

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

Thank you: Adele Anderson | Amber Gardener | Andy Robertson | Anjee Anderson | Australian Sky and Weather | Barfly Bob | Brian Young | Brooke Limmer | Camille Heagney | Casey Beverley | Central Highlands Rural Health | Charles Sherlock | Chris Campbell | Clyve Herbert | CNAV | Community Bank – Trentham & Districts | Cool Country Men's Shed | Corinne Gurry | Cr Brian Hood | CWA Trentham Night Owls | David Woodward | Deacon Joe | Digby Plonker | Dogs of Trentham | Dorothy Hancock | Fay Magee | Fiona Ross | Food for Thought | Gael Elliott | Gayle Osborne | George Tosi | Glenda Holmes | Graham Orr | Gus, the Trentham Wombat | Henk Bak | Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife | Hepburn Shire Council | Hugh Fitzpatrick | Ian MacBean | Ina Bertrand | Jane Herbert | Janice Robertson | Jeanne Shaw | Jennifer Collens | John Gardner | John McLaren | John Riches | Julie Moran | Kara Rowe | Karen Hunt | Kasie Watson | Kate Anderson | Kaz Krasovskis | Kelly Griffiths | Kent Newton | Kevin Smith | KGMG Creative | Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival | Lawrie Hall | Leonie Hehir | Linda Bracey | Little Gallery | Lochlan Redlawsk | Lynne Farrell | Madelene Sutton | Mark Constable | Mark Reid | Matthew Nickson | Michael Johnson | Michael Worthington | Mike Greeton | Molly the Tractor | Naturalight Photography | Neil Aplin | Nick Shearer | Niles Plonker | Pam Cornthwaite | Penny James | Peta Sherlock | Peter Gibb | Peter Love | Peter Parsons | Peter Young | Phil Davis | Quarry Street Reserve | Rachel O'Donnell | Richard Goodman | Robert Creedon | Rose Wilson | Ross Urquhart | Rural Australians for Refugees | Sandy Watson | Seana Mounsey | Spudfest | Spudman | St George's | St. Mary Magdalen's | Steve Macklin | Steve Solly | Sue Worthington | Susan Morelli | Susie Kilby | Susie Wyatt | Sylvia Johnson | The Cosmo | The Diggers Club | The Duke | The Gisborne Singers | The Green Store | The Mount Players | The Plonkers | Tony van Rensberg | TRATA | Trentham – Australia's Top Tiny Town | Trentham & District Historical Society | Trentham & Districts Life Activities Club Inc. | Trentham Bowling Club | Trentham CFA | Trentham Community Action | Trentham Community Group | Trentham Cool Country Classics Car Club | Trentham Cricket Club | Trentham Dance | Trentham District Football Netball Club | Trentham District Primary School | Trentham Easter Art & Craft Show | Trentham Fashion Swap | Trentham Film Society | Trentham Golf Club | Trentham Health | Trentham Landcare | Trentham Lions Club | Trentham Neighbourhood Centre | Trentham Public Reserves | Trentham Saints | Trentham Singing Circle | Trentham Sustainability Group | Trentham Talks | Uncle Worcester | Vicki Jackson | Vicki Stegall | Wild Little Swallows Photography | Wombat Forestcare | Words in Winter



New Mayor and Deputy Mayor

At the Statutory Meeting on 18 November, Cr Tony Clark was elected Mayor for a 12-month period. Cr Shirley Cornish was elected Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months. Both Councillors Clark and Cornish were elected Councillors in the 2024 local government elections.

Cr Tony Clark said he thanked the councillor group for their belief in his leadership and that he looked forward to working productively over the coming year.

"Thank you to Cr Don Henderson and Cr Lesley Hewitt for their leadership over the last twelve months. I will work constructively and positively with my fellow Councillors to address the challenges ahead and to build trust with our community," said Cr Clark.

More at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/latest-news



Pool season commencing

We are excited to welcome you back to our outdoor pools in Clunes, Daylesford and Trentham from Monday 8 December. We also have our much-loved Splash Park in Creswick.

We have worked hard behind the scenes to get our facilities ready for you to enjoy.

A reminder that pools close on Christmas Day, New Year's Day and when the next day Bureau of Meteorology weather prediction is 21 degrees and below.

More information at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/pools



End of year closure

Council hubs and libraries will close at 5 pm on Tuesday 23 December (Daylesford Library will close at 5:30 pm) and reopen as usual on Monday 5 January.

Bin collections

Thursday 25 December - no bin collections.

Friday 26 December - your bin collection may be delayed by 24 hours.

Thursday 1 January - no bin collections.

Friday 2 January - your bin collection may be delayed by 24 hours.

Transfer stations

Thursday 25 December - closed.

Visitor Information Centres

Thursday 25 December - closed.

Swimming pools

Thursday 25 December and Thursday 1 January - closed.

Emergencies

For animal emergencies phone 0419 587 955.

For all other Council-related emergencies phone 0419 583 573.

Councillors and staff wish you a safe and happy festive period.



Fire season

The Fire Danger Period for the Hepburn Shire started at 1 am on Monday 24 November. Know what you can and can't do during this period at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/can

Council has also started its fire hazard inspection program to help the community prepare for the upcoming fire danger period.



HEAT SAFE campaign



Heat can be fatal. HEAT SAFE is a campaign that Council is delivering in partnership with the Grampians Public Health Unit, Central Highlands Rural Health and 14 other agencies.

HEAT = Heat impacts everyone, but some people are more at risk than others.

SAFE = There are ways to prepare and stay safe on hot days.

Learn more about surviving extreme heat at

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

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!

True to form, the weather was up to its usual Twilight Night shenanigans, but a little rain didn't dampen the community spirit. Kathleen Halloran returning to the Cosmo Stables for a headline performance was an absolute treat, capping off a great night. Thank you to the traders, hospo venues and community groups for staying up late, and the Green Store for making the magic happen.

Thank you to our contributors who make the Trumpet magic happen every month – apologies to anyone we've left off our cover. We're super grateful for the support we receive from the TNC – especially Rachel O'Donnell: we're awarding you MVP this year! Thanks also to our advertisers, subscribers, distributors and supporters (particularly these last few wonky months), it really is a team effort.

Lastly, thank you for reading! We'll be back in late January with the February edition.

Wishing you a festive season full of peace and joy.

Regards,
Chris & Penny

Trentham Christmas Carols in the Park



**FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER
2025**

Quarry St. Reserve, High St, Trentham

Hot food From 6pm

Carols & concert from 6.30pm

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

Enquiries – 5424 8291 or 5424 1127

A Free Community Event organized by the



SERVICES IN TRENTHAM 2024

Sunday 21 December, 7.00pm
Ecumenical Carol Service

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

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



St George's Anglican Church (High Street):

Christmas Day, Wednesday 25 December 9.00am

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

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December 10.00pm

Christmas Day, Wednesday 25 December 8.30am

(both services preceded by carol singing)

St Malachy's Catholic Church Blackwood

Thursday, December 26 (Feast of Stephen) 10.00am

No plans for Christmas??

You don't have to spend it alone because The Trentham Neighbourhood Centre (TNC), Trentham Lions Club and the CWA Trentham Night Owls are hosting a Christmas lunch. If you would like to know more, contact the TNC on (03) 5424 1354 or via email info@trenthamnc.org.au



Trentham Lions Club



The Country Women's
Association of Victoria Inc.
care empower contribute

About the Trumpet

Acknowledgement of Country

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



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

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

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

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

thetrenthamtrumpet@gmail.com

Electronic subscriptions (which we encourage) are available at:

thetrenthamtrumpet.com.au

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

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

Advertising Rates <i>(from Feb 2022)</i>	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

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
20 December 9am-1pm
Trentham Town Square

Trentham Sustainability Group

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

Trentham Cool Country Men's Shed

Open Wednesday & Saturday mornings
9.30am - 12.30pm
55 Mulchay's Road Trentham
info@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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TRATA

At the Station

Interpretive Signs

Our three interpretative panels have been installed and have already proved to be a very popular addition to the station. It's great to see the community and visitors taking the time to learn more about the station's history and our unique collection of railway rolling stock. If you haven't already, check them out the next time you pass by.



Special thanks to Fern Hill Tree Services

We are extremely grateful to Fern Hill Tree Services, who donated a large part of their services to trim several of the 100-year-old plus trees in the station. Help such as this makes an enormous difference in keeping the station safe and looking great.

Finally, we wish our members and supporters a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. We sincerely thank everyone for their time, donations, and their barbeque and raffle ticket purchases. It all counts. **Our final market for this year is on Sunday 14 December**, when our big raffle is drawn. Tickets will still be available on the day!

Cool Country Classics Trentham Car Show

Over 70 classic and vintage cars were on show at the station for the Cool Country Classic Car Club's 'Show and Shine' event in November. A large crowd was in attendance, and TRATA members were on hand to provide the catering. Luckily, the weather held out pretty well, but unfortunately we were powerless to stop a few rain drops falling on the precious paintwork.

Phil Davis
Secretary
TRATA

trataattrentham@gmail.com

Facebook: trataattrentham

Instagram: trenthamrailwayprecinct



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Dr Kate Turnbull
Trentham | Kyneton | Daylesford



Dr Brad Wyer
Trentham | Kyneton

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

In an emergency always call 000

Daylesford
10 Hospital Street
T: 5348 2227

Kyneton
89 Piper street
T: 5422 1298

Trentham
22 Victoria street
T: 5424 1602

Tribute from Trentham District Cricket Club

Bill O'Connell was a long-time Life Member, legend, and co-founder of the modern-day Trentham District Cricket Club. His name is deservedly synonymous with the Club, which he actively supported for more than six decades.

From the early 1960s, Bill devoted a huge amount of time and energy to the game and to the Club. He was a great player, captain, president, and coach. He usually performed multiple roles concurrently, and it was largely through his efforts that the Club has survived and prospered, including through periods that were challenging due to shortages of players.

Our present-day members missed seeing Bill in his playing days. However, it is clear from his record that he was an excellent batsman, winning numerous Club and Association batting average awards. From all reports, he was a hard man to dismiss and very strong square of the wicket, so you bowled short at your peril! He was also a very handy bowler and did get a hat-trick and one six-wicket haul.

In a lifetime full of great cricketing achievements and highlights, the following are amongst his best :-

- Bill scored 19 centuries including one in representative cricket;
- In Season 1972/73, he had a batting aggregate of 659 runs at the extraordinary average of 131.2 runs per innings (a Club record that may never be beaten);
- He captained the 1962/63 premiership team;
- He was Club president and/or secretary for most of the period from the 1960s to the 1990s;
- He was made a Life Member of the Trentham District Cricket Club in Season 1980/81;
- He was made Life Member of the Daylesford Cricket Association in 1982 (He was Association president from 1975 to 1984);
- He won the Shire of Kyneton Sports Award in 1985;
- He coached junior cricketers for about 30 years, a few of whom still play for the Club.

Despite all his achievements, Bill was always humble, and focused more on the Club and helping other players. In honour of Bill's achievements and service, the Trentham and Blackwood Clubs compete each year for the Bill O'Connell Shield, a tradition going back to 1994. In addition, since 2014, the season's Best Player award for the Trentham Club has been named after him.

Even in later years and, despite failing health, Bill maintained a strong passion and interest in the Club.

It is quite possible that Bill attended every one of the presentations since the early 1960s (or, if not, very close to it), including last season's presentation. It has always

been a great privilege to have him personally present the Bill O'Connell Award for Best Player, and he will be a sad absence from now on.

Bill O'Connell was a great bloke to know. He had plenty of time for everyone and was always up for a good chat. Many of our Club members over the last twenty years have enjoyed long conversations with him, mostly of course about cricket and football, in both of which he demonstrated an excellent recall and breadth of knowledge.

Bill leaves an extraordinary legacy and cannot be thanked enough for his services to the Trentham District Cricket Club. He is truly a legend in the eyes of the Club and will be sadly missed.

The Club sends its heartfelt condolences to Cath O'Connell and Family.

Well batted, Billy.

Mark Reid
Trentham District Cricket Club



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Bill O'Connell

Vale Bill O'Connell

A long-time supporter of the Kyneton Marist Brothers Old Boys Bill O'Connell of East Trentham died on the 15th of November 2025 in his eighty-seventh year.

Bill was one of the many Trentham boys who attended the school at Kyneton. After finishing school he returned to the family farm and continued his selected occupation.

His wife Cath was always at his side when the Old Boys held their annual reunion and general meetings. Bill was unwell and unable to attend the 2025 reunion in January, but was treated to a take home meal organised by Cath.

The Trentham Football Netball Club called Bill a true "Sainter" due to his commitment to the Club for most of his adult life. Quote: - A gifted footballer, a cricketer great, and a legendary bowler, Bill's passion for sport was matched only by his unwavering commitment to the next generation. His selflessness, humility, and quiet leadership left an indelible mark on all who knew him.-: unquote.

The Brothers instilled the Catholic faith in students. In keeping with the Old Boys credo Servabo Fidem, Bill O'Connell certainly carried the lessons into life and was able to serve the faith until his death.

In 2002 when the Sacred Heart Church at East Trentham was stripped and sold. Bill, as secretary of the church community took on the Parish Priest and the Archbishop. Sadly it was to no avail and the artefacts were scattered via auction and other means. Many people would have become "Lapsed Catholic" but not Bill. The Church was built in 1890 with money from local farmers, the descendants of Irish migrants who settled the area in the 1840s.

A funeral mass for the repose of the soul for Mr William Joseph 'Bill' O'Connell was offered at St. Mary Magdalen's Catholic Church, Trentham by Father Declan O'Brien on Monday 24 November. A burial followed at Tylden Cemetery.

The Church and Graveyard, as well as the Pig and Whistle hotel where a wake was held were overcrowded. The funeral cortege diverted via Pearsons Road East Trentham past Bill and Cath's home.

Son, Daniel gave the congregation an insightful and humorous resume of his father. At the wake many additions to the anecdotes were delivered.

Requiescat in Pace Bill!

Michael Halley
for Marist Bothers Old Boys

A Life Dedicated to Trentham Bowling Club

The Trentham Bowling Club mourns the loss of Billy O'Connell, a devoted bowler, mentor, and cherished member for more than 35 years. Billy's unwavering dedication to the club and its community made him a respected figure on and off the green.

A talented competitor, Billy was a two-time Club Champion (2000, 2016) and achieved remarkable success in pairs, winning the Club Pairs Championship ten times between 1995 and 2017. In recognition of his commitment and service, he was awarded Life Membership in 2011. Billy played a pivotal role in some of the club's milestone achievements. He skipped Trentham Bowling Club's first Division 2 pennant win and was instrumental in the club's first Saturday pennant victory in 2000/01. Off the green, he contributed as President (1996-97), long-standing Committee Member, coach, umpire, tournament representative, selector, and a valued Match Committee member.

His dedication extended far beyond play. Billy spent countless hours cutting and maintaining the green, tending to the surrounds, and attending every working bee. He took particular pride in maintaining the hedge and was known for practising multiple times a week, often reminding others that "no one practices enough".

Billy's presence at the club was marked by his generosity, humility, and good humour. He never sought recognition but gave wholeheartedly to ensure the club thrived. His guidance inspired younger players, and his legacy is etched into the club's culture and community spirit.

The Trentham Bowling Club extends heartfelt condolences to Billy's family and friends. His contributions, character, and love for the game will be remembered with respect, gratitude, and deep affection.

Kara Rowe
for Trentham Bowling Club



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Trentham Neighbourhood Centre

December rolls around again. The end of the year prompts a taking stock of where we have got to, and the looming new year tempts us to make plans for where we want to go.

It has been a busy year at TNC. Every year is a busy year at TNC. There are a few old friends that we have sadly said goodbye to, but there are many new people we have met along the way as well. Our volunteer Committee of Management has gone through some changes of personnel, but now looks forward to next year re-invigorated and with the largest number of members for several years.

The TNC building has been full of people. The humble hall that has been guarding this corner of Market and High Streets for over a century has played host to a wide variety of activities this year. From watercolour to poetry, wildlife to landscape design, French and fruit tree pruning, regenerative farming and First Aid, kid's art club, and plenty of exercise classes.

Our beautiful little Community Garden has completed its first full year of life, and as I write is being planted with summer crops by some of our enthusiastic volunteers. The garden is open for all to come and enjoy, so feel free to take a seat and rest a while.

Trentham Easter Art and Craft Show

Call for Sponsors

The Trentham Easter Art and Craft Show was first held in 2007 and has been an artistic and social highlight for the community until 2019 when Covid interrupted its running. In 2025, 165 exhibitors entered almost 400 artworks. 111 of these (around 70%) were 'locals' (within 50km of Trentham) and almost 25% of their works were sold.

**In 2026 it's back in the newly renovated Mechanics
Trentham - Thursday 2 April to Monday 6 April**

Held over Easter, with an Opening Night on the Thursday evening, it has a proud reputation of supporting the work of our local artisans and fostering a love of art, craft and creativity amongst the old and young in our community.

Co-ordinated entirely by volunteers, it relies on the generosity of benefactors, community service groups and local businesses to provide the resources needed to run it. This includes \$500 cash prizes for each of 17 category winners.

Prizes will be given for the following categories:

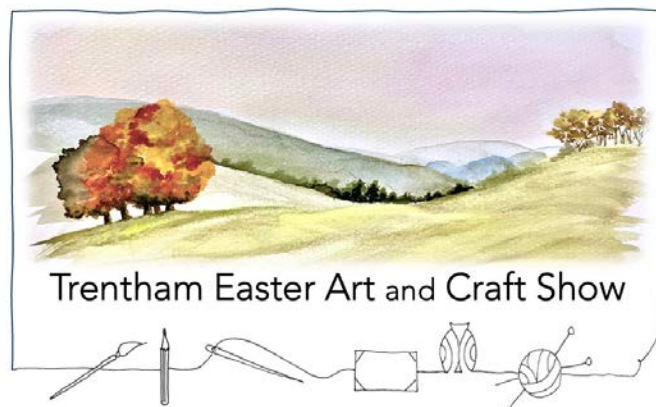
- Best Oil, Best Acrylic, Best Watercolour, Best Mixed Medium, Best Digital Design, Best Drawing, Best Sculpture, Best photograph, Best Jewellery
- The Stan Falloon Prize for Best Craft (soft fibre & hard medium)
- The Dr Gweneth Wisewould Portrait Painting Prize
- Best Local Artist (defined by 50km from Trentham P.O.)
- Best Artisan (art or craft) Under 12 years of age
- Best Artisan (art or craft) 12 to 18 years of age
- People's Choice Award.

Next year we look forward to offering another range of classes and activities, with something (hopefully) for everyone. If there is something you would like to see at TNC let us know! If you have a skill or area of knowledge that you would like to share with others, definitely get in touch. We are always on the lookout for people to present new classes.



As we wind down and ease into the holiday season, it is a good time to reflect on how lucky we are to be able to participate in such a vibrant and active community. Tourism awards aside, Trentham really is a special place. And while the heritage streetscape is nice, and the Falls are pretty, it is the people that make it so.

TNC closes annually for three weeks in December and January. Our last day open is Thursday 18 December, and we will be back, refreshed and raring to go, on Monday 12 January. From all of us at TNC, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season with those that you love. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2026.



Our sponsors receive the following benefits

- Identity, visual and short description on our website all year,
- Name on their sponsored prize category & presentation on Opening Night
- Logo Promotion with the event on social media before and during the event.

If you would prefer, rather than sponsoring a prize category, we welcome your involvement in either:

- Financial: Making a monetary donation toward the running of the event.
- In-kind: Making a product donation toward the running of the event (food/drinks).

Check out our sponsors already on the website at www.teacs.org.au or contact:

TEACS
P.O. Box 286, Trentham VIC 3458
Mobile: 0409 789 580 OR 0408 013 391

GET FIRE READY



BUSH & RURAL BLOCKS

- ✓ Excavator clearing of undergrowth & fire fuels (rubber tracks for low impact)
- ✓ Fire break creation & defendable space preparation
- ✓ Log collection & stacking for firewood
- ✓ Storm damage cleanup

We are fully insured, equipped & safety ready locals with knowledge of Hepburn Shire properties & bushfire regulations

RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS

- ✓ Mowing & Slashing – paddocks, large residential blocks, acreage
- ✓ Green waste removal & mulching
- ✓ Tree pruning & undergrowth clearing
- ✓ Gutter cleaning & ember-proofing

FIRE SEASON IS COMING. PROTECT YOUR HOME & LAND FOR PEACE OF MIND FOR YOU & YOUR FAMILY



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Community Bank
Trentham & Districts**Bendigo Bank**

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FAREWELL WENDY WHITE

Wendy has signalled her intention to stand down as Board Director after 14 years' service to the Community Bank. Wendy is a founding board member, and contributed to the set-up of the company and branch as a steering committee member. We thank her for her invaluable contribution to the success of the company and her service to the local community.



Thank you!

COMMUNITY BANK WRAP UP

With combined community investment and shareholder contributions of over \$892,198 since the Trentham branch's opening in 2011, we would like to sincerely thank our customers for helping make this a reality.

Funds returned to our local communities represent significant local impacts including sustainability of local events and community projects, and the strengthening social connection and belonging.



From all the Community Bank team, we wish you a safe, happy and well deserved break.

The branch is open to assist with your banking throughout the holiday period (closed public holidays).

BOARD DIRECTOR OPPORTUNITY

We are inviting interest from candidates who reside in or have strong connections to the Trentham & Districts area who are keen to be actively involved in contributing to Cool Country Community Enterprises Ltd's management of the Community Bank/Bendigo Bank franchise located in Trentham, and the community investments enabled by running a successful banking business.

In particular, the Board is seeking individuals who have skills in one or more of the following areas:

- Business Development
- Marketing.

Please contact our Chair Brian Hood - details below.



Part of the team

Cool Country Community Enterprises Limited is a franchisee of Bendigo Bank and operates the locally owned Community Bank Trentham & Districts.

Expressions of interest are now being accepted for the voluntary position of Director.

As a director you will be motivated, well organised, self-directed and community orientated. You'll support and drive the company's strategic direction, goals and objectives to have a real say in the future direction of the branch and community.

For more information or to apply, call Brian Hood on 0411 139 004 or email bhood@tcece.com.au.

Cool Country Community Enterprises Limited

Community Bank Trentham & Districts

37b High Street, Trentham

Trentham Tales

Trentham PS 1588 Celebrates 150 Years!

One hundred and fifty years ago a little wooden school was built on Bridge Street, Trentham. It replaced two nearby schools which had previously been established by local identities who recognized the importance of education in a changing world.

Proclaimed by the Education Authorities in 1875, PS1588 was on its way and without any fanfare! Approximately 18 schools in and around the district, stretching from Ashbourne to Blackwood, came and went between 1860 and 1960 with the last, Chanters Lane School's five enrolled children transferring to Tylden PS 621.

One hundred and fifty years later only the Trentham and Tylden schools are still going strong. On Sunday 23 November 2025, a large, enthusiastic and slightly aged group of past students browsed the grounds, supported the sausage sizzle, helped raise funds with wine purchases, got faces painted, attended class, checked out photos and met up with old friends and school mates.

Perhaps the most 'senior' girls present were Dr Merrilyn Murnane, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday and her sister Loris, whose mother attended the school at the turn of the last century! Also, 86 year old Mr Holmes from Blackburn had sharp memories of his happy days at Trentham Primary, many of which he shared with this writer as he marvelled at the changes from his school days soon after World War Two.

Trentham & District Historical Society provided valuable support to the enthusiastic group of volunteers who prepared the historic display which proved very popular. It was an opportunity for many visitors to share jokes, reminisce, and even share some secrets. It was also a valuable experience for our committee members to meet many ex-locals who had travelled from Geelong, Wangaratta, Bendigo and Warrnambool, to relive a part of their happy past. If only we had more time to listen!

Fortunately much of the day's activities have been recorded and hopefully future pupils, families and Trentham folk in general will get to look back at more of the Good Old Days, and hopefully consider, yes, they were the Best Days!

.....

Blue Mount Cemetery: 150 years on

North of and just below the summit of Blue Mountain (only 5km south of Trentham), sits Blue Mount Cemetery, gazetted in June 1875 for public burials.

Mrs Henry Garlick, picnicking at the site with her miner husband a year previously declared it where she wanted her "resting place" (Bertrand & Petherbridge, TDHS, 2025).

Others obviously shared this view. The 1874 petition of 48 residents noted that "shortly after the Blackwood diggings were opened deceased persons in the Blue Mountain district were interred on [the mountain]... and have continued to be. The number ... amounts to about sixty. [Locals wish] to be interred near their friends, and [we] request you proclaim the ground a public burial

ground" (Hitchcock, Blue Mount Publishing, undated).

A visit last month by TDHS showed that the charm of the site has not abated, despite the cemetery's obvious neglect. While family plaques of remembrance from the later 20th century - well known community names such as Robson and Beach - are still in place, there is little evidence of early gravestones.

Sadly, cemetery records for Blue Mount have long been blighted by fire. All were lost when early sexton and undertaker William Miller's house burnt to the ground. Then, extraordinarily, many years later, the same occurred to Clarrie Donald's house and the records within it.

However, TDHS has been fortunate in 2025 to receive from Arie Baelde the product of his extensive research. Using a wide range of sources, Baelde has identified 365 names of those buried at Blue Mount, the first from 1860, with at least 50 buried prior to the cemetery's official gazettement. The bulk occurred in the late 19th century (270 up until 1900), then 35 from 1917 to the last as recent as 1985.

So while the story of this lovely, peaceful cemetery is rarely told, its significance remains keenly felt. It's well worth a visit in the drier months if you have a 4WD.

Vicki Stegall
Trentham & District Historical Society



Exhibition

Celebrating 40 Years of Design



Helen McRae

Discover the artistry of **Helen McRae** in this retrospective exhibition featuring garments that span four decades of creativity, innovation, and timeless style. For 40 years every toy, homeware or garment sold from **Jargon** has been designed and created by Helen in the heart of Trentham.

Opening
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32 High Street, Trentham

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TRENTHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Councillor's Report

Community news

Congratulations to the organising committee for arranging a fitting celebration for Trentham Primary School's 150th anniversary. Also, the primary school students again made a wonderful contribution to the Remembrance Day service.

Council news

Key outcomes from the November Council meeting. I tabled a condolence motion to mark the sad passing of **Bill O'Connell**. A gifted footballer, cricketer and lawn bowler Bill was never far away from sport and is held in very high esteem by the clubs he served so well. He will be fondly remembered, respected and admired for his significant contributions to the community, his friendly yarns and sharp wit. A true gentleman in every sense of the word Bill will be sadly missed but very fondly remembered.

Council resolved to **dispose of seven properties** that have been deemed as surplus to requirements. These are 79A Raglan Street, Daylesford; 26 Raglan Street, Creswick; 10 Camp Street, Clunes – "Camp Hill Site"; 10 Semmens Avenue, Creswick; 313 Clunes Road, Creswick; 1 Armstrong Street, Daylesford; and 2 Creswick Road, Clunes.

Providers of **affordable housing** will be encouraged to submit expressions of interest for the first five named properties as they are considered to be particularly suitable for the development of affordable housing.

Pleasingly the ill-advised notion of selling the park known as **Rea lands in Daylesford** has been thwarted. Council resolved to retain ownership of the land and support its continuing use by the community.

With regard to the provision of **sport and recreational facilities in Clunes** Council resolved to continue work on a master plan to improve the existing site. Options to upgrade facilities have been costed at between \$7m and \$16m on the current site. Planning for relocation to a new greenfield site, at an estimated cost in excess of \$30m, will be ceased.

Council's **ten-year financial plan** does not include funding for the construction of any new assets in the Shire. Work to redevelop the current site will therefore be highly dependent on grant funding.

Following concerns raised by community members last summer councillors asked officers to explore how Council facilities could be made accessible to community members for the purpose of **respite on extreme weather days**. I encouraged and supported such an initiative as it would be consistent with the strategic intent of Council's health and wellbeing plan and that it would specifically assist the more vulnerable members of our community. A trial over this coming summer would gather relevant data and could be implemented with the assistance of community groups, organisations and volunteers. The motion to make Council facilities accessible was lost 6-1.

Council will provide educational information, create a map of cooling spaces and encourage membership to Open Access libraries. In the example of Trentham the meeting and function rooms of the Mechanics will remain closed on extreme weather days.

The meeting considered the **financial reports for the three months to 30 September**. Many projects and capital works have started the financial year slowly, as evidenced by operating costs being \$1m under budget for the period and only \$700,000 of the \$19m full-year capex budget being spent. Despite that subdued rate of spending the quarter was cash negative – the bank balance falling from \$13.3m at 30 June to \$11m at 30 September.

Some **\$4.5m of rates income is overdue**. My concern is not only for the organisation's cashflow but for the number of ratepayers struggling to pay rates as they fall due. The amount of arrears is up slightly on the same time last year. The \$4.5m overdue balances are owed by 2115 ratepayers – 1319 of whom are residential ratepayers. About 13% of those residential ratepayers are on payment arrangements. I would encourage any ratepayers who are finding it difficult to pay rates on time to contact Council.

Council considered an application from the **Daylesford Cinema Group** for \$50,000 funding to enable the acquisition of projection and sound equipment. The funding would be sourced from the \$2.1m reserve created from the proceeds of the sale of the Rex, specifically for the community facilities that were originally intended to be housed in the Rex. I supported the application on the grounds a cinema would provide a valuable entertainment asset for the whole Shire; the project's alignment with Council's policies; the project's strong community support (as evidenced by an impressive fundraising effort); and in recognition of Council's prior commitments to assist the cinema group. The application was denied in a 3-4 vote, with councillors Hewitt, Cornish, Hockey and Henderson declining support.

Other Council news

The much-anticipated **outdoor gym equipment** is being installed at Trentham sportsground and is due to be available in December.

I have requested the **public rubbish bins in High St** be replaced... or at the very least cleaned.

Council is about to commence its **annual gravel road re-sheet program and road reseal program**. The affected roads will be :

Gravel Road Re-sheet Program

Fords Road, Porcupine Ridge
Russells Road, Porcupine Ridge
Telegraph Road, Sailors Falls
Powells Lane, Mt Franklin
Jubilee Road, Sulky
McClennans Roads, Clunes
Caters Road, Clunes
Spittle Road, Creswick
Mains Road, Drummond

Road Reseal Program

Mount Franklin Road, Mount Franklin
Sixteenth Street, Hepburn
Seventeenth Street, Hepburn
Eighteenth Street, Hepburn
East Street, Daylesford
Creswick-Lawrence Road, Creswick
Lewers Street, Creswick
Newlyn-Reservoir Road, Newlyn

Councillor's Report

Werona-Kingston Road, Smeaton
 Kangaroo Hills Road, Blampied
 Blampied-Mollongghip Road, Mount Prospect
 Blackmores Road, Clunes
 Alfred Street, Clunes
 Clunes-Mt Cameron Road, Clunes
 Ballarat-Maryborough Road Service Road, Clunes
 Old Main Road, Eganstown
 Daylesford-Clunes Road, Smeaton
 White Hills Road, Smeaton
 Blampied-Mollongghip Road, Mollongghip
 Stony Creek Road, Daylesford
 Vincent Street North Service Road
 Trimble Street, Daylesford
 Westwood Street, Daylesford

Visitor information desk at the Mechanics – frustratingly there is still 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.

Meditation for Peace

Nearly inevitably, an essay on blue is followed by one on orange

After visits to the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the painter Vincent van Gogh wrote enthusiastically about the 17th century group-paintings, of citizen's militias celebrating their sumptuous meals, richly dressed for the occasion, displaying the colours of their company banners, including generous orange, a colour historically scarcely used in Dutch painting, but noticeably 'exploding' during the 80 years' war against the king of Spain and the prevailing centralization policies of the rulers of the time, kings and dukes all over 16th – 18th century Europe. Only Venice and Nederland ended up as republics, all other countries remained monarchies till the mid-19th century.

Orange was a Dutch principedom in the South of France, only recently returned to the French government by its Dutch counterpart. The town Orange in NSW Australia maintains active-, historical and friendly connections with its Dutch origins through its current people, and a local winery...

During WWII orange became a forbidden colour and rallying sign of resistance against foreign occupation. And regardless of its heraldic, historical and political connotations, the colour orange reigns sovereign in the world of colours as a power in her own right. Nature has an organic tendency to complete what remains unfinished in her realm: orange is named a 'complementary' colour, which means: stare a long time into a blue field, look away from it, and the eye will fill itself with orange, and vice versa.

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

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

Upcoming Council meeting – 16 December.

Cr Brian Hood

bhood@hepburn.vic.gov.au

0427 797151

Facebook - Cr Brian Hood, Hepburn Shire Council

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Rescheduled to 2026

SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday 3rd December 7.00pm The Mechanics Trentham
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 RSVP to trenthamtalks3458@gmail.com or via Trentham Connections

Community Giving – The Focus of Trentham Lions

The Lions' AGM was held recently and of particular interest was the Financial Report. This set out the extent to which the club supported the Community via Donations Dispersed and Community Support Given during 24/25.

A total of \$17,000 in donations were dispersed to a number of voluntary organisations including the following:

- Rural Australians for Refugees,
- Trentham & District Historical Society,
- Words in Winter,
- Dogs of Trentham,
- CWA,
- East Trentham Wildlife,
- Trentham Easter Art Show,
- Trentham Playgroup,
- Life Activities,
- Cool Country Men's Shed,
- Lions Alzheimers,
- Australian Lions Foundation,
- Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal (in conjunction with the CFA).

The monthly Trentham Lions Market raises money from our loyal stallholders who pay a modest contribution to participate. We invite various voluntary organisations (some listed above) to run the BBQ and retain takings after the deduction of costs. Net funds of approximately \$500 per BBQ is passed on to these organisations every month.

Australian Cider Awards

Daylesford Cider wins Best Australian Cider

The Australian Cider Awards is Australia's largest and most prestigious cider competition. Over 230 local and international entries were judged across multiple categories.

Perhaps the highlight of the evening was Wild Oak being crowned Best Traditional Cider, Best Australian Cider and finally Best Cider in Show.

After taking home 3 gold medals, 3 best in class awards and 4 trophies, cider maker, Jon Mackie was also awarded Most Successful Small Producer at the awards dinner in Sydney in October.

Jon Mackie, a self-taught cider maker, has been perfecting his craft for ten years. From traditional dry ciders to bold modern blends each cider is handcrafted with the same level of precision and passion, reflecting its vintage, fruit character and the season it was made.

Fruit, handpicked from the organic orchard where 17 types of heritage apples are grown, is crushed in the little red shed.

Jon said "I'm absolutely stoked to bring home so many awards. Honestly, blown away- what an unbelievable result, especially Most Successful Small Producer. Truly grateful for the recognition.

Perhaps Lions' most significant community contribution is the 'Firewood bank'. In excess of 60 cubic meters of firewood in 24/25 was procured, split/cut, loaded and delivered to recipients; often at no charge. Our weekly wood raffle goes some of the way to finance this initiative along with a grant from the Hepburn Shire Council.



Home assistance for the needy is another Lions community service. A number of local residents were recipients of home assistance such as house and garden repairs, replacement and fitting of appliances etc. This assistance included cost of materials and labour which is usually provided by our members or in partnership with other voluntary groups. Approximately \$10,000 was spent.

Donations Received. We are only able to support our community if we have adequate funding. One important source is donations. We received a number of donations from local residents and we were very fortunate that a much appreciated and generous donation of \$10,000 was received from Elizabeth Toomey and John Riches. Thank You!!

Tony van Rensburg

Massive thanks to everyone at Cider Australia, and to all the sponsors for making it all possible, what an incredible night."

Husband and wife team, Clare and Jon, have grown Daylesford Cider into a local destination venue. Currently serving 14 types of cider styles, as well as non-alcoholic alternatives, with new limited releases on the shelves each year.

The venue is consistently open daily for tastings and sales, with a restaurant offering a casual lunchtime menu boasting homemade dishes, local produce and fresh wood fired pizza.

Daylesford Cider is available at almost all Trentham venues, including on tap at The Cosmopolitan Hotel.

Summer is cider weather, so look out for these winners:

- Best In Show- Wild Oak 2024 (Gold)
- Best Traditional Cider Medium – Wild Oak 2024 (Gold)
- Best Traditional Cider Medium Sweet – Sweet Coppin (Gold)
- Best Experimental Cider – Shiraz Cider (Gold)

Trentham Life Activities Club

Ina and Graeme Bertrand

Ina and Graeme Bertrand have been members of the Trentham Life Activities Club since its very beginning. Over the years they have enjoyed many of the activities available - the garden visits, foodies and scrabble, and Graeme is a keen member of the men's pétanque which takes place every week in the Town Square.

As time passes they have found some of these activities too challenging. They do however have a strong passion for dancing. On the second Sunday every month they spend the afternoon dancing at the Mechanics. They are part of a large group of participants who travel from near and far to enjoy the camaraderie as well as the dancing.

Whilst dancing is not yet a TLAC activity, Ina is very keen to see it become so. She and Graeme both feel the social aspect is as important as the dancing. They would very much like to see it become one of the Life Activity Clubs.

If you would like to be one of the dancers enjoying this pastime please contact Di Clausen. If there is enough interest it may become the latest club. And if you would like to be a member of TLAC the cost to join is \$20 annually. This gives you free admission to all the clubs and activities.

And you will always be welcome on the second Sunday of every month at the Mechanics.

To find out more: contact Di Clausen on 0425618297.





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Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly season is nearly here!

The plantings along the creek are benefitting from current weather conditions and appearing to be establishing well. The wider section of the creek is also a quiet gathering spot for the local Pacific Black and Wood ducks!



Our flagship species, the Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly should make an appearance from around mid-December for a few weeks into January. "Butterfly Corner", on the south side of High Street behind the Cosmo is a likely area to start with. Watch out for more details on social media or on flyers around town as to when they might have been spotted.

Here is a guide to identifying the Bright-eyed Brown!

Bright-eyed Brown

Large, bright eye-spots

Common Brown

Most common 'Brown' butterfly
Males active throughout summer.
May occur in wetlands
Eye Spots much smaller

Klug's (Marbled) Xanica

Small butterfly emerges mid-summer
Can occur in wetlands
Dark rectangle on 'marbled' hind wing

Is only found in wetlands with Tall Sedge
Only active in December and January

Is my 'Brown' butterfly bright-eyed?

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Interior Design

It's Christmas Time!

Love it or loathe it, it's difficult to ignore: it's Christmas time again!

Some people are really into Christmas in a BIG way. I overheard a conversation between a group of ladies talking about how they had started their festive season decorating in early November with plans to leave their decorations in place into the New Year.

So where did it all begin?

If you are from a Christian background, you are celebrating the birth of Jesus in a barn at Nazareth. Being in the northern hemisphere winter, it was cold and possibly snowing; a bright star shone down, signalling the location of the birth. Following that star were three magi or wise men, carrying gifts of frankincense, gold and myrrh. Our festive colour palette gets its cues from the brightness of the silvery star, the chest of gold, and the natural straw and wood in the barn.

As Christianity spread through Europe, ancient pagan symbols were incorporated. The first Christmas wreaths were made of foliage: a never-ending circle, with no beginning and no end, representing the cycle of life. Up in snow-covered Scandinavia, dry straw wreaths were tied with red ribbon, then hung on people's doorways.

At our house, we use thick red ribbon to hang a shop-bought plastic wreath on our door. In the past, I have tried the assemble-it-yourself version. One year, I found some long strands of rust-coloured metal which I shaped and tied with burlap. I'm definitely not a fan of dried and shrivelled former living plant matter on my door!

The Mount Players

Every Reason to Celebrate 2025

The Mount Players have experienced yet another brilliantly successful year with 4 memorable, sell-out shows. The Importance of Being Earnest/ The Girl on the Train, A Skull in Connemara & Puffs. These, together with an active Youth Theatre and visiting shows and entertainers ensured the Mountview Theatre was always alive and buzzing with true diversity. We now look forward to our Christmas break-up with members to celebrate.

Our first production for 2026, The Cemetery Club by Ivan Menchell opens 20 February. 3 New York widows meet once a month for tea before visiting their husbands' graves. Ida, Lucille and Doris are very individual characters who take us on a journey filled with laugh-out-loud humour and pathos about love, navigating grief and the challenges of moving on. Tickets available early January.

Membership for 2026 is now available at just \$30 and \$10 for each additional Member of the family living at the same address. Be a part of a thriving theatre family and enjoy shows, members evenings, being involved in productions and perhaps even tread the boards. A great Christmas gift idea! Go to www.themountplayers.com for full details and for all things theatre.

The most famous Christmas symbol has to be the tree, sitting in a corner or window, twinkling with lights for everyone to admire. Some trees are lavishly decorated while others less so; whatever your style, a Christmas tree always provokes a smile. Enjoy your time decorating your tree with baubles and trim, bearing in mind that your tree may be viewed from many angles.



I like wrapping my presents in recycled paper-bag-brown craft paper, then wrapping a colourful, narrower 'belly band' around the centre of the gift, using contrasting ribbon or twine to fix the band in place. Keep things simple by placing each present into a square or rectangular box – it sure makes presents easier to wrap.

Now I'm never going to compete with those ladies I overheard, the ones who really like Christmas decorating. All the same, every room surface can be given a Christmas vibe with a little thought!

Wishing a safe and merry Christmas to all.

Robert Creedon
Interior Design Studio
 0488 294 777
 Instagram @robert_creedon
 Web robertcreedon.studio

Photo credit: www.klippanyllefabrik.com

A huge thanks to every patron who walked into our theatre and of course our incredible Sponsors Bendigo Community Bank Gisborne, Officebarn Gisborne, Jellis Craig Woodend, Bradleys Curtains & Blinds Woodend, Hanging Rock Winery and Melbourne Helicopters. Without you we wouldn't be the unique, creative space that we are.



We wish all of you a happy Christmas season followed by the best year ever in 2026.

See you at the theatre!

Karen Hunt
 on behalf of The Mount Players Committee

Fire Danger Period

Fire hazard inspections

Hepburn Shire Council has started its fire hazard inspection program this month to help the community prepare for the upcoming fire danger period.



The Country Fire Authority has announced that the Fire Danger Period began on 24 November in Hepburn Shire. Cr Don Henderson, said now is the time for everyone to prepare.

"Fire prevention is a shared responsibility. By maintaining our properties and reducing fuel loads early, we all contribute to a safer and more prepared Hepburn Shire this summer," said Cr Don Henderson.

Council officers will inspect properties across the Shire to identify long grass, overgrown vegetation, and other potential fire hazards. These inspections form part of Council's responsibility under the Country Fire Authority

Shop Local

What Does It Really Mean to Shop Locally?

When you shop at independent or locally owned businesses, your money doesn't just disappear into a corporate system. It stays close to home. Local businesses tend to support other local suppliers, farms, and services, helping your entire community grow stronger together.



"Shop local!" is a rallying cry that resonates year-round, especially among eco-conscious shoppers. And it gets even louder as the holiday season approaches.

What Does it Really Mean to Shop Locally?

Simply put, shopping locally means choosing independently owned businesses in your community over big-box chains or online mega-retailers. It's about supporting the people who live and work where you do.

The Benefits of Shopping Locally

Not only does buying local help your community... it's also kinder to the planet. Many mass-produced items may come with a cheap price tag, but their hidden costs add up quickly. Long-distance shipping, excessive packaging, and increased carbon emissions all contribute to environmental harm.

Here are more ways buying local is good for everyone:

- Keeps more money in your community – On average, 68 cents of every dollar spent at a local business stays local, compared to just 13–15 cents at national chains.
- Boosts the local economy – Local purchases fuel job creation, local entrepreneurship, and regional development. This generates ripples through what's called the multiplier effect.
- Supports unique and handmade goods – Local artisans often create one-of-a-kind items you won't find on big-box shelves. Giving a thoughtful gift involves stories, meaning, and personal touches.

Act 1958 to help reduce the risk of bush and grass fires.

"Property owners with identified hazards may receive a fire prevention notice requiring works to be completed within a set timeframe," said Cr Don Henderson.

Council encourages all residents and landowners to act early by mowing grass, clearing debris, trimming overhanging branches and ensuring access for emergency vehicles.

"Bush and grass fires can start and spread quickly, so every step taken now helps protect people, homes, livestock and the local environment," said Cr Don Henderson.

More information on getting prepared for the fire season is available on the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au



- Builds community connections – Knowing the people behind the products creates trust, deepens relationships, and makes shopping feel personal and meaningful.
- Reduces environmental impact – Local goods typically require less packaging and transportation, leading to lower carbon emissions and less waste.
- Supports better labour practices – Local businesses are more likely to pay fair wages and offer humane working conditions, unlike many overseas factories.
- Keeps neighbourhoods vibrant – Independent businesses help define the character of a town. Their presence increases foot traffic, preserves historic buildings, and enhances community identity.
- Provides better customer service – Small business owners care about repeat customers and can offer product expertise or custom service you won't find at a chain.
- Encourages local philanthropy – Local businesses are more likely to support nearby schools, charities, and events by donating money, goods, or services.
- Promotes entrepreneurship and innovation – Supporting local gives space for fresh ideas, niche products, and diverse offerings that might not survive in mass markets.
- Improves food quality and safety – When you buy from local farms, you often get fresher, seasonal food that hasn't travelled thousands of miles or sat in storage.
- Increases local resilience – A diverse, locally rooted economy is better equipped to weather economic downturns and supply chain disruptions.

And if we're being honest, do we really need to put more money into the pockets of billionaires?

Amity Sopko

Also published in Green Child magazine

YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE, BUT YOU CAN PREPARE FOR IT.

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Trentham Community Action

The website is launched!

It is now live with new listings and events being added almost daily as many local businesses and community groups come on board. It's time to join in! Here's the link to check it out: trenthamvic.org.au If you'd like more information about being listed in the Community Directory, please email info@trenthamvic.org.au and we will send you a Supporter Pack.

The launch event was a terrific community gathering, including the ceremonial ribbon-cutting by our local Community Bank Trentham Board Chair, Brian Hood, celebratory drinks and snacks, with grateful thanks to Country Grocers Trentham for sponsoring part of the costs. Conversation flowed with a great sense of enthusiasm for the website and optimism for our town and community.

Our major sponsor, Community Bank Trentham & Districts - Bendigo Bank, provided seed funding to create this website. This is acknowledged with Community Bank Trentham & Districts being our Home Page Sponsor. Other page sponsors are du Fermier, Wellness Inspired By Nature, The Little Gallery Trentham, Path of the Horse, LM Custom Cabinets, Belle Property, HARKIN Estate Agents. Special mention to KGMG Creative for the brilliant website build and ongoing technical support. Many thanks to you all!

This support, and all the businesses who have taken out the Premium listing, will enable the website to be managed by local volunteers and cover annual website costs. Trentham Community Action Inc will now include a Website Management Group, all volunteers, to oversee this vital project which was enthusiastically endorsed at our first meeting in November 2024.



So now, a year later, TCA is keen to observe how this project will assist building a stronger and more resilient community, extending the possibilities for sharing information and highlighting the potential for greater collaboration. The TCA AGM will be held in February 2026 and a full report will be given then. Meanwhile, the community at large can take credit for participating in other activities this year, such as meetings regarding the Hepburn Shire Council budget and not least, the Traffic Petition. Both these and other projects are ongoing.

Thanks to everyone involved!



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St George's

News and Reflections

You are most welcome to join us for Carols and the Christmas story:

**7pm Sunday 21 December Combined Carols
St Mary Magdalen's**

**9am Thursday 25 December Holy Communion
St George's**

**9am Sunday 28 December Holy Communion
St George's**

.....

This past year, I tested my brain by learning a whole C.S.Lewis poem to recite at Words in Winter. It went with Lewis' Narnia stories. For Christmas we offer you his lovely poem about the birth of Jesus Christ:

St Mary Magdalen's

Musings

A parishioner recently approached me after mass and asked, 'What will we get today, sun or rain?'

My answer? All of the above. Sun and cloud; cold and warmth, wind and rain. Spring in Victoria is a wild ride. That said, the days are getting slowly warmer and appreciably longer. After dinner walks are now a possibility and to walk in the bush with the sun low in the sky is to experience a whole new world of colour and light.

In the church, the old year has come to its end, and the new year has begun. All through November we remembered those who have died, but we remembered them not in the past but in the present, as people who are still members of our community. We remember them in the same way that we remember a loved one on their birthday. We pray for them and ask them to pray for us. Death parts us but does not separate us. In Christ we are all one; the living, the dead, and the yet to be born. It's a wild ride, but we're in it together.

Lyonville Woodchop 2026

Save the Date!

The annual Lyonville Woodchop will be held on Saturday 7 February from 10.30am at the Lyonville Hall.

This historic event has been held in Lyonville for over 50 years, harking back to the days when Lyonville was a timber-cutting township.

The Lyonville Woodchop is a showcase for the prowess of our axe-wielders and of course the hammer-hefting ladies at the nail drive competition.

All the usual attractions will be available at the woodchop: a bar, BBQ, barista coffee, cakes and light lunch stall, plus raffle and spinning wheel with lots of great prizes to be won.

The Nativity

*Among the oxen (like an ox, I'm slow)
I see a glory in the stable grow
which, with the ox's dullness might at length
give me an ox's strength,*

*Among the asses (stubborn I as they)
I see my Saviour where I looked for hay;
so may my beastlike folly learn at least
the patience of a beast.*

*Among the sheep (I like a sheep have strayed)
I watch the manger where my Lord is laid;
oh that my baa-ing nature would win thence
some woolly innocence!*

May strength, patience and innocence bring you joy this Christmas.

Peta Sherlock

December marks the beginning of the Church's year, and we begin with advent, a time of preparation for the coming. Yes, the coming of the Christ child in a stable in Judea in around 4BC, but again, not in the past but in the present. The coming of Christ was a radical in-breaking of the divine into our world and each advent we prepare for that radical in-breaking into our own hearts. We prepare for the coming of him who will wipe away every tear and open a whole new world of love and joy. Forget the muzak and the crass commercialism, that in-breaking of joy is why we carol in the night.

Deacon Joe

Proceeds go towards the maintenance and improvement of the Lyonville Hall, the local community hub.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Lyonville Woodchop.

Event details:

Lyonville Woodchop

Date: Saturday 7 February 2026 from 10.30am

**Venue: Lyonville Hall, Corner Bremner Ave & Gleeson St,
Lyonville**

Cost: Entry is \$7 per adult, children are free.

Food in Trentham

There's Lots of 'Yum' in Trentham These Days

There was a time when locals complained that we couldn't get a good cup of coffee in Trentham. Today we complain that we can't get a parking space! What a great problem to have. Our little town is booming, and in no small measure due to our very good eateries.

Newest on the block is Ensemble on High Street. Serving a combination of French and Modern Australian dishes (see artichoke salad, right), this fine dining restaurant is a real winner. Headed up by Maud Enee and Harry Gibbs, these two know what they are doing. Maud, who is from Normandie, has vast experience in hospitality; whilst Kyneton born chef, Harry, honed his skills around the world; including in London.

The food there is exquisite. Everything is delicious. Expertly executed and plated up photo ready. Go there – it's worth every penny.

And of course, we now have Gabrielle and Mitch at Adeline. They are serving great wine, coffee, cake, cheese and charcuterie boards. Open until 5.30 p.m. on a Friday night, this not only gives us a late coffee stop, but also wine and a substantial cheese board start to the weekend. If you haven't tried the ice-cream, coffee and Portuguese tarts at Market Street, well, silly you. They are open until late afternoon on Saturday and Sunday. But if you need a hot chocolate fix, head around to Sisko.

The Plonkers

The Dukes walked through the main corner doors of The Cosmo.

Just like in an episode of Cheers they were greeted by the regulars at the bar. There was Rohan sipping a handle of Carlton Draught holding up the corner.

"G'day Paddles", said The Duke, "Is Digby about?". "Yeh mate, he's out the back talking to a flat-earther."

The Dukes joined Niles and Daphne at their table.

Niles, looked a little worried and stood declaring; "Digby's on his own out there, no Mrs. Digby to supervise him, he's been here since happy hour started at 5. I'll go get him."

A few minutes passed and Niles returned with Digby.

"What's that you're drinking Digby?" asked Mrs. Duke.

"It's a wild botanical Gallivanter Gin & Tonic. I think they brew it in Ballarat, I just felt like something different. They do a mean Vodka too. Tell you what though, not sure if it's the liquor, but after talking to that flat-earther out there my mind's really opened up."

"Sit down and let's order", interrupted The Duke.

A selection of calamari, Middle Eastern spiced lamb and Barfold olives were soon shared as starters. The cork popped on a bottle of Parkside Estate Chardonnay Pinot Noir - its Macedon Ranges grapes giving our group flavours of nuts, apples, citrus and creamy brioche.



Not to forget our long standing and excellent eateries, du Fermier, The General, Mr Peacock, Red Beard Bakery and the High St Bakery. Add in two pubs and we're spoilt for choice. And these days, ALL of the coffee in Trentham is good!

Corinne Gurry

Digby, lost in thought, mused out loud: "The cork, see how it flies...?"



Ignoring a strangely contemplative Digby, mains were ordered.

A warm heirloom beetroot and cauliflower salad for Mrs. Duke. Vibrant and fresh she lost count of the ingredients. Niles felt like he'd had a little too much meat recently and ordered the veggie burger. The round juicy patty made of edamame beans, spinach and tasty herbs impressed him.

Sticking with the Macedon Region, a bottle of the Shadowfax Pinot Gris was poured with the meals. With its complex stone fruit palate and a nougat, mineral finish our group were thoroughly enjoying their experience.

Except Digby who seemed transfixed by the roundness of Nile's burger.

"Ok mate, what's on your mind? You keep staring at my food and you've barely touched your wine, are you ok?"

"He's right!! If the Earth is a round ball how can water stick to it? Of course, it's obvious, the Earth must be flat!!"

"Quick Duke," said Niles. "A combination of the gin, sunshine and conspiracy theories has discombobulated his critical thinking skills. We need to reverse the damage. Get him a glass of his favourite Kyneton Ridge Estate Shiraz, this looks real bad. Actually, make it a bottle..."

Local Business Guide

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13****SAT
20****JOYCE PRESCHER**

ACOUSTIC TUNES FROM 3 - 5PM

**FREE
EVENT!****FREE
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ACOUSTIC TUNES FROM 3 - 5PM

**SAT
27****FRIDAY NIGHT MEAT RAFFLE**

DECEMBER PROCEEDS GO TO TRENTHAM GOLF CLUB

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