

MAY 2026

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

The Great Trentham

SPUDFEST

Celebrating our People, Produce & Region

SATURDAY 2 & SUNDAY 3 MAY 2026





Council news

Pet registrations

Unfortunately, we have experienced some technical issues with getting pet registration notices sent out in time. Pet owners in the Shire should have received their notices by now and payment is due on Monday 1 June 2026. We apologise for any inconvenience and confusion. Please reach out if you have any issues by raising a request online at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/request or by phoning (03) 5348 2306.

Rates and charges

The fourth instalment of rates and charges is due by Sunday 31 May 2026. Several payment options are available, please refer to your most recent notice for payment instructions. If you are experiencing financial hardship, need to set up a payment plan or have any questions, please visit our website at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/rates or contact us on (03) 5348 2306.

What's On eNews

There is always something happening in the Hepburn Shire. Make sure you subscribe to the What's On eNews to discover events happening right on your doorstep, visit www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/newsletters



Fire Danger Period

The Fire Danger Period was lifted at 1 am on Monday 13 April. This means residents can resume burn-offs, but it is essential to do so safely and responsibly. Check Council's local laws for regulations around burning off at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/local-laws

Planning team hits a turning point

Over the past 12–18 months, Council has worked conscientiously to improve its planning processes and procedures and tighten planning regulation monitoring and compliance. Council has seen a 30 per cent reduction in the number of active permit applications in the last six months. Read more at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/planning-turning-point

Emergency and resilience events

From how to use the VicEmergency app to getting coffee with a cop, this year's emergency and resilience events calendar is full of workshops, talks and networking opportunities to help you prepare for emergencies. Visit www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/em-events

Trentham VIC open on Saturdays

Visitors to Trentham will benefit from a volunteer-run visitor information centre at The Mechanics Trentham on Saturdays from early May. Over the last few months, Council has worked with Trentham locals to open the Trentham Visitor Information Centre (VIC) on weekends, advertising the opportunity across its corporate channels and at local markets and shows.

The volunteer team will work in pairs to give weekend visitors expert local knowledge on all the wondrous things to do, see and eat in Trentham and surrounds. If you would like to get involved, reach out to the Visitor Experience team at tourism@hepburn.vic.gov.au

Safe Local Roads and Streets Program

Two important projects under the Safe Local Roads and Streets Program were released for tender in the last week of April. **Pearsons Road and James Lane intersection, Fern Hill** will receive intersection widening, construction of kerb and channel, an on-road pedestrian crossing as well as a reduced speed limit near the Pig and Whistle. **Bath Street, Trentham** will receive the reconstruction of wombat crossings and connecting footpaths and a reduced speed limit. The projects are being delivered by Council in partnership with the Department of Transport and Planning and the Transport Accident Commission and are expected to commence later this year subject to tender outcomes.

Council Plan 2025–2029

Hepburn Life

Future Hepburn

Hepburn Working Together

YOUR COUNCILLORS



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!

Spudfest!!!

We have it on good authority that Spudman is limbering up (in fact, he's even been out running in preparation!) for a big couple of days. Fingers crossed the magical autumnal weather we've enjoyed so far holds – and best wishes to the Spudfest Team, Spudbuddies and all involved for a successful festival celebrating our much loved potato.

Thank you to the organizers of our ANZAC day ceremonies (who did have the ear of the weather gods!) The Dawn Service was (as always) moving, poignant and hopeful.

Huge thanks to Rachel and the TNC who appear to have resolved printer-gate! If you missed last month's edition, you can find it online at thetrenthamtrumpet.com.au – where you can also subscribe.

Have a great month,

Chris & Penny

ps. Go online and check out our local community website trenthamvic.org.au (QR code on the right) - with loads of great information about our community, our environment, including waterways, parks and trails, what's on around town, essential services, and a whole lot more.

Spudfest

Championing Trentham's Potatoes

Over the past few months, our May cover star Louisa Dunn has been flying the flag for our local potatoes—and for the Great Trentham Spudfest.

You may have spotted her in The Sunday Age, the Moorabool News or Ballarat Times, heard her chatting with Jacinta Parsons on ABC Radio, on Gardening Australia or even talking up a proper “spud storm” on The Producers podcast with Dani Valent. Wherever she appears, Louisa brings an infectious enthusiasm, not just for potatoes, but for our community and farming life.

But away from the headlines, Louisa's story is firmly grounded in the rich soils of our district.

Married into the Dunn family—fifth-generation potato farmers from nearby North Blackwood—Louisa works alongside her husband Peter and brother-in-law Ian to continue a legacy that stretches back to 1865, when the family first supplied food to local gold miners during the region's gold rush days. It's a history that still shapes the farm today, blending tradition with a forward-looking approach.

Farming at 750m above sea level, the Dunns grow around 25 acres of potatoes each year. This includes seed crops for the chipping industry as well as a selection of over 20 market varieties destined for home cooks and chefs. The farm's cool climate, rich volcanic soil and reliable rainfall create ideal growing conditions, while careful water use, crop rotation and soil management ensure the land remains productive for future generations. Even imperfect potatoes have a purpose, repurposed as feed for the farm's sheep.



Trentham
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Our town - Our website
trenthamvic.org.au

Proudly supported by the
Trentham Community Bank, Bendigo Bank and
managed by Trentham Community Action Inc.

The Great Trentham
SPUDFEST
Celebrating our People, Produce & Region

Louisa's real passion, though, is sharing the story of the humble spud. She delights in helping people understand the differences between varieties: why waxy fingerlings are perfect for salads, or how floury potatoes create the ultimate mash, roast or gnocchi. She's equally fond of the more colourful varieties, bringing unexpected vibrancy and flavour to the plate.

Like many farming families, the Dunns face the realities of rising costs, labour demands and increasingly unpredictable weather. Despite this, Louisa remains a tireless advocate for regional producers and the importance of supporting local agriculture.

For her, Spudfest is more than a celebration, it's a bridge between city and country. And when visitors arrive in Trentham, she hopes they leave not just with a couple of bags of potatoes, but with a deeper appreciation of the people, stories and care behind every spud.

Our local farmers will be selling their spuds in three locations this year, the Railway Precinct, at the corner of High and Market Street and the Town Square.

About the Trumpet

Acknowledgement of Country

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



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

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

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

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

thetrenthamtrumpet@gmail.com

Electronic subscriptions (which we encourage) are available at:

thetrenthamtrumpet.com.au

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

The Trentham Trumpet is gratefully auspiced by the TNC.

Advertising Rates (from Feb 2022)	Black & White		Colour	
	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

Monday Morning Meditation

8.30/9.30am every Monday
TNC

Sunday Church Services

St George (Anglican) 9am
St Mary Magdalen (Catholic) 8.30am

Trentham Lions Club

Farmers' Market
16 May 9am-1pm
Trentham Town Square

Trentham Sustainability Group

Farmers' Market Food Swap
16 May 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

Trentham Community Table

CWA / TNC / Lions joint initiative
last Friday of each month
TNC 12.30pm

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On Our Cover

Spud Farmer
Louisa Dunn

by
Anna
of
Wild Little Swallows Photography

see page 3 for more

CWA

Trentham Night Owls

It's been a busy and rewarding time for the CWA Trentham Night Owls, with plenty happening both locally and across the region.



Members recently travelled to Lancefield for the Central Highlands Group Creative Arts weekend (18–19 April), where our branch was delighted to be awarded second place for our craft table (see pic at right). There were also lots of individual highlights, with many members winning prizes across categories that included baking, preserves, photography and craft. Special mention goes to Tania Teese who won Best Preserves Entry, Cath Goozee who was awarded Best Photography Entry and our President (Susie Wyatt) was delighted to win first place in the "3 Plain Scones" category again – her second year in a row.

Back home, preparations are well underway for the coming weeks. Members have been busy baking Anzac biscuits which were sold to help raise funds for our various local community projects.



We're also very much looking forward to being part of the Great Trentham Spudfest on 2–3 May. Be sure to stop by and enjoy a Devonshire tea served by the good folks from the Food for Thought group. Our members are contributing to this much loved event by baking all the scones and providing delicious homemade jam. Hopefully we'll see you there!!

Trentham Lions

**You've Done It Again!
Good Friday Appeal, 2026.**

The Trentham and District Community have once again shown their overwhelming generosity, with a total of \$10,255.11 raised for the Royal Children's Hospital.

"Lion Tim Walsh once again organised everything beautifully leaving Lion John Morrissy and I with just the rather pleasant task of counting the money as it 'rolled in'! We were all touched by the person who attached money to their front door along with a note saying they were going out but didn't want to miss donating. We found their money. It was typical of the goodwill and generosity expressed by our town that day". Vicki Steggall, Good Friday Appeal volunteer.

Donations were made in a number of ways, including the March Farmers and Makers Market, the Door-knock, the Easter Raffle, and of course the people who prefer to make their donation personally by phone.

Why does this worthy cause enjoy so much support year after year? Perhaps it is because so many of us have our own 'Royal Children's Hospital' story. So a huge thank-you to everyone who was part of the effort in 2026.

You should feel proud.

Trentham Lions & Trentham CFA



above: Trentham Lions Tim Walsh & President John Morrissy

Quarry Street Reserve

New dimension to Spudfest Discovery Day: The Trentham Nature Hub



Trentham Neighbourhood Centre will become "The Trentham Nature Hub" for Spudfest Day 2 Discovery Day, an opportunity to discover more about our unique environment.

A range of our environmental groups will provide information about activities in our district, mostly initiated, directed and undertaken by local volunteers.

Wombat – Lerderderg National Park

Want to find out more about the new National Park? Check with displays and people who know:

- Wombat Forestcare – flora, fauna, fungi
- The Great Dividing Trail Association (GDTA) – where to walk
- The Holly Project – trying to keep the forest clear of invasive species

Get involved with these groups: to learn about waterway revegetation here in Trentham and make a significant contribution to our biodiversity:

- Quarry Street Reserve
- Trentham and District Landcare
- Friends of Trentham's Creeks and Reserves

Living with Wildlife – Chat with local author and researcher, Tanya Loos, and take home a copy of her book.

Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife – check out lists of local native plants for your garden to encourage the small critters, maybe set up a Pollinator Patch.

Take a walk around nearby Reserves: At 1pm, meet at Quarry Street Reserve Pavilion for a guided walk to be inspired by local native plants for local assisted revegetation.

Book: <https://www.trybooking.com/DLSDV>



And, after Spudfest, book in for this upcoming session on 13 May:



Landscaping for Wildlife and Bushfire + morning tea (Trentham)

Overview

Wildlife-friendly or fire-wise? Learn how to balance both in your garden. Join local experts for practical tips, followed by a morning tea!


Can you create a beautiful, wildlife-friendly garden that also helps protect your home from bushfire?

Join the Council's Biodiversity Officer and a CFA Vegetation Management Officer for a practical, down-to-earth session exploring how to balance habitat and fire safety around your property.

Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/landscaping-for-wildlife-and-bushfire-morning-tea-trentham-tickets-1986511484325?aff=AprilEmail>

Coliban Digital Services

**Do you find modern technology intimidating?
Confusing? Scary? Frustrating?
Would you like a guide through the digital forest?**



**In home Assistance with Technology in Trentham, Spring Hill and surrounding area.
Single issue visits or ongoing assistance available.**

Technology Guide: Heather Bertrand
www.colibandigital.au
0493 297 973
heather@colibandigital.au

Trentham Community Action Inc.

Traffic Working Group Advocacy

Stop Press: TCA received a message on Monday 27 April from the CEO to the effect that "significant work and progress has occurred and is occurring with us and the Department of Transport and Planning" and that an update is to follow.

The members of the TCA Traffic Working Group, John Morrissy, Ken Turner, Fay Magee, John Brereton and Ian MacBean, have been able to gain a little traction on the matters raised by the petition submitted to Hepburn Shire Council last September.

The petition is to install pedestrian crossings in the civic-retail section of High St near the intersections with Cosmo Rd and Market St and implement a consistent speed limit of 40km/hr across central Trentham. An unfortunate seven months has elapsed since the motion at Council received the petition and agreed to instigate action, with no further communication received from Council. TCA has sought advice from the CEO but so far without any clear outcomes. Meeting and corresponding with senior Police officers for our region has been very encouraging.

Two other local traffic areas of concern are the intersection at The Pig and Whistle and the section of Chanters Lane where the recent fatal accident occurred on 13 April. Hepburn Shire Council has plans regarding both these projects and it is to be hoped that these will be fully funded in the 2026-2027 Budget.

The TCA Committee appreciates the continuing concern of the community regarding speed and road safety issues and will provide more information when it is to hand.

A block of land on Victoria Street is for sale. Here's why it matters to all of us.

The land at 6 Victoria Street has sat quietly for years since the former foundry buildings were demolished. A recent sale listing is a timely reminder that its future is not yet written – and that our community has a role to play in what comes next.

The Mount Players

Happenings in May

Our 2nd show, *Mr Bailey's Minder*, a dramatic comedy by Debra Oswald, opens Friday 8 May playing until 24 May. You may still be lucky enough to get yourself a ticket!

Synopsis - Abusive, cantankerous and burned out by booze, Leo Bailey is one of Australia's national treasures. A gifted painter and chronic alcoholic, he can no longer take care of himself. His resentful daughter, Margo, has been through a succession of minders, until Therese comes along, fresh out of jail and determined to make a go of her limited options. It's a tough, funny, big hearted play. Tickets at www.themountplayers.com or call 0419 329 052 for assistance.

Auditions for our August Musical: Saturday 16 & Thursday 21 May (evening) at the Mountview Theatre, Macedon. We require singers, dancers and musicians.

The three-title site at 6 Victoria Street is currently zoned **Industrial (IN1Z)** – a designation that permits manufacturing, warehousing, and workshop activities. What the current sales listing doesn't make clear is how significantly restricted other uses are under this zoning: offices, retail, and similar uses face limitations.

This risk is not new – the site's development potential has been constrained for some time, but a sale under current zoning opens the way for a manufacturing, warehousing, or workshop development immediately adjacent to the residential properties in Victoria, Lelant and Quarry Streets. And with pleasant views to Quarry St. lake.

A sale, however, opens the door to change. And with our Council seeking community input on the revised Trentham Structure Plan later this year, the timing matters.

The Trentham community has already made substantial input to the earlier draft of the Structure Plan (2024) and TCA is monitoring how planning decisions reflect the spirit and intent of this input in the interim until the Plan is finalised and enforceable.

Structure plans shape how land can be used for decades. Rezoning decisions – including any that might follow a sale of this site – will be informed by that process. This is your opportunity to have a say on how progress for Trentham will be shaped and managed.

What you can do

- Make a submission when Council releases the revised Structure Plan for community comment (<https://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/2/building-amp-planning/documents/strategic/trentham-structure-plan-lr-adopted-03-09-2024.pdf>)
- Be part of conversations to understand the likely outcomes of the Structure Plan Process. Register your interest via the TCA website: trenthamvic.org.au

This is your TCA Action group in action! Sign up to be a member! Form available on the website: trenthamvic.org.au/contact.

In the vein of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and The Who's *Tommy*, The Mount Players is proud to present the brand new, original rock opera, *After-Light* as our third show of the year. Conceived by up and coming local composer, Zac Vanstone with musical direction from Castlemaine's Tom Foster this is sure to be a production to excite, provoke and entertain.



A 7 piece rock band will perform live on stage, in full view of the audience, as singers and dancers tell the story of Boy as he struggles through his past mistakes, exercising his demons in a journey of self discovery and ultimately redemption. For a full information pack & to book an audition contact Craig Lenaine-Smith at mountplayerspresident@gmail.com

See you at the theatre!

Trentham Tales

Trentham's Potato Heritage

Potatoes have been grown in Trentham since the 1850s, our deep rich soils attracting potato growers from as far afield as Ireland, initially meeting the demand from miners on the surrounding goldfields.

Every farm in the district grew potatoes, harvested by the grower and their families. As the timber industry developed, new communities emerged with households seeking spuds for their mealtime staple, increasing demand and forcing the need for extra diggers at harvest time. Itinerant workers were employed on a piecemeal basis, the farmers providing them with their digging tools: a fork and bags.

As competition for labour increased, many farmers offered workers simple accommodation as part of their contract - a small hut, with a fireplace. These were the legendary 'SpudHuts': basic

constructions, generally made of timber, 3m x 2m, with a chimney on the short wall. They had no windows or at best a very small one, a bed, table and chair, utensils for cooking, but no running water. Water was generally collected from a nearby dam or waterhole, a spade and the bush functioning as toilet fixtures.



Trentham's potato harvest began in April, with the first frosts of autumn, and continued through the winter. Records suggest these earlier winters were harsher than we see now: hard frosts that meant solid ground for days, frequent snow and incessant rain. Weather delays took a toll on diggers, who were expected to lift 10 bags of potatoes per day (1 bag = c. 70 kg).

Through the 20th century the itinerant workers were often returned service men from both WWI and II. Their common characteristics were physical strength and general trustworthiness, as well as a liking for alcohol. The pub was a place of warmth and camaraderie and the recipient of many a digger's pay.

A folklore developed around these Spud Diggers, stories amusing and sad as retold in the TDHS publication 'A hard day's work' (Bertrand & Elliott, 2009) and celebrated each year in our SpudHut tours.

Mechanisation, fertilisers, irrigation, the demands of McCains and McDonalds, all contributed to the disappearance of potato farmers. However, the significance of the industry to our economy, and the stories of those who faced its hardships, are inherent to our district's history.

Information drawn from Bertrand, Ina & Elliott, Gael, 2009, 'A hard day's work: potato growing in the Trentham area'. Available from TDHS website, \$5.

Sue Worthington Trentham & Districts Historical Society

*left: Standard 'SpudHut', near Trentham Falls, 1987
(TDHS Collection)*

Trentham Neighbourhood Centre

We've been so busy at TNC over the last week or so getting our Term 2 Program finalised and printed, and getting ready for The Great Trentham Spudfest, we haven't had time to think of an article for the Trumpet this month. So instead, we thought we'd share a poem, written in pencil, and slipped under our door early one morning:

.....

At the heart of a small country town,
Where tall gums whisper and rains drift down,
There stands a place both warm and bright,
A doorway open, a welcoming light.

The Trentham Neighbourhood Centre, they say,
Is more than a building along the way,
It's laughter shared over cups of tea,
And hands that help community.



Morning brings the shuffle of feet,
Friendly hellos along the street,
A class, a chat, a borrowed chair,
You'll always find a welcome there.

Ideas bloom like gardens near,
With every voice they hold dear,
From craft and care to plans anew,
It grows from me, it grows from you.

In quiet moments, stories rise,
Of changing lives in simple ways,
A helping hand, a skill retaught,
A sense of belonging gently caught.

So if you wander, lost or free,
Seeking what a place can be,
You'll find it there, both strong and true,
A little centre, holding you.

TRATA

At the Station - Opening Event May 20

On Wednesday May 20 at 10:30am, we're holding an opening event to mark the achievement of two significant projects – the Inclusive Native Garden Mural as well as the structural works to the Goods Shed.

The shipping container mural, painted by local artist Natalie Davis (aka 'Chalky'), received partial funding from Hepburn Shire's Community Grants Program, but it wouldn't have been possible without the generous donations of so many others, including Cool Country Classics Car Club, Joanne Crystal, The Green Store, David and Brooke Limmer, Ray and Natalie Poole, Deidre Reid, Peter Skipworth, Elizabeth and John Toomey, Trentham Historical Society, and Trentham Primary School.

TRATA has also contributed to the mural funding – thanks in part to the community's support of our seasonal markets (yes, we make sure every sausage sold goes a long way!)

The new planting and landscaping works surrounding the mural were all made possible thanks to a grant from the Australian Government's Stronger Communities Program and the efforts of our volunteers.

We're incredibly grateful to everyone who helped bring these projects to life, including VicTrack, who funded the

Interior Design

Maximalism is not the Opposite of Minimalism!

A minimalistic aesthetic and lifestyle choice is for the dedicated, as it's difficult to construct and maintain, and requires excellent storage. Big empty spaces that rely on clean lines, surfaces and bouncing light can be calming.

So, what's the alternative? Some people would say it's the polar opposite: maximalism!

Maximalism is really about objects having a large impact on the eye, rather than having plentiful objects. Maximalism isn't just piling everything into a room; it's both curated and intentional, a conscious manipulation of colour and light with a sort of 'more is more' philosophy. It really plays with deliberately manipulating pattern and textures, visual warmth and comfort.



Start by using a boldly saturated colour, perhaps do some in depth colour drenching, where all surfaces are painted the same colour. Choose one or two signature pieces of furniture, with some interesting detailing. A dining room may have a large table with a beautiful, patterned tablecloth reaching the floor, while high back chairs could be richly upholstered in a similarly bold colour. The living room may have armchairs in a striped fabric, colour coordinating with your sofa's upholstery and cushions - it should appear dramatic, not safe.



Goods Shed works. We look forward to welcoming our contributors at the event, which will also be attended by our Federal MP Catherine King and State MP Mary-Anne Thomas, as well as a representative from Hepburn Shire Council and VicTrack's Jean Parson.

Everyone is most welcome to join us on May 20, when we'll be delighted to formally present some special new assets for the community.

Phil Davis
Secretary
TRATA

Email: trataattrentham@gmail.com
Facebook: [trataattrentham](https://www.facebook.com/trataattrentham)
Instagram: [trenthamrailwayprecinct](https://www.instagram.com/trenthamrailwayprecinct)

As a design ethos, maximalism also requires tight monitoring so interiors don't look messy or unkempt. Have a look at wallpaper sample books, they will provide all sorts of ideas. Consider using a dramatic wallpaper in an unexpected location: small powder rooms or bathrooms are a great place to start, as it's economical to play with a roll of wallpaper that will give you a wow impact, without having lots of objects. Every part of the room should contribute to the overall theatrical atmosphere, pushing the boundaries. Luxury fabrics and materials like silks and velvets, glass and brass will create a opulent and moody energy. But we want sophisticated: a beautiful mohair or velvet fabric already has a 'Look at me' presence; when combined with tassels, fringing and piping, you're creating an enhanced presence. Just adding a handful of gorgeous fabrics in your cushions, ottomans and occasional chairs will contribute to the energy in the room.

It's not about over-mixing too many ideas: you want a few strong statement contrasts, where individual pieces command attention. A bold geometric floor rug, well scaled art on your walls, and dramatic furnishings combine to keep your style focussed. Never underestimate a sculptural light pendant, it's like a crowning piece of jewellery.

Robert Creedon
Interior Design Studio

Mobile 0488 294 777
Instagram @robert_creedon
Web robertcreedon.studio

Photo credit: www.meganhopp.com

Cool Country Classics Trentham

National Motoring Heritage Day

On Sunday 17 May our Cool Country Classics Car Club of Trentham will again host a National Motoring Heritage event at our Historic Railway Station.

This will be the fifth year our local car club has been nominated to host the "Cavalcade of Transport" event by the Association of Motoring Clubs (AOMC). The AOMC is a not-for-profit organisation established in 1976 that represents over 250 member clubs comprising some 45,000 motoring enthusiasts in Victoria. The Association, run by volunteers, represents all Victorian hobby motorists, including vintage, veteran and classic car, motorcycle and truck enthusiasts.

Trentham will be one of five locations in Victoria to showcase this day allowing visitors to appreciate the rich history of vehicles in our region going back over 100 years and the role they have played in local history. On display will be a varied range of vintage classic cars, trucks motorcycles. If you have an interesting vehicle please bring it along.

Entry by gold coin donation supporting local community groups. Catering available with TRATA volunteers on the BBQ, Trentham State School providing cakes and treats and of course Coffee. Display vehicles enter from 10am, and public viewing from 10.30am.

Bullarto Bush Dance

Musk CFA presents a Night of Family Fun!

The Musk Fire Brigade and the Bullarto Hall Committee present the family friendly Bullarto Bush Dance once again for 2026! All proceeds go to the Musk CFA to raise funds for the purchase of a Brigade owned Light Tanker - one tanker is no longer enough.

Since 1943, The Musk Bush Fire Brigade has protected our small but growing community. As well as supporting our local communities, the Musk CFA also helps in emergencies further afield, like in Harcourt this past summer.

The Bush Dance will be held at the Bullarto Hall on Saturday 9 May. There will be delicious food available, a licensed bar, door prizes, and a generous raffle of the area's finest produce. Campfires outside will keep everyone warm (if you're not dancing!).

Local MC Bruce Rolfe will be our dance caller to get everyone in the dancing mood and music performances by fantastic local bands, Barbed Wire Canoe and the Wombat Ramblers (including Cat & Clint!)

Tickets (\$35 with kids under 16 free!) are available via <https://events.humanitix.com/bullarto-bush-dance-2026>

If you're unable to come along, please consider donating to the Musk CFA via this link: <https://gofund.me/d330c305e>



Cavalcade of Transport
Trentham Historic Railway Station
 To celebrate National Motoring Heritage Day

SUNDAY 17th MAY 2026
 Victoria Street, Trentham.
 Entry from 10am for Display vehicles & 10.30am for spectators
Veteran, Vintage, Classic, Historic and Collector Vehicles.

Please check the Cool Country Classics Facebook for up to date information on this and our other events.



Musk CFA and Bullarto Hall Committee present...

Featuring: live music by...
Wombat Ramblers (Cat & Clint)
 &
Barbed Wire Canoe
 ...and licenced bar service

Bullarto Bush Dance

Sat 9 May
 5:30 – 10:30pm
 Bullarto Hall

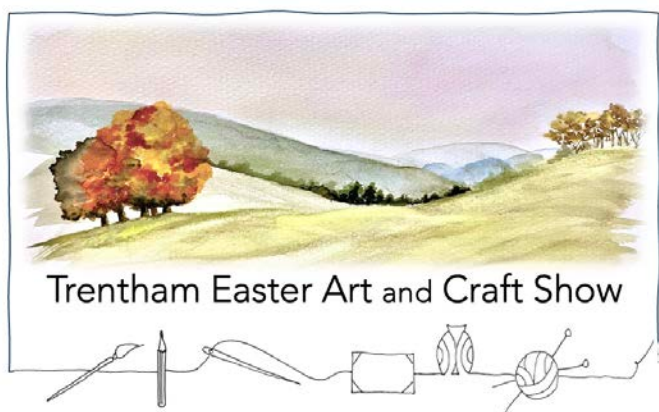
Tickets \$35
 Free entry for kids under 16 years old!

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 -Best Dancer
 -Worst Dancer
 -Best Dressed
 -Door Prize
 -Raffle

Join our family-friendly community fundraising event for Musk CFA, with guided bush dances (first kids, then everyone), barbecue, prizes, and raffle of Musk's finest produce!

QR code not working? Can't make the dance but want to donate?
<https://events.humanitix.com/bullarto-bush-dance-2026>
 or <https://gofund.me/7ba218c29>

Interior Design



The 2026 Trentham Easter Art and Craft Show again showed the vibrant art and craft community we have in and around Trentham, with around 130 exhibitors and 300 artworks, 70% of which were made by people living within 25km of the Trentham Post Office.

We gave away \$8500 in prizes over 17 categories and nearly 23% of the artworks were sold. These are great numbers for a Community Show. TEACS has a charter of fostering a love of art, craft and creativity in our community, and any profits are channelled back into projects which do this.

Our resident statistician (and maker of the DNA Meccano creation, the People's Choice Award voting container) Charles Sherlock, compiled some useful numbers for us reflecting where our 800 visitors came from: from those who indicated their postcodes, 58% were local and nearby, 29% from Melbourne, 5% Geelong, 5% Bendigo, 3.5% interstate and even 3 from overseas!

We were privileged to have displayed more craft this year and we look forward to increasing this over the years to come to revive interest in and recognition of these techniques.

A big thank you to the people who helped us assemble the panels, the nibbles for Opening Night and help mount and dismount the artworks. The Show only happens because many people offer to help, even in the smallest of ways, and often in the background where no one sees. All of which is appreciated.



The dates for next year's Show are already up on the website www.teacs.org.au So mark the dates in your calendar to visit or submit an artwork and spread the word!

Above: Charles Sherlock with his DNA Meccano creation, holding Elizabeth Frencham's drawing Fox, winner of the People's Choice award



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Sunday 17 May 2026

CYCLING EVENT

Changed traffic conditions and larger volume of cyclists in the Trentham Region

8.30am – 11:30am

For more information please visit <https://bicyclenetwork.com.au/>

The Trentham Garden

Native Gardens

I've had clients literally pretend to vomit at the idea of a native garden, but when done well, they can be beautiful, highly functional spaces that connect effortlessly to the surrounding landscape. What could possibly go wrong?!

Here are a few common pitfalls I've noticed over the years, together with some practical solutions:

1. Designing from a purely philosophical, environmental, or ethical standpoint. A residential garden needs to do so much more than just be a simple "slice of the bush." It must accommodate outdoor living, privacy, screening, provide attractive views and a thousand other things! A successful design balances these elements, creating something beautiful and practical for both current and ideally also future owners.
2. Many native plants have a less showy character, and a more open or spindly form. This is where structure is essential. Consider incorporating some eye-catching paving, or using some clipped forms such as *Correa alba* or *Westringia*. Use grasses and strappy-leaf plants in sweeping drifts to introduce rhythm and movement. Without these more dramatic elements, native gardens can read as visually flat or drab.
3. Mixing natives and exotics can be effective, but not all combinations are compatible. Often the issue is horticultural as well as than aesthetic. Planning a mixed citrus and eucalypt hedge to tick your food-production and native plant goals? Maybe reconsider, as they will have vastly different water, nutrient and pruning needs. Plants from regions with similar climates tend to integrate more successfully, both visually and practically.



4. While native gardens are generally lower maintenance, they are not maintenance-free. Like a house, a garden benefits from regular care. Choosing cultivars bred for compact growth or improved performance can significantly reduce long-term workload.

Approach a native garden with curiosity, creativity, and an open mind. When I worked in Europe, I often felt that many solutions had already been explored, and that gardeners were circling familiar territory. In Australia, there's a different energy: a sense of experimentation and the excitement of shaping a still-evolving garden culture. The question is: what might your garden contribute to that unfolding story?

Happy gardening,

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

MAY

AT THE COSMO

<p>MAY 02 SATURDAY / 3PM - 5PM</p> <p>BAD DEBTS</p> <p><small>FREE EVENT!</small></p>	<p>MAY 2 - 3 SATURDAY + SUNDAY</p> <p>TRENTHAM SPUDFEST</p>	
<p>MAY 09 SATURDAY / 3PM - 5PM</p> <p>JULES SHELDON - THE BOUNDARY RIDERS</p> <p><small>FREE EVENT!</small></p>	<p>MAY 16 SATURDAY / 3PM - 5PM</p> <p>FREYA + TOM MCGOWAN</p> <p><small>FREE EVENT!</small></p>	<p>MAY 16 SATURDAY / 7.30PM</p> <p>THE DESERTERS</p> <p><small>LIVE AT THE STABLES</small></p>
	<p>MAY 23 SATURDAY / 3PM - 5PM</p> <p>MATILDA O'BRIEN BAND - TILLY O'BRIEN</p> <p><small>FREE EVENT!</small></p>	<p>MAY 30 SATURDAY / 3PM - 5PM</p> <p>VICTORIANA GAYE</p> <p><small>FREE EVENT!</small></p>

FRIDAY NIGHT MEAT RAFFLE

MAY PROCEEDS GO TO TRENTHAM COMMUNITY GROUP

Join us for lunch!

Trentham

COMMUNITY TABLE

Sharing a meal, creating connections.

Next lunch is Friday
29 May 2026

- Trentham Neighbourhood Centre - 56 High St
- 12.30pm to 2.00pm - a gold coin donation
- RSVPs r'qd for catering ph - TNC 5424 1354

Trentham Talks

In the third Trentham Talks in April, our guest speaker was Corinne Gurry who gave an impassioned talk about her and husband Mike's volunteering in Cambodia over the past eighteen years.

It was a story of both despair and hope. Despair at the widespread poverty and hope for the future with people like Corinne and Mike building houses for poor rural Cambodians. Their work with volunteers they have taken to Cambodia has resulted in housing for 10,000 people including many children. Corinne said a team of around 30 volunteers can build 30 houses in two days. That's an amazing output giving Cambodians a better future.

The gold coin donations collected on the night amounted to \$330.00 and this was donated directly to the registered charity "REACH Siem Reap Limited". Thank you to all those who attended and those who generously added to the donation knowing it was going to Charity.

REACH Cambodia which is run by Emily Williamson (whose parents live in East Trentham) is one of the charities supported by Corinne and Mike. At REACH they have a goal to improve the living conditions of children, youth and families in the whole community by providing integrated programs for impoverished children to become change makers within their community, preparing them with life-skills to gain fair employment, and to break long standing cycles of poverty within their family.

Programs involve education, nutrition, health care, ethics and pathways to employment. It is a not for profit charity.

If you would like to donate, go to the Reach Cambodia website [REACH General Donations](#) and help build a family out of poverty.



Lynne Farrell & Cam Heagney Trentham Talks

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This month we farewelled our longest serving staff member Cathy Main. Cathy has been an integral team member since the bank's inception in 2011 in her role as Customer Service Officer

and Customer Relationship Officer. Thank you Cathy for your loyal commitment and service to the bank, branch team and customers. You will be missed.

SPONSORED EVENTS

The Great Trentham Spudfest

2-3rd May
Trentham Railway Precinct, Market Street, High Street

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30th April to 25th May
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TRENTHAM'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

We'd love to see you there to help raise funds for the Cancer Council. Tickets or donations can be arranged by scanning below or by dropping into the branch or Trentham Neighbourhood Centre.

Trentham's Biggest Morning Tea

Tuesday 2nd June
11am to 1pm
Trentham Mechanics

Proudly hosted by Community Bank Trentham & Districts.

Australia's **TRENTHAM'S**
Biggest Morning Tea

Hosted by
Community Bank Trentham & Districts
Bendigo Bank

Donate [QR Code] **Book Tickets** [QR Code]

Every dollar raised helps support those impacted by cancer.

When: **Tuesday 2nd June 2026**
Where: **Trentham Mechanics, 66 High Street, Trentham**
Time: **11am to 1pm**
Details: **Bring friends, make friends, have fun, eat, drink and fundraise! With lots of games and prizes on offer including the exciting Major Door Prize, let's band together positively for Cancer Research.**

Tickets \$10

Cancer Council

Community Bank Trentham & Districts
37b High Street
Trentham
5424 1608

Trentham Sustainability Group

Sustainability is a journey without a destination. There is no limit to how far you can travel in your lifetime. Trentham is the latest stop in my sustainability journey.



For 25 years, my sustainability itinerary traversed the business world, consulting to companies and industries that wanted to make a positive impact on people and planet. I heard the phrase, "Think global. Act local.", often. It urges us to consider environmental and social impacts worldwide while tackling sustainability within our own community.

As a member of the Trentham Sustainability Group (TSG), I hope to do that. Being sustainable usually requires changes to how things are done, including how we grow food, what we do with waste, how we source energy, and how we manage climate risk.

Change is local and social. It starts among friends, families and neighbours. It can be contagious. Change in a community happens faster than change across borders or nations. By joining a TSG working group you get to make and see change for the better happen. When many people come to sustainability, they do so for the environment. Yet, most stay because of its social benefits such as community connectedness and belonging.

Humour, chocolate and crochet were popular at last month's gathering of the TSG's Crafty People Group where three generations of knitters (right) came together for laughter and learning. The TSG's food swap at the Trentham Farmers' Market did the same with fresh, seasonal food.



Last month, the TSG welcomed Charlie and Jackie Volpe as members. It was an interest in living sustainably and a desire to meet like-minded locals that prompted them to join. It is the reason I joined, too.

As a member of TSG, I've been inspired by event speakers such as horticulturalist Craig Castree, the author of *Soil is not a dirty word*, who demystified the food soil web for me, and ecological sustainability practitioner Ian McBurney, a

founder of the Bendigo Sustainability Group, who shared his Sustainability St model for growing sustainability locally. As a member of the TSG, I got invited to these events. Membership connects me to locals and visitors who share how we can live locally, live sustainably and live well. It can do the same for you!

The proverb, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.", urges us to take action immediately and not miss an opportunity we will regret. If you are not a TSG member, the best time to apply is today. For \$10 a year, you will be part of a dedicated group, hoping to leave our place in the world better than when we found it.

Trentham is so beautiful it may be the latest and last stop in my sustainability journey. www.trenthamsustainabilitygroup.com trenthamsustainability@gmail.com

Mark Paterson Secretary

Trentham Sustainability Group
patoexcurrie@gmail.com

What's On at TSG in May

16 May: Produce Exchange, 9.30-11.30am, under the Rotunda at Trentham Farmers Market
23 May, 10am-1pm, at the Mechanics: Sewing/Repair Workshop for Teens. Young people learn to sew, repair and upcycle clothing.
23 May, 1-4pm, (same day, same venue) "Crafty People". Bring your sewing, craft project and kit. Beginners welcome.

Catherine KING MP

Federal Member for Ballarat

☎ 03 5338 8123

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Autumn EVENTS 2026

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Jared Brentnall
2-5pm



Apr 19
Brett Franke
2-5pm



May 9
Jared Brentnall
1-4pm

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Councillor's Report

Community news

Anzac Day - I was proud to be part of a brilliant ANZAC ceremony in Trentham. Kat Baldwin delivered a powerful address, primary school students spoke wonderfully, the cadets and mounted soldiers added a formal touch, Langley Rowbottom played the bagpipes beautifully and as always the Kyneton RSL through Mike Gretton, Trentham Lions, Peta Sherlock, Tim Walsh and the choir made it a fitting and respectful occasion. Similarly, Bullarto Hall hosted a wonderful ceremony later in the day. The day was capped off with Trentham Football Netball Club hosting a home night game where players, umpires and supporters paid their respects through the Ode, Last Post, Minute Silence, the raising of the flag and National Anthem.

Trentham Easter Art and Craft Show – congratulations to the organisers for staging another successful display of art.

And now for the big event of the year – **Spudfest** is bigger and better than ever and definitely an event not to be missed !

Council news

Key outcomes from the 28 April 2026 Council meeting: Council resolved to not support a **proposed subdivision at 2 and 12 Golden Point Rd.** Trentham due to a) the extensive native tree removal required to create vehicle access from Golden Point Road for the new lots; b) the detrimental impact resulting from significant loss of native vegetation when considered across the site and the roadside; and c) further to the amended application documents received via the VCAT process, it remains unclear exactly how many trees are to be cleared and their precise location. As the application was not determined by Council within the required timeframe the position taken at the April meeting will be conveyed to VCAT for their final decision. The application attracted 14 objections.

In a confidential section of the meeting councillors considered the **Hepburn Shire Community Awards**, which are a way for Council to acknowledge, celebrate and recognise the valuable contributions made to the Shire by members of the community. The four award categories are : Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event of the Year and Hepburn Together. The Community Awards will take place during National Volunteers Week on 19 May at Clunes Warehouse, highlighting and celebrating the importance of volunteers.

Budget 26/27 – the draft budget will be considered for release for community consultation at the 26 May meeting. It is scheduled for adoption at the 23 June meeting. In response to a question from a member of the public, Deputy Mayor Cornish stated that “Council remains committed to transparency and continuous improvement in how we engage with the community on financial matters” and gave assurance that “this approach aligns with the Financial Vision’s commitment to transparency and community engagement, while also meeting the statutory requirement under the Local Government Act to adopt a budget by 30 June.”

A number of **road safety projects** funded by the TAC road safety improvement program are in the design and tendering stage and are expected to be completed in September/October this year. These include the James Lane Pearsons Road intersection, a review of the speed limit in central Trentham and the delayed Pearsons Rd/ Chanters Lane works. Tragically the latter was the scene of a very recent fatal accident.



Further community consultation will be undertaken later this year on the draft **Trentham Town Structure Plan**. I will advise on timing asap.

Council Services

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

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

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

Council meetings – meetings in 2026 will be held at 6pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The public may attend in person or view proceedings via the live broadcast on council’s YouTube page. Agenda papers are publicly available on Council’s website the week before the meeting.

Upcoming **Council meeting dates:**

- 26^h May,
- 23 June
- 28 July

Cr. Brian Hood

email bhood@hepburn.vic.gov.au

0427 797151

Facebook - Cr Brian Hood, Hepburn Shire Council

St George's

News and Reflections

Culture, often explained as “the way we do things around here”, influences our behaviour. Culture is guided by a set of values and often led by someone that we want to follow because they lead by example; and not just manage by barking orders.

The culture around Trentham is, in my experience, one of people caring about and helping others. I see active clubs and organisations, many of whom contribute articles to this masthead about their activities and led by people with a caring vision. Their actions perhaps speak louder than their words, but words do matter.

Spiritual traditions which seek to guide humans on how to best live together all mention the importance of choosing words wisely: Rumi suggesting we pause and ask ourselves ‘is it true, is it necessary, is it kind’, and Lao Tzu warning ‘watch your thoughts, they become your words, watch your words they become actions, watch your actions, they become habits, watch habits, they become character, watch your character for it becomes your destiny’. Jesus said that ‘the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart’ Matt 15:18. There are many other quotes in the Bible emphasising the power of words including Proverbs 12:18 ‘The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing’, and my favourite ‘Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones’ Proverbs 16:24.

Potato Scones

Can't make Spudfest?

Fear not, the kind folk of Trentham Food for Thought have shared their much loved Potato Scone Recipe, so you can enjoy your own piece of Spudfest at home.

If you are attending, look out for these buttery, golden potato treats with lashings of rich sweet jam and fresh whipped cream; served with a piping hot cup of tea.

A collaboration between Trentham's own Country Women's Association Night Owls and Food for Thought groups, get ready for a sweet treat that is sure to warm your heart.

You'll find Devonshire Tea being served at the Railway Station on Saturday (10am - 4pm, or until they sell out!)

Enjoy!

Trentham Food for Thought Group

The words we choose to express ourselves, even nuances in the way we say things, can lead to reconciliation or lead to deeper conflict. Currently we can hear two leader's perspectives on a conflict which are extraordinarily different, despite being born into similar cultures in the US. One wanting to dominate with overwhelming power, another seeking an end to war and avoiding greater harm and escalation. Consider the words being used by each.

At St George's, the 99 year old little red brick building at the top of High Street, we come together to appreciate the words and actions of a great leader in Jesus. We also pray for our world and a peaceful solution to conflict. All are welcome to join us at 9am Sundays to hear what influences our values, pray with us, and enjoy a cuppa and chat after.

Stephen Hehir

www.centralhighlandsanglicans.org

Parish phone: 0401 127 132

Pentecost Sunday 24th Wear Red

No church on Sunday 31, joint worship at Malmsbury 10am

Potato Scone Recipe

Ingredients

2 medium size potatoes - 1 cup mashed potato.
4 cups of SR flour (plus ½ cup more for flouring a surface)
2 tsp baking powder
1 cup of thickened cream (could add a dash of milk)
1¼ cups of Lemonade
Milk for glazing

Method

1. Steam (or boil) the potatoes until a little mushy. Dry and mash. Set aside to cool
2. Sift the flour, baking powder into a bowl and ‘fork in’ or rub in the potato – like bread crumbs- well coating the potato with flour
3. Make well in centre and pour in the cream and lemonade to gently stir into a sticky dough
4. Place dough on to well floured surface and gently knead into a soft ball
5. Roll or pat out to no less than 4cm high.
6. Cut with a 5-6 cm scone cutter
7. Put onto a baking tray with baking paper
8. Glaze with milk
9. Bake in oven 215 degrees for 20 mins, when tops are just browned
10. Slightly cool on rack.



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The Nostalgic Narrator

150 Years Ago in Trentham - May 1876

Death on the road to Kyneton

On Monday, 22 May 1876 three Trentham residents set out for Kyneton in a horse and dray: Bridget Gleeson, a 35-year-old widow; Bridget's two-year-old son, Peter, and Bridget's employee, Kenneth McLochlan, a ploughman employed by Bridget on her farm in Pearson's Road, East Trentham.

Bridget's son Peter had started vomiting the night before, but had managed to sleep through the night. When Bridget returned to the family home after milking the cows that Monday morning, Peter's condition had changed: she found Peter with "his eyes... wide open and staring".

Bridget asked Kenneth to get the horse and dray ready, to take her and Peter to Dr Samuel Smith in Kyneton, a journey Bridget estimated would usually take two hours. Eight miles (13 km) out of Trentham, Bridget asked Kenneth to stop the dray, as Peter had died in her arms.

The group continued to Kyneton, where an inquest was held that same afternoon, at the Commercial Hotel in Mollison Street. After hearing evidence from Bridget, Kenneth and Dr Smith, the coroner concluded that Peter had died of "convulsions arising from natural causes". One newspaper article describing the inquest reported an additional piece of information, not included in the inquest documents:

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony, to which was added their belief that everything possible under the circumstances had been done by the mother, for the relief of the child.

Kyneton Observer, 23 May 1876 page 2

Bridget's husband, Michael Gleeson, had died on 15 April 1874, aged 30 years, leaving Bridget to raise their six surviving children, all boys, ranging in age from 2 months to 11 years. Michael had died on the road to Tylden, after falling off his heavily loaded dray when the horses bolted. After Michael's death, the Trentham community raised 73 pounds to assist Bridget raise her young family.

Bridget died on 24 May 1918, aged 79 years, outliving her husband Michael by 44 years; she was survived by their other five sons.

Cosmopolitan Hotel

In May 1876 the Kyneton Guardian continued to advertise the sale of the Cosmopolitan Hotel by Joseph Bickley (c1820 - 1899), with Kyneton auctioneer James Buscombe acting in the sale. At this time, the licensee of the hotel was Edmond Sutton Slee, to whom Bickley had leased the hotel in November 1874, for a term of four years. This lease was to lead to litigation between Joseph and Edmond in 1881, after the lease term had expired (a story for another time!).



Kyneton Guardian, 6 May 1876 page 3

The sale of the hotel in 1876 did not go ahead; Joseph retained ownership of the hotel and surrounding land until 1889, when he transferred the property to his daughter Georgina Eugenie Byrne née Bickley (1858 - 1932), known as Eugenie. Eugenie and her descendants retained ownership of the hotel until 1969, 103 years after Joseph Bickley purchased the land in 1866.

The Nostalgic Narrator

St Mary Magdalen's

Musings

Well, glorious autumn has come to Trentham, and we have had rain and beautiful sunny days. It has been getting noticeably cooler, the mornings are frosty, and the evenings are arriving earlier. Easter has come and gone in a riot of chocolate... or has it? In the church's calendar we are still in the season of Eastertide, that time when Jesus continued to appear after his resurrection from the dead. First to some women, particularly Mary Magdalen, then to the apostles, to various others, including some five hundred of the disciples. At one time he even had a fish barbecue on the beach with his friends. Eastertide finishes only at Pentecost, fifty days after Easter Sunday.

It may seem ironic that we celebrate the triumph of light over darkness just as the night starts to close in early, and yet that is what we do. Just as, in the face of all that

is happening in the world today, we proclaim that love will triumph over hate and that true peace will bring an end to war. We believe that the empty tomb signifies that violence and death are not an answer to any question worth the asking. Only in peace based on justice, love, and mutual respect can answers be found. Everything else is a lie and war is an abomination.

In all of this I am reminded of the poem 'God's Grandeur' by Gerard Manly Hopkins. Well worth a read. Soon, at the feast of the Ascension, we will remember Christ's departure from the Earth in his physical form and Eastertide will come to an end. Winter is coming and all the colour in Trentham now comes from autumn trees rather than from summer flowers, but it is just as bright and beautiful.

Deacon Joe

Food for Thought

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Last week I had reason to visit the Trentham Railway Station. It was yet another of our superb Autumn days, and as I had a little time to bask in the late afternoon sun, I quietly reflected on the significance of this venue that today, due to the dedicated work of the volunteers of TRATA and The Men's Shed is an outstanding historic statement of the days gone by.

Of times when in the 1880's as a passenger train line it played a major role in connecting the people of Trentham to Melbourne, and equally important, perhaps more so, when it was the vital carriage in getting the 'spuds' of Trentham and surrounds into the kitchens of a growing and hungry city.

I almost felt a degree of sadness that this passive venue will be swamped by some 12,000 people on 2 May as Spudfest celebrates everything about 'the Spud'. Who would ever have thought that the humble potato could cause such interest and give such culinary pleasure, when its only role was to feed and nourish the masses?

The Plonkers

It had taken her months of practice but now she had finally done it, she had spun the most perfect web. A web every spider in this part of the forest admired. And what a glorious morning to have finally achieved it. The first frost of the season captured her creation's perfect form as the morning light shone through. No human or roo would pass this way. Yes, this most perfect of webs would serve her well and would surely last beyond even her own long life.

Finally, after months of procrastination, Digby had managed to get his running gear on and make it out to the Wombat. Picking up old remembered trails he even managed to take Niles' call as he ran.

"Sure Niles, we'd love to come over for dinner."

"What's up Digby? You sound out of breath, are you ok?"

"Oh darn it I'm out running and I've lost the main path, where the hell am I? Oh bugger..."

"Digby? Digby? Are you ok mate?"

"Yeah, I just ran through a huge web. Damn spiders."

How did it get to be Saturday afternoon so quickly, Niles thought. The kitchen was strewn with pans, ripped prosciutto packaging and flour littered the floor. The island bench covered with slices of mushroom, egg whites and unwanted corners of uncooked puff pastry. His manic cooking style on full show. Yet, he remained confident that his very special beef wellington would be a triumph.

Then the door bell chimed. It's too early, they can't be here yet. Panicking and with messy hands he walked to front door and upon opening it let out a sigh of relief.

"Oh it's you Erin, come in, I've been expecting you."

And today feed the masses it does. In 2023, McDonalds Australia, sold 150 million kilos of potatoes in the form of French fries and Hash Browns. Our Spud also sits proudly within the menus of leading chefs and along with pasta is a 'go to' in the regular meals of Australian homes.

Reflecting, I also felt a great sense of pride, belonging and connection to this mighty 'little town', that currently wears the crown of Australia's Finest Tiny Town, and with every good reason, as our history along with a rich, diverse and caring community provides a sense of well-being for all residents. On 2 May our visitors will join the many thousands that throughout the years have taken a little piece of Trentham home with them. Long live the Spud.

There are literally hundreds of potato recipes, and at the Devonshire Tea stall of Spudfest the Trentham Food for Thought Group along with the Trentham CWA will deliciously sell Potato Scones using the Kennebec potato grown by the Dunn family of East Trentham. See you there.

Sylvia Johnson
Food for Thought

It was indeed Erin from Merth Vineyard delivering his order with a huge smile. "Pop them on the dining table there dear, oh I need to set that too, I wish Daphne wasn't with her CWA friends this arvo, I could really use her help."

"Yes, you could do with an extra pair of hands by the looks of it." Taking in the scene Erin continued: "There are three bottles of the Sangiovese Nouveau and three of the Rose. Have a great night, good luck."

Niles couldn't be sure, but thought he heard Erin chuckling as she let herself out.

A mere four hours later, Niles sat back in his chair and sighed out loud, looking very pleased with himself. Dinner had been a great success. He'd been nervous making a beef wellington for the first time but as he looked about the table and saw everyone engaged in enthusiastic discussion with laughter aplenty he wondered why he'd been so stressed.

He'd been able to get all the quality ingredients from Rubygoose Foods on High St. We'll all miss that store when it goes soon, he thought to himself, must do a few big shops there before Reggie closes up.

The wines from local vintner Merth Vineyard were also a hit. The Rose in particular had been a favourite with its darker, grippier yet zesty palate. The Sangiovese Nouveau dangerously drinkable with its cherry spicy fresh energy.

"Good thing you left the mushrooms out of the beef wellington Niles" said Digby with a chuckle.

Suddenly seeing the bowl of sliced mushies which he'd completely forgotten on the kitchen bench Niles improvised his response saying; "Well, I picked them myself in the forest and couldn't be sure they'd be safe. I'm always thinking of my fellow Plonkers."

Local Business Guide

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Spudman's Sign Off

See you at Spudfest!

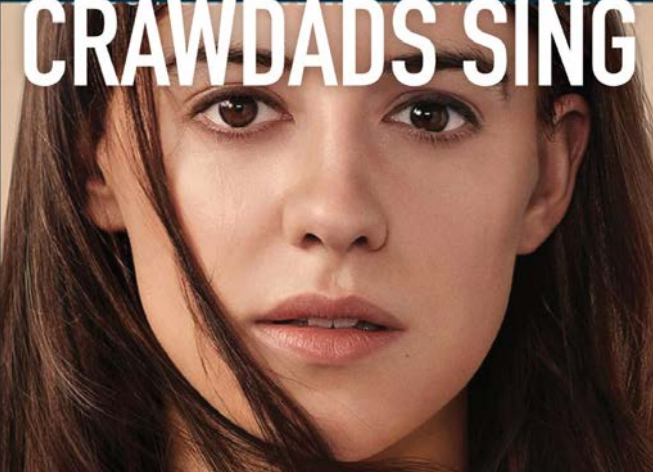
Saturday 2 May: Street Fair
Sunday 3 May: Discovery Day



Spudman by Peter Young Oil on Canvas

Trentham Film Society presents

WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING



Saturday, May 16
Trentham Neighbourhood Centre
Screening time 7pm • Pre-show drinks & nibbles 6:30pm
\$50 annual membership
\$20 minimum membership (for 3 consecutive months).

No matter where you are in the region, we have you covered.



We are the local team that services Trentham, Daylesford, Clunes, Blackwood and the greater Hepburn Shire region.

Contact your local area experts today on 03 5424 1866.

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

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

