

MEDIA RELEASE

Harriet Shing MP

Member for Eastern Victoria Region

Friday, 13 March 2015

TRAFALGAR STATION BUILDING TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO NEW ARTS SPACE

The Trafalgar community will get a thriving new arts hub with work planned to revitalise the town's historic station building for the Baw Baw Arts Alliance to use as an exhibition and workshop space.

Local Labor MP, Harriet Shing, joined community and Arts Alliance representatives today to formally announce the refurbishment station building, funded through the Victorian Government's Community Use of Vacant Rail Buildings Program.

Works will include internal and external restoration, installation and fit-out of accessible toilets, workbenches and kitchenettes. Breezeways in the old station building will also be enclosed to make the building better suited to its new purpose.

The proposed work is currently out to tender and with Baw Baw Shire Council for planning approval. However, work on the 137 year old building is expected to begin in the coming months and be completed by September.

The Trafalgar and District branch of the Bendigo Community Bank will take on the head lease of the station. The Baw Baw Arts Alliance will be the building's tenant.

The Community Use of Vacant Rail Buildings Program provides funding to transform disused rail buildings into affordable, usable spaces for local communities.

The Program is being managed by VicTrack, owners of Victoria's rail land and assets, on behalf of Public Transport Victoria. For more information visit www.victrack.com.au.

Quotes attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing

"The restoration will give the 137 year old building a new lease on life as a thriving arts space in the heart of Trafalgar."

"This project will make Trafalgar an even more vibrant and interesting place to live and visit as you travel through Gippsland."

"The Andrews Labor Government wants to see regional communities thrive, and that's what this project is all about."