Trentham – the construction of the new community centre, library and customer service centre is progressing nicely to the anticipated March 2024 completion.

Fire season – started on November 20 so burning off is not permitted. Forecasts indicate a hot and dry summer which means the risk of fire is greater. Please take all precautions and if you need advice on fire preparation contact the team at Trentham CFA and check the CFA website.

Planning applications – for information on tracking an application, lodging an objection, viewing the planning register, etc visit Council's website here [Track an application, view planning register or lodge an objection Hepburn Shire Council](#)

Council meeting – 5.30pm, December 19. Agenda papers will be available on Council's website the week before.

Cr. Brian Hood

email bhood@hepburn.vic.gov.au

ph 0427 797151

Facebook - Cr Brian Hood, Coliban ward, Mayor Hepburn Shire Council

Tragic accident - Much has been said and written regarding the tragic accident that occurred on November 5 in Daylesford. As formal investigations are ongoing, council works thoroughly through a number of complex matters and the remarkable efforts of many have already been acknowledged there is one additional aspect I publicly mentioned at the November Council meeting. That was to acknowledge the support extended by our federal and state government leaders. The day after the event I received a phone-call of support and offer of assistance from the Premier Jacinta Allan; our federal member Catherine King rearranged her commitments and returned that day from Canberra in order to attend the vigil; and state member Mary-Anne Thomas rang, attended the vigil and offered support. Their ongoing support, and personal commitment to our shire, is much appreciated.

Mayoral duties - The past month for me has seen the continuation of the critical work developing town structure plans; participation on a VLGA panel on housing and the proposed short term accommodation levy; presentations from the Local Government Inspectorate on governance; updates from the state government on road repair works and upcoming grant funding opportunities; representing Council on Remembrance Day and a flag-raising ceremony for trans awareness week.

I am honoured to have been re-elected as Mayor. I am told I am the first Mayor of Hepburn to be re-elected to serve a second successive term. Councillors have now entered the final, fourth year of our term and challenging strategic and financial considerations lay before us. It will be critically important we address those challenges strategically and with the longer-term vision in mind as we strive to strengthen the organisation for the community's benefit.

St George's

News and Reflections from St George's

Christmas services have been planned. St George's gets off lightly this year as St Mary Magdalen's is hosting the Combined Churches Carol service at 7pm Sunday December 17. St George's Services continue at 9am every Sunday of Advent, December 3 to 24. Christmas Day worship is at 9am.

Christmas is always the same date but different day of the week. When it falls on Monday, preachers need two sermons in two days! Easter Day moves according to the moon's cycle and it can be on any Sunday from March 21 to April 25.

This timing of Easter depends on which calendar system we follow. Eastern Orthodox churches follow the Julian calendar. Western churches follow the Gregorian calendar updated in 1582. This sought to bring astronomical events back into line with the calendar, so 5-14 October, 1582 simply did not happen!

The more we learn about how long it takes Earth to travel around the sun, the more we may need another adjustment because 365+ days doesn't readily divide into equal parts.

Trentham Forum Working Group

Our Town

As one of our small group puts it: we want to live in a community not an economy.



And so do the 250+ respondents to last year's community survey (see Trumpet, June 2023) who also identified the characteristics of our town they most value, especially their sense of place and belonging, Trentham's natural environment and open space, surrounding forest and rolling farmlands and our built and cultural heritage.

A purist might say, the economy is really a sub-set of society (community) and society itself a subset of the environment... we are all part of the environment. Yes we do need an economy to help tie our society together and operate, but it shouldn't override our social and environmental values.

Environment, people and economy... how do we make it work?

And what do you want Trentham to look like in 30 years' time?

Trentham is very different from what it was 30 years ago – how will we manage future change?

Many further questions arising from these questions are bound up with land-use planning. Council is currently engaged in a major review of the Trentham Structure Plan which will guide the future development of Trentham over the next 30 years. (It's hard to see planning as a science given the compromises that must be made and not many people would describe it as an art... perhaps a very arcane art!)

That's why February 29 returns in 2024.

Australia's indigenous seasons make more sense of weather down under. There are many seasons depending on location in this vast land, and seasons connect to plants and animals. This works even with exotic plants. Between Tylden and Trentham roses bloom 4-6 weeks later. In today's Australia the calendar is also shaped by school, shopping and sport.

What calendar shapes life for you? How would you create a calendar? Why a 24 hour day? A 7 day week (the Bible says a day of rest is built into creation)? A 52 week year? What does it say about your priorities?

At Christmas we celebrate the God who, from eternity, entered time.

May Christmas 2023 be full of joy and peace.

Peta Sherlock

When the La Trobe University planning students came to Trentham in 2012 for a case study, they reported back to the community at a well-attended public meeting. When asked 'how does Trentham protect its character?' the lecturer-in-charge replied: 'eternal vigilance'.

That same need is in the minds of some of the Community Panel involved in the Structure Plan exercise.

Nearly six months ago the Trentham Community Forum working group was formed to re-vitalise 'the town committee' to provide a voice for how Trentham might develop in the future. The group has been meeting regularly and intends sharing its recommendations with the community in early 2024. We have identified three areas where we believe an overview perspective can contribute: aged care & options for ageing; sport & recreation; and (no surprises!) town planning.

As noted, there are many questions arising from the bigger questions (e.g. housing options) that are beyond our group. We welcome people with particular interests that are not being addressed and who want to do something about these to join us.

Or please just contact us to register your support for what our working group is trying to do:

Adele Anderson (0418 125 947), John Brereton (0417 500 103), Ian MacBean (0438 529 481), Fay Magee (0417 113 927), Corina Sabo (0409 866 695), Vicki Steggall.

trenthamcommunityforum@gmail.com

Quarry Street Reserve

The small sign (*far right*) now installed on the edge of the bush corner in Lelant St has been a long time in the process of working on content and design, but here it is!



This is part of the biodiversity funding, contributing to information about the assisted revegetation program, with great input from Brian Bainbridge, HSC Biodiveristy Officer.

Now is a good time to stop by and see which plants are in bloom, daisies, Dianellas and new growth on shrubs and trees. If you're thinking about using some of these plants for a habitat garden, this is mainly just two years' growth since planting.

The community event to farewell our Post Office team made good use of the shady end of the Reserve. This highlighted the attention given to the Reserve by Council staff, regular mowing by Peter Morris, and other tasks that we try to manage with their assistance – branches fall, trees occasionally need to be removed.

While this is a Crown Land Reserve, our Memorandum of Understanding with Hepburn Shire Council allows for smooth processes for a range of tasks from time to time. Also a big shout-out to locals, Bonnie and her trusty attendants who keep an eye on basic tidiness – thank you!!



It's been a big infrastructure year, finally seeing the renovated pavilion completed, the playground shade sails, the carpark, and the corner at High Street. Planning for projects like these can stretch over several years and many volunteer committee members have contributed.

As we farewell Bryan Frost as a long-time resident, we thank him for his involvement with the Reserve committee.



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Trentham Sustainability Group

Go household solar – you are winning – as part of the renewable energy team.

Household solar is becoming a significant contributor as one part of the package of renewable energy that is supplying the national electricity market (along with large scale solar, wind and hydro).

In [December 2022](#) South Australia had a run of more than 10 days when average production of wind and solar accounted for 100 per cent of local electricity demand, with rooftop solar meeting up to 92% of local demand. At the time of writing, mid-afternoon 23 November 2023, 53.8% of electricity usage in Victoria is being supplied by renewables with small scale solar generating 30.3% of total usage reneweconomy.com.au. These are exciting statistics resulting from 25 – 30 years of technical transformation and energy policy change.

Australia now has the highest penetration in the world for household solar at around 30%. The first household solar connected to the grid was approved in 1994 after a two-year approval process, a process equivalent to that needed for a coal fired power station.

The current generating capacity of small scale solar (small scale is < 100kW generation) totals around 21 GW, with 90% from residential installations and 10% from commercial and industrial sites, compared to less than 0.5 GW from large scale solar. For comparison, 21 GW is more than twice the capacity of Australia’s largest coal fired power station Eraring in NSW.

Trentham & Districts Historical Society

Looking for a local Christmas gift or stocking filler?

Trentham & District Historical Society’s latest offering may be the answer.

Trentham Tales: stories from yesteryear (\$12.50) is a collection of 21 tales from our curious, dramatic and entertaining past - taken from our popular column in the Trentham Trumpet. From Blue Mount’s eccentric Mine Commissioner/poet Hengist Horne, to our districts’ delightful debs, this is a book for dipping into and enjoying - for residents and visitors alike.



But that’s not all! We also have a range of older booklets available individually or in discounted packs (\$50 plus postage or pick them up from us). Packs include Early History of the Trentham District, A Hard Day’s Work- Growing Spuds Around Trentham, Take a Walk Around Trentham, Trentham Bush Nursing Hospital, Trentham at War, Celebrating Trentham’s Sporting History and Postcards from Trentham and Blackwood.

Purchase online at trenthamhistoricalsociety.org.au or send us an email at info@trenthamhistoricalsociety.org.au

Or, look for us at the December Farmers’ Market!

With only 10% of small scale solar coming from commercial and industrial sites, this means there is a significant amount of rooftop ‘real estate’ potentially available for even more small scale solar. The challenge will be to get the excess generated into the grid or into batteries. The current cost of installing solar on households is around \$1 per watt or \$9000 for a 9kW installation on an average sized home, and it continues to get cheaper.



Closer to home there is lots more to be excited about with solar and battery storage with the Energy Minister announcing that the construction phase has begun for an energy back-up system to be installed at Trentham Sportsground. This system will keep our emergency services powered during a significant storm or bushfire event. Trentham Sustainability Group continues to work on design and partnerships for an energy resilience project that will establish a low voltage islandable microgrid with battery and generator for the core township of Trentham. The more household solar that is installed in Trentham the sooner this project can begin. When established this system will keep central Trentham powered during prolonged outages.

Energy Resilience Team
Trentham Sustainability Group
trenthamsustainability@gmail.com
<https://trenthamsustainabilitygroup.com>

Oaks Day

Trentham’s Oaks Day lunch was back bigger and better for its eleventh year running.

Eighty-eight women came together to enjoy a day of sunshine and fabulous food and hospitality thanks to Emma James and team at “The Factory” events space in Market Street. Organisers Rhonda and Sandy were delighted that the event and prizes were sponsored by Frances Harkin of Harkin Real Estate Agents.



Guest speaker Antionette Braybrook from Djirra shared her work helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and families who are experiencing or at risk of family violence. It was a heartfelt message and we look forward to supporting this program in future years.

This year’s lunch well and truly continued the Oaks Day tradition of being a special time for women to reach out and support each other in all walks of life.

Above: Antionette with Sandy & Frances

Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife

This time of year sees another wave of flowering trees, shrubs, small plants and groundcovers.



The sample of local plants along the wall of TNC is showing some obvious ones, delicate Poa grasses, hints of Brachyscome multifida, Crane’s Bill geranium, and the Dianella tasmanica which will next produce deep blue berries. Further afield, there is a wonderful display of the Carex appressa, Tall Sedge, at the south-west corner of the High and Quarry Streets intersection. This has been part of revegetation for the benefit of the Bright-eyed brown butterfly as posted in the November Trumpet.

In looking at these one can develop an appreciation of a broader range of ‘flowers’ or seed heads in some of our local native plants, for this Carex, long-stemmed and packed tightly. Small flowers and delicate colours can be reminders of the function of local flora, the myriad of small insects for whom this is habitat. The focus of a healthy ecosystem is on biodiversity, connecting various areas of indigenous vegetation in improving the environmental health of the district and affirming the distinctive character of the Shire.

Along our streets it is possible for residents to participate in these connections on a small scale. Nature strips are a great space for focusing on smaller native plants and groundcovers. The Shire Guidelines encourage this usage and provide lists of suitable plants.

Our Gardens for Wildlife visiting program is a free service where two trained mentors can visit your property to assist

with your achieving whatever dreams, large or small you may have. They can suggest specific plants to suit your conditions, including mixing in local plants with existing exotics.

For more information, contact Trentham Neighbourhood Centre, phone 5424 1354, email: info@trenthamnc.org.au

Follow us on Facebook – Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife – for weekly updates and information.



Right: Flowering Dianella tasmanica next to the Poa labillardierei.

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THE TRENTHAM TRUMPET

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TNC Community Garden

The new Trentham Neighbourhood Centre Community Garden was officially opened on Saturday 18th November.

Approximately six years in the concept and development phases, the project has taken quite a while. It was a lovely sunny day for the opening and approximately 35 people attended. Speakers at the event included:

- Brian Hood, Mayor of Hepburn Shire and local Councillor for Trentham. (Hepburn Shire donated \$8,000 to the project.)
- Catherine King, Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development (The Federal Government donated \$30,000 to the project.)
- Kim Haughie, representing The Little Gallery of Trentham. (The Little Gallery donated \$5,200)
- Corina Sabo, Treasurer of the Committee of Management of TNC. Corina used her local knowledge and contacts to contribute to the project.
- Michelle Leeder, Project Manager for the garden development. Michelle had to overcome many obstacles in her work.
- Richard Goodman, new Manager of TNC.
- Ina Bertrand, a long term Trentham local, and a previous President of the Centre.

There were also donations of funds and assistance from other organisations and individuals in the town.

The garden was partially designed, and then built, by Anthony Morrey. Features of the garden include:

- Four wicking beds, two of which are planted with vegetables
- A herb garden
- Beds filled with ornamental flowers
- A pergola planted with climbing plants that will provide shade in summer
- A gorgeous sculptural artwork made by Youth Group on one wall
- Playing areas for chess or draughts (designed into the paving)
- A decking area for a table and chairs
- A beautiful heritage woven wire fence.

The garden has been designed for use by:

1. Classes of TNC in areas like gardening and art
2. Individuals wanting to sit, have a rest and contemplate in a beautiful, serene space
3. People wanting to have a chat with someone they



4. bump into, or friends, in a comfortable inviting space
4. Organised groups like the Trentham Neighbourhood Centre Scrabble, Craft and Youth Groups
5. People who would like to play chess or draughts (the playing areas have been designed into the paving)
6. Groups that would like to hire the space for their own needs.

We at TNC hope to see you using and enjoying the garden.

Anne-Marie Pedeau,
President
Trentham Neighbourhood Centre



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Trentham Tales

Trentham Post Office

Farewelling our post mistresses recently, we were reminded that being in charge of a postal service is not for the faint-hearted. Living up to the community's 'rain, hail, sleet and snow' expectations has always demanded extra grit.

Trentham's first post office was established in William Dashwood's High St store in 1862 (where Country Grocers now stands) with mail carried to and from Tylden, for onward travel to Woodend and later Kyneton.

By 1868 the PO had moved to the Tylden end of High St to Graham McPherson's store, next to the old Commercial Hotel, with post coming and going to Kyneton six days a week - from Blackwood via Newbury, Trentham and Tylden - courtesy of Cobb & Co coaches.

It was a challenging service. Where roads existed, they were notoriously dangerous. Most were boggy and often impassable, falling victim to both the district's uncompromising weather and increased traffic: jinkers, bullock trains and horse drays, laden with timber and potatoes, plying their path to railheads.

For those in town, services were increasing. You could receive (although not yet send) a telegraph, and even purchase a money order. But for those further afield, access was fraught with risk. If the roads were considered impassable, the tracks, especially through the forest, barely existed - quagmires of mud one day, lost in snow another.

But as one Master Thrum, son of Little Hampton sawmill owner F.W Thrum, was to discover, poor tracks were just one of the many hazards. As reported 20 years later by The Weekly Times, (Melbourne, July 1889), there being no postal service in the Clowes [Wombat] Forest, Master Thrum's father had, "kindly offered his neighbours to establish, at his own cost, a regular communication with the civilized world... and send the mails into Trentham at regular stated periods".

At about the same time, either late 1869 or early 1870, 13-year-old Ned Kelly and his bushranger accomplice, Harry Power, 50, were, for many weeks, hiding out in Clowes Forest.

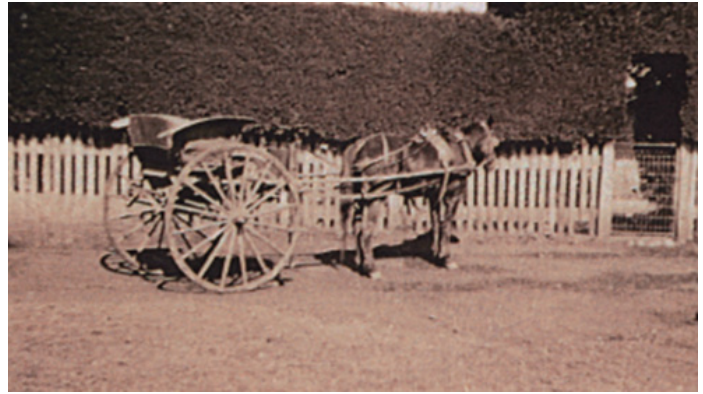
One day, Thrum's boy, who often performed the service, "and who had just recovered from typhoid fever... was stuck up and robbed by Power and Ned Kelly while riding into Trentham with letters."

Sadly, there are no further details on Master Thrum's welfare or of any changes to his service!

By the 1930s, Trentham's PO had moved to the Postmaster General's building (1926), on the corner of Market and High streets, offering the fruits of progress: a telephone - operating out of the toilet to prevent telegrams being overheard.



**TRENTHAM
& DISTRICT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



But outlying areas were still at the mercy of our district's realities - weather, poor roads, remoteness.

Olive Bruton of Little Hampton at this time had won the tender for a mail run from Little Hampton's one-room PO to Trentham - possibly the same route Master Thrum had taken 60 years earlier. She drove her horse, Little Doll, and the jinker, to and from Trentham post office three times a week, for three years.

Olive was known to enjoy this arduous run, although she was much distracted by the logistics of keeping warm. Granddaughter Joy Rainey recalls that Rosa, Olive's daughter, on a particularly cold day, heated a large stone in the fire, put it on the floor of the jinker and used it as a footwarmer.

"When I got to Trentham" remembered Rosa, "I smelt burning. Then, bang! The stone burnt a hole through the floorboards!"

It is evident that intrepid posties simply come with the Trentham territory!

Sue Worthington
Trentham and District Historical Society
trenthamhistoricalsociety.org.au

Above: Olive Bruton's Jinker outside Little Hampton State School where the tiny post office was located. c1935.



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The Mechanics Trentham

Community Time Capsule Project

"A time capsule is like leaving evidence of your history for the future. Everyday objects tell a lot about ourselves and the times in which we live. Imagine looking back into a time capsule in 10, 50, 100 or even 1000 years."
The National Museum of Australia



The notion of a 'time capsule' was presented to the Project Advisory Group (PAG) by the Hepburn Shire Project Manager for the The Mechanics Trentham refurbishment. The PAG asked the Trentham and District Historical Society (TDHS) to undertake and complete the time capsule, given the history expertise of its committee members. The consensus of the TDHS committee was 'the community should be at the forefront of its contents and including all generations in the project from school children, families and our older residents is key to getting the best outcome'.

Ultimately, the community time capsule will show the residents of Trentham and its district a snapshot of our

Meditation for Peace

Those Dark Ages of Enlightenment

The above title was triggered by the vote on the referendum. The Age of Enlightenment generated a 'mechanical world-view': the universe seen as 'clock-work', democracy understood as 'checks-and-balances'.

Modern democracies have been hampered from the start: the United States and France had formulated their ideals in three: 'liberty – equality – pursuit of happiness' (USA) 'liberté - égalité – fraternité' (France). Later uprisings followed the same pattern: Poland: Solidarity 1980: 'bread – justice – freedom'; Tunisia/Egypt 2010, Arab Spring: 'bread – justice – freedom'. Yet written constitutions could only cope with two: 'equality/legality and freedom'.

In 2001 John Ralson Saul, Canadian novelist/philosopher published his 'On Equilibrium'. He contrasts the dominant 'linear' thinking with a broad spectrum of 'non-linear' ways of understanding our world: imagination, memory, common sense, intuition, ethics.

The yes/no vote failed those dimensions. Thinking in objects narrows our logic to a line, one direction: opposites exclude each other. Like a narrow one-way street. People are no objects: Subjects think and act for themselves. Life has an uncanny capacity to incorporate oppositions: a stem or trunk mediates between roots and fruits. Head and hand are mediated by the heart.

There is no reason why - in social life - freedom and brotherhood should not be mediated by a legislative equality, a justice which governs both social/economic fairness and cultural/creative freedom.

The 'Enlightenment' was guided by reasoning, not reason: 'analytical' logic, 'Anglo Saxon', as opposed to 'continental' logic, which is 'synthetic' as well. Analytic: research establishes facts by experiments 'a posteriori'

everyday existence in 2023 with the inclusion of documents of daily life, historical statements, newspaper clippings as well as written pieces by members of the community. Other items that could be included are black and white photographs, coins, recipes, ticket stubs and a ballpoint pen. The contents are limited by your own imagination. The capsule will be placed in the refurbished hall when building works are due for completion in March 2024.

We are very grateful to have received monies from the "Community Contribution Fund" to allow this project to happen. The Community Time Capsule will be opened in 2073.

Are you ready to write about life in 2023 or willing to provide a good quality photo to be included?

Contact Natalie Poole
by email – info@trenthamhistoricalsociety.org.au
or send to "Attention Natalie"
TDHS PO Box 52, Trentham 3458.

and formulates laws treated as self-evident 'a priori', e.g. all swans are white!', 'white contains all colours'. For an analytical approach analysing definitions is sufficient to affirm or deny new findings. For a synthetic approach scientific laws present 'composite' (synthetic) claims: part general – part particular, and claim more than empirical evidence supports.

The philosopher David Hume suggested to fill the gap by 'induction', Immanuel Kant ascribed the law's 'generality' to the brain's tendency to turn multiple facts into 'categories': "if we had red eyes, our world would be red".

History is like a broad current in the ocean 'of time, moving from past to future, moved by hopes and ideals. May the creative process that prepared and formulated the referendum text continue until Australia has learned to live up to its home-grown threesome: economic fairness, egalitarian justice and free excellence in culture: sports, education, arts. science and spirit.

Henk Bak
54241702
0427 138 548
henkbak.com
hbak@westnet.com.au

*No peace meditation at the TNC on the days of
Christmas and New Year.
First session: Monday morning 8 January.
Have a meaningful Christmas and a peaceful 2024!
Henk*

TRATA

At the Station

Some of the committee met up with our local State MP, Mary-Anne Thomas to discuss our plans over the coming 12 months, and how she could assist us in making the railway precinct a great success for



the community and visitors. Mary-Anne was very engaged in our discussion and has helped us immensely to understand what grants are suitable and available to us. Whilst there is no guarantee we would automatically receive funding, we have clarity as to where to invest our efforts and time.

The month of November has seen more trees planted in the gardens. It's sad to report that one of our trees was stolen (our security camera covering that area has now been re-adjusted to pick up movement more closely) from the west end of the car park. All our plants and trees are kindly donated or purchased with the limited funds we have!!! A big thank you to Peter Love who purchased some replacement trees to finish off the planting. Working bees continue to weed and prune the area.

The Cool Country Classic Car Club of Trentham had their Show and Shine event at the railway precinct which was an outstanding success. If you want to hold an event within the precinct, please contact us.

We had our first open night on Friday 24th (Trentham Twilight Night) and it was quite successful considering the weather conditions. The kids from the local school got involved with colouring in a station or train, fantastic artwork. A big thank you to the school for supporting us.

The Goods Shed restoration has commenced. When completed we will need to install services (power, water and sewerage) to the site. More fundraising!!! However, it will be a unique venue for the community to use for meetings, kids parties etc. It's the last remaining Goods Shed of its type in Victoria and we need to look after it.

Did you know?

Listed by the Australian Heritage Commission in 1996 as having "aesthetic, historic and social significance", the Trentham railway contains unique and important examples of station and goods buildings. In addition, it holds the best collection of old goods wagons in Australia.

Membership

To continue the preservation and heritage of the Trentham Railway precinct, we are seeking new members. We are a welcoming, not for profit volunteer organisation and all membership fees (\$10) go solely to the upkeep of the railway infrastructure, assets and grounds.

We really would love to hear from you.

Phil Davis
Vice President

trataattrentham@gmail.com

0484 558 333

See us on instagram: [trenthamrailwayprecinct](https://www.instagram.com/trenthamrailwayprecinct)

Celebrate the wonderful

However you celebrate, whoever you're with, may your Christmas be merry, always.

From Community Bank Trentham & Districts

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Lions Club of Trentham

Wellbeing

What does Otis Smith, year 11 student at Sacred Heart College have in common with David Daniels OAM, Chair of Australian Lions Wellbeing Foundation?

They both care deeply for the welfare of people and fervently believe in the power of Wellbeing as a tool for positive change.



Otis is an elite sportsman and the eldest of three siblings. He has personally experienced the power of Wellbeing in his own life - "I think I understand the pressures of growing up as a teenager and I'm passionate about helping others". So, when the role of Wellbeing Captain was advertised for 2024, Otis applied without hesitation and will be part of a team including two qualified counsellors and support of the Principal and Vice Principal.

Otis aims to help create a lasting sense of care for students and encourage them to access help when they need it. Specifically, his focus will be creating awareness and support for issues such as; physical and mental wellbeing, dealing with social media, schooling pressures, parental matters and emotional difficulties such as anxiety and depression.

His three specific goals for 2024 are:

1. Create a stronger connection between senior and junior students thereby facilitating a smoother integration into senior school,

2. Ensure that the annual Wellbeing Week enterprise is interesting, impactful and lasting,
3. Provide a supportive environment for students as they navigate their teenage years.

David Daniels OAM, Chair of the Australian Lions Wellbeing Foundation (ALWF) describes wellbeing as a "resource for healthy living and a positive state of health that includes mental, psychological, social, emotional and spiritual components. It is so vital. It is the foundation from which we all operate as individuals and communities".

David believes key components of wellbeing include -

- Physical wellbeing: taking care of your body through regular exercise, eating nutritious foods, and getting enough rest.
- Mental wellbeing: keeping your mind active and stimulated. This can be achieved through activities such as reading, learning new skills, keeping socially connected and engaging in hobbies that you enjoy.
- Emotional wellbeing: managing and expressing your emotions in a healthy way. It's important to be kind to yourself, practice self-care, and seek support when needed.

David and Lions aim to help create happier, healthier and safer communities. This mirrors the goal of Otis and Sacred Heart College. For more information, visit www.alwf.org.au. If you would like more information about Lions, contact Stan Falloon on 0418555035.

Lion Tony Van Rensburg
Trentham Lions Club



Above: Otis with his young sister Calista who will be graduating from Trentham Primary District School and joining her two brothers, Otis and Valentine at Sacred Heart College in 2024.



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Interior Design

Colours of Christmas

We all look forward to the beginning of December. Shop windows are decorated, enticing us inside to explore their wares. We start seeing Christmas trees of all shapes and sizes: some decorated simply; others are covered with birds and ribbons, shiny baubles and anything that you could put on a tree.

In our family, the Christmas tree always sat in one of the windows of our front room, with curtains open so that passers-by could see the tree lit up at night. Old decorations would be pulled out of their storage boxes, and new glistening ornaments were placed prominently, to be admired.

We always had little fairy lights, strands of coloured globes. We thought the lights looked so beautiful; every year we would debate whether the lights should be set to remain alight, or flicker on and off.

Working in retail, over many years I have decorated many trees. For one of my favourite Christmas windows, we erected a tall white tree, dripping with white fairy lights and shiny red baubles. Our concept was snow, trying to re-create a white Christmas.

Another year, a client wanted a forest of black trees, so we installed a cluster of short and tall trees in the window display. Of course, we had plenty of sparkling lights, and our trees were covered with silvery stars and glass baubles.

The Trentham Garden

Purple Foliage Plants

Inevitably, it's the flowers that get all the 'ooh's and ahh's' in a garden; people are drawn to the delicacy of a rose, or the beautiful form and striking colour of a waratah. However, for a garden with staying power we need to utilize foliage for year-round interest.

Some plants in the wild have naturally purple leaves because of the pigment anthocyanin which absorbs yellow and green light. Although the green pigment chlorophyll is present (otherwise photosynthesis wouldn't occur) the green colour of the leaves is masked. New foliage and seedlings often have purple/red foliage to help protect them from insects, the sun, and from being eaten. The reasons why rainforest understory plants often have purple foliage are more unclear.

I'll often use purple foliage plants in my designs. I usually repeat the colour throughout an area to reinforce the effect and create a sense of cohesiveness. Usually, I prefer plants with a true purple colour rather than a red; I find it an easier colour to work with. Sometimes the effect needs to be balanced with some lighter-foliage plants; particularly if the house has been painted a dark colour.

Some of my favourite purple-leafed plants suitable for Trentham include: 'Lorapetalum' cultivars (best in more

If you've decided to use a single colour for your tree and its decorations, use different size ornaments made of various materials. Some people like a coordinated look, perhaps using one or two colours, and then coordinating the gift wrap and ribbons for the presents placed under the tree.



If you wish to try something different, what about mixing your metals, using silver and gold decorations and baubles all over a green tree? Regardless of the colours you choose for the decorations, your tree will be lifted with the sparkle from strands of lights.

Enjoy your moments decorating the tree and keep in mind it may be seen from many angles, and don't argue too much about whether the lights should stay on, or flicker on and off!

Wishing a safe and merry Christmas to all.

Robert Creedon Interior Design Studio

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Web robertcreodon.studio

Photo credit: House Beautiful



protected spots), Phormium 'Purple Haze', Physocarpus 'Diabolo', Sedum 'Matrona', Cotinus coggygia 'Velvet Cloak' and copper beech Fagus sylvatica atropurpurea, pictured above.

Happy gardening,

Kaz Krasovskis
Landscape Designer
Insta: kazkrasovskis
www.kazkrasovskis.com.au

Rural Australians for Refugees

Vigils for Peace

More than 30 locals from Trentham, Blackwood, Barry's Reef and surrounding communities joined local Vigils for Peace throughout November.



The vigils provide a chance for locals to come together and share their grief at the horrifying situation in Gaza, and to stand in solidarity with all those affected.

Speaking at the first vigil held on November 1, Trentham local and palliative care specialist with experience supporting healthcare in Gaza, Rachel Coghlan, shared heartbreaking WhatsApp messages from Gazan healthcare friends and colleagues on the loss and devastation in Gaza. Their voices can be read in Rachel's poem, *Voices*, published by Women's Agenda with the permission of Gazan healthcare professionals, at the link below. Rachel also read a poem, *It's Also Fine*, by the late Palestinian poet Mourid Barghouti on dying in Palestine.

The Mount Players

The Mount Players Winds Up Another Year!

Our final production for 2023 "Peter Pan - A Musical Adventure" was a resounding success, playing sixteen sell out shows. This production was the epitome of community theatre with almost everyone who put up their hand to be involved being catered for. It has been a wonderful opportunity to showcase the young talent we have in this area. Backed, of course, by our unseen heroes working so hard behind the scenes - our scenic artists, set builders, lighting designers, costume designers and makers plus everyone who helped backstage and front of house. Without their efforts none of this would have been possible. And thank you of course to everyone who attended. We truly appreciate your support.



Mount Players Youth Theatre Showcase

Saturday December 9 at 4pm.

A showcase of the different acting skillsets that have been developed in weekly classes presented to parents/carers and friends of the Mount Players Youth Theatre (MPYT) students. This opportunity provides a platform for students to showcase the progress they have made and celebrate their hard work, dedication and growth as performers. If you or someone you know would like to be involved with The Mount Players Youth Theatre, we invite you to go themountplayers.com for full details on enrolling.

The Mount Players sends out a huge thanks to everyone who came to our shows and of course to our wonderful Sponsors – Bendigo Community Bank Gisborne, Office Barn Gisborne, Bradleys Curtains & Blinds Woodend, Jellis Craig Woodend and Hanging Rock Winery for their ongoing support.

We wish you all a peaceful, safe and happy Christmas season with friends and family.

See you at the theatre in 2024!

The vigils are part of a national month of action being organised by Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR). A national grassroots movement of 70 groups, RAR provides ongoing support to refugee families and communities affected by war. RAR is calling for the Australian Government to advocate with urgency for a permanent ceasefire and humanitarian protection for civilians in Gaza.

Trentham RAR is hosting weekly vigils on Thursday nights, 6pm, at the Rotunda in Trentham. These will continue until a permanent ceasefire is in place.

All welcome. Please contact Peter Daghish 0488041336 or Sandy Watson 0401714880 with any queries.

womensagenda.com.au/latest/last-night-we-died-one-hundred-times-a-poem-sharing-voices-from-gaza-as-communication-went-silent/

poetryinternational.com/en/poets-poems/poems/poem/103-14331_IT-8217-S-ALSO-FINE

St. Mary Magdalen's

Life at St. Mary Magdalen's

November was a busy month at St. Mary Magdalen's Church, starting with the celebration of All Saint's Day (the feast of All Hallows) on the 1st. On the 2nd, we had the feast of All Souls and a vigil to pray for peace in the Holy Land. People came to spend some time in the dense silence and stillness of the church to pray for peace. In the quiet, there was a palpable sense of sorrow for what has occurred and a longing for the suffering to end. Of course, to pray for peace is also to pray for justice, since the two cannot be separated.

On November 15 we held the first Catholic Q and A session. A small group gathered in the chapter room at the rear of the church where questions were asked, and answers were given and discussed. Over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits, the topics ranged from church administration to the origin of evil, and the role of esoteric philosophy. We plan to hold more of these nights in the coming year.

For Catholics, November, when warmth and life slowly return after the winter chill, is a time when we remember and pray for those who have died, believing, as we do, that death is not the end and that it has no power to break the bonds of love which we forge in life. A remembrance book was placed at the rear of the church and each week more names were added to those we were asked to pray for. This book of remembrance was presented to the altar on the last Sunday of the month, the feast of Christ the King, which brings the Church's year to a close.

Deacon Joe

Food for Thought

How Good is a Sausage Sizzle?!

Some of you attended the farewell gathering for Leanda & Elizabeth, the Post Office girls, held at the Quarry Street Reserve, with everyone saying what a delightful, warm and enriching few hours it was.

And it was through the many expressions of gratitude including bouquets of flowers from people's gardens, cards and notes together with acknowledgements from three locals who spoke of their association with Leanda & Elizabeth and their outstanding contribution to the community.

Pivotal to the success of the event was the Sausage Sizzle provided by the Trentham Lions supported by the CFA, cooking great sausages accompanied by spiced onions wrapped in the traditional white fluffy bun. This got me thinking, where did the Sausage Sizzle that is so entrenched in our society, devoured by hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people every year at nearly every community, sporting and social event, as well as in the back yard, come from?

Yes, it is an Aussie thing, along with the Prawn on the Barbie. The humble sausage plays a significant role in Australia's history.

The Plonkers

Where Digby dreams of his own fabulous Fish&Chippery

'The House of the Golden Spud'

Digby sat up in his hospital bed and wondered "Oh Digby, what have you done now...?"

His eyes were sleepy from the medication. Another slip, a nasty fall. "Surely not from too much wine", he mumbled and then fell soundly asleep.

The queue wound its way down High St, up Market and halfway along Albert. The whole town had turned out for Digby's grand gala event. Finally 'The House of the Golden Spud' was opening.

A huge glass potato lit up from within by a golden light rotated above the shop. People were abuzz by the promise of Victoria's finest fish n chips. Would Digby, Trentham's most beloved Plonker*, be able to deliver?

Inside the shop, Digby was double checking the layout. Everything had to be just right. The Duke was in the back peeling spuds and Niles shucking oysters. The long suffering Mrs Digby was ready to go on the fryer and saucy Uncle Worcester on the door.

Digby, himself, was front of house, of course.

Digby knew he had to stock the freshest produce. But he also knew he had to have a point of difference and for that he had had a cunning plan: Wine!

My research tells that throughout World War 11 when prime meat cuts were rationed, the sausage came into its own. Many were filled with scraps of meat, innards and bread fillers, some suggesting sawdust might have been included. The first recorded public sizzle was in 1946, called the 'Full Moon Sizzle' run by the CWA, the Country Women's Association, raising funds for food hungry England.

Afterwards there wasn't much sizzling until it appeared in polling booths in the 1980s when portable barbecues were invented. This became known as the Democracy Sausage as politicians saw knocking back a snag as a good photo shoot and vote catcher.

From then on emergency services, community group and social groups latched on to its fun-raising capacities and Bunnings has seen millions of dollars raised through some 25 years of sizzling.

You could say it is everything Australians want – it's affordable, it's not fussy and is synonymous with good times together. Tomato or chilli sauce, mustard or all three, onion or not... What's not to love about a Sausage Sizzle?

Sylvia Johnson
Food for Thought

He would show the world that red wine (as well as white) indeed does go with fish.

He would show them that Cabernet Franc goes perfectly with Flounder. That Zinfandel and Swordfish are a union of perfection. Monkfish and a Merlot unforgettable.

He checked his stock. Rows of chilled Zig Zag Rose, a mixture of Mataro and Syrah grapes with a little cloudy Riesling would surely be a hit with Duke's shucked oysters.

Niles' thrice cooked local "Blackwood Gold" chips would be a town favourite with the line-caught river bream.

And who wouldn't savour a glass of Passing Clouds spicy Pinot Noir with a fillet of Snapper?

Yes, the House of the Golden Spud would surely be a hit with people flying in from interstate and overseas. Spudman himself delivering Victoria's finest spuds daily.

He would be famous and rich beyond all his dreams. Finally, wine would be making money for him... but... what was that sound?

Digby! Digby?? DIGBY!!!

It was the nurse shaking him from his dream. The pain had returned.

Cheers!

**self assessed*



Local Business Guide

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Spudman's Signoff

Once I was a little spud getting around school.
Known as the agi-Tator, I could be so cruel.
I'd stir things up and poke fun at others, even make them cry.
But now I've peeled the layers back and opened up my eye.
We're really all alike and I regret playing all those pranks.
So, sorry to Desirees, Pontiacs and Russet Burbanks.



Spudman by Peter Young
Oil on Canvas

NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE IN THE REGION WE HAVE YOU COVERED



We are the local team that services Trentham, Daylesford, Clunes, Blackwood and the greater Hepburn Shire region.

Contact your local area experts today on 03 5424 1866.

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