

June 2015

The Biggest Winter Man Celebration Ever

On the coldest, darkest night of the year, let us come together and celebrate the winter solstice and leave behind the past year. Write down your fears, gripes and grievances – then offer them to the fire and watch them burn!

Midwinter celebrations of this kind have been practised from time immemorial. There is great doubt about how our local celebration arrived on the Tableland. Some believe it was brought here by earlier settlers who fled persecution in Europe. It is thought that they celebrated secretly for many generations until the turn of the millennium when local prejudice against Druidry had largely subsided. The first recorded reference to Winter Man is in Ye Old Tableland Talk dated June 2007. By this time the way of the Druid had been fully embraced by the local community and the Winter Man has been celebrated publicly every year since.

Together we can celebrate the annual cycle and join with a 'Petition to the old Gods for the returning of the light'. With a clear sky, this year's Winter Man fire will be visible from the Hubble Space Telescope as it passes through Andromeda before transiting Mercury at 6:19 on Sunday morning. Many truckloads of light flammable material will be available to make this dream a reality. Be assured that many local CFA members will be present to keep things under control.

The local Ovates have declared this year's auspicious day to be Saturday 20th June.

Our Bards have agreed that the ley lines have once again crossed at Bullagreen, 1948 Strathbogie Road, Strathbogie.

- Winter Man building begins at 2pm for those seeking initiation.
- Celebrations commence at sunset (5:08pm).
- Bring your own food, drink, warm clothes and written grievances.



Photo: Penny Long

What's on June

1st June - last Strathbogie-ites lunch at the Hall

7th June - Lunch for Shaky Mountains - Community Fundraiser for Nepal

11th June - Defibrillator

15th June - 6pm - Neighbourhood Safer Place meeting

20th June - Strathbogie Winterman

26th June - Last day of school term

26th June - 8.30am - Jump Rope for Heart - healthy breakfast and jump-off to follow - skipping ropes provided

July - AGM Month

14th July - 7.30pm STAG AGM

First Monday of the month - Over 70's lunch at the Hall.

Second Tuesday of the month - 7.30pm STAG meeting at Strathbogie Hall

Every Tuesday - 9.30am Tennis at the Rec Ground, Strathbogie

Every Tuesday - 10.30am Tai Chi at the Boho South Hall.

Every Wednesday - Material Girls - 10am - Rec Ground - BYO lunch. New-comers welcome - Ph Jenny Walker 57905111 or Jill Smith 57905159

Every Wednesday - 7.30pm Strathbogie Singing Group - St Andrews Church - Strathbogie (except in School Holidays) ph. Di Mackrell 57905241

Every Friday morning - 9.15am Yoga - Strathbogie Hall

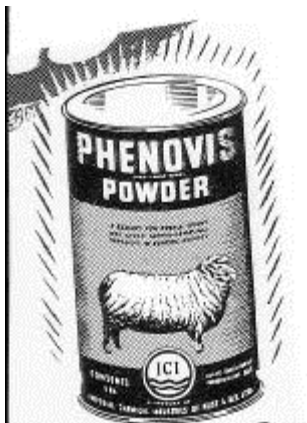
Every Second and Fourth Sunday - Church service at Strathbogie Church - 11.30am

First Wednesday of the month - 1.30pm Strathbogie Garden Group. Contact Wendy 57908523

Third Sunday of the Month - 3pm SCOFF at the Rec Ground



Missing - The Material Girls have found that their grey extension cord that they use for their sewing each Wednesday at the Rec Ground appears to have gone. If anyone has borrowed it by mistake or know of its whereabouts could you either return it to the Rec Ground or contact Jill Smith 57905159.



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57905349**

**Chris Thomson
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**Ross Walker
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This funds this newsletter, but still
there are some outstanding ac-
counts. Please email
tablelandtalk@gmail.com



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person is Kim Usher
Ph 5790 5345**

Mobile Library dates for Strathbogrie

**(every 2nd Saturday,
9.30 - 12 noon)
6th and 20th June
4th and 18th July**



**Deadline for July edition - 26th June. Email: tablelandtalk@gmail.com, ph 57905203, post PO, Strath-
bogrie, or leave contributions at the Strathbogrie Store. The TT team.**

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACE IMPORTANT COMMUNITY MEETING

Date & Time: Monday 15th June at 6pm

Location: Strathbogie Memorial Hall

At the start of the 2014/15 fire season the Fire Captain advised Council that he had serious reservations about the designated Neighbourhood Safer Place.

A meeting was held at the end of January with representatives from CFA (Shepparton and Strathbogie), Golf Club, Memorial Hall, STAG and a couple of interested members of the community to discuss this issue.

At this meeting the CFA clarified the requirements for a Neighbourhood Safer Place and, at the request of Council, it was agreed that the CFA would conduct an assessment of the hall. It was also agreed that the Shire would seek advice from an arborist in relation to the trees in Armstrong Avenue.

A follow up meeting was held on 20th May at which these reports were presented.

Council has arranged a special meeting on 15th June at which details of these reports will be presented to the wider community and input will be sought re a preferred option for the NSP.

It is important to understand that Neighbourhood Safer Places are places of absolute last resort and may not provide shelter from the elements, particularly flying embers.

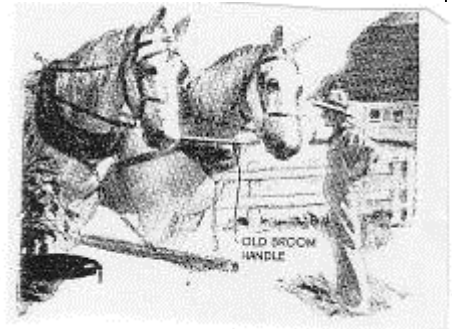
They are NOT a fire refuge. Further information on Neighbourhood Safer Places may be obtained from the CFA website (cfa.vic.gov.au)

Harry Broughton told me this story probably about 10 years ago.

"When I was a boy, say about 14, I used to do a lot of rabbiting. I had had a really good few weeks on the rabbits, and had quite a few skins ready to be sold.

We had a fellow who was on the property next door who had decided he wanted to sell his working horse. He had been offered ten quid from a fellow nearby but thought that he would get more for the horse if he sold it at the Benalla Sales. So he offered me a deal – he would take my rabbit skins to the rabbit in Melbourne if I took his horse to the train in Violet Town and then to the sale in Benalla. This sounded like a good deal so I said yes.

When the day arrived, I hopped on the horse and set off for the train in Violet Town. Well, all was going well, but I missed the train and so decided to ride the horse on to Benalla for the sale.



The poor horse had just been ridden from Strathbogie, so you can imagine the state it was in. We had arrived just as the last horse was being sold. He was put into the ring and as you can imagine, he didn't make the best price. He ended up selling for less than the fellow got for my skins in Melbourne."

Fiona Townsend

Reminiscences - by Ken Dunnachie. We set off for town in our old ute and were going along quite well when a muffled sort of explosion came from the engine. Hot water and steam came up through the cracks in the floorboards all over Helen's legs. She didn't have anywhere to go. I pulled over rapidly and piled out. So did she. We didn't know what had happened. We found out afterwards that there is a special little plug of a different alloy especially designed to blow out if pressure build up in the engine block. It is called a Welch plug.

It saves the engine block from being damaged. We were blissfully unaware of all of this of course, and after Helen had settled down, we decided to hail a passing car that happened to have a rope on board. I was never very happy being towed. Of course we didn't have the advantages of snatch straps in those days. Being towed along flat ground wasn't too bad, being towed slightly uphill was a breeze, but being towed downhill was a pain because the vehicle being towed kept creeping up on the front vehicle. This meant you had to keep riding the brake. The old mechanical brakes got a bit hot.



During the 1950's two log trucks did two trips a day past our place. They had some sort of water container under the chassis and when they got to the hill at Kelvin View, they must have turned on a tap and water dripped down onto the brake drum to keep it cool.

If you happened to be following a log truck down hill you would see a water trail down the middle of the road.

The Euroa Library - The Goulburn Valley Regional Library is starting a membership upgrade drive. We need everyone to update their library card over the next 3 months, starting 1 March to 31 May. We are asking all our members to pop into their library to update their library membership details. Goulburn Valley Regional Library is joining the Swift "One Library Card" in July 2015. This means everyone will be able to use their library card at any of the Swift libraries. Swift libraries include Goulburn Valley Regional Library, High Country Library, Gannawarra Libraries, Central Highland Libraries, Mitchell Shire Libraries and many others. You will be able to use your library card at all these libraries! Ask us for more information when you update.

The Goulburn Valley Regional Library is celebrating the 2015 Reading Matters Regional Tour with a Writing For

Youth Competition. This writing competition will provide an opportunity for the community to write for youth in the form of a short story, article, journal, poem, lyric or rap. Join in our writing competition and send in your entry/ies by 30 June 2015. Visit your local library to borrow youth books or visit our webpage to download ebooks for inspiration and ideas.

We would love to include your entry in a 'Share Your Story' book the library is compiling. This book aims to collect and preserve our stories for our heritage. This collection of local stories, postcards and poetry will be published and made available in your local library in the future.

Writing For Youth certificates, awards and prizes will be announced in July. For more information contact the Euroa Library or Anne Tomietto by email annet@gvrlc.vic.gov.au or phone on 5832 1622.

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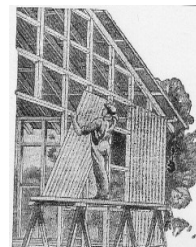
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There are lots of people I didn't get to say 'bye' to when I moved out of Strathbogie. I haven't moved far - to Euroa - but will be away a lot this year so may not get to see many of you.

I want to say a few thankyou's to the folk of Strathbogie. Firstly to everyone who helped me with the move - from beautifying the house, cleaning the house, sorting my stuff - so many small and large jobs done by family and friends and so appreciated. I also want to thank the community for your many wonderful and varied activities and opportunities to be involved. I remember friends coming to visit and saying "but what do you do here?" They were incredulous when I described what went on and that (at one stage) I was out 4 or 5 nights a week! I am also grateful for the experience of country living - why didn't I do this sooner? What a good life for children - and how good would it be if more city folk could get a taste of country life?

Thanks also to the people who welcomed me when I first moved to Bogie in Jan 2009. To those who extended the hand of friendship, the chance to belong and be included, a very big thankyou.

I fondly remember the 'ladies book club', badminton on freezing cold nights, Friends of Bridge to Bridge group,

occasional visits to Material Girls, Rosen exercise class, the knitting group (4 of us huddled round the fire at Deb Ellis on Main St), dances at the hall, Golf Club dinners, Summer Festivals, the Strathbogie Mexican festival, the famous Rec Ground dinners, SCOFF of course, the Bogie film nights, bushwalks on the Tableland, the Strathbogie Singers, the Circle of Elders, the never ending coffee at the store- it goes on and on!

I penned a ditty a couple of years ago though was never brave enough to sing it. It's to the tune of Beautiful Dreamer.....

Beautiful Bogie welcomed me
Beautiful Bogie, not girt by sea
Beautiful Bogie, clean fresh air
Beautiful Bogie, I stop and I stare

Beautiful Bogie, home to the birds
Beautiful Bogie, I'm quite stuck for words
Beautiful Bogie welcomed me
Beautiful Bogie, not girt by sea.

Thanks Bogie and farewell, Heather



STRATHBOGIE TABLELAND ACTION GROUP

Defibrillator

Brian Moffatt from Ambulance Victoria will demonstrate use of a defibrillator at 6pm on Thursday 11th June in the Memorial Hall. Members of the community are encouraged to attend.

Email Addresses for Community Groups

STAG's Communications sub-committee, which is responsible for management of the community website and support for Tableland Talk, has recently established email addresses for community groups. If you wish to contact one of these groups you no longer need to know who to contact on the committee or their individual email address. Addresses set up so far are:

stag@strathbogie.org

cfa@strathbogie.org

rec@strathbogie.org

tablelandtalk@strathbogie.org

Other groups wishing to establish their own email address should contact John Hooper at johnnyhoops@gmail.com

Action Plan Review

STAG has received several suggestions for inclusion in the Action Plan. The committee will now develop a draft to be presented to the community.

Roads Sub-committee

A representative from STAG's Roads Sub-committee met with representatives from the Shire to inspect the Creek Junction/Euroa Strathbogie Road intersection. The Shire will apply for black spot funding for this intersection.

Tracks and Trails Strategic Opportunities Study

Over the past few months Council has been investigating the development of walking tracks, horse trails and bike routes across the Shire. A final report will be available in a few weeks however draft recommendations to date are:

Communicate existing popular road cycling routes within the Shire and work with Vic Roads to install relevant signage and conduct any required road maintenance works to ensure safety of motorists and cyclists alike.

Document and capture existing tracks and trails within the reach of the townships. Develop a dedicated business development and communications strategy to attract specialist cyclists, walkers and horse riding groups to the region. Complete an electronic brochure and online format for distribution to the local community, visitors and dedicated cycling/walking/trail riding groups.

Develop a tool kit for the business community to assist in meeting the needs of cycle tourists.

Lobby V/Line to develop consistent platform usage or communicate in advance to enable cyclists to more safely and more quickly load bikes for travel. Install information and shelters at train stations within the Shire to welcome and support tracks and trails users – particularly cyclists and walkers.

Annual General Meeting

STAG's AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th July at the hall. All community members are encouraged to attend and participate in the future of our community.

The Bookshelf:

reading notes for the Bohomians Book Club

At the March meeting of the Bohomians Book Club, members tackled a most demanding yet engaging work: *The Luminaries*, by Eleanor Catton. First published in New Zealand, the book was picked up by the famous Granta Publishing house and subsequently won the Man Booker Prize. The *Luminaries* is the longest book ever to win the prize and, at 28, Catton is the youngest winner to date. Catton is a graduate of the prestigious Iowa Writers' Workshop whose alumni pride themselves on producing works of excellence, artistic élan and innovation.

Apart from the convoluted and sometimes wayward plot, the Bohomians discussed the themes and motifs employed in *The Luminaries*. Thus, each of the twelve men we meet in the first chapter has an associated star sign that 'illuminates' both his character and his destiny. There are twelve parts to the book and the second half is written in ever-diminishing chapters that mimic the waning moon.

Set in New Zealand's Hokitika gold fields in 1866, a new arrival, Walter Moody, encounters the twelve, becoming an uneasy thirteenth to be ensnared into a

complex web of crimes. A lawyer, Moody is also the catalyst for unravelling a plot that culminates in a trail. Gold, greed and passion provide the motive for the various crimes. The mysterious disappearance of Emory Staines is thought to be murder, but he resurfaces – at death's door – and turns out to be the spiritual twin of the prostitute, Anna Wetherell.

Women, in an accurate reflection of goldfield's life, are scarce in this work; the opium-addicted prostitute, Anna; the brothel madam and charlatan, Lydia Wells; and the abused and sorry figure of the put-upon housewife, the prison governor's wife, Margaret Shepherd. Yet all three are pivotal to this work, and are fully brought to life with tenderness, wit and compassion.

If the book has any failings, one could say that some of the characters amongst the group of twelve are not fully realised. This writer would have liked to have heard more from the Maori, Te Rau Tauwhare, who provided the voice for a people dispossessed of their lands. At times, his voice hovered perilously close to a stereotypical description of Rousseau's 'noble savage' – a man not corrupted by civilisation. These are minor quibbles, though, in a work that is undeniably brilliant.

Elisabeth Holdsworth

2015/2016 Community Grants Applications Now Open

Applications are now sought from the Strathbogie Shire community under Council's Community Grants Program 2015/16

Information kits and forms can be obtained by downloading from Council's website

www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au or by contacting the Community Grants Officer Lyn Newnham on 1800 065 993 or via email lyn.newnham@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

All intending applicants MUST contact Lyn Newnham to discuss their project/event prior to submitting an application.

Applications close 4.00pm Friday 10th July 2015.

No applications received after this time will be considered.

Applications will be awarded by Council in September 2015.

Information Sessions

A series of information sessions will be held to explain the Community Grants program, how to apply and how we can help.

No bookings are required however if you would like further information please contact Lyn Newnham on 1800 065 993 or via email

lyn.newnham@strathbogie.vic.gov.au



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A detailed black and white illustration of a crow or raven perched on a branch. The bird is shown in profile, facing right, with its long, pointed beak and dark feathers clearly depicted. The branch it sits on is thin and extends from the bottom right towards the center. The background is plain white.



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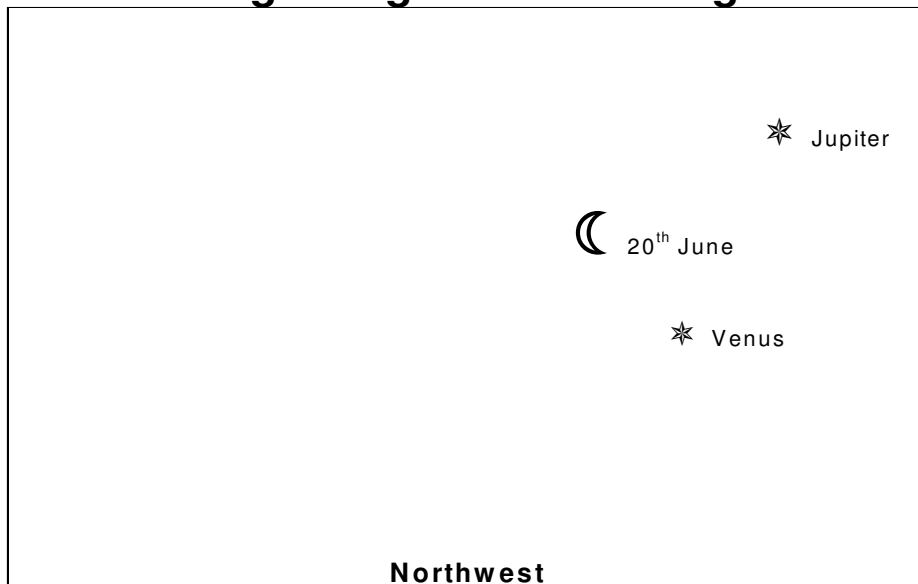
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Stargazing in Strathbogie



The view looking Northwest at sunset from the Winter Man Celebration.

Information from Australian Sky & Telescope (David Joyce)

Now you know why ...

by Donmil

Mending roads? No, the Council can't do it – The Works account's deep in the red; It's blown the whole budget on road signs Announcing "Rough Surface" ahead.



A reminder that Tableland Talk is a community newsletter run by a volunteer group.

As such, 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



The Bookshelf:

notes from the Bohomians Bookclub

***Desert Queen: the many lives and loves of Daisy Bates* by Susanna de Vries,**
Harper Collins, 2010

Much has been written about Daisy Bates, a 19th century Irish émigré, who is listed variously as 'journalist, author, amateur anthropologist and lifelong student of Indigenous Australian culture and society'; much has also been the subject of speculation concerning her origins and her achievements. She acquired various titles throughout her colourful life, such as 'Queen of the Never Never' and 'Kabbarli' (grandmotherly person), during her work as an ethnologist of and welfare worker with Indigenous Australian tribes. Her life and life's work, and her quite remarkable and unusual exploits attending to the misery that she saw in the camps of Indigenous Australians in Western Australia during the early twentieth century, have been documented in the Australian Dictionary of Biography (<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bates-daisy-may-83>).

Susanna De Vries, OAM, an Australian author who has published widely on art, history and public (often female) figures, intervenes in the accepted narrative of this woman's life and work to question a number of the

foundational 'truths' in the Daisy Bates archive. In doing so, she admits that hers is a parallel journey of exploration, in that she returns to Ireland to seek out the truth of her own origins. She claims that Daisy invented much of the story of her early life and her relationship to high society. The constructed 'parallel' of the two women's journeys is forced and adds little to the analysis of the Bates' story. The author also makes claims regarding Daisy Bates' assertions and recordings of her exploits, and proceeds on the assumption that the reader accepts these claims. This makes for quite unsatisfactory reading, and a sense that we, as readers, are not in safe hands in terms of historical veracity. Perhaps, to be fair, the latter is unachievable, given that Daisy did at times display quite contradictory and mystifying views on important subjects, not least her position on the welfare of the Indigenous Australians with whom she set up camp. However, what de Vries' work *does* reinforce is that Daisy Bates was a courageous and very complex woman, whose motives were mixed and whose life, by choice at least to some extent, was not easy. The equally as interesting and important 'back story' – the tableau of indigenous life in early twentieth-century Australia – is viewed, unfortunately, through an unreliable filter.

Strathbogie Campus

JUNE 2015

We wish to thank community members for the donations of some lovely books to our school library. Kayden's grandma Sue saw some picture books on special in her Post Office so bought them for us, they are gorgeous!

And Oliver and Charli Wellington (Toni Down's grandchildren) donated two glorious books about the underwater world of Port Phillip Bay. We have had the pleasure of having these lovely children join our campus for a period of time, and these books are a 'thank you' from them.

Peranbin Cross Country & Winter Sports

The whole school winter sports program kicked off on a beautiful mild sunny day with the Peranbin Cross Country in Strathbogie. This is held annually on the Golf Club where Bogie teachers lay out the course. All campuses travel up the hill to enjoy a fun day here at our campus. After the Cross Country run in the morning, children enjoy some fun activities at school in the afternoon.

It was wonderful as always to see the kids trying their hardest to make it around a challenging course, with a mixture of hills and bends.

Congratulations to everyone who completed their race, including some very keen parents, and to all of the competitors for cheering one another on at the finish line.

Thank you to all of our visitors, mums, dads, grandparents and babies and especially to Sue Young and Bec Croxson for helping with timing and recording results.



*Written by
Kate Hand*



In literacy the Senior room has been exploring writing with the maximum use of expressive language using a minimum number of words. Here are a few of the Haiku poems the children have written as a result.

Haiku

by Jack McDonald

Casting in the line

Waiting for a fish to bite

Yum yum fish all gone

Stuwie

by Charlie Russell

Graceful galloping

Through a meadow of
flowers

My best friend Stuwie

Sand

by Natalie Middleton

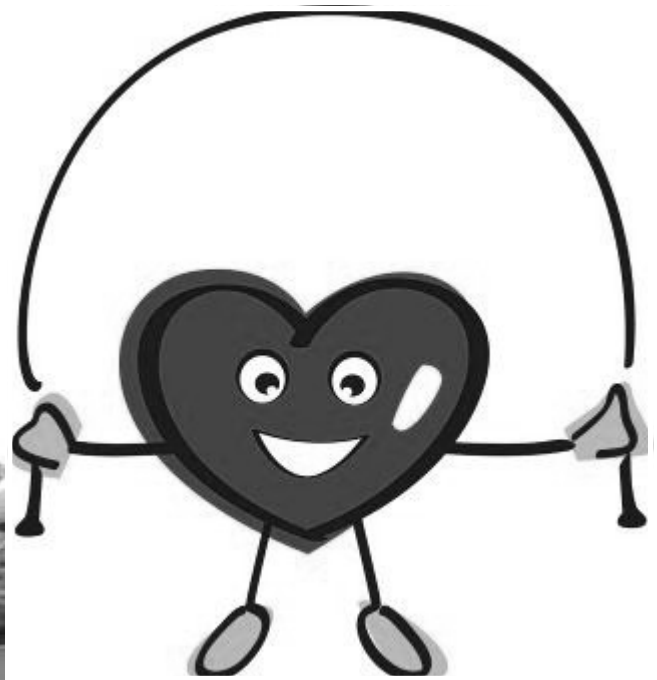
Sand between my toes

Rocks and shells left behind

Jump Rope for Heart

has started!!!

Family members you are more than welcomed to start skipping as well and show off your skipping skills at our Jump off day on Friday 26th June !!



The Junior kids enjoyed making and testing parachutes as part of their push me— pull me unit of work

