



May 2020

covid-19 - Healthcare Basics

What should I do if I feel unwell?

If you begin to feel unwell, and have a fever or a cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or respiratory illness you should get tested for coronavirus (COVID-19). Do not go to work, avoid social contact.

To find out about testing, call the 24-hour hotline 1800 675 398 or call your Doctor to discuss your symptoms and risk factors.

Principal testing centres in our region are:

- Benalla Health
- Goulburn Valley Health: Shepparton Hospital
- North East Health: Wangaratta Hospital

If you have serious symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, call 000 and ask for an ambulance. Tell the operator if you also have a fever or a cough, sore throat or respiratory illness.

How can I protect myself and others?

Stay at home. Don't visit friends or family at this time.

There are only four reasons to leave your house:

- shopping for what you need - food and essential supplies
- medical, care or compassionate needs
- exercise in compliance with the public gathering requirements
- and for work and education – if necessary.

Do not travel throughout Victoria unless absolutely necessary. Stay healthy with good nutrition, regular exercise and sleeping well. Avoid excessive use of alcohol and for smokers, it is time to quit.

Take the following hygiene actions:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, or using the toilet. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitiser that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.
- Do not share drink bottles, crockery or cutlery.
- Stop shaking hands, hugging or kissing as a greeting.
- Ensure a distance of at least 1.5 metres is kept between yourself and others.
- Get vaccinated for flu (influenza). This will help reduce the strain on the healthcare system as it deals with coronavirus.
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces regularly e.g. phones, keyboards, door handles, light switches, bench tops.

Ref: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covid-19#i-am-feeling-unwell-what-should-i-do>

What's On

Public Gatherings by Community Groups are currently Prohibited.

Please contact each organiser to check for future arrangements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Every Thursday night - Strathbogie Recreation Ground. 6-8pm pizza & drinks

Swanpool CINEMA

Closed until further notice

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

Euroa Cinema

Closed until further notice

To receive a weekly email update, send your details to: euroa.cinema@strathbogie.vic.gov.au
Tickets \$10, pre-schoolers free.

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

Support Strathbogie Landcare agricultural & conservation projects

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

Mobile Library

Dates for Strathbogie:
(every 2nd Saturday)
9.30 - 12 noon

Closed until further notice



Strathbogie Memorial Hall

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

Strathbogie Recreation Ground

All bookings are to be made with
Kim Usher
5790 5345

Do you need a Justice of the Peace?

Chris Thomson
'Aberdeen'
5790 5340

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

Got something to say?

Send us a
Letter to the Editor

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

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

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

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

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

tablelandtalk@gmail.com
m: 0400 019 607

Tableland Talk advertising rates to decrease.

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

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

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

Joke of the Month

A bloke went to the doctor to get a Medical Certificate. The doctor reached into his breast pocket and pulled out a rectal thermometer. "Damn!", he exclaimed, "some bum's walked off with my pen again."

Adams & Newell,

The Penguin Book of Australian Jokes

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

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

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

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

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

The TT Team

The Deadline for the June edition of Tableland Talk is Thursday, May 28 2020.

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

Preferred formats: Word or Publisher Files, Arial font 11, convert pdf to jpeg, images <250k. *The TT team.*

Strathbogie Shire Council announces rate relief initiatives

Strathbogie Shire Council has announced measures designed to assist ratepayers who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Cr Amanda McClaren said it is evident that the community had been hard-hit by the standing down of employees, job losses and mandatory closure of businesses. "Our communities have gone through drought, fires, significant storms and are now faced with an unprecedented situation," she said. "We want to work with our community to find solutions to see us through this situation."

The initiatives announced include:

- An extension of the due date of the fourth instalment of Council rates to 30 June 2020 (instead of 31 May 2020).
- No overdue/outstanding interest to be added to accounts for the period from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020.
- The refund of any previously paid fees for this financial year to become a registered premise, which includes food business, hairdressers, etc. This same fee will not be charged in the 2020-21 financial year.

Cr McClaren said it was important that any ratepayer who is having difficulty with paying their rates to contact the Council as early as possible to discuss assistance which can be provided through payment plans and Council's Hardship Policy. Cr McClaren said Strathbogie Shire Council was also strongly advocating for rate relief at Federal and State government level as part of the Hume Region Local Government Network, a group of 12 councils which represent more than 300,000 people.



Tree down over Bridge to Bridge Track

A large swamp gum has fallen across the Bridge to Bridge track near the circuit at the Smith's Bridge end. For community safety reasons, Parks Vic have requested Strathbogie Landcare no longer use chainsaws to clear tree falls along the track. Parks Vic staff will be assigned to the task.

Parks Vic will attend to this tree fall within the next week.

In the meantime, please be aware that there are some hanging branches overhead and the tree may have further to collapse. It is not recommended to walk near the tree.

Sean Mathews, Secretary.



Strathbogie Memorial Hall Committee



Due to COVID-19 the Hall has been closed by the Strathbogie Shire Council until further notice. The toilets are still accessible by obtaining the keys from the Strathbogie General Store.

WANTED: NEW MEMBERS

This month's meeting of the Hall Committee was held electronically on April 22 via Zoom. The committee would like to pay tribute to three longstanding and hardworking members who resigned their positions in February and March: Kim Usher as President, Andrew Townsend and Jill Smith. We acknowledge the fact that they combined to have served the community for over 30 years on this committee.

As many of you would know, along with Shirley Dash, these people have been the "Face of the Hall." We as a community thank them for their immense time and efforts, not to say the knowledge that they have shared with each and every one of us.

The committee now consists of 6 members.
Chairperson: Mary Wynne
Vice Chairperson: Kylie Penny
Secretary and Treasurer: Henry O'Connor
General Members: Natasha Baldyga, David Hamilton, Marg Koenig.

Mary Wynne will be the contact for bookings when we reopen and Henry O'Connor and Mary will be the representatives to attend to any dealings with the council.

During March, as owners of the Hall, Strathbogie Shire Council changed the locks. This has been in the pipeline for 2 years. In the near future, it is planned there will be a key safe installed to enable those needing regular access to the hall, e.g. meetings, school functions and various activities access.

We as a committee are aware that we need to generate income for the Hall. We are continuing to explore ways that this can be achieved.

There are several urgent areas of upkeep that need to be attended to including heating, water and a kitchen that complies with various regulations.

On this note we put out the call:

WANTED: NEW MEMBERS

Looking forward to moving on, until we meet again.

Mary Wynne, President

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The Bogie Tree

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

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



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

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

Strathbogrie Tableland Groundwater Project – April 2020



At the time of the last update we were manually monitoring 11 bores and had two bores automatically monitored. We've now installed automated water-level monitoring equipment in 13 bores on the Tableland, with another two to go. This improved monitoring was made possible through the involvement of University of Melbourne researcher Giancarlo Bonotto, who will use the information from all these bores to investigate the Tableland's groundwater (g/w) system over the next few years. According to Giancarlo, this intensity of groundwater monitoring in a single, small catchment is rarely undertaken and this is one of the few projects in Australia to do so.

So, how is 'the best autumn break in years' affecting g/w? Generally speaking, g/w levels are rising, though the speed and strength of the rise depends very much on where you look. The diverse responses of local water tables is reflected in the graphs at right which show levels from April 18 to 29, 2020; rainfall over that time is shown in the bottom box.

Site 10 at Kithbrook did appear to respond to the larger rainfall events on 26/4 and 29/4 though the correlation isn't strong – the level fluctuates but stays much the same. Site 11, just down the road from 10, shows no response to smaller falls, but responds quickly to higher rainfall on the 26th and 29th. Site 12 at Boho South shows an overall response by steadily rising, but it's only the bigger falls that show on the graph. Site 13 at Boho South shows a level rise in response to all but the smallest falls, with an overall rise over the 11 days.

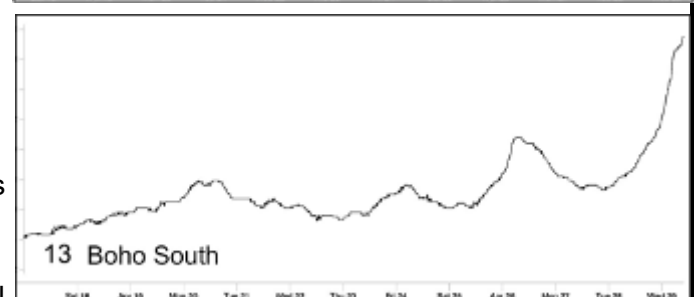
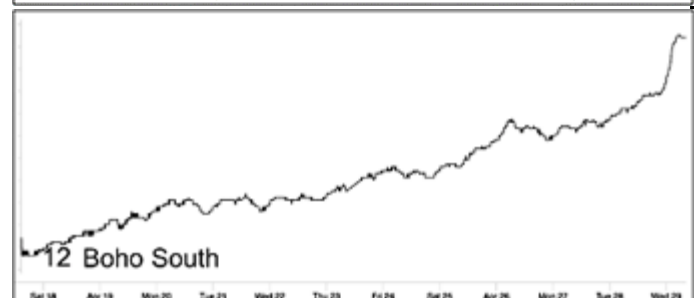
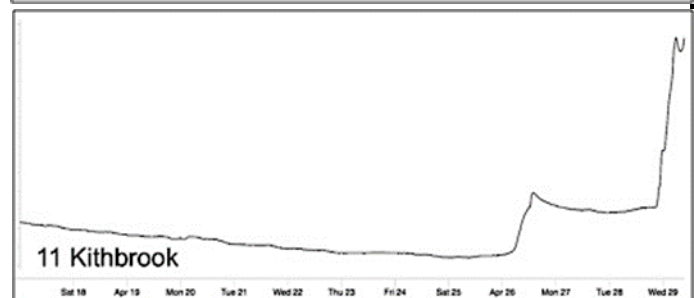
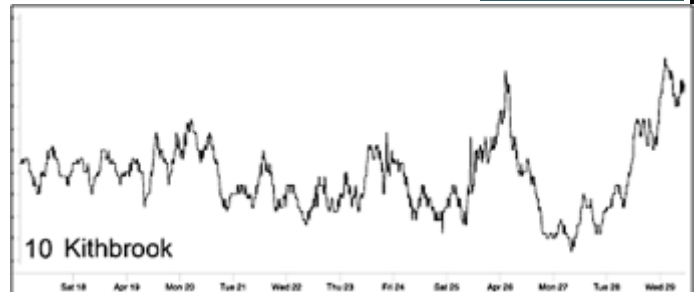
OK, so g/w levels behave variously depending on where you are, but why? Well, it has a lot to do with where the water under your feet is actually coming from. In other words, how far you are from the recharge area/s where rainfall enters the water table. Some places, like Site 10 might be a long way, several kilometers(?) from where it's water comes from. Sites 11 & 13 are probably close to single recharge sites that provide most of their water. Site 12, on the other hand, might be fed at different rates by several recharge areas, so the level goes up but the peaks are flattened.

It's as if the g/w up here is not one big aquifer, but lots of little ones that are connected weakly to each other.

One thing is certain - the more that our g/w is topped up (as recharge increases in winter), the more g/w will also seep out of the ground in our wetlands (discharge at spring soaks and bogs) and feed the flow in the Seven Creeks and it's tributaries.

Rainfall, groundwater and streamflow are all parts of the hydrological cycle that we so utterly depend on. With our annual rainfall projected to [reduce by nearly 30% by 2050](#) and also vary seasonally, we'll need a better understanding of the Tableland water system than we have now, to have any hope of managed adaptation. These are baby steps, but we already know much more than we did a few years ago.

Here's hoping it'll keep raining as winter progresses, so that water seeps out of the ground all over the place and driving in the paddocks is risky – then we'll know our aquifers are full!



Date	20/4	21/4	22/4	23/4	24/4	25/4	26/4	27/4	28/4	29/4
Rainfall (mm)	2.6				4.6	0.4	19.6	2.2		28

These bores are being monitored as part of the Bogies and Beyond Groundwater Monitoring Project, supported by the Victorian Government and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority. If you'd like to know more about the project, contact Bert bertram.lobert@activ8.net.au 5790 8606, 0409 433 276 or go to: <https://strathbogierangesnatureview.wordpress.com/?s=groundwater>



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Mackrell Superquiz in Isolation

I have always been a bit cynical about Facebook and social media, feeling that connecting digitally was not “really connecting” and much preferring person-to-person contact. But in the “social distancing” situation we now find ourselves, I am becoming a regular participant in digital connections – and am really feeling so lucky that we have these tools at our disposal!

Firstly, it has been the opportunity to interact regularly with my grandchildren in Benalla via Facebook video. It is working so well, that I have been reading “Little House on the Prairie” each evening to Boden, 9 and Bella, 7 and particularly enjoy sharing it with them as I grew up reading the series which takes place near where I grew up in North Dakota. Have now nearly finished that book, but there are still 7 more in the series to go on with!

Because I was now feeling confident with Facebook video, I suggested to my son Paul in Melbourne that we could do a quiz together. We have always enjoyed doing the Monday Superquiz together as a family – with special Mackrell rules!! – each of us can have a guess at the answer and if any one of us gets it right, we get the points!! – we still usually just get in the “Getting there” category and feel we have done really well if we can occasionally slip into the “You’re no dummy” category!



Paul thought we could expand on the concept and now for the Weekend Quiz we include Maren and family in Benalla, Kayne in Vancouver and my brother Scott in Washington, DC. Of course, time differences become a factor, but we have found around noon to 1pm in Oz to work with that being 7- 8pm in Vancouver and 10 – 11 pm in Washington, DC. Scheduling does not present hurdles, as everyone is at home!! And we have added a children’s quiz section to include the grandchildren.

I celebrated a birthday recently, and when we connected for the Weekend Quiz on Sunday, they were all wearing crazy hats – “party hats” for the celebration! On to the quiz, and they had developed a “Diane” quiz, including “Who Am I?” – it took me a little while to catch on, but what fun! – certainly a birthday I will remember!!

Diane Mackrell

Letter to the Editor

I love Strathbogie.....the views, the clean air, the peace and serenity, the wildlife, the birds, the community spirit.....but there is one thing I don't like?

The one think which pisses me off is the don't care a stuff attitude by a few locals who can only be described as grots.

I recently walked along Euroa-Strathbogie Road from just outside the township in the Euroa direction for no more than 750 metres and returned on the other side of the road.

I carried a large plastic bag and had no difficulty filling it with rubbish of all sorts... soft drink bottles, plastic and glass, cans of every description, McDonalds coffee containers, paper, plastic, cardboard, cigarette packets, etc. etc.

In fact, the bag got too heavy to carry and I had to leave it leaning against a tree stump for a couple of days.....many of you would have seen it when travelling to Euroa.

There have been some terrible messes left behind at Polly McQuinns also...not all of whom would be locals. Food scraps, paper plates, plastic knives and forks, large table cloths, bottles and cans and the unsightly squashed up tissue to be found behind a tree....make that more than one tree.....there is a toilet on site.

Please...you nasty few.....think about your community....develop some pride not only in your community but in yourself as well.

You will become a much nicer person and gain respect at the same time.

David Thomas

Editor's Note: I now carry a roll of rubbish bags in my car for rubbish collection. If everyone on the Tableland did so, together we could make a real difference.

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The Name Game: Sizing them up

Despite the unparalleled honour of having a frog named for me, as a general rule I think species names which are chosen to provide some information about the plant or animal are preferable. So if the frog had been named *Uperoleia croajingolongensis* instead of *U. martini* you'd know that it was to be found in Croajingolong, the aboriginal-derived name for far-eastern Victoria. And what an absolute cracker of a specific name that would have been! (Eat your heart out, Corroboree Frog.)



Names that suggest the size of the creature are one easy descriptive option. But caution is required: as further information accumulates it

may reveal that an animal isn't quite as big (or as small) as your chosen name implies. *Arctocephalus pusillus*, the Australian Fur-Seal, is a good example. Nothing wrong with *Arctocephalus* (from Greek *arktos*, bear; and Greek *kephale*, head): having a bear-like head. But *pusillus* (Latin, tiny or insignificant), for an animal weighing up to 290 kg? The simple explanation: the species was described on the basis of an individual unusually small among fur-seals, but we now know that it was a juvenile, not an adult.

Similarly *minimus* (Latin, very small) is the specific name of what we now regard as the largest member of the marsupial genus *Antechinus* (which used to be called "marsupial mice", but since they aren't mice *Antechinus* now serves for their common name as well. When used as a common name it isn't written in italics – pedants rule!). But *A. minimus* (common name Swamp Antechinus) was originally placed in the genus *Dasyurus* (quolls), where it was indeed the smallest member of the genus. You won't, incidentally, ever encounter a Swamp Antechinus on the Tableland, though you might meet one or two other members of the genus.

Last one: *Elephas* (Greek, elephant) *maximus* (Latin, biggest), the Asian Elephant. But it's actually smaller than the African Elephant.

Angus Martin

Social isolation by Donmil

Thanks to the Corona
I've never been aloner.

Recipe of the Month



Has anybody else noticed how many mushrooms there are around this year?

This recipe came from Julie Goodwin in *Delish. Our Family Favourites*. Peranbin Primary 2012.

Mushroom Soup

- 25g unsalted butter
- 2tbs olive oil
- 2 cloves crushed garlic
- 1kg mushrooms, stalks removed, finely sliced
- 1/4 cup plain flour
- 1L chicken or vegetable stock
- 1/4tspn ground white pepper
- 1/2 tspn salt
- 1/4 cup thickened cream

In a large, heavy based pot, place butter and oil and heat over medium heat. Add garlic and gently sauté until translucent, soft and fragrant.

Add the mushrooms and stir through. Turn up the heat and sauté until the mushrooms are soft and brown. This will take about 10 minutes, the mushrooms will first take up all the moisture from the oil, then they will exude their own juices. Eventually, these will evaporate and the mushrooms will start to brown. This is the point you want to reach before proceeding.

Add the flour and stir well. Add the stock 1/2 a cup at a time, stirring all the time. When all the stock is added, bring to simmer and cook for 2 - 3 minutes. Remove from the heat and finish with adding the cream.

Serve with toasted sour dough.

Quiz Question



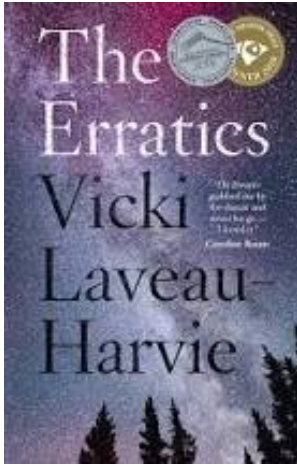
In 1975 Peter Singer wrote a book which argued that animals should have the same rights as humans and should not be eaten or used as slaves or pets.

This book on human / animal relationships started a worldwide movement.

What was the title of this book? Answer: page 10

Ref: Taft & Kerr *Victorian Quiz Book Axiom* 2000

The Bookshelf – notes from the Bohomians Bookclub



The Erratics by Vicki Laveau-Harvie, Finch Publishing, 2018

This very readable memoir takes, as its jumping-off point and as its title, a geological feature that runs from Alaska, through the Canadian province of Southern Alberta and down into the US – giant rocks deposited by the Cordilleran Ice Sheet tens of thousands of years ago. The Okotoks Erratic, situated near the

town closest to the house of the author's ageing parents, is a prohibited public danger, having fallen in on itself countless years ago.

The metaphor is obvious as soon as Laveau-Harvie begins her account of her return to Canada to help her sister deal with the situation of her parents. This is dangerous territory, one with a long history of partial estrangement and much angst – and not a little madness. The stance of the two sisters is somewhat different in their relations with their parents, but one thing is clear – neither of them has come out of their upbringing unscathed. It emerges that Laveau-Harvie fled early on, first to Europe and then to Sydney, Australia, where she now resides. Her sister, on the other hand, stayed, “jumping again and again like a terrier, trying to see over the wall of their (the parents’) rejection.” Laveau-Harvie is dispassionate, and blackly funny in her recollections of childhood and the reflections on what she encounters on her various trips back to Okotoks. Clearly, her loyalty is to her sister and to some extent her poor, downtrodden father, and she expresses an uncomfortable sense of guilt at deserting the scene of her mother’s ‘crimes’ against them all, leaving her sister to field the battle – and a battle it is!

The writing is fast-paced and very engaging, funny and black, whimsical and tender at times, and exquisitely wrought when describing the changing seasons and the surrounding beauty of the Okotoks countryside. Well worth reading!

About the author: A translator, a business editor, a specialist in 18th century French literature, a past lecturer in French Studies and a former teacher of ethics in a primary school – clearly not one to be idle! Vicki Laveau-Harvie’s short fiction and poetry has won prizes and *The Erratics* won the 2018 Finch Memoir and was longlisted for the Stella Prize. Laveau-Harvie lives in Sydney, Australia.

Next month: *The Scandal* (aka *Bear Town*) by Fredrik Backman, Penguin, 2017



With all the empty shelves in our supermarkets lately, we all have had to learn to “make do”. Initially this was a new experience for Polly who had been accustomed to having a supermarket 10 mins from her home. But relocating to the country has taught Polly some valuable lessons. There is always a plan b, c, or even d when necessity demands it.

Soap is one of the main products that has been in short supply due to the number of times hands have to be washed. However small leftover pieces of soap can be gathered up and made into larger blocks again. First gather small pieces of leftover soap and combine with boiling water in a heatproof container, the ratio is ½ cup of soap pieces to ½ litre of boiling water. Cook until the soap has melted and then pour it into a small tin pan, cool for 24 hours and cut into cakes. The longer the soap is left, the harder it will become.

Also, a small drawstring bag made from old towelling can be used for small pieces of leftover soap and hung from the shower. It is then easier for children and the less mobile to use, especially when struggling to pick up the slippery soap when showering.

All this handwashing brings a whole new turn of phrase for Police when arresting someone. “Come out with your hands washed”. 😊 *Polly*

Milkwood Bread

Kate and Sim are baking bread on a Friday again.

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Quiz Answer

“Animal Liberation”. Singer, originally from Melbourne, is currently Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, USA

Hello,

I hope everyone is managing during this unprecedented time in our lives.

Thankfully, the measures taken by our governments, and implemented by all of us, seem to have contained the spread of the coronavirus across our population. While serious, and sometimes tragic, for those families who have been affected in our country, we have avoided the consequences of widespread infection that we are seeing from overseas.



Nothing is the same as before. This was true on Anzac Day, when I laid a wreath at the Strathbogie Memorial on behalf of the Strathbogie Shire, minus the usual community commemoration that occurs on this day.

The coronavirus health crisis has of course sparked an economic crisis. Shire staff are working on initiatives to assist restarting our local economy when restrictions

allow, including participating in the State Government's 'Working for Victoria' program.

The Shire has prepared a draft budget for the 2020/21 financial year with recovery in mind. There is a strong focus on service delivery and an almost \$10 million capital works program. On the Strathbogie Tableland, budgeted initiatives include renovating the Strathbogie Rec. Reserve building, new layouts for the dangerous intersections at Creek Junction Rd/Euroa Strathbogie Road and Harrys Ck Rd/Bonnie Doon Rd, improving access to the Eliza Forlonge Memorial and further maintenance on both sealed and unsealed roads.

The draft budget contains an increase of 1.9% in the rates we pay. I did not support this part of the budget and moved an amendment to implement a rates freeze for the 2020/21 financial year. This amendment was not supported by the Council.

I moved the amendment because I think it is important at this time that the Shire demonstrates solidarity with its ratepayers by freezing rates for one year. Strathbogie Shire rates are already amongst the highest in the state. Modelling completed by Shire Officers shows that a rate freeze will not impinge on the operating plan, capital works program, or financial stability in the short or long term. The Shire holds \$13.7M in cash (31/3/2020).

The rates freeze represents \$320,000 of revenue and I think the best use of this money in our local economy right now is for ratepayers to retain and spend the funds, rather than Councillors using it on discretionary projects.

The Shire is now asking for public comment on the draft budget. If you would like to do so, and particularly if you would like your voice heard in relation to the rates strategy, comment can be made in writing or by emailing info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au. Just put 'Budget 2020/21' in the title.

Best wishes.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Council matters, please feel free to contact me at Alistair.Thomson@strathbogie.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 Strathbogie Shire Council.



Gazing out my window

A poem by the late Helen Dunnachie expressing the joys of autumn.

A wisteria waves a fragile tendril,
so beckoning to me,
where from outside my kitchen window,
such lovely things I see

A butterfly flits from plant to plant,
on dainty stained glass wings.
Then he alights upon a daisy bloom,
where with fragile feet he clings.

A huge mosaic of autumn leaves,
spreads across the lawn I see.
And dew drops like Fairies looking glasses,
keep winking back at me.

I thrill to the melody of a magpie,
as he happily warbles in the trees.
And I watch the dance of leaf and bough,
as they are ruffled by the breeze.

I hear the kookaburra's merry laughter,
as around the wooded hills it rings.
While perched upon a colour clad branch,
a grey thrush sweetly sings.
(I am sure no human being
ever sang as sweet as he)

I watch as he struggles homewards,
a nectar laden bee.
An intricate silken spider's web,
is embroidered with sparkling jewels,
I watch a golden autumn leaf
as in the breeze it lifts and swirls.

May 1985

Jottings of a Dreamer Helen Dunnachie Strathbogie 2019

Post script: TT wishes Ken Dunnachie all the best in his recovery from illness. We were glad to hear that he has returned home. Keep up the good work Ken.

Council seeking Community Input into Draft Budget

Strathbogie Shire Council is seeking community input into its 2020-21 Draft Budget, which proposes a 1.9 per cent rate increase and significant financial support to the community. Mayor Cr Amanda McClaren said the proposed Budget had been prepared with the current COVID-19 challenges, along with recent storms, drought and bushfires, in mind. It would involve up to \$320,000 of support to those affected most by COVID-19," she said.

"In terms of the \$320,000 of financial support being proposed, if the Draft Budget is adopted, Council officers will be tasked with finding innovative and effective ways in which support can be delivered at ground level to allow our community to get through this unprecedented situation."

Council recognised the COVID-19 pandemic was putting a huge strain on businesses. As a result, the Draft Budget sees fees waived for registered businesses, including cafes and hairdressers, while there will also be no fee for footpath trading.

The 2020-2021 Draft Budget provides \$9.9 million in new capital works with improvements to roads, drainage, footpaths and pedestrian bridges high on the expenditure list. Council will also be spending significantly on our parks, open spaces and streetscapes throughout the Shire.

It provides for an expenditure of \$23.6 million on services including libraries, waste management, maintenance of roads, parks and gardens, animal management, maternal and child health, swimming pools and the arts and culture.

The Draft Budget also includes details on capital expenditure allocations to improve and renew the Shire's physical infrastructure, buildings and operational assets. In addition, Council will simplify its rating structure by removing the fixed Municipal Charge with a corresponding change to the rate level so that rates are determined by valuations.

Community members are encouraged to be part of the consultation on the Draft Budget by going online and filling out the submission form, by writing a submission and mailing it to Council, or emailing Council directly.

"People can request that their submission be heard by Council, which means they come in and present to us, and anyone wishing to do that should indicate this on their submission so the appropriate arrangements can be made in line with social distancing requirements."

Copies of the Draft Budget will be available on the Council's website or hardcopies can be provided by request from 6 May.

Submissions will close at 5pm on Wednesday 3 June 2020.



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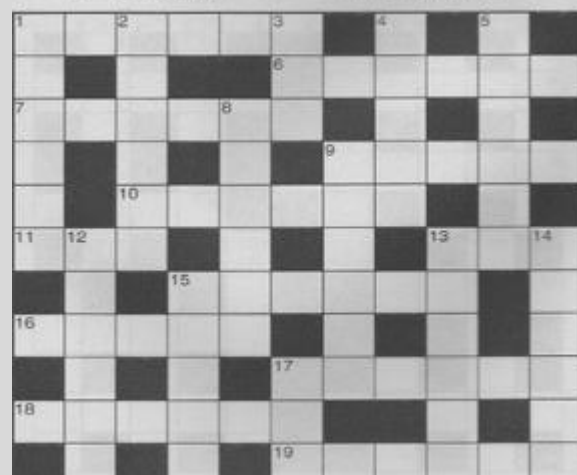
The answer means the opposite of the clue!

Across

- 1 Innocent (6)
- 6 Unequally (6)
- 7 Maintains (6)
- 9 Effect (5)
- 10 Formal (6)
- 11 Drink (3)
- 13 Nay (3)
- 15 Hinder (6)
- 16 Long (5)
- 17 Animated (6)
- 18 Calm (6)
- 19 Ducks (6)

Down

- 1 Stare (6)
- 2 Damaged (6)
- 3 No (3)
- 4 Unlawful (5)
- 5 Dull (6)
- 8 Yield (6)
- 9 Feline (6)
- 12 At sea (6)
- 13 Defend (6)
- 14 Shortfall (6)
- 15 Agree (5)
- 17 Happy (3)



Whipping the Cream 'Round 'Bogie: Part 1 of 6

Editor's note: Maybe now is a time to revisit TT stories of the past, when consumption was lower and life was slower.

On reading a column of Ken Dunnachie's in Tableland Talk, I realised the rapid changes that have taken place since my youth - since the days of string, brown paper bags, eggs packed in rice husks, newspapers recycled as wrapping, medicine bottles returned for twopence reward, the list goes on and on.

Groceries delivered on my cream runs were all packed in re-useable boxes, dog food, chook food etc all in jute bags. String was saved, just about every household had a large ball of string which was used over and over until it became so short and knotted that it wasn't worth keeping anymore and was cast out for a bird to line her nest. I cast my mind back to picking up cream from farms around 'Bogie and the flat country, namely Miepol, Moglonemby, Tamleugh etc. What a battle those farmers had just to exist, let alone bank money.

Most farms on "the flats" had flocks of hundreds of turkeys, ducks, geese, and chooks to supplement their other enterprises. There was a large weekly poultry sale in High St Shepparton in those days, which was very noisy and busy. My truck "ponged" all day on that run - just a never ending carpet of goose "doings" which was pretty awful.



I started doing the cream runs when I was seventeen years of age, driving for Mr Alan Winburn (a gentleman). I purchased "Windy's" truck and business in 1951, and carried on with cream runs and general carrying for twenty years. Just about all farmers then milked cows, as the cows gave them a monthly cash cycle.

The cream run on "the flats" fizzled out after a few years, and my main run was Kelvin View, Kithbrook, Boho South, Marraweeny, Violet Town, Creek Junction, 'Bogie North, then off the Tableland to Castle Creek, thence to Euroa Butter Factory. Over the years I experienced some shocking weather, but

always felt a profound fondness for 'Bogie and its people; even today I class myself as a 'Bogie bloke.

I suppose the run actually began the day before, as I would load empty cream cans at the factory late evenings and also two boxes of wrapped butter (in one pound blocks). Butter was only loaded in the evenings during cold months. In the hotter weather it would have to be collected from the refrigerated room early morning along with about 15 hundred weight blocks of ice for delivery to farmers (no farm fridges, just ice boxes).

Each block of ice was 'scored' with a machine so that I could cut off any size block that the customer wanted - ie 1/4 block, 1/2 block, 3/4 block. Ice was carefully wrapped in tarpaulin to keep the hot wind off it to save melting, but by the time I had reached Boho South, it was suffering from severe "battle fatigue". I used to feel embarrassed selling it to people later in the round as it had melted a lot, and broken due to many pot holes in the road, braking and swerving. It was like a cage full of tom cats - would not keep still.

The butter was also looking pretty crook by the end of the run. I sought permission to reverse the run each alternate day so as to share things equally, trying to be fair to all, but my requests fell on deaf ears.

Early on the morning of the run I would pick up meat from the three butchers shops all wrapped up in butchers paper, then newspaper, tied with string and each farmers order was placed in a clean jute sugar bag, with a name tag tied to its neck.

I forgot to mention groceries. These were left out on footpaths the previous evening, all packed well into solid cardboard boxes and tied with string. I would pick these up after I loaded the cans on the previous evening. In good weather the meat bags would travel first class in the cabin with me, but in warmer weather, out the back in a box.

So, here I am folks, ready to take you on the cream run. We'll be sharing the road with about ten log trucks and the many bush men all going up about this time of day. School buses are not a problem. I never clash with them.

To be continued

Max Burnside



Just some of the hundreds of spectacular moth species active in April 2020 on the Strathbogie Tableland.
Bert Lobert



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 (I'm still working in Euroa a couple of days a week).



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