



Trafalgar Community Development Association

P.O. Box 70 , Trafalgar Vic 3824

ANNUAL REPORT

2003-04

15 July 2004

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the fifth Annual General meeting of the Trafalgar Community Development Association (TCDA). This is my second report as president, one in which a number of TCDA initiatives are identified. The past 12 months has seen the TCDA involved in a number of activities.

Traf News

The TCDA continues to print the Traf News, which has become the primary source of communication and information for the Trafalgar Community. This was identified in a survey commissioned by the TCDA to ascertain the communication requirements of the community (see below for more details).

Battle of Trafalgar

This annual festival continues to be successfully led by Judy Bishop and her small team. The successes of previous years continue: the Art Show; and Garage Sale are two examples. A separate committee to commence planning for the 2005 Battle of Trafalgar Festival under Craig Holmes is well underway. This will be a significant event as it marks the 200th anniversary of the famous Battle of Trafalgar between the British and French/Spanish navies off the Cape of Trafalgar.

Streetscape

The TCDA's involvement in this project was one of facilitating consultation between the Baw Baw Shire and the Trafalgar Community. This project is complete, with new footpaths laid in sections of the Princes Highway and Contingent Street. New street furniture has been installed and el fresco style seating is available for diners in Trafalgar.

Website

The TCDA has developed its own website – www.trafalgar.org.au. It is still in the process of development, and the TCDA has asked IT students at the Trafalgar High School to assist. Their contribution is currently being evaluated. I thank Nathan Anderson for his work in putting the website together. His expertise has been very beneficial.

Strategic Plan for Trafalgar

The development of the plan that will clearly articulate Trafalgar's future has been a high priority of the TCDA for some time. The plan is a significant achievement in providing future direction for Trafalgar.

The TCDA saw the involvement of the Trafalgar community as essential to the planning process so that its needs and requirements were met. More than 70 people from the Trafalgar community were involved, together with representatives from the Baw Baw Shire. Of those participants, 20 represented various clubs and organisations from within Trafalgar.

The plan identified six Outcomes, with 29 actions to occur over the next three-year period. The Outcomes are:

- Community involvement is an integral part of the Trafalgar community
- Trafalgar's young people are engaged in community activities
- Trafalgar's residents feel safe in their community
- Trafalgar has a vibrant business community
- Trafalgar's sport and recreational facilities meet the needs of its community
- Trafalgar has a plan detailing its future land use requirements

The plan also identified a large number of community partners who could become drivers of the various actions.

The strategic plan is a continuing process, and it will require review on an annual basis.

The TCDA has made a grant application to the Department for Victorian Communities to fund a full-time Community Development Officer for three years. The outcome of the application is not known at the time of preparing this report.

A copy of the strategic plan may be obtained from www.trafalgar.org.au (go to the TCDA page).

Residential Developments

The two residential developments that have been announced in the past year have created much discussion within the community. The TCDA has kept abreast of these developments and has made submissions to council in relation to both developments.

These developments highlight the importance of the community having a strategic approach to its future. Outcome 6 of the strategic plan, *Trafalgar has a plan detailing its future land use requirements*, attains a particular importance. To that end, the TCDA is negotiating with a company for a Future Directions document that will identify the town's future infrastructure requirements. To ensure a plan at the appropriate standard, the TCDA will be seeking funding from the State Government. The Baw Baw Shire has allocated \$6000 towards the study.

Youth Resource Centre

The TCDA has formed a strong relationship with the Trafalgar Youth Resource Centre (TYRC) during the past year. It has made representations on behalf of, and supported the activities of, the TYRC. The TCDA considers the current funding structure for the TYRC's Youth Worker position as inappropriate and has been active in seeking a longer-term grant for that important position.

The TYRC has recently approached the TCDA to ascertain whether it can amalgamate with the TCDA. Discussions between the two organisations have commenced.

The TCDA has also had several conversations with the West Gippsland Healthcare Group in relation to youth activities in the community, and will be meeting with it in the near future to develop a structured approach to the employment of a long-term youth worker.

Dr James Brown, the TCDA's liaison with the TYRC, is a strong supporter of the town's youth.

Recreational Reserve Precinct

The Trafalgar Recreation Reserve has received a grant from the Department of Sustainability and Environment to undertake a strategic plan for the reserve. The TCDA has recently brought the recreation reserve management committee and various team-related sports clubs together to investigate a recreation reserve precinct that may incorporate the current recreation reserve, equestrian park and other appropriate land.

The development of a recreation strategic plan is identified in the Trafalgar strategic Plan, and is fully supported by the TCDA.

The TCDA has also developed a strategic planning methodology for the planning process. The TCDA will be a sponsor to the project.

Public Hall

As the result of a presentation by the Trafalgar Public Hall committee to the TCDA, representatives of the two organisations have held informal discussions regarding the necessity to plan for the hall's future. It is expected that the TCDA will continue to assist the public hall committee in this matter.

Community Cabinet

The Victorian Cabinet met in Warragul on 26 April 2004. A delegation, consisting of the TCDA and TYRC made an appointment to meet with John Thwaites, Minister for Victorian Communities. Unfortunately, he became unavailable. The deputation, however, did meet with a senior bureaucrat from the Department, who proved fruitful through the advice she provided.

I was invited to a luncheon meeting with the premier Steve Bracks. Also in attendance were the Mayor and CEO of the Baw Baw Shire and approximately seven other members of the community from across the Shire. We each had an opportunity to discuss matters relevant to our particular community. I spoke on the need for communities, local and state government to work together in partnership, highlighting the requirement of a resource to assist in the implementation of the town's strategic plan.

Community Development Officer

Duncan Wade completed his term as Community Development Officer in January this year. A number of achievements occurred during Duncan's period in the position. These included: Information Kit for clubs, conference for clubs on their requirements, Discussion Paper for Traf News, arranging grant for the Scout Hall, working with the Public Hall Committee.

The position has been evaluated as part of the funding agreement. An Interim Report has just been released, which highlights the necessity for a longer-term position in the community.

The TCDA thanks Duncan for his work in his capacity as Community Development Officer.

As stated above, the TCDA has submitted a grant application to fund a full-time Community Development Officer position for three years.

Communication Survey

The survey of Trafalgar's residents was a high priority of the TCDA. It was also identified by the Trafalgar Community in the 2001-2002 Partners in Community Building Project as being important to the community

The purpose of the survey was to assist local residents, businesses, clubs and other interested groups to communicate clearly, quickly and effectively to one another and others, thus creating an environment for that will assist volunteer participation, economic and social activity, increased awareness of government policy and procedures (and other instrumentalities) and a better understanding by external service providers of Trafalgar's particular needs

Information was collected during October 2003 via a telephone survey conducted during the evening. There were a total of 150 responses to the survey from residents in Trafalgar and the immediate surrounding district. Phone numbers with 5633xxxx prefix were randomly selected from the Whitepages telephone directory.

A number of recommendations and suggestions came out of the survey. These included:

- A community noticeboard to be installed as a high priority.

- Continue with production of the Traf News. Expand information content and make provisions for all community members to access this paper. Invite increased participation from community members to include articles and information.
- Ensure that all advertising or delivery of information is delivered in a timely manner.
- Efforts should be made to ensure that distribution of information be inclusive of all residents, particularly rural residents.
- Produce a community directory that lists community groups, clubs and organisations and distribute to all households within the Trafalgar district.
- Develop and distribute a calendar of events and meetings of the community clubs and groups. This could be done on a quarterly basis and be included in the Traf News. Information should be displayed through Posters/Flyers on a community notice board.
- The TCDA continue to develop and advertise it's new website and encourage businesses, clubs, schools and other organisations to utilise it as a communication source.
- Develop mechanisms for the community's clubs and organisations to interact with one another on a regular basis. Initial co-ordination could be undertaken by the TCDA and then continued by the clubs themselves.
- Community to lobby for improved local television coverage.
- Community to lobby for expanded or improved broadband access.
- Encourage Baw Baw Shire Council to work with the TCDA to improve its communication with and between the Trafalgar community.
- Council to hold public forums on matters affecting the community.

Some of these recommendations have been included in the town's strategic plan.

The full report on the survey may be found on www.trafalgar.org.au (go to the TCDA page)

Baw Baw Towns Network

The TCDA was instrumental in encouraging the Baw Baw Shire Council to convene this network. It provides an avenue for progress organisations across the shire to come together to assist one another to resolve issues and problems and to share solutions.

The network meets with Council representatives, and to date, has successfully encouraged Council to:

- purchase portable security cameras for trouble stops around the shire
- have at least one council meeting each at Drouin and Trafalgar

It has also resulted in action occurring in particular towns within the shire.

Railway Station building

The TCDA has been involved in constant communication with the Government and VicTrack regarding the vacancy of the Trafalgar Railway Station. As a result of that activity, VicTrack advertised expressions of interest to lease the building from businesses and community groups. An 'open day' was held in early June for those organisations and businesses that expressed an interest. The TCDA will resume communication with VicTrack in the near future to ascertain whether or not the station is to be leased.

The condition of the building interior is a particular concern, and will be an issue for further discussion with VicTrack.

Community Newspapers Association

As a result of my presentation at Omeo (see Traf News report), a working party has been established to ascertain whether a Community Newspaper Association should be formed in Gippsland. The TCDA is represented on that working party.

Baw Baw Shire

The positive relationship between the TCDA and Baw Baw Shire councillors, managers and staff continued during the past 12 months. This has resulted in open and meaningful dialogue between the two organisations. An example of this was Council's assistance with the TCDA's grant funding application for a Community Development Officer position during the middle of Council's budget process earlier this year.

Particular thanks to Cr David Balfour, who has been a strong advocate of the TCDA, and has attended almost of our committee meetings. Special thanks once again go to Syd Deam (Baw Baw Shire's Strategic Planner) and his staff for all their assistance over the past year.

Moving forward

A study recently released of eight towns in Queensland has identified why it is that some towns demonstrate resilience, optimism and growth, whilst other towns not far away are in decline.

The two residential developments announced within the past 12 months, together with the number of new residents and businesses in the town over the past two years, convinces me that the time has never been more appropriate for people in Trafalgar to look to the future.

Looking forward, what is Trafalgar's future and how will we get there?

I firmly believe that we can have a large say in our future. The community's strategic plan developed last year is the cornerstone. It gives us direction as to where we want to go. Just as importantly, it provides similar guidance to both state and local government.

For this to occur, partnerships will need to be forged. Partnerships within the Trafalgar community itself; with the various clubs, organisations and businesses working together. There is also a need for strong and equal partnerships between the Trafalgar community and the State government and Baw Baw Shire.

The following quote, in my opinion, reflects the necessity of such a partnership:

"If you're going to be a great partnership, you have to do it all. It's not enough to be creative if you cannot execute. It's not enough to execute if all you are building is something that people don't want. It's not enough to execute and be creative if you don't have the structures and culture to be viable long-term. You have to do everything these days if you are going to survive. The great partnerships ... do everything well. More and more it is becoming the case that people are getting good at all of the various parts". (*underline emphasis added; quote modified to reflect partnerships*). (*The Art & Discipline of Business Jamming – John Kao (HarperCollinsBusiness, 1997)*)

What can the partners offer?

Trafalgar community

The Trafalgar community is creative, and to an extent, can execute. It is doing things well – it is developing a culture of planning, of shared outcomes and looking at the 'overall picture'. The strategic plan has ensured that we won't build something that we don't want. What the Trafalgar community is

developing, although it does not currently have, is the structure – the resource ‘on the ground’ to bring the partners – the community, the Shire, the State Government – together to fully execute a strategic approach to its future.

Baw Baw Shire

The shire provides resources in terms of:

- expertise from its officers, and
- funding to bring together the community’s ideas into a document such as our three-year strategic plan, to enable the community to consider a further ten-year plan

State Government

The State Government is important in that it is the body that can provide the resources, e.g., through expertise and grants for:

- significant long-term planning to be undertaken by communities; and
- the employment of appropriately experienced people, to work closely with the community to ensure that the community’s ideas become actions.

A strong partnership between the Trafalgar community, the State Government and the Baw Baw Shire will lead to a vibrant and innovative Trafalgar.

The next few years in Trafalgar will be both exciting and challenging. I see it as a defining part of the town’s history. What we make of it is in our hands.

Motion

The two motions to be put to you tonight are important. They both amend our constitution by providing:

- the TCDA with a Vision, Mission Statement and identifies Values that its members believe in; and
- that a member of the TCDA may not serve on the management committee for a consecutive period of not more than three terms (six years). The purpose for this motion is that it ensures that there is turnover on the management team and that people either do not become stale or begin to feel that the TCDA belongs to them.

I strongly encourage you to approve the motions, which have the unanimous support of the current management committee.

Thanks

In concluding, none of the above could have occurred without a committed committee and I thank them, both individually and collectively – vice-president Craig Holmes, secretary Judy Bishop, treasurer Marg Godwin, and committee members Nathan Anderson, Murray Cook, James Brown and Duncan Wade.

This year, each of the committee members was allocated a portfolio, in which they supervised, or more correctly, energetically participated, in various activities. Details of their work are provided in following reports.

MICK BOURKE

President

15 July 2004

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR FESTIVAL: 2003

This major event for the Trafalgar calendar was, once again, a successful focus for community building activities and regional tourism to the town. Many volunteers from local organisations, businesses and the community generally became involved, some for the first time. Program planning was directed towards maintaining successful events, trying new ideas and increasing youth interest and involvement. Overall, this was achieved, in spite of poor weather over one weekend and several ideas not eventuating.

Twenty-one events were spread over fifteen days from Saturday 18 October to Saturday 1 November. These dates were deliberately a few weeks later, to allow for more spring growth on Open Garden day, to distance the Art Exhibition further from the Warragul Art Show and to officially open the Festival with the Rotary Ball.

The Talent Quest, sponsored by the Baw Baw Youth Network, was a significant success attracting regional interest and participation and promoting organisational leadership of local youth. It was well advertised in schools and offered significant prize money to contestants of all ages. While the original sponsorship is not expected to be ongoing, this event deserves future inclusion and support.

The Rotary Ball featured a musical program presented by the students from TAFE, as their major assessment project for the year! Led by Paddy O'Dowd, their efforts were well appreciated, once again highlighting effort and talent by youth. This regional involvement also helped swell the numbers at the ball and attract a younger age group to attend.

The annual Art Exhibition maintained its interest, with over 60 local exhibitors and an experienced management support team. The Devonshire Teas provided a happy meeting place for locals to chat and the Scrabble/Mah Jong held during the Saturday afternoon created considerable interest. The opening night served as a thank you celebration to exhibitors and included Trafalgar's Lochmore wines, live music and catering.

The Great Garage Sale Day topped 50 entries this year, securing its inclusion as a regular event. The Girl Guides Association remains enthused to organise it as an annual fundraiser and local food businesses reported strong takings on the day.

The Open Garden Day was also enjoyed by many, with the community bus available to transport locals around the nine participating gardens. A guest speaker, BBQ and afternoon tea were provided at Ray and Val Giles garden, supported by the Lioness Club. This event has the capacity to be much bigger with further local support and associated activities.

Unfortunately several proposed events did not happen. The Astronomy Night was considered too high a financial risk and had limited organisational support. The Skate Park demonstrations clashed with a high profile event in Melbourne.

Very wet weather limited spectators to Pancakes in the Park, especially affecting the face painting and pet parade. The Fun Run was well attended due to careful pre-planning and the big band music under the shelter of the Tennis Club balcony really helped provide a fun atmosphere. The Uralla Reserve Open Day

went ahead, offering a BBQ lunch and campfire, which attracted some local children for the afternoon. The Pony Club meeting and demonstrations were cancelled after a few brave hours in the rain. The BMX Events were successfully postponed, as was the Pet Parade.

While the Battle Festival is a risk in the Gippsland spring weather, the event is traditionally linked to the original Battle of Trafalgar being 21 October 1805. Spreading the program over several weekends and including a variety of indoor activities does help ensure a community Festival is achieved.

The TCDA are a coordinating force for this Festival calendar, but the program essentially remains a responsible commitment by local organisations and interest groups. Wide age group involvement is encouraged and new initiatives each year help to stimulate community interest. Debate continues as to whether the Festival should return to being a one-weekend occasion with a major focus day, but greater sponsorship and a larger management committee is vital for that to be possible. We look forward to the 2005 Battle Festival, which will recreate such a focus day in celebration of 200 years since the original battle.

Thanks to the hard working sub-committee– Linda Child, Ross Godwin, Glen Rodda, Duncan Wade and Sue Klempke. Also to the significant sponsorship and practical support from the Rotary Club of Trafalgar, the Baw Baw Youth Network and the Baw Baw Shire Council and the ongoing, regular support from various community organisations and businesses.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION: 2003

This was the fourth year of the Christmas Lights Competition in which Trafalgar residents are recognised for their efforts in decorating their homes and gardens. This has involved nominated entries, a trophy, Trafalgar dollars for first, second and third place and certificates of recognition, distributed at the annual Carols by Candlelight evening. The original focus was to attract tourists to Trafalgar, link to the regional focus being promoted and to help further promote a source of pride in our own community.

In consultation with participants and organisers, it has been suggested that the wonderful display of Christmas lighting in the town is not dependent on a competition and now has momentum of its own within the community and region. The cumulative nature of this activity does often mean the same winners each year, which reduces the value of a competition. Also, the Carols by Candlelight evening is considered to be too early in December for many households to have put up all their lights and be fully competitive.

However, the certificates of recognition for ‘Special Effort’ and the ‘Best Decorated Street’ were well received by householders and worthy of future consideration by the TCDA. It is recommended that a series of posters and advertisements promoting this concept be distributed in November each year.

JUDY BISHOP
15 July 2004

BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR 2005

During 2002-03 the TCDA discussed making the Battle of Trafalgar 2005 an event of special significance, being the 200th anniversary of the original Battle of Trafalgar after which our town was named. Such was the importance placed on this event, our president created a portfolio specifically for the purpose of organising the 2005 festival.

Our stated aims are to have a special Battle of Trafalgar Festival that:

- Promotes Trafalgar as a great place to live; and
- Appropriately celebrates the 200th anniversary of the original Battle of Trafalgar.

In September 2003 a group of community representatives loosely known as the Battle of Trafalgar 2005 Committee met to discuss proposed plans for the 2005 festival. This committee has met four times, and following the discussions at the earlier meetings, we developed a draft Project Plan.

We also conducted a meeting with invited representatives from all known groups and organisations in Trafalgar. This was well attended, with 19 people attending representing 15 local groups. At this meeting, a fruitful discussion was held around what the various clubs would like to and are willing to do in conjunction with the battle festival. We also were able to recruit three new committee members as a result of this meeting.

The information gained from this meeting was used to develop a proposed program of events. Due to the many ideas being floated, some culling of suggested events was required to bring the program to a manageable and cohesive level.

At this stage the festival is planned to go for 16 days from 15 October to 30 October 2005.

We have made initial contact with the British, French and Spanish consuls to seek their involvement. We have received a positive response from the British consulate, which have indicated that they would like to participate on some level. A meeting with a representative is to be arranged for later this year. We have also contacted the Commanding Officer from HMAS Cerberus, who has also indicated their willingness to be involved. We have been offered the assistance of a representative to attend our organisational meetings.

The final Project Plan has now been developed, including a Project Budget. This plan will enable us to apply for funding from governments at all levels, as well as seek sponsorship from commercial organisations.

Most funding options are not yet available to us, as the event is too far away. The first half of 2005 will be a crucial time to secure enough funds to run the festival.

At this stage the missing element from this working document is a communication and publicity plan. This will be developed in the next month or so. It will be vital to get a positive message of participation across to the community, as it will only be with their assistance and cooperation that the festival will be successful and achieve our aims.

The next 18 months promise to become increasingly hectic as the event draws closer. It is indeed fortunate that we have begun to organise things early as there is much to do, and we all know that time seems to go faster and faster as the years go on!

CRAIG HOLMES
15 July 2004

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (YOUTH)

The TCDA became involved with the Trafalgar Youth Resource Centre (TYRC) in November when James Brown was appointed to the TYRC steering committee to represent the TCDA.

A significant component of the activity of the steering committee over the past six months has been to provide support for Cate Beilharz in her appointment through the West Gippsland Health Group (WGHG) to work with the youth of Trafalgar.

The steering committee strongly believes that Trafalgar requires a coherent plan to provide support for the youth in the town over the longer term. Cate Beilharz's work has contributed significantly to this.

She has undertaken a comprehensive youth Needs Analysis with generous support from the Trafalgar High school. Youth were surveyed through interview and focus groups and issues were identified for examination at a full day youth forum.

The initial issues raised came under the broad headings of:

- Boredom
- Employment
- Drugs

The youth forum was held in May and 94 year 9 students participated. The morning was spent workshopping the above issues in small facilitated groups. Recommendations and practical suggestions were generated and these were presented for comment to a panel of local decision and policy makers including local MP - Christian Zahra, shire mayor - Cr Ruth McDonald, West Gippsland Healthcare Group CEO - Ormond Pearson, and representatives from the TCDA, the high school and the Trafalgar medical centre.

The forum was a highly successful event. Many issues were raised and there were a number of very worthwhile recommendations. Many of the participants felt afterwards that their opinion mattered and that they could in fact make a difference. The forum clearly showed that there is strong support for an on-going youth worker.

The final report is pending and this will form the foundation for a coherent approach to addressing the needs of the youth and for making sound and compelling applications for further funding.

The TCDA is impressed with the quality of the work undertaken by Cate Beilharz. She has been able to network effectively with the youth, the school and with a range of people working with the youth. The organisation of the youth forum was outstanding.

Funding for Cate's position expired on 30 June. Linda McCoy, from the West Gippsland Healthcare Group (WGHG), has taken responsibility for supervising the search for further suitable funding. The TCDA shares the concerns of the TYRC and WGHG with the short-term nature of many of the funding grant programs. The TCDA has been communicating on a regular basis with the WGHG in an endeavour to assist with funding identification.

The TYRC approached the TCDA last month to consider formally coming under the umbrella of the TCDA. The TCDA has given 'in principle' agreement to this subject to the establishment of suitable arrangements for insurance and governance. Discussions are continuing.

The TCDA is impressed with the various activities undertaken by the TYRC, and congratulates the dedication of its committee of Dorothy Hoare, Carolyn Richards, Judy Davey, Mark Hurst and Michael Fozard.

JAMES BROWN

15 July 2004

TRAFALGAR WIRELESS NETWORK

Introduction:

I joined the TCDA to help with the creation and management of the towns proposed website, and was subsequently assigned the Communication Portfolio.

At the time, the town had no access to broadband Internet; and the dialup Internet available in the remote areas of Trafalgar was very unreliable. Which meant, if I did create a website, most people would have difficulty accessing it.

My solution to this was to implement an idea I had been playing with for a while, in the form of a public wireless network. This would have the capability of giving all members of this network free access to the town website, and each other. Plus as a side benefit, could eventually allow broadband Internet to be “beamed” to parts of Trafalgar that would otherwise be overlooked by the major Internet Companies.

Aim

Wireless Network

- Allow people to communicate to other members of the network. (Voice, Video or Text etc.)
- Link nearby communities (remote sections of Trafalgar, Yarragon, Moe, Warragul etc)
- Limited free internet access (Local Weather, News, Clubs, Business, Council, phone book etc)
- (Eventually) Allow access to affordable broadband internet (Via a local ISP)

The creation of the wireless network has been a long slow process. However, even with time and financial constraints, a lot has been achieved. To begin with, a number of tests needed to be performed in order to see how durable our equipment was.

This involved setting up a short-term test unit, and putting it through the worst possible conditions. To do this, we mounted a wireless base station (or access point) on a mountain during a particularly stormy week. The access point survived, but we found that the antenna we were using was not up to the job.

A new field unit was built, with better weather resistance, and basic lightning protection, and mounted for signal testing on a mast located at Trafalgar near the highway. A number of Ex-Galaxy pay TV dishes were donated to us by locals, and these were modified to use with our network.

A number of tests were performed, and the unit seemed to behave well above expectation, showing a range of up to 4kms with a low rating antenna. Basic network functions were also enabled (including limited internet access).

Over a period of about three months, about five people accessed the network, and no significant issues were found. The mast was taken down, and the firmware and antenna was upgraded. Further tests have been made; showing the network now appears to have a range of up to 6km.

Originally for internet access we were planning to link the network to Warragul, and beam high speed internet access to Trafalgar, but a local ISP (based in Warragul) after pressure from locals and business beat us to it, by installing a Wireless Internet Access point, at around the time we upgraded our test unit.

We approached this ISP with a proposal to link our networks, to which we received a favourable response, but we still need to setup some additional equipment first.

This will eventually allow users to connected to our free wireless network (roughly \$150 one off cost), free access to any connected person, business, or group in Trafalgar – and should they also want broadband internet access as well, they can simply sign up for an internet account with DCSI, without needing to pay the usual connection cost (roughly \$600).

NATHAN ANDERSON
15 July 2004

TRAFALGAR WEBSITE

Aim:

Website

- Allow access to information about local news, clubs, services, business's and events.
- Be simple to navigate.
- Have enough capacity for the usage of the town, without excess costs.

Achieved over the year:

The domain "Trafalgar.org.au" has been registered, and linked to a server. Shortly after that, a basic information page was created, and the e-mail system activated.

A number of links were added to the website, and I began to design a simple, but easy to manage website layout. I further streamlined the website, and automated some aspects of the layout to cut down on the amount of time needed to make changes. (Website updates previously took up to 10 hours, now they only take 10 minutes)

At this point the website went "online" so to speak; and certain pages (such as the "Traf News" section) are now updated regularly.

With a basic framework in place to we asked the local high school to help design the website layout and colors, and a number of students submitted some interesting designs; which we will need to examine in further detail before we decide on the final design and colors.

A commercial website hosting account has also been created, which will allow the website to load significantly faster; and the website will soon be getting moved over to this new server.

Once the final website design and colors is decided, the website will need to be updated to the new design, and the scripting to automate the process of making updates completed.

NATHAN ANDERSON
15 July 2004

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No Report

MURRAY COOK
15 July 2004

RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Trafalgar has had a constant population base for the past 20 years or so. However, the announcement of two major residential developments in recent times indicates that Trafalgar's future population could increase by at least 40% within the next decade. It is expected that participation in sports will increase as a result. In addition, participation in sports new to the town has occurred in recent years. These sports do not have appropriate, if any, facilities (e.g., soccer). Hockey players have to travel vast distances to train and play their sport.

Against this backdrop, the Baw Baw Shire Recreational Strategy Plan indicates that participation is falling in many sports within the shire. This appears to be a trend across many towns and shires in Victoria.

The Trafalgar Strategic Plan 2004-05 to 2006-07 undertaken by the Trafalgar Community Development Association (TCDA) identified the need for the future planning of Trafalgar's recreational needs. The concept of a recreation reserve precinct forms part of that plan.

The Trafalgar Recreation Reserve and Equestrian Club, independent of one another, have also identified the need to plan for the future use of their respective facilities. These two organisations sit on Crown land, and are managed by committees of management appointed on behalf of the Department of Sustainability and Environment. The recreation reserve and equestrian club adjoin each other, their nearest points separated by a council road.

The Trafalgar Recreation Reserve was successful in obtaining a grant from the Department of Sustainability and Environment in 2003 to develop a strategic plan for the reserve. Work commenced on that plan but was deferred pending the release of the Baw Baw Recreation Strategy Plan. The latter plan, in draft form, was released in April 2004, with public consultation in three towns including Trafalgar.

At the public consultative meeting at Trafalgar on 13 May 2004, the TCDA offered to broker a meeting of various interested clubs to ascertain whether the recreation reserve planning process could be extended to include a number of clubs and activities that currently do not utilise that resource.

A meeting was convened on 31 May in which representatives of a number of clubs were present. Sports represented were football, soccer, basketball, equestrian, pony club and hockey. Also present were Cr David Balfour and Mick Bourke (TCDA). Peter Williams represented the Recreation Reserve.

That meeting decided that the Recreation Reserve strategic planning process should be expanded to look at a recreation precinct that incorporates the current land upon which the Recreation Reserve and the equestrian sports are located, together with the requirement to purchase further adjacent land. Peter Williams, representing the Recreation Reserve agreed to that course. A committee was formed to manage the planning process.

The planning process will utilise the Recreation Reserve's project manager it appointed when it first established its strategic planning process.

MICK BOURKE
15 July 2004

MEMBERSHIP

It was intended that I, along with other members of TCDA would instigate a membership drive.

This would consist of;

- 1 “History” of the TCDA & projected plans being documented**
- 2 A Welcome to Traf Pack to be presented to each newcomer to the town**

When point 1 was completed letters would be forward to each of the clubs in Traf asking if at one of their forthcoming meetings two members of committee could address their members with a view to explaining the work of the TCDA and it’s plans for the town’s future.

In turn this would hopefully encourage a stronger link between the TCDA and their own committee.

It also would be used to emphasize the need for a co-consultative relationship

Because of other priorities this is still a work in progress

Point 2 “Welcome to Traf”

This pack was to include

- emergency telephone numbers

- essential services

- council directory

- business’

- Schools

- Churches

- Sporting Clubs

- An accompanying letter from the TCDA welcoming them to the community & outlining the work of the TCDA

- Packs ideally would be distributed through our local Real Estate agents

This too, is a work in progress

MARG GODWIN

15 July 2004

TRAF NEWS

This is fifth Annual Report for the **Traf News**, which was first published in October 1999. Since that date, **Traf News** has been published monthly, with the exception of January in each year when the **Traf News** committee and supporting volunteers have a break.

The Trafalgar community is increasingly contributing to the paper, with 32 pages being the usual size of the paper over the past half of the year. This compares to an average of 24 pages during the previous year.

Volunteers

A slight re-structure occurred during the year to the Traf New committee. It expanded to include:

- Editor Mick Bourke
- Sub-editor Kellie Asmussen
- Co-ordinator – Advertising Sales Ian Bayley
- Assistant Co-ordinator – Advertising Sales Marianne Tyler
- Co-ordinator – Compositors Robin Sefton
- Treasurer Kathy O’Connell

Turnover of volunteers, whilst identified as appropriate, has caused difficulties during the year, with a special meeting called to garner further support. That meeting saw approximately 20 additional people volunteer to assist. That number, over the ensuing months, has diminished to the point where additional volunteers, especially for advertising sales and compositors, are once again required.

A special thanks go to all of the volunteers who have helped during the past year; the compositors, advertising salespeople, typists, contributors, folders and printers

Duncan Wade and I completed a Discussion Paper that identified many issues impacting on, or which could impact on, the **Traf News**. Included in this document are Duty Statements for our volunteers, which provides guidance to the work they do.

Relationship with Regional newspapers

Our relationship with the Warragul and Drouin Gazette, in particular, and the Latrobe Valley Express, who allow us to use their articles and photos whenever requested, has continued and is greatly appreciated.

Historical Society Gazette

We continue to print the quarterly edition of the Historical Society’s Gazette.

Financial Statement

The financial position of the **Traf News** has not changed significantly over the past 12 months. We had almost \$9000 funds available as at 30 June 2003. This year, it is just over \$10,000 plus almost \$2400 allocated for depreciation of assets.

We have identified the need to allow for depreciation of the various assets we have. We therefore decided to set aside approximately \$1200 each year to cover asset depreciation.

Special thanks are extended to Marie Wall, who has agreed to audit our records and providing a table of asset depreciation.

Presentation

I was asked to give a paper at the fourth Victorian Small Rural Communities Health Conference at Omeo in October 2003. As part of my presentation, I stated that I saw the need for an association of community newspapers. That idea has been taken up, with a working party formed, which the **Traf News** is represented through my involvement. A conference is planned for later this year which, it is hoped, will lead to the formation of such an association.

Conclusion

In concluding, special mention is made of the members of the committee who have tirelessly put in many hours of work each month to publish the paper. I also make special mention to our advertisers who have supported us, and indeed, without them, **Traf News** would not exist.

MICK BOURKE

Editor

15 July 2004

OUTSTANDING/ONGOING ACTIONS 2003-04

- Website
- TCDA pro-forma for clubs contact
- Trafalgar Clubs CD Kit
- Strategic Planning
- 2005 Battle of Trafalgar planning
- Railway Station accommodation
- Community Development Officer funding
- Community Noticeboard

MOTIONS TO AMEND THE CONSISTUTION OF THE TCDA

Move:

Subject to the approval of the Registrar of Incorporated Associations, the Constitution of the TCDA be amended by substituting the current Aim and Objectives with the following Vision, Mission and Values.

VISION

Trafalgar is the most livable town

MISSION STATEMENT

We will actively work with the Trafalgar community to enhance its social, environmental and economic future.

VALUES

The TCDA, as a member of the Trafalgar community, values:

- Trafalgar's residents feeling safe.
- The community valuing and supporting families and embracing people of all ages.
- People having pride in our community.
- The community supporting local people, businesses and organisations.
- The community appreciating and valuing the environment.

Move:

Subject to the approval of the Registrar of Incorporated Associations, the following additional sub-rules be inserted into the Constitution of the TCDA:

- 22(4) A person co-opted pursuant to sub-rule 22(3) hereof shall not ever be eligible again to be co-opted, but shall be eligible to stand for election.
- 22(5) No member of the Committee of Management shall be eligible to stand for re-election after the completion of three consecutive terms in office (and for the purpose of this Sub-Rule a term in office shall include the period of holding office as a substituted member as provided for in Sub-Rule 22(1) hereof or as a co-opted member as provided for in Sub-Rule 22(3) hereof). Any such person who is ineligible by being a member of the Committee of Management for three consecutive terms shall nevertheless be eligible to stand for election after the completion of two years of not holding office as a member of the Committee of Management.