



also on-line at [www.strathbogie.org](http://www.strathbogie.org)

October 2011

*This is the first of hopefully many letters from Denmark, from Sim, Kate, Finn and Molly. Sim promised to write occasionally to let us know how they are all going on their long adventure .....Fiona*

So here we are on an island in the Archipelago of southern Denmark, adrift in the Baltic Sea, at the mercy of south-easterly gales and the latest tail-ender of some violent hurricane that muscled its way across the Atlantic and the North Sea. There is certainly more wind here than you could shake a stick at. No wonder there are so many huge wind generators, in every direction you look - here they are, turning these awesome gusts into electricity. I must admit I find them to be incredibly graceful and quiet.

Our island is called Lyø. It is probably 6 km by 2 km and rises to the loftiest peak of 24 metres. We look southwards to the islands of Avernakø and Aerø, and in the unseen distance lies the coast of Germany. All of these isles were formed in the last Ice Age - the forking tongues of huge glaciers bringing rocks and soil and sediment down from the north countries, the ice melted, the sediment settled and the south Danish Archipelago was formed. As the ice retreated, so man, the early hunter moved into the country. Lyø is peppered with stone burial mounds, usually 3 stones with a larger stone on top. They are not small stones either and i'm certainly left wondering at the ingenuity of ancient man to build these. We have found their rough stone tools, flaked flint, knives and axes and scrapers and awls, scattered amongst the sand dunes on the beach. Of course this country is Viking country too and ripples of the old Nordic folklore and myth are woven through the country. The port town of Faaborg has a huge stone statue of man being suckled by the cow at the beginning of time, there are circles of spring growth hanging on flag poles celebrating the return of spring.

*(continued on pg 3)*

### What's on

- September 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Spring Equinox
- September 29<sup>th</sup>** - 7pm Strathbogie Knitting Group - ph Deb Ellis 57905398 or Robyn 0408529773
- October 14<sup>th</sup>**—7pm SCOFF Film Night at the Rec Ground—"The Economics of Happiness"
- October 17<sup>th</sup>** - STAG meeting for all the community—be there!
- October 29<sup>th</sup>**— Jo Jo Smith at Violet Town

- 
- Every Second and Forth Sunday** - Church service at Strathbogie Church - 11.30am
  - Every Sunday** at 4pm - family soccer - at the Rec Ground (weather permitting)
  - Fortnightly** in Spring - Guided Meditation—2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month—ph Julie 57905356
  - Every Wednesday** - Material Girls - 10am - Rec Ground - BYO lunch. Newcomers welcome - Ph Jenny Walker 57905111 or Jill Smith 57905159
  - Every Wednesday** -7.30pm Strathbogie Singing Group - St Andrews Church - Strathbogie (except in the School Holidays) ph Di Mackrell 57905241
  - Every Tuesday** 2.00pm - Rosen Movement Marraweeneey 57908589

### NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

#### **STRATHBOGIE TABLELAND ACTION GROUP**

With wine and cheese



A Special General Meeting will be held on Monday 17 October at 7:30pm in the Supper Room, at the Memorial Hall, Main Street, Strathbogie. The purpose of the meeting is to appoint a Committee of Management of no less than six (6) persons for the Strathbogie Tableland Action Group.

For further information please contact Liz Scarfe at Council on 5795 0161



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- Chris Thomson  
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- Ross Walker  
Brookleigh Rd  
57905111

## Euroa Cinema

September 24th - 25th

"The Trip"

October 1st—2nd

"Senna" (M)

October 8th—9th

"Jane Eyre" (M)

October 14th, 15th & 16th

"Red Dog"

Note special screening time  
of 6.30pm on Friday.

Tickets: \$9, children under  
school age free.



*Session  
times  
Satur-  
days  
8 pm  
Sunday's  
4 pm*



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## Mobile Library date for Strathbogie

(every second Sat-  
urday, 9.30 - 12  
noon) 1st, 15th and  
29th October, 12th  
November.

## strathbogie Store

Breakfast, Lunches & Fish'n'chips  
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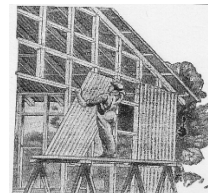
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person is Kim Usher  
Ph 5790 5345



## Strathbogie Recreation Ground

All bookings are to be made with Kim Usher 57905345

Deadline - 20<sup>th</sup> October. Email: [tablelandtalk@gmail.com](mailto:tablelandtalk@gmail.com) (Note change of email address), ph  
57905203, post PO Box 23 Strathbogie, or leave contributions at the store. The TT team.

*(continued from page 1)*

Now a days the island of Lyø is mainly engaged in agriculture, that delicate balance of fertility and futility. Three or four dairy farms, and a fair bit of cropping, mainly maize and barley. This year has been their wettest in 167 years and a lot of crops remain in the fields. But it is amazing as to what the farmers can bring in from the paddocks in only the tiniest hint of a dry day, a few hours of sunshine and they are out there with tractor and harvester - that is of course if they do not become bogged. There are a couple of fishermen still scratching a little of a living netting flat fish - one brings us bags of fresh skinned "Plaice" every 10 days or so. Seems October is the fishing month, when the last of the crops and the potatoes are in, most families bring their nets out of the attics and will go after the running sea trout. With any luck we can half fill the freezer for the winter. Every land owning family is also allowed to shoot one of the wild deer that roam the island. This deer shoot happens in early September. You never see a stag with more than 2 points on his antlers because everyone wants the biggest deer. Other wild food include the most lovely looking hares and pheasant, a medium sized game bird.

The village is in the centre of the island the houses gathered around the church, they all face inwards, their backs towards the unforgiving ocean. A lot of timber framed medieval houses with thatched roofs, the thatch crusted with moss and here and there a shrub or a small tree growing from the slowly decomposing roof. I suppose there are perhaps sixty or so souls that permanently inhabit the island. Island life is smaller than life

in Strathbogie - where is there to go, but here or on 'the other side', as the locals call the mainland. Everyone knows your business, often before you know it yourself. This would be a problem if you gave a shit about what other people thought about you. Myself, i haven't ventured outside the house with the pink tutu on yet. However there are some distinct murmurings, so i do suspect some degree of "peeping Tomism" about.

You know what amazes me is that in this small community we have these same archetypes of people that appear in probably every community across the world - we are not special, in fact we are very small, it is most humbling to find our patterns repeated again. Here we all are on the other side of the world .....even the more rarer of birds..

So Finn and Molly get up at 5.30 every weekday morning and are on the 6.30 ferry to go to school on the mainland. They are absolute little troopers, going to a school where most people speak no English at all. I don't know if anyone has heard Danish spoken, but it is a cross between a slurring drunkard and someone clearing their throat. Apart from this pronunciation, it does have similarities to English in the way it is written, and it is becoming easier for me to decipher a letter.

What i do worry for is the coming winter, when the bitter easterly wind howls of the Russian steppes, and the light does not come till 10 in the morning, they say that this is the time when you should hide your kitchen knives. We have bought a small safe and shall take it in turns to hold the keys. God willing we will make it...

Go well and be safe in the fire season.

Sim Ayres.....bewildernest@gmail.com



*Above: Molly Ayres in front of thatched roofed houses on the island in Denmark.*

### SWANPOOL CINEMA

Sept 30th - Oct 2nd -

"Red Dog" (PG) & "Hereafter" (M)

Oct 7th & 9th - "Water For Elephants" (M) & "Rise of the Planet Apes" (M)

Oct 8th - 20th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION -

"North by Northwest" (PG)

Oct 14th - 16th -

"The Illusionist" (PG) & "Mon Oncle"(G)

Oct 21st-23rd - "Love Crime" (M) & "Seraphine" (PG)

Oct 28th-30th - "Jane Eyre" (M) & "The Eagle" (M)

Start Times - Friday and Saturday 7.30pm and Sunday 6.00pm - Double feature: \$12.50/\$10



## Surgery by Donmil

Kevin was ailing,  
His heart valves were failing,  
But now he's once more in good nick;  
Could medical skills  
Cure the government's ills?  
I'm afraid not – it's terminally sick.

The Victorian Seniors Festival is now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year and is a state-wide event designed specifically for Senior Victorians. Seniors week runs from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. Mayor Mick Williams said "the Victorian Seniors Festival is a chance to celebrate and acknowledge senior Victorians and this year's program is full of opportunities." "A copy of the Seniors Festival Program booklet is now available from the Strathbogie Shire Council offices in Euroa, Third Age Club in Euroa and the Violet Town IGA." The Strathbogie Shire is offering two events, and we have listed other events throughout our region in our program that we hope you will consider.



Contact Purdey at the Shire—57950155

## Weeds a Problem?

Call Dennis Taylor 5790 5144  
or 0429 190 807

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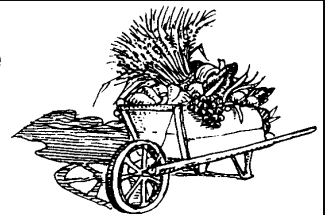
**Jackie Laughlin** (Ad. Dip App. Sc. Ag. F.M.)

Ph 57905291 Mobile: 0429149173



At last, a Hughie

A number of years ago I saw a 'Hughie' on the New Inventors and decided I would like one. I find the only downside of home grown and organic vegies is the amount of water it takes to wash them. (The stuff we buy in shops has been well washed, probably using large amounts of water) The 'Hughie' is simply a well designed plastic container that fits nicely into the kitchen sink and has handles for easy lifting. One big advantage over other rectangular buckets is that it is the same height as the sink. It has a plug with built in strainer so is good for camping as well. Now I can wash my vegies and save all that water for the garden. A Hughie is more expensive than your average bucket, but it is more manageable for use in a sink, is made of good strong plastic and is made in Australia by an Australian company. I bought mine from the Environment shop in Thornbury and they are also available from Bunnings. If you want to learn more about the Hughie go to [www.hughie.com.au](http://www.hughie.com.au) or call in and see mine.



Heather Cousland.

## BOOBS, BUSES AND BREAST SCREEN

In Violet Town, BreastScreen supports our local Community Health Service to run a Boob Bus to BreastScreen in Shepparton. Priority is given to women aged 50-69 years old.

The next 'Boob Bus' will be  
Friday 18th November 2011

We only have limited seats on our bus,  
so you will need to be quick!

If you would like to book a seat please  
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(a service of the  
Violet Town Bush Nursing Centre)

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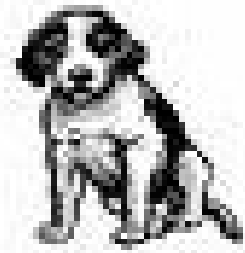
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## STRATHBOGIE TABLELAND ACTION GROUP

Several of STAG's committee members recently attended a meeting with representatives from five other of the Shire's eight Action Groups. The meeting was facilitated by the Shire and provided attendees with the opportunity to discuss a range of issues.

Areas of most concern to the Action Groups were:

- the need to clarify the role of the Action Groups
- time frame for planning and funding
- processes and procedures for grant funding
- the onerous amount of paperwork to be undertaken by volunteers
- the need for more support for Action Groups



The meeting was advised that some procedures are being rewritten and will be forwarded to the groups for comment.

### IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING - "WHERE TO FROM HERE"

As a number of positions were not filled at STAG's AGM in July, it was agreed that the outgoing officers would continue in caretaker mode for three months.

**A public meeting will be held on Monday 17th October commencing at 7.30pm in the Supper Room, Strathbogrie Memorial Hall.**

The meeting will be facilitated by Liz Scarfe from the Shire and will seek to elect a new committee and office bearers.

All community members are encouraged to attend and contribute to the future of STAG.

#### EUROA AND VIOLET TOWN LIBRARY

##### NEW Baby and Preschool Timetable

All infants from newborn to 6 years welcome.

Join in rhymes, stories, and craft.

All sessions are FREE.

Euroa Library, Second Friday of the month,

10.30am-11.30am - Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9

Violet Town Library, Fourth Thursday of the month, 10.30am-11.30am - Oct 27, Nov 24,



#### Guided Meditation - Full Moon

With Julie Bond-Rowe

Now Fortnightly—Tuesday 27th September,

11th & 25th October, at 7pm,

\$8 per 1 hour session, Byo blanket & cushion

2122 Euroa-Strathbogrie Road, Strathbogrie.

Bookings and Further enquiries

please call Julie on 5790 5356

One morning after milking, I was cleaning up in the dairy and I noticed one of my sows heading purposefully straight across the paddock towards the bush. I had a busy day planned so I let her go. That night after milking, I took a hurricane lamp and set out to find her. It wasn't hard. She had built a big "turkey's nest" shaped nest ie. a big wall of dry grass around the outside, sloping down so not much in the middle.

She must have worked feverishly, carting the grass about 20 or 30 yards. She was in the middle of the nest with her brood. All this in the space of about 10 hours.

I returned after tea, once again with my lantern and a four-gallon bucket of skim milk which I had saved for her. She heard me coming and I called to her. I always talk to my animals. She climbed out over the wall of her nest and drank lustily out of the cut down drum I brought with me.

Now for the tricky bit. When she finished, she headed back to her nest and stepped over the wall. I just held my breath imagining she would squash the lot. She stood in the centre of the nest and went down on her knees.

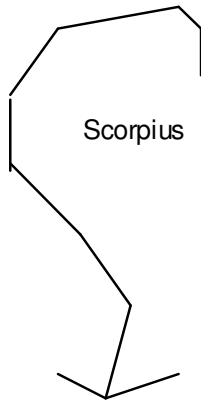
Then slowly lowered herself down. She flopped her big belly to one side and the piglets, with great gusto, helped themselves. The sow gave a couple of contented grunts and the noise of the piglets changed from squeals to sucks – a lovely domestic scene.

This went on twice a day for about a fortnight until one afternoon, just about milking time, I noticed them all coming across the paddock together. I stood and held the sty door open and she went in with her 12 piglets. Back to the correct sloping floor with the specially barricaded portion, so the little pigs could roll away from the sow to prevent crushing. But nature had taken its course and all was well.

Ken Dunnachie



# Stargazing in Strathbogie



Scorpius

☾ 31<sup>st</sup>

☾ 30<sup>th</sup>

☾ 29<sup>th</sup>

☾ 28<sup>th</sup>

★ Venus

★ Mercury

West

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The view looking West from Strathbogie just after sunset during the last days of October, showing the position of Venus and the Moon.

Information from Kstars (David Joyce)



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Hi Guys, We are coming into that wonderful time of year where we can hopefully have a bit of fun and all of you are invited to help us organise these events.

Lizzie has started organising dancers for the Big Irish Nite and that will be on the 17th March 2012 ( St Pat's Day).

- . Christmas on the Tableland is schedule for the Friday 17th Dec 2011.
- . Valentines Day on the Tableland Saturday Feb 11th. 2012.
- . Roz Willis has got this wonderful idea for a dance night and fund raiser with her husband Ronnies band.
- . The Strathbogie summer Festival will be in early Jan 2012.
- . And most important the Rec Ground starts it's "Summer of Fun" on Thursday 6th Oct 2011 at 6.30pm.

If anyone would like to help out with organising any events contact Kim for details.

Kim Usher 57905345