STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL COUNCIL PLAN 2017 – 2021 (2020 REVIEW) DRAFT BUDGET 2020-21

At its Council meeting held on Monday 27 April 2020, Council formally considered its Draft 2020-21 Budget and revised 2017-2021 Council Plan (2020 Review), and resolved that they be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days as per Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Stage Three restrictions enacted by the State Government under the current State of Emergency COVID-19 requires everyone to stay home except for essential circumstances. Therefore, Council will not hold public forums on the Draft Budget in the Shire this year.

Council Plan 2017 - 2021 (2020 REVIEW)

The Council Plan 2017-2021 is the key strategic document for Council. It is required to be reviewed annually and contains:

Council Vision, Mission and Values

Commitment to Engagement and Communication

Goals

Key Strategies

A Strategic Resource Plan which sets out the resources to achieve the objectives

Draft Budget 2020-21

- a. The total amount projected to be borrowed as at 30 June 2020 will be \$368,000 (loans outstanding 30 June 2020)
- b. The total amount proposed to be borrowed during 2020-21 is \$5,000,000
- c. The total amount projected to be redeemed during 2020-21 is \$81,000 (principal to be repaid)
- d. The projected total amount of borrowings at 30 June 2021 is \$5,287,000 (loans outstanding 30 June 2021)
- e. The projected cost of servicing the borrowings during 2020-21 is \$20,000 loan interest
- f. The proposed differential general rates to be levied by Council will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each category of rateable land by the rate in the dollar as indicated below:

Rating Category	Cents in the Dollar CIV		
Residential Land	0.0052181		
Vacant Residential Land	0.0091317		
Farm Land	0.0041745		
Commercial/Industrial	0.0062617		
Vacant Commercial/Industrial Land	0.0109581		

g. The proposed Municipal Charge to be levied is \$0.

h. The following annual services charges are proposed to be declared for the collection and disposal of refuse:

Type of Charge

Collection and disposal of domestic refuse - 80 litre bins - \$383 Collection and disposal of domestic refuse - 120 litre bins - \$383 Collection and disposal of domestic refuse - 240 litre bins -\$765

Continues page 3

What's On

No What's On items were submitted for June 2020

Please contact each organiser to check for current arrangements.

Every Third Monday - 7.30pm STAG meet at Strathbogie Hall. Helen Peters, Secretary.

Every Second Tuesday of the month - Strathbogie Memorial Hall Committee meets 6pm in the Hall. Enq Mary Wynne 0448 220 014

Every Wednesday - Material Girls - usual times 10am - Rec Ground - BYO lunch. Newcomers welcome Ph: Jill Smith 5790 5159.

Every Wednesday - 7.30pm Strathbogie Singing Group -St Andrews Church - Strathbogie (except in School Holidays) Ph: Di Mackrell 5790 5241

Every Second Month - Strathbogie Landcare first Sunday 9-11am Contact Sean 0400 019 607

Every Second and Fourth Sunday - Church service at St Andrews

Church - Strathbogie 11.00am

First Wednesday of the month - 1.30pm Strathbogie Garden Group. Contact Wendy 5790 8523

Every Fourth Saturday of the month - Australian Plants Society Group meeting Pete 0402 882 959

Every Third Sunday of the month - 4pm Strathbogie Community of Food Finders at the Recreation Ground

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Tickets \$13.50/\$11 www.swanpoolcinema.com.au

Euroa Cinema

Closed until further notice

To receive a weekly email update, send your details to: euroa.cinema@strathbogie.vic .gov.au

Tickets \$10, pre-schoolers free.

For information regarding the Violet Town Village Voice or to get an emailed copy each month contact Abbey Ferguson at village.voice@yahoo.com Read it online at www.violettown.org.au

Support Strathbogie Landcare agricultural & conservation projects

Membership is \$10 per household. This gives you access to Landcare magazine, subsidised rabbit & blackberry control, seedling purchases & community projects. Simply deposit \$10 into the Strathbogie Tableland Landcare account: BSB 803 078 Acc 100081991 with your name as reference or contact Secretary Sean Mathews for a membership form snmthws@bigpond.com

Do you need a

Justice of the Peace?

Chris Thomson 'Aberdeen' 5790 5340

Boho South Hall Available for hire. **Bookings** contact: Margaret Mactier Ph 5790 8544

Got something to sav? Send us a

Letter to the Editor

Tableland Talk advertising rates decrease.

In light of the current impact on businesses of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tableland Talk Communications sub Committee has decided to return advertising prices to previous rates.

Free community event advertising is at no cost. Business advertisements are charged at \$7 per issue for our usual size, or \$12 per issue for a third to half page. Exact size and placement are at the Editor's discretion.

We hope this gesture will be of some assistance to local businesses for continuing to promote their services to our community. The TT Team.

Check YOUR Local Event Doesn't Clash With **ANOTHER Local Event.**

Do you want to get the most people to your planned local event? Is your local event going to clash with another local event?

Ask Tableland Talk. Many local events are promoted through our local Newsletter.

If you want to find out if another event is being promoted on a date you are planning for, get in touch.

We will tell you if another local event has already been promoted on the same day /time:

tablelandtalk@gmail.com m: 0400 019 607



Joke of the Month

Quarantine has turned us into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We

are told "NO!" if we get too close to strangers. And we really get excited about car rides!

Tableland Talk is a community newsletter run by a volunteer group.

This newsletter is entirely made up of contributions. Contributions to this newsletter are published as a forum for public discussion.

The opinions expressed are the opinions of the contributors and not necessarily the opinions of the TT Team. By publishing contributions this newsletter does not give its authority to the truth or validity of the material contained in contributions.

Readers are reminded that all contributions MUST be submitted with the name and address of the writer.

We would appreciate it if all invoices for advertising are paid in full, and promptly - we have to pay for the photocopying.

The TT Team

Mobile Library

Dates for Strathbogie:

(every 2nd Saturday) 9.30 - 12 noon

Although Goulburn Valley Libraries reopen June 1. mobile libraries do not have a reopening date.



Strathbogie Memorial Hall

Available for hire— \$150 with \$250 refundable deposit in case carpet cleaning is required. Bookings contact person is Mary Wynne Ph 0419 59 2211

Strathbogie Recreation Ground

All bookings are to be made with Kim Usher 5790 5345

The Deadline for the July edition of Tableland Talk is Friday, June 26 2020.

e: tablelandtalk@gmail.com, m: 0400 019 607, or via Strathbogie PO / Store.

Preferred formats: Word or Publisher files, font Arial 11, convert pdf to jpeg, images <250k. TT Team.

Continued from page 1

Collection and disposal of recyclables (all sized bins) - \$181

Service Charge - Tree Management program - \$29

Kerbside/Recycling/Organics - \$563

Elloura - Council grants a rebate to each owner of rateable land within the Elloura development who qualifies under the Owners Corporation Agreement in recognition of services being provided within the development not requiring Council resources. This is subject of an agreement between Council and Elloura.

In order to promote development and attract new residents Council proposes to continue a scheme to assist buyers of new homes, or those who build new homes, by excusing rates for a two-year period from settlement subject to:

Proof of eligibility for and receipt of State First Home Buyers Grant being provided (for a newly built home, an existing property which is being sold for the first time as a new residential premise, a land and building package, or vacant land on which a new home is built)

Continuous occupancy of the subject property as a primary place of residence Maximum Capital Improved Value of the property will be \$750,000 Land being rated as vacant residential land if a house does not exist on it

Have your say by making a submission

Council invites members of the public to make a written submission on the Council Plan 2017-2021 and Draft Budget 2020-21 under Section 223 of the Act. Public submissions will be received until 5pm on Wednesday 3 June 2020. Council encourages submissions through the following:

Filling out the online form at https://tinyurl.com/yaocyl5n

Sending an email to info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Writing a letter addressed to Chief Executive Officer, Strathbogie Shire Council, PO Box 177, Euroa 3666

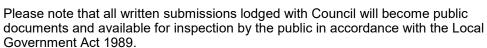
A person making a submission is entitled to request in their submission that they wish to be heard or be represented by another person specified in their submission, before a Special Council meeting. This will be held on Tuesday 16 June 2020 commencing at 5pm at the Euroa Community Conference Centre. To adhere to social distancing requirements, submitters will be contacted if they have requested to be heard to explain how this will occur.

The Draft Council Plan and Draft Budget will be considered/adopted at a Special Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 30 June 2020 commencing at 5pm at the Euroa Community Conference Centre.

Any person requiring further information concerning the Draft Council Plan and/or the Draft Budget, the making of a written submission or the meeting on Tuesday 16 June 2019, should contact David Roff on 5795 0000.

Document availability

Copies of the Council Plan and Draft Budget are available by request by contacting Council's office (109A Binney Street, Euroa), and Council's Customer Service Office (293 High Street, Nagambie) before Wednesday 3 June 2020. The Council Plan and Draft Budget are also available on Council's website at https://tinyurl.com/yaocyl5n





Strathbogie Shire Council requested this summary of the Draft Budget be included in Tableland Talk Editor's Note: Cr Alistair Thomson's Letter to the Editor page 5

To say the last few months have been crazy would be an understatement.

Ceremony wise, ANZAC Day was a non-event, but to witness the special effort that was made by so many in remembering our present and past veterans was something we can all be proud of. It was pleasing to note all the wreaths that were laid in Strathbogie and Violet Town.

The welfare work of the RSL is still continuing. There is a relief grant for Veterans and their families that may have been affected by the recent bushfires. Help for Veterans extends to many areas of assistance. All they need to do is ask the RSL at ANZAC HOUSE or ring yours truly on 5790 8501.

We are hoping to hold our next General Meeting in Violet Town at 1400hrs on the 11th June (fingers crossed). All are welcome, Veterans or their families.

Lest We Forget John Ryan President





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that disappear into the ether. Whispers into the virtual void. Where they really go, I don't know.

I find a number, a url, an IP address and click.

Calls to and from our small corner

Our connections to the world outside, digital threads off the Tableland, are brittle lines

to send or receive.

My message goes out to somewhere, a response comes back from somewhere, So distant.

Is it real, this ethereal contact?
Real as a handshake, a hug or a kiss?

Sean Mathews



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The Bogie Tree

The Bogie Tree is our unofficial Strathbogie Tableland bush telegraph. It is an email list based on Google Groups and covers a fair percentage of the Tableland population and friends (both transient and permanent). Through this, we practice civil sharing of the following types of information:

- Lifts / rides / car shares
- Requests for assistance
- Offers of assistance
- Local job advertisements
- Lost / missing animals or people!
- Announcements of social activities / get-togethers
- Fire sightings / road washouts
- Any other thing you might want to contact other Tablelanders about
- Information on your local business or service

To learn more or join the Bogie Tree, please send an email to Johnno on strathbogan@bigpond.com or call on 0439 818 366

Advertising Rates - Advertisements for revenue raising or businesses are charged at a rate of up to \$7 per issue for our usual size, or \$12 per issue for a third to half page. Exact size and placement is at the discretion of the Editor. Rates are very reasonable. Free community event advertising is at no cost. Advertising solely funds this newsletter. For more information, email: tablelandtalk@gmail.com or phone 0400 019 607. Please support our advertisers.

Letter to the Editor. Topic: The Strathbogie Shire Draft Budget for the 2020/21 Financial Year

Dear Editor

I am writing on the topic of the Strathbogie Shire draft budget for the 2020/21 financial year.

When freezing Victorian Government fees, charges and fines for next year the Treasurer said, "We're all in this together ... we (governments) all have to bear our share of responsibility." He called on local governments to, "see what they can do." The State Opposition went further and said councils should be forced to freeze rates.

Our neighbouring Murrindindi Shire, the City of Melbourne and other councils across Australia, have heard the call, "stepped up" in the words of the Melbourne Lord Mayor, and proposed budgets with a rates freeze.

The Strathbogie Shire's proposed budget has a rate increase of 1.9%, just below the 2% maximum cap set by the government. This rate rise generates \$320k in additional revenue. Comments that a rate increase is necessary to maintain financial sustainability do not stand up to scrutiny.

A rate freeze would have an accumulative impact of approximately \$3.5 million over 10 years. This assumes it's possible to foretell what rate rise increases will be for 10 years into the future. For context, the projected cash expenditure over the next 10 years is in excess of \$353 million. At 30/6/2020 the Council will hold over \$10 million in cash.

Whether the Shire has a rate freeze or not, its financial sustainability ratio will be above that required by the Victorian Government. The Shire is now seeking public comment on the proposed budget.

Please let Council know whether you believe that Council should show solidarity with ratepayers by freezing rates and allowing residents to retain \$320k to be spent in the local economy. Alternatively, you may agree with those Councillors supporting the draft budget that the best strategy is to increase rates by close to the maximum allowed and use those funds to create an additional spending pool of \$320k that Councillors will decide how to use. Perhaps you have another option for Council to consider.

There are many service and infrastructure actions in the Budget. Please also let Council know how you feel about these and any other initiatives that you would like to see. Submissions close on 3rd June.

Please email Council at info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au or send a letter.

Cr Alistair Thomson

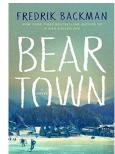
Mt. Wombat Ward

Strathbogie Shire Council

The Bookshelf - notes from the Bohomians Bookclub

The Scandal (aka Beartown) by Fredrik Backman, Penguin, 2017. English translation by Neil Smith

The Scandal is set in Beartown, a small, languishing Swedish town on the edge of a forest, whose people



are hoping that their junior ice hockey team might bring them national glory and with it economic revival. All their hopes and dreams rest on the shoulders of a handful of teenage boys. All is going according to plan until, on the cusp of the grand final, a terrible incident changes everything, not only shattering the dream but also tearing the community apart. Although *The Scandal* is set in Sweden, it tells a tale of a small town's obsession with its local sports team which people from all over the world will recognise.

While ice hockey features strongly in the story - the competitive, often violent and bawdy locker room culture, the hero worship of star players, the euphoria of winning - this book is about so much more than sport. It's a story about families and parenthood, about the importance and limits of friendship and loyalty, about adolescents trying to navigate complex moral dilemmas. Themes include inequality, racism, female

vulnerability, misogyny, bullying, homophobia and more.

Tapping right into the heart of small town life, the book explores what makes ordinary people tick and strips its characters bare until their raw emotion is exposed for everyone to see. It's pretty heavy going at times, but Backman tells these human stories with empathy and light humour. And there is some relief for the reader in the end, when key characters have the courage to go against the grain and remind the community what really matters.

About the author:

Fredrick Backman is a Swedish columnist, blogger and writer, who lives in Stockholm. His first novel was *A Man Called Ove* (2012).

<u>Next Month:</u> Dark Emu by Bruce Pascoe, Magabala Books, first published 2014, new edition 2018.

Mary Mathews

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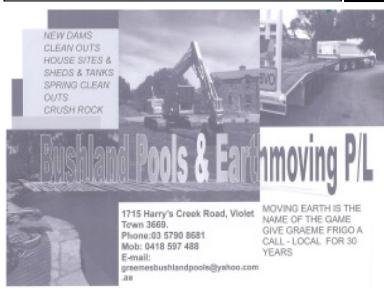
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Feathertail Glider - The cutest little marsupial

In the March 2020 issue of Tableland Talk I mentioned a project called Glideways that is looking to improve our understanding of these gorgeous marsupial gliders – the Feathertail, Sugar, Squirrel and Greater.

The smallest and perhaps cutest glider is the Feathertail. Not only tiny and cute, but it has the most amazing adaptation – a tail fringed by feather-like hairs, which aids in gliding and steering, hence its name. The March edition included a lovely photo of a Feathertail Glider and here's a close-up of the tail.





These little fellows live in tree hollows, or sometimes in cracks in building walls or roofs. They feed widely on insects, nectar, pollen, manna (the sugary outer case of lerps) and sap from eucalypts. Their entire body length, from nose-tip to tail, is barely 150mm and they weigh just 12g.

Not long after the march TT edition, I got a call from Tony Brell in McCombe Rd, who had found a deceased mouse-sized animal on his farm, which turned out to be a Feathertail. Now, these animals aren't rare, but they are so small and rarely seen, that not much is really known about where they occur – there are vey few records from the Tableland.

If, like Tony, you happen to find one of these little gliders, please let the Glideways project know so that we learn more about these special creatures. For a little more on this story, go to https://tinyurl.com/ydbr3sth

Glideways is part of the Strathbogie Ranges CMN Citizen Science Project supported by the Victorian Government.









Bertram Lobert 0409 433 276 bertram.lobert@activ8.net.au

Recipe of the Month

One for the kids to make!

Gingerbread Men

from the Young Family, Violet Town.

1/2 cup sugar

1tsp castor sugar

125g butter

1 egg, lightly beaten

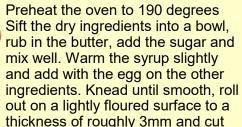
3 cups plain flour

3 tsp ground ginger

4tbsp golden syrup

Icing and currants for decoration

Method Preheat Sift the o



with a gingerbread man cutter. Lift men into a lightly greased tray and decorate. Bake for 10-15 minutes.

From *Delish: Our Family Favourites* Peranbin Primary College 2012



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Flat rate of \$38.50 incl GST per hour (\$35 + GST), including all fuel and tractor transit time to/from Tames Road (southeast end) @ 40km/h max travel speed.

✓ Other rural services also available (chainsawing, fencing, etc.)...same hourly rate but without transit costs – if we do it on our farm we can do it on yours!

Call Big Clarkey on 0406 074 019 or Julie/Clark on 5790 5226 to discuss!

Strathbogie Granite Project



Much water has flowed under the proverbial bridge since the last community update on the granite project was presented in the Strathbogie Hall last year. Field work continued in the Terip Terip area along the top of the Black Range late in 2019 before it was time to prepare some lectures and head to Portugal in January. And why Portugal ... some background first.

The Strathbogie granite extends for 100 km from the Tallarook plateau to Mt Samaria and has formed a major physical barrier across Victoria. It is primarily the existence of this granite that explains why the main freeway from Melbourne to Sydney leaves

Melbourne heading north, and only after Avenel does it turn northeast towards Sydney.

The Strathbogie Granite Project is built around collaboration between Professors John Clemens at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa and Neil Phillips of the University of Melbourne. Clemens and Phillips were involved in initial studies of the Strathbogie granite as postgraduates at Monash University in the 1970s, and the work has expanded since 2010. The granite plateau is a mixture of state forest and private land, and landowners have been generous in providing access for this research over the years. Results are regularly communicated through community talks and field trips, scientific publications and at the 2017 International Granite Symposium in Benalla.

Back to Portugal. The north of Portugal is made up of numerous granite bodies with their iconic pavements and countryside littered with boulders. These granites have a similar age to those that we have in Victoria and SE Australia generally. There is a strong granite research group at the University of Porto in northern Portugal and we share our findings. There is also extensive expertise in the geological survey and many questions followed my lectures in Porto and Lisbon and during the two field trips we could share.

Portugal also has a major granite quarrying industry which provides much of their road surfaces of granite tiles, and high-quality slabs as we might use for kitchen benches. It was fascinating to watch them cut 2 metre cubes of granite with diamond-impregnated wire and in doing so to avoid any cracks or discolouration.

After Portugal it was home to a new Australia and world in which field work plans were put on hold during covid-19 lockdown. In the meantime, the South African Geological Society asked for a short talk by video on the Strathbogie granite work and this is available now on youtube. Plans for the project leaders to meet in Stellenbosch in South Africa next month have been revised and we hope this can be in 2021.

Further details from Neil Phillips, PO Box 3 Central Park 3145 Victoria. neil.phillips@bigpond.com, or John Clemens, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, jclemens@sun.ac.za.

Jack Covid was his name ...



By Donmil

Their facilities he threatened, Their jobs he did destroy, Their travels he disrupted Did the Wild Coronial Boy.

Quiz question of the Month

Bilston's Tree is said to be the largest known red gum, standing 40 metres high with a girth of 7 metres. To the north of which Victorian town does it stand?

Answer: page 14



Bilston's Tree



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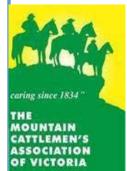








The following opinion piece has been provided by local MCAV member John Ryan.



Balancing brumby numbers in the High Country

RETURN to traditional brumby control methods – that's what the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria (MCAV) wants to see happen in the High Country.

Public outrage has followed the

Federal Court decision to allow brumby culling in the Bogong and Eastern Alps regions, but President of the MCAV, Bruce McCormack, said finding a humane way to balance wild horse numbers was most important.

"This is an issue that strikes at the heart of every Australian," Mr McCormack said.

"As a country, we identify with the brumby and the folklore attached to them.

"People are disgusted that Parks Victoria has been given the green light to shoot a piece of Australia's living heritage."

However, Mr McCormack said the MCAV recognised brumby numbers had risen dramatically since Cattlemen were removed from their grazing runs in the High Country.

"We wish to make it clear, the MCAV supports practical management of the brumbies – but we certainly do not agree with mindlessly heading out and shooting them."

Mr McCormack would like to see traditional brumby management techniques, utilised by Cattlemen for over 100 years, re-introduced. These include a three-pronged approach of trapping, running and mustering brumby herds. From there, the MCAV recommends re-homing suitable animals with discretion for condition, age and sex.

"We believe brumbies should remain in genetically sustainable numbers in the High Country," Mr McCormack said.

"There should be a balance struck between best land management practices as recommended by Cattlemen and brumby numbers — we need to remember these horses are a national icon, a tourism attraction and a piece of living history." For more information on the MCAVs brumby policy, visit their website at www.mcav.com.au

ABN 25342519237 Reg No A2117 secretary@mcav.com.au



Many of us have been spending a great deal more time at home these past weeks, and may have noticed that some of our more valuable household items have suffered from a lack of cleaning and polishing.

Here are some hints for cleaning silver, copper, brass and pewter, to make these jobs easier. SILVER

- 1.Line a large roasting pan, sink or plastic dish with foil. If using metal container make sure it is completely lined with foil.
- 2. Pour enough boiling water in to completely submerge article.
- 3. Add 1cup of bicarb soda and 1cup of salt. Stir to mix
- 3. Add silver article and let rest for 5 30mins depending on how tarnished is the article.
- 4. Remove with tongs, let cool and then polish with soft cloth. No need to rinse it afterwards. You can use smaller quantities of everything if just cleaning something smaller e.g. 1/4 cup bicarb soda and 2 teaspoons salt with the boiling water and foil. This is also a great way to clean silver, or silverplate **cutlery** and it is all done very quickly.

COPPER

A solution of vinegar and 3 tablespoons of salt will clean copper. Leave on for a few minutes, rub clean.

Worcestershire sauce also makes a good emergency cleaner.

BRASS

This can be cleaned by rubbing thoroughly with a cut lemon dipped in salt.

PEWTER

Wash pewter in soapy water. Rinse and dry. Rubbing with a cabbage leaf will remove some stains. It can also be rubbed with fine steel wool to bring up the lustre.

GOLD AND SILVER JEWELLERY

These can be restored to their former lustre by gently washing in warm soapy water, rinsed and carefully dried on a soft towel. A toothbrush can also be used if jewellery is particularly fine or ornamented, and take care with cleaning rings with precious stones, that you give them a gentle wash so the stones do not become dislodged. *Polly*

The Name Game: Pseudophryne bibronii

Among its 250 or so species of frogs, Australia can boast two groups (genera) of small ground-dwellers which look rather like miniature toads, hence the common name 'toadlets'. The skin on their backs is rough and often warty; their legs are short, and they crawl rather than hopping. One genus, *Uperoleia* (Greek *uper*, above; Latin *olea*, olive; 'with an olive-coloured back'), is predominantly northern Australian. The other, *Pseudophryne* (Greek *pseudes*, false; Greek *phrynos*, toad) is more diverse in the south; it includes the two species commonly called Corroboree Frogs in the high country.

I've wondered for ages why Kerry Greenwood chose to call her female sleuth Phryne Fisher. At least in the TV series Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries, with Essie Davis in the eponymous role, I couldn't discern any affinity between the charming and irrepressible lady detective and stumpylegged, warty toads. But the light has dawned: Phryne was also an ancient Greek courtesan from the fourth century BC, who seems to be remembered only for the fact that she was put on trial for impiety. So the question isn't really why a young lady should bear the name Phryne, but rather why a toad might be so called. Are toads impious? How would you ever know? How would you know if they were pious, for that matter? In reality, of course, 'pious' and 'impious' have no applicability beyond the human domain; but could Phryne Fisher fairly be called impious? I think 'irreverent' would be a much more appropriate adjective to describe her.

What about *bibronii*, though? Gabriel Bibron was a late 18th century-early 19th century zoologist at the Museum of Natural History in Paris. He was assistant to Professor André Dumeril at that institution, and together they produced a number of heavyweight treatises on zoology in general and reptiles and amphibians in particular. Dumeril was primarily interested in the relationships at the generic and higher levels; Bibron prepared species descriptions. Both have a number of species named for them.



Bibron's Toadlet can be found on the Tableland; it breeds in low–lying areas in the autumn, and its call is a short, inconspicuous and unmusical 'ark'. As is true of most species

of *Pseudophryne*, its populations have declined sharply over recent decades, and it is on the Endangered list in Victoria. I keep an anxious eye on a small population near Marraweeney, wondering each autumn how many males I'll hear calling.

Angus Martin

Mushroom warning issued



Strathbogie Shire residents are being warned not to eat mushrooms that have been appearing in gardens around Victoria for fear they could be the poisonous Death Cap or Yellow-staining mushrooms.

The recent heavy rain throughout the state has seen an increase in the number of the deadly mushrooms, as well as a rise in the number of poisonings.

Dr Tianming Wang from the Violet Town Medical Centre warned residents to never eat food they cannot identify.

He said people who were poisoned by the mushrooms would show symptoms such as stomach cramping and shortness of breath, with mushroom poisoning causing the cutting off of blood supply and even death.

"We would say to people not to eat things they find and anything they don't know what it is," he said.

He said there was an antidote to treat mushroom poisoning, but treatment needed to begin immediately after the mushroom was eaten.

Strathbogie Shire Mayor Amanda McClaren urged residents not to harvest and to dispose of any mushrooms they found growing in their gardens and not to harvest mushrooms from public spaces. "Unless you are an expert in identifying these mushrooms, it is not worth the risk in consuming them."

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Coping with sudden change

With Panicdemic upon us, there is no plan, no itinerary and we don't yet know when it will end. In a gig economy with reduced gigs, we are each of us responding in different manners. We are all coming to terms with someone telling us we can't do what we love.

Everybody Hurts

Whether we recognise it or not, many are grieving at the moment. Grieving for the loss of what we had, lamenting our lost jobs, mourning our broken connections, searching for our social glue. Everyone experiences grief in different ways and right now is no exception. Some are angry, some in denial, some weeping and oh so many more just a bit shell-shocked and lost.

The 5 stages of grief are commonly accepted as:

- 1. Denial:
- 2. Anger;
- 3. Bargaining;
- 4. Depression;
- 5. Acceptance.

People won't necessarily go through all stages or in any particular order but it's worth recognising them and how they might relate to our common predicament.

The emotional symptoms will be different for us all. I've perceived shock, disbelief, anger and fear in myself over the last few weeks. They are powerful feelings and it is hard to have any clarity or purpose through these red mists. Recognising that they exist is the first step on a long path to accepting and dealing with them.

You may even experience some physical symptoms such as fatigue, nausea, insomnia or general aches and pains. This reaction is normal for some. I'm no doctor though, so take these words with the appropriate grains of salt. 000 is there for a reason.

A Bridge Over Troubled Water

There are many widely accepted ways of dealing with grief. Normally, friends and family members might offer a calming shoulder, therapists and counsellors a wise word, or a support group a common purpose or demon to slay. Physical distancing makes these hard.

Perhaps you have a faith that you can seek solace in. For once, I'm envious. Doing a few shows with TISM is the closest I've come to following an 'ism but whatever works for you is good.

Me - I'm talking (to significant others, friends and colleagues), walking (to keep the blood flowing), writing (for work and understanding) and eating moderate amounts of good food (to keep the body healthy). I also find a blast of super loud and angry music in the 'phones once or twice a day quite helpful. Maybe even smashing some nasty

monsters in a computer game. Again, find something to do that makes you feel good.

I've often used humour to cope with the tragedies and farces of life but even I have found this hard as our current upheaval continues. After the initial shocks, the realisation that we are mourning loss has made it a lot easier to process. I've now managed a few perverse smiles at some of the odder moments. Sick, huh? Maybe I've been to too many funerals recently.

Accustomed to picking myself up after being slapped down by life's challenges, I look for the silver lining and cling on to any few positives to be found in a maelstrom of negatives. It may seem that there is nothing good out there right now, but I beg to differ and see it as a matter of perspective.

Good Vibrations

For starters, the hyper-partisan bi-polarisation of our political system has been thrown out the window and politicians of all persuasions are actually talking together rather than yelling at each other so much. With luck, they might even get something constructive done. Experts in (at least) the disciplines of Health & Science are finally being listened to and not derided as "so called".

Neighbours are talking over the fence for the first time ever. Have you met yours yet? Communities are pulling together and our emergency responders and health workers are doing an even more amazing job than usual. People are getting creative and inventive and sharing their wins and quirks with the world.

Before getting swamped by the evil tide wave of the pandemic poo-nami, let's find some upsides. Hey, the sun still rose this morning ... I watched it ... it was sweet.

I'm Still Standing / I Will Survive / Lazarus / Fresh Feeling / The Show Must Go On / Eye Of The Tiger / I Won't Back Down / etc.

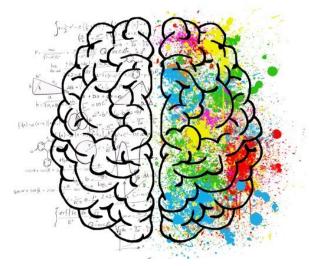


Whether you want it or not, necessity may mean it is time to try another career, or any career or job for that matter. Do whatever work you can to pay the bills and survive. Don't be shy in putting your hand up for the handouts that are on offer. For many of us, this will be the first time that we accept the largess of the

public purse but that is exactly what it is there for.

Continues page 14

Continued from page 13



Phoenix yourself - perhaps an inept metaphor given the summer we've just had - but desperate times call for desperate measures. Try and find a way to rise from the ashes, stronger than ever. Just remember to take time to breath, relax and assess along the way.

Panic! stopped the Disco

This pandemic started with a medical panic, then induced a mad economic panic, before the polemic became academic and the polity got dialectic. Phew! Eventually, we will get on top of this bug and some semblance of life will go on. We are down but not out and I know we have too many tenacious buggers that will not be defeated or cowed. We will persevere. Humans are the most ingenious of animals and Bogie locals some of the more inventive and adaptable amongst them.

In the meantime, using empathy, understanding and sharing a smile or two might help make the transition a little more bearable for all of us as the boffins tame this unseen beast while the rest of us adapt to whatever the new normal is going to be.

We are all in this pickle together. Alone in the physical sense, we are united in the social sense and should process our grief and disbelief collectively.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

I'll close with a recent quote from Videopro's everwise Cameron Douglas:

"In these hard times, please think about this.

Some people use humour to cope, others are offended by it.

Some people can remote work, others cannot.

People are panic buying in supermarkets and panic selling on stock markets.

Some people are losing their jobs, some their companies, some their super and some their minds as they grapple with full time parenting.

Everybody is responding to this in different ways, and we have to show tolerance to how they cope.

The world doesn't just need strong leadership, it needs strong networks.

Social Distancing, the most important term we've never heard before, is for the body, not the brain and not the heart.

Pick up the phone twice as much as you used to – call your friends, your family, your colleagues and your clients.

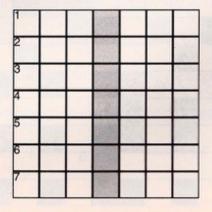
Stay connected – they need you, and whether you know it or not, you need them."

Johnno O'Brien

SPINNER

1D	E	С	Α	N	Т	S
² C	0	N	1	С	Α	L
3	N	N	1	N	G	S
4S	Е	С	U	R	Е	D
5B	R	Α	1	L	L	Ε
6	N	Т	R	U	D	E
7C	L	1	Е	N	Т	S

Use the same letters, but give them a spin and try to make seven new seven-letter words that read across the grid so that the centre column reading down also spells out a word.



Quiz Answer:

Casterton, on the Glenelg River. It is estimated the tree was a seedling in 1200AD. It was a well known landmark and referred to as 'Big Tree' or 'The Big Fella' by the middle of 20th century.

Strathbogie Landcare Tracks and Trails: Where are we at?

Have you explored the beauty surrounding Strathbogie Township that is right on your doorstep?

Many people said to me that last year's Bogart's Sculpture Walk was the first time they had visited the Bridge to Bridge Track (established by Strathbogie Landcare 12 years ago). As covid-19 restrictions are being eased, now is a great time to re/acquaint yourself with this track and possibly even venture further afield. Depending on the route you choose, you can now do a linear walk of 4km or loops up to 8km around the town. The bottom line is, the Bridge to Bridge extensions are ready to be "walked in".

What do I mean by "walked in"?

The extension trails created to date, and new ones being prepared, are a product of collaboration between Strathbogie Landcare, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Parks Victoria, Strathbogie Shire Council and Goulburn Valley Water. To ensure these trails are low impact, no engineering has been undertaken. Instead, trail markers have been put in situ to guide walkers along the route. As more people walk the trails a path will be foot padded into existence. This process has already been effective along the Seven Creeks Wildlife Reserve Trail between Smith's Bridge and Armstrong Avenue Bridge. You can return to Main St via Armstrong Ave to close a loop.

The Nganganu Trail upstream along Spring Creek and Magiltan Creek is coming along. There will be some brush cutting of long grass in coming weeks, but a few more walkers will make the difference in establishing this trail. Return via the Council Reserve to the Euroa-Strathbogie Rd to close the loop.

Woody weed treatment has been funded for another 2 years to make sure we have an ongoing impact.

Also, tracks and trails are the current focus of a Strathbogie Shire Project. Each month in Tableland Talk I will identify a new one to visit and enjoy. Here is a local one to start. Enter it into your browser.

Walk of the Month: https://walkingmaps.com.au/walk/4521



Whipping the Cream 'Round 'Bogie - Part 2

Max started this story last issue. Max Burnside used to do the cream run to Strathbogie over quite a few years. He wrote his story of one day, which is running in Tableland Talk over at 6 issues.

Well, here we are. Last parcel on board and we're off. Down Binney St, and over Burton's Bridge that allows us to cross the Sevens Creek. We'll see this creek quite a few times today, firstly just below Norm Watkin's farm not far from its source at Mt Piper. We turn right into Strathbogie Rd and are confronted with a slight lightening of the sky to the east. Will be daylight by the time we reach Kelvin View; looks like a nice day coming up. A couple of miles out we pass Reg Bright's house, quite close to the road with his woolshed opposite and very close to the road. Take care here, there's often sheep about, and his large red setter dog likes to chase the truck. I often wonder what he would do if he caught it.

Up a slight rise after the road at "The Willows", just over this rise one extremely wet spell, and the headlights picked up something unusual. There had been a landslide high up on the Balmattum Hill and the road was littered with mud, tussocks of rushes and quite a lot of rocks. The mud was axle deep for at least 100 yards. Quite a mess and quite difficult to negotiate. This hill used to have a lot of slips in the winter, and just by the very structure of it these will be ongoing. Coming down from 'Bogie one could count the many new slips as one had a good view of the southern and eastern face of the hill.

We are now running across the beautiful flats of the Sheans Creek, past Sheans Creek School and on to Gardiners Hill. This is the first of many hundreds of gear changes that will occur today. Then it's onto "The Rocks", this section is a steady one foot in twenty foot gradient right up to horse shoe bend. Down in second gear now, and will stay in that gear until our first stop, Ken Mackrell's on top of the horseshoe. Just crossed over the original old coach road, around the horseshoe and stop to put Ken's bread etc in his mailbox. Will pick up his cream on the way back.

I can see a couple of sets of headlights coming up the rocks, I wait for them to pass. They are two big log trucks - Vin Weinberg in his lovely clean Maple Leaf and Frank Beggs in the "Castle Creek Mills" Ford V8 - that's odd as Bert Harrison usually drives that. There'll be about ten log trucks on this road today and also the odd ute or car of bushmen. Nothing much will be coming down though. Too early for the school bus.



Just past the horseshoe bend is Walker's Rd. I go down there on the way back and pick up George Walker's cream and a little further down for Allan Mackrell's. There is quite a steep hill on the road to Walkers and when the previous cream carter, Alan Windburn, used to do this run in an "A" model ford, he had to reverse it up this hill as his fuel supply was a gravity feed. Consequently, by the time he came back to this point he was light on fuel, and it would not feed whilst facing up hill.

We continue on, still in second gear, up past Kelvin View where I see a set of headlamps approaching

from the right. It's Stan Crosbie in his stock truck. He's empty and must be off somewhere for a load. We are nearly at the Wombat turn off now. I often see a Barred Bandicoot in this area. Pull in to Les Broughton's now and drop off empty cans, meat, bread and butter - pick up cream on the way back. I like to get rid of as much as I can. I'm always short of space on the truck and just a few cans makes it so much easier. Four more log trucks pass while I am at Les's place - Bert & Dick Harrison each in a White, Joe Dillon in Castle Creek "Waukeshia" and Ron McKenzie in Castle Creek's other Ford V8.

On toward the top of the climb, drop parcels off at Lamson's place. Mr Lamson once grew tobacco here and the old kiln is still standing

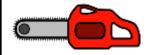
Max Burnside



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Give me a call or drop me a line. If I can't talk, I'll respond ASAP. (I'm still working in Euroa a couple of days a week).

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