

FEBRUARY 2026



Weather Report



AGM



Lunch!



The Whistleblower



WOMBAT FOREST WINES

Live Music

THE TRENTHAM TRUMPET





Council News

Community Awards

Nominations for the 2026 Community Awards are now open until Friday 6 March. Nominate a person, event or activity that has made a significant impact on the lives of others in Hepburn Shire.

Categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year (25 years or younger)
- Community Event of the Year
- Hepburn Together Award

Successful nominees will be announced at an event on Tuesday 19 May at The Warehouse - Clunes from 5 to 7 pm.

Nominate at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/awards



Stay safe and prepared in extreme heat

During this fire season, stay informed via the VicEmergency app and ABC Radio. Emergency service agencies are stressing that the safest option during a fire is to leave early, well before a fire starts or before you are under threat.

Stay cool by:

- visiting a friend or family member who has air conditioning
- heading to your local library during business hours to enjoy a safe, air-conditioned space
- connecting with your community to see what local spaces are open and available
- visiting one of our pools or the splash park to stay cool.

And don't forget to keep a close eye on your pets.

Visit:

- www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/extreme-heat
- www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/pools

Attend a free business workshop

We're facilitating a free in-person workshop, Maximising your marketing, on Monday 16 February from 9:30–11:30 am at Council Chamber, 24 Vincent Street, Daylesford.

You can also book into many other free Business Victoria webinars via our website, www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/business-events

Council Plan 2025–2029



Hepburn Life



Future Hepburn



Hepburn Working Together

YOUR COUNCILLORS



Cr Don Henderson



Cr Lesley Hewitt



Cr Brian Hood



Cr Tony Clark



Cr Tim Drylie



Cr Pat Hockey



Cr Shirley Cornish

Learn more at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/Councillors ☎ 5348 2306 ✉ shire@hepburn.vic.gov.au Ⓛ www.facebook.com/hepburncouncil

Hi Trentham!

Happy 2026! We're back for another year of Trumpets.

Our first edition of the year contains the most anticipated article of the year – The Trentham Weather Review! (closely followed by the Trentham Film Society annual program, of course!)

Thanks to Clyve and Jane for pulling this together, and for the observations, warnings, and advice they provide throughout the year. We've taken the

liberty of saving them plenty of space in next year's edition, cause January has been wild!

On that note, thank you to our emergency volunteers and services on the front line and behind the scenes. Thank you also to those who've made provisions to keep people safe during the heatwave, looking at you TNC!

There is much to look forward to this month as our community groups bounce back with new year energy. Find something that piques your

interest, get along and get involved!

As always, thanks to the volunteers, community groups and businesses who make Trentham a fabulous place. And thank you to the contributors who fill our pages and advertisers who enable this free publication to exist.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful 2026,

**Regards,
Chris & Penny**

Australia Day Address 2026

Good morning everyone and happy Australia Day!

What Australia Day means to each of us depends on who we are, where we come from, and how we came to be Australian.

But it is a day to reflect, respect and celebrate.

Australia Day is a day to reflect on, and pay respect to, the cultures, stories, histories and people from all walks of life who make up Australia. From the First Australians to convicts to free settlers and those whose families had the courage to emigrate here in more recent times. For such a young nation Australia has a complex history.

This is a day to acknowledge the past, respect and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' survival, resilience and enduring culture.

Australia Day is a day we can celebrate the deep connection to Country that First Nations people have and reflect on how we are all shaped by the land on which we live, work and play – especially here in Trentham where we enjoy the beauty of our natural environment.

This is also an appropriate day to take a moment to pay respect to the stories, histories and contributions of the Australians who lived, worked and fought for the values and freedoms we sometimes take for granted - a day to celebrate the freedoms we share and the values and beliefs we hold. Australia has fought and stood for something, every time its freedoms, democracy and way of life were threatened.

Ongoing world events are a stark reminder that we should never take those freedoms and democratic way of life for granted. Peace and prosperity can be fragile.

A fact - History tells us: 26 January marks the anniversary of the arrival of a colonial power to Sydney Cove – 11 ships comprising the First fleet with 1500 convicts some 238 years ago – and it marks the subsequent formation of a penal colony. It was a further 113 years until the nation was formed in 1901.

While Australia's national day celebrates the arrival of the British the Americans do the opposite and on the fourth of July celebrate the departure of the British!

Now to Celebrate

- Australians have much of which we can be proud - our stable democracy (contrast that with the USA), our shared values, the strength, diversity and generosity of our people, arguably the world's best example of multiculturalism and of course our beautiful natural environment.
- Our individual identities and stories weave together into a modern, diverse nation of people.

That in itself is worth celebrating.

Australia is a country that is relatively prosperous and ambitious, optimistic, blessed with natural resources, is multicultural, resilient in the face of natural disasters (that are becoming all too frequent) and enjoys freedoms and democracy that others envy.

We have witnessed many examples of our community's resilience. Storms, floods and a global pandemic have challenged our normal way of life. And there have been bushfires and drought.

In that context our social cohesion has never been more important. It is how we respond to such events that shapes us and enables us to survive and prosper.

It is fitting that today we reflect, respect and celebrate our own local community.

In Trentham we are blessed to live in, and be surrounded by, our wonderful natural environment. We are a community with numerous clubs, groups and organisations that all thrive and serve us so well (not to mention 3 great pubs).

We have a peaceful, harmonious and friendly lifestyle. Ongoing world events are a constant reminder of how fortunate we are.

So, on Australia Day there is much to celebrate... as well as to reflect and respect.

Happy Australia Day!

**Cr Brian Hood
26 January 2026**

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 (from Feb 2022)	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
cwtrenthamnightowls@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 February 9am-1pm
Trentham Town Square

Trentham Sustainability Group

Farmers' Market Food Swap
21 February 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 1.30 - 5pm
Enquiries Dianna 0418 173 920
Noellene 0428 464 664

TNC

see trenthamnc.org.au

Community Groups Listing

thetrenthamtrumpet.com.au/our-community

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On Our Cover:

Dianella caerulea (Blue Flax Lily)
on the Wombat Trail
Chris Campbell

Trentham Lions

Australia Day Flag Raising Ceremony

Each year Trentham Lions selects a noteworthy community member to raise the flag on Australia Day. In 2026 Lions selected one of our own members - long standing member John McLaren.

John first cobbled together a spud hut on his new land at Little Hampton in 1991. He and Bette, his wife, began to build their house together in 2005.

Describing John, a local said "Some people make the world special just by being in it." His neighbor, Paul Ulrik

'The Berry Man' who has been the beneficiary of John's support, states "John has an amazing capacity to tend to the needs of others above his own".



Trentham Easter Art and Craft Show

Less than 8 weeks to go!!!

The Trentham Easter Art and Craft Show is back in 2026 in the new Mechanics in High Street Trentham. It's a lovely space to celebrate art and craft from local and other artists as well as enable visitors during Easter to see and buy amazing art and craft.

Last year there were almost 400 exhibits and 24% of these were sold. Around 1000 visitors came to see the variety of artworks on display over the four days of Easter. The eight judges remarked on the high quality and breadth of art and found it difficult to choose the 17 award winners in each of the categories of art mediums. Children under 12 and youth 12 to 18 were also admired and bought for their talent, suggesting an exciting next generation of artists is coming up. Of the 163 exhibitors, 111 were locals (within 50km of the Trentham Post Office) reflecting a strong artistic community in our area.

We are hoping this year that even more visitors and artisans will be aware of the Show.

So now is the time to finishing that picture, make that creation and fill out the entry form which you can find on the website www.teacs.org.au

John comes from a rural working class background and was the first in his family to matriculate. He was born in Geelong in 1952, went on to Monash Uni to complete a BA in Economics and Education. He taught at Secondary schools for many years and seeing some of his less gifted students succeed was always his delight.

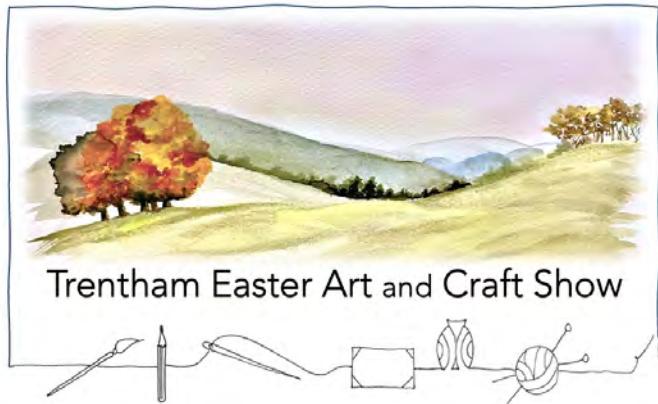
One of John's significant achievements has been, while National President of the Australian Democrats in Adelaide, supervision of the passage of the GST legislation through parliament and into Australian taxation law. His commitment to social progress has led him to stand for Parliament in no less than 10 elections!

While living in the Trentham District, John has also been a 'quiet achiever' having made volunteering his 'main game'. Over the last 25 years he has dedicated his time and energy to the following voluntary organisations:

- Trentham Lions. Vice President, farmers' market coordinator, firewood bank organiser, selling raffle tickets, playing Santa, helping the needy and being a valuable source of wisdom.
- CFA. Secretary and firefighter since 2008.
- Trentham & District Historical Society (TDHS). As a member with particular involvement in the annual Spud Hut tours as guide and commentator.
- Words in Winter festival, as a presenter and now committee convener.

His firm belief is that it is better to serve than to be served. He suggests that service brings with it an unexpected serenity and a natural dignity. "The world is changed by ordinary people doing ordinary things in ordinary ways, simply because they care."

Thank you, John, for your community support. We wish you many more years of cheerful activity amongst us.



Tickets for the Opening Night on Thursday 2 April will be available online soon.

The Trentham Easter Art and Craft Show is open every day over Easter, from Thursday 7pm until closing at midday on Easter Monday 6 April.

Find out more about entering and assisting, visit the website on www.teacs.org.au and keep up to date via our facebook page and Instagram.

News and Reflections

A poignant quote I heard last Thursday night related to the Wye River flooding went something like, "The rain storm said to the fire, 'Here, hold my beer'." It's about surprises and the unexpected. Something unexpected that firefighters observed at one of the recent large fires was a massive tractor with a big plough racing across paddocks on the North flank of the fire creating a fire break. Fire trucks were struggling to keep up with the fire and every 10 minutes needed water. But this brave and amazing farmer with one of Western Victoria's largest tractors had it all sorted. When the wind changed, what was left of that North flank was manageable for the fireys. They wanted to buy the man on the big John Deer a beer and give him a medal.

We have all seen amazing acts of compassion for others in recent times, humanity at its best putting their lives on the line to defend the innocent or protect the community. Be it the fireys, police, amazing citizens or those helping with a path forward through this chaos, we meet at St George's to give thanks through prayer for these folk, and to remember and pray for those in need at this time following tragedy. Jesus 'sheep and the goats' parable has the wonderful phrase so many of us remember and many just do. "What you do for the least in my Kingdom, you do unto me."

Wombat Forest Wines

Showcasing Local Artists

Wombat Forest Wines (just up the road in Denver) is again celebrating all things local with live music, fabulous wine and great food.

Three fabulous summer events down, they have more gigs at their cellar door in the tree tops. You haven't seen it? It's possibly the region's best deck!

Coming up:

31 Jan	Brett Frankie	1-4 pm
14 Feb	Roof Top Lounge	1-4pm
12 April	Jared Brentnall	2-5pm
19 April	Brett Frankie	2-5pm
9 May	Jared Brentnall	2-4pm



All are welcome to join us at 9am Sundays to hear more of these memorable phrases, pray with us, and enjoy a cuppa, bikkie and chat after. This week we are collecting some funds to help those affected by the Harcourt fires.

Stephen Hehir

photo credit: Rob Ladd



Wombat Forest Wines prides itself on employing local staff and promoting local artists.

They have recently received funding from Creative Victoria 10000 gigs to support and promote local artists - congratulations! Last year they were funding performances out of their own pocket.

See you at the gig!

Trentham Weather Review 2025

Station: Groves Street Elevation: 700m ASL
trentham.weatherwatch.net.au/Trentham/Current_Vantage_Prop2.htm

Summary

An interesting year which started with a long period of below normal rainfall extending from January to May. Good rain fell between June and August and this wet spell recharged our water reserves as well as restoring local creek and river runs. September saw below normal falls again but both October and November saw good rainfall. December was another month below normal so in summary 2025 saw 7 months of below average rain for a total of 1008 mm for the year, below the long term average of 1098 mm.

Temperatures in the first 4 months were near or slightly above normal with January and February seeing mean maximums near 4°C above the long term average. May brought a quick change to colder conditions at night culminating in a record cold morning on the 6th of -7.1°C. The rest of the year saw cooler conditions than normal with a very cold spring with both day and night temperatures below the long term averages.

A feature of 2025 despite the warm start was the high number of frosts. The frost season began on the 13 April and ran to the 2 November with 69 air frosts (0°C or below). Snow showers occurred on 5 days between July and September, but falls were light.

January

Daytime maxima were well above the norm at 25.6°C (av 22°C) with the warmest day 35.3°C on the 27th. Nights were near normal at 9.8°C. Our coldest night was 5.8°C on the 4th.

Rainfall was below normal with 30.4mm falling. The wettest day was 21.4mm (6th) and there were 6 rain days (>0.2mm recorded). Thunder was heard on 3 days. Significant wind gusts of between 40 and 70kph occurred on the 22nd.

February

Another warm month with the average daytime maxima 26.1°C, well above the long-term average of 22.1°C. The hottest day was the 2nd with 34.0°C and 6 days in the month were 32°C or more. Night temperatures were near normal with a mean of 10.5°C with the coldest night 4.6°C on the 16th.

Rainfall of 49.2mm was slightly below the average of 55mm and 21.2mm was recorded on the 2nd. There was a prevalence of fog and drizzle resulting in 14 rain days. Thunder was heard on 2 days.

March

Warmer than average conditions continued through March with the average maximum 24°C (av 21°C). Our warmest day was 32.8°C on the 15th. Minimums were a little above normal averaging 9.4°C and the coldest night was 3.4°C on the 19th.

Rainfall was again below average with 51.3mm for the month (av 66mm), and the wettest day was 22.6mm on the 20th. Thunder was heard on 2 days. Highest winds were 40-60kph on the 30th.

April

The cooling effect of the impending winter began in April with an average maximum of 18.9°C. Our warmest day was 26°C on the 13th. The average minimum was 6.8°C and the coldest morning was -1.0°C on the 6th with the first frost of the season.

April was a much drier month than average with just 34.3mm (av 77mm) and the wettest day was 10.6mm on the 25th. No thunder was heard. The windiest day was the 29th with gusts to 40-50kph.

May

Another very dry month with only 20.7mm (av 110mm). Most creeks were dry. Maximum temperatures were slightly above normal with a mean of 14°C with the highest being 18.8°C on the 6th. It was a different story for nighttime temperatures with an average of just 2.4°C and the lowest being -7.1°C on the 20th, this was a significant record and many homes around Trentham experienced frozen water pipes and damage to plants. The highest wind gusts were on the 26th 40-65kph.

June

A cold and rainy month with an average maximum of 8.7°C. The 'mildest' day was 14°C on the 23rd. June had 13 frosts and the coldest night was -5.0°C on the 14th. The average minimum was 0.6°C. At last the dry spell was broken with frequent rainy days and a total of 163.6mm falling (av 125mm). The wettest day saw 36.2mm on the 24th. Light snow fell on 1 day. Highest winds were on the 24th with gusts of 40-65kmh

July

Another wet month with 174.2mm recorded. The wettest day was the 26th with 47.8mm and all rivers and creeks had good flows once again. The prolonged dry start to 2025 was broken. It was another cold month with an average minimum of 1.3°C and 13 frosts, and the coldest night was -3.6°C. The mean maximum was 8.6°C and the mildest day reached 13.1°C on the 7th. Light snow fell on 2 days. Significant winds between 50 and 80 kmh occurred on the 22nd.

August

Another rainy month and the third in succession of above the normal rainfall with 143.4mm. We recorded 60.8mm on the 26th. All creeks and water courses had good flows. Daily maxima were near normal with a mean of 10.8°C. The mildest day reached 15.8°C on the 21st. It was a different story for overnight temperatures with a record number of frosts. August experienced 17 severe frosts and this cold kept pasture around the district dormant. The coldest night fell to -4.5°C and there were numerous lows near -3°C. Light snow fell on 2 days. The highest winds between 40 and 70 kmh were recorded on the 29th.

September

A drier month welcomed spring with just 53mm of rain (av 112mm). Despite the lower rainfall all creeks and river courses continued to flow. Milder conditions helped pasture growth. The mean maximum returned 13°C which was near average, and the warmest day was 19.7°C. Frosts continued with 6 frosts for the month, and the coldest night fell to -3.8°C. Snow fell on 1 day. Significant wind gusts between 50 and 90 kmh occurred on the 15th.

Weather Review 2025 cont.

October

October can be a fickle month usually "one with the lot" and this one didn't disappoint. A colder than normal October with a mean maximum of 16°C and a mean minimum of 4.1°C. The warmest day reached 26°C on the 16th and the coldest nights saw a low of -1°C. There were 5 frosts. Rainfall was bang on average with 110mm with 30mm on the 26th. Brief snow flurries were observed on 1 day. Significant wind gusts between 50 and 80 kmh were recorded on the 10th.

November

Another chilly spring month to end our colder than average spring. The mean maximum was 17°C and the mean minimum was 5.5°C. The warmest day reached 27.7°C on the 2nd and the coldest night was -0.4°C and there were 3 frosts. Rainfall was above average with 130.2mm, and the wettest day recorded 29.6mm. It was a rainy month with falls recorded on 20 days. Thunder was heard on 1 day. Highest winds were between 40 and 60 kmh and recorded on the 26th.

Councillor's Report

Community news

Don't miss the Lyonville Woodshop on Saturday 7 February. Always a great day and all proceeds go to the maintenance of the fabulous hall.



Council news

Key outcomes from the December 2025 Council meeting.

- Council resolved to issue a notice of decision to approve a permit for a 9-lot subdivision at 49 Mulcahys Rd Trentham. The vote was 4-3. I opposed the motion on the grounds it should be deferred until such time as a traffic and pedestrian impact study is carried out - due to the proposed new road and driveways entering Mulcahys on a sharp bend in the existing road - and until important input is received from Coliban Water.
- Council resolved to progress the town structure plans to the next stage. Significantly more work is needed in some areas and further consultation with the community will take place through 2026. I will provide details when they become available.
- In a 6-1 vote the schematic designs for community facilities at Daylesford Town Hall were endorsed and a further \$270,000 will be spent on designs for the front of the hall. Costs for design and architectural services are drawn from the \$2.1m reserve created when the Rex was sold. Approximately \$300,000 has been spent to date. Construction costs at a later stage will cost around \$3.8m and the total scope of works could cost in the vicinity of \$25.4m. I opposed supporting the designs on the grounds they don't in my opinion have sufficient support from the broader community. Through consultation 65 responses produced 38 for and 27 against the plans. In order to support the designs I need to be convinced they have meaningful support from the broader community and in far greater numbers. Such strong community support enabled grant funding be secured from federal and state governments for the Mechanics Trentham project. In any case the budget does not have the cash to fund construction works nor to co-contribute to any grants that may be secured. I remain very concerned

December

Finally, a reprieve from the chilly spring with an average maximum of 21.7°C with the warmest day 33.6°C on the 6th, however the mean minimum of 6.6°C was below the long-term average. The lowest temperature fell to 3.4°C on the 3rd. Rainfall was slightly below normal with 47.6mm (av 66mm), and the wettest day recorded 19.4mm. Thunder was heard on 1 day. Local creeks and rivers maintained their flows and the countryside was a healthy green with good hay harvesting prospects. The highest winds were between 40 and 70 kmh on the 31st.

Clyve Herbert

ausstorm@gmail.com

that continuing discussion on large projects, such as Daylesford town hall, without transparent explanation of funding realities will lead to unrealistic expectations and consequent dissatisfaction.

- A new master plan for Victoria Park Daylesford was endorsed. However, the budget does not include funding for the \$12.6m project. Council will be heavily reliant on securing grant funding if the works are to be carried out.

Visitor information desk at the Mechanics – no update available.

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](#)

Council meetings – meetings in 2026 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 YouTube page. Agenda papers are publicly available on Council's website the week before the meeting. Upcoming Council meeting dates – 24 February, 24 March, 28 April

Cr Brian Hood

email bhood@hepburn.vic.gov.au

ph 0427 797151

Facebook - Cr Brian Hood, Hepburn Shire Council

Quarry Street Reserve

This year will hopefully be a busy and productive year at the Reserve. For starters, it is now 40 years since Trentham Lions started work on creating the Reserve, known at the time as Trentham Lions Park. There will be various ways this is celebrated and the amazing volunteers who continue to manage the Reserve.

The photo shows Neil Rothe, Lions President, helping form the new landscape. The lake area was created and gradually the water arrived. This was the Lions' first big project after their formation in 1984. There is a great collection of photos from this time, showing mostly volunteer work. It took several years until the pavilion and toilets were completed.

Over this coming year these photos can be shared. Just as important, it would be great if there are photos in your family albums which show events, gatherings, at the Reserve since it was created. Please contact Quarry Street Reserve Committee at: quarrystreetreservetrentham@gmail.com

As well, there will be a focus on continuing the assisted revegetation of the section of Stony Creek in the Reserve. The plants in the jute matting have done well since October last year. The target weed has also re-emerged and will be given another treatment.

TRATA

At The Station

Inclusive Native Garden Mural

Our Inclusive Native Garden Mural is progressing well and is close to completion. Once the paint dries on the shipping container, we'll be starting work on creating the surrounding native garden. This will include planting of new natives, the creation of a path and a meditative seating space. When finished, the area will be another distinctive asset for the town and the station precinct.



The mural in progress

Goods Shed and Further Station Works

The final piece of the Goods Shed restoration work, which mainly involves the replacement of the roof rafters, will soon be complete. The Goods Shed will offer another fantastic space which we're sure can be put to great use. In the time to come, we'll welcome ideas for its use from the community.



So there'll be more opportunities for volunteers to gather for the next planting stage.



The committee is also actively pursuing opportunities for further capital works to the station building, which would include re-stumping, re-plastering, and re-painting. Needless to say, this would be an entire game changer for the station!

Market Raffle

A very sincere thank-you to the people and businesses who donated prizes for our raffle, which was drawn at our December market. Both the lucky first and second place winners were treated to a rich bounty of goodies. We appreciate everyone who kindly purchased tickets, as the raffle proceeds go directly towards maintaining the Station. Another raffle will run from our February market and will be drawn in April.

Phil Davis

Secretary

TRATA

trataatrentham@gmail.com

Facebook: trataatrentham

Instagram: trenthamrailwayprecinct

Catherine KING MP

Federal Member for Ballarat

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Catherine.King_MP@aph.gov.au

[CatherineKingMP](https://www.facebook.com/CatherineKingMP)

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Standing up for our Community!

www.catherineking.com.au

Authorised by Catherine King MP Australian Labor Party 5 Lyillard St North, Ballarat VIC 3350



Volunteer Duties Can Be Unusual

For the last few years Trentham Golf Club has had a big problem with Corellas. Those pesky birds visit us every Spring and Summer in the hundreds and hundreds. They chew the greens and fairways to such an extent it made some greens unplayable. The fairways were left with large patches of damaged turf which take an age to rejuvenate.

While we have a new greens irrigation system (thank you to the members who dug and sanded, and the community that supported this venture, especially Trentham & Districts Community Bank), we're a small country course so have to rely upon mother nature to water the fairways. Having spent all that time to install the new greens irrigation system we were not going to let the Corellas wreck our lovely greens (said to be as good as Royal Melbourne). Course Superintendent Ricky Mether and Greens Committee Chair Alan Snowden, workshopped ideas to scare the Corellas away.

They thought of a few solutions: a shooter, but that didn't work; scarecrow type owls around the greens and even old CDs hung around but all to no avail. So a new plan was devised: every evening when the birds arrived at dusk, two volunteers would drive their cars around the course for a couple of hours shooing the birds away so they'd settle somewhere else. A volunteer group was formed and a roster created. Day after day, volunteers would circle the course at dusk, scaring the birds away in the hope that they would get sick of us and leave.

This possibly crazy plan seems to be working. We are still out there every evening at dusk, but now only one car is required as the number of Corellas has decreased considerably to a dozen or so, not settling long enough to cause any damage.

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Thursday is my rostered shift and I arrived to pleasingly find only a hand full of birds. Diligently, I set off on my drive around the course, dodging tree stumps and the odd golfer getting a few practice holes in while there is still light, swerving in and out of trees to make sure the Corellas don't settle for their nightly feed.

Cruising down by our signature hole (the 13th) I see lights in my rear vision mirror. Thinking it was Alan checking on my duties, I swing around and suddenly red & blue lights from a Police car start flashing madly. I come to a stop, two young officers approach the car and asked what I was doing. I informed them that I was on the Committee and it was my turn to drive around the course scaring away the Corellas. They said they were passing the course and saw headlights flashing around and thought it most peculiar. They asked my name and while checking their records requested I take a breathalyser test. Having passed it of course, the officers got back in their car and followed me off the course.

I believe I might be the only person to have been pulled up by the Police and breathalysed on their own golf course.

Kent Newton
Vice Captain

Autumn Tournament entries open

The Trentham 2026 Autumn tournament features two events, on Saturday March 14 and Sunday March 15. Get your partner or team together and enter!



- Saturday: 4BBB Stableford (men's, women's and mixed pairs, \$60 per pair)
- Sunday: Aggregate Teams Stableford (4 players of any combination, \$120 per team)

Food and drinks will be available at club prices.

Mixed teams of two men and two women in the Aggregate Stableford will be automatically entered in the Trentham Plate (held in conjunction), an event with a history going back over four decades. The winners will hold the plate for one year. The Aggregate Stableford also has an individual Stableford event, with prizes for the best male and female individual scores (please note: players cannot win both the team event and the individual score event).

Enter at: events.trenthamgolf.com.au

Trentham Sustainability Group

Food swap celebrates milestone

The Trentham Sustainability Group (TSG) Produce Exchange celebrated 12 years of happy, healthy, local food swaps at the Trentham Farmers' Market on Saturday, 17 January.

The home produce swap is popular with backyard gardeners and is part of the TSG's Local Food and Farming focus area which promotes local food and where it comes from.

On the third Saturday of each month the swap table is a great place to meet old and new residents and visitors who share gardening hints, recipes and sustainability tips.

Join the next food swap at the Town Square on Saturday, 21 February, at 9.30-11.30am.



Repair café mends broken hearts

Broken hearts joined bikes, handles, ceramics and garments on a list of precious items repaired when the TSG hosted Daylesford Repair Café in town last November.



A "Mending Broken Hearts" listening post was a novel inclusion to various activities, including the sharpening of tools and knives, enjoyed by 40 waste-conscious locals.

The weight of each item repaired and kept out of landfill was recorded. Every customer made a donation and most stayed for a cuppa, chat and wonderful cake. The event proved so popular the TSG has invited the Repair Café to return in 2026.



Members set to shape the future

A new-look TSG committee is excited to work with members, sponsors and friends in 2026 to harvest, sow and grow a greener future for our town and surrounds.

The committee comprises:

- John Anderson
- Glenda Holmes
- Susan Morelli
- Mark Paterson
- Sara Pheasant
- Matthew Nickson

Their first task is a fun workshop with members at The Mechanics Trentham on Sunday, 1 February, from 2.00-4.30pm, to plan community activities for the year ahead.

It takes a community to imagine, design and realise a vision for a sustainable future. So, join the TSG in 2026. Together, we can live locally, live sustainably and live well.

Find us a trenthamsustainability@gmail.com or trenthamsustainabilitygroup.com



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Your banking enables us to return funds back to the community. Some current projects you, as a customer are supporting:

- Dogs of Trentham 2026 Calendar sponsorship
- Trentham Cricket Club sponsorship
- Trentham Country Women's Association- provision of promotional materials to assist group recognition and fundraising
- St Martin's Chapel Blackwood kitchen upgrade to extend opportunities for the community and visitor hire
- Trentham Golf Course irrigation upgrade - phase 2
- The Great Trentham Spudfest 2026 major sponsorship



We're bigger for Trentham

When you bank with us, you make a difference, because we reinvest our profits in local projects and organisations that help this community to thrive.

- We're a home-grown community bank started by Trentham locals 14 years ago
- We support community groups, events and primary school projects
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Trentham Community Table

Launching Trentham Community Table

'Sharing a meal, creating connections.'

Following on from the success of the Community Christmas Lunch, the Country Women's Association (CWA), Trentham Lions Club and the Trentham Neighbourhood Centre (TNC) will be hosting a monthly community lunch at the Neighbourhood Centre on the last Friday of each month.

Starting Friday 27 February 2026 from 12 noon till 2pm, join us for a bite to eat, some company and special guest presentations.

RSVP to TNC by phoning Rachel on 5424 1354 or by calling into the centre.



Trentham Film Society

Trentham Film Society presents **CONCLAVE**



Saturday, February 21
Trentham Neighbourhood Centre
Screening time 7pm • Pre-show drinks & nibbles 6:30pm

Trentham Community Action Inc
is holding its first

Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday 18 February
at 7pm**
**at Trentham Neighbourhood
Centre**

*All local residents welcome - be part of the conversation
for more details contact: trenthamca@gmail.com*

2026 Program Out Now!

The Trentham Film Society is looking forward to screening a great programme this year. The full program is on page 15 and will be available on the TNC website soon:
www.trenthamnc.org.au/tfs

TFS Memberships can be purchased any time through the TFS page on the TNC website.

Alternatively, memberships can be purchased at our first screening on Saturday 21 Feb.

Annual membership \$50, minimum membership (for 3 consecutive films) \$20.

Doors open 6:30. Film screening commences 7:00
Pre-show bar available

See you there!



Pot Displays

I have a soft spot for pot displays! I worked at historic 'Great Dixter' garden in the UK, and the enormous, anarchic and almost unhinged-looking collections of pot plants with wildly contrasting leaf shapes, colours and textures were always such a delight for visitors.

Pots can add greenery and visual interest to otherwise featureless areas, reinforce focal points, and bring flexibility and structure to a space. However, gardeners unused to below-zero conditions may encounter a few surprises during a Trentham winter. Porous pots, particularly cheaper terracotta, can crack within a year as water penetrates the clay and expands when frozen. I only recommend high-quality (usually darker) terracotta, sealed with a waterproofing product. Technically this should be reapplied annually, though in practice I often stretch it out with few issues. Always check frost tolerance with manufacturers - there are excellent options in natural stone, fibreglass and composite materials.

Plant choice depends on sun exposure and water availability. Finding outstanding specimens is crucial: once confined to a pot plants will often decline, so selecting something already 'at size' makes a real difference. For year-round structure and interest, I often use evergreen species such as *Cephalotaxus harringtonii 'Fastigiata'* (many clients hate this plant!) *Buxus sempervirens*, dwarf conifers, *Fatsia japonica*, *Erigeron karvinskianus*, *Carex* and *Phormium* species. I aim for contrast, for example clipped forms paired with grasses, or fine textures against large

foliage. Natives work beautifully too in sunnier positions: clipped *Correa alba*s and dwarf *Banksias* can look fantastic in more rustic and textured pots.

If you really embrace pot displays, rotating plants seasonally can really bring some extra 'pop' to the displays. Spring bulbs, hydrangeas and Japanese maples are excellent for this purpose. Shuffle them off somewhere out-of-sight after flowering and allow them to recharge for next year's display.



And finally, a simple rule: bigger is better. Large pots create far more visual impact, look more confidently, and, crucially, dry out far less quickly in summer heat -making them not just more beautiful, but far more practical in the long term.

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

Above: Pot displays can be used to emphasise a focal point such as a front door'



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Trentham Talks

One of Australia's biggest corruption scandals... with a double Trentham connection

Hear about the human impact of the fight for accountability and justice in the face of corruption from insiders: prosecution witness/whistleblower Brian Hood and former prosecutor Jeldee Robertson.

The foreign bribery scandal involving the Reserve Bank of Australia saw the first application of Australia's foreign bribery laws; was Victoria's longest-running committal process; led to charges against 11 individuals and two companies; secured \$23m in penalties and multiple convictions.

It has had far-reaching implications for directors, executives, whistle-blowers, auditors, investigative journalists and regulatory authorities.

The Whistleblower
Wednesday 4 February
7 - 8pm
The Mechanics Trentham

Trentham Talks
hear • to • listen

THE WHISTLEBLOWER !

"One of Australia's biggest corruption scandals ... with a double TRENTHAM connection."

Hear about the human impact of the fight for accountability and justice in the face of corruption from insiders: prosecution witness/whistleblower BRIAN HOOD and former prosecutor JELDEE ROBERTSON.

DATE: Wednesday 4th February 7.00-8.00pm The Mechanics Trentham
Bookings are ESSENTIAL for this GOLD COIN DONATION EVENT
RSVP to trenthamtalks3458@gmail.com or via Trentham Connections

Trentham Film Society 2026 Program

Meet and socialise with other locals and watch quality films from around the world.

February 21 Conclave

When Cardinal Lawrence is tasked with leading the selection of a new Pope, he finds himself in a web of conspiracy and intrigue that could shake the very foundations of the Catholic Church.
Dir: Edward Berger
2024 UK PG 2h



March 21 From Hilda With Love

In Berlin 1942, Hilde is a member of an anti-Nazi group. She falls in love with another member, Hans. The two spend a summer together until they get caught by the Gestapo and Hilde is imprisoned, eight months pregnant.
Dir: Andreas Dresen
2024 Ger MA15+ 2h 5m



April 18 Small Things Like These

In 1985 devoted father Bill Furlong discovers disturbing secrets kept by the local convent and uncovers shocking truths of his own.
Dir: Tim Mielants
2024 UK M 1h 38m



May 16 Where The Crawdads Sing

A coming-of-age story of a young girl raised by the marshlands of the south in the 1950s. When the town hotshot is found dead, and inexplicably linked to Kya, the Marsh Girl the prime suspect in his murder case.
Dir: Olivia Newman
2022 USA M 2h 5m



June 20 Touching The Void

In 1985 two friends, Joe Simpson and Simon Yates, set out to climb Siula Grande in Peru via the West Face, a hitherto unaccomplished feat by any climber. After a tough ascent they succeed but on the descent they run into significant problems.
Dir: Kevin Macdonald
2003 UK M 1h 46m



July 18 Runt

Follows ten-year-old Annie and Runt, her stray dog, as they attempt to win the Agility Course Championship at the Krumpets Dog Show in London in order to save their family's farm from drought and misery.
Dir: John Sheedy
2024 Aust PG 1h 31m



Trentham Film Society – 2026 Program

August 15 The Belier Family

Paula, a girl who lives with her deaf parents discovers that she has the gift of singing.
Dir: Eric Lartigau
2014 Fra M 1h 46m



September 19 Spring Summer Fall Winter ... and Spring

In the midst of the Korean wilderness, a Buddhist master patiently raises a boy while teaching wisdom experience and endless exercises.
Dir: Kim Ki-duk
2003 Kor MA15+ 1h 43m



October 17 The Teacher Who Promised The Sea

The buried memories of the Spanish Civil War are unearthed as a woman searches for the remains of her grandfather's father and discovers the story of an idealistic young teacher from Tarragona.
Dir: Patricia Font
2023 Spain M 1h 45m



November 21 The Correspondent

Award-winning journalist Peter Greste reports on the Arab Spring uprising, becoming entangled in a deadly game of rivalries. Imprisoned for seven years despite his innocence, he survives on wits alone before release in 2015.
Dir: Kriv Stenders
2024 Aust M 1h 59m



When:
Third Saturday of each month, February to November inclusive, at the Trentham Neighbourhood Centre.

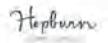
Social drinks and nibbles begin at 6.30pm.
Film begins screening at 7.00pm.

Membership:
For TFS membership details see Trentham Neighbourhood Centre website.
DVD's of past screenings are available to members at no charge.

Guests:
Each member may bring one guest per year.
Email enquiries:
Graham Orr: gmckorr@gmail.com



Trentham Film Society
www.trenthamnc.org.au/groups



Trentham Film Society
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CWA

2025 was a Big First Year for the CWA Trentham Nightowls

The CWA Trentham Nightowls have wrapped up a busy and rewarding first year, proudly continuing Trentham's long connection with the Country Women's Association following the branch's formation in August 2024.

Starting out with 24 members, the Nightowls wasted no time getting involved in the community. Fundraising kicked off with stalls at the Trentham Railway Station Market and the Central Highland Group Christmas Fair, while members also lent a hand at local events, including assisting with catering for various community events and hosting a relaxed end-of-year celebration.

The new year saw the calendar quickly fill with activity. Members helped run the Lions BBQ at the Trentham Farmers Market, supported ANZAC Day commemorations with the much-loved tradition of baking ANZAC biscuits, and volunteered at Spud Fest, where over 450 potato scones were made for the Devonshire Tea.

Phoenix @ The Rex

New Year Boost for Cinema

Daylesford's Phoenix@The Rex community cinema has moved significantly closer to reopening following a donation commitment of up to \$40,000 from local residents Lahn and Anton Straney-Kraft.

The couple have made an initial \$20,000 donation and are personally matching a further \$20,000 from the community dollar for dollar. If fully matched, their contribution will total \$40,000 and bring the cinema group close to installing the projection and sound equipment needed.

The cinema redevelopment has been driven largely by community fundraising following Hepburn Shire Council's sale of the Rex building in 2022. Since then, new owners Eddy and Malinka Comelli and artists David Bromley and his wife Yuge have supported the project, with Comelli completing the partially built shell and the Bromleys contributing generously to fundraising efforts.

The Mount Players

A Comedy to Start the Year Off

After a short break, the theatre is again buzzing, with rehearsals in full swing for *The Cemetery Club*, a comedy by Ivan Menchell running from 20 Feb – 8 March. Your ticket includes a complimentary sherry, free tea/coffee & treats at interval and the bar open to cap off the experience!

Synopsis - 3 New York widows meet once a month for tea before visiting their husbands' graves. Ida is sweet-tempered and ready to begin a new life. Lucille is a feisty embodiment of the girl who wants to have fun, and Doris is priggish and judgmental, particularly when Sam the butcher enters the scene, along with that other woman! A story filled with laugh-out-loud humour and pathos about love, navigating grief and the challenges of moving on.

Thanks to these efforts, the branch was able to make its first community donation in March, contributing \$250 to the Trentham Net Set Go program to help young girls get involved in netball. Members have also been quietly supporting the Trentham Community Food Bank by bringing food donations to each meeting.

The Nightowls have been active beyond Trentham too, volunteering at Central Highlands Group events and enjoying success in creative arts competitions. One of the standout achievements of the year was the creation of the new CWA Young Community Spirit Award, which will be awarded each year to a Grade 6 student at Trentham Primary School to support their move to high school. After celebrating their first birthday with pizzas at Mr Peacock, playing barefoot bowls throughout summer and taking out equal first at a pub trivia night, the Trentham Nightowls are looking ahead with enthusiasm. It's been a great first year of baking, volunteering and community connection – and there's plenty more to come.

Joanne Boag
Secretary

Over recent months, volunteers have raised funds through raffles, sausage sizzles, a Movie Trivia night at the Bowling Club, a Night of Magic and Music at Frangos Hotel, a Feast and Flick series at Radius supported by Ramon and Dr Charlie Si, an Open Garden day at Musk, and a large Indian dinner that raised \$20,000.

The cinema group also approached council seeking a \$50,000 contribution from reserves set aside for community facilities that would have been housed in the Rex. That request was declined.

Lahn and Anton Straney-Kraft said their decision to donate was shaped by concern that the project could lose momentum without broader support.

Donations to the cinema are tax deductible and can be made via the Australian Cultural Fund at: artists.australianculturalfund.org.au/s/project/a2EMn00000WGkrLMAT/daylesford-cinema-equipment-projects

Auditions – For our 2nd show, Mr Bailey's Minder are on Sunday 1 Feb & Wed 4 Feb.



Our AGM is being held on Friday 13 February at the theatre. Drinks and nibbles at 7.00pm with the meeting commencing at 7.30pm. All members welcome.

Membership for 2026 is now open.

For full details on auditions, AGM, membership & ticket bookings go to themountplayers.com or call 5326 1892 for assistance.

See you at the theatre!

Trentham PS 1588: Sesquicentennial Celebrations!



After much anticipation, a few false starts, and a lot of hard work by new Principal Christine Borcek and enthusiastic staff and parents, Trentham School No 1588 celebrated its 150th anniversary in late November 2025.

While the day started with typical Trentham weather, the many visitors were treated to welcoming speeches, reminiscences, pupil performances, and good old-fashioned sports events such as the three-legged races. Later, large crowds were drawn to an excellent exhibit of the school's timeline, featuring group photographs and important events in the years since 1875, put together by parent, Sam Charlesworth. Photographs depicted the changing appearance of the school over those years - and there have been quite a few!

One of the attendees was past - and last - Head Teacher Allen Attwood, who shared memories of his tenure in Trentham from 1970-1972. His replacement was designated 'Principal', hence his claim to be the last Head Teacher of Trentham PS 1588.

On taking up his position in 1970, Allen was joined by two other 'newbies', Glenda Moore and Shirley Kelly and 93 children. Not knowing the school routine, Allen gave some sage advice when queried as to how to start the first day - ring the bell and just watch where the knowing 93 line up: then stand in front and introduce ourselves!

As the numbers increased to 95, the threshold for an extra teacher allowed Jenny Gates to join the staff, and the school managed to acquire an extra building for the 1971 school year.

In keeping with its rural environment, the school bred guinea pigs, and lambs, the lambs were fed on left-overs

Barfly Bob

Hello music lovers. It's been a while, I hope you're well.

Do you ever get a hankering for some Irish folk music? The type of gathering where old and young bring out a fiddle or a guitar or a banjo and join in on a jam?

Well, I recently went and saw Newbury Fog at the Blackwood Hotel and certainly got what I was craving; a proper old-time jam.

Newbury Fog are the local duo of Nara and Karina Delmasson. You may have caught them playing fiddle and banjo at any number of venues across the Central Highlands.

But a fiddle and a banjo do not an old-time jam make, I hear you say.

Well, every month at this little haven in the hills, local and visiting musicians meet and play together. On this particular afternoon I counted 6 fiddles, 2 guitars, 2 banjos, an upright bass and 1 mouth organ. There was even a little singing too.

from the milk issued by the government to primary schools. Thousands of school children drank this milk from the 1950s onwards – often warm and sour from being left out in the sun, although this was not such a problem for pupils at PS 1588!

As a trend setter, Allen joined with the Little Hampton school to take grade five and six students to the Adekate School camp near Dean, a first at the time but now a fixed part of school life. Allen also wore a second hat as a parent with his three children attending and wife Anne joining the staff during 1971.

Current pupils were interviewed by visitors on the day, and these recordings will be available through the school and the Trentham & District Historical Society (TDHS), which shared much of the historical information in preparation for the day. For information about the 20 plus schools that have existed within our district over the years, contact info@trenthamhistoricalociety.org.au.

Elizabeth Toomey
Trentham & Districts Historical Society

Help Needed!

Would you like to help save our history?
Are you competent with computers and the internet?
TDHS needs YOU!

We are summarising information from our recorded interviews with locals, inputting to a word document and saving to our database.

After an initial meeting or two, this work could be done from home.

Please contact Sue Worthington:
info@trenthamhistoricalociety.org.au

So whilst they jammed I enjoyed a pre-dinner drink or two stomping my feet above the (alleged) haunted morgue beneath the venue. The tunes, whilst lively and invigorating, were thankfully not quite enough to wake the dead.

They have a new and very drinkable mid-strength beer on tap if you're feeling responsible. The Stomping Ground Easey St Pale Ale has that perfect balance of tropical fruit and beery bitterness.

A year in and the team at the Blackwood are nailing a lot of what's great about spending time at your local. I stayed on for the fish and prawn pie, a simple yet delicious meal my old Uncle Pat from Cork would have loved.

Check the Blackwood's socials for more details but I'm sure there is an old-time jam every month.

And of course loads of free live music over February at both Hotel Trentham and The Cosmo.

See ya at the gig.

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Feels Like Home

In recent years there has been a lot of scientific research into the psychological effect of our environment upon our wellbeing. Our built environment affects our lives on so many levels: notice how you feel after a day in the city when you return home to the country – you feel calmer. Some people dismiss the importance of home decoration as indulgent and unnecessary; however, how you feel in a space has an effect on your state of mind and how you respond to the environment you are in.

The most memorable interiors aren't the result of making 'safe' choices; instead, memorable interiors are built around identity. Spaces that express personality, interests, and lived experience age far better than spaces designed to be neutral.

Decoration isn't just about taste; it's about creating an environment that combines needs and function with practicality and aesthetics. Spaces make you feel something: our senses detect sound and smell; we react to touch and sight.

You may enter a room at different times and react to that environment: you feel cold, so turn on an electric heater for an instant result. Things would feel different if you had the opportunity to lay a fire, feeling the firewood, smelling the flame catch, hearing the crackle and being surrounded by a soft radiant warmth. This is your body reacting to both the physical and atmospheric stimuli.

As an experiment, when you have a little time to spare in the morning, light a candle. Have it lit while you drink your coffee, eat your breakfast and plan your day. Switch off from the mayhem and enjoy the moment – everything feels different, just for a moment.

How you decorate your home environment has a similar effect: a sense of calm and peace can be created by the colours and textures in the materials used when building your room and placing furniture.

A small sofa in a small room tends to look like a small sofa in a small room! Replace the small sofa with a larger sofa covered with cushions and throw rugs, and it becomes a cozy and inviting nest. It's even better with a nearby side table to hold a reading lamp, and a coffee table where you can rest your coffee cup and biscuit. Line a wall with bookshelves, it's now an intimate library.



Your rooms should evoke a response, reflecting their function and purpose. A child's bedroom is their sanctuary and play space; it needs be stimulating as well as functional, be a bit more adventurous with colour. I remember as a child having a fairly large red fire engine, large enough for my three teddy bears to sit in its tray. It was my favourite toy, but also my favourite colour - a dash of red amongst my otherwise green bedroom. I still have my fire engine and still believe a dash of red transforms any space, no matter how unexpected it is!

I look forward to sharing interior design ideas in 2026.

Robert Creedon Interior Design Studio

Mobile 0488 294 777
Instagram @robert_creedon
Web robertcredon.studio

Photo credit: www.thelivinghouse.co.uk

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Trentham Community Action

Invitation to the first TCA AGM, 18 Feb 2026

Trentham Community Action (TCA) was formed at a meeting of interested citizens in November 2024. Its primary purpose is representation, advocacy and collaboration, promoting action in areas not covered by any of Trentham's rich diversity of community groups.



Our first AGM, Wednesday, 18 February at Trentham Neighbourhood Centre at 7pm, will hear a report on TCA's activities since we formed, in summary:

- Formation of three Working groups:
 - Open Space Levey Projects – ongoing negotiations with Hepburn Shire Council
 - Town website – launched in November 2025
 - Road Safety – Town Traffic – Petition presented to Council
- Public meetings: two meetings were held in March and May 2025, with lead presentations from Cr Brian Hood; significant numbers in attendance. A submission was made to the CEO
- Representation to Council re changes to the Draft Structure Plan October 2025

The AGM is an opportunity to help chart TCA's future direction, a group which can connect across community

St Mary Magdalen's

Musings

I think it's fair to say that it has been a tough summer. Just as we were preparing to celebrate God coming into the world as a small, Jewish child, there came the terrible news of the Bondi massacre, where people celebrating the feast of Hannukah, the festival of light, were killed by people lost in the darkness of prejudice and hatred. We did, however, still celebrate Christmas with joy, with candles and song. Not to do so would've been to let the darkness win.

Later, the summer heat finally arrived and with it, catastrophic fires that tragically cost one farmer his life, and destroyed the homes, livestock, and livelihoods of many. Overseas, war and violence seem to rule with all too many rulers prepared to use military force, not to defend their people, but to advance their own ambitions. Peace on Earth seems a long way away. Yet, in all of this we give thanks to God for those brave souls who run towards the danger, to save and protect, even at great cost to themselves. They are truly lights shining brightly in the darkness.

interests and find ways to solve local challenges in ways that benefit our community.

As a bonus, we have asked Cr Hood to contribute with observations on Trentham's future from his perspective. Since its formation TCA has taken a largely 'project-based' approach to addressing community priorities as identified at the inaugural meeting. Following the (brief) formalities of the AGM, members will be asked how they want TCA to continue - and the priorities you'd like to see taken up:

- primarily 'project-based';
- more advocacy and representation;
- incorporating representation from and working with other community groups;
- developing a 'community plan or agenda' to provide a longer-term strategy;
- other?

Trentham has a proud record of getting things done for itself and the ongoing financial constraints on Council and State Govt mean we can't expect someone else to do it for us – or if we don't know (and agree on) what we want!

First of all, TCA needs your interest, support, ideas and commitment to make these things happen – the AGM is where the next chapter starts... see you there!

TCA needs a Committee! Outgoing 2025 TCA Committee: Fay Magee, Ian MacBean, David Sanders, John Morrissy.

The Membership form is available on the website: trenthamvic.org.au

Committee nomination forms are available from trenthamca@gmail.com

On Thursday the 22nd we gathered to mourn those who had died and to struggle with the evil that celebrates death, even that of a young girl. We now look forward to the season of Lent, a time when we do penance for our own sins and for the sins of the world. Could I suggest that, even if you don't believe, this Lent you make some small act of sorrow for all the evil that men do. That way, even if no one notices, you will have made a stand against the dark.

Deacon Joe



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Food for Thought

Currently I am reading an extraordinary book called, *Raising Hare* written by an English author Chloe Dalton. So extraordinary it has topped many reading lists throughout the world and earned acclaimed comments from leading critics.

It is so beautiful I can only read 5-6 pages at a time as I take in every chosen and perfect word in describing the growing relationship between Chloe and the hare. It has caused laughter and tears as I am intimately involved in the reading of wild baby hare, known as a Leveret. It tells of the challenges in the rearing of the little creature, of the delights as it grows and develops, and of its weird and wonderful antics and habits. It reinforces the relationship between us humans and animals, particularly those who live around us, but not with us.

Around two months ago a beautiful hare was grazing in my back yard in Beatties Road, only to find it dead a few days later. As I buried it, I took time to look at the amazing dynamics of its long body; the mighty strong back legs, the large claws under the fur covered feet and the fabulous ears that reached down to its mid-back. Again, long whiskers and thick eye-lashes that protected a well formed yet young face, and its coat was so strokeable, far softer than I had imagined it to be. I cried as the final shovel of dirt covered such a precious and superb creature.

What killed it was my question as there was no evidence of brutal damage; possibly to be hit by one of the many utes and other vehicles that tear up and down the road, the arrogant impatient drivers taking no notice of the slow down signs and couldn't care less if they hit a kangaroo or an echidna or, a hare. May it never be a child or an aged human, unable to get out of their way!!!

The Plonkers

This month found our Plonkers eating out at the Cosmo Wednesday Curry night.

Six orders of the spicy butter chicken each with rice and a roti were quickly delivered to their table.

"Curry is a bit like my love life", quipped Digby. "It starts off hot and ends in tears."

No one laughed.

Mrs Digby's icy stare hit Digby hard.

"Oh come on Dahl, it was only a joke, you're breaking my Tikka."

"Everyone ok with the Shadowfax Pinot Gris?" Niles asked, breaking the uncomfortable silence.

"An excellent choice love", said Daphne, "It's slightly spicy and fruity palate should compliment the curry perfectly."

"I heard they handpick all of their grapes and that this wine is grown down near Geelong, there's a slight hint of the sea on the swallow", Niles explained.

"Maybe we should have ordered the fish then", quipped a sulky Digby.

To my delight another hare appeared in the yard a few weeks later, returning night after night to the same patch of sweet grass. So attracted to this smaller animal, I found myself looking for it, watching it and quietly hoping for its safety. However, it has not returned since that time causing my positive thoughts that it may well have found a mate to build a nest by the Trent Creek and is busy raising its family. One would like to think so.

Chloe tells us that they are mystical creatures with traits unique to themselves and how through the hundreds of centuries they have been both revered and hunted. I understand there is a petition in the UK to protect the hare from shooters during the breeding seasons, giving them a good chance of survival within the realms of Britain's wildlife. Perhaps we need to do the same here!!

So I recommend this book to you, it is one you will not forget in so many ways, and to definitely cause you to think profoundly of your relationship with the vital and wonderous world of nature.

Sylvia Johnson
Trentham Food for Thought Group



Silence prevailed as they oo'd and ah'd their way through dinner. Brendan at the bar anticipating the need for a second bottle was quick on his feet even as the main dining room filled with chilli loving locals.

The Duke asked Digby how he was handling the heat.

"I'm loving it mate, in fact I asked chef for the recipe."

"Oh, did he give it to you?"

"He did, but I can't share it. He made me sign a naan disclosure."

Cheers!

The Plonkers

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