



May 2018

Integrated Rabbit Control and Sustainability

Our environment, its diversity and hence our ability to maximise agricultural production is critically dependent upon controlling rabbits. Rabbits do huge damage to both environment and agriculture.



One rabbit per hectare is enough to eliminate the natural revegetation of plants. This is not a lot of rabbits, but if you see a rabbit, we have a problem. Seven rabbits consume as much as one fine wool merino wether. If there are seven rabbits in one hectare, it decreases income by about \$100 per hectare. If a thoroughbred

horse breaks a leg in a burrow, imagine the financial loss.

Integrated rabbit control is needed over time to successfully control rabbits. The initial investment might be large, but the long-term benefits will be greater. One of the benefits in getting rabbits to manageable levels is that time required to control rabbits is reduced significantly. This enables the farmer more time for more productive work.

Integrated rabbit control requires the following actions:

- Monitor rabbit numbers ... count them on a spotlight transect
- Locate rabbit burrows ... map them
- Reduce the rabbit population ... disease and physical control
- Destroy rabbit burrows ... ripping & monitor the treated burrows
- Monitor the rabbit numbers ... count again

Measure the success ... by numbers remaining, not decreases

If all these actions are rigorously implemented in successive years rabbits are controllable in rural land holdings.

The landholders and managers in the Granite Creeks Project area have been responsible for huge successes in rabbit control. The Gooram Valley Landcare Group has been a part of that and has data that shows this success spanning 25 years since the first release of RHDV in 1995. An 18 km spotlight transect was set up in 1995 and has been maintained since. In 1996 the total number of rabbits counted was 1017 rabbits ... in 2018 the count was 13 rabbits. These low numbers must be maintained and preferably reduced further.

The main challenges for us all now in maintaining this level of achievement is to have our community realise that we cannot believe that the problem is solved. Look at what happened after the impact of myxomatosis when integrated rabbit control was not used ... rabbit populations rebounded quite quickly. One pair can produce 4-12 kits monthly. As pointed out in a recent letter to the editor, K5 is only a part of the picture: it is not the answer in itself.

A field day to demonstrate how to implement integrated rabbit control is to be held on Saturday May 12th (See p12 advertisement for detail).

Another part of the challenge is how to control rabbits in urban and peri-urban areas. Everybody should understand that if they see a rabbit, we have a rabbit problem: it must not reach 1017 rabbits for us to realise that we have a problem!

What's On

May 12 - Benalla Shorts Festival Swanpool and Rabbit Control Field Day Gooram

May 13 - Mother's Day Strathbogie Church

May 25 - Fungi Festival begins

June 9 - Strathbogie Forest Group Concert, Benalla Performing Arts Centre: Ella Hooper, Lisa Mitchell, Jo Jo Smith

June 16 - Swanpool Environment Film Fest

June 23 - Winterman

Second Monday of every second month (next meeting May 14) - 7.30pm STAG meeting at Strathbogie Hall

Every Tuesday—10am Tennis at Strathbogie Rec Ground.

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

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

Second & fourth Thursday—6pm Strathbogie Winter at Under the Sun.

First Sunday every second month - Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Group 9-11am Contact Sean Mathews Mob: 0400019607

Every Second and Fourth Sunday - Church service at Strathbogie Church - 11.00am

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

Every Fourth Saturday of the month—Australian Plant Society Group meeting - contact Pete 0402 882 959

Every third Sunday of the Month - 3pm SCOFF at the Rec Ground



Worried about the Smoke?

With planned burns under way in the north

east, The EPA has air quality monitoring stations at Beechworth & Bright.

Follow this link for smoke health warnings and additional information on planned burns:

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-us/news-centre/news-and-updates/news/2018/april/27/planned-burns-in-victorias-north-east>

Euroa Cinema in May



Fri May 4 8pm — The Divine Order (M)
 Sat May 5 8 pm & May 6 4pm - That's not my dog (M)
 Fri May 11 8pm - A quiet place (M)
 Sat 12 8pm & Sun 13 4pm - Love, Simon (M)
 Sat 19 8pm & Sun 20 4pm - Early Man (PG)
 Fri May 25 7.30pm - Finding your feet (M) Rotary Fundraiser
 Sat 26 8pm & Sun 27 4pm- Ready Player One (M)
 Fri June 1 8pm - Aurore (M)
 Sat Jun 2 8pm & Sun Jun 3 4pm - Gurrumul (PG)
 If you wish to receive a weekly email update, then send your details to eu-roa.cinema@strathbogie.vic.gov.au
 Screening Times—Sat 8pm, Sun 4pm.
 Tickets \$10, school age kids free.

Got something to say?

Why not drop us a line in our new Letters to the Editor feature
 Check it out!

Mobile Library

Dates for Strathbogie

(every 2nd Saturday,
 9.30 - 12 noon)

10th and 24th February
 10th and 24th March



Strathbogie Memorial Hall

Available for hire— \$125 with \$250 refundable deposit in case carpet cleaning is required.
 Bookings contact person is Kim Usher
 Ph 5790 5345

Strathbogie Recreation Ground

All bookings are to be made with Kim Usher 57905345

Do you need a Justice of the Peace?

Chris Thomson
 'Aberdeen'
 57905340

Ross Walker
 Brookleigh Rd
 57905111

Boho South Hall
 Available for hire.
 Bookings contact:
 Margaret Mactier
 Ph 57908544



Thursdays 9-11
 Contact Jess or Hayley
 to confirm location
 04 55 280 825
jessicaewilliams@gmail.com
shields.h@gmail.com

SWANPOOL CINEMA in May

www.swanpoolcinema.com.au

4: 11am special event Downsizing (M)
 5: 6pm Downsizing (M) then Allied (M)
 6: 5pm Downsizing (M) then Allied (M)
 11: 6pm I, Tonya (MA15+) then Beatriz at dinner (M)
 12: 3pm Benalla Shorts 2018 (MA15+)
 12: 6pm I, Tonya (MA15+) then Beatriz at dinner (M)
 13: 5pm I, Tonya (MA15+) then Beatriz at dinner (M)
 19: 6pm Finding your feet (M) then Wonder Wheel (PG)
 20: 1.30pm Finding your feet. 5pm Finding your feet (M) then Wonder Wheel (PG)
 25: 6pm Sweet country (MA+) then Mary Magdalene (M)
 26: 6pm Sweet country (MA+) then Mary Magdalene (M)
 27: 1pm Sweet country. 5pm Sweet country (MA+) then Mary Magdalene (M)
Tickets \$13.50/\$11

Support Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Group agricultural & conservation projects

Membership is \$10 per household.

This gives you access to the Landcare Victoria magazine, subsidised seedling purchases & worthy community projects. Simply deposit \$10 into the Strathbogie Tableland Landcare account BSB 803 078 Acc 10008 1991 with your name as reference and / or contact Secretary Sean Mathews for a membership form snmthws@bigpond.com

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

All community adverts are free.
 Business adverts are charged at \$7 per issue for a usual size, or \$12 per issue for a third to half page.
 We would appreciate it if all invoices for advertising are paid in full, and promptly - we have to pay for the photocopying.
 This will be coming up soon!
 The TT team

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 obviously 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.

The Deadline for the June edition of Tableland Talk is Saturday the 26th May.
 Email: tablelandtalk@gmail.com, ph 5790 5203 or 0400 019 607, post PO, Strathbogie, or leave contributions at the Strathbogie Store. The TT team.



The Fungi Festival - coming soon

The free May 25th Festival talk
"Fungi of the Strathbogies - Wild Desires and Treacherous Gratifications"

will now include a mushroom inspired

Malaysian Feast.

Location: Strathbogie Memorial Hall. Use the supper room entrance.

Doors 5.30pm. Dinner 6pm (sharp) prior to the talk at 7pm.

Dinner cost: Adults \$15, Kids \$5. Pay on the night

For the dinner: Book with Suzie Bates ASAP, no later than May 20. suziehigherground@gmail.com

Talk bookings are through Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fungi-of-the-strathbogies-wild-desires-and-treacherous-gratifications-tickets-44353186575?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-source=strongmail&utm-term=listing>

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A huge thank you

To everyone who came to the Boho Sth car boot sale. It

was a massive success and the hall committee

girls, with their morning teas and yummy lunches, made a nice amount to go towards the hall preservation. Well done everyone.

Roz

..... as Arnie says.. "We'll be back!"



The Bakers Cart

Peter Boyd

Kids :-

Laughing, calling, running, falling
 Chasing when the horse would start.
 Waiting for the bread roll handout.
 Oh how we loved that bakers' cart!

Yellow shafts from cart to harness,
 Soft-shined leather, metal bound.
 Green paint cab with gilded letters,
 Varnished wheels with iron around.

The smell of warm and sweaty horse,
 Wafts round when the door's released.
 And mingles - makes a scent from heaven!
 Mixed with new-baked bread and yeast.

The baker runs from house to house,
 From start to end along our street.
 Golden crusts in big cane basket,
 Covered with a snow white sheet.

The horse meanwhile plods slowly on
 He's been a thousand times before.
 He doesn't need the pull of reins,
 To guide him home to stable door.

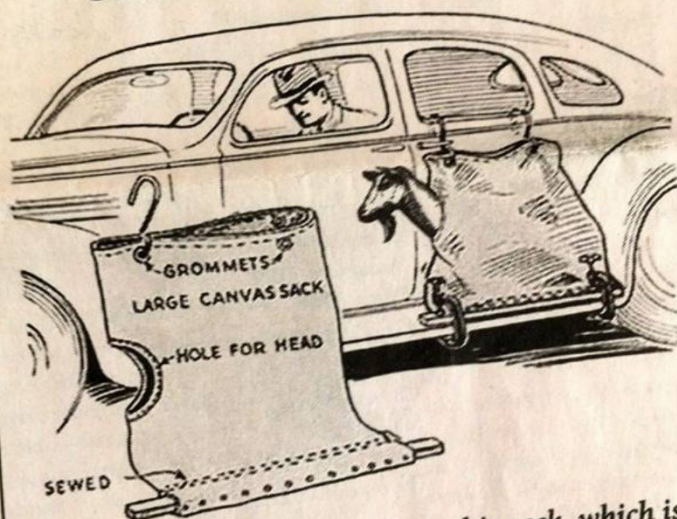
Before the dawn, a giant truck,
 To supermarket brings a load,
 Of something doughy, wrapped in plastic;
 Each day a different colour code.

At nine o'clock the carparks fill,
 With harried mothers, driving cars.
 Dragging fractious, squalling children,
 Through the rows of cans and jars.

They choose; and think they're doing well,
 Comparing different price and measures.
 But they cannot conceive of times,
 When household shopping brought real pleasures

Contact with another person,
 Produce, cash, small talk exchanged.
 Value given, thanks received.
 A pity that the times have changed!

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Advertising Rates - All advertisements for community events and also buy/swap/sell adverts are placed free of charge. Advertisements for any commercial gain or business is charged at a rate of \$7 per issue for usual adverts, and 1/3 to 1/2 page is \$12.

Rates are very reasonable. Advertising solely funds this newsletter. Please support our advertisers. For more information, please email tablelandtalk@gmail.com, or phone 57905236

Hello Again Everyone,

I would like to take the opportunity to update you on Council matters.

ANZAC Day. I was privileged to represent the Shire at the commemoration of ANZAC Day in Strathbogrie on Monday 23rd April and at the Dawn Service in Violet Town. The Strathbogrie commemoration was a credit to the students and staff of the Peranbin Strathbogrie campus and a special thank you to the parents for catering for Morning Tea.

Flood Recovery

On Tuesday 24th April the Shire awarded contracts for the bulk of the estimated \$7 million of infrastructure repairs following the 200+ mm of rain in early December. There is still one bundle of works to be tendered, but with the contracts awarded, work can finally start on the 1000+ defects logged across the Shire.

Budget for 2018/2019

At the Council Meeting on 24th April the draft Budget for the 2018/2019 financial year was approved. Council will consider contributions from the community before finalising the Budget. I would like to highlight some excerpts that particularly impact the Tableland.

1. The Victorian government has capped the increase for council rates at 2.25%. The Strathbogrie Shire is proposing an increase of 1.9%.
2. The Council is recommending an increase in the Farm Rate discount from 15% to 17.5%. This represents a saving of almost \$100 per annum for the average farm in the Shire.
3. Each year properties in the Shire are revalued by the Victorian Valuer General. In 2018 a strong increase in property values has been recorded. Farm valuations have increased by 13% and residential properties by 17%. Changes in property value do not impact on the total revenue raised by the Council, but does affect the split in the burden of rates borne by residential and farm properties.
4. The annual charge for the 'three bin service' will increase to \$530. The Budget has not made provision for any potential increased costs from the national recycling crisis that has emerged from China's restrictions on importing co-mingled recyclables. The Shire's contractor has requested a significant increase in charges to handle recycled material. The Shire's position, is that under the current contract, it is the contractor's responsibility to absorb the increased charges. State and Federal Environment Ministers met in late April to formulate plans on how Australia will deal with the increasing volume of waste we generate.

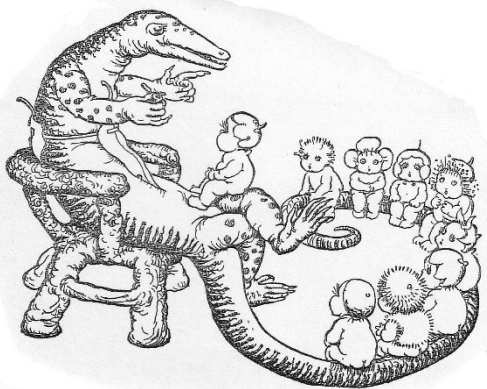
5. Total capital spending will be \$10.3 million of which \$6.5 million will be spent on roads, bridges, drains and footpaths. For the Tableland this means that the 50% increase in grader capacity introduced in 2017/18 is maintained (more roads graded, more often), the rollout of the 'Zero to One' Roads program improving 'zero rated' roads from no maintenance to being regularly maintained continues and the entrance to the Strathbogrie Hall will be sealed.

The draft Budget and Council Plan is on public display until 31 May and will be improved by your comments and suggestions.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Council matters, please feel free to contact me at

Alistair.Thomson@strathbogrie.vic.gov.au or on 0427 335 766.

Please note that the comments in this article are my own as Ward Councillor and should not be taken as the official view of Strathbogrie Shire Council.



Watch out for details of the
STRATHBOGIE FOREST GROUP CONCERT
coming soon!

Local artists including Ella Hooper, Lisa Mitchell and Jo Jo Smith will be putting on a great show at the Benalla Performing Arts Centre.

So, keep June 9 free and watch out for booking details coming to a bogietree near you.



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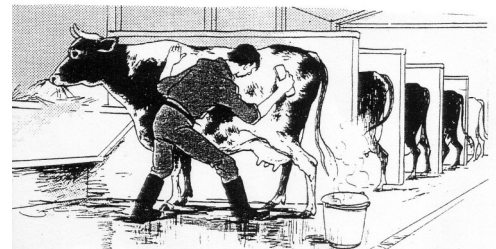
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**PINING FOR THE STRATHBOGIE FOREST OF 50 YEARS AGO:
A WARRENBAYNE VALLEY PERSPECTIVE**

Fifty years ago the Warrenbayne valley was a beautiful hamlet nestled in the Strathbogie hills with a gentle climate and an abundance of wildlife. The local dance was well-known to the surrounding districts for its lively dancing live music and delicious home cooked suppers. Sporting clubs were strong and the fabric of the local community was strong. The local school was thriving and this gave my husband and I the opportunity to become part of this close knit community.

After a short stint at Strathogie School my husband was Head teacher at Warrenbayne and I was posted nearby to Yin Barun. They were wonderful schools, with happy healthy children in abundance. However, I was next offered the role of Head teacher at Boho South. Because the terrain through Davies Track was so difficult, the Department allowed us to trade and I took Tony's posting to Benalla 31. The significance of this will become apparent later. Tony enjoyed the trek through the forest and the beautiful community. We purchased the Old Post Office Cottage with a determination to raise our family in this happy healthy community. Our first daughter Rachael was born in 1972 and a small play group was formed for the growing community of new families of the district.

Continued on Page 11

Euroa Arboretum Winter Orders

It's time to place your order at the Euroa Arboretum Nursery - Begin to think about what to plant next Winter.

The Arboretum will plant the seeds and prepare your order, you may pick up from April onwards. Prices are on our website.

Simply download the interactive form, save it to your computer, complete and upload from this page -

www.euroaarboretum.com.au/plant-order-form

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To the Editor,

My name is Bobbie D Downes (spelt with an e), Not to be confused with the other Downs, up near Mt.Wombat. I live at the end of Downes Lane in Strathbogie. I'm 88 years old and a forth Generation farmer. So I know a bit about the world.



I am writing to you on the topic of neighbours. If you know me and the area, you will know I have four neighbours bordering my property. Three of the neighbours have been here almost as long as the Downes. To the North, there's the Uptons. The South, there's the Freemans. To the West, closer to town on Downes Lane, is the Ploughman's. Just recently, to the shock of us all, the Gossips decided to sell up. Geoff Gossip moved on to a better place. Old GG, as he was known, apparently just took up and left off. Someone said they thought he went to the Gold Coast. Others say the Sunshine Coast. So for the first time in my life I was to have a new neighbour. To be honest, I was concerned. It can be unsettling when change comes around. Momma used to say, "Change was blown' in the wind". I never really understood what she meant by that. I asked Daddy. But he never said much.

I was walking the cows down the bottom of Downes Lane when I first spotted them. My new neighbours. It was almost the exact spot where I first saw my dear wife Ida, 70 years earlier. Downes Lane runs West to the East and crosses a little creek, it does continue past, but is not much more than a goat track now that it enters the old Gossip property. Just my side of the creek is Gossips Lane. It runs North/South, with the creek crossing the lane back to the South as it runs down through and past the old Gossip homestead.

My mind has travelled back to 1952. An Autumn day, not unlike this one today. I was listening to the trickle of the stream and listening to the birds, listening to trees, listening to the wind. I was having a mighty ol' time. Conversations in nature going on all around me. Low and behold I spotted the most gorgeous girl I'd ever seen. It was the single most beautiful image I'd seen in my entire life. I must have been all of about 18 years old. Oh my goodness, there was Ida. Ida Louise, She was beautiful. She was riding her beautiful bay mare named 'Kloppy'.

So, Ida was riding along on this fine bay mare and her hair was blown about in the breeze. It was then I knew she was gonna be my wife.

Anyway, I was in exactly the same place 70 years in the future, now, a day just like today, when I first spotted them. My new neighbours. Sunshine had hair just like Ida, maybe a little longer, definitely a little scruffier. And Curly, a wild bushranger type, with a huge smile and equally scruffy look. That was my first impression of them. Those big smiley faces, eyes beaming bright. Like there wasn't a care in the whole world. Ida had that same look, the day I first spotted her riding 'Kloppy' down by the creek.

I want to tell you about the next time I saw Ida. It was a month later at the famous 1952 Strathbogie Show. The show that stopped the nation we used to say. Back in them days it was a massive deal. Ferris wheel, shooting galleries, fairy floss. More fun than you can even imagine. I was there showing my prize bull 'Dangles'. Big black Angus, the envy of all and the sire of any decent cow in the Ranges. Of course, 'Dangles' won the show, forth year running. This year was my favourite year. 1st prize was a kiss from the prettiest girl who won the needlework competition. And of course that wonderful kiss came from Ida. Ida preferred to work with a hook as opposed to tatting, working with a shuttle. That was hers mum's speciality. Ida preferred to crochet her bedspreads and her mum was OK with it because Ida always won 1st prize for her stunning work.

We finally got the blessing from her mother and ol' GG and our courtship begun. GG's only concerns were that if we wed, Ida's name would become Ida Downes. It made him laugh till he nearly fell over. Ida would say "Daddy darling, my name is Ida Louise Gossip, Ida L Gossip. I've getting a ribbing my whole life at school since prep. Even at church. So, Ida Downes will make a nice relief from all that." And so it was. We were wed a year later on that same Autumn day down by the creek where we first met. Of course the irony is not lost on the locals who still giggle about Mrs Ida Downes, winner of best bedspreads, five years running.

So, my concerns regarding changes and new neighbours have been unfounded. Curly and Sunshine and their three kids and seven goats and 4 horses and 2 donkeys and 3 dogs, have all settled in nicely. They are the only locals who can begin to rival my own vegetable garden. They also choose to use no chemicals. They call it organics/permaculture. Like its a new thing. I'm a fourth generation organic/permaculture gardener. We can see we have a lot in common already. My new neighbours and I swap ideas and excess produce. The kids have named me 'the grand daddy' of vege gardening. Which I love.

First thing Curly and Sunshine and the kids did was clean up ol' GG's orchard. Poor old GG didn't care much for fruit and let it go wild. It was GG's mum who tended the orchid. She will be doing cartwheels of joy wherever she may be at the site of this old Grove shown new love.

Continued Page 9



2018 Program

Café Culture Series

(Shows \$75 or \$25 each)

Saturday May 19:

RED DRESS & THE SUGAR MAN

A knockout cabaret show intelligently constructed, written and wonderfully performed by Marisa Quigley.

Saturday Sep 1:

DR. CRASK & HIS SWINGING ELIXIR BAND

Whatever ails you, a dose of Dr Crask and his Swing-in' Elixir is guaranteed to get you on your feet.

Saturday Nov 17:

A NIGHT OF BOLLYWOOD

A celebration of Indian traditional & contemporary music and dance: vibrant, energetic and colourful.

AND a fabulous additional show!

Sunday Sep 23 AFTERNOON THEATRE: HELL SHIP: THE JOURNEY OF THE TICONDEROGA

Michael Veitch (comedian, author, actor) writes and performs a one-man show of an historical maritime drama. In 1852, the emigrant ship Ticonderoga limped into Port Melbourne: a saga of tragedy, loss and heroism. *Tickets: price tbc*

RuffArtZ invites you to join in the fun of our 2018 program!

RuffArtZ acknowledges with appreciation the generous support of Creative Victoria, and the invaluable collaboration with Mary Souness & Just Shows to Go.

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CREATIVE VICTORIA

APPLY TO PICK YOUR COMMUNITY PROJECT

Victorian residents aged 16 and over will be able to submit their idea for consideration under the *Pick My Project* program backed by \$30 million from the *Victorian Budget 2018/19*. Any idea that helps build a stronger community, and has the backing of a local organisation, community group, school, local council, or other eligible group to help is possible.

Ideas could include anything from sporting and recreation infrastructure, community arts projects, improvements to community facilities or the local environment. Projects need to be feasible & have land-owner consent, but without restrictive guidelines many local local priorities that fall-between the cracks of other grant programs will be eligible .

Communities then get to vote for the projects they think are most important, giving residents the first and final say on the best way to improve their area. Projects between \$20,000 and \$200,000 considered. Starts May, winners Sept 18. To register pickmyproject.vic.gov.au

Continued from page 8

Anyway, down by the junction where our four property's meet. We all share a tip in the erosion gully. Billy Plowman, older by 2 years than me, keeps asking where is all that old rubbish going? He swears the tip is getting emptier and emptier each time he visits. I told him "You're right Bill. Its the newbies from the Gossip's property. Scrounging, they call it. Recycling, they call it. Using it for art. And building and all sorts of creative enterprises". Billy is still not too sure about all this 'new blood' with their funny ways. I've told him to try and keep an open mind. After all, we in these hills get the same kind of flack from the flatlands folk down in the city of Euroa. I believe we should love thy neighbour. Without judgement. Momma used to say, "With a smile and an open heart we can solve most problems that may arise."

Curly and Sunshine and kids, on behalf of myself, welcome to our community. I will keep an open mind about your wild look and artistic take on clothing and hair. The bright light you have brought to this old man is exciting. Curly even tells me that writing is an art form and that I am a part of the art community because I love to scratch out a few verses and tell a yarn or two. I don't know about that. But I will keep an open mind. He is even trying to educate me on using a computer. Imagine at my age. Learning about things like Bogie-tree. He says local people talk on it. So, look out when I get my old head around that parcel of pie. People using trees to communicate with each other. Sounds like the Pagans my Grand daddy talked about from the old country. Little people and fairies and spirits of trees and rocks and creeks talking and sharing their knowledge. Maybe, just maybe, people are starting to wake up to what us old folk always have understood about the spirit of nature.

Thanks for reading this 'arty piece' and a good day to you all in this beautiful area we call Strathbogie.

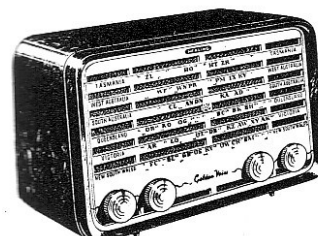
Yours sincerely,
Bobbie B Downes
Downes Lane
Strathbogie



Science – schmience! by Donmil

A Minister for Science? – we have none
But for Anti-Science? Yes, by the ton!

They're in fierce competition: Which one will be faster
To ensure our environment meets with disaster?



Bridge to Bridge News



Have you walked the track lately? Increasing numbers of people are doing so. Out of towners with their Strathbogrie Walking Trails brochure in hand - keen to spot some wildlife, locals out for solo or social exercise, parents and kids enjoying the bush and each other, pet lovers walking the dog and art lovers creating or enjoying spontaneous eruptions of natural materials sculpture (see pics). It is a genuine asset to the township that encourages visitors and benefits locals.

This year Strathbogrie Landcare Group has installed a second boardwalk. It is below Haley St. Over winter, except when the creek floods, you will now be able to walk the whole track without getting your feet wet.

A couple of requests: *with thanks in advance*

First, more dog walking means more dog poo. Wombat and wallaby poo are relatively inoffensive, but dog poo sticks and smells. It also feeds European wasps. Please clean up after your dog.

Second, more walkers and fishers seems to mean more rubbish. Please take rubbish home with you.



STRATHBOGRIE GOLF CLUB

SPLIT DRY FIREWOOD FOR SALE



6x4 - \$65.00

7x5 - \$90.00

Tandem - \$120.00

Local Delivery Charge - \$25.00

CONTACT GRANT PEARCE TO ARRANGE:

PH: 57787424

Apply for Victoria's EPA Sustainability Awards

EPA is encouraging businesses, government organisations, community groups and individuals who have shown leadership in environmental protection to enter. Eligible entries can include initiatives that prevent harm through specially developed technology or equipment; changes in practices and processes; and education programs, resources or activities that have informed the community or businesses and helped people be active participants in protecting their environments.



Entries for the Premier's Sustainability Awards close at 5pm on Thursday 7 June. Finalists will be announced in mid-August and invited to attend the awards ceremony on Thursday 11 October. To enter and for more information, visit www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au

KIPPIING DIRTWORX

ALL GENERAL EARTHWORKS

- Farm clean ups – fence lines, etc
- Roads, driveways, gravel, etc
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Bobcat on tracks, Grader, Excavator, Bulldozer, Tip Truck, Float Truck

AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK

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Kim: 0429 380 220

Phone: 03 5795 1061

Fax: 03 5795 1063

kippingdirtworx@bigpond.com

34 Garrett Street, Euroa VIC 3666



PINING FOR THE STRATHBOGIE FOREST OF 50 YEARS AGO: *continued from Page 7*

Fifty years later this fabric has been decimated, I have no doubt the deforestation by the government played a major role in this demise. The shadow of the pine plantations was not then apparent in Warrenbayne from our perspective. Gradually the impact began to shadow our lives. Tony travelled through the horror of clear-felling of more and more forest from Warrenbayne to Boho South.

The burning of all this beautiful forest was the next stage in the devastation. Smoke cast a pall over the valley for weeks on end and the wildlife that survived in small pockets was also destroyed. Mysterious light planes would appear spraying golden mists into the valley. The official version that this was just fertilizer spray did not ring true even then. This spraying continued until 1990. The horrific reality was not admitted openly until 1990 in the State Pine Impact Study.

Tony developed serious rashes and growths in his eyes which required surgery. Our second daughter was born in 1975 and it became quickly apparent that her health was an issue though full diagnosis took another twelve years. A Community meeting with the Forest Department was held in the Warrenbayne Hall in the mid-1970s and it was here that I first questioned the health impacts as many children were developing asthma and other symptoms. Also alarming was the high rate of miscarriages (four deaths out of five pregnancies) including our third child.

The pattern of local ill health emerged slowly, giving cause for questions to doctors and the Department of Forests and Lands. Cancers and other serious health issues particularly developed in adults in close proximity to the plantations. Concerns were fobbed off. However, both Dr King and Dr Patience then began privately expressing concerns for the growing issues and infertility rates.

Tony's health issues increased and our Joscelyn's health required operations and constant doctor's visits. Epilepsy was a concern in the young population. Our son Michael at 6 months developed infantile epilepsy and had to be constantly monitored over the next few years. Again my concerns were fobbed off until eventually in 1990, Joscelyn was diagnosed by Dr Bast with a rare (one in four million) chromosomal mutation. This required lifesaving surgery as her ovaries were developing fatal cancerous cells. She had required surgery for bone cancer when she was nine. Our family's health issues were mirrored in the families around us.

Evidence of ill health and early death in the valley accumulated, especially in the men that held the targets for the spray planes. It was finally when my best friends, Wally and Barb Schaefer, lost their beautiful daughter Kathy to cancer at 24, after having rung the Department warning them that spray from the plane overhead was hitting their roof, did the reality hit me like a bolt of lightning. The rumoured spray was 24d and 24t in diesel (known as Agent Orange) - confirmed in 1990. Tordon was also used later known as Agent White. The release of the State Pine Impact Study In 1990 confirmed the community's worst fears. Dioxin, a mutagenic carcinogenic and tetragenic contaminant was an issue that was to rear its ugly head in Warrenbayne and other districts surrounding the Strathbogies ranges for decades. This was the same issue in all areas of heavy woody weedicide spraying all over Australia as finally exposed in "The Chemical Time Bomb", 4 Corners documentary from 2013. In the case of the Strathbogies, the "weed threat" was the wattle and eucalypts that would have deprived the pine of its growth??

Slowly, community action and concern began to swell as the media helped to confirm our fears. At least one third of our school pupils of the spray era developed health issues like cancer or infertility or other Hazardous Chemical linked conditions. The cover up over this issue slowly emerged, devastating and shattering trust. Divisions occurred in the communities as Government employees and doctors were discouraged from revealing the facts. We knew that they knew the truth, but were openly discouraged from being part of an Australia wide campaign to stop aerial spraying of hazardous chemicals. While at home, my teenage daughter questioned why I was attracted to "deaths and funerals".

Politicians like Joan Kirner and Tony Windsor were ignored. Dr Guy and Wangaratta's Shirley Barber, with the backing of the Uniting Church, gradually became spokesperson for community concerns. Friends of the Earth did comprehensive reports into the issue and gradually the Australia wide effects became more public with Internet usage. Julian Cribb's book *The Poisoned Planet* is a must read for those with similar understandings. Most recently Barnaby Joyce's actions in removing the "red and green tape" around hazardous chemical importation and decimating the APVMA make community action even more urgent. One must question the lobbying power of the chemical companies now known as Croplife? Where is their moral compass? How many people read the warnings on the labels and the disclaimer "use at own risk"! 'Getting a contractor to spray for you doesn't solve the problem. Chemical contamination ranks right up with climate change as a threat to humanity.

Cancer rates in Australia rank in the highest in the world according to the World Health Organisation. We are obviously considered collateral damage to the economical rationalist insanity. It is only now I have true empathy with people of the First Nations and feel betrayed as they did. Arsenic in flour was used to eradicate their population. Now we are mindlessly spraying our own food with known carcinogens. The cost of organic food is often prohibitive for most families.

The momentum for a Royal Commission has started in these ranges and the Petition to Government will be available for signing in early May. I BESEECH you all to consider signing this as to continue to devastate our Precious Water Catchments, to spray 1080 on our wildlife and pollute our food chain is insanity.

Erin Levy - Spokesperson for the Hazardous Chemical Network.

STRATHBOGIE TABLELAND ACTION GROUP

STAG has provided support for the Recreation Reserve Committee of Management's application for community grant funding to cover the cost of providing power to the site proposed for the diesel tank. There has been significant community support for this project. Fruitful discussions have been held with Council.

During the coming months a shelter will be erected over the pizza oven at the Rec Ground. At the same time a children's picnic table, which has been built by the Euroa Men's Shed, and is similar to those provided at Polly McQuinn's, will be installed near the pizza oven and playground.

The Communications Sub-committee of STAG is commencing to update the community directory. Last printed in 2012, we are aware that there are many new residents and others are no longer living on the Tableland. For privacy reasons, it is important that you complete the form attached to this newsletter and return it by Friday May 26 to: the Strathbogie Store or Under The Sun.

Updating the directory is a large and onerous task as all entries need to be checked before publication so we would welcome any assistance from willing members of the community.

A reminder that the directory is also available on the community website and this version is updated as amendments become available.

STAG's next meeting is Monday 14 May commencing at 7.30pm in the Soldiers Room – all community members welcome.

MOTHERS DAY 13TH MAY 2018.

I am sure we all know that Mothers day is coming up. Advertisers have been hard at it trying to persuade us to buy their products to show our mothers how much we love them. But did you know that Mothers day began originally in one church in America, with a simple service to thank God for mothers?



The idea soon caught on in other churches until President Roosevelt decreed that

the 2nd Sunday in May should be called Mothers Day. That same date has also been adopted here in Australia.

Following on in the tradition of the first Mothers Day service, everyone is invited to St Andrews Church Strathbogie on Sunday May 13th at 11am to give thanks for their mothers.

As part of the service it would be great if you bring something along that belonged to your mother, or maybe a recipe, or perhaps think about one of the best lessons you learnt from your mother. People could then share some of these things with others if they wished.

Following the service there will be time to celebrate with others as we enjoy a delicious morning tea. For further information contact Joan Wood. P:57905297.

The Granite Creeks Project Inc is a Landcare Network across the Strathbogie Ranges from Avenel to Balmattum. It has been working with relevant government departments for more than 25 years.

DEDJJR conducts rabbit control compliance programs to support communities state wide and is active in the Granite Creeks area with a current program and more on the drawing board for the Strathbogie Tableland – property inspections will be carried out methodically in areas to be decided in consultation with the community where landowners/land managers have significant rabbit populations.

Granite Creeks Project Inc has funding to support ripping programs on private land, subject to certain conditions.

If you think you have a rabbit problem, come to the Field Day Demonstration at Enderlee on May 12 as per accompanying flyer.



Rabbit Control Field Day

The Granite Creeks Project Inc. and DEDJJR are hosting this Integrated Rabbit Control Info and Demonstration Field Day.



The Field Day will include demonstrations of fumigation, baiting, warren ripping, rehabilitation of ripped sites.

In addition, information on K5 and its role, land manager responsibilities and the role of DEDJJR in supporting community control of rabbit will be provided.

A forum for questions and discussion will be an important part of the day.

When: Saturday May 12. Sign in 9.30am
Finish: 2pm (light lunch provided, BYO chair)
Location: Enderlee, Gooram

Due to current road works information about access to the site will be available from Kerri when you register.

For registration and further details contact:
Kerri Robson
0418 140 710



Department of
Economic Development,
Jobs, Transport & Resources

Peranbin Primary College

Strathbogie Campus

Welcome back to Term 2. Staff and students are primed for a busy term of learning. Our first focus was on the ANZAC Day celebrations.

ANZAC Service

Monday was our schools ANZAC Day service. When school started we went inside and practiced our song called the 'Spirit of the ANZACs'. Then we all went across to the hall, when we got there some members of the Euroa RSL were there and all our parents and family as well. The service started with Ms. Foy saying a speech. After that Jess said a poem, it was called 'The Lost Youth'. Then we sang the 'Spirit of the ANZACs'. Ada then



gave a reading about war. We then did the last post following by a minute of silence. Everyone then sang Advance Australia Fair and that concluded our ceremony. So we took our flowers outside and put them around the soldier. We went back to the hall to have morning tea. For morning tea we had cake, biscuits, sandwiches, coffee and tea. *By Charli Hill*

ANZAC Day Acrostic Poem

Australians all fought for our country. So we will not forget them.

New

Zealand vs Turkey and 2000 people died on the first day.

Australians fought to the death for nothing.

Countries fought to the death to protect their countries.

Do we have to have wars just because of a small argument?

Australia fought for 4 years in the war.

You don't know what it is like to go to war and never come back.

The Goss

Was it intentional? Was it an oversight? How did it happen that the immaculate local view from Milo Point was closed to a loving Tableland community by a crash rail? If you have the answer, let us know.

Thoughts of ANZAC Day

Anzac Day is a remembrance day.

New people came to war to fight

Zealand fought in war.

Australia people fought in war.

Countries fought in war.

Dads went to war.

Australian ANZACs went to war.

Young people went to war.

By Ariel Margrie

ANZAC Day Acrostic Poem

Australia fights for our country,

New

Zealand vs. the Turks,

A soldier,

Challenged to his death,

Do wars have to happen?

And now remember,

You don't know how it's like to go to war and never come back.

By Alina Lester

ANZAC DAY

Our Anzac Day Service was on the 23rd of April at the Strathbogie Hall. Some people that came were the Euroa RSL and parents. First Jess did a speech about an Australian soldier. We did a song called 'Spirit of the Anzac' by Lee Kernighan. Then Ada did a speech. Last we went out to the statue in the middle of the road and put flowers around it. We ate some morning tea that our parents made. There were Anzac biscuits, brownies and some other foods. It was a great day.

By Bridget Rowe



STRATHBOGIE TABLELAND

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are currently updating the Strathbogie Tableland Community Directory (the little yellow book). We have a number of new residents who may like to be included and others who have left the Tableland and need to be removed.

If you would like your details included in the updated Community Directory, for privacy reasons, you **MUST** complete, sign and return this form to the Strathbogie Store or Under The Sun by Friday 26th May.

Please provide the personal details that you would like included in the Directory. (only 57905....& 57908... telephone areas may be included i.e Tableland numbers).

Name (e.g. Brown, B. & S) _____

Address _____

(e.g. 427 Brookleigh Rd. Strathbogie) -----

Landline Phone Number -----

Mobile Phone Number -----

Email Address -----

Please advise us of any yellow book listings you know are no longer residents -----.

Name _____

Phone no. _____

Name _____

Phone no. _____

Local businesses are listed free of charge under Community Services in the directory. I would like my business to be included in the section "Community Services Directory".

Business details: (i.e. business name/ address / contact phone / mobile / email / website address / category –alpaca, winery, plumber etc.)

By signing below I agree to all of the above information being included in the new Strathbogie Tableland Community Directory.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW COMMUNITY DIRECTORY YOU MUST COMPLETE, SIGN AND SUBMIT THIS FORM BY 26TH MAY, 2018.