



also on-line at www.strathbogie.org

September 2011

This is a letter from Doug Baxter, my uncle who is now 81 years young, who tells us stories about growing up in Strathbogie. He was a farmer at Glen Echo on Tames Rd, for many years, he bought the farm from his father when he married, but moved to W.A. and has been a shearer, and bought his own farm near Mt. Barker and still lives there. Tracey Thomson.

In 1938 as rumbles of war began in Europe, my father WD (Bill) Baxter of Middle Brighton, in Melbourne thought of what he saw happen to civilians, women and children, in villages and cities occupied by the German Army, as they were beaten back by the Diggers of the 2nd. Division of which he was in charge of the Motor Transport trucks and ambulances, and following up as they advanced had 1st. hand knowledge of the atrocities of war on civilians. He decided to lease out his garage and repair premises and house and move his family to "Glen Echo" his farm on Tames Road Strathbogie which he had owned for several years.

Sure enough war started the next year in September. Mother and Father, son Bill, or Sydney 19 yrs., daughter Margaret 17 yrs., and Yvonne 13 yrs., then sons Douglas 9 yrs., and Richard 3 yrs., all settled into the small 3 bedroom 70 year old wetherboard house.

Tremendous fires at Warburton in 1939 took the lives of 75 fire fighters seen by evacuees the next morning hanging in fences as the fires overtook them with their knapsacks still on some of them. Burnt chard leaves from Warbuton dropped from the skies over a large section of Strathbogie that evening, and a fire at Boho that day burnt right up the walls of the local Hall, but it didn't catch fire.

Amongst the Bogie population where many returned soldiers from the 1st. World War from 1914-18, Eric Tame our neighbour. Jack (JR) Smith, Mr. Moore and many others. As the war progressed many of Bogies' sons signed up for service in the armed forces. The district gave a farewell night in the Bogie Hall (which is now the old garage) and presented each with a wrist watch and wallet I think in 1940, farewell speeches were made by councillors. I think it was Mr. Jack JR Smith. And his son Jack Smith was the one chosen by the enlisted men to reply for them, and he spoke of there resolve to go to war, to keep the flags flying high over our countrys, (the Union Jack and our Aussie flag stretched out on the back wall of the stage) for they represent the freedom we and our fathers and mothers have enjoyed for many years, freedom of the press and total separation of church and state laws for the freedom of the people. His statements were received with much applause and tears from the mothers.

(continued page 5)

What's on

September 1st - 7pm Strathbogie Knitting Group - ph Deb Ellis

57905398 or Robyn 0408529773

September 11th - 11.30am Church Service St Andrews Church - Strathbogie

September 13th - 7.30 pm - special meeting Swanpool Cinema (see page 3)

September 15th - 7pm Strathbogie Knitting Group - ph Deb Ellis

57905398 or Robyn 0408529773

September 17th - 10am-3pm - Bogie Spinners and Weavers - Rec Ground. All welcome...beginners especially welcome. Ph 57908572 or 0408529773

September 18th - 6pm Vocal Nosh - Strathbogie Hall

September 23rd - Spring Equinox

September 29th - - **7pm** Strathbogie Knitting Group - ph Deb Ellis

57905398 or Robyn 0408529773

October 17th - STAG meeting for all the community!

Every Sunday at 3pm - family soccer - at the Rec Ground (weather permitting)

Fortnightly in Spring - Guided Meditation 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 2.30pm - Rosen Movement Mawraeeney 57908589



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 Ph 57905381

Euroa Cinema

September 3rd - 4th
 "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part II"
 Sept 10th - 11th
 "Tree of Life" (PG)
 Sept 17th - 18th
 "Beautiful Lies" (M)
 Sept 24th - 25th
 "The Trip"
 Coming up: Red Dog
 Tickets: \$9, children under school age free.



Session times
Saturdays
8 pm
Sunday's
4 pm



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Mobile Library date for Strathbogie (every second Saturday, 9.30 - 12 noon) 3rd and 17th September, 1st, 15th and 29th October.



Strathbogie Memorial Hall

Available for hire— \$70 with \$250 refundable deposit in case carpet cleaning is required. Bookings contact person is Kim Usher
 Ph 5790 5345

Strathbogie Recreation Ground
 All bookings are to be made with Kim Usher 57905345

Deadline - 20th September. Email: tablelandtalk@gmail.com (Note change of email address), ph 57905203, post PO Box 23 Strathbogie, or leave contributions at the store. The TT team.

ALL OUR TROUBLES ...

by Donmil

With the land rebate axed
And carbon being taxed;
Italia and Spain
On their way down the drain;
The Yanks almost bust,
And Rupe being just
As guilty as James
Of unethical games ...
What are we to do?

Well, if Donmil were you,
He'd replenish his soul
By digging a hole,
And **PLANTING A TREE**
(Or perhaps two or three).



**SPECIAL MEETING @ cinema on
Tuesday 13 September at 7.30 pm**
**Can you help turn Swanpool Cinema into
a community cinema when Kevin and
Shirley retire at the end of the year?
Don't let the screen go black!**

SWANPOOL CINEMA

Sept 2nd-4th - "Oranges and Sunshine" (M) &
"Tree of Life" (PG)
Sept 9th & 11th - "Of Gods and Men" (MA) &
"Inside Job" (PG)
Sept 10th - St Kilda Shorts Film Festival
Sept 16th - 18th "Babies" (G) and "Flight of
the Red Balloon" (PG)
Sept 17th - matinee only (1.30pm) "Second
Hand Wedding" (PG)
Sept 23rd & 25th - "The Conspirator" (M)
and "Get Low" (M) (NB: no Sat screening)
Sept 30th - Oct 2nd - "Red Dog" (PG) and
"Hereafter" (M)
Start Times - Friday and Saturday 7.30pm
and Sunday 5.00pm - Double feature:
\$12.50/\$10

Vocal Nosh in Strathbogie in 2011

Vocal Nosh is coming to the Strathbogie Memorial Hall on Sunday, September 18th. The evening begins at 6 pm and combines singing as a group with sharing a meal of soup and crusty bread. No prior musical experience is necessary and it is not necessary to be able to read music. The aim is just to have fun singing together, and new members will be warmly welcomed!

\$10 will get you 2 hours of harmony singing as well as a delicious home-cooked meal of hearty soup and crusty bread. If you have been able to join us in the past, we would love to see you again OR we look forward to welcoming you for the first time. For further information, please contact Diane Mackrell on 57905241.

STAG UPDATE

Further to the item in last month's Tableland Talk, STAG wrote to Council expressing concern over a number of issues and seeking clarification of the role of Action Groups. This letter was sent on 29 July – we are still waiting for a reply.

A combined meeting of Action Groups is scheduled for mid-September, perhaps some answers will be forthcoming then.

REMINDER: A meeting will be held on Monday 17th October at the Strathbogie Hall to decide STAG's future. We encourage all community members who are interested in the future of the Tableland to attend this meeting.

Some residents may not be aware that the Victorian Electoral Commission is conducting an Electoral Representation Review for the Strathbogie Shire Council. The preferred option is for an undivided shire (ie Councillors not representing a specific Ward). The likely outcome of such a structure would be to leave smaller areas like Strathbogie without representation.

Response submissions to VEC's Preliminary Report should be lodged by 5pm, 23rd September by:

email to strathbogie.review@vec.vic.gov.au

online submission form at vec.vic.gov.au/ReviewSubmit

post to VEC, Level 11, 530 Collins St, Melbourne, Vic.

3000

fax on (03) 9629 8632

Submissions must include the submitter's name, address, contact phone number, and whether the person or group wish to speak at the public hearing to support their submission.

The public hearing will be held at the Council conference Room, Council Offices at 6.30pm on Wednesday 28 September 2011.

EUROA AND VIOLET TOWN LIBRARY

NEW Baby and Preschool Timetable

Come along to our new Rhyme and Story Time sessions starting in July.

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 - Sep 9, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9

Violet Town Library, Fourth Thursday of the month,

10.30am-11.30am - Sep 22, Oct 27, Nov 24, Dec 1

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Guided Meditation - Full Moon

With Julie Bond-Rowe

Tuesday 13th September at 7pm,

\$8 per 1 hour session, Byo blanket & cushion
2122 Euroa-Strathbogie Road, Strathbogie.

Bookings and Further enquiries
please call Julie on 5790 5356

Fortnightly sessions will begin in Spring!

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(Continued from page 1)

Oh yes Jim Broughton was one of them, if I remember correctly so was Alan Locke, I am not sure if Clive and Fred Jacka were also, but they were days of dread for our families in Bogie. My elder brother Sydney or (Bill) 10 yrs my elder was called up when Japan entered the War, he joined the AIF and went training in Queensland. in the engineer section, and when his last embarkation leave finished at the farm "Glen Echo".

He had to ride his push bike to Euroa, 20 miles away, to catch the troop train going north to Queensland, with all his gear on his back, knapsack, kitbag, rifle bayonet. There was no petrol in the car or petrol ration tickets to take him. Mother cried after we watched him disappear down the road. We didn't see him again till 2 years were up. Our sisters Margaret and Yvonne were working in Melbourne then before they joined the Womens Australian Air Force. So that meant no men to do the farm work with horses, ploughing, harrowing the ground seeding in oats, plant potatoes milk 10 cows by hand night and morning then separate the cream from the milk with a hand turned "Alpha" separator. Feed calves and pigs milk night and morning, and send the cream cans to the Euroa butter factory twice a week by Mr. Crosbies truck on the cream and mail run for the War effort. So School suffered badly, with so much to be done and Dad was not able to do any heavy work, from a back injury. So a 12 year old boy had to grow up quick and step into mens boots and do the work. Chaff cutting for cows and horses, mowing clover and meadow hay with a Mitchell Horse drawn buck rake then into big blocks of hay with a horse drawn sweep. Then sweep them into a hay stack formed by hand with a pitch fork. In the winter cold, use a hand hay knife to cut the meadow hay into blocks to pitch over the fence to hungry milk cows at night with forks, often in the snow. It used to snow every winter in the 40's, and melt away by 5 days, in East Strathbogie.

When the oaten hay was ready I harnessed up 3 draft horses and used our reaper and binder machine to cut and tie the hay into sleeves, which then had to be put grain up, batt down 8 to 10 sleeves into stooks, all over the paddock to dry out properly in summer before carting all into build hay stacks up with gable roofs of oaten hay to run the water off when it rained. Neighbours joined together and helped each other to get oaten hay in safely. Mr. Clarke, Mr. McCombe, Mr. Birch, Mr. McCallum sometimes Mr. Herb Mackrell and yours truly Douglas, as chief turners on the stack or wagon for the stack builder. After harvest finished on hot summer days, having left Brighton, with its beautiful water close by, we would sometimes walk into Strathbogie, to the Smiths bridge pool, which was so wonderful to swim in, and swim for several hours, and then walk the five miles home again. It was very tiring I remember.



Sometimes at weekends I would walk out to Mr Charlie Walkers timber mill to watch the bullock team drag in big logs from Toorour forest, front end of logs held up off the ground by a two wheeled "whim" it was called, to make them easier to pull by teams of bullocks of 14 to 20 in number. Including some of the surrounding farmers big bulls on loan, the strength was remarkable to see in action. Mr Ben Hall and his boys were the teamsters and fallers of timber, with hand cross cut saws. This timber was vital in the war effort too, as well as the local fruit, milk, meat, potatoes, hemp crops for army wellbeing production, but most of all the farmers sons who like their fathers gave their lives in service for their countries in war time.

During the war there were dancers held in the Bogie Hall (now the garage) and we young ones learnt to do many wonderful ballroom dances. The band, Pianist Mrs Green, Drums Mr. Green, Saxophone Barry Ellis and violinist Ivo Ellis. I think that was right, others may remember better, all on Saturday nights. Sometimes there were Tennis competitions played, A and B grade at Bogie, South Bogie, Kithbrook, Boho South, but that may have been after the War finished.

The dances were a great way to get to know everyone on the Tableland, the older people played cards - Eucha and Crib. etc, with much noise and laughter. The progressive Barn dance was great when you got to dance with all the girls in the hall at once, and the Mothers also with much greeting and talking. Some times the lads would get the horses out of the jinkers and buggies and put the horses in the saleyards, poke the shafts through the rails and harness them all up again, horse one side of the fence and vehicle the other.



There was great excitement later in the War when the Army came up into the bush at the back of South Bogie somewhere, in the winter to get mud experience, with trucks, jeeps and tanks before going into the jungle warfare. One weekend, they had tanks, jeeps and trucks exhibited opposite the Hall in Bogie, all the young ones crawling in and out of tanks which were Yankee Stewart and 2 other types and a great big one Churchill, and an Aussie made Matilda. Every family took several soldiers home for tea, Dads' car was a big Hudson Super six and we got 15 people in, and on the running boards, on the outside, to go the 5 miles out Tames Road to "Glen Echo" for an evening meal. In our family (Mum, Dad sister Yvonne, cousin Jean, from Melbourne visiting, Douglas and Richard) and 9 soldiers, some inside, others outside, we had a pianola then so the old house was full of singers and noise and laughter.

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Some of the Soldiers were country boys from Gippsland and they volunteered to do the washing up with much laughter and water flicking. Time came to go back to camp, in an Army truck at the front gate tooting the horn, so there was a rush to get down there but not before Yvonne and Jeannie had kissed each soldier on the way to the gate and waved them good bye.



They were grim days as the War progressed ,as our forces were on the back foot in Europe Middle East, and in the Pacific, but the tide of loss slowly turned, and King George the 6th called for world Empire days of prayer for deliverance, I remember in the country the people got together in Bogie in the Schools and Churches for deliverance for our Men and homelands, and our pleas were answered at Dunkirk by a miraculous fog, the German invasion flotilla to England being turned back by a mighty West wind, the Air Force Battle of Britain, many events in the Pacific recognised as natures intervention. And Jack Smith and Brother in law Ross Smith came home, Jack injured by an land

mine in North Africa and Ross, a yellow bony skeleton, when I met him riding round in the cream and mail run truck with Dick Rowarth (who served on the Kokoda trail) and disease from jungle fever down to 5 stone. He told me the Matron used to carry him to the toilet. Dick and he went to school together in Bogie. Ross used to ride his bike out to "Glen Echo" to see my sisters Margaret and Yvonne, before the war took him away. Later when I talked to Ross about how bony he was, with sunken eye sockets. He protested and said after the Burma railroad experience and Hell Fire pass which he survived (being a prisoner there under the Japanese for 4 years) he was fed up for 6 weeks in Singapore before coming home and put on lots of flesh before I saw him for the first time after the atomic bomb. The yellow skin was from medication he was on to recover from Malaria.

So these are just a few thoughts from years ago in the late 30s' and 40s' in Strathbogie, there is much more to tell but they were great days to grow up in.

Regards Douglas Baxter.

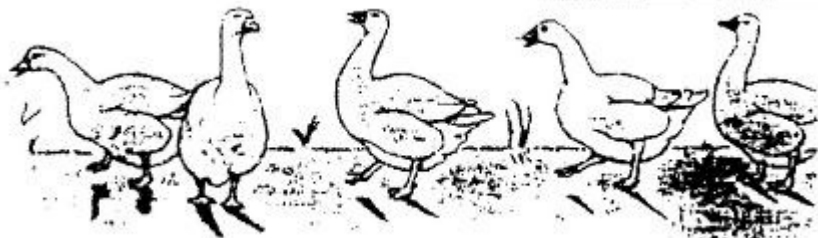


COUNCIL WATCH

Is it just the Tableland or is Council treating all its residents with contempt!!!

- ⇒ when will Strathbogie residents have the same opportunity as those in other parts of the Shire to have input to Council's climate change and risk assessment policy. The meeting was brought forward with virtually no notice - and only advertised in the Gazette?
- ⇒ do we need another disaster on the scale of Black Saturday before Council stops dithering around over the Township Protection Plan and Place of Last Resort – it is now two years since the Royal Commission's final report came out?
- ⇒ the main reason residents wanted Brookleigh Road bridge repaired was to provide access/ egress in the event of emergencies however it appears from signage on the bridge that it won't take the weight of a fire truck?

(Ethel McReady)



Memories of By-Gone Wash Days by Helen Dunnachie

Recently we decided to give our laundry a 'make over,' and, in the ensuing clean out that this decision demanded, I discovered a relic of our early married years; my old copper stick! A flood of memories of all those years, and especially wash days, came drifting back to me. I remember how thrilled and excited I was when we eventually had a laundry built and a copper installed as this was before the availability of the washing machine and before the days of electricity here on the tableland.

Prior to having the laundry built I had a kerosene tin with one side cut out in which I boiled the washing on a wood stove, one sheet at a time or 2 or 3 towels squashed in or around five or six nappies etc etc. The new copper speeded up the washing enormously as then I could do much bigger loads at a time. White and pale colours were boiled up first, the towels and deeper colours on second boil and so on down the line, adding more water as necessary. Finally in went work clothes and other heavily soiled articles.

When each load of washing had boiled for a short while, individual items were 'fished' out of the copper with the copper stick and held suspended above it until most of the excess water drained back into the copper. Then it was placed in clean water and swished around a while prior to being wrung out by hand and placed in another trough of clean water. If the articles being rinsed were white, a blue bag (ricketts blue bag) was swished through this second rinse water; this treatment helped keep the garment snowy white instead of it yellowing over time. Each item was once again hand wrung before being pegged on the line.

The clothe-line consisted of two bush poles which had a piece of flat timber about one metre long bolted to the top of each. These had holes drilled into both ends then lengths of wire were threaded through creating two lines. A forked sappling was used as a prop and often, especially on windy days the prop would slip allowing the washing to fall to the ground soiling a large portion of the washing, necessitating the whole procured to be carried out again. Oh! By the way there wasn't any hot water on tap so all rinsing was carried out in cold water – not very pleasant in cold weather.

Out clothe-line was situated in a paddock just beyond the house where, at times, Ken kept and bucket fed young poddy calves. How I hated the arrangement as the calves delighted in

sucking any of the washing they could reach and as they grazed on the grass any of the wash they could reach would be covered in a green slimy, gooey substance which was very difficult to remove, not having the benefit of bleaches available today.

These lines have long ago been superseded by an Australian invention a Hills Rotary Clothes Line, a very simple but efficient invention which we have located in the garden just behind the laundry, the fence having being removed and the whole paddock right up to the cattle yards now being part of our garden - surprise, surprise!!!

Pillow cases, aprons, shirt collars and cuffs, table clothes and many other items were starched. When I think about that now I can't help but wonder why? However our mothers did it and their mothers before them and who knows how many mothers before them; we all just followed their example. On windy days it was not unusual to be flicked in the face with a gooey starched article as one pegged it on the line, yuk! Some time back I noticed packets of Silver Star Starch on the shelf of our local shopping centre. I found myself wondering who would use it these days?

One very memorable day Ken arrived home from a clearing sale with an old hand-wringer. This was a contraption of two rubber rollers, two clamps for attaching the contrivance to the wash trough, a knob on top to increase or decrease the pressure and a handle to turn to activate the wringer, Hallelujah! I could hardly contain my excitement – I was in seventh heaven; no more hand wringing!

Another 'aid' to wash day was the ever present scrubbing board which consisted of a rectangle of ridged glass in a wooden frame. Very soiled clothes were plunged into water then rubbed with a cake of soap then vigorously rubbed up and down on the ridged glass which helped remove stubborn dirt and the skin on your knuckles if one wasn't careful.

Once the washing was dry and gathered in, each item was lightly sprinkled with water, especially the starched things, rolled up and placed in the clothes basket covered with a towel or similar cover awaiting ironing, but that's another story!



Our laundry 'make-over' is nearly complete except for some of the floor tiles which a friend from Melbourne is laying for us as he finds time. Gone now is the sagging old masonite lining, replaced by plaster sheets and tiles. The clothes dryer (very seldom used) is installed in the wall above our washing machine and laundry cupboards waiting for the floor tiling to be finished before they can be placed. The Deep Freeze is now gone from temporary storage on the back veranda and is more or less in place in the laundry. These days as I load the washing machine and select cold or warm wash, size of load etc. etc. then switch on and walk away leaving the machine to do that work, and I thank heaven for the sheer luxury of modern technology. However, amazingly I sometimes feel a trifle nostalgic for the unique aroma of clothes boiling in the copper and that old copper stick..... or is it for youth lost, as we were all so young back then?!!!

From my very young childhood I have had a fascination with plants and the growing of them. On wash day I was allowed to use the 'blue rinsing' water to water

my plants. In my childish mind I must have assumed there was something in the bluing agent that was beneficial to the plants, so I used to make up some blue water of my own. One day my father caught me in the act and demanded to know what I was up to. My childish explanation didn't go over very well and I was banned from using the blue bags. However my plants survived well enough without the 'benefits' of the bluing treatment! The fact that I was given the blue water to use on my plants, despite being connected to the town water supply, suggest to me that even back then our family at least, was concerned with conserving water..... or was it perhaps just keeping an eye on the water bill?!! I suppose we had to pay for the water we used – I seem to remember a water meter at our front gate – but then I am not sure! People were extremely frugal with money back then as the world was still experiencing a certain measure of 'after birth pains' from the turmoil or the great depression with all its misery and hardships.

Helen Dunnachie



Why Does a Sudden Change in the Weather Cause Sickness?

We all enjoy the warmer Spring weather after the cold and wet of the winter months – but what does that mean for our health?

Every change in weather sends people to the doctor. But are these sicknesses real or imagined? People get sick from bacteria and a weak immune system, not from temperature. But weather changes can cause symptoms that are just as aggravating as the real thing.

The Theory

Weather alone can't make a person ill, but changes in weather are accompanied by a host of other changes that can give a person flu symptoms. Your body is used to functioning in a certain temperature so, as the seasons change, your body is forced to re-adapt. This includes your immune system, making you more vulnerable to infections and viruses.

The Facts

Cold weather means more indoor activities, and when people are cooped up inside rooms together with the windows closed, germs are more likely to spread. People don't get as much fresh air as they do in warmer weather, and they may not be as apt to exercise in the cold.

Meanwhile, hot weather means more outdoor activities, which can cause allergies to flare. Pollen in the air often aggravates respiratory problems, irritating existing conditions such as asthma or causing new problems. Dehydration can lead to headaches and heatstroke. These cases send people to the doctor just as much as cases of the flu or colds do in winter.

Prevention

Nutrition, exercise and hygiene can boost the immune system while the weather changes. Getting enough Vitamin C is essential for warding off colds. Zinc, found in foods such as seafood and all bran cereals, helps the body fight infection. Exercise lowers stress levels that make people vulnerable to viruses, and it may increase the circulation of cells needed to fight infection. And in all temperatures, washing your hands frequently can prevent the spread of the bacteria that causes illness in the first place.

Hume Corridor Community Outreach Health Service (a service of Violet Town Bush Nursing Centre Inc)
Ph 57366366