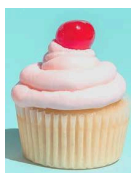




Your Thoughts?



Community Garden



Lyonville Bakeoff



Focus on Gorse



Wrap Up!

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



Council News

Future financial sustainability

At the recent Council meeting, we received reports on our financial position, unpaid rates and charges, and a review of its long-term financial plan. A second phase of the Independent Review in November will examine opportunities for revising the long-term financial plan.

Rates are our primary source of revenue, and fund essential community services and infrastructure. Approximately one-in-8 ratepayers have overdue rates and charges, yet only a quarter of those are on payment plans.

We strongly encourage ratepayers to contact us to discuss suitable payment options. Council does remain solvent and is exploring options to strengthen its position. Community input will be welcomed at key points over the next six months.

Emergency Services expo

See Bluey and her little sister Bingo during their Live Interactive Experience at the Emergency Services Expo.

Jam-packed full of workshops, activities, free food and the chance to see everyone's favourite Heelers – this event isn't one to miss.

Join us on Saturday 7 November from 10 am to 2 pm for a or a fun family day out at Victoria Park, Daylesford.

Don't miss the fun – book now at:

www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/expo26

Free Event. Bookings essential.



Free green waste drop-off

From 1–30 November residents of Hepburn Shire can visit any of the transfer stations for free green waste disposal to help prepare for the fire season.

Things to remember: It is illegal to transport noxious weeds in Victoria and for our transfer stations to accept them. These regulations aim to reduce the spread of noxious weeds.

There are various methods of correct disposal, depending on the season and weed type.

More information at:

www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/transfer-stations

Fire prevention information sessions

We are hosting a series of free online information sessions to discuss fire-aware property management, responsibilities and helpful advice. We live in a high-risk area, so please join us there. Whether you have received a Fire Prevention Notice, own vacant land, or simply want to understand your obligations before summer, this session will provide clear, practical information in plain English.

- Thursday 1 October - 3:30–4:30 pm
- Monday 12 October - 5:30–6:30 pm
- Thursday 29 October - 7:30–8:30 pm

Visit www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/em-events



Your Councillors



Cr Tony Clark



Cr Shirley Cornish



Cr Tim Drylie



Cr Don Henderson



Cr Lesley Hewitt



Cr Pat Hockey



Cr Brian Hood

Learn more at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au, phone (03) 5348 2306 or email shire@hepburn.vic.gov.au

Editorial

Hi Trentham!

Thanks to Trentham Community Action for revisiting our Town Survey four years on (see page 5). It'll be interesting to see what's changed and what's stayed the same as our economic, political, social and environmental climates have evolved. TCA are asking valuable questions, so have your say.

We can't miss one last opportunity to thank the Words in Winter team for their best ever program and event. Admire their wrap up below!

Have a great month,

Regards,
Chris & Penny

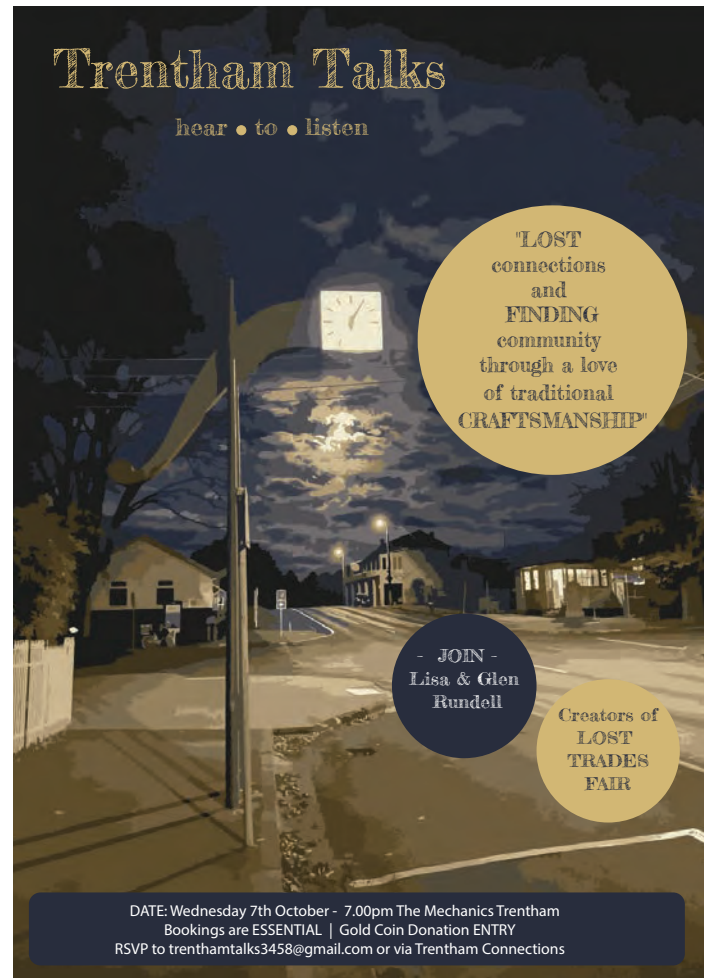


Trentham Words in Winter: 2026

It is with a certain sense of pride that the committee of this year's Words in Winter have 'signed off' on what was a highly successful event. We gauged its popularity by the number of people who attended, a good increase from the previous year, and from the many comments on the depth and variety of the program. And most importantly we were able to cover all expenses that were reduced by the generosity of our major sponsors, Belle Property, Bendigo Bank and Trentham Lions.

One never quite knows what the outcome will be when putting a program together, seeking the balance between the tried and true events along with the new ones. This year through committee member Ken Merrigan six authors visited our little town, presenting a broad range of topics ranging from Dying in the 21st Century, to a Life in Crime to the Delicious stories of a renowned journalist.

We heard much more than Sporting Words from Chris Anstey of the Hotel Trentham; the Trentham Opera House raised the curtain through Gilbert & Sullivan and we also raised the roof of The Mechanics with 90 people Singing For Their Pasta Supper... what a fitting and fun finale night it was.



We heard of fascinating careers from storytellers, wrapped ourselves in romance through Love Letters and learned that Lipstick is a powerful weapon. We thank our entrants for the various competitions from Bush to Contemporary poetry to the highly popular 500 Word Short Story, and we might add that again, Trentham (against severe competition from seven other towns) won the Clever Towns Crossword Competition.

Although we are a small voluntary committee, we draw on the generosity and talent of our amazing locals. From our producers, our brilliant graphic and web designers; to the marketers and promoters, the booking and financial overseers, the musicians, readers and wordmongers – a culmination of hundreds of hours dedicated to the success of the festival.

Trentham Words in Winter is very largely an event for the people of Trentham as it offers a platform for talent, expression and conversation, and by so doing, it enriches the strengths and the diversity of our community. It also adds to the interest in the town as people see the layering of our cultural and community structure.

On behalf of the WIW team, thank you to all who supported us this year; we look forward to hosting and entertaining you again in 2027.

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.*

Advertising Rates <i>(from Feb 2024)</i>	Black & White		Colour	
Width & Height	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
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	\$225	\$1,800
190mm x 265mm (A4)	\$275	\$2,750	\$385	\$3,500

* Local business guide 55mm x 35mm \$225 for 11 issues

What's on!

CWA - Trentham Night Owls

4th Thurs / month

TNC 7pm

cwatrenthamnightowls@gmail.com

Lions Schedule

Business Meeting: 3rd Thurs / month

Dinner Meeting: 1st Thurs / month

Farmers' Market: 3rd Sat / month

Monday Morning Meditation

8.30/9.30am every Monday

TNC

TRATA

Seasonal Market

25 October 10am - 1pm

Trentham Railway Station

Sunday Church Services

St George (Anglican) 9am

St Mary Magdalen (Catholic) 8.30am

Trentham Lions Club

Farmers' Market

17 October 9am-1pm

Trentham Town Square

Trentham Sustainability Group

Farmers' Market Food Swap

17 October 10-11.30am

Trentham Town Square

Trentham Cool Country Men's Shed

Open Wednesday & Saturday mornings

9.30am - 12.30pm

55 Mulchay's Road Trentham

info@coolcountrymensshed.org.au

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

Trentham Dance

2nd Sunday / month

The Mechanics 1pm - 4.30pm

Enquiries Dianna 0418 173 920

Noellene 0428 464 664

TNC

see trenthamnnc.org.au

Trentham Community Table

CWA / TNC / Lions joint initiative

last Friday of each month

TNC 12.30pm

Trentham Bowling Club

Fortnightly Friday Barefoot bowls from mid October to February

In this issue

HSC News	2
Editorial	3
Words in Winter	3
TCA Inc.	5
Community Bank	6
Landcare	7
Community Garden	7
The Mount Players	8
Historical Society	9
Lion's Club	9
Councillor's Report	10 - 11
Trentham Night Owls	11
St Mary's	11
The Trentham Garden	12
St George's	13
At The Cosmo	13
Sustainability Group	14
Interior Design	15
TRATA	17
The Nostalgic Narrator	17
Food for Thought	18
The Plonkers	18
Local Business Guide	19
Spudman's Sign Off	19
Film Society	19

On Our Cover:

Busy Bee

Chris Campbell

Trentham Community Action

Where Were You in 2022?

In 2022, an independent town-wide survey gathered responses from across Trentham, as we emerged from COVID lockdowns and after the 2021 Storm.

It is worth revisiting now because it shows what residents cared about when they were asked about the town on its own terms. Did you respond at the time?

The 2022 survey gives TCA Inc a useful baseline: it shows what residents named most often before the current Council issues became the main focus.

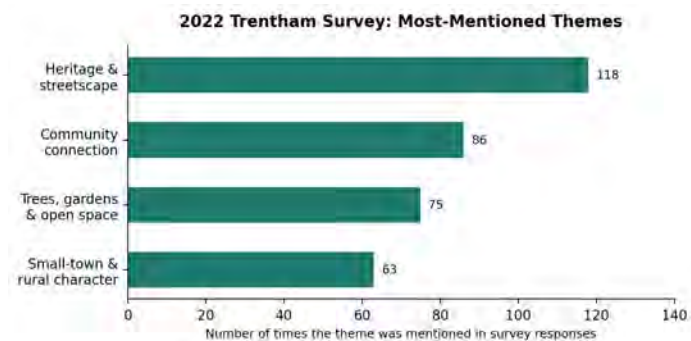


Figure 2: What residents mentioned most often in the 2022 Trentham survey. Source: Trentham Survey, 2022.

Subdivision, battle-axe blocks and infill were the strongest concerns, with 61% of respondents naming them as their top frustration. Closely related themes were Trentham's small-town and rural character, heritage streetscape, trees and open space, and the sense of community connection that comes from a small town. Nearly nine in ten respondents wanted Trentham to stay largely as it looks today, with only carefully controlled growth.

The Council's Draft Structure Plan process for Trentham in 2024 showed how some of these issues could be dealt with. This process is ongoing, so we look forward to another opportunity to reflect on the challenges since then.

Catherine KING MP
Federal Member for Ballarat

📞 03 5338 8123
✉ Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au
📘 CatherineKingMP
📷 Catherine_KingMP

Standing up for our Community!
www.catherineking.com.au
Authorised by Catherine King MP, Australian Labor Party, 5 Lyndard St North, Ballarat VIC 3350



We recently looked at what has brought some newer members to TCA and compared those reasons with the 2022 themes. Character, growth and the natural environment are still front and centre, and they match the 2022 findings closely. Concerns about public space and town amenity, including the Town Square, Bath Street and signage, are also familiar territory, though they are more site specific than the survey data.

Two newer concerns also stand out: emergency and weather preparedness, and Council governance and fair representation for Trentham. Neither featured strongly in 2022. We do not yet know whether that reflects real changes over the past three years, or simply who is drawn to a community group right now. Either way, it is worth asking members rather than assuming the answer.

A question for you

As TCA works on describing its role and purpose more clearly, we would like to hear from members on two connected questions:

- First, do the original 2022 themes still capture what matters most to you about Trentham, or are there issues TCA should be paying more attention to now?
- Second, with the Victorian State election approaching, would you be interested in TCA helping host a meet-the-candidates session so members and residents can hear directly from candidates?

Please send your answers to: trenthamca@gmail.com or talk to one of the Committee when you see them!

And for more news, check out the latest TCA newsletter at: trenthamvic.org.au/news

Trentham
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Our town - Our website
trenthamvic.org.au



Proudly supported by the
Trentham Community Bank, Bendigo Bank and
managed by Trentham Community Action Inc.

COMMUNITY BANK NEWS



Community Bank
Trentham & Districts

Bendigo Bank

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thank you **Trentham District Football Netball Club** for your invitation to sponsor's night, attended by our amazing branch team. Congratulations on the Saints player and club efforts in 2026.



And thank you to the **TNC and CWA** for your invitation to attend the **Women's Wellbeing Day** as community supporter. The day was filled with lovely offerings from local retailers, health professionals and speakers, creating a gentle and fun atmosphere of all things wellbeing!



And look out for summer fun in the form of....



WE'RE HIRING!

Seeking a Customer Service Officer to join our friendly and professional team.

If you value working closely with the community in a fun and supportive team environment, this may be the role for you.

The position is permanent part-time, 3 days per week - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8.45am to 2.30pm (31.5 hours per fortnight).

Please call us for the application link - 5424 1608, or drop in 37b High Street, Trentham.

Applications close on 13 October 2026.



REACH OUT

Banking enquiries call our branch team – 5424 1608.

Grants or company enquiries call Executive Officer, Anjee – 0409 570 330.

Community Bank Trentham & Districts - part of Bendigo Bank

**37b High Street Trentham
5424 1608**

Trentham District Landcare Group

Controlling Woody Weeds- Focus on Gorse

Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) is an introduced erect, woody, rigid, spiny, dense shrub, commonly 1 to 3m high, but can reach 7m tall. It has a woody, deep, and extensive root system. The stems are initially soft, becoming woody and hardening with age. Spines are also produced and both leaves and spines have a waxy coating and may be covered in fine hairs.



As gorse grows, the lower branches die but are retained by the plant so that the lower portions of older plants are covered with dead brown spiny lower branches. Gorse is extremely flammable, whether it's green and living or brown and dead.

Flowers are solitary, bright yellow, and pea-like, 15-20 mm long, growing from the base of leaves, and have a coconut smell. Mature individuals develop approximately 1000 flowers per branch.

Numerous fruits (pods) are produced. Pods are hairy, green while developing, turning dark brown or black when mature, 10 – 20mm long, and 6mm wide. Each pod holds 2 to 6 seeds. Mature plants are capable of producing huge numbers of fruits (pods) and approximately 6000–18,000 fertile seeds are produced annually. The seeds are 3-4mm in diameter, have a hard green or brown seed coat that is water-resistant which allows them to remain dormant in the soil for up to 30 years.

Gorse is a declared noxious weed and landowners are responsible for treating infestations. Treatment of these plants is dependent on the size, access and volume of infestation.

Trentham Community Garden Project

A big thank you to the seventy-four people who completed our survey – with more than 87% of respondents interested in participating.



You told us you want individual and community plots; accessible garden beds and pathways; quiet reflective areas; social spaces for gatherings; and compost systems.

Purposes drawing strongest support were: growing healthy food; learning new skills; connecting with others (highest ranked); supporting access to healthy affordable food; and for the social and wellbeing benefits of a community garden.

The Working Group believes that the people who are going to make the garden happen must be involved from the beginning.

Everyone interested is invited to a 'kick-off' gathering to start moving on garden design and identifying the roles and tasks needed to create a great community space.

Small plants are best treated with the "cut and paint" method. We suggest Vigilant is used in this case as it is easy to use, comes in a gel form with an applicator top and is bright blue so you can identify treated areas. Cut the bush off at ground level and paint the stump within 20 seconds. If possible, do this with 2 people, one to cut and remove the bush and the other to paint.

Larger areas may require spraying. This should be done after flowering, use a mix of Grazon Extra plus a wetting agent. The whole shrub must be covered to ensure the desired outcome.

Would you like assistance on how best to manage gorse on your property?

Trentham Landcare can assist, so send us an email and we can arrange an onsite inspection.

Invitations, with further information, will be sent to survey respondents who gave us their contact details, but for anyone who missed the survey:

**7.00 pm Thursday 8 October
at The Mechanics**

When we're also hoping we will be able to confirm a site for the garden.

Please contact us via Trentham Sustainability Group:
trenthamsustainability@gmail.com

The Mount Players

David Williamson's 'Money and Friends'

Question: If you were financially able, would you lend a friend money to help them out of a life changing crisis?



It's the early 1990's, a time of increased financial tension for many following the crash of '89. In a pretty bay 2 hours drive south of Sydney, Crystal Inlet is a beachside settlement where 3 couples escape from the pressures of city life.

A mixed bag of wealthy, self-centred, social climbers whose moral discomforts bubble to the surface and their fragility exposed when money enters the equation. Thrown into the mix are Peter and Margaret, both university lecturers, close neighbours at the inlet and very good friends. During this particular summer a series of events happened that forced the answer to that very question.

Money and Friends is a sharp, social comedy about loyalty, hypocrisy and the price we put on relationships. This is David Williamson at his best, with his trademark funny dialogue, wry one-liners, and a storyline that remains relevant today.



The season runs from 6 – 22 November. Suitable for audiences 16+. For tickets go to www.themountplayers.com.

We look forward to seeing you at the Mountview Theatre, Macedon.

Karen Hunt
The Mount Players



Categories: •Kids •Decorated Cakes •General Cakes
•Cupcakes & Slices •Tarts & Pies •Special Diaries

DEVONSHIRE TEA & LIGHT LUNCH

Lyonville Bake Off

& cake stall fundraiser

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER • 10:30AM TO 2:30PM

DROP OFF ENTRIES BETWEEN 9-10AM

LYONVILLE HALL, BREMNER AVENUE

Gold Coin Donation per entry

All entries are donated to the Cake Stall after judging

Contact Vicki: vickicj102@gmail.com

Dot: dottifuller@gmail.com

Community event with 100% of proceeds
donated to the Lyonville Hall

DAYLESFORD REPAIR CAFE IS COMING TO TOWN

Broken items fixed incl. electronics,
knives sharpened, sewing repairs.

SUNDAY, OCT 18TH
1:00-4:00 PM
TRENTHAM MECHANICS

Trentham & Districts Historical Society

Drawing a Line Around Trentham

Come and hear Andrew Greet talk about his wonderful sketches of Trentham at the TDHS AGM at 2pm on 15 November at the Trentham Mechanics.

"I started drawing buildings around Trentham a few years ago as a hobby when the weather was warm enough to sit outside on a canvas chair and draw from life. That hobby has grown into something like a grand obsession with about 200 drawings and counting. I started with sheds and spud huts but have moved on to a more varied range of subjects. The drawing of Enders Bridge I found interesting not just for the look of it but also for its very colourful history." Andrew Greet

Afternoon tea will be served following the AGM and Andrew's talk.

TDHS AGM
2pm, Sunday 15th November
The Mechanics, Trentham



Trentham Lion's Club

A career of just over forty years in education does not diminish the energy and joy one continues to feel when visiting a school full of students and teachers interacting with energy and purpose, no matter how chaotic it may seem.

I had the opportunity to visit Trentham Primary School to be part of the audience to watch a live performance. There was a real buzz of excitement that was clearly noticeable among the students. The performance was by Jenny Ellis from Little Wings Puppets, and our students absolutely loved it - warm, funny and engaging. There was genuine engagement. I think the big people may have enjoyed the show just as much as the little people did!



This performance was made possible thanks to the Lions Club's generous support. Regional Arts Victoria also ran a statewide fundraising callout, with their CEO Jo Porter acting as Trentham Primary's Fundraising Champion. I would like to think the Lion's club can continue to help through Regional Arts Victoria bring performing Arts to Trentham Primary school.

John Morrissy
President
Trentham Lion's Club.



Councillor's Report

Council news

Key outcomes from the September Council meeting

- Councillors noted that an independent review of the 10-year long term financial plan (LTFP) is underway. The second part of this review will take a detailed approach to developing fresh key financial sustainability assumptions to underpin a revised Long Term Financial Plan, which will be scheduled to be completed in alignment with the 2027/28 Annual Budget process. First developed in 2024 the LTFP was relied upon when developing the 26/27 budget but many aspects of the LTFP are out of date. The report noted that Hepburn is below average on most metrics in comparison to like councils. The key challenges that Hepburn faces include low levels of cash, lower than average spending on asset renewal and upgrade, high outstanding rate debtors, low revenue levels due to low fees and an operational net surplus below the average for the group. Cashflows are constrained and underlying deficits continue to be incurred and are forecast to continue into the future. If Council is to be financially sustainable costs must be reduced, new revenue streams identified, capital works programs reduced and cashflows improved.
- A report on unpaid rates was noted. I moved a motion that Council brings forward a review of its Revenue Collection and Financial Hardship Policy, which is to be informed by community input, with the objectives of supporting community members who may be experiencing financial hardship and improving cash flows through appropriate payment plans and tailored assistance. The review is in response to the ongoing challenge in collecting rate revenue in a timely manner. Unpaid rates are approaching \$6m at 30 June 2026 and that balance has grown steadily over recent years. With over 1000 residential ratepayers overdue that outstanding balance represents over 20% of Council's annual rate revenue. This is a serious concern from two standpoints. Firstly, some community members must be experiencing genuine financial hardship and, secondly, Council as an organization is impeded in its service delivery and capital works program through constrained cashflows. It is of significant concern that only around 200 of 8100 residential rate-paying properties are benefiting from payment arrangements or provisions of the hardship policy. This creates the extra burden of penalty interest charges and highlights the urgency in reviewing the collection policy and procedures.

I urge any ratepayer experiencing difficulties in paying rates on time to contact Council to discuss an appropriate payment arrangement. That will negate the application of penalty interest charges. And of course you are encouraged to participate in the upcoming review and consultation.
- Councillors received a report providing a comparison of Council's unaudited financial results compared to budget for the 2025/26 financial year. The audit work is underway and it is not expected to cause any material changes to the draft financial statements which have disclosed a number of unfavourable outcomes. In comparison to a budgeted surplus of \$0.5m the actual result is expected to be an underlying deficit of \$3m. Unrestricted cash finished the year at negative \$6m – a very long way from the budgeted positive balance of \$0.4m. Capital works expenditure totalled \$9.7m, well short of the budgeted \$15.4m, with obvious implications for the timely delivery of commitments made in the budget and Council Plan. The single largest item explaining that underspend was the grant-funded road safety program of \$2m but those works are expected to be carried out in 26/27. Cash at June 2026 was \$2.1m less than the assumption underpinning the 26/27 budget's opening position. All of these adverse results accentuate the need for an urgent review of the (recently adopted) 26/27 budget and highlight factors I raised when opposing the budget's adoption.
- Councillors also considered a long list of capital works projects – with an estimated cost of \$6m and associated grant funding of \$3m – proposed to be carried forward into 26/27. I proposed that the list be noted rather than approved at the September meeting and the projects considered as part of the budget review. My motion was lost as no councillor would second it and the list of projects was approved. They will now be added to the 26/27 budget. The list of projects is available on Council's website. It includes three projects related to Daylesford town hall valued at \$749,000.
- A \$336,000 contract was awarded for stage one construction for the Glenlyon Pavilion.
- In a 5-1-1 vote councillors resolved to award a \$412,000 contract for the upgrade of St. Georges Lake Rd. Creswick. Due to tendered prices exceeding budget and the broader shortfall in cash reserves the project will be funded by "drawing down" \$215,000 from the 27/28 Roads to Recovery grant program. One councillor abstained from the vote while I opposed it on numerous grounds. The upgrade project, to seal the road, was considered in isolation. A Shire-wide program of road works is yet to be developed but is said to be completed before the end of this calendar year. Where this project sits in priority, relative to the challenging needs across the whole Shire, is unknown. It was previously ranked as project #25. With only 10 properties adjacent to the planned works and no traffic data provided the project's overall benefit and equity is unknown. I was also uncomfortable with the strategy to draw down on next year's grant funding in the absence of a Shire-wide roads program and the previously mentioned review of this year's budget. To embrace an upgrade project is also a major departure from the restriction to limit capital works to renewal projects only, as articulated in the budget and the ESC submission justifying the rate variation. The suggestion of deferring a decision on this project until the budget review is undertaken and the roads plan developed was refused.

Other Council matters

- At the time of writing there is no update on the timing of road works on Pearsons Rd/Chanters Lane (site of a recent fatality) and safety works at Pearsons Rd/James Lane (Pig & Whistle intersection).

Councillor's Report cont.

The Mechanics Trentham - Bookings can be made here [The Mechanics Trentham Hepburn Shire Council](#). Community groups can and should apply for a fee waiver.

Contacting Council – to report an issue or request work please use the following link on Council's website - [Report an issue Hepburn Shire Council](#). Your request will be directed to the relevant department, you will receive a job number and an update.

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](#)

Upcoming Council meeting dates –

- 27 October
- 24 November
- 15 December

Cr. Brian Hood

email bhood@hepburn.vic.gov.au

ph 0427 797151

Facebook - Cr Brian Hood, Hepburn Shire Council

CWA Night Owls

Celebrating, Sharing and Connecting

It's been another busy few months for the CWA Trentham Night Owls, with plenty to celebrate and some wonderful opportunities to support our local community.



We recently celebrated our second birthday – it's hard to believe the Night Owls have been going for two years already! We marked the occasion at our monthly meeting in the best possible way, with some sparkling and cake. It was a lovely chance to celebrate how far we've come and the friendships we've made along the way.

In August, we got into the spirit of Book Week by gifting a stack of books to Trentham District Primary School. We love being able to support our local school and hopefully there are a few new favourites amongst them for the kids to discover.

Another highlight was collaborating with the Trentham Neighbourhood Centre to host a Women's Wellbeing Day at The Mechanics. The day was a great opportunity to bring local women together, make connections and put the spotlight on wellbeing and community. It was wonderful to see so many women take some time out of their busy lives for themselves!

As we head into our third year, the Night Owls are looking forward to more opportunities to connect, contribute and enjoy being part of our wonderful Trentham community. If you are interested in finding out more about what we do, come and join us at one of our monthly meetings. Fourth Thursday of the month from 7pm at the TNC.

Saint Mary Magdalen's

Musings

Well, spring is now firmly established. Yes, we have cold breaks where the wind seems to come straight from Antarctica, but we also have sunny days where the sun, at last, seems to have some warmth. The hyacinths are a brilliant blue, and the rhododendrons are coming into flower just as the daffodils are beginning to fade. All around town, the young magpies are busy sorting out their social arrangements and their carolling graces our soundscape. Some trees are covered in blossom while others still stretch bare branches to the sky. Spring is a time of transition when what was sleeping begins to wake and when life rises to greet the sun from the bare winter ground.

It is in this time of change and growth that we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. In twelfth century Italy, he found the life of a young noble man superficial and turned away. He found a church asleep and woke it from its empty dreams.

People tend to diminish him, to see him simply as a sentimental animal lover. He wasn't. He was tough and he caused a revolution. His preaching to birds and fish was intended as a rebuke to the people who wouldn't listen, his poverty was a rebuke to the wealth of the powerful, his pacifism a rebuke to those who sought to solve their problems with violence.

Even his love of nature was a rebuke to those who saw the world only in terms of their own power. He saw all of nature, the sun and moon, water and fire, trees and animals, as his brothers and sisters, not as things to be used. His insight was that humanity was not separate from nature but a part of it. Stewards of God's creation, not its owners. It was a message the church needed to hear then. The world needs to hear it now. His message made enemies then. It would make even more now. No wonder people want to sentimentalise him as a simple animal lover. Otherwise, he's dangerous.

Deacon Joe



LAURENT HAIR TRENTHAM Hair Products & Services

TRADING HOURS

Mon - Tue 10-3

Wed - Fri 9-5

Sat 9-3

Sun closed

Evenings by request

Call Bernadette for an appointment

0410 714 567

39 High Street, Trentham

laurenthairtrentham.com.au

The Trentham Garden

Spring Gardening Technique – The Chelsea Chop

One of the more counterintuitive jobs in the spring garden is to take a perfectly healthy perennial, growing enthusiastically after winter, and cut half of it off.

New gardeners can be reluctant to dole out this kind of rough treatment, but a bit of well-timed tough love can lead to healthier, more attractive plants in summer.

Trentham has some of the deepest, richest soils I've encountered while gardening in Australia. This means we can grow a wonderful range of lush perennials that struggle elsewhere. But there can be too much of a good thing. Given plenty of water and nutrients, some plants produce enormous amounts of soft growth, becoming leggy and eventually collapsing under their own weight.

This is where the 'Chelsea Chop' comes in. Named after London's famous Chelsea Flower Show, it involves cutting certain summer-flowering herbaceous perennials back by around one-third to one-half while they are actively growing in spring. Flowering will occur a little later, but you'll get more branching and a shorter, sturdier plant often with more flowering stems.

The Chelsea Flower Show takes place in the northern hemisphere spring, so don't follow the British calendar literally. Here in Trentham, mid-to-late spring is generally the equivalent time to get chopping.

The ideal timing varies from plant to plant, so it's worth doing a little research and experimenting in your own garden to see what works best. You can also chop only some stems, leaving others untouched. The uncut stems will flower first, followed later by those you've clipped, extending the display.



And don't chop everything! Spring-flowering perennials such as peonies should be left alone. Used selectively, the Chelsea Chop is a simple way to turn Trentham's exuberant spring growth into sturdier plants and a longer summer display.

Happy gardening,

Kaz Krasovskis
Garden Designer

Insta kazkrasovskis

www.kazkrasovskis.com.au

Above: Good candidates include Sedums such as 'Autumn Joy' and 'Matrona', Achillea, Echinacea, Asters and Nepeta.

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St George's

News and Reflections

Where's Wilma? She's the little green dragon that lives at St George's. She sneaks around hiding in different places and it's not just the children who delight in trying to see where she is each week.

Or have you been at St George's when Wally, the Mechano dragon, drops-in?

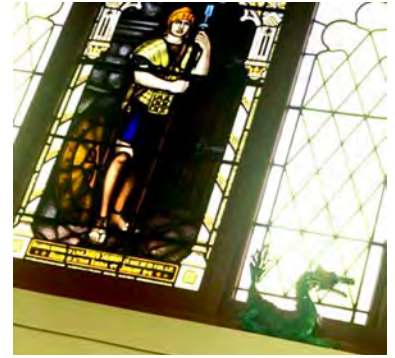


The other place you can see a dragon is at Wawel cathedral in Krakow, Poland (below). The bones of what was a full grown dragon are mounted to the left of the entrance of the church in the castle.

You can look up the story of Saint George, our church's namesake, in Wikipedia. He was a Roman soldier martyr who refused to renounce his faith under Emperor Diocletian and was executed on 23 April 303 AD. Not to be confused with the medieval legend of a brave Christian knight who saves a princess and converts a whole town by defeating a terrifying monster that stole the sheep and the goats.



In the Apocrypha, there is an extension to the book of Daniel about a dragon in Persia worshipped as a god by the Babylonians. Daniel proves to King Cyrus that the dragon is not a true god by killing it. Daniel didn't use a sword; do you know what happened?



But at St George's, we focus more on another saviour, one who was foretold by prophets and recorded in real books with great detail hundreds of years before the event. And the deeds of that saviour have endured for 2000 years. And that is a long time compared to our church building that only turns 100 next year.

Feel free to join us and hear the extraordinary accounts of Jesus' mission at 9am Sundays. And talking of animals, St Francis day in October is usually the blessing of the animals. If you have your pets with you on Saturday 17 October drop by to have them blessed at the Market.



Have you seen Wilma lately?

Stephen Hehir
centralhighlandsanglicans.org
 Mob: 0401 127 132

OCTOBER

AT THE COSMO

OCT 03 SATURDAY 1.30 - 3.30PM FREYA + TOM MCGOWAN <i>FREE event!</i>	OCT 10 SATURDAY 1.30 - 3.30PM BLUE WINDOWS <i>FREE event!</i>	DUAL PERSPECTIVES PAINTINGS BY: AMALCOLM KINGS JILL & MICHELLE RUNNING: 18 AUG - 31 OCT AT THE COSMO TRENTHAM
 Blue Windows KIER STEVENS <i>FREE event!</i>	OCT 17 SATURDAY 3PM - 5PM KIER STEVENS <i>FREE event!</i>	OCT 24 SATURDAY 3PM - 5PM VICTORIANA GAYE <i>FREE event!</i>

FRIDAY NIGHT MEAT RAFFLE

October proceeds go to Trentham Lions Club.

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Venue: The Mechanics, Trentham

Bring: Your sewing / craft project & kit.

Beginners welcome! Arvo tea served.

Enquire: trenthamfashswap@gmail.com

Trentham Sustainability Group

Living with Fire Risk, Together

The warm September has been delightful, but not so much the media about the impending fire season. So, Trentham Sustainability Group (TSG) was happy to bring together local agencies and residents on 17 September to talk about the challenges that come with living with bushfire risk.



Fire agencies shared how data on fire risk is being used in real-time for bushfire management, including scenarios for a fire in the Wombat Forest burning towards Trentham.

The event explored ways for living with the risk of bushfire collectively, and what could that look like from an earth repair, forest restoration and habitat conservation perspective.

The evening was a taster to see if there's opportunity to team up with similar-interest community groups in the area and partner with experts through nature and community-based approaches.



We had a great turnout (about 70 attendees!). In a strong show of hands, attendees signalled keen interest to connect again to discuss the Green Bridges Community Based Bushfire Management (CBBM) program and how environmental groups can collaborate.

The CBBM is a multidisciplinary project designed to contribute to healthy and productive ecological systems and habitat, working across a rural precinct at scale to complement other strategies and risk mitigation methods.

Given the breadth of local knowledge and the importance of volunteers in country regions, the focus on collaborative problem-solving is a welcome change from top-down practices.

TSG will arrange a follow-up meeting with a CBBM facilitator to dive deeply into how we can approach our landscape and habitat with the risk of bushfire in and around Trentham, together. The details will be shared with everyone who registered and attended. If you did not register or attend and wish to receive Living with Fire Risk updates, email us trenthamsustainability@gmail.com

In the meantime, note that Trentham fire brigade is hosting a Get Fire Ready open day at Trentham Fire Station, 25 Market Street, on Saturday, 17 October, 10.00am-2.00pm.

Thanks to all who assisted and showed up on the night, particularly our local CFA!

Sara Pheasant

Trentham Sustainability Group

www.trenthamsustainabilitygroup.com

trenthamsustainability@gmail.com

What's on at TSG this month

Saturday 10 October:
Community Clothing Swap, 1.00-3.00pm; bring up to 8 clean and wearable items - all genders and sizes; at The Mechanics Trentham.

Saturday 17 October:
Produce Exchange, 9.30-11.30am; food swap under the Rotunda at Trentham Farmers Market

Sunday 18 October:
Repair Cafe, 1.00-4.00pm, at The Mechanics Trentham; give your broken items, incl. electronics, blunt knives and clothing, a longer life.

Saturday 31 October:
Crafty People, 1.00-4.00pm: Bring your sewing / craft project & kit. Beginners are welcome! Bookings essential. RSVP trenthamfashswap@gmail.com; at The Mechanics.



Trentham Fashion Swap
Community Clothing Swap

Saturday 10th Oct
1-3:00 pm

- Bring up to 8 clean & wearable items - All genders and sizes.
- Clothing, shoes, hats, bags and accessories!
- Free door raffle and arvo tea.
- No clothing to swap? No problem, come and join in. Gold coin donation appreciated.

Trentham Mechanics
66 High Street, Trentham

trenthamfashswap@gmail.com

Interior Design

Coloured Toilet Paper - Really?!

A recent conversation with a client made me think back to my childhood memories of our home bathroom. In the 1960s, my parents built a basic suburban brick veneer house with a separate bathroom and toilet. In those days, no one really had a second toilet, let alone a second bathroom.

As time and budget allowed, my parents would decorate one room at a time. Our utility rooms were covered in an orange and chocolate paisley wallpaper, with intermittent splashes of coppery gold – what a combination!

One of my distinct childhood memories was of my father going to the local milk bar (remember them?) and returning with a pack of pink toilet paper. There was then a long conversation between my parents about whether the pink toilet paper complemented or clashed with the bathroom aesthetic.

These days, sanitary ware – handbasins, bathtubs, toilets, cisterns, etc. – is almost universally white; so, too, is our toilet paper. Things are looking pretty bland. Have things always been that way?

The ancient Romans used communal latrines with long benches, with open trenches below to collect human waste. A shared loofah was soaked in salted water and vinegar to clean with. Illustrations show that the ancient Greeks used smooth stones or fragments of broken ceramics to wipe with. Wealthy Chinese in the fifth century are recorded using scrap fabric, while throughout Asia fresh water was used to wash up.

In the Western world, before toilet paper became commercially available, people were ever resourceful, using newspaper or recycled paper. As toilets moved indoors and were connected to sewerage or septic systems, paper needed to be thinner and biodegradable, partly to prevent creating blockages in the pipes.

But it hasn't always been so straightforward. The first documented toilet paper in the form we are familiar with was in 1860s America. The Victorians, being ever-shy and having a delicate sensibility about discussing basic bodily functions, marketed toilet paper as 'medicinal-fragrant' and 'impregnated with herbs and vegetable oils' – sounds interesting...



By the 1940s, avocado green and rose-pink sanitary ware was becoming common and toilet paper was produced in complementary colours. Toilet paper manufacturers boasted about the range of colours available, with the added guarantee that their product was 'splinter free' – just as well!

Jumping forward to more recent times, much of our toilet paper is produced from plantation timber; increasingly, recycled toilet paper is also available, with reduced softness and fewer dyes used in its manufacture. Toilet tissue is a commodity that apparently has strong feelings attached to it: recall the shortages and panic buying during the COVID pandemic.

If you look at various online stores, toilet paper can now be purchased in all sorts of colours and patterns. Who know, perhaps pink toilet paper will come back in fashion?!

Robert Creedon Interior Design Studio

Mobile 0488 294 777
Instagram @robert_creodon
Web robertcreodon.studio

Photo credit: [au.shein.com](https://www.au.shein.com)

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TRATA

At the Station

New TRATA and VicTrack Lease

It's taken TRATA three years to get the finer details of our lease with VicTrack settled, but we've finally put ink to our new nine-year agreement. This ensures the station precinct will continue to be an important community hub and asset well into the future. As well as proudly supporting Spudfest, our seasonal markets, and serving as a site for Cool Country Classic Car Club activities, we look forward to facilitating other low-impact community events. We'd love to hear new ideas from the community on how to make the most of it.

The market is back!

Our seasonal monthly markets kick off again on Sunday, October 25, and we invite everyone to come down and join us from around 10 am until 1pm. We're excited to welcome a whole new range of stallholders, so it should be a great turnout. Our volunteers will be running the sausage sizzle, and tickets will be available for the first of our two major raffles, which feature some great prizes. The first raffle will be drawn at our December market. Tickets are only available on market days.

Our markets are what keep the precinct running, and we're so grateful for the support we get from the community and everyone who visits. Every dollar helps us maintain the station and keep it looking its best.

Station Planting

Plants along the industrial fence were stolen a little while ago, which was pretty disappointing to see. However our volunteers have now replanted around 30 native plants in their place. We didn't want what were community donated plants to just disappear – so others are in the ground, alive and visible again.

Phil Davis
Secretary
TRATA

Email: trataattrentham@gmail.com

Facebook: [trataattrentham](https://www.facebook.com/trataattrentham)

Instagram: [trenthamrailwayprecinct](https://www.instagram.com/trenthamrailwayprecinct)

150 Years Ago in Trentham - October 1876

Appeal to the Charitable

Trentham has a long history of supporting members of our community who are in need. An earlier article mentioned the funds raised locally for widow Bridget Gleeson and her six young children, after her husband Michael died in an accident in May 1876.

In October 1876, another fundraising appeal started, to assist widow Margaret Christensen née O'Reilly and her six surviving children; Margaret's husband, Johannes, had died on 30 September 1876, age 37 years:

[An] effort is being made to raise sufficient to purchase a cow or two to enable the poor woman to maintain her family. [Johannes] Christensen was a hard working, industrious man, but his selection being scarcely fitted for more than grazing and as for nine months previous to his decease he was totally unable to work, his family were consequently left in distress.

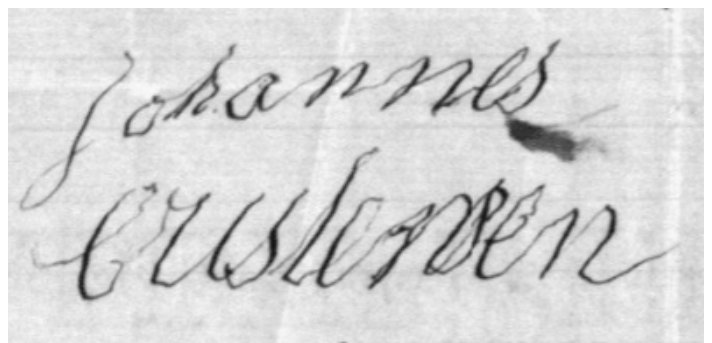
APPEAL TO THE CHARITABLE. — About a month ago a small farmer named Christensen, living upon a poor selection near Christian's mill in Trentham forest, died after a long and painful illness. Councillor Ewing, Mr

Kyneton Guardian, 14 October 1876 page 2

Johannes owned land on the south-west and north-east corners of the intersection of Keyes Road and Dullards Track-Flanagans Road in East Trentham. The assets of Johannes included:

- 40 acres, with 10 acres cleared and under cultivation, bark hut – valued at 80 pounds
- 51 acres, fenced and about 7 acres cleared – valued at 51 pounds
- 2 cows (8 pounds), 1 horse (2 pounds), a half-interest in a plough (3 pounds), 1 dray (1 pound 10 shillings) and furniture (10 shillings).

Johannes had signed his Will the day before he died, with neighbouring farmers Thomas Dullard, John Bourke and James O'Connor witnessing his shaky signature:



(Public Record Office Victoria VPRS 7591/P2 item 15/562)

What happened to the surviving members of this pioneering Trentham family? Jump forward 33 years: Margaret died in Trentham in 1909, age 80, survived by her three sons and three daughters.

The Nostalgic Narrator

Food For Thought

Just a couple of weeks back we were wrapped up in puffer jackets, beanies and scarfs whilst bemoaning the harshness of winter, and at home tucking into casseroles, braises and anything warming, including a glass of red and a log fire.

Then quite suddenly Spring appears; the puffers, scarfs and beanies are dumped to feel the warm air running through our hair, a new vitality comes into our lives through the sways and happy yellow of the daffodils and the perfume of daphne. And in the kitchen a good bunch of trimmed asparagus will be Wok tossed topped with butter and or olive oil and spring herbs.

Last week I cooked an asparagus risotto enriched by a home made chicken stock, zest of lemon, parmesan cheese and finished with a few finely cut slivers of crispy bacon or speck - delicious, and best of all, the use of only one pot!!

Whilst I have always enjoyed cooking, I have to say not so much these days when faced with the washing up of a sink full of pots and pans, then there's the drying and the putting away. So the one pot or the oven bake is certainly becoming more appealing. I know there are air-fryers, and of course microwaves, but they do not appeal to me in being the hands on cook that I am. Their cooking process

The Plonkers

This month our Plonkers got dressed up in their finest to dine out at du Fermier. What a sight they made crossing the High Street dressed to the nines. Coffee lovers across the road at The General paused for a second look. The consensus though, was that they made a fine sight.

The four-course set menu came with a matching wines option which, all but the sometimes-saucy Uncle Worcester, voted to have.

With Champagne to start, the mood was very lively for a Monday, but then, in case you weren't sure, our Plonkers are all retired: every day is Saturday to them.

Niles, always one to educate his friends on the finer points of dining out, explained that Annie sources her ingredients locally, often from her own farm and defines her menu as traditional French Farmhouse cooking.

"Well, my Grandpa had a dairy farm up north and he never ate this good", Digby was heard to mutter as the first course was placed before him.

The room fell silent as the roasted shallot tarte tartin with Meredith goats curd was slowly devoured.

"Earthy, yet subtly sweet, how divine", said Daphne.

The second course of a Kohlrabi, turnip and cabbage slaw with smoked Victorian river trout and mustard dressing was brought out to the table by their busy waitress Katie. A Bindi Chardonnay (from nearby Gisborne) accompanied it. "I wonder dear", asked Uncle Worcester, "Did Annie catch this trout herself?" "Well, I can't be sure, the season has just opened, but she knows all the rivers around here, so I wouldn't be surprised."

denies any contact; no stirring or mixing, no watching the ingredients come together, no tasting to know what other flavours the dish might need, and the loss of the aromas that tease your eagerness to eat.

Thus the wok is a brilliant cooking utensil, and for those that have an induction and or electric stove, buy yourself an electric wok, not a skillet, as with the Wok the electric coils curl all the way around the bowl, rather than just sitting at the bottom.

Asparagus is a great vegetable for Wok cooking; along with a little vegetable oil, perhaps a smidgen of garlic, a squeeze of lemon juice salt & ground pepper. It marries well with an Aioli and can take a dash of light soy. The same process will work in a saucepan, but make sure you do not allow the asparagus to sweat and therefore lose its gentle crunch and sweetness.

And where to buy the best asparagus which should have thickish stems rather than the skinny ones of little flavour - Tonna's in Daylesford, a fabulous greengrocer plus store. Enjoy!

Sylvia
Trentham Food for Thought Group

Much conversation ensued particularly over the local and French wines that managed to match the food perfectly.

By the time the main course was served Daphne and the long-suffering Mrs. Digby were feeling quite full. A cassoulet of confit duck, Toulouse sausages, cured pork belly and beans with purple sprouting broccoli. "Now that's quite a sight indeed, I'll never finish it", "Never fear, Digby is here to help", chimed in Digby licking his lips and swirling his Pinot.

"These sausages are the duck's guts!" The words splurged from Digby's mouth even as he ate. Niles was not pleased; "Hey, Toulouse sausages are made from pigs belly not duck's guts. Annie told me in the kitchen that she just finished grinding up the meat as we crossed the road earlier." "Well, I can't believe how delicious they are, I think I rate them over the duck, which is a first."

Whilst the boys mopped up every last drop of the cassoulet with Annie's crusty bread the women sensibly left room for dessert; a generously proportioned chilled lemon soufflé with toasted almonds.

Annie, keen to learn how our Plonkers enjoyed her cooking, came out and had a chat. Satisfied her culinary gastronomic talents had been fully appreciated she returned to the kitchen leaving Katie to see them all out. Never one to miss an opportunity she let them all know of her new wine bar by the lake in Daylesford, the Leggatt St Wine Bar. "Do be sure to book and visit us", she said.

Digby, the last to leave turned and said; "By the lake you say? There's brown and rainbow trout in there; I'll be sure to bring my rod".

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3
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