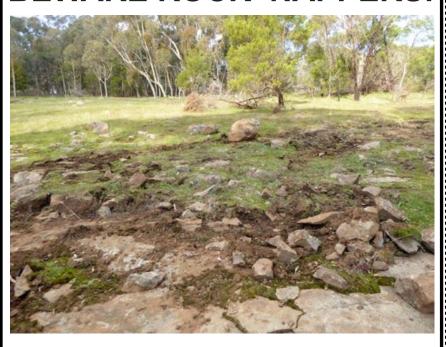
BEWARE ROCK-NAPPERS!



Be warned! In the last week or so of May (we weren't present at the time) a person or persons unknown in a heavy truck entered our Marraweeney property illegally.

They crossed from our property into the neighbour's (there's no boundary fence), initially bogging the truck, and then carrying out extensive shallow excavation of granite rocks.

I presume the invasion of private property stems from the fact that removal of rocks from the roadside is justifiably prohibited.

So, if you like your rocks, best keep an eye on them.

Angus Martin



What's On

No What's On items were submitted for July 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. Eng 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

Swanpool CINEMA

Closed until further notice

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

<u>Support Strathbogie Landcare</u> 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 0458 328 873

Got something to say?
Send us a

Letter to the Editor

Tableland Talk advertising rates

In light of the current impact on businesses of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tableland Talk Communications sub Committee has decided to return base advertising prices to previous rates and add a new 1/2 page rate.

Free community event advertising is at no cost. Business advertisements are charged per issue at $$7 \sim 1/6$$ page, $$12 \sim 1/4$$ page, $$15 \sim 1/2$ 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

I had to wait in line at the ATM after I did my shopping and someone pinched the frozen peas from the top of my bag.

You really have to watch your peas in queues these days!

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 August edition of Tableland Talk is Friday, July 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.

STRATHBOGIE TABLELAND ACTION GROUP INC.

Submission to Council Plan

STAG has made a submission to Council requesting that the following three items be included in the draft Council Plan:

- Provision of a footpath from Main Street to the Recreation Reserve
- Completion of the Spring Creek picnic structure project which includes providing a slip lane to access the area, ensuring that the structure is stable, providing suitable disabled access and landscaping

- Ember proof the Place of Last Resort

Township Signage

Following earlier community consultation, Township Signage was added to the Action Plan. While there have been several attempts to come up with a suitable design, the committee believes that it may be timely to revisit this project. We now have a clearly defined signage policy from Council, would have twelve months to complete it and, given the current lockdown situation, believe that the artistic members of our community may have time to come up with some fantastic designs.

Township Signage Policy requires that the design should be as follows:

Size

- a) have a surface area no greater than 3.5sqm; with
- b) lettering from 150mm to 300mm in height
- c) be composed of no more than: "Welcome to Strathbogie" and

the town slogan (optional)

The sign must have the appearance of a single panel with a consistent visual theme, style and colour scheme

Sign design is encouraged to align with Council's tourism marketing through the use of all or some of:

- a) the use of the positioning statement, e.g. "treasured location off the beaten path"
- b) 'Strathbogie Shire' with logo; and
- c) inclusion of the design element of the local character

Where a town sign is visible to a person leaving the town, the rear of the sign carries a message thanking people for visiting.

The design includes provision for the addition of temporary event additions such that, when installed, the additional signs appear as part of the town sign.

Designs may be submitted electronically by email to stag@strathbogie.org or lodged in the box provided at the local store.

Designs must be submitted by 5pm on Friday 25th September after which they will be exhibited for the community to make a decision.

Helen Peters, Secretary

RSL ANZAC Appeal

Although we are still in trouble with COVID-19, we were very pleased with the help we received from Pam at the Strathbogie Store for selling RSL ANZAC BADGES.

Our work in helping Veterans and their families is still a top priority of the RSL. If any of your readers know a Veteran or their family that may need help please don't hesitate to contact the Violet Town RSL or Yours Truly via email at

dualbrook@hotmail.com

Our general meeting is normally held every 2rd Thursday at 1400hrs at the RSL rooms in Violet Town. With all the restrictions still in force we may not be able to hold a general meeting in July.

A funeral to celebrate the life of one of our Veterans, Michael Peter Steele-Perkins, also known as Bluey, was held in Euroa today, 24th June.



LEST WE FORGET John Ryan

Quiz Question of the Month



The Melbourne Zoo was opened in 1862 and has been in operation ever since. How does this make the Melbourne Zoo special?

Answer: page 7



- Whole farm mapping
- Weed spotting
- Property photo/video
- Asset inspections
- Elevation mapping
- Thermal imaging
- Event photography



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E: Strathbogie. Engineering@pobox.com

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We also offer "Coomalong Estate" Oil re-fills and have recently commenced selling on order each week another great local product - "Milkwood Bread".

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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 business advertisements are charged per issue at \$7 \sim 1/6 page, \$12 \sim 1/4 page, \$15 \sim 1/2 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.

Tallangallook Exploratory Drilling for Gold

For those who have been in the area of Tallangallook recently, you will have noticed site work and safety signs. This is in preparation for exploratory drilling for gold adjacent to the old gold mines. At various times over the past 50 years the area has been drilled for this purpose. Tallangallook Creek produced 7 tons of gold in the latter part of the 19th century. There are 3 open pits and adits dating from that time.

For more on this subject, see Neil Phillips article on page 7.

Sean Mathews, Editor.

Letter to the Editor

Currawong Resources PL is currently evaluating the Golden Mountain prospect, at Tallangalook, which has had a long history of exploration drilling beginning in 1958, when the Mines Department drilled two holes there. From 1978 to 2004 there have been 277 holes drilled at Golden Mountain, with most of the drilling carried out in the early 1990s. In order for Currawong to assess the quality of this previous work we need to repeat some of this drilling, which is what we are currently doing.

We are also drilling deeper than the previous drilling in order to better understand the complex geology of the prospect. Our current work is purely of an exploratory nature. The permit is held as an Exploration Licence, which does not allow mining. There are two diamond drilling rigs on site, which are capable of drilling to at least 350m deep and they drill at a rate of about 20m per day, so the process is very slow and takes time. The drill sites are predetermined with Parks Victoria and we have fortnightly meetings on site with them to assess progress and to minimise environmental impact.

As part of our community engagement policy we would be interested in how Currawong may be able to help Landcare groups in the district. Suggestions may be submitted via our website.

In considering the Covid-19 issue and the current weather conditions, I think that for the time being we would prefer not to have visitors and I am sure there are many people that would be curious. I propose that we have small groups of people that register to see the drilling when the weather improves. Perhaps community group based members? e.g. Lions Club, Landcare, etc. We are in the process of improving the roads and tracks in the immediate area and there will be some trucking of crushed rock involved, so this would also be an impediment at the moment.

I checked the noticeboard at Strathbogie last week and I thought then that it could be a useful outlet for information. We will see about putting together a poster for that and other community noticeboards. We could also put some video footage on the website perhaps.

I expect that we will be drilling for the rest of the year at this stage, depending on results of course.

Regards, Rex Motton.

Currawong Resources P/L COO and Victorian Manager

HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR NEW DRAFT POLICIES

Council is preparing a range of new and revised policies and documents in response to the approval of a new piece of legislation that governs all that we do, the Local Government Act 2020.

We would like your input into the following draft policies:

Draft Public Transparency Policy 2020 – which seeks to implement the Act's public transparency principles and ensure our decision making is transparent and as much of the information we hold as possible is accessible to our community.

Updated Council Expenses Policy 2020 – minor changes have been made to our existing policy, which ensures expenditure on and by Councillors is clearly linked to them undertaking their public duties and that there is public transparency around the reimbursement of expenses through quarterly reporting.

Public Interest Disclosures Policy 2020 – this new policy reflects changes to the State 'whistleblower' legislation and aims to encourage people to raise concerns about the conduct of our staff and Councillors in a confidential way that protects the privacy and welfare of all concerned in the issue.

Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2020 – the current Audit Committee must be disbanded and a new Committee created under a new Charter. This Charter clearly identifies the extended role of the Committee as a corporate 'watchdog' and the composition of its members.

Copies of all these documents are available by either clicking on the 'Have Your Say' button on the home page of our website www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au or phoning our Customer Service team to request either a hard or email copy to be sent to you on 1800 065 993.

Please submit any written comments by the close of business Tuesday 14 July 2020 for the attention of Dawn Bray, Executive Manager Governance & Customer Service by:

Email to info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Letter to PO Box 177, Euroa, 3666

If you have any questions relating to the draft documents, please ask for Dawn Bray when calling 1800 065 993.



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Gold in Victoria: the big picture



In mid-1851, Victoria became a State in its own right, and either by coincidence or careful planning, the new State very quickly became the focus of a major gold

rush. In a remarkable exploration period, the goldfields of Bendigo, Ballarat, Castlemaine, Clunes, Warrandyte and many more were found by the end of that year. The method of exploration was basically to pan all the creeks in Victoria and to look for specks of gold. In a year or two Victoria had become the world's largest gold producer and there was an enormous population surge in Melbourne and regional centres. That gold being panned in waterways, called alluvial gold, was concentrated along the bottom of creeks because of its high density but also because of it relatively large particle size of 0.5 mm to 5 mm. Typically gold grains of this size indicate mineralisation in the hard rocks upstream and the prospectors followed creeks uphill until they found the source of their alluvial gold as auriferous quartz veins. Here they would dig shafts to see if a viable livelihood or even great wealth awaited them. All told, the government has estimated that there are about 7000 mines, shafts and workings across Victoria from the 19th century; most are very small. The wealth from the gold boom is still evident today in the infrastructure of Melbourne, Bendigo, Ballarat, Castlemaine, Beechworth, Beaufort and many other towns even though the mining has long finished.

Throughout the 20th century, gold in Victoria was in decline and eventually Western Australia took the lead after 1980 such that today Australia produces over \$20 billion worth of gold annually and mostly from the west. This is more than any other country barring the unsubstantiated figures for China (which may be similar). Until the last five years Victoria's contribution to this export success has been minimal, but a major find 20km east of Bendigo has turned Fosterville into one of the most profitable gold mines in Australia producing 600,000 ounces of gold annually.

The main gold producing rocks in Victoria are the ancient sandstone and shale making up much of the central highlands. A published figure gives the amount of granite throughout central Victoria as about 20% by area but it only accounts for 0.5% of Victoria's historic gold. It was concluded that these granites were highly unfavourable for gold. There

are old shafts in the middle of the Strathbogie granite, but these are mainly for crystals of quartz and tourmaline such as near Ruffy, and Crystal King mine near Mt Strathbogie. Some of the 7,000 workings are adjacent to granite such as near Yea, Gobur, Dry Creek, Tallangallook and Glen Creek, i.e. all goldfields along the southern margin of the Strathbogie granite. Whilst well behind Bendigo and Ballarat, the Tallangallook Creek and Dry Creek system has produced widespread alluvial gold that was traced upstream to Tallangallook and the saddle north of Vinegar Hill. The larger open pits adjacent to the granite at Avenel, Gooram and Lima South are not for gold, but for hornfels and basalt such as for road metal.

Neil Phillips

JUST THE OPPOSITE

The answer means the opposite of the clue!

Across		Down		
1	Buyer (6)	1	Expose (6)	
6	Awake (6)	2	Earliest (6)	
7	Go (6)	3	Walked (3)	
9	Slow (5)	4	Sink (5)	
10	Dawn (6)	5	Against (6)	
11	Release (3)	8	Specific (6)	
13	Subtract (3)	9	Old (6)	
15	Conceited (6)	12	Soothe (6)	
16	Reality (5)	13	Cellars (6)	
17	Lax (6)	14	Clumsily (6)	
18	Notice (6)	15	Minor (5)	
19	Unreliable (6)	17	Change (3)	

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Quiz Answer:

It is the oldest zoo still operating in Australia and one of the oldest in the world.



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

Letter to the Editor

Artistic Endeavours

"There has been a lot of too and froing from the Euroa end of the shire regarding walls, silos and murals in general. Some people love wall art, others see it as graffiti.

In Strathbogie we have been fortunate in having had the foresight to preempt the rush to have wheat silos turned into a work of art and included on a tourist trail with our own little telephone exchange mural. Personally I believe we have sufficient tourists already but our own wall art on the exchange certainly draws comment from visitors.

The actual workings of the project were many and varied. Telstra offered the building and finances to make it happen. Subject matter was canvassed community wide. The final five entries were voted for by those who visited the store. And so the mythological big cat was chosen.

Tim Bowtell from Tatong was the winning tendering artist and the work began.....and completed on schedule!

Tim has now gone on to achieve universal acclaim following his work on the Colbinabin Silos as well as his wall art in Benalla.

Perhaps the time is now approaching to undertake another community artistic endeavour? Bogartists have added the Creek art to our walks but how about a wind or solar powered installation? I hear that input will be called for on producing new township signage soon? Would the Boho South residents want to come on board? Maybe Kelvin View could be enhanced by welcoming signage as well? Keep an eye out for when it is announced.

Perhaps make a positive contribution via bogietree or via the pages of Tableland Talk?

Looking forward to what jumps up and surprises us!"

Contributed by Norm Deplume



Burning off? Don't toss any old waste onto the fire



With landholders making use of cooler weather to get some burning done, Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is warning that the mistake of tossing waste into the flames when burning off can be costly for farmers and the environment.

EPA North East Regional Manager Renee Palmer says many waste items turn toxic the moment they go into the fire. "Farm waste items like silage wrap, chemical containers and old tyres shouldn't be burnt because they produce toxic smoke, and can send residue into waterways and create chemical contamination that persists in the soil. Send them to landfill or a recycling facility," Ms Palmer said.

Silage wrap, some chemical containers and tyres can be recycled into building and fencing materials and floor matting. There's information on waste disposal and recycling at sustainability.vic.gov.au or on your local council website.

Fallen trees or other natural wood being burnt should be as dry as possible to keep down the volume of smoke, and farmers should make sure they have any relevant council or CFA permits. Timber from buildings, furniture or other manufactured products must not be burnt because it has probably been chemically treated.

EPA can fine offenders more than \$8,000 for burning anything other than vegetation-sourced matter like timber and crop stubble. "Most farmers understand the importance to their livelihood and their community of preventing contamination of the soil, water and air around them, and EPA uses a fine as a last resort," Ms Palmer said. "By thinking twice about what goes onto the pile when burning off, you can protect the environment and the wellbeing of your farm, your family and your neighbours," she said.

EPA urges people to report suspected pollution to the EPA on 1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC).





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Koala Life – A Strathbogie Story (for those who missed it on bogietree)

The Strathbogie School has been blessed with a resident Koala for many years. She comes and goes and has had many young ones. She has been hanging around the school and golf club in recent weeks and I think she is reaching the end of this life.

She walks very slowly and might have a sit down in the middle of the road for a rest. Please be mindful of our koala and keep an eye out for her, give her space and if you see her sitting around on the ground or at the base of a tree give me or Amanda a call. Amanda, our wonderful Tableland Wildlife Carer wants to have a look at her to see how she is traveling.

At the primary school we have had a little fire, sang and gave thanks for our Koala. She has seen many tableland children grow up over the years and has been a delight for many others.

Suzie Bates



I have worked on koalas (as a biologist) for many, many years, and have been surveying for them in the Bogies since 1991 – and the long term patterns people are commenting on, about abundance of koalas locally, are interesting.

As far as we can work out, koalas were here in the Bogies at European settlement, but in low numbers. It appears they may have died out by the early 20th century. When we talked to some old locals, in the early 1990's they couldn't recall seeing koalas when they were children. Koalas were released in the Strathbogie's by the wildlife department from 1941- 45, and the population seems to have grown steadily but slowly, so that when we started surveying in the early 1990's they were very abundant. They have been in slow decline again over the last 15-20 years and seem to be at fairly low abundance currently, however whenever we survey blocks of forest we still find sign of them (their faecal pellets are quite distinctive). We also spotlight for them and have put out recording devices to pick up the distinctive call of the males. A few years ago, we detected them at all 19 sites we surveyed out in the forested areas of the Bogies so that is heartening. Also, it is not unusual for us to see long-term fluctuations in koala populations, however now we have to be much more concerned about declines, especially

in the face of hotter summers and very extensive bushfires – as these may cause local extinctions.

The slow population growth in the Bogies is due to a reproductive infection (spread throughout naturally occurring koala populations all over Australia). This is caused by a bacterium called Chlamydia, and causes many females to become infertile, but some females do continue to breed. Another reason for the decline in more recent times, in my view, is the number of animals killed on the roads – the amount and speed of the traffic has increased substantially since the early 1990s, the time over which I have been working in the Bogies, and I have recorded many, many road-kills (as one of you commented on) – this can drive populations down locally, especially along the busier roads, and especially if the population growth rate is fairly slow. Also, koalas move on the ground more at night and are difficult for drivers to see.

The comments on the koala at the school fit perfectly with what we know about their biology – they tend to live in quite a local area for their whole life once they become adults, typically moving over a few hectares. I have had some of my females on French Island live to 17-18 years (amazing!), however most females only live to around 10-12 years, and the latter is probably very much the case in the Bogies where we have colder tougher winters than down on the coast. Ultimately as koalas get old, their teeth start to wear out, so they can't chew the eucalypt leaves that they eat very well, and they start to lose weight. They also get slow (lack of energy) and some suffer from arthritis when they are old, and the description of the old girl stopping and sitting when she is on her way somewhere fits with this. Typically, more old animals will die over winter – there is really nothing much that can be done to help them at this stage, as they are sadly nearing the end of their natural life, however they can persist a bit longer in captivity with the extra care and less exposure to cold and rain.

Kath Handasyde

Our Natural World – Strathbogie Ranges Nature View



One of the key reasons many people choose to live in the Strathbogies, is to be surrounded by the natural world – be that, forest, paddocks, wetlands and streams, or rocky outcrops.

Witness the care and delight that so many people expressed for 'Our Koala' on Bogie-tree, empathising with the 'Bogie School's unofficial and much loved Koala mascot. Indeed, as much as anything else, Koala's define much of what it is to live in and love the Strathbogies.

For the last nine years, starting in July 2011, we have been sharing stories about nature and nurture, the beautiful and the dangerous, the past and present, on the blog Strathbogie Ranges Nature View. The most popular page on the site tells the landscape history of the Strathbogie Ranges during the 400 million years since the ranges were first born.

In the last few months, as well as stories about nature and history, we've begun sharing the many and varied tracks and trails that abound in the Strathbogies and beyond. Walking is a favorite pastime of many – locals and visitors. Having tracks and trails of diverse difficulty, location and landscape makes the district so much richer and easier to enjoy.

If you have an interest in the natural world and wish to contribute to the blog, we're more than happy to feature your content, especially if accompanied by a good picture, or two! Even if you're not getting out as much during Covid19, you can always escape a little on-line with

https://strathbogierangesnatureview.wordpress.com/

or perhaps walk a featured trail! But don't just look at the most recent stories, explore the site's more than 450 stories, as well as multiple pages of content accessible via the top menu.

Bert & Sean

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grid systems, DIY or full install, very sharp pricing, or use our nationwide installation service. Ask about our simple install prewired boards (incl. fuses etc.) - makes the job easy, suits houses, vans, boats, etc. Victron (Dutch company 1973) full range of components, inverters, chargers, controllers, all 5-year warranty. Easy solar pump kits for bores, dams, creeks, etc. OR Solarize that big irrigation pump. Full range of batteries, lead carbon, lithium, Australian made, shipping Australia wide. 1300 669 256, sales@commodoreaustralia.com.au www.commodoreaustralia.com.au



Presidential Know How

By Donmil
This is my foolproof method
For staying on top of the game:
Always grab all of the credit
Always pass on any blame.



Strathbogie Shire Customer Service Centres reopen

Strathbogie Shire Council's Customer Service Centres in Euroa and Nagambie have reopened.

While Council has been providing a face-to-face service by appointment during the past few weeks, the relaxation of restrictions means the community can visit at any time during opening hours.

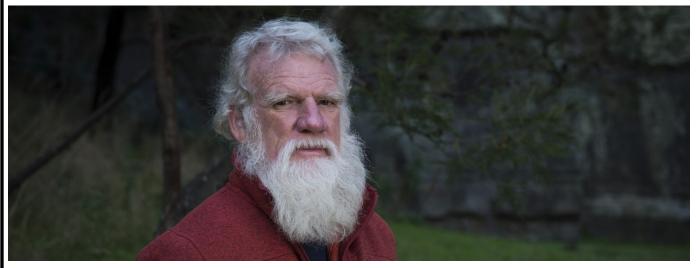
"We will be asking people to maintain social distancing requirements, limit the number of customers to four at a time and use the sanitation stations available at the front door," Cr McClaren said.

The Euroa office, at 109a Binney St, is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

The Nagambie office, at 293 High St, is open from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

For more information go to www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

The Bookshelf – notes from the Bohomians Bookclub



Dark Emu by Bruce Pascoe, Magabala Books, 2014 (reprinted yearly to 2019)

In *Dark Emu*, Professor Bruce Pascoe challenges the accepted view of (pre-colonial) Indigenous Australians as hunter-gatherers – "simply wandering from plant to plant, kangaroo to kangaroo, in a hapless opportunism". To inform the reading public of a "much more complicated Aboriginal economy", he turns to an impressive number of archived early sources: the journals and diaries of explorers such as Charles Sturt, Major Thomas Mitchell and Hamilton Hume; the archived records of early colonists, such as the Beveridge and Gilmore families; the administrative records of the Chief Protectors of Aborigines, such as Robinson; as well as scores of material by myriad latter-day researchers. What is recorded there clearly demonstrates that pre-colonial Aboriginal peoples practised agriculture and aquaculture, built permanent dwellings and storage facilities, and employed a sophisticated and sustainable method of mosaic burning to manage the land.

Dark Emu created a furore among commentators and stirred up a nasty and personal attack on Pascoe – one based mainly on identity politics. However, such an attack missed Pascoe's underlying aim: time and time again throughout Dark Emu, he asks for a new, more intelligent conversation to be had, one which acknowledges the vested interests of early white settlement in their portrayal of the Indigenous population as a primitive and dying race. Such profiling, which he argues has not been thus far seriously interrogated, allowed the colonists to justify their appropriation of land and their harsh treatment of the people they encountered. He is aware that this may not be a popular pill to swallow: "Some people are so fixated with Aboriginal incapacity that any thought of a sophisticated Aboriginal civilization undermines the validity of the colony itself" (Sunday Age, January 19, 2020).

This is an important and fascinating book that will hopefully be read by all Australians and make its way onto senior school curriculums. It can only benefit the so-far tortured path to Reconciliation.

<u>Interesting Note:</u> In autumn, 2020, Bruce Pascoe and a team of workers harvested a crop of native kangaroo grass on his property in East Gippsland, subsequently grinding it into flour and baking a 'sensational' bread, which they've named 'mamadyang ngalluk'. This use of a grain milled and baked by Australia's First Nations people, 'probably (for) the first time in 200 years', is an early step in a promising venture. ('Epicure', The Age, June 23, 2020).

<u>On the author:</u> Bruce Pascoe identifies as a Yuin and Boonwurrung (Bunurong) man, his ancestral line deriving, respectively, from Tasmania and Central Victoria. In 2016, *Dark Emu* was awarded the NSW Premier's Literary Award and was Book of the Year.

<u>Next Month</u>: *Too Much Lip* by Melissa Lucashenko, UQP, 2018 (Winner of the Miles Franklin Award, 2019) *Ruth Fluhr*

The Ghost of Edward

Loud roars the wind that shakes this wall, It is no common blast: Deep hollow sounds pass through my hall: O would the night were past!

Methinks the demons of the air Upon the turrets growl, While down the empty winding stair Their deepening murmurs roll. The glimmering fire cheers not the gloom, How blue its weakly ray! And, like a taper in a tomb, But spreads the more dismay.

But will these fancies never cease?
O would the night were run!
My troubled soul can find no peace
But with the morning sun.

Joanna Baillie



A Winter Warmer: Vegetable Curry

From Terry Frewin

Delish: Our Family Favourites Peranbin Primary College 2012.

1 tbs oil or ghee

2 tsp turmeric

1 tsp ground cumin

1 tsp mustard seed

1 tsp fenugreek

4 tsp ground coriander

1/2 tsp chilli flakes

1 tsp minced ginger

1/2 tsp black pepper

280ml milk

2 tbs white vinegar

400g tomatoes chopped or fresh

1 tbs tomato paste

2 tsp brown sugar

1 tsp vegetable stock powder

Vegetables as desired. Sweet potato, potato, carrot cauliflower, broccoli, peas etc.



Method

Combine spices and cook gently in the oil or ghee. Once spices start to sizzle, add vinegar. Add tomatoes and stir until combined. Add milk, sugar, stock and chopped vegetables. Mix to coat in spices and cook until tender.

Note: Soaked nuts, paneer cheese or tofu can also be added.

Balmattum Hill Walking Track reopens to the public



The track has been closed since a bushfire in January, which burnt about 350 ha of land from the Strathbogie-Euroa Rd along the Balmattum Hill toward Cusack Rd.

Reopening the walking track has been a significant effort by Strathbogie Shire Council. It has had to replace 140m of fence, repair the Rotary Rotunda and ensure expert arborists deem the trees along the track within Council land as safe.

"This walking track is one of our Shire's great attractions with people coming from across our region and beyond to enjoy the walk and views from the top. You may not know that during World War II soldiers physically trained by

carrying rocks up the hill and they remain stacked along the track side today," says Deputy Mayor John Mason.

The Balmattum Hill Walking Track has two options for walkers, these being:

- The short walk: From the carpark to the rotunda is 300m. This track was constructed in 2001 by the Euroa Rotary Club to commemorate the Centenary of Federation.
- The long walk: From the rotunda to the end of the track is 1030m with 168m of incline. This section was constructed in 2011 by the Euroa Rotary Club as an extension to the short walk creating access to the surrounding bushland and views over the Euroa Township and across the Victorian Northern Plains.

Cr Mason reminded walkers to wear sturdy walking shoes and in case of emergency to phone 000. "Across our beautiful Shire we have many kilometres of walking tracks for residents and visitors to enjoy. It's most definitely one the things that makes our Shire so special," he said.

Distance Difficulty

Walk of the Month:

https://walkingmaps.com.au/walk/4536

2.6km return

Short walk to rotunda: easy

Long walk to top: moderate/intermediate A long steady incline with steep sections

Peranbin Primary College Strathbogie Campus

Peranbin Primary College News

It has been a very interesting term for all involved in education across Victoria (and the globe). Despite the challenges and concerns about COVID 19, the students at our Strathbogie campus have continued their education via remote and flexible learning We have been back at school for the last 5 weeks. We acknowledge that this has been unsettling, but overall our students are back in the swing of things at school. Which brings me to the next talking point. Our lovely classroom teacher and Campus Manager Jenna Barratt is soon to welcome her first child – I am waiting by the phone to hear! Jenna received a lovely gift from the Strathbogie Parents Club, and I thank them for that. We have been very fortunate to have such a dedicated and high quality teacher.

I am pleased to welcome Michael Greenaway to Strathbogie in the senior classroom. Michael is an experienced teacher who has now settled in well to the campus and I have included the brief profile he wrote for the Peranbin Press in May.

Angela Holleran — Principal

Hello Strathbogie!!!

My name is Mr Michael Greenaway. I currently live in Nagambie with my wife Nicky and my four kids, Oliver (6), Charlie (5), Matilda (3) and Hugh (1).

I have enjoyed working as a teacher and principal for a number of years. I have worked at schools in Yea, Seymour, Euroa and Longwood.

For the last 5 years I have been a pilot and flight instructor. Most recently, I have been working out of Mangalore, training new pilots for China Southern Airlines. Before this, I was working out of Rockhampton, flying doctors and nurses out to remote communities throughout central Queensland.

I thoroughly enjoyed flying and instructing, but I am really looking forward to getting back into the classroom at Strathbogie!

In my spare time, I am usually up the river or on the lake at Nagambie-fishing or heading out in the boat for a swim.

I also enjoy rebuilding motorbikes, woodwork and gardening. I enjoy spending time outside and like to keep busy with lots of different building projects.

I have a German Shepherd named Snowy, who is about 6 months old. She is very energetic and loves going for a run and playing with the kids. She's a little crazy-but we love her!

I can't wait to meet you all over the next few weeksand I bet you're all hanging out to get back to school hang out with your mates again!







Whipping the Cream 'Round 'Bogie - Part 3

Max started this story 2 issues ago. He 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.

... Off again. Good view of Stribling's "Sugarloaf" from here. Pretty rough hill that one. I recall once that Mr Stribling tried to give it to any of his men, no strings attached, but there were no takers. Sad sight just around the next bend, we turn on to the Kithbrook road now, and won't see any more asphalt until we return to this point when we're homeward bound. Often see those shy little phascogales running up and down the trees in this area. No-where else though, but as they are nocturnal. I suppose I should not expect to see them later than this. Bill Armstrong tells me there's quite a few around Boho South.

Mick Williams' two log trucks just went by – Mick in the KS5 Inter and Bill Ballard in the KB6 Inter. I won't see those trucks again until the home run as they go to Toorour through the 'Bogie township, although some will use Boundary Rd which is in Violet Town Shire. I think this only occurs when Euroa Shire goes 'crook' at them. I will always see Rex Belcher and Percy Anker out that way, also the Leersons. Rex has a fairly old "D" model Inter, Percy a K5 model Inter and Leersons a very nice looking GMC. Rex and Percy are the most gentle drivers you would ever meet, nice blokes too.

Down the Kithbrook road now – thick private bush on my right, clear vacant land on my left. Don't know who owns that, but later Tony Marmo will and later still Colin Law.



Now comes the tricky part as I negotiate the hundred yards or so of corduroy road just past Clem Hobbs gateway and extending to the end of Harrys Creek Road and maybe even beyond. Not too bad when poles are first placed on road, but constant traffic mainly log trucks, causes the poles to break up into short lengths. This corduroy is laid in very, very bad "spewy" ground as the only alternative to using the road. I liken it to driving over a wood heap in a swamp. The Shire Council originally laid the corduroy but often one would see the various sawmill crews replacing broken poles with fresh blue gum poles, and you would also see mill men replacing split and broken bridge timbers. I think the millers and

log carters were virtually "walking on egg shells", as the Shire was not amused at the road damage. Later these bad spots were dug out and "aggy" pipes placed under the road, making a near perfect surface.

Next stop, the "West Corner", near the old West Hall, opposite Rob Delahey's house. I notice a horse and cart, a horse and sulky and an old ute parked at the Hall – must be preparing for a function soon. I don't recognise any of the vehicles.

I meet the Strathbogie Baker here and transfer about 50 to 60 loaves of bread to a box for delivery on the run. The baker is Gordon Sarah, a vibrant bloke who just could not stand still for a minute, Gordon comes with me to deliver bread as it is unwrapped and my hand get filthy from the verdigris on the cream cans. Gordon just handles the bread, nothing else, although if I shove him hard enough he will open gates for me.

Later, for following bakers I would go to 'Bogie and load bread straight from bakehouse, hot pies also, yum yum. Bakers in my time were Gordon Sarah, Thompson and sons, Ron Fletcher (ex Tobruk Rat), and lastly Hayden and Noleen Shaw.

Turn left now and head down to Deans for cream etc, then to Joe Broughtons. Joe is Harrys Dad. Harry was about 9 years older than me, a big strong young man, he would help me on with heavy cans. Just about the entrance to Broughton's road stood a large tree (peppermint, I think) that stood fair and square in the centre of the road, traffic going each side.

On from Broughtons to Tom Laws. From Toms dairy I could look across the paddock to Steens and Smarts only about half a mile or so, but close to the end of the run and maybe four hours away. Bugger! Part 4 next month

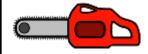
Max Burnside



Now open in Strathbogie - Ted Paterson's Mechanical Servicing and Repairs.



Need a small engine repaired, a mower fixed, a chainsaw sharpened, trailer lights relit, basic car servicing or brake work? With years of previous experience delivering mechanical repairs to the Strathbogie community - I'm back and I'm your man!



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).

Mob: 0438 017 361 E: alexvic64@gmail.com

