



November 2015



Strathbogie Sustainable Forests Alliance

PRESENTS

## Citizen Science - Planned Burns

The Strathbogie Sustainable Forests Alliance invites you to join us for a Forest Walk to investigate the impact of last season's planned burn at Tames Rd.

We will split up into smaller groups and using compass to navigate, walk along unmarked tracks for approximately 2km. Collecting data observations and collating results on the way. This day is an opportunity to learn about the after effects of the current controlled burn strategies in the Strathbogie ranges..

*"Putting our science hats on".*

When: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. 10.30am - 3.00pm.

Where: Meet @ 10.30 am, Strathbogie Memorial Hall for car pooling.

What to bring: Hat, Water, Sturdy Shoes/Boots, Picnic Lunch & Camera (if you have one).

Difficulty: Generally undulating, occasionally steep terrain.

Cost: Free

No Dogs Please

web: <https://strathbogiesustainableforests.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: [our Strathbogie forests.](#)

See Page 5 for more information

### What's on in November

**22 November - 10.30am** Forest Walk  
**5th December - 5.30pm** - Christmas on the Tableland, Recreation Reserve  
**20th December - 8pm** - Carols by Candlelight - St Andrews Church Strathbogie

**First Monday** 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 Thursday** - 6pm - Community get-together, Strathbogie Recreation Ground

**Every Thursday** - 6.30pm - Tennis - Strathbogie Recreation Ground.

**Most Friday mornings** - 9.15am Yoga - Strathbogie Hall

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

**Every Second Sunday** - Soccer at the Rec Ground. Last goal wins.

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

**Third Sunday** - 10.30am Dance at the Hall

**Every first and third Sunday** of the Month - 4pm SCOFF at the Rec Ground

## CHRISTMAS ON THE TABLELAND 2015

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**VENUE "STRATHBOGIE REC RESERVE"**

**START TIME 5.30**

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KIM USHER 57905345 OR EMAIL

[kim.usher@bigpond.com](mailto:kim.usher@bigpond.com)

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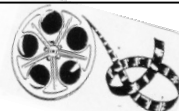
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### Euroa Cinema in November



Sat Nov 7th & Sun 8th -

"The Intern" (PG)

Sat 14th & Sun 15th - closed for Aus-  
tralian Welsh Male Choir concert

Sat 21st & Sun 22nd - "Sicario" (MA15+)

Sat 28th & Sun 29th -

"The Dressmaker" (M)

Fri Dec 4th 6pm - "Macbeth" (MA15+)

Sat 5th & Sun 6th - "Learning  
to Drive" (R)

Sat 13th to Sun 14th - "Bridge of  
Spies" (M)

If you wish to receive a weekly email update, then  
send your details to

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Times—Sat 8pm, Sun 4pm. Tickets \$10

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### Strathbogie Recreation Ground

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to be made with  
Kim Usher  
57905345

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tact: Margaret  
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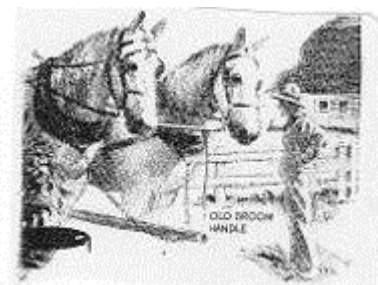


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### Strathbogie Memorial Hall

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son is Kim Usher  
Ph 5790 5345

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butions. Contributions to this newsletter are  
published as a forum for public discussion. The  
opinions expressed are the opinions of the contri-  
butors 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 contribu-  
tions. Readers are reminded that all contributions  
**MUST** be submitted with the name and address of  
the writer.*



Deadline for December edition - 4th December. Email: [tablelandtalk@gmail.com](mailto:tablelandtalk@gmail.com), ph 57905203, post PO,  
Strathbogie, or leave contributions at the Strathbogie Store. The TT team.

## The annual "Carols by Candlelight" Service at St. Andrews Church Strathbogie will be held on Sunday 20th December 2015 at 8pm.

The Strathbogie Singers are practising hard as they prepare to sing some well known carols and some perhaps not so well known, and most importantly you can enjoy a night of singing your favourite carols. The service will be led by Mark Blackwell.

Please bring a plate of food to share the delicious supper which will be enjoyed by all at Di and Rolf Eberhardt's (Main Street Strathbogie) after the service.

So put the date in your diary now as Christmas will be here before we know it.



## The Strathbogie Forests

*TT is running a series of articles on our forests in an attempt to acquaint readers with another slice of Strathbogie's history. The sawmilling industry was an integral part of white settlement in this area, of farming and growing up in Bogie, and we are fortunate in having residents who can still remember the way things were done many decades ago.*

### Interview with Ron Jones: Part 1

*Q: How many mills existed in the early days and where were they?*

A: Back in the late 1800's, there were two sizable mills that I know of in this area – Howes Mill across the other side of the range, and Dumbles Mill back this way, out on the Barjag Rd. Dumbles Mill was still there when we came here in 1947. Now all that's left of those two are piles of sawdust, if you're lucky to know where to look. I always admired Howes Mill, as there were 20-odd people working there – that was a small village! Howes processed the timber in a number of interesting ways. Much later there was Charlie Law's Mill, on the edge of the forest around from Dunnachie's property, but Charlie's was a much more modern outfit – he had a truck! There was also Strahn and Davies Mill (on the site of Plowman's on McGear's Lane), built in '46 or '47. He employed 35 people, counting his bush crews, for quite a number of years until they moved down to Euroa, where they were situated next to Bamford's Mill on the Strathbogie Rd, just before you reached the Hume Highway (now the old highway). In the 50's, when the building boom was on, there were also what we called 'case mills', small mills that appeared on individual properties in quite a few places; a lot of the older houses in the area got built from a mill on the property.

*Q: What drove the timber industry in the early days?*

A: The real boom in sawmilling happened after the Second World War in the late '40's, when the demand for building materials for housing was at a premium. There was never enough timber. Some sawmills expanded their operations and there was a sawmill in every centre – Seymour, Mansfield and

Shepparton. These were big sawmills and they took logs out of the Ruffy and Strathbogie areas, right through to Kinglake. One of the book-keepers at Bamford's Mill did a quick calculation on how much went into Euroa in the '50's from sawmilling and it was over \$1million a year!

*Q: So, sawmilling was a major employer?*

A: People lived through the sawmills. It was a big industry as well as a lifestyle, and blokes could make a good living out of it. A lot of the tucker that was put on the table back then, both pre-war and post-war, actually came via those sawmills; that's where the farmers worked to keep them going until they got set up. It wasn't until the wool prices really boomed in the '50's that employment in the smaller sawmills started tailing off. People didn't need to work in the sawmills any longer – they'd made enough money out of the farm to keep going.

**Next issue:** Working in sawmilling around Strathbogie 50 odd years ago.

*Q: How was the timber brought out of the forest in the early days and where was it taken?*

A: To get the timber out, they used to take it by horse and wagon to Yea via Barjag and Swanpool. When the trainline from Melbourne came through, they used to load it on the train and send it to Melbourne.

Wikipedia: Most timber railway operations across Australia were transitory, only existing for the time that timber was extracted. Some lines were moved regularly to the areas of forest to be exploited. A few 19th century operations were horse hauled, but most were steam powered. Very few timber railways lasted into the 1960s with the advent of more versatile and stronger road based haulage.[37]

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



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7th & 21st November  
5th & 19th December



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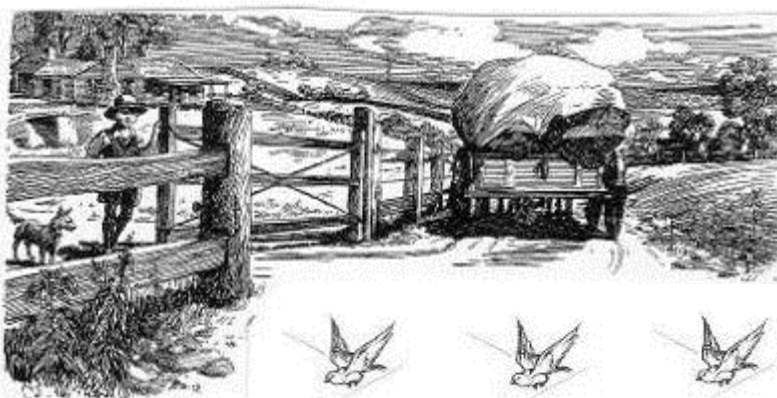
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### Violin and Viola Lessons

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**Christmas on the Tableland** - With 6 weeks to go I am asking for some help. As usual I am going to need some help in putting together this night. Help is needed on the Friday 4th moving tables and chairs from the Hall to the REC. Help is needed on the Saturday 5th setting up Gazebo's tables, chairs and decorating. Most of you are aware of the salads that are required for the night, it would be great if I could get volunteers to make a salad in one of my giant salad bowls, 7 salads are needed so 7 volunteers, please. Help of course is need on the Sunday 6th for the cleaning up. A choir is also required to help sing the "Old time Carols". Something I forgot to mention in the main Ad, please remember to bring your own chairs for the night.

KIM USHER 57905345 OR EMAIL [kim.usher@bigpond.com](mailto:kim.usher@bigpond.com)

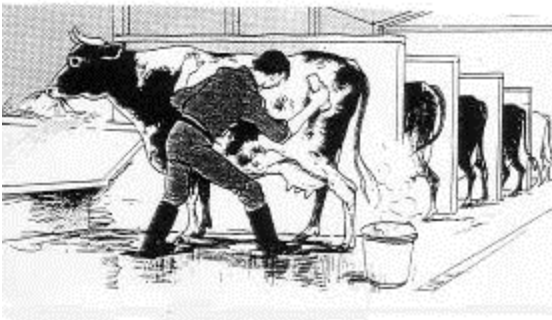
**Public Notice** - I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the local ELECTRICIANS Brendan Hurle and Jarrod.

They have done a complete service from underground cabling to wiring of the garage and house. Everything was done properly, very good and most of all it was very economical. They did more than was expected, and I cannot praise them enough.

Absolutely the best thing for me.

A BIG thankyou from a very satisfied customer.

Kind regards. Frans Hugens, Spring Crt



**Reminder** - a reminder to all users of the Strathbogie Hall of their responsibilities in cleaning up after use of the Hall and facilities. 99.9% of the groups or individual that use the hall are not for profit and with that in mind we keep hire charges to a minimum. If we have to add on a cleaning fee to Hall charges the result would not be very productive for the Hall or it's users.

Thankyou, Kim Usher

On behalf of the Strathbogie Memorial Hall Committee.

### **The Burning Question**

Although it's early in the fire season, there's already been lots of press about planned burns. Last Autumn the Dept. of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) conducted a 500 ha planned burn on public land south of Tames Rd and north of Gerars Tk. DELWP assessed the burn as 'successful' and 'within the guidelines', however parts of the burn appeared to burn too hot, leaving the ground charred and the canopy scorched.

One area of the burn was low intensity (it killed, but didn't burn the grasses and shrubs), but still managed to kill all the big, old trees. Many of these trees were 1-1.5 m diameter, easily 100+ yo, and the only trees in the forest bearing large hollows that are home to a variety of forest animals; without these hollows these species can't survive.

But how destructive was the Tames Rd fire? That's exactly the topic of the next Strathbogie Forest Walk.

We'll be surveying the forest on-foot and measuring the level of damage caused by the burn. It's important to understand the impact of planned burns, particularly as DELWP intends to planned burn another 6000+ ha of Strathbogie Forest in the next few seasons – that's about one-third of the total area of native forest left on public land (<http://wp.me/p4nHVP-fJ>). Join us to better understand how our forests are being managed.



Strathbogie Forest Survey – Tames Rd Planned Burn  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 2015.

10:30 am to 3 pm

Meet at Strathbogie Memorial Hall

Bring: hat, water, sturdy shoes, picnic lunch, camera/phone, compass/GPS (if you have one).

For more, ring Sim 0455 246 141 or Bert 0409 433 276



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## SWANPOOL CINEMA

Fri 30th to Sun 1st Nov - "Far From The Madding Crowd" (M) & "Gone Girl" (MA15+)

Fri 6th to Sun 8th - "Last Cab to Darwin" (PG) & "Love & Mercy" (M)

Fri 13th to Sun 15th - "A Walk in the Woods" (M) & "Irrational Man" (M)

Fri 20th to Sun 22nd - "Holding the Man" (MA15+) & "Slow West" (M)

Fri 27th to Sun 29th - "Ruben Guthrie" (MA) & "Going Clear: Scientology" (M)

Fri 4th to Sun 6th Dec - "Far From Men" (M) & "The Mafia Kills Only in Summer" (M)

Screentimes Fri & Sat 7.30pm, and Sun 6pm.  
Tickets \$13.50/\$11

If you would like to read the Violet Town Village voice contact Terry Frewin at [frewintp@gmail.com](mailto:frewintp@gmail.com) to get an emailed copy each month, or it can be read on-line at [www.violettown.org.au](http://www.violettown.org.au)

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## Strathbogie Voices Update

Strathbogie Voices is an inclusive initiative aimed at giving a voice to local people on issues that directly affect our region and its residents.

Our Environmental Seminar Series – *2015 The Watershed Year* – finished on 24<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you to everyone who supported the Series during the year. Some very positive initiatives were generated by the seminars, as follows:

- ◆ SV supporters wrote to our politicians for increased action on climate change
- ◆ SV launched its report on community expectations of government values and priorities
- ◆ SV initiated a working group for renewable energy for our region
- ◆ SV supported the formation of a local branch of Doctors for the Environment.

A particularly exciting outcome was the making of a film covering the seminar series and local people's thoughts on action needed around climate change, which will make it to the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in late November.

Other exciting activities included the training of a few SV reps in community radio at Seymour. What a great way to get a message across and explore issues with locals! Unfortunately, the signal doesn't reach the Euroa/Strathbogie/Violet Town area. A local community radio for our region would allow us a local voice on this and many other issues of interest. What do you think? Let us know via the website below

SV is also planning to build a local vision that we can present to local government candidates later in 2016.

This will be done via a series of community discussions around issues such as: community wellbeing; sports & leisure; the environment; industry & business; infrastructure; tourism & hospitality; and arts & culture. Keep an eye out for the 2016 program dates and locations.

**Contact Strathbogie Voices at [www.strathbogievoices.com.au](http://www.strathbogievoices.com.au)**



### The Bookshelf – notes from the Bohomians Bookclub

*The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga, Atlantic Books, London, 2009.

Balam Halwai – servant, philosopher, entrepreneur, murderer – alias Munna, son of a rickshaw-puller, from the village of Laxmangarh in India, is the protagonist of this deeply subversive tale. He sets out, via a series of formally addressed letters, to tell the truth about Bangalore and India to the former premier of China, Wen Jia-bao – the so-called 'people's premier'. His position as a driver for a rich returnee from the US, Mr Ashok, allows us to see the underlying brutality in a system that pays laughable lipservice to socialism and fairplay. Central characters are given the names of animals – the Buffalo, the Raven, the Stork, the Mongoose – a device which serves to underscore their beastly power. The layers of power which connect the characters form a spiderweb or set of tentacles, from which it appears impossible to escape. This is a dark, brilliantly told tale, rendered with a false naïvety, a 'tongue-in-cheek' tone that plays with and draws the reader along a darker and darker path. This skilfully rendered irony acts as a tool to deepen the sense of blackness in the narrative, but also works against any sense of gratuitous horror or violence. Thus, this is not a 'blood and guts' novel, never a gory tale, although murder resides at its heart; the horror lies in the deep corruption and injustice that beset the poorest of the Indian poor, who can never beat the system to lift themselves out of the 'Darkness' into the 'Light'. Balam appears to have succeeded in doing just this, but his 'emancipation' is a highly uneasy one. This is compelling reading and an important uncovering of what lies beneath the surface of Indian society.

Aravind Adiga was born in Madras (now Chennai) in 1974. After emigrating to Australia, he completed his secondary education in NSW, after which he studied at Columbia and Oxford universities. His career as a journalist began at the Financial Times, after which he was employed as South Asia Correspondent for TIME for a number of years. He won the prestigious Man Booker Prize for *The White Tiger*, his first novel. His stated intention in writing *The White Tiger* is as follows:

At a time when India is going through great changes and, with China, is likely to inherit the world from the West, it is important that writers like me try to highlight the brutal injustices of society (Indian). That's what I'm trying to do – it is not an attack on the country, it's about the greater process of self-examination.

Adiga has written two other novels, *Between the Assassinations* (2008) and *Last Man in Tower* (2013), and four short stories.

Next month: Michelle de Kretser's *The Lost Dog*, Allen & Unwin, 2007

## **The Big Wet** - reminiscences by Ken Dunnachie

1956. It started raining in February and finished sometime after Christmas.

We didn't see the sun for about 3 months at one stage. Eighty-two inches (about 2050mm). Springs opened up everywhere. Nappies hanging all around the verandah. A bit of rather damp wood in the woodshed. Clover growing out of rocks. Welcome to Strathbogie in 1956.

Eildon Weir had just been finished and it was expected to take 7 years to fill, but 1956 came along and it filled in the first year. What a tribute to the builders and engineers that the wall held under that enormous pressure.

The whole town of Bonnie Doon had to be sifted. Think of the logistics of that and then think of the logistics of moving the whole town of Tallangatta which actually happened after the Hume Weir was enlarged (also in 1956).

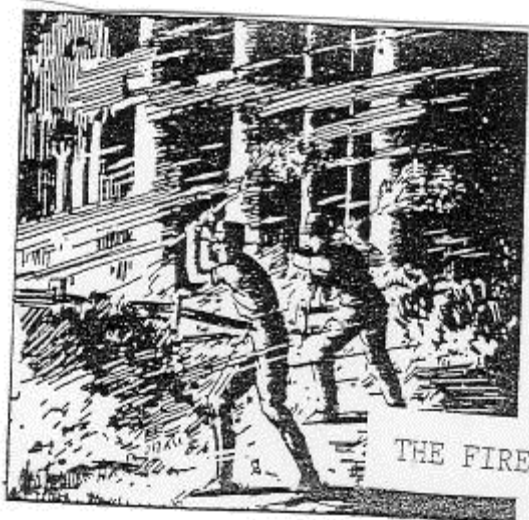
The timber industry was very active in those days and keeping the roads in some sort of condition was a challenge.

On one particular spot near Joy and George Mackrell's the road had to be corduroyed. This meant laying logs down crosswise and then laying planks down in the wheel tracks of vehicles. When this was eventually pressed down into the mire, the whole process was repeated. Planks were laid down on the hill on our side of Graham and Shirley Dash's place to help us get up the hill. A spring opened up in our own drive and we had to park out on the road for a while. A great gutter developed in the road between Tame's and Wood's that was right across the road so it was impossible to miss. We would set off for Euroa not knowing whether we would get through or not. If Strathbogie received an inch of rain, we got an inch and a half. Every time. But now the cycle seems to have changed.

During drought years, on Eildon Weir old trees and foundations of buildings came above the water level making boating and skiing dangerous. Eric Tame (who has a ticket for handling explosives) and Rob Dunnachie put in a fortnight destroying the foundations of two concrete bridges using jack hammers and explosives.

A bit of a shuddering experience!

*(Ed Note: I have heard people say that you can still find the traces of the logs used for corduroying the roads up here if you look along the sides of the roads.)*



### **A reminder that fire restrictions are now on.**

Understand your bushfire risk

- ◆ Strathbogie has been assessed as having a HIGH bushfire risk in accordance with the Victorian Fire Risk Register.
- ◆ Fire history tells us that fire can approach the town from all directions.
- ◆ The last major fire in the vicinity of Strathbogie occurred in 1990.
- ◆ It is impossible for emergency services to protect every individual home or property.
- ◆ Do not expect a fire truck.
- ◆ Remember, your usual travel routes may be limited or blocked due to fire in heavy roadside vegetation.
- ◆ Know the daily Fire Danger Rating in the district where you live or travel [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) Reduce your bushfire risk
- ◆ Prepare your home and property against bushfire, burning embers and radiant heat. A wellprepared home has a greater chance of not being destroyed by bushfire.

- ◆ Encourage and assist your neighbours to reduce their bushfire risk as this may help make your property safer.
- ◆ Develop and practise your Bushfire Survival Plan. You will also need to plan for your pets' safety.
- ◆ You can attend or join: - A local Fire Ready Victoria meeting - A Bushfire Planning Workshop - A neighbourhood Community Fireguard Group
- ◆ The Household Bushfire Self-Assessment Tool is available to help individuals assess the bushfire risk on their own property.

Info taken from the Bushfire Safety Information - [http://cfaonline.cfa.vic.gov.au/mycfa/Show?pagelid=publicDisplayDoc&fname=2014/CIG-W-HUM-Strathbogie-4\\_00\\_3257.pdf](http://cfaonline.cfa.vic.gov.au/mycfa/Show?pagelid=publicDisplayDoc&fname=2014/CIG-W-HUM-Strathbogie-4_00_3257.pdf)





After another busy third term we all enjoyed a very relaxing holiday; and are now settled back in work mode for the countdown to the end of 2015 school year.

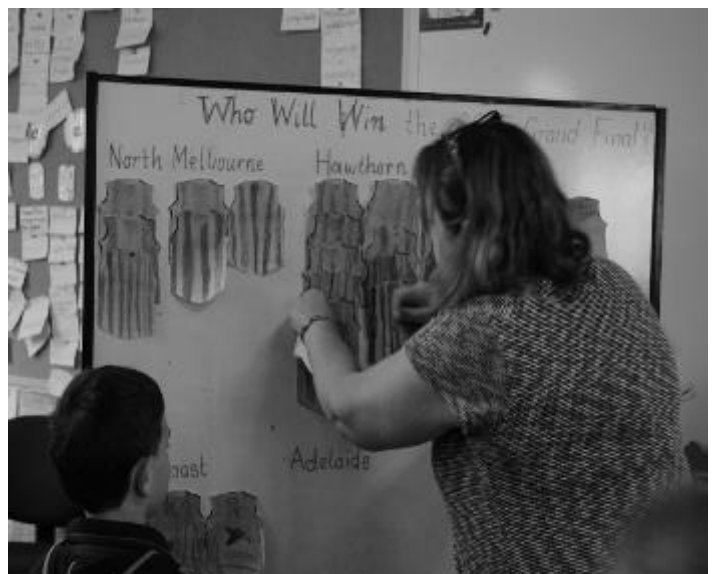
Term 4 began with the grades 3 & 4 heading off to Sovereign Hill for the annual 3/4 camp.

In the last week in Term 3 we had a great time at a whole school get together at Violet Town to view 'The Owl's Apprentice' and have fun at a 'footy day'

### The Owl's Apprentice

Recently we all visited Violet Town campus to view The Owl's Apprentice, an interactive puppet show that had us pondering deep questions to extend our minds. What is wisdom? How is it different to knowledge?

After this thought provoking session, we went just a little bit crazy for Footy day! Chanting, football skill-building games, and a quiz was a wonderful way to come together as a whole school and celebrate another term's hard work.



## **The Children's Garden**

To all those wonderful green thumbs who expressed an interest in the development of our little school's grounds, please join us at our Working Bee on 7th November 10am –12 md. We are hoping someone will have a rotary hoe to help prepare garden beds.

Junior School Council thank all those who got into the spirit of Loud Shirt Day, wearing colourful clothes and making a gold coin donation to help the hearing impaired. The children enjoyed loud music and loud laughter as they discoed their way through part of lunchtime.

Rolf has been working hard in the forecourt, relaying pavers underneath the koala tree that had started lifting up at very odd angles, becoming a hazard to pedestrians. His work has been closely supervised by our resident koala!



**Welcome home  
Miss Schulz!!**

### **Earn and Learn Stickers**

A very big THANKYOU to all you wonderful people who collected Earn and Learn Stickers for our campus.

With the points earned, the school has ordered a very snazzy set of balance scales for maths, complete with a set of weights, as well as a range of new books to refresh our take home readers for the littlies.

*Tolerance Sharing Achievement*