



CONGRATULATIONS: TRENTHAM SAINTS 2025 PREMIERS *and* TRENTHAM AUSTRALIA'S BEST TINY TOWN 2025!!

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



Council News



Trentham named best tiny town in Australia

On Wednesday 3 September, Trentham was named the Top Tiny Tourism Town at the Australian Top Tourism Town Awards against some formidable competition, including Robe (SA), Kalbarri (WA), Huskisson (NSW), Stanley (Tas) and Town of 1770 (Qld).

We are incredibly proud of our “tiny” town and would like to thank Destination Central Victoria and local businesses for their hard work in putting together a strong application.

We look forward to the increase in visitors and economic benefits this national recognition will bring.

View the winning submission at

www.toptourismtowns.com.au/tiny-tourism-town/2025/trentham-vic



Being a responsible pet owner

Being a pet owner can be great and comes with a few responsibilities.

- It's your responsibility to clean up after your dog, and your responsibility to carry dog poo bags.
- Microchip and register your pet so you can be reunited if it becomes lost.
- Keep your pets safely contained within your property at all times (cat owners should be familiar with the cat curfew).
- Give your pet plenty of attention and exercise.
- Provide clean fresh water, healthy food and ensure your pets have the required vaccinations.

Learn more at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/animals

The **draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029** will be on public exhibition during October, have your say at www.participate.hepburn.vic.gov.au/damp



Emergency management events

Working Dog Training School

Australian dog handling champion, Gary White, leads participants and their dogs through foundational skill development training. The full-day workshop is a great day out for both participants and spectators.

- Tuesday 7 October, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm, Daylesford
- Wednesday 8 October, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm, Kingston
- Thursday 9 October, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm, Clunes

Storytime - Birdie's Tree Storybooks

Join special guest storyteller along with Birdie and Mr Frog as they learn about different natural disasters and find out how to cope and recover from stressful events.

- Tuesday 14 October, 9:45–10:45 am, The Mechanics Trentham

Smart Apps for Emergencies

This practical workshop will empower you to use technology more effectively before, during and after emergencies. You will get assistance setting up apps that notify you in the event of an emergency, allow you to request help and connect with others.

- Wednesday 15 October, 7–8 pm, The Mechanics Trentham

Emergency Services Expo 2025

Meet first responders and community engagement teams at the Emergency Services Expo. Learn how to prepare your property, family and animals for emergencies Watch live fire and rescue demonstrations.

- Saturday 25 October, 10 am – 2 pm, Victoria Park, Daylesford

Find out more and book at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/em-events



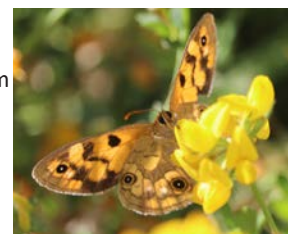
Bright-Eyed Brown Butterfly Restoration Project

Council, the Healthy Coliban Catchment partnership and local environment groups invite you to an event to celebrate the next stage of a three-year project to restore the habitat of the Bright-Eyed Brown Butterfly along the upper Coliban River in Trentham. Join us to take steps to protect these significant butterflies and the vital ecosystems they call home.

- Plants and tools will be provided for the day.
- Bring your own gardening gloves.
- Wear appropriate footwear.

Saturday 25 October, 10 am – 12:30 pm
at Quarry Street Reserve, Trentham.

Book at <https://ow.ly/VEI850WNV1G>



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

Editorial

Hi Trentham!

It's been a winner of a month!

Congratulations to Trentham Football Netball Club – The Trentham Saints capped off a strong season by winning their third MCDLNL premiership – their first in 31 years. Captain Joel Dovaston was named best on ground for his leadership and firey end to the third quarter setting the team up for success.

Congratulations also to the town at large, crowned not only best Victorian Tiny Town, but the very bestest Australian Tiny Town at the Australian Top Tourism Awards! Thank you to the team Destination Central Victoria (previously Daylesford Macedon Tourism), Hepburn Council, local businesses, community groups and participating locals who contributed to the winning submission.

Regards,
Chris & Penny

PS One of the best nights in our bestest little town is Twilight Night. We hear rumors it's back this year on Friday 28 November. Pray to the weather gods, pop it in your diaries and save the date!

Landcare and Quarry Street Reserve

Planting Days

We still have availability for you to come and join the two Planting Days organised by Hepburn Shire Council and local environment groups as a part of the Healthy Coliban Catchment partnership. As you will have already seen, work has commenced on sections of Trent and Stony Creeks. These plantings of endemic species will greatly enhance the visual aspect of the town. It is also an opportunity to work alongside and learn from others in the community who have years of knowledge and experience in different species which make this area so unique. This project also celebrates the next stage of a three-year project to restore the habitat for the Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly along the upper Coliban River in Trentham.

Join us in celebrating the Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly by taking steps to protect these significant butterflies and the vital ecosystems they call home. Planting of over 6000 trees, shrubs and grasses will occur over the 4-year project and will help establish native habitat focusing on the Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly, a rare wetland-dependent species, which serves as the emblematic species for this project, having shown positive reactions to community-driven restoration activities along the Stony and Trent creeks in recent years.

A free BBQ lunch will be provided to thank participants for their efforts! Hepburn Shire Council & local environmental groups, Landcare and Quarry Street Reserve, will provide the plants and tools and staff to assist on the day. Please bring garden gloves and wear appropriate footwear.



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

DEVONSHIRE TEA & LIGHT LUNCH

Lyonville Bake Off

& cake stall fundraiser

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER • 10:30AM TO 3:30PM
DROP OFF ENTRIES BETWEEN 9-10AM
LYONVILLE HALL, BREMNER AVENUE

Gold Coin Donation per entry
All entries are donated to the Cake Stall after judging
Contact Vicki: vickicj102@gmail.com
Dot: dottifuller@gmail.com

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

YOU are invited to the next Planting Stage of the Bright-Eyed Brown Butterfly Restoration Project



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

Join us in celebrating the Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly by taking steps to protect these significant butterflies and the vital ecosystems they call home.

Hepburn Shire council & Local environmental groups will provide the plants and tools for the day and staff to assist. Please bring garden gloves and wear appropriate footwear.

Free BBQ lunch provided to thank participants for their efforts!

Date:	Saturday 4th October 2025	
Time:	10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	
Location:	Trent Creek at the Chinese Spring, Trentham Victoria 3458	
Booking:	Places are limited, so if you're interested, please register at https://www.trenthamlandcare.org/ or use QR code	
Date:	Saturday 25th October 2025	
Time:	10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	
Location:	Quarry Street Reserve, Trentham Victoria 3458	
Booking:	Places are limited, so if you're interested, please register at https://www.facebook.com/OSRCCom or use QR code	

Come along to help with restoring sections of Trent and Stony Creeks



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	
Width & Height	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
90mm x 55mm	\$40	\$400	\$55	\$550
90mm x 110mm (1/4 page)	\$75	\$750	\$95	\$950
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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
18th October 9am-1pm
Trentham Town Square

Trentham Sustainability Group

Farmers' Market Food Swap
18th October 10-11.30am
Trentham Town Square

Trentham Cool Country Men's Shed

Open Wednesday & Saturday mornings
9.30am - 12.30pm
55 Mulchay's Road Trentham
info@coolcountrymensshed.org.au

Life Activities Club

Ladies' Petanque
10am every Tuesday
Trentham Town Square, followed by coffee

Wednesday Walkers

9.30am every Wednesday
Easy town walk
Meet at old Trentham Post Office

Men's Petanque

10am every Thursday
Trentham Town Square, followed by coffee

Trentham Masonic Lodge

3rd Tues / month (December excepted)
rear of 50-52 Main Street Trentham. All Freemasons are welcome.
Membership enquiries - contact Geoff Graham 0488 976 276.

TNC

see trenthamnc.org.au

Community Groups Listing

thetrenthamtrumpet.com.au/our-community

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On Our Cover:

Spring Rains
Chris Campbell





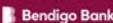
CELEBRATING
150 YEARS
~ OF ~
TRENTHAM DISTRICT
PRIMARY SCHOOL
~ IN THE ~
COMMUNITY



Sunday 23 November 2025
10:00am - 2.00pm
8 Bridge Street, Trentham



Generously supported by

Trentham District Primary School is celebrating a remarkable milestone - 150 years of providing quality education to generations of students. The school is inviting past and present students, families, staff, and community members to a special celebration on Sunday, 23 November. The day promises activities for all ages. It will begin with a Welcome to Country and a short official ceremony, followed by historic displays, student and community performances, commemorative activities, kids' games, and light refreshments. The celebration is being supported by several of Trentham's community groups, making it a true community-wide event.

"Reaching 150 years is a testament to the enduring spirit and commitment of our school community," says Acting Principal Kate McGinty. School Council President Nadine Hull adds, "This event is an opportunity to reconnect, celebrate our shared history, and look forward to the exciting future ahead."

Trentham Dance

On Sunday 14 September, the Trentham Dance celebrated its first birthday in the New Mechanics hall. More than 90 people had a great afternoon of dancing to the wonderful music of Rod McKenzie.

Hepburn Councillor Brian Hood lit the candles on the birthday cake, and Richard Goodman, Manager of Trentham Neighbourhood Centre which auspices the Working Group that runs the dance, officially cut the cake.



The school warmly encourages anyone connected to Trentham including past students, families, staff, and supporters to come along. Councillor and former Mayor Brian Hood says, "I encourage everyone with a connection to Trentham Primary School, or the town more broadly, to attend this milestone event. Come celebrate the school's contribution to our community and learn about its plans for the future."

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a special day celebrating the history, achievements, and future of Trentham District Primary School.

RSVP (to assist with event planning): <https://events.humanitix.com/tdps-150-year-celebration>



Next dance is on Sunday 12 October, starting 1.30 p.m., with Rita and Bob providing the music. All welcome!

Ina Bertrand

The Trentham Garden

'I Take It All Back' On changing your mind...

As a garden designer, I strive to create unique gardens tailored to each individual client. At the same time, I've learned that the best solutions aren't always the obvious ones. And when it comes to plants, I'll admit—there are more than a few I've completely changed my mind about over the years.

TREE FERNS: For a long time, I disliked tree ferns, maybe because they were overused as a quick-fix in 1980s gardens. But these indigenous plants are wonderfully architectural and surprisingly versatile. Their evergreen fronds provide striking contrast with many other plants. A tip: buy them at the height you want—they grow very slowly.

ERIGERON KARVINSKIANUS: flowers right through the warmer months—few plants are as obliging. They do self-seed, though, so be ready to edit them when needed. Repeating them through the garden creates a light, airy, magical atmosphere.

LOMANDRA 'TANIKA': I like to use this is large, dynamic swathes, alternating it with drifts of other strappy-leaved plants such as *Dianella tasmanica* for variety. It's perfect for larger areas that need filling without creating too much additional maintenance.

NANDINA DOMESTICA: Most cultivars don't appeal to me, but the original species has a distinctive elegance. When well managed, its form can echo the atmosphere

of a Japanese painting. The red berries in winter are a spectacular bonus.

PHORMIUM TENAX: Once a plant becomes associated with "low-maintenance landscaping," it can be hard to see it afresh. But Phormium's bold, architectural leaves can bring tremendous character to a garden.

I prefer the smaller, more languid cultivars, such as 'Apple Green' or *Phormium cookianum*.

Changing your mind can be a wonderful thing in gardening—it can allow you to see a plant for what it truly offers.

Happy gardening,

Kaz Krasovskis
Garden Designer

www.kazkrasovskis.com.au

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



Collage of plants including *Lomandra 'Tanika'*, *Phormium cookianum*, *Erigeron karvinskianus*



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Councillor's Report

National Tourism Award

Being crowned the national winner in the tiny (population under 1500) town tourism awards is a fantastic and much-deserved accolade for Trentham. The acknowledgment recognises what Trentham has to offer in hospitality, the natural environment and especially the warm and friendly welcome from locals. I look forward to a boost for the local economy.

Sporting success

Congratulations to Trentham FNC on their 2025 premiership! The success of sporting clubs is often measured in terms of games or premierships won and while that is important we should recognise the critically important role the club plays in the fabric of Trentham's broader community. Providing a safe, respectful and friendly environment for people of all ages to play sport is a central feature of the club's culture.

Council news

The audited **financial statements** for 2024/25 were adopted at the September meeting. It is critically important to examine what the numbers are telling us. Four factors are noteworthy:

- Council recorded a \$2.8m underlying deficit for the 24/25 year. However, that result, which was unfavourable to budget, was positively impacted by the early receipt of \$3.33m in grant funding relating to 25/26. The true underlying deficit for 24/25 was therefore \$6.2m, bringing total underlying deficits to \$29.7m over the past 4 years.
- Cash balances increased through 24/25 but that was due to taking out \$5.5m in new borrowings and a \$6m underspend in capital works.
- Both the underlying operating result and the capacity to replace assets are in the Auditor General's (VAGO) high risk category while indebtedness and capacity to renew or upgrade assets are in VAGO's medium risk category.
- The notes disclose a sharp deterioration in the ageing of receivables. It is abundantly clear that many ratepayers are struggling to pay rates on time and that is before considering the effect of the 10-15% rate increase and the significantly higher ESV levy.

It is clear there must be a comprehensive and critical review of the 25/26 budget in the coming months and greater diligence in financial decision-making if Council is to be financially sustainable. Interestingly the covering report characterised the financial position and outlook as "pleasing". Not an adjective I would have used....

The meeting resolved to progress the Glenlyon Pavilion project on a 6-1 vote. I was of the view that a funding plan must be in place before proceeding. The scope of works has changed from being a new construction to a renovation of the existing building. That places unresolved doubt on whether the Federal Government will still provide a \$500,000 grant. The source of funding for the remaining \$800,000 is not yet known. The usual source of funding – the Mineral Springs Reserve – will be fully exhausted due to commitments made to the Hepburn Bath House.

Council's **annual report** for 2024/25 was adopted on a 6-1 vote. The annual report is a critically important

accountability and transparency tool to inform all stakeholders of Council's financial and non-financial performance and is one of the most important documents released by Council each year. On the one hand the report rightly describes with some pride a long list of achievements.

But on the other hand it falls short on addressing some of the key challenges currently facing Council. In particular core services such as planning and key measures such as customer satisfaction are not, in my view, adequately addressed. An opportunity should have been taken in the introduction to provide some reassuring commentary on how customer satisfaction and performance in core services such as planning would be demonstrably improved. Here are three examples.

- Firstly, it is not until pages 74 and 109 that it is reported that only 26% of planning applications are processed within required timeframes – an outcome that is a key contributor to customer satisfaction and is strongly linked to housing construction.
- Secondly, that Council's customer satisfaction rating fell from 49 to 46; is now 8 points below the average for small rural councils; and that performance declined in 13 of the 17 categories in the past year is not disclosed anywhere in the report, nor is there commentary on initiatives to remedy that outcome. Council's adopted 2025-2029 Plan is yet to quantify improvement targets for customer satisfaction and processing of planning applications.
- Thirdly, while the report does generally acknowledge financial sustainability challenges across the local government sector there is no Hepburn-specific commentary on financial performance against budget, nor on cash constraints preventing the construction of new assets, being unable to fund emergency recovery works or the inability to co-contribute to grant funding.

I took the view that the annual report would be enhanced if its tone and contents took a more realistic stance and provided stakeholders with a reassuring note of future actions and commitment.

Rea Lands Council resolved in its previous meeting to investigate the possible sale of this property in Daylesford. It is currently a popular public park and veggie garden. Significantly, the land was bequeathed to Council by former mayor Betty Rea for the benefit of the public. The prospect of a sale understandably triggered significant concern in the community. I tabled a motion that requested officers to report back to Council additional information that would address how the land could be retained for public use in perpetuity. Councillors are obliged to make evidence-based decisions and I was keen to broaden the report beyond the prospect of selling, as well as respecting community concerns. The motion was lost 3-4 when Councillors Henderson, Clark, Hockey and Cornish declined to support it.

Events Council resolved to provide signature events with ongoing funding under two-year MOUs. The details in respect to Spudfest, ChillOut, Clunes Booktown and Cresfest are available on Council's website.

Councillor's Report cont.

Road safety Council received a petition with 219 signatures calling for speed and other road safety concerns in Trentham be addressed as a matter of urgency. Officers will consider a range of options, however I have been forewarned it is unlikely any changes would be made in the next 18-24 months and even then would be subject to budget constraints. Officers are also considering options for improved conditions at the intersection of Pearsons Rd and James Lane (Pig & Whistle), the timing and extent of which is unknown.

The September meeting resolved to undertake additional road and traffic works in Creswick at the entrance to the mountain bike trails. The works are valued at \$600,000. They will be funded by the project's original budget. The annual report (page 12) describes the bike trail project as a \$9.4m investment.

Visitor information desk at the Mechanics – no update available.

Outdoor fitness equipment – is set to be installed at the Trentham sportsground through October and November.

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

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

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

Council meetings – meetings in 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 dates – 28 October, 25 November, 16 December.

Cr. Brian Hood

email bhood@hepburn.vic.gov.au

ph 0427 797151

Facebook - Cr Brian Hood, Hepburn Shire Council

Trentham Sustainability Group

Climate Risk and Trentham

Two weeks ago the Australian Government released the National Climate Risk Assessment Report.



The Report's dire projections for the impact of severe and extreme heatwave events make for 'horrifying reading'. These events are projected to double if global warming reaches +2.0°C and more than quadruple under +3.0°C of warming.

What are the likely impacts for Trentham?

The Report has four key findings:

Changing hazards: Australia is likely to experience more intense and extreme climate hazards.

Risks to people: disadvantaged people and households are the most vulnerable to the impacts of a changing climate. Extreme heat, floods, bushfires, poor air quality and communicable diseases will escalate health risks.

Risks to places: remote communities are vulnerable due to limitations in power and telecommunications services and weak supply chains. This vulnerability will increase with disruptions to critical infrastructure.

Risks to our way of life: More frequent and more intense extreme events will affect the way of life – from impacts on sport and recreation to unreliable energy sources during heatwaves. There will be additional pressures on emergency responders and defence resources.

The Report states (high confidence) that future changes in Australia's climate will not occur gradually or smoothly – they will be 'compounding', 'cascading', 'concurrent' and become more 'common'.

Reaching potential climate and ecological tipping points is likely to result in abrupt changes.

Extreme temperatures are likely to increase nationwide (very high confidence), with the greatest increases over northern Australia, the Great Dividing Range in the southeast, and in desert regions.

Also, lurking in the Report, is the impact on insurance costs which we are already experiencing!
[Link to Report Overview: <file:///Users/ian/Downloads/australias-national-climate-risk-assessment-an-overview-2025.pdf>]

Trentham is most likely to face ever increasing events such as bushfires and extreme storms.

The capacity of government (at all levels) to respond to such events is likely to experience unsustainable demands.

The challenge to Trentham is to build a resilient community that will function in the face of these increasing weather events.

TSG's Energy Resilience project is a key part of a whole-of-community climate strategy.

Please join us and be part of building a better more resilient community for ourselves and future generations.

Trentham Sustainability Group

trenthamsustainability@gmail.com

www.trenthamsustainabilitygroup.com

Instagram / Facebook

Trentham Life Activities Club

Annual General Meeting

This is the committee of the Trentham Life Activities Club. We were re-elected at the Annual General Meeting, and we are very happy with that outcome. TLAC is a vibrant collection of activity groups, ranging from pétanque to garden visits, and Chinese exercises to scrabble. There's something for everyone!

In the photo we are planning some exciting new activities. Pickle ball, meditation and a trip of a few days to Echuca are being considered.

We are looking forward to a Positive Aging Expo on October 28, at Trentham Mechanics. We will have our stall there, and be available to talk with all comers. There will also be participants from the Chinese exercises classes putting on a display, and plenty of other things to see.

We are always keen to hear of your ideas for new classes or activities. We are very open to your suggestions. The person to contact is Di Clausen. Give her a call on 0405750340. She will be very happy to chat with you!

Interior Design

An Iconic Australia's Style

This month I thought I'd talk about exteriors, rather than interiors.

The first European settlers in the Australian colonies were a mix of convicts, their supervisors, soldiers and a handful of free settlers. With limited food supplies, water and basic shelter; the grand public buildings and cities of Britain and Europe were left behind. Buildings were rudimentary and functional, constructed with whatever materials that could be found: timber, stone and mud brick. Many lived in tents or shelters made of wattle and daub.

As the economy prospered, more permanent and adventurous building works commenced. Free convict labour was plentiful and was used to fashion building materials and construction in New South Wales, Tasmania and to a lesser extent Victoria.

Early colonial architects attempted to emulate what they had seen and knew: the elegance and restraint of what was then contemporary eighteenth century architecture. Buildings were elegant with restrained features, perhaps a portico or pediment over front entry ways with tall, spaced windows on either side.

Streetscapes included rows of terraces or independent villas, with symmetrical facades displaying simplicity and elegance. Often two rooms deep on either side of a central hallway, wealthier properties may have also been double-storey, with servants accommodated in basements or attics. However, the Australian climate and conditions were not the same as in England, and these differences are reflected in Australian architecture.

Verandahs were added to provide sheltered protection for windows and keep heat off external walls. Usually, they were built as an added structure beneath the main roof line, and may have surrounded all sides of the house, providing protection from the elements.



Stylistically, the Georgian period covers the period 1714 to 1830 during the reigns of King George I to King George IV. Homes in this period were characterised by central entry doors made with four or six panels, sash windows including 8 to 12 panes of glass, timber shutters and chimneys servicing fires in nearly every room.



In Australia, the gold rush of the mid 1850s saw increasing populations, commerce, industrialisation, and agricultural success, with a building boom associated with this wealth. The Golden Victorian age had arrived, with coloured glass, decorative metal work and further architectural embellishments added.

The humble Georgian cottage with verandahs was now the basis of the humble Australian bungalow or homestead. With a hipped roof, simple facade and comfortable proportions, they can be seen in cities and rural towns throughout Australia, including Trentham. And they're uniquely Australian!

Robert Creedon Interior Design Studio

Mobile 0488 294 777
Instagram @robert_creedon
Web robertcreedon.studio

Photo credit: www.harkawayhomes.com.au/

Community Bank

Trentham & Districts

B Bendigo Bank

COMMUNITY NEWS

**Celebrating \$50.2 million returned
by Community Banks in FY25**

Community Bank Trentham & Districts is celebrating their contribution to building thriving communities, with \$139,597 returned to the region over the year to 30 June 2025 across 31 projects.

Chair of Community Bank Trentham & Districts (Cool Country Community Enterprises Limited) Brian Hood, said: "Community Bank Trentham & Districts is very proud to have provided community investment of over \$493,600 since its inception in 2011, thereby tangibly supporting a wide range of community groups and projects. That support wouldn't be possible if it weren't for our loyal customer base and shareholders. In a significant boost for Trentham's traders the town recently won the Top Tiny Tourist Town Award for both Victoria and Australia".

Projects supported in FY25 include:

- Trentham Golf Club - Irrigation Replacement
- Trentham Sustainability Group - Microgrid Feasibility Study
- Trentham Community Action – Community Website
- The Great Trentham Spudfest
- Woodend RSL – Kitchen Upgrade
- Spring Hill Fire Brigade - Defibrillator

These initiatives are among the 9,327 projects supported by Bendigo Bank's Community Banks over the last financial year. Overall, Bendigo Bank's Community Bank network provided a record \$50.2 million boost for grassroots and community building projects in FY25, an increase of 23% on the previous year.

More than \$416 million has now been returned to communities via donations, grants, scholarships and sponsorships since the inception of the community bank model in 1998, which ensures a portion of the profits from each Community Bank are returned to the communities that have generated them.



Reach out if you'd like more information on how you can contribute to community investment, or for banking queries:

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Trentham Community Action

The town website, trenthamvic.org.au, is almost ready!



The website project has been a priority for the Trentham Community Action Inc Committee since the inauguration of the group in November 2024. Discussion at that meeting resulted in an enthusiastic proposal for a town website. Communication is a significant part of the mission and purpose of TCA Inc, taking the place of the Trentham Forum and now again being able to provide an online portal for, hopefully, all things Trentham.

Community connections and resilience are strengthened in the sharing of information and making it easy to find. This will sit beside the role of The Trentham Trumpet and our ever-colourful Trentham Connections, The Local, and The Midland Express.



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The two sessions held mid-September were well attended and were notable for the high level of enthusiasm for and interest in the website.

There are six directories covering

- Service Essentials,
- New Residents,
- Food, Drink and Retail,
- Trades & Professional,
- Accommodation,
- Service Groups and Recreation.

Now it's time for local businesses, clubs, social interest groups, etc to connect and fill these with your contact details, website info, etc.

One important feature is a monthly Calendar, with the capacity to save a specific date for your future event.

The Supporter Pack will explain the ways in which local businesses can create sufficient income to cover annual costs and ensure that the content is kept up to date. All not-for-profit groups will have a free listing.

Please make contact: trenthamca@gmail.com

Catherine KING MP

Federal Member for Ballarat

☎ 03 5338 8123

✉ Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au

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Meet Paul Wyatt: Trentham Lion's newest Member

Paul boasts that he makes the best Yorkshire Pudding in the Southern Hemisphere having been born and bred in Yorkshire in the 60s!

He grew up in an engineering family with a focus on the English railways and recalls free train travel in the UK and Europe being a perk the family made good use of. After leaving school he studied law and economics and joined the legal technology industry which he remained in for over 30 years until early retirement last year.

Paul's wife Susie hails from Scotland and has a proud Campbell heritage. She spent much of her working life in the legal industry having worked for one of Australia's largest legal firms.

In 2007 they moved to Sydney where they lived for the next 11 years before experiencing a tree change and moving to country Victoria. After 2 years in Woodend they discovered the delights of Trentham where they have lived for the last 5 years. According to Paul: "We love living in



Trentham and have made heaps of friends here over the past 5 years. Our 30 minute dog walk regularly takes an hour and a half to 2 hours+ in summer when our pup heads straight into a beer garden. She can't pass a pub without a tippie. I blame the parents"!



In addition to a full time job, Susie is president of the CWA, and a member of the Spudfest and the Quarry Street Reserve committees. According to Paul this leaves about 1 spare hour a week which Susie uses to explain to him how the dishwasher should be stacked!

It is therefore no surprise that Paul has decided to join Lions. He believes being an active member of a close knit community is very important. For him there is no better feeling than helping and spending time with others, being kind and looking after the community. For Paul, Trentham Lions ticks all of these boxes with its "we serve" ethos.

So, if any readers have a similar motivation to help improve the lives of people in our community, Trentham Lions maybe the ideal 'home' for you. If you need more information contact our President John Morrissy. Mobile: 0417162296. Email: johnmorrissy58@gmail.com

Tony van Rensburg
Trentham Lions



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St. George's

News and Reflections

Last month I had a serendipitous moment courtesy of this column. I began writing about RU OK? day, only to discover, from the Trumpet, that there was a meeting in town about it. I am guessing such moments are all around, if only we took the time to notice.

This month I ask whether the whole world is okay. We all hang on the latest words of POTUS, despite ourselves. We now expect fire and flood in this coming summer of the lucky country. People are protesting from left and right, and even to death. Judeo-Christian ideals are mostly gone. All we appeal to is "commonsense". I question commonsense. It mostly means what we have just seen on social media, or how we were brought up. My family never talked about politics. When I went off to university I just fell in with a leftish crowd.

As it happened, the lefties were the Christian group who struggled with both conservative and progressive ideals, as young people should. The Bible encourages this struggle. One of my favourite theologians wrote that the Bible nurtures "a restlessness with every old truth for the sake of a new truth which is just breaking upon us." Sadly debate has now become "them" and "us" and we cannot even talk to each other with kindness and respect.

Going to church for an hour or so each week makes a lot of sense. We pause for a moment and hand it all over to God, greet each other as fellow pilgrims, hope to be fed with wise words, bread and wine, and maybe a cuppa afterwards. Whether you drop in to St Mary Magdalen's at 8.30am or St George's at 9am, it will be much the same.

Watch out at the October Farmers' Market for the Blessing of animals.

The Mount Players

A Show Full of Spells, Wizards & Fun For the Whole Family at The Mountview Theatre

The Mount Players presents its final show for 2025!



Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic, is a fast-paced, hilarious play that reimagines the story of a famous boy wizard—from the perspective of the overlooked and underdog students in the 'Puffs' house.

St Mary Magdalen's

Musings

Well, we have passed the equinox and have had sun, rain, and wind – lots of wind. The daffodils and hyacinths paint our town with colour. Welcome to spring.

At saint Mary Magdalen's we have been busy preparing for the visit of Archbishop Peter Comensoli, the first visit by an archbishop in twenty years. The visit even changes the time of mass from 8.30 to 10.30 – gasp!

Interestingly, he's not coming to celebrate some big milestone or open a new building, but simply as a pilgrim, just like all the others we have welcomed through this year of jubilee. What does this mean?

Across seven chaotic years, this heartwarming comedy follows Wayne and his misfit friends as they navigate spells, dangers, and growing up, proving that being third place isn't so bad after all.



Perfect for wizards and non-wizards alike, Puffs is a magical and charming celebration of friendship, bravery, and finding where you belong.

The season runs from 7 – 23 November. For full details & bookings go to www.themountplayers.com

Note: A change to performance times for this show. Friday evenings at 7.30pm and Sat/Sun performances at 2 pm.

See you at the theatre.

Karen Hunt

A pilgrim doesn't just come as a tourist. A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place, a journey to an encounter with God. It is a physical expression of the metaphor that our life is a journey, a stumbling journey towards an encounter with God.

The archbishop coming as a simple pilgrim, to the extent that an archbishop can, demonstrates that before God, no matter how exalted our position in the world, we are all broken, wounded souls searching for mercy and healing. By the time this is published, the archbishop will have come and gone, but everyone is welcome to come and join us on our pilgrim journey on any Sunday. Mass will be at the normal time of 8.30, however. Archepiscopal influence can only go so far.

Deacon Joe

Trentham CWA celebrates its first birthday

They say time flies when you're having fun... and the members of the Trentham Night Owls Branch of the Country Women's Association of Victoria, Inc have certainly been doing that!

A few of us celebrated the branch's first birthday over pizzas at Mr Peacock in August. This was the culmination of a busy year where we've thrown ourselves into lots of events both in Trentham and the Central Highlands Group.

In December 2024, we held our first Christmas Fair at the CWA Hall in Mt Macedon, we baked biscuits for Anzac Day, scones for Spudfest and helped out with the Easter Art Fair and the Voices of Hope event. We entered the CHG Creative Arts Fair, winning 2nd place for branch table presentation with members also winning individual prizes! We bake for the monthly morning tea at the TNC and our fundraising Meditation for Peace

Indigo and the rainbow

Following on from an essay on hope (Sept Trentham Trumpet) a sequel on indigo and the rainbow may be in place. In the book Genesis the story of the flood ended with the 'installation' of the rainbow, thereby 'sealing' God's promise: 'never again!' A hope-giving promise, as long as there is atmosphere and light. Last September 21, Equinox, 2024, had I promised to demonstrate what makes the sky blue and a sunset red, I would have used slides, a projector, a water prism and an aquarium to mimic optic colour phenomena in nature...

This year, September '25, I look out from the dining-room in the nursing home 'Wantirna Views' through a circular set of windows facing the skyline of Mount Dandenong in the East. Sailing from Brazil back to France, the Anthropologist Lévi-Strauss used to watch the western sky over the Atlantic at sunset and noticed the sun acted first like a sculptor and then a painter: first the forms that dominated the space, then the colours: a poetic experience that also enabled him to make sense of anthropological patterns in his research into tribal cultures and inspired him to use musical terms for titles of chapters in his books: prelude – adagio – intermezzo and so on, and a culinary title to his major work: The Raw and The Cooked.

The panoramic view on Mount Dandenong from the dining room gives me an opportunity to practice and experience Lévi-Strauss observations: how the setting sun from the West 'paints' the sky in the East: from yellow, orange, rosa-red, pink, violet, indigo before letting a dark blue itself show through, gradually turning from gray to the dark of night. In my teaching I suggested the students follow Lévi-Strauss' s example. In this Southern part of Victoria Indigo often dominates the evening sky in Winter and early Spring.

Patrick White's novel The Vivisector describes the sky over the painter's urban landscape has 'tuned' to the 'key' of indigo. On my weekday return travels from Caulfield to Ringwood East I had ample opportunity on the Richmond station platform to watch the evening

efforts allowed us to sponsor the starter packs for the NetSetGo program hosted by the Trentham Football and Netball Club.

It's not all work though. We have also enjoyed a few social evenings at the bowling club, playing barefoot bowls during summer and, more recently, dinner and trivia night at the Hotel Trentham.

We're very much looking forward to the year ahead, and if you are interested in finding out more, we meet at the Trentham Neighbourhood Centre on the 4th Thursday of each month from 7pm.

Susie Wyatt
President
Trentham Night Owls Branch

sky, summer and winter, as well as the Punt Road traffic: streams of headlights, white, and rear-lights, red. The sky above already dark in Winter and coloured from Spring to Summer and Autumn...

In my lectures I had demonstrated the difference between Newton's brilliant but mistaken conclusion that a 'white' point contains 'all colours', by showing Goethe's counter demonstration: seen through a prism a black point appears to contain 'all colours' too! Different colours to be sure - a different spectrum even - but one apparently just as 'spectral' as the other. Goethe called it a 'moon' spectrum, with magenta as its centre; Newton's 'sun' spectrum has green as its centre. Both spectra appear only as composites: which means, only when the light or the dark appears as a point: a tiny hole, a dot. As soon as opening is widened the spectrum disappears from the prism and what appears are two sides of the spectrum: the blue side and the yellow side. It is only through the one tiny hole that the the blue and the yellow meet and generate the green.

This lengthy description of the way a prism works would be made superfluous by a demonstration. Goethe needed only a split second to see Newton's mistake: his own experiment started with a larger hole, the mix between the blue and yellow didn't happen.

Henk Bak

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TRATA and Trentham & Districts Historical Society

The Trentham Railway Station, built in the early 1880s, stands today as one of the few surviving stations from Victoria's extensive branch line network. Once a bustling hub of industry and community life, the station precinct now serves as a rare and important link to the past. To share this story more widely, 3 interpretive panels will be installed at the site. The panels offer historical context and insights into the development of the railway, its contribution to Trentham's industries, and its enduring place in the identity of the town.

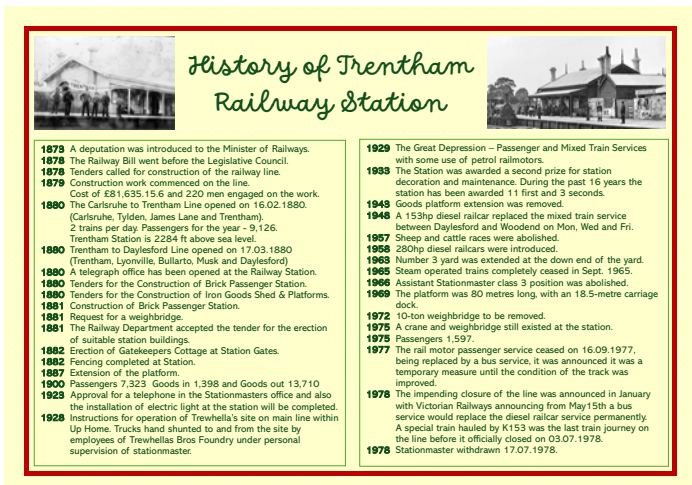
For nearly a century, the railway underpinned Trentham's growth. Timber mills thrived using the line to transport sawn timber and firewood, while local farmers relied on it to carry produce to markets beyond the town. The station was a social focal point – the arrival of trains marked important events in daily life, from visitors stepping onto the platform to goods being delivered for local businesses. For many, it represented Trentham's connection to the wider world.

The 3 interpretive panels will bring this history to life. They highlight not only the economic importance of the railway but also its cultural and social role in shaping the community. Through images, text, and research, it allows visitors and locals alike to imagine the station precinct during its working years.

The development of the panels was made possible through the valued contribution of the Trentham District Historical Society, (Natalie Poole, well done) whose extensive knowledge and research have ensured that the information presented is accurate. Their work reflects a long-standing commitment to preserving Trentham's heritage and making it accessible to future generations.

Today, the station precinct is managed and maintained by the Trentham Rail and Tramway Association (TRATA). Volunteers dedicate their time to conserving the historic buildings, rolling stock, and grounds to ensure the site remains a vibrant and valuable community asset. The interpretive panels represent another step in TRATA's goals to protect, interpret, and share this history – not just for residents of Trentham, but also for the many visitors who are drawn to the town's history and character.

Importantly, the panels complement a range of other initiatives led by TRATA to celebrate and activate the railway precinct. These include seasonal markets, community events, and new projects such as the planned mural and the Inclusive Native Garden. Together, these



efforts weave history, culture, and community engagement into a living precinct that honours the past while creating new opportunities for people to connect with the precinct.

Mural Target (target: \$4,600)

We are getting very close to the target: TRATA \$500, TDHS \$500, Hepburn Shire Community Grant \$2000 and most importantly community donations (community spirit) \$750... TOTAL \$3,750.00.

Every contribution, big or small, helps us get closer to seeing the mural become a reality. Community members who wish to support the mural project can donate directly to TRATA and/or contact the secretary via email trataattrentham@gmail.com to discuss any aspects of the project.

Our bank details are as follows: Account Name TRATA. BSB 633000 Account 149570301

Seasonal Market

Our seasonal market kicks off on Oct 26th with many new stall holders and catering provided by our volunteers. All funds raised keep the railway precinct in community hands!!!

Phil Davis

Secretary

TRATA

Email: trataattrentham@gmail.com

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

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

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The Little Gallery's Winter Show a Triumph from Start to End!

Trentham's Little Gallery Winter Fundraising Show achieved new heights by hosting one of their biggest shows. The Opening Night was a huge success. Within minutes of opening, punters flowed through the door, eager to get a glimpse of the new art on show. The gallery was at full capacity with guests spilling out into the street.

The quality of the artwork in the group show featuring 16 local artists was outstanding and cements the Winter Show as one of Central Victoria's leading art calendar events and as a destination for regional art.

With record sales, the gallery made a substantial donation to the Central Highlands Rural Health 'Treehouse Program' in Trentham. Despite the current economic downturn a donation of \$15,000 was made - from the commission of works sold and the art raffle - not bad for a small country town gallery! The gallery received an "Events Grant" from Hepburn Shire Council supporting the show.

The Big Cheque presentation was a very proud moment for the Little Gallery team. Maree Cuddihy (CEO of CHRH) was overwhelmed with the generosity and said "This wonderful support will make a real difference for people living with dementia and their carers. Thank you Little Gallery, the artists and the community for your support and generosity"

The Little Gallery is an artist-run space and prides itself on adding to the cultural identity of the region by representing local artists. It is a true representation of the strong regional arts community within Trentham, Daylesford and the Macedon Ranges region.



Artist Rose Wilson, founding member of The Little Gallery said "We host these fundraising shows to give back to the amazing community that supports us. The generosity of our locals is heartwarming and we received many donations from local businesses including The Cosmo, The General and the Trentham Wine and Food Co which helped with food and wine along with art donations from our local artists for the raffle and many volunteers that assisted on the opening night. The gallery team work extremely hard to make these shows successful, and each year we say it can't get better than this, but it does!"

From left to right: Dora Mansbridge (Social Support and Treehouse Manager), Victoria Hanson (Social Support Program Facilitator), Maria Coyle Artist, Rose Wilson Artist, Cathy Bloomfield (Social Support Program Assistant), Maree Cuddihy (CEO), Helen Cottle Artist, Kim Haughie Artist, Jimmy Rix Artist, Sally Kirkright (Board Member and Fundraising)
Photo by Ben Steel



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SAT
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THECOSMOPOLITANHOTEL.COM.AU/WHATS-ON

Trentham Neighbourhood Centre

October is a busy month at TNC!

First up, come celebrate Victorian Seniors Week. Join us for Lunch, Good Food, Great Company, and Community Spirit. We invite all seniors to come together for a special three-course meal, filled with friendly faces and a special guest speaker from Central Highlands Rural Health. We look forward to seeing you there!

Ambulance Victoria is visiting on 15 October to run a First Responders information session. Learn CPR, become familiar with how to use an AED, and learn how to become a 'Good Sam' community responder. This session is free, but please RSVP on our website.

We have a First Aid course running on 18 October. This is a fast track Level 2 with pre-course homework that covers all elements of First Aid in a shorter day focusing on practical activities. The course is run by Intelligent Training Solutions, and bookings can be made via their website.

'Get Online Week' is running 20 -26 October. Get Online Week is the Good Things Foundation's national campaign to support people to feel safer and more confident online. We are using the week to launch our 'Be Connected' program aimed at the over 50s. This program supports older Australians to build their digital skills. During Get Online Week we will be running a drop in morning tea and a digital scavenger hunt. There will be prizes!

To end the month with a freaky finale we have our annual Halloween Trick or Treat Trail on Friday 31 October. We look forward to seeing you dressed up in your most frightening outfit! Grab a map and make your way around the town finding treats. Contact us if you would like your house included on the map.

Quarry Street Reserve

There are many conversations about spring in Trentham! After living here a while, it's possible to get used to what our environment tells us rather than thinking one day on our Northern Hemisphere calendar decides it. Our local indigenous seasons are a lot more nuanced and are indicated by our local Flora and Fauna, as well as by the weather! Technically this season can be Guling, when the orchids come out and the first Wattles start to bloom.

Here our Silver Wattle has been getting ready for months, with some of the Blackwood Wattles now starting to join in. Out in the nearby bush you might come across the Acacia Mucronata, Thin-Leaved Wattle.

The Healthy Coliban Catchment Project is about to enter the next stage, planting where the weeds have been cleared on Trent and Stony Creeks. With two Community Planting Days, Saturday 4 October at the Chinese Spring, and Saturday 25 October at Quarry Street Reserve, we will be working to provide improved habitat for our Flagship Species, the Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly.

This butterfly will, hopefully, start to appear mid-December. While our newly planted areas won't be ready by then, there will no doubt be sightings nearby.



SENIORS LUNCH

Friday 10 October 2025

12.30PM - \$10

Join us at the TNC for a sociable and relaxed meal to help celebrate the Victorian Seniors Festival for 2025

Bookings Essential
Scan QR Code



Or phone 5424 1354

TNC Trentham Neighbourhood Centre Inc.
a small centre with a warm welcome

A Flagship Species is one which can be a community engagement concept, a story of a single creature which illustrates a wider conservation issue, such as weed-choked waterways. This butterfly helps us understand what needs to be done and demonstrates the necessary changes. At the same time, this butterfly is also a Focal species whereby if we work on its habitat we will also be helping lots of other lesser-known species.

Free BBQ lunch provided to thank participants for their efforts!

Please bring garden gloves and wear appropriate footwear.

Saturday 4 October 2025 10:00 AM – 12.30 PM
at Trent Creek at The Chinese Spring
trybooking.com/events/landing/1438201?qr=true&qr=true

Saturday 25 October 2025 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
at Quarry Street Reserve, near High Street.
trybooking.com/events/landing/1438186?qr=true&qr=true

Food for Thought

Firstly, how wonderful is this rain, with the hope it will relieve the drought situation and once again our farmers can get a good night's sleep.

After reading an article written by Brett Hosking, President of the Victorian Farmers Federation, I have been thinking about the relationship between us, the consumer and the farmer, for without them, we don't eat and therefore we are doomed.

Yet as never before they are being besieged through the wants, the desires and the urgency of our current times.

Land for housing with supportive infrastructure i.e., shopping and medical centres and schools. Wind-farms and land for solar panels for energy, and ever-increasing taxes to pay for community services, i.e., fire fighting, let alone exorbitant fuel and insurance costs.

Brett says that population growth will cause our farmland to fall by a third, but is required to increase to feed a future state of 10 million people which is almost impossible to comprehend. Yet understand we must as our lives depend upon it, and in so doing, we must fight for our farmers and their rights to the land they require to feed us.

The Plonkers

Still in holiday mode having recently returned from Paris Digby whispered in Mrs. Digby's ear: "Dîner chez ensemble ce soir ma chérie."

"Oh, dear, I've put up with your cheesy attempt at French for weeks now, what are you saying?"

"I've booked a table at the new French restaurant in town, Ensemble. I'm still craving French food; they have duck and shellfish. Why not put on that lovely yellow dress we bought in Paris and let's get going."

They were warmly greeted by part owner Maud with a friendly smile. Mrs. Digby, still looking down at her menu exclaimed, "Oh thank goodness, they removed that dreadfully loud wallpaper, it looks lovely now. What do you think you'll order..?" Looking up she was startled (but not surprised) to see Digby standing over by another table talking to a young couple they knew. Oh no, she thought, is he speaking "French"?

"Digby, please come back, let's order."

They began with a glass of the local Hanging Rock Picnic Cuvee Brut NV. A perfect aperitif with soft bubbles, a fresh crisp acidity, and notes of strawberry and apple. The perfect beginning to what would turn out to be a stunning meal.

Both chose shellfish to start. Digby ordered hot oysters in their shell with yeast butter and pickled lemon, Mrs. Digby the scallops in a cauliflower purée, with apple and fennel.

"Oh, these flavours take me right back to Bordeaux dear. How are you enjoying your oysters hot, you don't normally have them like that?"

"Luv, I'm a convert, I'm ordering them hot in future. They're lovely: hot without being cooked, just gently poached in

This of course requires sensible and dare I say strong governance from relative Shires and Councils in not being pressured by State Government who lack the understanding of the benefits and delights of rural community living. And in bringing it closer to home, that Hepburn Shire, even in its dire financial situation does not give way to easy income from new residential property rates, although they will be delighted by the income from the houses being built in The Block, Daylesford ranging up to \$3.5 million!! The cost to our planet and the cost to our farmers, and eventually the cost to us is a calculation too hard.

On a brighter note, with this rain I am certain we are in for a blooming Spring to heal the memories of a brutal winter, and before long we'll be thinking of planting out our tomatoes. Can't wait.

Sylvia Johnston
Trentham Food for Thought.

their own juices and the yeasty lemon flavours make them even more moorish, I'll have to stop at 6 I suppose?" he looked up hopefully.



"Save some room for the duck dear."

The mains were soon placed before them. Mrs Digby had chosen the risotto with mushroom, beautifully chargrilled to a slight smoky flavour, topped with goats cheese, accompanied by a glass of dry Barfold Estate Viognier.

"Oh my, we now have two very good French restaurants in Trentham, how lucky are we?"

"Hmmm", said Digby, "Think of the money we could have saved on the flights, we have France right here in our own little market town."

Conversation ceased.

Digby, completely forgetting his smooth Cab Sauv, had to wipe the drool from his chin as he pondered the beauty of the duck on his plate. A lovely thick ruby breast, a crumbed fried ball of dense leg meat accompanied by an often-underrated baked celeriac. A complimentary salad arrived of crisp dressed cos.

Complete and feeling somewhat spoiled they thanked their hosts Maud and Harry.

"Cuisine superbe mon ami" Digby stammered in a clunky accent.

"We'll see you again soon, that was just wonderful" said the long suffering Mrs Digby holding Digby's coat up for him.

"Come on dear, you still have some unpacking to do..."

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