



# Trentham Residents and Traders Association Inc. (TRATA)

Registration Number A0033785J

"For the promotion and improvement of Trentham by encouraging Community involvement in decisions affecting all Residents and Traders and to establish effective communication and representation of the Town within and outside the Shire."

*Visit the Trentham Community website at [www.trentham.org.au](http://www.trentham.org.au)*

# TRENTHAM COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 83, March 2009

## *Trentham says Thanks!*

Photo by Alex Ip: Twiggy, Chris Brown & Shane Bloomfield at Redesdale



Australia Day celebrations went well again this year, with a large crowd pleased to acknowledge the award of the Australian Police Medal to Sergeant Greg Falkiner, announced that day. All of Trentham congratulates Greg for this well-deserved recognition of his work.

The success of the Australia Day celebrations is the first of the many events and activities that 'dot' our local calendar and provide opportunities for the community to come together and for visitors to enjoy the character and attractions of our town. Already small groups are working hard preparing for this year's Art & Craft Show (making a welcome return), the Trentham Spudfest and Words-in-Winter to name some of the more imminent ones – and then add in the regular dances, monthly Market and the many sporting activities: there are lots of people working hard to keep all this happening. As part of the community planning exercise we compiled a list of more than 45 groups and organisations – and we can't be sure we've got them all! *All of these groups are the framework of our community with the volunteers that make them happen, the glue – and the more cross-linkages, the stronger our community.*

Again this year there was some debate around whether 26 January is the appropriate day to celebrate Australia Day. That's not a debate I want to raise, but shifting the emphasis even more towards recognising the work of volunteers could make the day more relevant to the whole community.

In the tragic events less than two weeks after Australia Day we have again seen a magnificent volunteer response from the whole community, most particularly by the men and women in the emergency services. After seeing all the photographs of these terrible fires and reading the many words of tribute that have been written, all we can say to those wonderful front line volunteers and the many back-up people helping in so many ways, is a deeply sincere "thank you".

Some of the news from the last TRATA meeting bears on these matters: a proposal for acknowledging contributions within our community and the need for a town fire plan. Many people have asked TRATA members about a town fire plan, which we believe must be developed with the CFA, Police and other relevant agencies – well done to the CFA for a very informative meeting (held 21 Feb, with an estimated 150+ people attending). One result of the meeting was that ***a further meeting should be held when community members can contribute their ideas for a town fire plan, including identifying potential assembly points, lobbying for better fire watch services, fire information services and weed control.***

TRATA will convene this meeting on behalf of the community as follows:

### **Community Fire Meeting Mechanics Institute, 7.00 pm Wednesday, 11 March 2009**

*A late addendum:* people in surrounding communities have been threatened over the past few days by fires that started south of Daylesford, Monday 23 February reaching as near as Newbury and Little Hampton with some 'spotting' even closer. At the time of writing, these fires are still of concern with high temperatures and winds forecast over coming days. Again we have seen the selfless voluntary contributions of so many CFA and other emergency services personnel - many now into their third week of fire-fighting with all the physical and emotional demands that entails: we salute a truly magnificent contribution. Fire awareness is already high in our community and these latest developments emphasise the need for personal fire plans – taking responsibility for our own fire safety is one way we can thank the fire-fighters and, hopefully, make their task a little easier. We should also commit ourselves to developing neighbourhood 'fire-guard' groups and whatever actions we can take as a community to be more fire ready. The concerns people are showing for each other at this time of threat must translate into action – remember the risks will remain high as long as conditions are dry and will return again next summer

Ian MacBean

## Weather Report

Dr. J. Hollis

### TRENTHAM IN JANUARY

Rainfall 0.7mm Av 54.5

Mean max temp. 25.7°C Av 22

*RECORD DRY, EXTREME HEAT*

This Jan. was the driest on record, beating 1932. A very cool start with a 3.8° min. on the 4<sup>th</sup>, was followed by increasing heatwaves, culminating in a record-breaking event, 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. A new extreme maximum of 37.5° was set on 29<sup>th</sup>. Extreme dryness, threatening extreme bushfire risk, was alleviated by light winds. However, gales on 22<sup>nd</sup> caused trees to be felled and fanned fires S. of Tylden and near Drummond. The Park St. water table went dry on 20<sup>th</sup>

## Community Bank

The public meeting to launch the campaign for the Daylesford & District Community Bank will take place at the Daylesford Town Hall, 7.30 pm, 24 March 2009. The proposed Community Bank will enhance banking services in Daylesford and Trentham and, when profitable, will return a 'social dividend' to the communities supporting its success. As an example, the Maldon Community Bank (which has been operating for nearly 10 years) last year gave out over \$200,000 to various projects in the Maldon, Newstead, Dunolly, Bealiba and Barringhup districts. The steering committee is currently seeking pledges of support for the community bank, after which a feasibility study will confirm the viability of the proposal. The community then enters into a franchise agreement with Bendigo Bank which provides and guarantees all the banking products – it is a 50:50 ownership arrangement. For further information contact Ian Williams 5424 1199 or Ian MacBean 5424 1727.

## [www.sheepbloke.com.au](http://www.sheepbloke.com.au)

Even if you're not into the internet you will have seen the sheep, dog and wombat outside Shirley's, the ute load of sheep, dogs, a pig and an emu or Miss Piggy on the Harley – all the creations of Rob Curtin, the 'sheepbloke'. Rob manufactures

these alarmingly realistic (twice I've seen real dogs very upset and barking at the dog at Shirley's) or more fanciful creations (the monkey butler) in South Australia and has a home base here in Trentham. Now is your chance to own one of these great pieces and help a good cause. The Art & Craft Show is raffling a sheep Rob made for the film *Charlotte's Web* and the Lions are raffling a wombat with proceeds going to the wildlife shelter at Blackwood. Many thanks for your generosity in donating these animals Rob – and stand by folks, Rob has more ideas in mind for Trentham!

## ... talk's cheap: look at these blokes\*

The former Trehwella factory will be given a new lease of life when Karl Haass and Gavin McLean get the *Trentham Renovators Goldmine* operating – their aim is to make it the biggest of its kind in Victoria. Linked with their Melbourne-based demolition business the 'TRG' will have >\$1m in stock – 2,000 doors from the 1880s to the present, 1,000 windows, semi-loads of quality timbers (Oregon, Jarrah, Baltic Pine, English Oak, Mountain Ash etc) and a sand-blasting service. Karl and Gavin also plan a major clean-up of the site and restoration of the factory building, keeping a presentation that emphasises links to the original Trehwella foundry, a theme-based café and promise strong support for the town. Many locals will recall Karl and Gavin's previous Trentham Renovators Warehouse which drew people from a wide region to Trentham and be pleased to hear that they will be, in Karl's words, "*back with a vengeance*" (\*he also suggested the heading for this piece). The *Trentham Renovators Goldmine* is a great use for an important site and I'm sure we all wish it every success.

## Only 4 Weeks to go!

### To get your entries in to the Easter Art & Craft Show.

Completed entry forms with fees, must be in no later than Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of March.

Or you may like to have a sneak preview of the wonderful range of art & craft on show at the opening night, getting first chance to purchase one or two of the exquisite pieces which are all for sale. Join us all in the colourful atmosphere with a glass or two of wine, a delicious supper and you may go home with the door prize, all for only \$15 per person.

## **Don't forget our Art Show Raffle**

Buy a ticket or two when you see our sellers, this will be your only chance to win this rare piece of memorabilia, Sheep #4 from the movie "*Charlotte's Web*". There were only 7 made and most are owned by Paramount Studios. The winner also receives a certificate of authenticity and a DVD of the movie. Or you may win a beautiful mature tree or a delicious dinner for two.

If you haven't got an entry form already or would like to book for the opening night on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> April, or would like to buy a book of 10 raffle tickets, just contact Lyn Williams, 54241199 or email:

[lynw@kylдарaherb.com.au](mailto:lynw@kylдарaherb.com.au)

## Trentham Bowling Club

The Trentham bowling club held a BBQ on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February in aid of the bushfire appeal and would like to thank the following:

*For donations of prizes:*

Trentham Hardware

Trentham Pharmacy

Janet & Colin Dean

Steve Dutton

Roy & Carol Capener

Trentham Bowling Club Ladies

Frews Meats (Ross Main)

Trentham Film Society

Sandra Tucker

*Other donations were received from:*

Victoria Street Garage

Trentham Mechanics Institute

(Cheque)

And all the people of the Trentham and especially club members who gave so generously to enable us to obtain a running total of \$2,262.20

THANKYOU

Roy Capener

President

## **Trentham & District Landcare** **Sheep mauled by dogs**

Barry and Gael Elliott operate a sheep stud on the south side of Falls Road opposite Trentham Falls. On Sunday 15 February and on Friday 20 February their 6 month old ram lambs were attacked by dogs leaving 5 dead and several others injured.

If you have a dog in or around the town which is not restrained it is possible that it has teamed up with others and has developed a hunting habit.

Please note that, in order to protect their enterprise and to reduce the trauma for their stock, the Elliotts are on the lookout for dogs and have reported these incidents to the Shire. Compensation can be claimed in these circumstances and the dogs may be put down.

## **Native vegetation**

Andrea Keleher from DSE in Kyneton spoke at the Trentham Landcare meeting on 11 February about changes to the legislation which protects native vegetation in Victoria.

A planning permit is generally required to remove, destroy or lop native grasses, shrubs or trees and offset planting may be required. The new legislation clarifies the situations when a permit is not required and specifies the amounts of native vegetation which may be removed.

For land in the Farming or Rural Activities Zone which is more than 0.4 hectare (1 acre) in area the following exemptions apply –

\* Boundary fences being constructed between properties with different owners allows for a 4 metre strip of clearing.

\* For construction of buildings, internal fences, dams and access tracks the total amount of clearing allowed over a 5 year period on the total landholding is specified. For example, up to 15 native trees less than 40cm in diameter at 1.3 metre above the ground and 5 trees above this size may be removed over 5 years.

\* Lopping of dangerous limbs and branches overhanging dwellings may be undertaken.

\* Fire fighting access tracks up to 6metre wide may be constructed but fuel reduction burning on private land needs to be approved. Shires have details of these requirements and it is best to ask before clearing any native vegetation.

## **Clean up Australia**

On Sunday 1 March a group of Trentham residents joined in the nationwide effort to “Clean up Australia”.

Bags and gloves were issued and teams picked up cans, bottles and food containers along the main roads around Trentham.

We hope that this will become an annual event and that we can recruit more helpers and widen our efforts to public land as well as roadsides. Individuals or groups who wish to be on the contact list should contact Barry Elliott on 54241261.

## **TRENTHAM TEAM MEANS BUSINESS**

The recently announced Business Support Project initiated by the Trentham Community Planning Group has established a team to implement the project.

The project has received a Hepburn Shire Council Community Grant and is also sponsored by the Trentham Residents & Traders Assoc. Inc. (TRATA) and the Trentham Lions Club.

The team comprises the following Trentham district citizens who offer a broad range of experience in business and community activities:

*Andy Robertson*..Architect and TRATA committee member.

*David Wilson*.. retired business operator and TRATA committee member.

*John Fitzgerald*..real estate agent.

*Ellie Kemp*.. pharmacist, newsagent and mature tree business owner.

*Sebastian Klein*..Coliban Ward Councillor (Hepburn Shire Council).

*Helen McRae*..owner Jargon.

*Clive Mitchell*..retired management consultant.

*Colin Reis*..St. Chads B&B owner and President, Trentham Lions Club.

*Ian Williams*.. retired business operator and TRATA committee member.

The team plans to recruit and train a group of volunteers to interview local business operators in April this year.

Regular reports on the progress of the Business Support Project will be provided to the Trentham district community via the local media and public notices.

## **WANTED**

Business Support Project Interviewers

Volunteer Interviewers are required to assist the Project Team to conduct surveys of Trentham businesses in April 2009.

Please contact David Wilson

54241882 or Andy Robertson

54241100 or email

andy@y2ar.com.au to register your interest.

## **Volunteer's Wanted** **Trentham V.I.C.**

We would like to thank all our volunteers for the hours they put in at the Visitor Information Centre but like any organisation we suffer from resignations and just lately we've lost some volunteers due to pressure of other commitments or ill health. It is a great way to learn more about the area and meet new people. So if you could spare three hours a month to come and help us out please phone Lori on 54241453.

## **NOAH'S INN TYLDEN**

opens on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March for a special charity night to raise funds for the Trentham Lions Bushfire Appeal to be distributed direct to those in need.

An Art Exhibition with works by Carol Morris will continue for the next month with the commission going to the Lions Fund.

Drop in for a glass of wine or a great cup of coffee or purchase local product while exploring this Art Deco building.Noah's Ark Inn as it was originally called, was built in the mid 1800's but after burning down in the 1930's was rebuilt in the art deco period.

For more information visit

[www.noahsinntylden.com.au](http://www.noahsinntylden.com.au) or call 5424 8119 and speak to Ken or Carol.



## **LIONS CLUB NEWS**

### **Monthly Dance Program.**

Old Time Dancing is held on 2nd Friday each month in the Trentham Mechanics Hall. Dances start at 7.30pm. Admission is \$8 per person, including supper and a door prize draw. Music is provided by the "Rythmaires". Each alternate dance is held in aid of the Trentham Historical Society. Enquiries: Elizabeth 5424 1254. Dates for the next few 2009 dances are:

- Mar 13<sup>th</sup>
- April – no dance
- May 8th

### **Lions Jumble Sale**

Saturday 21st March @ Town Square, 9am. Enquiries Elizabeth 5424 125.

### **Donation to Fires**

The Trentham Lions Club forwarded a donation of \$5,000 to the Whittlesea Lions Club towards the Fire victims. They indicated the donation would be used toward replacing school uniforms for the various schools in the areas.

### **Bushfire Appeal Dinner**

Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm. An opening function for NOAH'S INN TYLDEN, will include Art Exhibition, Wine Tastings, Wildings Tastings, Live Music and a three course dinner plus complimentary glass of wine. There will also be a Fund raising Auction for the Fire Appeal. Bookings Essential. @ \$75.00 ph with \$25 donated to fire appeal. Call Feldspar on 5424 1821, Bookings essential and limited.

### **Spring Festival**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October @ Feldspar, Falls Road. More details to come.

### **Words in Winter 2009**

Trenthamites old and new are advised that the 2009 Trentham Words in Winter Festival will be held on the weekend of August 14 – 16. If you are a performer, venue owner, possible volunteer or audience member who would like to be involved, please contact Pat Woods on 54 241 409.

### **Meditation for Peace**

*World – Community – Family – Self*  
Every Monday morning 9-10.00 am  
*Meditation- movement-conversation,*  
*a modern approach in the western*  
*tradition*

A meaningful way to start the week  
*Newcomers welcome*  
Henk Bak 54241702

### **Fire Safety Wear**

At the recent CFA Community Information day Sat 21st Feb., some people enquired where to purchase Safety Wear which one should wear when involved in saving your house and property. The proper overalls etc can be obtained from a representative who lives here in Trentham (how handy is that!). For information please phone Kevin - Mobil: 0407 540 759.

### **Octogenarion Weds**

Betty Fearn-Wannan, or Dr. Betty fondly known to her Trentham friends, moved from Trentham about 18 months ago to Newport Melbourne. However she has found much more than anticipated after meeting up with an old friend of the family whom she and her past husband had known since early days of marriage. They were married on Saturday 14th February. I'm sure we all wish Betty and her new husband, Alan, a happy and long life together.

### **The Fires**

It's now a day after our place was threatened by the Daylesford fires & I can't believe I want to 'wax lyrical'. And we still have Friday 38degrees & North winds to come!

It suddenly got personal!

I watched Sat 7th unfold not realising the extent until Sun morning. Then it hit with a whallop, 25 dead & 100's of houses gone & one of the fires only 45km away (I thought that was close enough!)...& then it just got worse. Everyday I had tears & fears & yet felt guilty because we weren't directly affected. Immediately I donated more money than I have ever done. The young teller at the local town bank thanked

me profusely; my only answer was 'We're just like them'  
And since then it's been 2 weeks of more tears as the devastation grew & worry that 'It could have been us'. Also of feeling helpless to help those affected & so proud of the Aussie spirit of 'We always help a mate'  
And so amazed at the many phone calls & emails I received from friends etc. from many parts of Australia & the world, wanting to know if we were OK. How sad the actual survivors of the fires couldn't receive those kinds of messages as soon as we could, they had no home, no power, and no possessions. The fear has always been with me since moving to this rural property, so much is not in my control, Nature has a large say in what happens in rural life & yet that is one of the things I love. So many comments in the Media have been about being prepared, I don't think anyone could have prepared (adequately) for Feb 7. And I don't think I would have been prepared for terrorist attacks or explosions in tunnels when I was a city dweller. We all learn as new things unfold.

Last night we wetted down & watched the large column of black smoke near our property, & I saw bright orange light behind the trees of the Wombat Forest, & wondered if it was flames or sunset in smoke. Then we lost electricity & lit 'Tilley' lamps & made sure the generators were OK to work the water pumps, & listened to the ABC radio station all night, on our battery operated radio (we were prepared for that!)  
The worry has not gone today, the fire is not contained & is still as close as last night, but the smoke was white in colour, not black like last night.....& I looked through the trees of the Forest tonight & the light was pale yellow (sun colour, not sunset)

Just this change of colour eased part of the fear.....

Bette McLaren

### **Contributions**

If you would like to share your experiences, thoughts or feelings or just want to tell your story about the fires, please email to



[ianw@kyldaraherb.com.au](mailto:ianw@kyldaraherb.com.au) & we can publish in the next newsletter.

### **CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES**

A free rural community counselling program continues to work with the community, families and individuals to provide information, referral, and generalist counselling towards promoting, maintaining and strengthening the independence of families and individual within their community. Ph 5337 3333 for further information

### **About this Newsletter**

The Trentham Community Newsletter is published the first week of every month except January. Guidelines for its Editorial Policy include:

To inform the community of news and coming events that will contribute to building community well-being.

To promote a positive image of Trentham and its community.

To contribute to the historical record.  
To provide a medium for advertising services and trades offered to the community.

Submissions considered counterproductive to this policy may not be published. Deadline date for all submissions is strictly the 20th of the previous month. Word limit for contributed articles is 200 words.

We wish to acknowledge Catherine King MHR and her staff for donating the time and resources to print this newsletter.

It is delivered to town residents and is available for collection from the Trentham Newsagency, Trentham Supermarket, the Neighbourhood Centre and the Visitor Info. Centre.

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please send a message to <[trata\\_newsletter-subscribe@trentham.org.au](mailto:trata_newsletter-subscribe@trentham.org.au)> or visit the TRATA website and go to the 'News' section. Current and back issues are available on the website.  
\* The next issue will be April and the closing date for submissions is 20<sup>th</sup> March and they can be sent preferably by email to the editor,

[ianw@kyldaraherb.com.au](mailto:ianw@kyldaraherb.com.au) or to 108 Mulcahy's Road Trentham 3458 TRATA Committee: President: Ian MacBean, Sue Bruton, Gwenda Dickens, Kaye Matheson, Georgie Patterson, Andy Robertson, Lori Victorsen, Bob White, Ian Williams, David Wilson. TRATA

Mail address: PO Box 166, Trentham 3458

### **AUTO DETAILING**

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**Trentham Market  
Vendors and Visitors  
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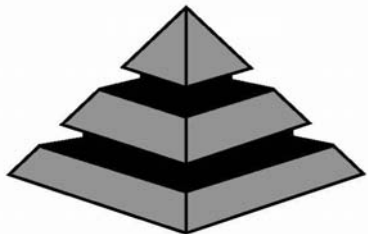
Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at the old Railway Station - next market Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please support your local market Operated by the Trentham Residents & Traders Association Inc. A Trentham Community initiative

*Raoul Kent*

REMEDIAL MASSAGE

3 MARKET STREET,  
(BEHIND HOUSE),  
TRENTHAM, VIC. 3458

PH: 0418 393 493



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## Trentham Coming Events

### March

3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>,

24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> **TUES Trentham Playgroup** @ Mechanics Hall. 10am – 11.30am. Cost \$3 p/family. Bring a piece of fruit to share for morning tea. Enq: Jill 5424 1591. (Each Tue except school hols).

6<sup>th</sup> **FRI Trentham Film Society** @ Neighbourhood Centre. 7.30pm. New members welcome. Your first screening free & includes cuppa. Showing "Love Serenade" (M) Comedy/Australian with Miranda Otto & Rebecca Frith. Enq: James or Brad 5424 1126 or Maria 5424 1237.

7<sup>th</sup> **SAT Community Market** @ Neighbourhood Centre. 9am – 1pm. Enq: Katy 5424 1354.  
Lions Jumble Sale, 9am, Town Square. Enq: Elizabeth 5424 1254.

9<sup>th</sup> **MON Trentham Historical Society** Working Bee, old Police Station 2pm. Enq: Susie 5424 1272.

9<sup>th</sup> **MON TRATA Meeting**, Railway Station 7.30pm all welcome. Enq: Ian 5424 1727.

10<sup>th</sup> **TUE Neighbourhood Watch Meeting.** @ Neighbourhood Centre, 7.30pm all welcome.

13<sup>th</sup> **FRI Old Time Dance** @ Mechanics Hall. 7.30pm. \$8 pp incl supper, door prize, spot prizes etc.  
Enq: Elizabeth 5424 1254

16<sup>th</sup> **MON FREE BUS TO WENDOUREE**, 3<sup>rd</sup> MON of each month. Community Link Program, dep/Trentham 9am.  
*BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.* Enq: Judith 53686697.

**Trentham Historical Society**, 7 pm Committee meeting @ railway station.  
8pm General meeting (speaker t.b.a.). Enq: Susie 5424 1272.

22<sup>ND</sup> **SUN Trentham Market**, 9am-3pm @ historical railway grounds, Victoria Street.  
Enq: Gwenda 5424 8223.

### April

3<sup>rd</sup> **FRI**

**Trentham Film Society** @ Neighbourhood Centre. 7.30pm. New members welcome. Your first screening free & includes cuppa. Showing "The Tree of Wooden Clogs, (G), Italy, Drama. Enq: James or Brad 5424 1126 or Maria 5424 1237.

4<sup>th</sup> **SAT Community Market** @ Neighbourhood Centre. 9am – 1pm. Enq: Katy 5424 1354.

6<sup>th</sup> **MON Trentham Historical Society** working bee @ old police station. Enq: Susie 5424 1272.

9<sup>th</sup> **THUR Art & Craft Show** Opening Night @ Mechanics Hall 7.30pm @ \$15 pp includes wine & delicious supper. Enq: Lyn 5424 1199.

10<sup>TH</sup>-13<sup>TH</sup> **Art & Craft Show** @ Mechanics Hall, Fri to Mon 10am to 4pm. Entry forms will be available from end of January and will be posted out to all on mailing list incl. previous entrants. For entry forms or enq: email [lynw@kyldaraherb.com.au](mailto:lynw@kyldaraherb.com.au) or phone 5424 1199.

(Easter)  
FRI to MON **TRATA Meeting**, Railway Station 7.30pm all welcome. Enq: Ian 5424 1727.

9<sup>th</sup> **MON Neighbourhood Watch Meeting.** @ Neighbourhood Centre, 7.30pm all welcome.

14<sup>th</sup> **TUE FREE BUS TO WENDOUREE**, 3<sup>rd</sup> MON of each month. Community Link Program, dep/Trentham 9am. *BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.* Enq: Judith 5368 6697.

20<sup>th</sup> **MON Trentham Historical Society** Committee Meeting 2pm @ old police station, Enq: Susie 5424 1272.

21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>. **TUE Trentham Playgroup** @ Mechanics Hall. 10 – 11.30am. Cost \$3 p/family Bring a piece of fruit to share for morning tea. Enq: Jill 5424 1591. (Each Tue except school hols).

25<sup>th</sup> **SAT Anzac Day, Dawn service** 6am at the Cenotaph Enq: Val 5424 1262. & 11am assembly for 11.30am March & Service. Enq: Tim 5424 8291.

**Anzac Day Luncheon** @ Neighbourhood Centre. Enq: Katy 5424 1354.

26<sup>th</sup> **SUN Trentham Market**, 9am-3pm @ historical railway grounds, Victoria Street. Enq: Gwenda 5424 8223.

### May

1<sup>st</sup> **FRI**

**Trentham Film Society** @ Neighbourhood Centre. 7.30pm. New members welcome. Your first screening free & includes cuppa. Showing "After the Wedding" (M) Denmark, Drama. Enq: James or Brad 5424 1126 or Maria 5424 1237.

2<sup>nd</sup> **SAT Community Market** @ Neighbourhood Centre. 9am – 1pm. Enq: Katy 5424 1354.

5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, **Trentham Playgroup** @ Mechanics Hall. 10 – 11.30am. Cost \$3 p/family. Bring a piece of fruit to share for morning tea. Enq: Jill 5424 1591. (each Tue except school hols.)

26<sup>th</sup>. **TUE Old Time Dance** @ Mechanics Hall. 7.30pm. \$8 pp incl supper, door prize, spot prizes etc. Enq: Elizabeth 5424 1254.

8<sup>TH</sup> **FRI Trentham Historical Society Working Bee**, old Police Station 2pm. Enq: Susie 5424 1272.

11<sup>th</sup> **MON TRATA Meeting**, Railway Station 7.30pm all welcome. Enq: Ian 5424 1727.

12<sup>th</sup> **TUE Neighbourhood Watch Meeting.** @ Neighbourhood Centre, 7.30pm all welcome.

18<sup>th</sup> **MON FREE BUS TO WENDOUREE**, 3<sup>rd</sup> MON of each month. Community Link Program, dep/Trentham 9am. *BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.* Enq: Judith 53686697.

**Trentham Historical Society**, 7pm committee meeting. 8pm General meeting, speaker t.b.a. at Railway Station. Enq: Susie 5424 1272.

**TRATA Meeting**, Railway Station 7.30pm Enq: Ian 5424 1727.

22<sup>nd</sup> **FRI Trentham Spud Fest**, Opening Night at the Mechanics & over the weekend also at Historical Railway Station. Potato product cooking

**To 24<sup>TH</sup> SUN** competitions, display and sale of potato varieties, historical and current potato Machinery. Special potato dishes available at most eateries in Trentham. Potato Hut tours  
Enq: Bob 5424 1058.

24<sup>TH</sup> **SUN Trentham Market**, 9am-3pm @ historical railway grounds, Victoria Street. Enq: Gwenda 5424 8223.

*NOTE: To add or change information in this events column please contact-Velette 5424 1460 or vmarion@iprimus.com.au*

## Community Planing Workshop

Mechanics Institute, 7.00 pm, Tuesday 31 March, 2009

**Please come along and have your say on the future of your town and community!**

### Community Plan - further information

The Community Plan should link the values, likes, concerns and hopes that people have expressed through the surveys, i.e. the community perspective, and the 'big picture' issues beyond our control that will impact on our future - population growth, future water supplies and fuel & energy costs.

If a one-line summary of all the responses in the surveys was possible it would be that Trentham people . . .

*“want to retain the friendliness and community character of Trentham  
and ensure that development respects this, the townscape and environmental values”*

Shire CEO Kaylene Conrick said at the TRATA AGM last November, *“Trentham’s challenge will be to control its future development”*. A strong, coherent and agreed community plan is the best means we have for influencing our future.

Previous editions of the Newsletter have reported on the breadth of survey responses that people contributed. Many ideas were raised and it will be difficult for us as a community to decide what should be our priorities for Trentham’s future. Below, are two specific “once-off” responses (from people who gave their names and contact details) which I think will help us to explore how the ideas people put forward have value, how they might contribute to a community plan and how they can strengthen our community.

In response to the question ‘what would you most like changed or that we need’, one person said *“start a technical school”*. Having a background in education my first thought was that this was not a likely proposition, but then I thought about the main purposes of a tech school: to develop skills and prepare people for employment. Many other respondents identified the need for opportunities for young people and real employment options in town. There must be a great range of skills and experience available across the community – how can we access these skills and, more importantly, how can we connect people with skills and the people who are interested to learn these? And why stop there – what about people who were born outside Australia and speak other languages? Long-term residents, the born-and-bred, in addition to their particular skills also have a role, together with the Historical Society, as the ‘keepers of the long view’: our culture and self-awareness. And we all have contacts in other places – how can we draw on these to help us shape the future of Trentham? So, what appears to be a bricks-and-mortar idea starts to look more like the concept of ‘a learning community’ – and a lot of people said that they’d like Trentham to have a library or resource centre.

Another person identified the need for *“social opportunities for single people and transport to enable people from outlying districts to participate in town activities”*. This idea was a once-off but it connects with many of the calls for a community hub. It also raises two important questions – how do we define Trentham? and, how can we develop a community transport network? The first question probably defies a ‘hard’ answer – people largely define the community they ‘belong’ to themselves, and they can belong to more than one community for different purposes and at different levels. We know that a lot of people from the surrounding districts do identify Trentham as their town, so the question becomes one of how we communicate and engage with people from Little Hampton, Newbury, East Trentham, Lyonville and beyond? The local transport question will become more pressing as fuel costs rise and a lot of survey responses called for increased public transport, including to Kyneton. Participating in community life, the extent of the community identifying themselves with Trentham, communications and travel all need to be part of the community planning exercise and how we develop an inclusive, responsive plan.

It’s obviously difficult to single out individual ideas. From the great breadth of ideas submitted and reported in outline previously, the workshop will have to try to draw out some of the main themes that link them together, identify the opportunities for action and then determine priorities. The Community Planning Group recognises that this will be a big task and that we can only expect people to be available for a few hours. But, it is important that you have your say at the workshop and when the draft plan is brought back to the community for comment and endorsement.

*Please make every effort to come to the workshop  
– or pass your thoughts along with someone who can attend.*

Enquiries: Ian MacBean 5424 1727 or 0438 529 481 or David Wilson 5424 1882