	Also on-line at www.strathbogie.org
The voice	TALK.
ARTEIN	IHLI **
STRATHBOGTE	
WITY. PLATEAU.	March 2021

### STRATHBOGIE TABLELAND ACTION GROUP INC.

Re Council's recent "Share Strathbogie" community engagement session at Strathbogie, STAG has drafted some responses to questions asked.

## What we love about living in Strathbogie Shire (in our case the Tableland)?

- The feeling of community and the support we provide for each other
- Environmental and landscape values

### What we might be able to live without?

- Seemingly unnecessary and lengthy delays in the completion of projects
- Excessive overspending of ratepayers' funds on numerous projects
- Excessively high rates
- Unnecessary roadside weeds which are seriously impacting on the livelihood of the farming community and the very substantial conservation/habitat values of the native vegetation in roadside remnants.

### What do we want for the future?

Potable water in the Strathbogie township

Fast and reliable internet service and mobile phone reception

Satisfactory and timely completion of ongoing projects:

- Spring Creek Picnic Area
- Rec Pavilion upgrade commenced in line with plans agreed by the community
- Water tank at the Rec Ground fully operational
- Footpath from the township to the Rec Ground

Council to continue the practice of yellow road marking on the Tableland which is particularly fog prone in winter.

Considerably stronger support for Community Action Groups and Committees of Management *Continues page 3 .....* 

## STAG AGM

STAG's AGM will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 7.30pm in the Supper Room.

All community members are invited to attend and we welcome new members on the committee.

Apologies: Helen Peters <u>balmanno3666@outlook.com</u> M: 0427 380 662

### What's On

Please contact each organiser to check COVID-19 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 0419 592 211

**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

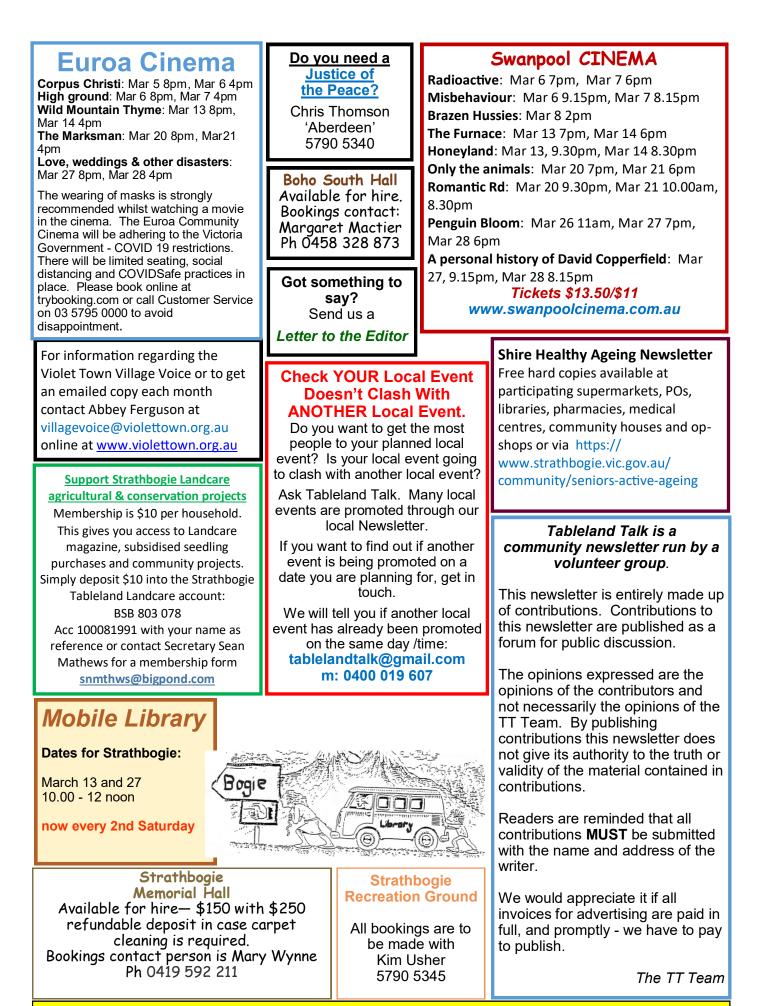
**First Wednesday** of the month -1.30pm Strathbogie Garden Group. Contact Wendy 5790 8523

**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** - 5pm. Tennis at the Recreation Reserve. All welcome. Secretary Mayra Walsh

**Every Thursday** - 6 - 8.30pm. Pizza and drinks at the Rec Ground



**The Deadline** for the March edition of Tableland Talk is Wednesday, March 27, 2021. e: tablelandtalk@gmail.com, m: 0400 019 607, or via Strathbogie PO / Store. Preferred formats: Word or Publisher files, font Arial 11, convert pdf to jpeg, images <250k. *TT Team.*  Continues from page 1 .....

Appropriate recognition and far more structured involvement of volunteers in local projects

Outstanding works to be completed at the Place of Last Resort

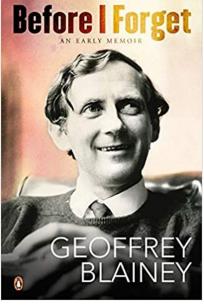
Establishment of an official camping area in Strathbogie – as a high risk fire area it is not desirable to have campers lighting fires in the surrounding bush throughout the summer period.

Council recently passed its Community Engagement Policy which states "We will implement what you decide" and that one of their objectives will be "To place final decision making in the hands of the public". Numerous discussions which both STAG and the Rec Committee have had in relation to two outstanding projects would contradict these statements.

**WE ARE SEEKING YOUR RESPONSE** - if you were unable to attend the community engagement session or have something to add, you can send your comments to <u>stag@strathbogie.org</u>. or come to our AGM on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March (7.30pm at the Hall)

STAG will send a written response to Council after the AGM .

### The Bookshelf – notes from the Bohomians Bookclub



*Before I Forget: an early memoir* by Geoffrey Blainey (Hamish Hamilton, 2019)

At home, encircled by books, I assumed that my writing career, so precarious, would flourish...

Often described as Australia's 'greatest living historian', Professor Emeritus Geoffrey Blainey has had a daunting literary output of over forty impressive and best-selling books detailing Australia's and the wider world's economic and social history. Here, he returns to the first forty years of his life, where he describes the people and environments influencing his decision to become a writer and historian. Viewed through the prism of his astonishingly prolific career, the memoir - while suffering from an overabundance of detail regarding people peripheral to the main story – provides context for both the man and his work.

He divides the memoir into two: growing up and learning the craft of the historian. His father's work as an ordained minister in the Methodist church meant the family moved around to his different postings in rural Victoria. The recording of these early years is interesting, not least, for its reminder of how different simple household items and practices were in the 30's and 40's.

At age 13, Blainey won a scholarship to Wesley College and he refers repeatedly to the profound influences his teachers had on his future career. While at Wesley, and later at the University of Melbourne, he immersed himself in the reading of Australian newspapers at the State Library, a sign of his desire to understand the way in which (white) Australian society had formed; it would be some years before he turned his attention to Australia's indigenous history.

Australia's mining history was to occupy one place in the wide canvas of Blainey's work. After graduation, he was employed as historian and researcher of the old copper mine at Mt Lyell in Tasmania. He had, already, in one of the adventurous hitch-hiking expeditions of his student days, 'fallen under the spell of those strange-coloured mountains and wild-west streets.' His recording of this period, and later of the Mt Isa mine is full of highly interesting and colourful observations. The resulting book, *The Peaks of Lyell,* marked the start of his career as a highly respected, sometimes controversial, writer of history.

Next month: Boy Swallows Universe by Trent Dalton (Harper Collins, 2018)

Ruth Fluhr



Bookworms wanted!

The Bohomians Bookclub has a number of vacancies for 2021.

We meet at the Boho South Hall (cnr Boundary Hill & Bonnie Doon Rds) every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday.

For more information contact Ruth Fluhr 57908606 / 0427979231.



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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

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## Share Strathbogie kicks off in Strathbogie

The first of seven community meetings under the title *Share Strathbogie* was held at the Strathbogie Memorial Hall on Tuesday night (23/2/21). Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor Cr Chris Raeburn, Mt Wombat Councillor Laura Binks, Councillors and officers were on hand to capture feedback to inform the Community Vision, Council Plan and Financial Plan.

During the next nine months Strathbogie Shire Council will be calling for the community to share its thoughts, feedback to inform these important documents, which guide the work of Council over the coming years. Strathbogie Shire Mayor Cr Chris Raeburn said it was essential Council worked with the community to develop these plans.

"This Council is committed to representing our community," Cr Raeburn said. "We want to know that Council and our community share the same vision and are moving together towards a better future. "You will hear me say this a lot, but we can't do this alone. As a Council we're only



successful if we're meeting our community needs, so we're asking you to share your vision for the future and help set our focus to get there."

Cr Laura Binks said attendees were eager to share their priorities for Strathbogie and discuss their concerns in relation to buildings, facilities, footpaths and services around roads, the environment and how the Shire should be tackling climate change. "Views were expressed around roadside maintenance and waterways. While a fantastic suggestion was an education session for new landowners about weeds and fire and flood prevention," Cr Binks said.

Cr Binks said the community could expect to see their feedback, and that of all Share Strathbogie sessions through an engagement report prepared by Council officers. "This information is invaluable in setting Council priorities for the next four years through the Council Plan," she said. "We are here to work with our community, listen and implement the services and projects they need."

There will be several stages to the community engagement program to develop the Community Vision, Council Plan and Financial Plan and many more opportunities for the community to have a say.

"We're hitting the streets, heading to townships throughout the Shire to ask our community what they love about living in Strathbogie Shire and what would make it an even better place to live in the future," Cr Raeburn said. "We'll also be asking you for advice on what you might be able to live without."

For Council, balancing service levels with liveability and cost is always a challenge. However, a sustainable financial future for Strathbogie Shire is non-negotiable.

Council will also be offering the opportunity for the community to have their say online and will soon be calling for people to put up their hand to be part of its first ever Community Forum.

Kristin Favaloro Executive Manager Communications and Engagement Strathbogie Shire Council



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## The Weekend Local

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MOVING EARTH IS THE NAME OF THE GAME. GIVE GRAEME FRIGO A CALL-LOCAL FOR 30

#### Attention Farmers this is an invitation to a community meeting to discuss Farm Crime within the area.

Date: Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2021 Location: Violet Town Football Club rooms Time: 07:00pm

If you are unable to attend or wish to report a matter prior to the event please contact myself Senior Constable BASSE or Detective Acting Senior Sergeant BLISS from the Mitchell Crime Investigation Unit on 57350200.



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## Prepare for 2021 Clean-up Australia Day

As lockdown restrictions ease across Australia, it's the perfect time to organise a COVID-safe clean up event. Now is the time to tackle last year's surge in single use disposal items, such as takeaway coffee cups, food packaging, masks and sanitised wipes; all of which have polluted our local parks, bushland, streets, waterways.

Days listed below are a guide and if your group wishes to do their clean up at another time that is fine – the idea is to help keep our shared areas tidy. Creating a Clean Up is a great way to make a difference for our environment.

Tuesday 2 March – Business Clean Up day

Friday 5 March - Schools Clean Up day

Sunday 7 March – Clean Up Australia Day

You can register as an individual, community group, business or school. All you need to do is go through the online registration process and Clean Up Australia will send you a free Clean Up kit including bags, gloves, information and promotional materials -

www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/register-an-event

Give Australia Post plenty of time to get the parcel through to you but in the meantime this year the Strathbogie Shire Council is assisting Community Groups and schools who have registered their event by:

1. Offering free tipping or disposal of litter collected at a clean-up.

2. Providing extra Clean Up Australia gloves, hi-vis vests, signage and bags for event organisers if required.

3. Litter audit support. A limited number of school or community events who wish to audit the collected litter can request help in litter auditing. One of our Waste Education Officers will attend the end of the event and help complete a litter audit.

If you have any questions about organising a Clean Up Australia Day event or would like to know more about Council's support for this project, please call Michael Young Waste Management Officer on 5795 0000 or email Michael.Young@strathbogie.vic.gov.au



### **Recipe of the Month**

## Lovely Rhubarb Pie

For all those rhubarb lovers, here is an easy, delicious recipe from Margaret Fulton.

1 bunch rhubarb, chopped

1/4 cup brown sugar firmly pressed in cup

2 teaspoons orange rind

3 tablespoons warmed honey

60 gms butter softened

1/4 cup castor sugar 1 egg lightly beaten

3/4 cup self raising flour 1/4 cup milk.

Method

Place chopped rhubarb in ovenproof dish. Sprinkle over orange rind and honey. Combine butter castor sugar, egg ,SR flour and milk and mix to make a soft batter. Spread in dollops over rhubarb and smooth to cover. Bake in oven 375C for 30-40 mins.

Enjoy,

Joan Wood



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- ◊ Chainsaw Work and other tasks around the farm

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- Includes fuel - transit time charged - fencing materials and other consumables extra -

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## The Name Game: Celebrities

As I've noted before, a common ploy of taxonomists (researchers who identify and provide scientific names and descriptions of fauna and flora) is to derive the names of species and genera or higher groupings from people who have contributed to knowledge of them. It's hardly surprising to find that Charles Darwin, the most influential biological scientist of all time, has literally dozens of organisms named for him. Gardeners are likely to be familiar with the Australian evergreen shrub *Darwinia*; fewer readers, perhaps, with Darwin's Frog *Rhinoderma darwinii*, among this multitude. In the Australasian context, an exemplary triplet is provided by the three better-known species of tree kangaroo, *Dendrolagus*, whose names – *bennettianus, goodfellowi* and *lumholtzi* – honour the names of the zoologists who provided pioneering information about them. It's likewise not hard to understand why Sir David Attenborough is a popular source of names; though he isn't a scientist, the interest that he's created in the natural world has been profound. Just one example: *Acisoma attenboroughi,* a Malagasy dragonfly named to mark Attenborough's ninetieth birthday.

A more recent trend is to name plants and animals for people who are recognised not for their contributions to science, but for being celebrities in a great variety of occupations and walks of life. So, for instance, Bill Gates has a Costa Rican fly named for him; he's not any kind of expert on flies but he has helped to finance fieldwork on them. Both Barack and Michelle Obama have Caribbean so-called 'Smiley-Faced Spiders' (referring to their back-pattern) named for them: Spintharus barackobamai and Spintharus michelleobamaae. The describer's rationale, he said, was to honour people who have called for action on climate change and also stood up for human rights. Observant readers may note that Barack's spider's name ends in -i, but Michelle's in -ae. Inconsistent? No. In Latin the endings of the possessive form of nouns reflect the gender of the possessor: -i for masculine and -ae for feminine. Frustratingly, I can't work out what Spintharus means: spin is no doubt from Latin spina, spine or thorn, but *tharus* has got me beat. Any linguists out there able to help?



Adolf Hitler had a beetle Anophthalmus hitleri named for him in 1933;

it's not clear whether this was to honour him or insult him, given that *anophthalmus* means 'without eyes', i.e. blind. There is no question, on the other hand, about the intentions of the describer in 2018 of a Panamanian burrowing amphibian, *Dermophis donaldtrumpi, '*a blind animal that buries its head in the sand.' The name, said its coiner, is thus 'perfectly mirroring the strategic vision President Trump has consistently shown towards climate change.' The species is in danger of becoming extinct, he added, 'as a direct result of its namesake's climate policies.'

And as news reaches us that Trump has dodged yet another bullet, one may sadly reflect on the fact that even the gentle art of taxonomy has been invaded by the sordid machinations of politics.

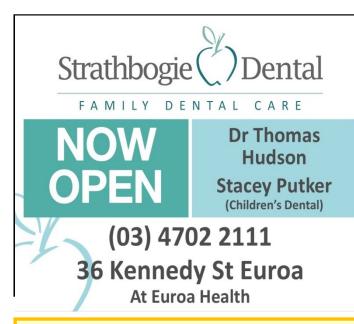
### What about those unusual common names from last month?

A Cacomistle is a small (body weight about 1 kg) central American raccoon-like carnivore.

A **Fanaloka** is a little bigger; it's also called the Malagasy Striped Civet, which tells you that it's a carnivore found in Madagascar.

And a Boky (sometimes Boky-Boky) is a species of mongoose that also hails from Madagascar.

Spooner rides again!	The WORLD DAY OF PRAYER THIS YEAR will be held at St Attracta's Church in Violet Town at 10.30 am on Friday 5th March.
by Donmil	The Focus of our Prayer this year will be for the people of Vanuatu. Everyone WELCOME. Just bring a plate to share and enjoy a cuppa Tea, or Coffee and good company.
Regarding our global leaders,	We should learn a lot from some beautiful speakers about the culture and people of Vanuatu.
I note the name "Scott Morrison"	If any of your family need PASTORAL CARE at the Euroa Hospital
Has quite a lot in common with	please phone the Parish office 5795 3048, Fr Tony 0439 033 029 or Mary Murphy on 0457 847 056.
The English clown's: "John Borison."	Church times are getting back to normal 1st and 3rd Sundays at 11.00am Word and Communion. 2nd and 4th Sundays Mass at 11.00 am 5th Sunday Mass will be held at 10.00am.
	God Bless. John Ryan



## Milkwood Bread

Kate and Sim are baking bread on a Friday again. For deliveries of warm baked sourdough breads direct to your mailbox

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### The Ground Storey - Part 1



The next few issues of Tableland Talk will feature articles drawn from a recent publication\* about the role of 'the ground storey' - fallen logs, branches, sticks and leaves - as habitat. It explores the benefits, as well as some of the issues, rural landholders may face, in managing the ground storey on a rural property, for land and soil health and native wildlife habitat, so it may contribute to an overall healthier environment.

The ground storey is home for a multitude of native soil organisms, plants and animals, birds, and insects that have evolved to adapt and utilise this habitat. As custodians if the land, it is up to each of us to ensure that these native

species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world, can thrive in our landscapes.

A neat and tidy property devoid of fallen logs and its natural ground layer under paddock trees appeals to the common and more dominant species such as rabbits, foxes, cockatoos, galahs and magpies. 'Cleaning up' is directly at the expense and subsequent loss of the native, smaller and more vulnerable array of woodland birds, insects, frogs and reptiles. Many native species live in hollow logs or use fallen logs as shelter, and the organic layer and decomposing wood provides habitat and food for a multitude of insects and invertebrates which, in turn, are a food source for larger animals and birds.

This publication promotes the thoughtful retention of this habitat in a safe manner – it is not suggesting that human life and assets be placed at risk by retaining organic material in areas that, in the case of fire, may cause harm.

Subsequent articles will cover:

- Nutrient recycling and moisture retention  $\diamond$
- The ground storey's role in reducing erosion and weeds  $\Diamond$
- $\diamond$ Firewood collection and fire safety
- $\Diamond$ Practical action

\* Mentiplay-Smith, J. (2020). The Ground Storey: Fallen logs, branches, sticks and leaves for wildlife, property and landscape health.

Published by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, and the support of the Moira Shire Council and the Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network.



### Violet Town RSL

This Vietnam Veterans flag was presented to the Violet Town RSL by the President and was accepted by two Vietnam Veterans Neil Garrett (left) and Ron McIntosh



(right). Both gentlemen are very enthusiast workers at the RSL.

The women's project is progressing well with great support from the Shire and the community. We have an application for a grant that if granted should allow us to do justice to the women who served and supported the war efforts over many conflicts.

We will conduct a Dawn Service ANZAC DAY followed by a Gunfire Breakfast. We hope to also have a March but that depends on any

COVID-19 restrictions that maybe in place. Fingers Crossed. People are most welcomed to lay a wreath in remembrance. Stay safe. LEST WE FORGET.

John Ryan





### Sassy Sister Decadent Blueberry Liqueur

A labour of love and passion from Amanda Furlong and Rob Mitchell. We create Sassy Sister at Bilyara Springs, our sustainable farm and craft distillery, nestled in the foothills of Victoria's pristine Strathbogie Ranges. Made using our organically grown berries, and locally sourced Oak aged spirits, Sassy Sister is distilled and bottled on site at Bilyara Springs.

With Sassy Sister we celebrate and honour generations of strong and independent women. The name Sassy Sister is inspired by two sisters from our family, who combine sweet natures with a zesty wit and luscious vintage style. These sassy sisters have matured into beautiful and capable women - just as our own Sassy Sister has matured into a sumptuous and sophisticated liqueur.

Available across the North East, in Euroa through Strathbogie Local Open Food Network, Weekend Local and Burtons SUPA IGA. She is in both supermarkets in Mansfield and she can be tasted as a cocktail at the Luna Bar in Mansfield where "Sassy Smash" is on their cocktail list. Or buy direct from www.sassysisterliqueur.com.au

#### Landcare- Just like a box of chocolates

Landcare's role is more important than ever before as the world grapples with the impacts of climate change; the loss of habitat and valuable agricultural land; the pollution and destruction of precious waterways, and the extinction of countless species.

It is not hard to become overwhelmed, but where there is light, there is hope. Through grass-roots movements such as Landcare, communities like our own can make a positive difference and create a world we want to see, rather than one which is forced upon us.

As individuals, it is easy to despair and give up hope, however with the support of others, the impossible can become possible. Through involvement in Landcare, individuals can be part of something bigger.

It is said a journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step. So, are you ready to walk with us and start an adventure which could last a lifetime? Be part of the greater movement, get involved with your local Landcare and have fun whilst making a positive difference.

Remember, whether you're 8 or 80 years old; a broad-scale farmer; a humble small-holder on 20 acres; a caretaker of a bush-block or a townie on a ¼ acre block, Landcare has something to offer everyone, it's like a box of chocolates.

Strathbogie Landcare Group meet the first Sunday of every second month at 9am, with the next meeting scheduled



to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> March at the Strathbogie Memorial Hall. New members are most welcome, similarly so are lapsed members. Yearly membership fees remain at a mere \$10 for a household, certainly a bargain.

As we're interested in making Landcare more relevant to a broader spectrum of our community, besides building on existing programs and projects, we hope to explore the possibilities of implementing new ones in the future as we recruit new members and our capacity grows.

Over the coming year, we hope to share with you a collection of stories from across the Tableland of how Landcare has helped shape peoples' perspectives on managing land. In this series, you will hear first-hand accounts from people from different walks of life and

RATHBOG

how they have contributed to or benefited from this grassroots movement. If you have a story you'd like  $\checkmark$  to share, please get in touch, we'd love to showcase  $\checkmark$  them in Tableland Talk.

On behalf of your friendly local Landcare Natasha Baldyga- President Strathbogie Landcare Group Email: <u>rainbowtriggerplant@hotmail.com</u> Mobile: 0402 785 965

# The temporary opening hours at our Euroa branch are:

Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays: 9.30am - 4.30pm (closed for lunch 12.30pm - 1.30pm) Tuesdays: 9:30am - 12pm

## From 1 March 2021, the branch will also be open:

Fridays: 9am - 12pm

## gmcu.com.au

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## Peranbin Primary College Strathbogie Campus

### Welcome

A warm Bogie welcome to Ms. Sandi Johnson who is teaching the Seniors this year on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Kai in Year 1 and Caysa, Violet and Milly in Foundation, and to all our returning students.

### Welcome Back

We are pleased to welcome back Ms. Jenna Barratt who is with the Seniors on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mrs. Fox is teaching the Junior Class, and Roxene is providing Education Support. Ms. Hand joins us on Thursday's for Health and PE, Mrs. Watt is taking the students for Indonesian and Music, Suzie Bates for Art and Denise visits with the MARC Van. Barb continues in the office role.

### Juniors

We are very proud of the way the Junior Class has settled in to school this year. It has been a busy start with swimming most days. Well done to all those students who have started reading and spelling at home.



### Birthdays

February has been a busy months with lots of students celebrating birthdays. Happy birthday to Quinn, Violet, Merrener, Caysa, Maggie and Dan.