

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

Our thanks to: Amanda Marx | Andrew Greet | Andy Robertson | Anjee Anderson | Annie Adams | Australian Sky and Weather | Barfly Bob | Belle Property | Blackwood Easter Carnival | Casey Beverley | Catherine King, MP | Catherine Laurent | Central Highlands Rural Health | Charles Sherlock | Chris Campbell | Clement Mooney | Clyve Herbert | Community Bank Trentham & Districts | Cool Country Classics Trentham | Cool Country Men's Shed | Corrine Gurry | Country Women's Association of Victoria | Cr Brian Hood | Cr Lesley Hewitt | David Evans | Dawn Bamforth | Deacon Joseph Leach | Digby Plonker | Elizabeth Toomey | Fay Magee | Food for Thought | Future Hepburn | Gayle Cykner | Glenda Holmes | Harkin Real Estate | Henk Bak | Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife | Hepburn Shire Council | Ian MacBean | International Women's Day | Jane Herbert | Jill Rivers | Joe Bonnici | John McLaren | Josh Nicholas | Karlana Santamaria | Kasie Watson | Kathryn Kosloff | Kaz Krasovskis | Kelly Griffiths | Ken Byrne Electrician | KGMG Creative | Kit Manning | Kyneton Croquet Club | Kyneton RSL | Kyneton Shoes | Langley McKimmie | Laurent Hair | Life Activities Club Inc. | Lisa Caines | Little Gallery | Lynne Farrell | Lyonville Woodchop | Macedon Ranges Family Law | Margot Burrows | Maria Abate | Michael Johnson | Mountain View Contracting | Nat Davis | Natalie Gretton | Natalie Poole | Niles Plonker | Outside Concepts | Penny James | Peta Sherlock | Peter Parsons | Phil Davis | Quarry Street Reserve | Rachel O'Donnell | Robert Creedon | Robert Wooler | Ross Urquhart | Rotallieo | Rude Health | Sally Young | Sandy Scheltema | Seana Mounsey | Six Word Story | Springs Medical | Spudman | St George's | St Mary Magdalen's | Stan Falloon | Sue Worthington | Susan Marryatt | Sylvia Johnson | t2zero | Tamara Ryan | The Collaborators | The Cosmopolitan Hotel | The Duke | The Great Trentham Spudfest | The Green Store | The Mount Players | The Plonkers | The Real Gardens of Lyonville | Tony van Rensburg | Trentham & Districts Historical Society | Trentham Biggest Morning Tea | Trentham Bowling Club | Trentham CFA | Trentham City Medical Centre | Trentham Community Action Inc. | Trentham Community Forum | Trentham Cricket Club | Trentham Dance | Trentham Diesel & Mowers | Trentham District Landcare Group | Trentham District Primary School | Trentham Easter Art and Craft Show | Trentham Fashion Swap | Trentham Film Society | Trentham Golf Club | Trentham Lions Club | Trentham Neighbourhood Centre | Trentham Public Reserves | Trentham Saints | Trentham Sustainability Group | Trentham Twilight Night | Two Diggers Contracting | Uncle Worcester | Vic Market Trentham | Vicki Steggall | Victoria State Government | Vincent Jenden Design | Winterfest | Wombat Forest Wines | Wombat Forestcare Inc. | Words in Winter |

Council news

MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS



Congratulations to Cr Don Henderson for being elected Mayor and Cr Lesley Hewitt Deputy Mayor for the first year of the new Council term. The election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor took place at a Statutory Meeting of Council this week. We wish Cr Henderson and Cr Hewitt well in their new roles. Don Henderson, Brian Hood, Lesley Hewitt, Tony Clark, Tim Drylie, Pat Hockey and Shirley Cornish were sworn in as Councillors on 14 November in front of the CEO, Bradley Thomas, friends and family, and Council staff.

Over the next couple of months, Councillors will be taken through the induction program.

Top image (Left to right) - Cr Don Henderson, Cr Brian Hood, Cr Lesley Hewitt, Cr Tim Drylie, Cr Tony Clark with Timmy, Cr Shirley Cornish and Cr Pat Hockey

ROAD RESEAL SEASON



The arrival of better weather means more opportunity to improve our roads. We are kicking off the reseal season by stabilising patching on selected roads. As part of our \$450,000 contract awarded in September, our contractor has started work in Creswick.

Stabilised patching helps enhance road pavements using cement or other additives. We will also be resealing selected roads over the summer to make them better. Our patching program will focus on preparing roads for resealing before we

tackle other areas in the Shire. Please keep our contractors safe by following all traffic signs.

POOL SEASON ALMOST HERE



We are looking forward to the upcoming pool season. FREE entry is back!

Council is making a few changes to our aquatics operations this season (from 7 December 2024 to 10 March 2025), including a slight reduction to pool opening times. We've made these changes based on our analysis of past usage and running more efficiently.

Council has also been working on pool improvements, with over \$320,000 invested in pool repair works prior to opening this season. This work includes leak remediation at all outdoor pools; painting of Clunes, Daylesford and Trentham outdoor pools; installation of a new backwash and pool operation system at Calembeen Park Toddler Pool; and compliance works at all aquatic facilities.

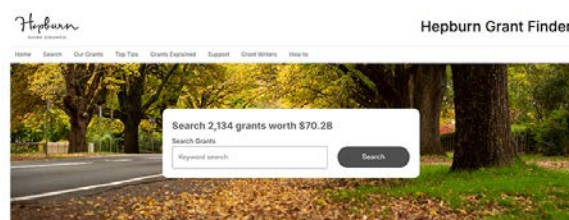
Read about the changes on our website. To see the revised hours and for updates during the pool season about unexpected closures, visit www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/pools

FIRE DANGER PERIOD DECLARED

Important information - The Fire Danger Period began on Monday 25 November 2024 for Hepburn Shire. The Fire Danger Period is when the CFA restricts the use of fire in the community. This is to help prevent fires from starting. The CFA declares the Fire Danger Period for each municipality (shire or council) at different times in the lead up to the fire season. Make sure you know what you can and can't do during the Fire Danger Period.

Visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/can

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES



Attention local businesses and community groups...introducing the Hepburn Grant Finder! This is your go-to tool for discovering grants and funding opportunities tailored just for you. This custom search tool hand-picks grants specifically for our region, making it easier to find the support you need.

Ready to explore your options? Visit the Hepburn Grant Finder website at <https://grantguru.com/au/hepburnshire>

COUNCIL PLAN FOCUS AREAS



A resilient, sustainable and protected environment



A healthy, supported, and empowered community



Embracing our past and planning for the future



Diverse economy and opportunities



A dynamic and responsive council

The Council Plan 2021-2025 describes how Council will strive towards our vision, where to focus efforts, and how to measure progress. Each Focus Area has a series of priority statements, with actions against each item.

Editorial

Hi Trentham!

Well, that's another year of Trumpets done!

It's only because of our stellar support crew of contributors, advertisers and subscribers that the Trumpet rolls on every month. Thank you all, we're super grateful. Our apologies to anyone we've left off the cover.

Twilight Night was another fabulous success, we loved it! Picture perfect weather, just right for wandering through our town which was looking beautifully festive.

Thanks to Belle Property Trentham and Daylesford Macedon Tourism for their sponsorship and support of this event, but an extra special thanks to the fabulously creative folk at The Green Store. If you didn't make it down Market Street to visit them on the night, make sure you pop by before Christmas: they are stocked to the brim with sustainable functional and beautiful things that make great gifts for everyone on your list! Win, win win!

Lastly, thank you Trentham for entrusting us with the Trumpet, we have a ball pulling it together. We'll be back in late January with the February edition.

Regards,
Chris and Penny



The Green Store

Australian Made
Home Goods, Cards & Gifts
Ethical and Fair Trade Wares
Sustainable Natural Cleaning
Pure Skincare

OPEN DAILY
12 Market St Trentham
thegreenstore.com.au

Christmas SERVICES IN TRENTHAM 2024

Sunday 22 December, 7.00pm
Ecumenical Carol Service

St George's, High Street
followed by supper.

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



St George's Anglican Church (High Street):
Christmas Day, Wednesday 25 December 9.00am

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Church (Bridge Street):
Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December 10.00pm
Christmas Day, Wednesday 25 December 8.30am
(both services preceded by carol singing)

St Malachy's Catholic Church Blackwood
Thursday, December 26 (Feast of Stephen) 10.00am



OPENING HOURS
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS

DATE	DAYLESFORD	TRENTHAM	KYNETON
MON 23 DEC	8.30am-5:30pm	8.45am-5pm	8.30am-5:30pm
TUES 24 DEC	8.30am-4:30pm	8.45am-4:30pm	8.30am-4:30pm
WED 25 DEC	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
THU 26 DEC	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
FRI 27 DEC	8.30am-5:30pm	CLOSED	8.30am-5:30pm
SAT 28 DEC	9am-1pm	CLOSED	9am-1pm
SUN 29 DEC	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
MON 30 DEC	8.30am-5:30pm	8.45am-5pm	8.30am-5:30pm
TUES 31 DEC	8.30am-4:30pm	8.45am-4:30pm	8.30am-4:30pm
WED 1 JAN	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
THU 2 JAN	8.30am-5:30pm	8.30am-5pm	8.30am-5:30pm

If you have an urgent, non-life-threatening health concern after hours, call the After Hours GP Helpline 1800 022 222

In an emergency always call 000

Daylesford
10 Hospital Street
tel: (03) 5348 2227

Kyneton
89 Piper Street
tel: (03) 5422 1298

Trentham
22 Victoria Street
tel: (03) 5424 1602

Book online with AMS

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 <small>(from Feb 2022)</small>	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	\$180	\$1,800
190mm x 265mm (A4)	\$275	\$2,750	\$350	\$3,500

What's on!

CWA - Trentham Night Owls

4th Thurs / month
TNC 7pm
cwatrenthamnighowls@gmail.com

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

Trentham Lions Club

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

Trentham Sustainability Group

Farmers' Market Food Swap
21 December 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@coolcountrysmensshed.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

Knitters, Stitchers, Sewers Craft Group
10am every Friday
Trentham Bowling Club, Park Street,

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

TNC

see trenthamnc.org.au

Community Groups Listing

thetrenthamtrumpet.com.au/our-community

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On Our Cover:

Thank you,
thank you,
thank you

to our contributors & supporters
for making the magic happen.

We couldn't do it without you

Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife with Wombat Forestcare

Book Launch!

It was a great event, The Mechanics Trentham hosting a celebration of the publication of a guide entitled **Native Screening shrubs & trees in the Hepburn Shire**.

Co-ordinated by the local chapter of Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife with assistance from Wombat Forestcare, over 130 people attended the event.

Special guest was Millie Ross from Gardening Australia who gave an impassioned plea not to judge anyone's garden choices, except to avoid planting known environmental weeds such as Holly.

There are so many alternatives as demonstrated in the new booklet enabling you to choose a range of species that will provide shelter from wind, screen the neighbours and provide food and habitat for local fauna. The booklet has been produced with a Biodiversity Grant from the Shire of Hepburn. Local indigenous nurseryman Jeremy Neal wrote the plant descriptions and provided many of the photographs. In addition, many hours of volunteer time went into getting the document to print.

The booklet is a companion to **Grow Wild – Gardening to sustain wildlife in the Hepburn Shire** which describes a wide range of locally indigenous groundcovers, shrubs and trees and includes valuable information on creating habitat in your garden.

Connectivity was a strong message from a workshop with Tully Sumner from GrowLocals nursery demonstrating revegetation projects he has worked on, highlighting the real impact landholders can make by strategically linking



their screen plantings with neighbouring properties and remnant forest on public and private land.

Many birds and animals are not commonly found in paddocks preferring to keep to shrubs and tall grasses for protection.

The new booklet will be available from Council hubs, libraries and Neighbourhood Centres in the Shire of Hepburn.

Grow Wild – Gardening to sustain wildlife in the Hepburn Shire is available for purchase from Trentham Post Office and Paradise Books in Daylesford.

For further information contact: trenthamg4w@gmail.com

Above, left to right: Jill Teschendorff, Gayle Osborne, Jeremy Neal, Millie Ross



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39 High Street, Trentham
laurenthairtrentham.com.au

Catherine KING MP
Federal Member for Ballarat

☎ 03 5338 8123

✉ Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au

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Weeds and the Wombat

Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly Restoration Project

A project focused on helping a local butterfly could help the Wombat Forest through its wide-ranging impact on weeds and on community awareness about weeds.

The Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly Restoration is a three-year project to restore habitat of a wetland-loving butterfly in the upper Coliban. The Healthy Coliban Catchment Project has funded HSC to conduct on-ground habitat works in partnership with three community groups in Trentham.

In recent years, the Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly (BEBB, or *Heteronympha cordace* ssp. *cordace*) has emerged as a flagship species for ecological restoration. BEBB populations have been observed to recolonize recovering Sedgy Riparian Woodland habitats following removal of high threat 'transformer weeds' such as Willow and Blackberry. This response has been observed following two Council-led projects on Wombat Creek in Daylesford and two Community-led projects in Trentham.

The butterfly is a cheerful sign of environmental recovery and endorsement of the hard work of volunteer groups and agencies. For the wider community, the butterfly story brings alive the promise of restoration, especially during the challenging stages of drastic landscape change, machinery and herbicide use.

Under this project, the Shire has already overseen willow and blackberry removal on Trent Creek at Chinese Spring near the centre of Trentham. This also included removal of environmental weeds of garden origin including Silver Birch, Cherry Laurel, Portuguese Laurel, Holly and

Pittosporum tenuifolium (Kōhūhū in New Zealand but more familiar by its cultivar names including 'James Stirling', 'Silver Sheen' and 'Screenmaster'). A large infestation of English Ivy will be targeted by skilled contractors in coming months. Project signage, social media and events will be opportunities to raise awareness about garden environmental weeds, treatment options and inspire action by local gardeners to replace the worst offenders.

Three community restoration projects will be supported in the final 2 years of the project at sites with populations of the Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly:

- Quarry Street Reserve Committee of Management will restore butterfly habitat to sections of Stony Creek currently dominated by the serious emerging weed, Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*), Trentham is the only location currently recorded in Victoria for this rampant rhizomatous rush.
- Friends of Trentham Creeks and Reserves will target a sedgy medium-quality remnant, removing common wetland weed species such as Yorkshire Fog and Creeping Buttercup in a site overlooked by Trentham's new community hub- 'The Mechanics'
- Similarly, the Trentham and District Landcare group will focus on a floodplain site on the Coliban River, incorporating assisted natural regeneration, direct sowing and planting. The group will also target a stand of Black Elderberry- another bird dispersed weed species often fostered in gardens.

The Shire will follow up weed control, support natural regeneration and revegetate where needed at Chinese Spring and Domino trail, focusing on its creek crossings.

Invasive plants in public space and gardens pose an ongoing threat to surrounding bushland. Through this project, the Hepburn Shire, the Healthy Coliban partners and local volunteers hope to build on the growing culture of environmental stewardship among the neighbours of the Wombat Forest. See news of working bees and ways to get involved in this project on the socials and websites of the Hepburn Shire and the three Community groups.

*The widespread subspecies of Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly is not threatened but is vulnerable to local extinction due to its reliance on wetland habitats, high-altitude distribution and poor dispersal ability. Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly caterpillars feed only on Tall Sedge, *Carex appressa*, a common wetland plant. It is shaded out by woody weeds but is capable of rapid recovery following weed control. Adult butterflies require nectar during their brief flight period in December and January - with Prickly tea-tree *Leptospermum continentale* noted as particularly valuable. Recovering populations have been observed to rely on nectar of weeds like Bird's Foot trefoil and Creeping Buttercup, so reintroduction of Prickly tea-tree is important to allow for later stages of restoration where these plants are replaced by natives. The Healthy Coliban Catchment project is led by a partnership of North Central Catchment Management Authority, Djaara and Coliban Water.*

Brian Bainbridge, HSC Biodiversity Officer
Trentham and District Landcare
Quarry Street Reserve Committee of Management
The Friends of Trentham Creeks and Reserves group







Invite you to the launch of the

Bright-Eyed Brown Butterfly Restoration Project



Hepburn Shire Council, the Healthy Coliban Catchment partnership and local environment groups invite you to an event to celebrate the next stage of a three-year project to restore habitat of the Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly along the upper Coliban River in Trentham.

Activities include a Welcome to Country, children's water-watch activity, walk and talks and displays. Free Morning tea provided.

Date: Saturday 14 December 2024

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (UTC+11)

Location: The Mechanics, 66 High Street, Trentham Victoria 3458

Booking: Places are limited, so if you're interested please register at <https://www.trybooking.com/CXIKR>, or use QR code or

Contact Brian Bainbridge
 P 0437 048 648
 E: bbainbridge@hepburn.vic.gov.au



The Mount Players

Auditions, Shows & More at The Mountview Theatre, Macedon

The Mount Players are putting on the stage version of the acclaimed book and movie 'The Girl on the Train', a high intensity, psychological thriller that will have you on the edge of your seat. The show will be staged 9 – 25 May, 2025.

If you would like to be a part of the show whether on stage, back stage crew, costumes, lights, sound etc, please reach out to us. Auditions will be held Sat. 7 Dec. & Sun. 8 Dec. To register your interest, obtain a copy of the script and to book an audition time contact Frank Harvey on 0447 199 665.

Our first production for 2025 is the classic Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. Already in full rehearsal this well-loved comedy will run from 21 February - 9 March.

2024 has seen our Youth Theatre growing into a fun and creative space and they will wind up the year with their own Youth Theatre Showcase. Go to www.themountplayers.com for full details on their show, auditions and our 2025 season.



The Mount Players would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has attended our shows in 2024. Without you we wouldn't have a theatre. We also thank our sponsors, Officebarn Gisborne, The Bendigo Community Bank Gisborne, Bradleys Curtains and Blinds, Jellis Craig Woodend and Hanging Rock Winery for their wonderful support.

The Mount Players wish you all a safe, happy Christmas and we look forward to putting on more shows and seeing you in our beautiful theatre in 2025.

Karen Hunt

News and Reflections from St George's

7pm Sunday 22 December Combined Churches' Carol Service St George's Church

This year it is St George's turn to host the annual joint churches' Carol service. You are very welcome to come and celebrate with us. We retell the first Christmas through Bible readings and carols like Silent Night, Hark the herald angels sing, and O little town of Bethlehem.

Last year the Christian churches of the real Bethlehem decided not to celebrate Christmas because in 2023 the war toll was already up to 17,000. With 30,000 more deaths in 2024, they will not celebrate with the usual gusto this year either. For those with their eye on the dollar, this anti-tourism choice could be debilitating for the whole city.

Many Palestinians are Christians with ancient ties to the Holy Land. The Anglican cathedral in Jerusalem and its bishop are Palestinian. At Easter worldwide Anglicans give offerings to this cathedral. Many of the hospitals of Gaza were set up by churches.

Thinking through the story of the first Christmas, there was actually not much to rejoice about. Joseph was forced by the Roman overlords, and village gossip, to take his very pregnant fiancée on a long trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the Census. Who knows if they actually had a donkey or just walked? Mary gave birth in a cowshed. Who knows if the local midwife was there in time to help? Some shepherds came carousing into town and claimed to have seen angels. Then the so-called wise men arrived having tipped off King Herod who killed all the baby boys in Bethlehem. In our region we have had a little tiff about the Melbourne Myer windows which oddly celebrate meerkats and the Irwin family.

We do wish you a happy and mindful Christmas.

Musings from St Mary Magdalen's

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. So, there are now names written on the cloth that covers our altar, names of those we do not wish to be forgotten.

November is also the last month of the Church's year, which comes to a close on the last Sunday of the month, the feast of Christ the King. These two things are connected. Just as our life will come to its end, so will everything else: planets, stars, galaxies, even the universe itself. Scientists call this entropy, or the second law of thermodynamics. St Paul calls it creation's 'bondage to decay'. The thing is, just as we believe that death is an entry into new life, so we believe that there will be a new world when Christ comes as king to liberate the universe from this bondage.

The end is followed by the beginning. Of course it is.

December is the first month of our year. So, as the rest of the world hurries to a festive end of its year, the church prepares to remember a beginning, the first coming of Christ the king. Not as a great cosmic liberator, but as a baby, born in a stable, in a small town, in a backwater province on the edge of the Roman Empire. We carol songs of joy as we remember when our king first came, even as we wait expectantly for him to come again.

For all of you who have been away from the church for a while, for whatever reason, Christmas is a great time to come back home. You will be welcomed with open arms.

Deacon Joe

Trentham Sustainability Group

Planetary Boundaries

Let us cut to the chase. There are nine planetary boundaries, basically systems and processes that contribute to the stability of the planet's life-support functions. Thresholds beyond which the systems can no longer properly function have already been breached in six and scientists believe we are about to breach the seventh.

The nine planetary boundaries are: climate change, biosphere integrity (functional and genetic), land-system change, freshwater use, biogeochemical flows (nitrogen and phosphorus), ocean acidification, atmospheric aerosol pollution, stratospheric ozone depletion and release of novel chemicals (including heavy metals, radioactive materials, plastics, and more).

Scientists have studied human activities that exploit and alter each of these processes, to assess if or when the global system will pass a tipping point – a threshold beyond which we risk sending Mother Earth spiralling into a state that hasn't been experienced during the past 12,000 years, bringing extreme change that could crash civilization and endanger humanity. So, we have passed six, which we did in 2023 and are very close to seven.

So, what can be done? Consume less.

If the world's top 20 per cent of consumers shifted their consumption habits toward more sustainable patterns found within their group, they could reduce their environmental impact by 25 to 53 per cent. Changing consumption patterns in just the food and services sectors could help bring critical planetary boundaries back within safe limits. If a diet with less red meat and more legumes and nuts was adopted by the richest part of the world, food-driven emissions would fall by 17 per cent, even when the inhabitants of poorer nations increase their meat consumption. The breaches are not permanent if we are prepared to change.

Trentham Community Action Inc

November Meeting

TCA Inc is now officially formed to take on the 'town committee' role previously held by the Trentham Community FORUM, which ceased activity over the Covid period.

The purpose of Trentham Community Action is to work to build a stronger and more resilient future for the town and district through active representation, advocacy and collaboration.

There are now almost 60 members after two successful public meetings. A Committee was elected and two resolutions passed by the members present on 13 November.

The first resolution is to approach Cool Country Community Enterprises for financial support. This is integral to the second one which is to start work on developing a 'town



Sadly, most governments subsidize bad behaviour. For example, subsidies for fossil fuels globally are overcompensating for the mitigation effect that we achieve through carbon pricing such as carbon taxes and carbon trading schemes. Which brings us to...

COP 29

Obviously, this is the 29th Conference of Parties (COP). I think it safe to say that previous COP's have not been a resounding success. The main target of COP for the past decade has been keep global warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. The United Nations has concluded that the world is on track to warm roughly 3.1C before the end of the century if nothing changes.

There it is again... if nothing changes... so are we prepared to change?

We only have to look over the border into South Australia to see that positive change is possible. A wonderful article on energy renewal can be read here:

reneweconomy.com.au/from-zero-to-100-pct-renewables-in-just-20-years-south-australias-remarkable-energy-transition/

Membership

If you would like to become a member, please go to our website trenthamsustainabilitygroup.com Perhaps you could share your ideas about climate change and other issues.

For more information please email: trenthamsustainability@gmail.com

STOP PRESS!!

TSG has been successful in obtaining a \$15,000 Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal grant to facilitate a series of community workshops on their Energy Resilient Trentham project. These will be undertaken in March - April 2025 and will contribute to the development of the Business Case for the microgrid project.

website', something which previously existed with the Forum.

This is all basic to the community having a vehicle for "a voice". Members' application forms have revealed a substantial list of priorities for action, to be explored and then presented for discussion and decision by the members.

Further details will follow early in 2025.

Meanwhile, it's time to join in and join up! Membership forms are available at the Post Office and the Neighbourhood Centre and can be handed in at the PO.

Fay Magee
Chair
trenthamca@gmail.com

Community Bank Trentham & Districts

Santa's Early Delivery!

The Trentham Railway and Tramways Association (TRATA) woke up to a much needed spring delivery from Santa! A brand new zero turn beast to get the job done in way less time and effort than its ancient predecessor. Volunteers at TRATA can now say goodbye to physio appointments and endless trips to the repairer, and instead happily zoom around in no time, keeping the grounds clean and clear for it's many visitors and recently resumed weekend Markets.

Proudly funded by Community Bank Trentham & Districts, what a great example of how banking with us feeds back into the community!

We wish to extend our best wishes and thanks to all we have worked with in the community this year and indeed to all the wonderful residents of Trentham & surrounds.

A community bank is an amazing thing to be a part of. This financial year our branch has funded local community group grants and sponsorships to the tune of just over \$60,000.

And all up, from the birth of the branch 13 years ago, there has been almost \$354,000 reinvested into the local community through grants and sponsorships.



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The Trentham Garden

Pot displays

Often, landscape design is about getting the overall structures of a garden working optimally: blocking unwanted views and enhancing desirable ones, creating a nice mix of sun and shade, working with movement patterns throughout the garden and designing appealing spaces for entertaining etc.

However, there is also room for embellishment, decoration and adding interest... this is where pot displays can come in; to add a bit of colour and fun in a key area.

Selection of pots is key in Trentham; porous materials such as cheaper terracotta will unfortunately crack in our cold Trentham winters. A transparent, waterproof sealant can be used but the application takes more time than you would think and should ideally be done on a yearly basis; nobody has time for that!

In general, I subscribe to the 'more is more' approach; go for bigger pots as they are slower to dry out. I don't mind massive displays of randomly mixed terracotta pots; they can look slightly 'over-enthusiastic' or even slightly 'unhinged' at a certain scale, but I don't mind that! In general, unless you provide really outstanding care, plants in pots will only decline in health after purchase, so I usually try to find advanced plants to go in displays.



Good plant species for pots? Depends on the position. An Australian summer is hot, so this will impact plant choices; ideally plants will be out of the hot, drying afternoon sun but this isn't always possible. I usually go for robust species with contrasting architectural forms such as *Cephalotaxus harringtonii* 'Fastigiata' (almost bomb-proof in sun or shade but VERY slow growing) *Phormiums*, clipped *Buxus* and edible bay *Laurus nobilis* and grasses such as *Festuca glauca*. Don't forget that plants can be relocated when not in season and replaced with something more cheerful.

Native plants can work really well in dry, sunny positions; kangaroo paws or *Banksia* 'Birthday Candles' are beautiful but may need some winter protection. *Brachyscome multifida* work well, as do clipped forms such as *Correa alba* in very large pots. Availability of advanced-size native plants is often poor, so this will guide selection.

Enjoy the creativity of organising your own beautiful display of pots; perfect for Christmas entertaining!

Happy gardening,

Kaz Krasovskis
Landscape Designer
www.kazkrasovskis.com.au

Top left: A display of pots including dwarf Japanese maples, Cephalotaxus harringtonii 'Fastigiata' Liriope 'Evergreen Giant', Carex 'Feather Falls' and Festuca glauca

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TRATA

Working Bee

Another big clean up at the railway precinct in November. A huge thank you to the volunteers who gave their time to get rid of the blackberries along the front fence, weeding the platform garden beds, installing a new watering system, and 3 trailer loads of green waste to the transfer station. The gardens are looking very colourful at the moment.

Events At The Station

We hosted the Cool Country Classic Trentham Annual Show and Shine on 17 November.

There were over 100 vehicles that rolled up for the show, and we were flat out providing the bbq catering. It was a great success, and well done to the car club for putting on the event at the railway precinct.

If you want to hold an event at the railway precinct, just email us, and we can discuss how to make it a success.

Trentham Seasonal Market

Our second market was held on 24 November in appalling weather conditions. We initially had 36 stall holders signed up, most cancelled but 9 braved the weather. We fired up the bbq to cater for those who ventured out into the rain. Our volunteers (right) are a resilient lot, and the only time the market will be called off is when it's a Total Fire Ban and/or Catastrophic Fire Rating.

All stall holders including not for profit organisations must register with our market coordinator, Sue, email suellencharlton@gmail.com prior to attending. Guidelines will be sent to all stall holders.



**Our Christmas Seasonal Market
will be held on
Sunday 15 December 9am to 1pm**



Thank you

A big thankyou to our Community Bank for the purchase of a new ride on mower, This has reduced our mowing time significantly, and kept our volunteers away from the chiropractor!!!!

Membership

To continue the maintenance and preservation of the Trentham Railway Precinct, new members are always welcome. The precinct is entirely managed by volunteers.

**Phil Davis
Secretary**

TRATA

trataattrentham@gmail.com





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Patients
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Trentham | Kyneton




Dr Nick Rhead
Trentham | Kyneton



Dr Danielle Robinson
Trentham | Kyneton



Dr Kate Turnbull
Trentham | Daylesford | Kyneton



Dr Brad Wyer
Trentham | Kyneton

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● **Kyneton**
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● **Trentham**
22 Victoria street
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Hidden Treasures on the Bendigo Line

How many passengers on a Bendigo line train realise they are crossing over numerous rare stone arch bridges and viaducts?

The first train reached Sandhurst (now Bendigo) from Melbourne in October 1862 after 10 years of investigation, planning and building. Altogether there are five stone bridges with multiple arches over central Victoria's creeks and rivers, as well as a further 35 single arch stone bridges. There are two at Sunbury, over Harpers and Blind Creeks; one crossing the Campaspe near Carlsruhe; the well-known viaduct over the Coliban at Malmsbury; and the Barkers Creek, Harcourt triple arch viaduct.

After daily trains for 162 years they are as good as new - a tribute to the skill of the designers and builders.

Who were these people? The use of the load-bearing stone arch to span gaps, in its semi-circular form, is generally credited to the Romans who perfected it, but can be traced back several millennia to Egypt and the Middle East. They were built on temporary timber 'centring' which was removed when the stonework was completed. Our examples were designed by engineers of the Victorian Railways department who were educated and trained in Britain.

W.E. Bryson trained in Ireland and the United States, becoming head draftsman in the Victorian department in 1858. He designed most of the large bridges on the main line, in particular the Malmsbury, Taradale and Barkers Creek viaducts. His signature appears on the drawing for the Malmsbury Viaduct, although drawings were never normally signed by the designer. William O'Hara trained as an engineer and architect in England and Ireland and designed bridges and viaducts along with Bryson.

The people who built the bridges were stonemasons, at the time the cream of tradespeople, able to command the highest wages. Work started on the line in 1858 but the Victorian economy slowed and the contractors, Richard Cornish and John Vans Agnew Bruce, cut wages, leading to strikes by the masons, carpenters and labourers. Only two years earlier, in 1856, the Victorian stonemasons had won the battle that saw the eight hour day without loss of pay become the standard working day. They were in no mood to go backwards. Strikes ensued.

Bruce imported non-union strikebreakers from Germany. At first they sympathised with the masons and refused to work, but eventually had little choice. The beautiful granite three-arched viaduct over Barkers Creek at Harcourt is credited to the German stonemasons. The masons' strikes were ultimately unsuccessful. They returned to work for 7 and 8 shillings a day, compared to 16 shillings a day in early 1860. Somehow the eight hour day principle survived even though the other trades didn't win it until much later.

Only a handful of stone arch bridges were ever built. The use of iron girders for spanning gaps was in its infancy in the 1860s but rapidly became cheaper and quicker than the labour of skilled stonemasons.

So, although hidden from everyday sight, in central Victoria we have a substantial group of examples of the ancient art of stone bridge building.

Peter Parsons
Trentham & Districts Historical Society

The Historical Precinct will be manned on weekends over summer, but is also a lovely place to visit with the kids on any day to read about Trentham's story, see the old police buildings and have lunch at the table under the tree.



Interior Design

A Christmas Story

Every year at about this time I am amazed at how much Christmas is proudly proclaiming itself! It's that time when you can't miss the increased activity of people running around, shopping for their everyday essentials, Christmas foods, presents and cheer.

I start preparing early, as I just don't like feeling pressured or out of control, preferring to sit back with a glass of wine, knowing everything is planned, ready to action. But as everyone knows, the best laid plans inevitably go wrong. Last year I walked down to the Trentham High Street for the local shopping evening, you may remember it was a cool balmy evening, overcast with a threat of rain. There was almost a Dickensian feel, looking into store windows decked with tempting Christmas displays, folk indoors sipping a glass of something, or nibbling away.

Outside, people were mingling and chatting; we had the community atmosphere as well as descending fog. If we had braziers on the street corners selling roasted hazelnuts and choirs singing carols, Christmas would be complete!

The original Christmas stories, based very much in the Middle East became European. While the baby Jesus was born in a barn and lay in a manger, the bright North Star guided the three wise men - the magi - from far-off lands bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Shepherds guided their flocks, with angels protecting from above. Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, brought with him to England the first Christmas trees, decorating them with shiny baubles, spheres and hand-blown glass ornaments, illuminated with tiny candles.

The fashionable Victorians quickly jumped onto the trend, making the decorated tree possibly the best-known Christmas symbol. The newly established postal service was timed perfectly to send Christmas calling cards and wishes, much like we do now with email messages. America became a major contributor to the evolution of Christmas in the early 20th century. The roast goose became a turkey, the traditional pork became ham glazed with exotic fruits.

Wombat Forest Vineyard

Wombat Forest Vineyard and Winery is a surprise package nestled on the edge of the Wombat State Forest, just up the road from Trentham on Springhill Road, Denver.



Our cellar door and courtyard have extensive forest views where visitors can enjoy a glass of wine and seasonal platters while relaxing on the deck. We're closed Dec 23 to Jan 9 for our Christmas break, but have a jam-packed January calendar!

Summer Events at Wombat Forest Vineyard

Sun Jan 12 Live Music from 1pm
Local artist Brett Franke

Sat Jan 18 Live Music from 2pm
Locals artist Brett Franke

Importantly, a new cast of characters arrived, the stories of Saint Nicholas and his Nordic Tompten merged to become elves and the famous Santa Claus. He mysteriously distributed presents at night, flying through the skies in a snow sleigh adapted for flight, pulled by flying reindeers. La Befana visited leaving lumps of coal, while her magical broom swept away all of the year's problems.



I'm thinking what's this all got to do with us here in the Australian summer? I smile at Christmas cards with images of flying kangaroos drawing a sleigh, Santa surfing with dolphins cavorting in the waves. We can decorate our trees with Australiana: barbeques, pavlovas, kookaburras and galahs. Include a chain of red waratah flowers and garlands of eucalyptus, perhaps spray paint the occasional leaf with silver or gold.

We sing our Christmas carols and songs, thinking about the food, mulled wine and dreaming of a white Christmas. The Nutcracker ballet comes to life, but it's the warble of our magpies which puts a smile on my face. So many images to be inspired by, from the traditional to the irreverent, make it yours.

Have a safe and very merry Christmas. Let the magic of Christmas wrap around you and yours!

Robert Creedon Interior Design Studio

Mobile 0488 294 777
Instagram @robert_creedon
Web robertcreedon.studio

Photo credit: HGTV magazine on Pinterest

Sun Jan 19 Central Highlands Forage & Feast Festival
Bunjil Farm Caravan
Lawn games
Live music from 1pm
Wood Duck Rustics

Sat Jan 25 Annual Local's Day
Live music from 1pm
Local artist Jared Brentnall
Lawn Games

Sun Jan 26 Central Highlands Forage & Feast Festival
Bunjil Farm Caravan
Lawn games
Live music from 1pm
Local artist Jared Brentnall

Councillor's Report

Council election outcome

The following councillors were elected in the October election – Tony Clark (Creswick), Shirley Cornish (Creswick), Tim Drylie (Creswick), Don Henderson (Creswick), Pat Hockey (Clunes), Lesley Hewitt (Daylesford) and Brian Hood (Trentham).

I am honoured to again have the opportunity to represent not only residents at the eastern end of the Shire but all residents Shire-wide. My vote was up 54% on the 2020 election and I was one of only two councillors to secure a quota on first preferences. I greatly appreciate the support of the community and will continue to work and advocate on your behalf as best I can.

The four councillors seeking re-election were all returned, and the council now includes three new councillors (Cornish, Clark and Hockey).

Of the 13,231 voters on the electoral roll only 11,021 (83%) actually voted.

There were 629 informal votes (5.7%) and 10,392 valid votes. This again highlights the small size of Hepburn Shire. In comparison to the 2020 election the Hepburn Shire electoral roll decreased 11%, from 14,858 voters to 13,231. This is largely due to the State Government initiative to remove property owners who reside outside the Shire from the roll. In order to be eligible to vote those ratepayers had to apply to be reinstated onto the roll. Across the Shire only 320 did so (in 2020 there were 500 in that category in Coliban ward alone). I am informed that Council sent 3269 letters alerting ratepayers to that change. Anyone in that category seeking to be reinstated onto the roll should contact Council.

Councillors are now working through the mandatory induction process. Weekly briefings have resumed and Council's final public meeting for the year will be held on the 17th December.

The priority task in the first half of 2025 will be to develop an affordable Council Plan that clearly identifies strategic priorities and addresses the projected \$4m pa cash shortfall. Consistent with the resolution taken in September an application will be made to the Essential Services Commission (ESC) for a rate variation of 10% (including the State Government's annual rate cap increase). If granted in full the rate variation would increase Council's income by approximately \$1.5m pa. The remaining target of \$2.5m pa must be secured by reducing costs or finding new revenue streams.

Statutory meeting of Council 26 November

Councillors elected Don Henderson as Mayor for 2025 and Lesley Hewitt as Deputy Mayor.

Cr. Henderson's nomination was seconded by Cr. Hewitt. My self-nomination for the Mayoral role was not seconded by any of my colleagues and therefore lapsed. Consequently Cr Henderson was effectively elected unopposed with no vote required. As the only nominee Cr Hewitt was elected unopposed as Deputy Mayor.

The following representative appointments to various committee positions were ratified:

- Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) – Cr. Drylie
- Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils – Cr. Henderson
- Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils – Cr. Henderson
- Z-Net Community Roundtable – to be appointed
- Audit & Risk Committee – Crs. Henderson & Clark
- World Heritage Listing of the Victorian Goldfields Region – Cr. Hockey

- Disability Advisory Committee – Cr. Clark
- Gender Equity Advisory Committee – Cr. Hewitt
- Glenlyon Recreation Reserve Community Pavilion Project Advisory Group – Cr. Cornish
- Heather Mutimer International Women's Day Honour Roll Advisory Committee – Cr. Cornish
- LGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee – Cr. Cornish
- Mineral Springs Reserves Advisory Committee – Cr. Hockey
- Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee – Cr. Henderson
- Sustainable Hepburn Community Advisory Committee – Cr. Drylie
- Daylesford Community Facilities Project Advisory Group – Cr. Hewitt

As we now operate under an unsubdivided structure with no wards I expect that Council will soon inform the community as to how best to contact councillors. My contact details have not changed.

Daylesford tragedy 5 November 2023 – a commemorative ceremony was held on the 5th November 2024 to mark the first anniversary of the tragic incident. Many community members attended in what was a respectful, fitting tribute to the victims and an important opportunity to again acknowledge the first responders who did such a wonderful job in extremely difficult circumstances. The victims' families were also in attendance and were very appreciative of how the event was staged.

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

Roads – Council's website provides details on which roads Council is responsible for and which are RRV roads. Use this link to report an issue - [Roads Hepburn Shire Council](#)

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](#)

Council meetings – meetings in 2025 will be held at 6pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The public may attend in person or view proceedings via the live broadcast on council's Facebook page. Agenda papers are publicly available on Council's website the week before the meeting.

Upcoming Council meeting dates – 17 December 2024, 25 February 2025, 25 March 2025.

Cr Brian Hood
bhood@hepburn.vic.gov.au
 0427 797151
 Facebook - Cr Brian Hood, Hepburn Shire Council

Hepburn
 SHIRE COUNCIL



From all of us at TNC we would like to thank the Trentham community for your continued support this year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas & Happy Safe New Year.

A reminder that it's not too late to pick up a Reverse Advent Calendar box. We'll be accepting full boxes and individual items up to Thursday 12th December 2024.

Help make Christmas a little more special for someone in need.

Looking forward to a fun filled 2025!



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Barfly Bob

It was a mild spring afternoon outside, but inside the Stables at the Cosmo, we were once again spoiled with sizzling hot musical performances, this time by singer / songwriter Taylor Sheridan and support act Jay Santilli.

After propping at the bar with my regular glass of Kyneton Ridge Shiraz, wearing my new khaki Akubra I was pleasantly surprised with rising urban/country star Jay's impassioned songs. A warm and expressive vocal style, I look forward to hearing more of her.



Taylor Sheridan then entertained us with a brave masterclass of acoustic guitar and soulful vocal melodies. Showcasing his recent album "Troubadour", he proved to all at the gig why this release sat on top of the ARIA charts for five consecutive weeks.

Removing my beloved new hat (the lovely Fi stored it safely behind the bar for me) I was soon dancing along and applauding one of the gigs of the year.

Whether it was because his mother and brothers were in the audience or that he's about to become a father for the first time. Or perhaps because he grew up in nearby Kyneton and knew Trentham well (his Grandmother lived on Market Street, no less!), Taylor was as open and heartfelt as any performer I've had the pleasure to enjoy. There was plenty of laughter and even tears, he sure won this crowd over.

Both Jay and Taylor are touring from January, so jump online and check them out.



So, what next? That's the last of the ticketed gigs from promoters Duzel and Delsinki for the year, but they've promised more of the same in 2025, so keep checking this paper or the Cosmo's website for details.

The Cosmo is continuing live music in their picture perfect beer garden throughout summer, the December program is below.

And, if you're looking for something else, the stunning Wombat Forest Winery is spoiling us with live music in January when they reopen after their Christmas Break, (see program on page 13).

See you at the gig.

DECEMBER

THE COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL

AT THE COSMO

SAT 07

TAYLOR BELL + CHARLOTTE LE LIEVRE

Acoustic Tunes in the Beer Garden From 3 - 5pm

FREE event!

FREE event!

REBECCA JANE HOWELL

ACOUSTIC TUNES FROM 3 - 5PM

SAT 14

SAT 21

DEADBEATDADDIOS

Live in the Beer Garden 3 - 5pm

FREE event!

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

FREE event!

ANDREA ROBERTSON

LIVE ACOUSTIC TUNES FROM 3 - 5PM

SAT 28

FRIDAY NIGHT MEAT RAFFLE

ALL DECEMBER PROCEEDS GO TO THE TRENTHAM CRICKET CLUB

THECOSMOPOLITANHOTEL.COM.AU/WHATS-ON

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FOREST

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Meditation for Peace

Homo Ludens II

In 1958 scientist/novelist Roger Caillois articulated Huizinga's notion of 'Play' by discerning 'games that people play' into four types: competition (agon), gambling (alea), theatre (mimēsis) and thrill (illynx). The summer holidays may offer ample opportunity to identify and play them all. With this typology Wikipedia opens its information on Gaillois from his book *Man, Play and Games*, which contains an added chapter on the prevalence of gambling in poor areas elaborating on Huizinga's emphasis on 'alea' (= 'dice') as a social evil.

In his section on 'mimēsis'. Gaillois referred to theatre and to 'rites of passage': fearsome, threatening masks testing young men's courage in the dark nights of the African jungle. Wikipedia's version of mimēsis "on line roleplaying", is perhaps an apt metaphor for social media as today's rite of passage: a cyber jungle complete with predators...

Traditional cultures still maintain thresholds to adulthood in the presence of persons of legendary stature. Like Saint Nicholas, a Bishop wearing mitre and staff, with all the gravitas and grace of his high office, granting children the rare experience of reverence beyond everyday encounters

St. Nicholas, bishop of Myra, a port town on the coast of Asia Minor, now Turkey, lived in the third century AD. Legend has it, that Nicholas was a generous man, providing poor families with the customary 'bride price' in a little bag with gold, thrown through the window of a

Trentham Lions

Christmas Message from our President Stan Falloon:

As Stan reflects, "Christmas 2024 has well and truly crept up on us! Firstly it is a privilege to be part of Lions International – we have a global membership of 1,389,075 and 24 of those valuable members make up our local vibrant club, Trentham Lions. Our members are the precious 'lifeblood' of the club and I would like to acknowledge our recent members, those who have joined since 1 July 2024: Jason Read, Ian Neyland, Michael Johnston, John Morrisey, Hilton Amos & Sandie Morris.

"If you would like to find out more about becoming a member of Trentham Lions please contact us (details on Facebook and on our website). Working for the community is uplifting and rewarding.

"I am also very grateful for the various local organisations that have supported us over the last year. These include the CFA, Trentham Railway and Tram Association (TRATA), Cool Country Classics Trentham (CCCT), Trentham & District Historical Society, Cool Country Men's Shed, Rural Action Refugees (RAR), Community Bank Trentham & Districts, Trentham Neighbourhood Centre, Life Activities Club, Dogs of Trentham, market traders, the IGA, the Trentham Bakery and many more."

Along with our members, these dedicated individuals offer their time, skills and passion year-round to support noble causes. The power of teamwork and cooperation achieved with our volunteer colleagues has helped us achieve our

family home ('window' = originally "wind-eye", opening in a wall without glass). The people of Myra elected him bishop by acclamation. He became known as 'thaumaturg' wonderworker, especially saving sailors' lives in storms at sea and appeared in dreams to alert the Emperor in Constantinople to people's suffering from corruption in the region. His tomb in Myra was raided by sailors from Bari, Italy (1070), stealing the flow of pilgrims and commerce from the east to the west of the Mediterranean. His ikon in the Russian Orthodox Church is highest in rank under St Mary's. He is patron saint of Russia, of children, of sailors and of Amsterdam.

Americans mixed up his feast (6 December) and its celebration in the Dutch tradition with the feast of Christmas, (25 December) thus producing the role of 'Santa', which turns both festivals into hollow nonsense, and their celebration into commercial hype.

I translate the name Niko-Laos as 'champion of the people'.

Henk Bak

*Monday Morning Peace Meditation
Trentham Neighbourhood Centre. 8.30-9.30am.
Gold Coin donation for the TNC*

During December and the first week of January we take a break (except for December 16) and start the new year on the 6 January.

mission: To improve the lives of people in our community by supporting them when in need.

Thank you all. We look forward to continuing to work closely with you in 2025, and if you have some wonderful ideas for enhancing our lovely town, please get in touch. It may be the next big project for our club!



Two traditional Lions' activities to enjoy in December –

- Christmas Carols on Friday 6 December and
- the Arrival of Father Christmas on Christmas Eve.

Check out the notices around town.

"As the year draws to a close, we reflect on the incredible difference your steadfast support has made. I would like to join our Trentham Lions' members in wishing you all a joyous Christmas filled with love, happiness and prosperity and look forward to continuing to support our wonderful community in 2025".

Tony Van Rensburg
Trentham Lions

Food for Thought

How do you picture a sustainable Christmas?

In this changing world, as Christmas approaches, the question arises of how seriously are we taking the threats to our planet. The proof of the pudding, in fact. Now I for one, am not prepared to forgo my Christmas Pudding – the only pudding of the year I eat – and sometimes have a second helping but spare a thought for its provenance. We need our rituals more than ever as the world changes around us - there is comfort in continuity, but how much are we adapting them to align with our changing circumstances?

Where did ingredients of the pudding come from – locally or afar? How were they produced? Were they farmed with pesticides, chemicals, additives and preservatives, which are toxic to our waterways and our health. That flows on to the fact that the food will also be of higher quality because of the way the animals and plants are treated, such as the space they have and the quality of food they are fed.

Consider this: according to the [Environment Protection Authority Victoria](#), the food we eat makes a bigger contribution to our ecological footprint than our home energy use and transport combined.

Given the fact that many of us have changed over to all electric homes and cars and take the train more often than we used to – some of us even spurning cars in favour of bikes, I'm suggesting that this Christmas we begin to think about the sustainability of every piece of food we put into our mouths.

We are privileged living in the country, surrounded by small producers, with the advantage of buying directly from their farms or Farmer's Markets – many of us do the Farmer's Markets Crawl, around the different locations from week to week.

Here in Trentham, we have a strong advocacy in the Trentham Sustainability Group – and the benefit of swapping the fruits of our labours with growers we trust. Castlemaine has a group that meets every week to swap produce on a points basis.

Best of all, grow and make it yourself. Happy Christmas!

Jill Rivers
Food for Thought Team

For further information contact Sylvia Johnson ozenjoy@ozemail.com.au

The Plonkers

The Plonkers stepped out this month for a Sunday session at Still Moon House Wine Bar. Choosing to sit outside in the garden next to the flowering dogwoods with a view across to the Cosmo, the crew were treated to some excellent local and South Australian wines.

Digby seemed to have made a new friend at the bar. When he finally returned, the long-suffering Mrs. Digby asked him what he'd been chatting about for so long, he excitedly replied:

"Well, do you recall that handsome bespectacled waiter we met earlier in the year working at Hotel Trentham dear?"

"Oh yes, how could I forget him?"

"Well, he's been away studying viticulture in the Loire Valley, France for a few months and now is working here as head sommelier!"

Our Plonkers were indeed treated to some delicious wines. Grapes sourced from a variety of regions where more natural methods are preferred including organic and biodiversity principles.

"I think he mentioned that Tom, the owner, only picks the grapes at midnight beneath a full moon wearing garish coloured shirts, but I may have misunderstood" Digby enthused.

A Yarra Valley Chardonnay with cardamom spice, a dry Heathcote Rose Grenache with cherry and orange were amongst their favourites.

The Duke quite enjoyed a glass of the Reislingfreak's Clare Valley Reisling saying; "This Reisling freak guy sure has mastered this grape."



The sometimes-saucy Uncle Worcester who, not being a wine lover, sat in a corner sulking into his Canadian Labatt's beer wishing he was still away holidaying in Thailand.

Delicious fresh Tasmanian Manchurian oysters, crisp leak, potato and rosemary croquettes and generous Long Paddock cheeseboards accompanied the wine.

Niles returned from the bar with a bottle of Still Moon 2022 Syrah. "That bespectacled barman recommended we try this now that its cooling down a bit. Notes of Boysenberry, black current and plum. It just won a gold medal at the Melbourne Royal Wine Awards, how fantastic for a small producer!"







"Ah yes" Digby remarked, holding his empty glass up for Niles to pour.

"He told me these buds freakishly burst on Halloween last year and should put hairs on your chest."

Cheers!

The Plonkers

Local Business Guide

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Spudman's Signoff

Gratin or scalloped, call it what you like.
 Baked potatoes are worth getting on your bike.
 With the rich cheese and full cream milk you'll pedal,
 Faster even than when Retta chased the medal.

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.

Belle Property Daylesford
03 5348 1700
58 Vincent St, Daylesford VIC 3460
daylesford@belleproperty.com

Belle Property Trentham
03 5424 1866
45 High St, Trentham VIC 3460
trentham@belleproperty.com



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