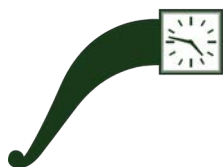


**little  
gallery**  
trentham

Winter Show



Book Launch



Words in Winter



Voices for Hope

*Hepburn*  
SHIRE COUNCIL

Budget Woes

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





## Council Plan, Budget and other strategic documents adopted



At the Council Meeting on 24 June 2025, Council formally adopted a suite of key strategic documents that will shape the future of our Shire, including the Council Plan 2025–2029 (incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan), Budget 2025/2026, Financial Plan,

Revenue and Rating Plan, and Asset Plan. These important strategic documents will help guide the future of the Shire.

**Council Plan 2025–2029** - sets the strategic direction of Hepburn Shire Council for the Council term. The Plan details the outcomes, strategies and measures Council will focus its efforts and resources on for the four-year Council term to achieve the Community Vision in a financially sustainable way. The Plan was developed with community input via surveys and our Deliberative Engagement Panel as well as Councillor and Officer workshops.

**Budget 2025/2026** - focuses on our commitment to core services while making tough yet responsible decisions to protect our short and long-term futures. It sets the framework for Council to deliver what the community needs in a financially responsible way.

**Financial Plan** - provides a 10-year projection of financial sustainability, detailing how the Council Plan and other integrated plans will be funded to achieve Council's Community Vision 2040. This Plan is crucial for supporting the long-term goals and aspirations of the community and is supported by the Council Plan, budgets, workforce plans and other key strategies and documents, especially the Financial Vision.

**Asset Plan** - covers the next 10-year period and outlines Council's approach to managing its community assets. Council manages public assets with a total replacement value of just under \$500 million, for the benefit of its community. As our Shire grows and changes, our existing infrastructure ages and requires change.

**Revenue and Rating Plan** - aims to identify the most suitable revenue and rating strategy for Council (\$43.8 million total revenue 2025/26). This Plan will ensure adequate funding for the priority outcomes outlined in the Council Plan. The Local Government Act 2020 mandates that each council must develop a Revenue and Rating Plan covering at least four years after each council election.

Visit [www.hepburn.vic.gov.au](http://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au) for more information.

## Draft Integrated Transport Strategy



Draft Integrated Transport Strategy

Have your say

Council has released a draft Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) for community feedback. The ITS forms part of Council's Future Hepburn strategic planning initiative. The draft focuses on designing and advocating for a transport system for people of all abilities.

The draft ITS is the result of several years of research and community engagement, beginning with the Local Transport Forum (2018), a benchmarking study (2019), and ongoing consultation through the Hepburn Together Community Vision and Council Plan 2021–2025, and township structure plan surveys in 2023 and 2024.

It's time for you to review the draft and have your say. Feedback is open until Friday 11 July 2025.

Learn more or have your say at <https://participate.hepburn.vic.gov.au/future-hepburn/transport>

## School holiday program

Looking for something fun and educational for the kids these school holidays? Our Hepburn Libraries holiday program is packed with hands-on activities and creative workshops to keep children engaged and active. From making kaleidoscopes to critter sculptures, join in the school holiday fun. Limited spots available so book now to secure your child's place. See what's on this school holidays at

[www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/school-holidays](http://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/school-holidays)

## Free mulch

Are you looking to give your garden some extra TLC? We have mulch ready and waiting for you at our transfer stations in Creswick, Daylesford and Trentham. It's free if you roll up your sleeves and load it by hand. If you need assistance loading, our trusty front loader machine at the Daylesford site is on standby for just a small charge of \$12 per cubic metre. The mulch comes from the green waste you all shared during our free disposal period in November. Your contributions are coming back to help your gardens grow.

## 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](http://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/Councillors) ☎ 5348 2306 ✉ [shire@hepburn.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@hepburn.vic.gov.au) 🌐 [www.facebook.com/hepburncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hepburncouncil)

## Editorial

### Hi Trentham!

Congratulations to the Trentham & Districts Historical Society on the launch of 'Trentham: An Incomplete History'. Officially & warmly launched by our Federal Member Catherine King MP (who herself has a family connection to Trentham) at the Mechanics in front of a full house, the audience was treated to tales of yesteryear, hopes for the future of Trentham, the mechanisms of researching and writing history, and a superb afternoon tea.

If you haven't already, grab yourself a copy of this charming book about

Trentham – not just the town, but the community, the buildings, the anecdotes and legends. It'll be available on their website soon.

Congratulations and thank you to the RAR team, who brought local community groups together to raise money to keep hope and education alive for young girls and women in Afghanistan – see page xx for details on how to support this worthy cause

It's well and truly winter now – which means the Little Gallery Winter Show is approaching. 16 guest artists will be exhibiting during this fundraising event, raising money for Central

Highlands Rural Health's 'TreeHouse Program' supporting people with dementia to remain part of their local community.

The Words in Winter team continue to drop teasers about the August festival – stay tuned, the full program will be available on their website shortly.

Have a great month, stay warm!

**Regards,  
Chris & Penny**

## Trentham Lions

### Good Friday Appeal – 2025 Community Shield

Tim Walsh, Vice President of Lions and coordinator of the Lions Good Friday Appeal, confirmed that our local community has enjoyed another highly successful Royal Children's Hospital campaign in April 2025.



The Trentham Community contributed a total of **\$10,904.32** – that is an amazing result achieved via a variety of sources, including the Door-Knock, Raffles, Farmers Market, the Online Tin, and individuals linked to the 3458 postcode.

There is a Trentham Community Shield which is awarded annually to the community group that raises the most money from the Door-Knock. For 2025 the award went to the **Trentham District Primary School** – once again clear winners, raising \$2,947.45 out of \$6,634.45 collected from Tins on the day.

Trentham CFA was the inaugural winner of the Shield in 2019, but since then the Primary School Community has been undefeated! The students were excited to once again be crowned 'community champions', and will have bragging rights for another 12 months.

Trentham Lions sincerely thank the Trentham CFA – our partners in this project, and everyone who supported this wonderful cause again in 2025.



*Above right: Hayley, Trentham Primary School Captain receiving the 2025 Community Shield from Tim Walsh*

## Trentham Life Activities Club

### Members of the Month: Patricia Kent and Di Clausen



This month we are celebrating two of our women who have been involved with the TLAC since the very first day. They remember the times of fundraising, large garden parties and auction sales. They can recall horse riding classes – these must have been fun!

These days TLAC has a different focus, with many small groups meeting weekly or monthly at different venues.

Di has recently become involved with Positive Aging – a program encouraging newcomers to be involved with activities, and with Senior's week coming soon look out for new experiences. There are plans for a two night stay in Echuca, and maybe a bus trip to Talbot.

Patricia is a well known figure in Trentham. Her passion is Chinese Health Exercises. She currently leads 13 classes every week – a great commitment! Her mission is to shine a light on the body, mind and spirit through her love of martial arts. She likes to move with harmony and life – a wonderful goal. Patricia leads a class for TLAC members on Friday afternoon at 2pm for one hour at the Mechanics Trentham. Newcomers are welcome to come and try this class – you will be happily included!



Both Di and Patricia are passionate about reaching out to those who may be lonely and isolated. They like to think there's a group that would interest you, and where you would feel welcome and at ease. To encourage new participants we are waiving the joining membership fees until August – you can try out any class that takes your fancy.

For more details contact Di Clausen on 0405 750 340

## 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](mailto:thetrenthamtrumpet@gmail.com)

Electronic subscriptions (which we encourage) are available at:

[thetrenthamtrumpet.com.au](http://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	
	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  
[cwatrenthamnightowls@gmail.com](mailto:cwatrenthamnightowls@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  
19 July 9am-1pm  
Trentham Town Square

#### Trentham Sustainability Group

Farmers' Market Food Swap  
19 July 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](mailto: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

#### TNC

see [trenthamnc.org.au](http://trenthamnc.org.au)

#### Community Groups Listing

[thetrenthamtrumpet.com.au/our-community](http://thetrenthamtrumpet.com.au/our-community)

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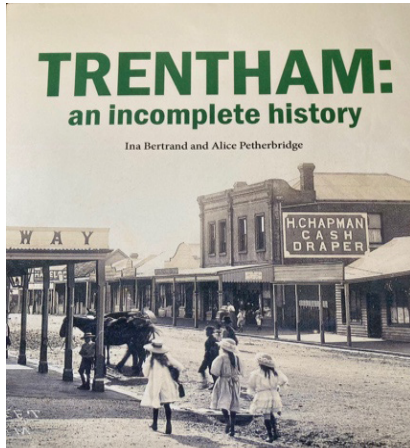
Lake View in Winter  
Steve Solly



## Trentham & Districts Historical Society

### Trentham: an incomplete history

One hundred and fifty people filled Trentham Mechanics on Saturday June 28 to celebrate the launch of Trentham's new book, 'Trentham: an incomplete history', written by Ina Bertrand and Alice Petherbridge, and designed by Janine Bryant. Together, they have created a fascinating and beautiful book.



The first print run almost sold out on the day, showing how much Trentham appreciates having such a book – a rare achievement for a town this size.

The Hon Catherine King MP formally launched the book following talks by resident historian Vicki Steggall, project researcher Gary Enders, and interviews with long-time Trentham residents. It was followed - as has become expected of the Trentham and District Historical Society - by a sumptuous afternoon tea.

More copies of the book are being printed and can be ordered by emailing the society at [info@trenthamhistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:info@trenthamhistoricalsociety.org.au)

Visit Trentham and District Historical Society at: [trenthamhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://trenthamhistoricalsociety.org.au)



*Clockwise from top right:*

*Author Ina Bertrand*

*Author Alice Petherbridge, designer Janine Bryant, with Catherine King MP and Ina Bertrand.*

*Trentham Historian Vicki Steggall*

*Elizabeth Toomey interviewing the panel of Trenthamites Kit Manning, Kath Morrison and Lawrence O'Brien*



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## Words in Winter

This year's program is full of diverse events - in it's endeavour to tease you out of the comfort of your homes and into the Warmth of Words.

The stage at The Mechanics will be set for the four outstanding word-smith-presenters who choose the power and delight of language in crafting their talents through the voice and in the written word.

The Stables of The Cosmo Hotel is the new venue for the Bush Poetry Competition - an entrenched part of this Festival for many years. If not a competitor, you'll enjoy the spirited camaraderie of the afternoon. A new event will also feature in The Stables, We're Talkin Pubs, Ghosts & Misfits. I am told The Cosmo indeed has its own ghost!

For the first time Trentham will have a play written especially for this festival: The Serpent's Smile. Presented by three well-known actors, it will have you spooked.

Opera will never be the same after tenor, Richard Hobson, has his way with it. You'll enjoy his spoofs of Carmen and La Boheme with a glass of sparkling

And how can you resist the temptation to venture into the Decadence and Delights of Chocolate at Sisko? You're invited to taste and to hear some intriguing tales of surely this most indulgent and intimate food.

Competitions, readings, music and song, workshops and more as we come together to spread the word throughout our fabulous little town.

# HAIRY ARCH

fun art competition

SUNDAY – 20 July 2025

THEME:

# W O R K

Trentham Sportsground Club Rooms • 1–5pm

Your painting is to be on canvas (no sculptures).  
This competition is strictly for amateur artists (of all ages) and will be judged by local professional artists. It's not about ability, but your creative ideas and **having fun with the theme**.

Judging and prizes are awarded, followed by an auction at approx 3pm. All proceeds will go to a worthy local group or community project.

No oversized paintings. Label the back with your name and painting title. If a child, state age as there are four age categories.

Deliver to the sportsground Friday 18 July from 3 to 5pm.

Details: Madelene 0408 765 495 or Janine artattack@bigpond.com

## 18 PRODUCTIONS AND 40 PRESENTERS IN OUR 21<sup>ST</sup> FESTIVAL



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Trentham  
Words  
in  
Winter

Plus

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ALEX MILLER

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with

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## TRATA

### At the Station

#### Mural

We're delighted to have recently been awarded a Hepburn Shire Community Grant of \$2,000, which will partially fund the creation of an Inclusive Native Garden Mural.

The mural will be painted on our shipping container opposite the railway station and will beautify the space, creating a captivating visual narrative that engages both residents and visitors. It will serve as a distinctive starting point for the Domino Trail and showcase the area's native plants and animals, as well as the railroad's history. The mural will be painted by local artist Chalky and will begin later this year (see draft sketch, top right).

We thank all the individuals and organisations who wrote letters of support for our submission. We hope the mural will become a symbol of local pride, bringing people together to reflect on our railroad history and connection to the natural world.

The Trentham and District Historical Society and TRATA will be contributing funds to cover some of the remaining project costs. However, if anyone would like to help us bridge the remaining \$1,600 shortfall, your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Our bank details are as follows:

Account Name: TRATA

BSB: 633000

Account Number: 149570301

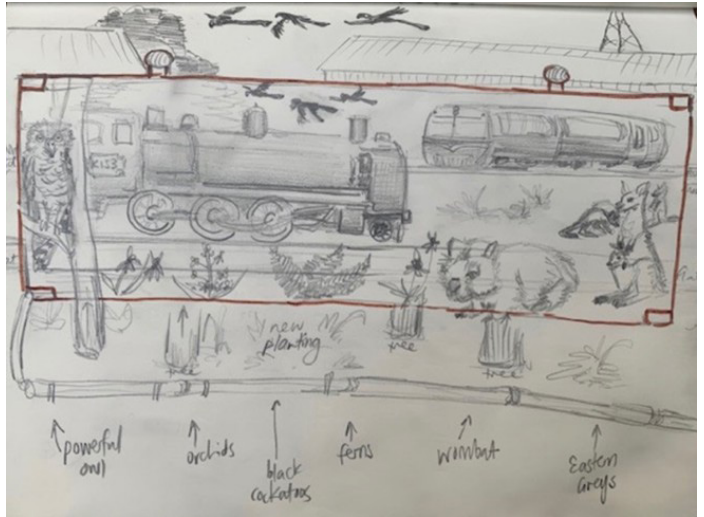
### Letter to the Editors

I would like to thank Ian MacBean for his letter in last month's Trumpet, and have a few thoughts to add.

Ian makes the point that the 10% increase in the Shire rates is not a 'once-off'. When confirmation of the increase was announced by the Shire, my initial thoughts were that rates would be reduced by the amount that was approved by the State Government, ie 7% after one year of the increased amount. However, we now know that that is not the case.

Therefore, to describe the increase as a 'once-off' is misleading, since it will form part of the base rate going forward. Ian highlighted the gap between Hepburn and Macedon Ranges rates; in Hepburn the rates are higher for a lesser level of services. Assuming no extraordinary rate increase in each Shire, the gap between Hepburn and Macedon Ranges charges will widen over time, since each annual increase in Hepburn will include an increase based on the abnormal 7%.

Cr Brian Hood's report in the April Trumpet showed that the average capital improved value (CIV) for Trentham was \$1,067,582, with rates of \$2367. A 10% increase on a house of that value would mean additional rates of about \$236. However, that figure does not include any increase attributable to rising property values. I understand that rates for the 2025/26 year will be based on the CIV as of January this year. Given a sluggish local property market for much of the last calendar year, perhaps rising property prices will not have much of an impact on our next rates bill.



#### Membership

New members are always welcome, and existing TRATA members are reminded that annual fees of \$10 are now due.

#### Phil Davis

#### Secretary

#### TRATA

[trataattrentham@gmail.com](mailto:trataattrentham@gmail.com)

Facebook: [trataattrentham](#)

Instagram: [trenthamrailwayprecinct](#)

However, an ABC report of a few days ago, quoting two reputable sources, suggested that national property prices are expected to rise by between 6% and 10% by January next year. So when 2026/7 CIV is calculated, and added to the State Government regulated 2.5% increase, assuming that Trentham house prices go up in value within the expected national increase range, Hepburn ratepayers could see another 10% or so added to the 10% to be applied this year. The compound effect over a couple of years could mean additional rates of approaching \$500 per year, or possibly more.

It is alarming that about 1 in 3 ratepayers are behind in the payment of their rates, and many must feel anxiety about being in arrears. Clearly the financial issues that the Shire faces are difficult given it's small ratepayer base and the range of services that it has to provide. One perspective on the problem is that the current population is paying a cost for the way that the Shire boundaries were created more than 25 years ago. Admittedly from a position of some ignorance, I would add my voice to those who would see Shire boundaries redrawn, and Trentham perhaps becoming part of the Macedon Ranges. (If they would have us).

#### Lawrie Hall

---

## News and Reflections

Covid hit our household in June. The world has had to go on without us for a week. It puts you in your place. The world has done okay without us.

The power went out again and we had recently learnt there was no town battery possible for a sustainable future, so we sat by the fire and kept warm, remembering the Great Storm of 2021. Medical systems worked for us, thanks Lisa and Ed. The Concert for Refugees went well and someone else used our tickets. What a great township. Love God and love your neighbour. Did you see Stan Grant and Indira Naidoo on Compass? Two beautiful wise thinkers who have learnt about quietness and talked gently together in a gorgeous physical setting.

### Trentham Community Action Inc.

---

#### Website

A major project of creating a Town Website is now seriously underway with the receipt of approximately \$5,000 grant from Cool Country Community Enterprises - Community Bank Trentham & Districts. This will be spent on establishing all the necessary details, domain, social media, etc and the tools for ongoing operation for which KGMG Creative has been engaged.

This is a significant part of our TCA mandate to develop community networks and social cohesion.

The purpose of the website is for it to be the launching pad for community information related to "Trentham Victoria", as distinct from Trentham NZ or UK! This will be an all-inclusive, user friendly, informative and engaging website to support communication and connection across the local community. There will also be visitor-specific information and scope for promotion of local businesses.

We see the core need is for information across everyday matters, services, business and traders, major facilities and activities, social groups, sporting and recreational activities, etc. In developing the new site we are keen to involve residents, organisations, activity groups and businesses.

#### Other News

TCA's recent agenda has been connecting threads of various sizes and colours. Public meetings, even going

### The Mount Players

---

#### What's on at Mountview Theatre

*A Skull In Connemara* by Martin McDonagh is our third production for 2025 running from 15 – 31 August. A razor-sharp dark comedy set in a quiet Irish village where the dead don't always stay buried – and neither do the secrets. Each year, gravedigger Mick Dowd is tasked with clearing out old graves to make space for the newly departed. But this year, something – or someone – hits a little too close to home.

With biting wit and a mounting sense of unease, the play spirals into a hilariously macabre investigation of small-town gossip, suspicion, and the skeletons we all try to keep buried.



Our new parish of Kyneton, Malmsbury and Trentham has worked out a way to get together bi-monthly without the effort of a whole parish luncheon. On Sunday 20 July everyone is invited to St George's at 9.30am for Morning Tea and then worship at 10.30am. The singing is bound to be a wall of sound and will probably be heard further up the hill at St Mary Magdalen's, who celebrate their patron, or is it matron, saint on 22 July.

May you stay warm in body and spirit in the coming weeks. Worship is usually on Sundays at 9am and you are always welcome.

**Peta Sherlock**

back to mid-2024 have been a way for residents to come together over a range of common issues, many related to Council activities, particularly town planning and budgets. There have been positive responses on different levels and specific skills have surfaced to great effect.

Other action has been taken in relation to three open-space projects now funded through the Council budget. This will see upgrades to the Domino Trail and the Wombat Trail and a planning process for major work on the Trent Creek – Bath Street Reserve.

#### Current action

Now that the Council budget has been adopted, there are questions about what this means for Trentham. Some TCA members are interested in informal discussions to follow through on a number of issues – please make contact to join in.

Also currently out for discussion is the Council Integrated Traffic Strategy which is planning forward to 2050 as to how we will move around our towns and beyond. Feedback is invited from the community by 11 July.

So, as we find common interests in various ways, so we start to develop a sense of the common good, of collaboration, and community resilience. To contact Trentham Community Action Inc: [trenthamca@gmail.com](mailto:trenthamca@gmail.com)

The Naturally Cool Big Band return to the Mountview Theatre stage to perform 3 mammoth sets of great music on Saturday 5 July at 7pm. Inspired by The Blues Brothers with charts ranging from modern pop, to Buble, Ellington and Count Basie, there's something for everyone's musical taste!

The Mount Players Youth Theatre have some places left in their weekly drama and theatre craft classes for budding young actors aged 10-18.

To book tickets and see full details on our productions, the visiting Big Band Show, Youth Theatre registration and all things theatre go to [www.themountplayers.com](http://www.themountplayers.com) See you at the theatre!



## Rural Australians for Refugees Trentham

### Voices of Hope

The Voices of Hope event on 24 June was an afternoon of singing, storytelling and solidarity: a coming together of several groups raising funds to keep hope and education alive for young girls and women in Afghanistan. More than 100 people braved the cold to welcome special guests, Lida Hazara Nayeab, Muzafar Ali, and Hamida Samar, three advocates for education connected by their experiences of fleeing Afghanistan as refugees.

Hamida, now 27 years old arrived in Australia on a Humanitarian Visa in 2023, after fleeing for her life as a young female without the protection of male relatives. She recounts: "I was in my last semester of university, studying an IT degree, when the Taliban came back into power. From that day, we weren't allowed to study IT or English classes – only religion. I never got to complete our exams because the Taliban broke our computers to stop us women from studying."



Trentham's Singing Circle took the opportunity to sing for the women and girls of this country who are not even permitted to sing. They collaborated with Hamida in singing a song in the Dari language written by one of the teachers in Hamida's orphanage.



Members of our local RAR have connected with leaders of the group Women for Change – [womenforchange.com.au](http://womenforchange.com.au) who organise funds to provide mentors for girls over the age of 12. With over 100 people in attendance, a fabulous afternoon tea provided by Trentham Night Owls CWA branch (above), almost \$2000 was raised to be shared amongst these organisations.

Muzafar Ali arrived at the event as part of his 4000km ride from southern Queensland to Adelaide, raising awareness for the vital role of education in building refugee futures. He is involved in setting up schooling for refugees still held in Indonesia [cisarualearning.com](http://cisarualearning.com). On Wednesday, Hamida and Muzafar spoke to the Year 3-6 students at the Trentham Primary School as part of their recognition of Refugee Week.

This link to a recent SBS Dateline program provides on-the-ground information. <https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/news-series/dateline>

Contact Trentham RAR: phone 0401 714 880; [rartrentham@gmail.com](mailto:rartrentham@gmail.com) and on Facebook.



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## Little Gallery Winter Show

### Wrapped up in a Warm Blanket of Art

What better way to appease the bitter winter cold than to wrap yourself in a warm blanket of the amazing local art that will be on offer at the upcoming Little Gallery annual Winter Show Fundraising exhibition?! The Little Gallery is set to host this highly celebrated mid-year showcase of regional art, opening Friday 11 July at 5.30pm.

The Winter Show artists are Dale Cox, Nadia Kliendanze, Julie McKenzie, Mark Dober, Jill Nobel, Antoinette Braybrook, Neil Matterson, Brian Falkenberg, Rowena Hannan, Diane Thompson, Maxine McKee, Jonothan Lane, Fiona Orr, Jennifer Leggett, Jody Galvin, and Emma McAdam-Marmont in collaboration with Struan Hopwood along with the Little Gallery resident artists Rose Wilson, Helen Cottle, Kim Haughe, Maria Coyle and Jimmy Rix.

Founding member of Little Gallery Rose Wilson says "Each year we source artists from the region for the Winter Show, emerging and established: award winning painters, print makers, sculptors and ceramicists. This show provides an opportunity for local artists to exhibit collectively and celebrates our artistic diversity, in addition it places Central Victoria as a premier destination for art."

The Little Gallery relies on the Trentham community for ongoing support which has been critical to its 14 year success and the fundraising element of the Winter Show is a way the gallery can give back. Proceeds on all sold artworks are donated to a local charitable organisation which can benefit the community in some way.

This year's beneficiary is Trentham Health and funds will go towards its 'Treehouse Program' which supports local people living at home with dementia. The program promotes independence and engagement by maintaining social and community connections in a positive, safe environment, to live well and to remain part of their local community. In addition, it provides families and carers an opportunity for some respite. Last year we raised over \$11,000 for the East Trentham Fellowship.



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AGFG READERS' CHOICE



**Winter Show**

Annual fundraising art exhibition  
**12-28th July 2025**

Opening: Friday 11th July 5.30pm  
Guest speaker **Antoinette Braybrook**  
Proceeds donated to **Trentham Health**

**little gallery** trentham

Open Thursday to Monday 10am-4pm  
[www.trenthamlittlegallery.com](http://www.trenthamlittlegallery.com)

Hepburn SHIRE COUNCIL

An art raffle is offered - the Little Gallery's collective of artists generously donate a piece of high quality fine art and proceeds go directly to the beneficiary. Tickets can be purchased online [trenthamlittlegallery.com](http://trenthamlittlegallery.com) or pop into the gallery during opening hours.

This year's show aligns with NAIDOC week and our guest speaker is exhibiting indigenous artist Antoinette Braybrook AM, the founding CEO of Djirra which supports our First Nations women and children experiencing family violence,

The Winter Show is now a standout calendar event, so rug up and celebrate the Little Gallery's 2025 Winter Show opening on Friday 11 July @ 5.30pm. The show will run for 3 consecutive weeks from the 12 - 28 July.

The Little Gallery is open 10-4 Thursday to Monday.  
34b High St Trentham



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Trentham Branch Making Good Things Happen

#### Trentham's Energy Resilience

We're proud to support Trentham Sustainability Group's hard work to provide a solution to town and resident power network outages – events unfortunately more likely with extreme weather conditions predicted into the future.



Large and small scale Community Microgrids have been successfully implemented in the rural towns of Omeo, and Mallacoota with one under construction at Corryong. These typically use a mix of solar, generators and batteries.

Stay tuned for the outcome of Trentham Sustainability Group's findings.



#### Life Saving Spring Hill Defibrillator

With the closest defibrillator in the Spring Hill area located at Tylden Primary School, we are proud to support Spring Hill CFA for the purchase of a new defib to be installed on their building in the coming months. You can find your nearest defibrillator by searching the AED Register on the Ambulance Victoria website.



#### Trentham Football Netball Club Keeping the Score

The long awaited electronic scoreboard is now in use! We are happy to have contributed to its installation, adding value to other recent grounds equipment upgrades such as replacement of tower lights. The board can also be utilised for community messaging in an event of a town emergency.

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*TICKETS VIA WEBSITE!* **DEBORAH CONWAY & WILLY ZYGIER** **SAT 19**  
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**SAT 26 PETE DALY** *FREE event!*  
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## Councillor's Report

### Council news

The June meeting resolved to adopt the 4-year **Council Plan** on a 6-1 vote and adopted the **25/26 budget, 10-year financial plan**, asset plan and rating plan on a 5-2 vote. The various documents, essentially unchanged from the drafts released in May, will be accessible on Council's website.

Although the **Plan** has many positive attributes I abstained from supporting its adoption now on two grounds. At least half of the 24 performance indicators have not yet been quantified. For the Plan to have solid credibility the performance indicators must be measurable, objective and specific. Work to develop measurable indicators must be completed.

The Plan's limited references to advocacy with other levels of government appear to relate to projects and policies and therefore have a business-as-usual tone and meaning. The need for advocacy and state government intervention, if Council is to become financially sustainable, is understated and lacks urgency in its message. The Plan must respond to Council's September 2024 resolution and the recent calls to action from external parties such as the ESC. Council's submission to the ESC contemplated insolvency. The consequence of cost cutting and service reductions equates to a severely compromised ability to provide services and infrastructure the community needs. Such an unsustainable outlook calls for a substantially clearer message on the need for further work with the state government.

I also made the observation that the Plan expresses "a deep commitment to working in partnership with the community." Realising lasting improvements in that area will be very challenging and will necessitate significant cultural change within Council and a commitment to genuine consultation with the community.

I opposed the **25/26 budget and 10-year financial plan** on two main grounds.

**Firstly**, the budget presents an illusion. The \$5.5m underlying deficit to be incurred this year becomes a \$0.5m surplus next year - due to an additional \$2m income from rates and a \$4m reduction in cash costs (from \$35m to \$31m). Cashflow is projected to breakeven or be marginally positive in future years after a further decrease of \$1.5m in 25/26. The claim that the budget "ensures there are sufficient cash reserves to sustain service delivery and fulfill obligations" simply isn't true. The budget and plans explicitly state that not all services and obligations will be met.

The credibility of any budget is determined by the strength of the assumptions and projections underpinning it. The foundations to this budget are not solid. The two key assumptions underpinning the budget projections are unduly optimistic and not grounded in reality. The budget's key objectives are to address the expected \$4m pa cash shortfall and ensure longer term sustainability. In that regard it is alarming that cash inflows are overstated while cash outflows are understated.

Projecting to collect very close to the equivalent of 100% of rates and charges raised each year does not take into account prevailing economic conditions. Nor does the

assumed prompt removal in 25/26 of the existing \$3m backlog in unpaid rates. The vast majority of ratepayers are facing an immediate increase in rates of more than 10% (due to the ESC-approved increase and higher property values)- that will only make life tougher for ratepayers and more challenging for Council.

Similarly, cash outflows are understated. The budget aggressively assumes that the full \$2.6m in planned cost reductions will be saved in 25/26. In other words the changes to services will be fully implemented by 1st of July and a full 12 months' cash savings generated. That just can't and won't happen. A key reason there was a scarcity of detail describing the service changes in the draft budget was that many of the changes are yet to be formulated. From an all-important cash perspective the budget projects that – **If** all cost saving initiatives are implemented on or by 1 July 2025 and a full year's savings of \$2.6m are achieved; And **If** further cost reductions of \$1.6m are secured; And **If** rates income is collected at a rate close to 100%; And **If** the backlog of \$3m overdue rates is immediately and permanently cleared; And **If** all other assumptions prove to be realistic and fully achieved; And **If** there are no emergencies or unforeseen circumstances;

Then - cash holdings will **decline** by a further \$1.5m in FY26 and breakeven each year after that

But - unrestricted cash will be very minimal, the equivalent buffer of a few days' operating costs in the next few years And - there will be **no cash** to fund construction of new assets; **no cash** for co-contributions to grants; and **no cash** to cater for emergencies.

Therefore - the ability to fulfill budget and Plan commitments and provide essential services will be severely compromised when there is inevitably insufficient cash to fund them. That outcome would further diminish confidence and trust in Council. The community deserves better.

I argued that adoption of the budget in its current form would create false expectations that there will be sufficient cash to fund the services and works promised in the Council Plan and budget. Rather than re-examine the achievability of the budget's assumptions and reconsider allocations to various services the majority of the councillor group elected to adopt the budget in its current form and conduct another budgeting exercise in December.

**Secondly** There are just too many irreconcilable differences and contradictions between the Plan and the budget. The Plan quite rightly focusses on active living and mental wellbeing and a return to back-to-basics. But here are three examples of disconnection between the Plan and the budget.

The Plan states that "Council is committed to providing services and programs that serve everyone in our community, with a particular focus on those who are most vulnerable". In response the budget slashes over \$100k or 19% from the early & middle years programs; cuts \$80k from youth; strips over half a million dollars (51%) from health and wellbeing; takes \$95k from positive ageing; and cuts 25% from libraries and customer service. The Plan's promise to "enhance community preparedness

## Energy Resilient Trentham Project

### Islandable Microgrid

At a community meeting in June at The Mechanics Trentham our consultants, Yarra Energy Foundation, presented their findings for the proposed islandable microgrid based on the Market Street transformer.



Their report found that the initial concept of a battery and generator was not financially viable at the scale required for the Market St transformer. If the battery was three times the size then it would become financially viable but that would require significant upfront capital costs, for the battery and associated equipment, which would have to be sourced from various Government grants.

Our consultants' final report will be made available on the TSG website.

### A VPP for Trentham?

An alternative microgrid pathway was suggested with what is known as a Virtual Power Plant (VPP). A VPP consists of various commercial and residential buildings having their own batteries, solar and or generator that are controlled by a management system and exports power to the grid to generate revenue via arbitrage. When there is a grid outage each site then continues to operate as a stand-alone system. This has been implemented in Omeo, with eight commercial and seventeen residential properties, and provides the required resilience in the centre of town whenever there are grid outages.

### Councillor's Report cont.

and resilience for changing conditions" and emergencies is met with a half million-dollar 52% reduction in emergency management funding.

And the Plan's promise to provide access to recreation opportunities in order to increase participation and promote wellbeing and connectedness is matched by the budget cutting over \$300k (30%) from the recreation budget allocation and further unspecified reductions to pool opening hours. Meanwhile other big-budget operational areas are faced with no or minimal reductions and any obligations on managers in those areas to find efficiencies is yet to be quantified.

### Next steps

I expect Council will announce details of changes to services once they are determined. Hopefully the December re-budgeting exercise will include community consultation. The vast majority of ratepayers across the Shire will incur an increase in their rates greater than 10%, in part due to higher property values, so checking your CIV on the 25/26 rates notice is recommended.

**Upcoming Council meeting dates** – 29 July, 26 August

**Cr. Brian Hood**

[bhood@hepburn.vic.gov.au](mailto:bhood@hepburn.vic.gov.au)

0427 797151

Facebook - Cr Brian Hood, Hepburn Shire Council

It should be noted that an islandable microgrid is already operating at Mallacoota and one is under construction at Corryong to be operational in 2026. Both projects and the VPP at Omeo have received significant Government funding.

### The story so far...

Since the major storm event of June 2021, the Energy team has been working to provide an energy resilient Trentham. During the project, funded by grants from Cool Country Community Enterprises Ltd and Hepburn Shire Council we have built up a detailed understanding of Trentham's energy supply system. We achieved significant success from a joint application in 2024 with the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance and the Hepburn Shire Council that resulted in a \$423,000 grant from the Victorian Government for a battery and increased solar at The Mechanics Trentham. The final stage of the project reported above also received funding from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal.

The TSG Energy team will now focus on investigating a VPP for Trentham. Watch this space as we will be running workshops on what you can do to be part of an energy resilient Trentham.

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IN THE WOMBAT FOREST



## Interior Design

### The Sixth Sense

Winter is the season where you can pull out from your toolbox all your home decorating tricks, to make your rooms feel welcoming and inviting. One of these techniques is what I like to call the "sixth sense".

When you walk into a room for the first time, you get a feeling; it could be positive or indifferent, but when the room feels "not quite right", inevitably you will feel uncomfortable.

Over the recent long weekend, some city friends stayed with us in Trentham, for an escape and some fresh country air. Being a delightfully cold weekend, our guests arrived rugged up in hats, gloves and scarves; they ran from their car into the house, carrying their weekend gear, moved down the hall and positioned themselves in front of the firebox, defrosting themselves as they slowly peeled off their winter layers.

There is something so special about the magnetism of a real fire, its warm radiant heat working its way through every nook and cranny, removing the chill. The sight of flickering flames, the crackling sounds and smell of burning wood, and the feeling of radiant heat are far more enticing than an electric split system. That's four of the senses satisfied; I suppose if your fireplace is in or near an eating area, that could be your sense of taste looked after, too!

These separate subjective reactions, when combined, have a certain feel that is like a sixth sense - a sense of completeness: think of the country atmosphere of big comfy sofas and armchairs to support a relaxing body, upholstered in leathers, suedes or woven fabrics.

Put your feet up on plushly-filled ottomans; run your fingers through contrasting piles and textures on your soft furnishings. Dim the overhead lights, turn on the lamps and light some candles, allow yourself to slip into an indulgent slumber in the middle of the day.



To me, true luxury is all about being comfortable; nothing over stimulating, so not too many bright colours or shiny fabrics. Add some natural fibres in your décor: raw linens, knobbly cottons, woollen knits, perhaps some faux furs on your cushions and throw rugs. Underfoot, I'm thinking of fitted jute or sisal with woollen floor rugs, exposed timber flooring with the sound of puppies pattering down the hallway.

A room feels completed when you are truly comfortable, with nothing jarring or distracting: that's the sixth sense in action.

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## Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife

It's a good time of year to take a look at what range of colours we see without the distraction of deciduous exotic trees and autumn leaves. There is so much variation in the non-deciduous greens, leaf forms and flower colours and certainly more to native vegetation than gum trees.

Our local native plants are the ones that can still grow in the forest areas nearby and which we can use to connect the small critters, particularly the birds, bees, and butterflies.

Two local shrubs add a distinctive silver-grey to the view. The *Banksia marginata* – Silver Banksia – are still in flower, small pale-to-bright yellow brushes, the silver underneath the dark green leaves. The Dwarf variety grows slowly to maybe 2.5m making it ideal for the home garden. The Silver Wattle, along with its threatened but non-invasive Dwarf form, features a grey-green-silver leaf and these are currently preparing to bloom as one of the early wattles particularly along the Wombat Trail between High and South Streets.

Tanya Loos recently noted that we have 750 indigenous species recorded for the Wombat Forest – representing 15% of Victorian species, reported in the latest Wombat Forestcare newsletter available on the website: [wombatforestcare.org.au/newsletters/WombatForestcareNewsletter72\\_jun\\_25.pdf](http://wombatforestcare.org.au/newsletters/WombatForestcareNewsletter72_jun_25.pdf)

Much work has been done by Wombat Forestcare volunteers and researchers, creating extensive records of both flora and fauna, and of course fungi – up to 400 different species - while they are still popping up at this time of year. A field guide and a photo index is available: [wombatforestcare.org.au/index.php?page=Fungi](http://wombatforestcare.org.au/index.php?page=Fungi)

Contact Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife at Trentham Neighbourhood Centre.

*Above right: Silver Wattle*



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## Meditation for Peace

### Money as Image: Parmenides's Curse

At an international conference with 1200 Art Educators, Hamburg 1987, a keynote speaker spoke to "Images of the World in the World of Images". I asked him: "what about money as image?" His answer: "begin with Parmenides, the philosopher that 'coined' the notion of 'concept'."

I had formulated my question in English and heard through my head-phones his answer in German, my first experience of multilingual conference sophistication.

Parmenides, Greek philosopher in Italy 3rd century BC is known for his thesis: " 'Being' is immovable." His student Zeno tried to prove this by a 'thought-experiment': imagine a race between Achilles and a tortoise in which Achilles gives the tortoise a yard head-start. Achilles can never win, why? Because in order to catch up with the tortoise he has to cover the yard first; before that half, a quarter and so on. As recently as 1990's I have read philosophers seriously trying to reason themselves out of "Zeno's paradox".

In 1987 a friend-doctor homeopath, Dr Twentyman, simply said: "stopping is impossible", (this by the same reasoning: first half stop, quarter and so on). Both reasonings are based on a millennia old mathematical choice between 'discrete' and 'continuous'. Since Pythagoras numbers are first deemed 'discrete', i.e. counted one by one, second counted as a continuum of numbers.

### St. Mary Magdalen's

#### Musings

Well, winter is finally upon us. The days have turned cold, the mornings frosty. We've even had some rain, although we could do with a good deal more.

If you live in a climate like Trentham's, you need to learn to love the winter, and there's a lot to love. Winter has a beauty all its own. A time when the trees are clothed in mist instead of leaves. It is a quiet time, a time when our normal activity is often circumvented by the rain and the cold. A time to consider, not so much the cold outside, but the warmth of the fire in the hearth. A time to sit and reflect.

In the church's year, we have moved into 'ordinary time'. This is not ordinary in the sense of 'not very important', but in the sense of being ordered. It is a time when the days and weeks simply follow one after another without all the excitement of the great feasts. It is a time when the church takes a breath and learns again to listen to the stillness and the quiet.

Having said that, we are in a year of jubilee, and pilgrims keep streaming to our small church, including not only Bishop Rene Ramirez, but also Archbishop Peter Comensoli. On Saturday 12 July, we will start our celebration of the feast of Saint Mary Magdalen with the Camino Domini, a pilgrimage walk from Lyonville to Trentham along the Domino Trail. It will be a walk from loss to hope, from sorrow to joy. Everyone is, of course, welcome to join us.

On a visit to Melbourne, Dr Twentyman had told me that – as a student, visiting Nederland – he had met Brouwer. I was surprised. Brouwer was virtually unknown in Nederland. He belonged to a generation of mathematicians, around 1900, that pioneered new foundations for mathematics. In his doctor's dissertation Brouwer started by observing that mathematics for millennia had been based on 'discrete first – continuous second'. He proposed that it was time to switch the order: continuous first, adding that this shift would have significant consequences in a number of areas of modern life.

It is his reference to the consequences, that drew my attention and guided my studies ever since. In the book Worldviews in Dialogue, 2024, I have presented a number of examples of this 'primacy of continuity' pages 149-151. In a 20<sup>th</sup> century history of mathematics Brouwer was considered the 'Zeno' for our time.

Why Parmenides' curse? 'While being unmoveable' a debt stays a debt, once a thief always a thief, a bigot stays a bigot, enemy stays enemy, war stays war with no ceasefire in sight. It took John Hume 12 years to help negotiate the 'Good Friday' IRA-UK peace deal (1998). And Gaza?!

#### Henk Bak

PS Friends of the Trentham peace meditation came to visit me in Wantirna. There must be a vital bond between friendship and peace!

The next day. Bishop Rene will join us to celebrate our feast day. The archbishop will be visiting us later in the year, but that's a story for another time.

#### Deacon Joe

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**TNC** Trentham Neighbourhood Centre Inc.

## Food for Thought

I have just signed off on the web site and the programme for Trentham's Words in Winter that runs through all weekends in August, and am delighted to say that it really does have something for everyone. Throughout the 18 productions the accent is on the power and delights of our language and how we use this system of communication, the primary means by which humans convey meaning and emotion.

It is estimated that the number of human languages in the world vary between 5,000 and 7,000 which is extraordinary when you think on the relatively small size of our planet. Last week, whilst planting some additional red cabbages as one large kangaroo had chomped his way through the bed, I was thinking on the language of food. Food connects everyone, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, or ethnicity and that food is used to express caring, community, kindness and love.

It is used for celebrations of happiness, for example the Wedding or the Birthday cake, and it used in expressing our sorrow and offering comfort, possibly through a casserole or a large container of soup.

Today our cook books, magazines and Google offer a feast of words in describing an ingredient or a combination of, and it is these words that get our taste buds tingling with thoughts of the flavour and what the outcome might be.

Here are just a few to think on:

Tangy: A slightly sour taste, like lemons or limes.

Rich: A deep, full taste that feels satisfying and strong, often found in foods like chocolate, cheese, or sauces.

Buttery: A smooth, creamy flavour with a slight sweetness, often found in pastries or sauces.

Bitter: A sharp taste, like dark chocolate or coffee.

Smoky: A subtle, savoury heat that brings to mind the flavour of foods cooked over an open flame or with smoked spices.

So instead of saying "The sauce was nice," you could say, "The sauce was rich and buttery with a tangy kick." It sounds a whole lot nicer, doesn't it? In fact, I dislike the words good and nice, calling them lazy words, such a pity when our language is full of delicious options.

**Sylvia Johnson**  
**Food for Thought**

## The Plonkers

It was just before the flu took a hold of our town that the Plonkers dined out at the Pig & Whistle in East Trentham.

The smiley faces of proprietor Eamman and his daughter Madi greeted them by the bar and they were then led to a large table by the warming fire.

Digby, always keen to impart his knowledge of local history, explained to the group that the pub had been built by an Irishman way back in 1887, and you could see the different architectural styles as more rooms were added on throughout the intervening years. "A pub in a paddock, a public house in a park, a free house in a field, a..."

"Yes, yes Digby, we get the picture, let's order!" interrupted Niles.

Sitting by the open fire Daphne commented, "Not too many out tonight, half of my street has caught the flu."

"I've heard of bird flu but not street flu?", questioned Digby.

"Yes, well", chimed in the sometimes saucy Uncle Worcester, "this fire reminds me of the time a raven with bird flu flew into my chimney flue"

"Oh, what did you do?"

"I told him time flies and so should you and off he flew through a flaw in the flue."

"Yes, time does fly, such a shame we can't catch it", mused The Duke.

"Enough of this inane banter, time to order." stated the long suffering Mrs Digby, once again taking charge.

A mix of pub favs including chicken Parmas, fish n chips and cheeseburgers as well as more upmarket choices such as Guinness pies, Bourbon-glazed sticky pork ribs, Sri Lankan chicken curries and a scotch fillet soon covered their tabletop.



A wide selection of local, Australian and NZ wine was on offer. Our party eventually choosing a bottle of the dark plum-like Grenache from Mon Tout Wines in the Swan Valley, WA. As well as a bottle of the Johnny Q Cabernet from Coonawarra, an even deeper plum palate with firmer tannins.

As Uncle Worcester sipped on his Holgate American IPA rolling his eyes at all the fuss they were making over the wine, he wondered why yet again he had been roped in as the designated driver.

He mumbled out loud to himself, "I'll be sure these Plonkers feel every single pot hole on the way home."

"What was that Uncle?" asked Daphne.

"Oh nothing sweetheart, just practicing my Bush Poetry for Words in Winter."

Cheers!

## The Plonkers



## Local Business Guide

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## Spudman's Signoff

A flea and a fly in a flue  
Were caught, so what could they do?  
Said the fly: "Let us flee"  
Said the flea: "Let us fly"  
So they flew through the flaw in the flue.



Spudman  
by Peter Young  
Oil on Canvas

Trentham Film Society presents

**COUP  
DE CHANCE****Saturday, July 19**

Trentham Neighbourhood Centre - 7pm

**\$20 for 3 consecutive months society membership.**

New members welcome.

Pre-show drinks and nibbles available from 6.30pm.

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