



June, 2021

Strathbogie Arts Festival

Art Exhibition - Spoken Word - Sculpture Walk

30th October till 2nd November 2021

Opening night 29th October 2021

Looking for sponsors

Back in 2019 the Strathbogie Arts Festival went off with a bang. 160 amazing multimedia artworks were exhibited in the Strathbogie Hall with a creative dance duo and renowned jazz singer performing at the opening night. The Bridge to Bridge sculpture walk was a great attraction. Spoken Word packed the church, and the Singing Workshop was elevating. Finally, the crowd danced like crazy at the Gypsy Masquerade Party.

We want to do it again, so we are reaching out to locals and beyond for sponsorship support. BogArts are a small community not for profit group and we are absolutely chuffed by the support we have had so far.

If you would like to be a part of making this festival an ongoing success and promote creativity locally, please let us know. We are happy to tailor a sponsorship package to suit, whether it be promoting your own business or product, or an individual wanting to give back to the community. We would love to hear from you.

Cheers from Bogarts

Dana 0407 689 608 or Sim
0455 346 141

Email:
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Would you like to know more?

Website: [https://
bogartsfestival.org/](https://bogartsfestival.org/)

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Instagram: [https://
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Massive thanks to our previous sponsors:

Shire of Strathbogie - 535M - Strathbogie Rec Club - Strathbogie Memorial Hall - Mary Mathews - Strathbogie Brewing Company - Magars Hill Winery - Michael Flatt - Euroa Arboretum



What's On

Please check with organisers regarding current covid-19 arrangements.

Every Third Monday of the month
7.30pm STAG meets 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
Ph: Di Mackrell 5790 5241

Every First Sunday of the month -
Strathbogie Landcare 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

Euroa Cinema

Antoinette in the Cevennes

June 4 8pm, June 5 4pm

Six minutes to midnight

June 5 8pm, June 6 4pm

The Last Vermeer

June 12 8pm, June 13 4pm

June again

June 19 8pm, June 20 4pm

Locked Down

June 26 8pm, June 27 4pm

Tom & Jerry

June 30 11am & 3pm

Tix at door, trybooking.com or Customer Service 5795 0000. **Prebooked \$8.**

Euroa Community Cinema adheres to Vic Government - COVID 19 restrictions.

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Boho South Hall
Available for hire.
Bookings contact:
Margaret Mactier
Ph 0458 328 873

Got something to say?

Send us a

Letter to the Editor

Swanpool CINEMA

Judas the Black Messiah Jun 5 6pm, Jun 6 5pm

The Little Things Jun 5 8.30pm, Jun 6 7.30pm

French Exit Jun 12 1.30 & 6pm, Jun 13 5pm

The Truffle Hunters Jun 12 8.15pm, Jun 13 7.15pm

Six minutes to midnight Jun 18 6pm, Jun 20 5pm

Ammonite Jun 18 8.15pm, Jun 20 7.15pm

Swanpool Environmental Film Festival

Jun 19 1pm to 9.30pm

Three sessions with guest speakers.

Promising young woman Jun 26 6pm, Jun 27 5pm

The Nest Jun 26 8.30pm, Jun 27 7.30pm

Tickets \$13.50/\$11

www.swanpoolcinema.com.au

For information regarding the Violet Town Village Voice or to get an emailed copy each month contact Abbey Ferguson at villagevoice@violettown.org.au online at www.violettown.org.au

Support Strathbogie Landcare agricultural & conservation projects

Membership is \$10 per household.

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Mathews for a membership form

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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:

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m: 0400 019 607

Shire Healthy Ageing Newsletter

Free hard copies available at participating supermarkets, POs, libraries, pharmacies, medical centres, community houses and op-shops or via <https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/community/seniors-active-ageing>

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 to publish.

The TT Team

Mobile Library

Dates for Strathbogie:

June 12 and 26
10.00 - 12 noon

Every 2nd Saturday



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 592 211

Strathbogie Recreation Ground

All bookings are to be made with
Kim Usher
5790 5345

The Deadline for the July edition of Tableland Talk is Saturday, June 26, 2021.

Editor: Sean Mathews 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.*

STRATHBOGIE TABLELAND ACTION GROUP INC.

At the May meeting a number of committee members expressed their concern and frustration in relation to Council's management of community projects.

- The picnic shelter at Spring Creek was commenced four years ago and remains an eyesore. On numerous occasions STAG has expressed concern that vehicles are being encouraged to drive along a pedestrian path previously created to provide safe access (particularly for school children) between Magilton Drive and the township. At a community meeting in September 2017 "it was agreed that a park shelter type building would be acceptable, it must not resemble a car port in any way and must maintain the aesthetic appearance and character of the township".
- Yellow lines on Tableland roads were introduced by a previous Council some years ago to provide increased safety during heavy fog. The yellow lines would also be of benefit in the event of bushfire and heavy smoke. Council has advised that they are adhering to VicRoads standards and that all lines are to be repainted white. STAG intends to write to VicRoads and Australian Standards seeking either an amendment to the standards or exemption for the Tableland. It would seem reasonable for Council to postpone any remarking of roads pending an outcome from this application.
- There have been numerous reports to Council recently about perceived illegal and excessive clearing of roadsides and native vegetation. It is difficult to comprehend how Council can proclaim a "climate emergency" but refuse to take any action in relation to significant breaches of their own local law.
- In August 2016 Council employed a consultant to prepare the Strathbogrie Recreation Reserve Development Plan. In November 2020 the CEO advised that "closure of the veranda at the Rec Reserve was scheduled for completion in April 2021! On 17 May we were advised that the project had been put on hold. On 26 May we received advice from the CEO that *"the concept design will be completed within the next two weeks"*.
- Drought funding was received by Council early in 2020 to install the water tank and generator at the Rec Reserve. It had been hoped that the tank would be operational before the start of the fire season. The contract for installation was let in August – the tank finally installed late December. The generator (which was purchased in April 2020) was installed in mid-May 2021.

A request to provide a footpath between the Rec Reserve and township initially went to Council in 2017. Advice from the CEO in November 2020 was that "all consultation and delivery of path is scheduled for completion late February". On 26 May advice from the CEO is *"that this project has now been postponed until we are able to further engage with the broader community about how to best deliver a path from the Spring Creek picnic area to the Strathbogrie Recreation Reserve. Whilst we were due to commence the project this week, we received advice that the proposed design was not sympathetic with the native vegetation and other considerations."*

Some of these projects are in their fifth year with little or no outcome. The only project which seems to have Council's urgent attention is the removal of the yellow road lines.

Council's Plan states that it should "Continue to support local community planning processes across the Shire including implementation of priority projects from the Community Action Group Plans" and that areas needing special attention were identified as "Communications and Engagement, Governance & Customer Service and People & Culture"

STAG can be contacted at stag@strathbogrie.org



Quiz Question of the Month

In December 1997, Melbourne's World Trade Centre was host to a collection of 110 figures from the famous Madame Tussaud's waxworks. Why was Melbourne so excited to be chosen to exhibit the exhibition?

Who does this waxwork represent?

Answer page 6

Pandemicity

by Donmil

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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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Winter is coming; prepare to stay warm

Strathbogie Shire Council is reminding community members, with winter fast approaching, there are firewood regulations to keep in mind. Collecting firewood from the roadside is permitted in certain areas throughout the Shire but, if you intend to collect firewood, you need to contact Council in the first instance and obtain a permit.

Permits cost \$16 and allows the collection of a cubic metre's worth of firewood per permit. Permits are available at Strathbogie Shire Council's Customer Service Centres in Euroa and Nagambie. Any person detected collecting firewood without a current permit may be subject to an infringement or prosecution.

The current firewood collection period began on March 1 and finishes on June 30 and residents are reminded that firewood collection is not permitted during the winter. Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor Cr Chris Raeburn said Council supported members of the community collecting roadside firewood, but they must ensure the wood is collected from areas that will not impact the important habitat of our native flora and fauna.

"Firewood can only be collected from medium to lower conservation roadsides and council staff will assist you in determining where is best to go to collect your firewood," he said.

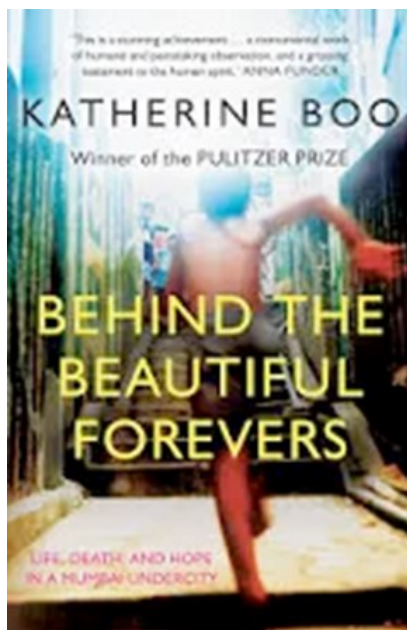
"We want our Shire residents to stay warm while continuing to protect our surrounds."

If you require any further information or have any questions regarding obtaining a permit to collect firewood, contact Strathbogie Shire Council on 1800 065 993 and we will discuss it with you. The firewood collection period also runs from 1 September to 30 November.



Tara Whitsed
Communications and Engagement Officer

The Bookshelf – notes from the Bohomians Bookclub



Behind the Beautiful Forever by Katherine Boo, Scribe, 2012

It's only after reaching the Author's Note in the closing pages of this non-fiction novel that the reader is in no doubt that what has just been read is real. This world of one of Mumbai's myriad slum dwellings, Annawadi, is so far removed from the average reader as to appear housed on another planet. Not only is the situation real and contemporary; the vivid characters that inhabit Annawadi are actual people, followed and interviewed over four years by the author with the help of interpreters and interlocutors. So what we have is actually an un-put-downable documentary.

Annawadi sits cheek-by-jowl with the sparkling new Mumbai airport; the wall hiding the slum from incoming international travellers is adorned with a giant mural—*THE BEAUTIFUL FOREVERS*—in lurid colour. In 1991, with the introduction of economic liberalisation, the slum dwellers of India had seized on the promise of progress and the mind-dizzying offer of an escape from poverty. Two decades later, Abdul is an adept 'manager' in the garbage-picking industry. His set-up appears to be solid, but is tossed in the air like a broken cooking pot by the tragic, desperate act of

his neighbor, Fatima or One-Leg. Asha is a political animal whose aspirations are aided by her willingness to consort with men who appear to have power. She is rising in the ranks and sees her prize of authority and power within reach, just before it crumbles and turns to dust. Muslim-Hindu tensions spark and die down, reignite and burst forth, depending on the events of the day. There is death, deception, self-deception and tragedy alongside indomitable hope, pragmatism, endurance and nobility.

This is not an easy read, but a highly recommended one. It is a tour-de-force that reflects Katherine Boo's own courage and resolve to shed light on lives lived out in poverty.

Next month: Mrs Kelly: the astonishing life of Ned Kelly's mother by Grantlee Kieza, ABC Books, 2018

Ruth Fluhr

The Weekend Local

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After reading Lucretius, I go to the pond.

The slippery green frog
that went to his death
in the heron's pink throat
was my small brother

and the heron
with the white plumes
like a crown on its head
who is washing now his great sword beak
in the shining pond
is my tall thin brother.

My heart dresses in black
and dances.

Mary Oliver

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Quiz question answer:

(from page 3)

It was the first time that the collection had toured outside Europe. Figures in the collection were Dame Edna Everage, Sir Donald Bradman, Elle Macpherson, Shane Warne and this one of Mel Gibson.

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The Name Game: Small and smaller

Angus Martin

I mused a while ago on the subject of big and bigger animals and their names: the littlies deserve a mention too. Inevitably the business of naming animals after celebrities will also come up again: it seems unavoidable.



What started my train of thought is the recent discovery of a new species of weta in New Zealand, whose describer dubbed it *Hemiandrus jacinda*, in honour, of course, of New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern. What's a weta? It's a large, ground-dwelling, cricket-like insect, and Jacinda's weta is just one of a number of species which call New Zealand home. Why name it for the PM? In essence, I think, because the describer is one of her many fans (there are already other critters named for her), but he noted that its body colour is red (hence appropriate for the Labour Party) and it is long-legged. All very well, but the pedant in me notes that it should be *jacindae* ('of Jacinda'), and I can't get the sense of *Hemiandrus* (*hemi*, Greek, half; *andros*, Greek, man or male). Noting, however, that *Fortune* magazine recently put Jacinda at position No. 1 on its list of the world's top 50 leaders, this is hardly the time or place for pedantry.



Of interest, however, is the fact that though we commonly employ insects in our metaphors of smallness (fleas, ants, lice), wetas are pretty big. The giant weta, in fact, is among the largest and heaviest insects known; it also has a marvellous generic name: *Deinacrida*, Greek, 'terrible locust'. What a contrast with another recently-recognised animal species in Madagascar, *Brookesia nana*, a chameleon, which is almost certainly the smallest reptile in the world. Adult male length inclusive of the tail is 22 mm (a bit less than an inch); an adult giant weta measures as much as 100 mm (4 inches).

As a species name *nana* is fine (Greek *nanos*, small or dwarfish – think 'nanosecond'), but *Brookesia* is a disappointment. It's that celebrity thing again: the genus is named for one Joshua Brookes (1761-1833), an English anatomist and naturalist who established his own natural history museum in London. His other claim to fame is his recognition that the cheetah is different enough from the other big cats (it is the only one with non-retractile claws) that it should be in its own genus. So he established the genus *Acinonyx* for it (Greek *akinetos*, fixed; Greek *onux*, claw).

If you were to name a species for Scott Morrison or Anthony Albanese, what kind of animal would you like it to be?

Recipe of the Month

Lamb Casserole with Peas

A winter warmer - from Diana Hand

INGREDIENTS

- 5 tblspn olive oil
- 1 large onion thinly sliced
- 1kg boned shoulder of lamb trimmed and cubed
- 100ml dry white wine
- 800g shelled fresh or frozen peas
- 6 eggs beaten
- 100g Pecorino cheese grated
- 2 tblspn fresh parsley chopped
- Salt and freshly milled black pepper

Ref: Peranbin Primary College DELISH Our Family Favourites 2012

Preheat the oven to 200C

Fry onion until softened. Add the lamb and sear the meat on all sides. Pour the wine over the meat and boil off for over 1 minute. Season with salt and pepper, cover tightly, lower the heat and simmer for about 20 minutes. Stir in the peas (+/- carrots) and simmer further until meat and peas are cooked through.

Transfer onion, meat and peas to an oven proof dish. Mix the eggs, cheese and parsley together. Pour the mixture over the onions, meat and peas.

Bake in the preheated oven for about 10 minutes or until well set and browned.



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REVIEW OF MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES *LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989 AND 2020*

In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Acts 1989 and 2020* Council is required to review Mayoral and Councillor Allowances prior to 30 June 2021.

At its meeting of 18 May 2021, Council resolved to give notice that the review has commenced and is now seeking community input into the review.

Allowances are set by the Minister for Local Government and Strathbogie Shire is a Category 1 municipality – Small Rural Council.

At its May Council meeting, Council resolved in principle to retain allowances at their current levels, which are:

Mayoral allowance: \$62,884 allowance plus \$5,973.98 allowance equivalent to the superannuation guarantee of 9.5%

Councillor allowance: \$21,049 allowance plus \$1,999.66 allowance equivalent to the superannuation guarantee of 9.5%.

Submissions from the community are now sought in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* in relation to this allowance review.

Written submissions must be received by 5pm Monday 21 June 2021 and must be addressed to:

Julie Salomon

Chief Executive Officer
Strathbogie Shire Council
PO Box 177, Euroa VIC 3666

Or via email to info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Please indicate in your written submission if you would like the opportunity to make a verbal presentation to Council in support of your written submission, or have someone act on your behalf to make this verbal submission for you.

The meeting to hear submissions is to commence at 4pm on Tuesday 29 June 2021 and will be held in the Community Conference Centre, Bury Street, Euroa.

Submissions made in accordance with section 223 of the Act are considered public documents and may be incorporated in the agenda and minutes of the Council Meeting at which they are considered and available on Council's website as part of the relevant agenda and minutes of the meeting.

Any queries can be directed to the Executive Manager, Governance and Customer Service on 1800 065 993.



Beautiful Bogie Trees

A while back we went for a walk up to Rocky Ned, over on the east side of the Strathbogie State Forest. The track is rocky but not too steep or difficult and the lookout at the top provides a lovely view out over the forest. The forest is not too disturbed and there are many lovely old trees such as these, which are often gnarled and twisted, possibly from growing on a rocky site with shallow soils. Well worth a walk in finer weather.

Kath Handasyde



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Rabbit & Blackberry Control Subsidy



Historically, the Strathbogie Tablelands has been known as the rabbit Hilton of Victoria. Not too long ago, rabbits were a major problem. Talk to any landowner who has lived in the district for a long-time and they'll be able to tell you some gob-smacking stories about how bad the rabbit problem was back in the old days.

Through determination and a heap of hard yakka, the community was able to get on top of the rabbit problem. But, just like weeds, rabbits need to be constantly managed, otherwise their numbers will quickly build up again.

Equally important, is the need for the entire community to work together to address this problem more

strategically. As rabbits have four legs, your neighbour's rabbits can easily become your rabbits and vice versa. In addition, as rabbits can breed rapidly, they can multiply quickly. Unless everyone works together, our beloved Tablelands may end up being the rabbit Hilton once again.

Today, most landowners still have an ongoing battle trying to keep rabbits in check. Many of us have rabbits digging up our paddocks and eating our pastures. Whilst others have rabbits chewing their precious fruit trees or decimating natural regeneration of bushland.



But did you know the Granite Creeks Projects Inc. can help you tackle your rabbit problem? The Granite Creeks Projects, which consists of a network of Landcare Groups including Strathbogie Tablelands Landcare, can help by providing landowners with integrated rabbit control advice.

In addition, they can also help subsidise 50% of the cost of rabbit warren ripping and the treatment of blackberries to remove rabbit harbor. Without harbor and burrows, rabbits are easy prey for predators and find it harder to become established.

To be eligible for this subsidy, participants must be a current member of their local Landcare Group. Strathbogie Tableland Landcare's annual membership

remains a mere \$10 and new members are most welcome.

For further details about rabbit control and this current round of funding for subsidies through the Granite Creeks Projects, please contact Neil Devanny on 0457 526 566 or email neil.n.devanny@gmail.com

For further information about integrated rabbit control, please visit the Victorian Rabbit Action Network website: <https://vran.com.au/resources/>

Natasha Baldyga- President, Strathbogie Tableland Landcare





Now open in Strathbogie - Ted Paterson's Mechanical Servicing and Repairs.



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Give me a call or drop me a line. If I can't talk, I'll respond ASAP.
(I'm still working in Euroa a couple of days a week).



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Farmgate Lunch & Store

Visit Sevens Creek Wagyu farm in Strathbogie for a barbeque you won't forget. Bookings are welcome but not essential. Conveniently located 1.3km from Polly McQuinn's swimming hole on Sevens Creek.

You can arrive at the farm any time between 11.00am to 4.00pm. From there you'll be able to pick your own steak, which will be served with vegetables roasted in Wagyu fat and sides.

Prices range from \$40 - \$90 per plate (depending on how fancy the steak is that you choose). We also offer other fare like charcuterie & sharing platters as well as a kids menu. Sevens Creek Wagyu is pooch friendly but they must be on a lead.

Soft drink and water will be available to purchase, but please BYO booze.

We look forward to welcoming you to a Sevens Creek Wagyu Lunch experience.

Our Farm to Your Plate

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Book online at www.sevenscreekwagyu.com.au

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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

The Ground Storey Part 4 – firewood collection and fire safety

(This is the fourth article drawn from a recent publication about the role of 'the ground storey' - fallen logs, branches, sticks and leaves - as habitat.)*

Firewood

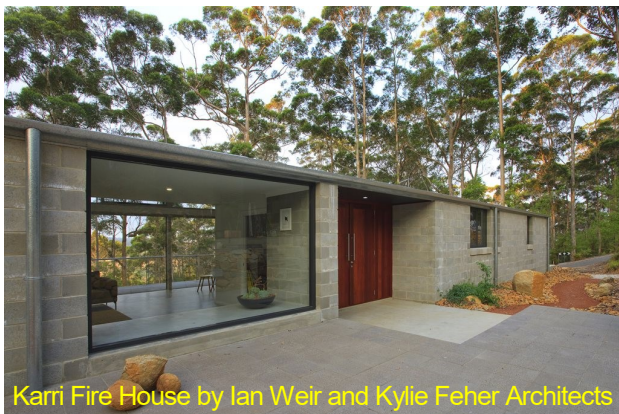
You can collect firewood and at the same time maintain the homes of the multitude of animals, plants and micro fauna and flora that rely on fallen logs, branches, sticks and leaves.

Firewood collection can be perceived as performing a community service by reducing a fire hazard. It is important to be aware that removing timber and branches has major environmental impacts and implications that will ultimately affect your property's health, resilience and diversity of native species.

Firewood collection generally involves collecting undecayed fallen logs and branches, but this repeated loss will, over time, reduce or eliminate the availability of ground storey habitat. 'Cleaning up' all fallen timber for any reason and burning up the left-over 'trash' isn't doing the environment a favour, it is something that has serious consequences for all the species that use and depend upon it.

However, you can make firewood collection more sustainable on your property. Always leave hollow logs – these are important homes for native wildlife. Consider planting trees to replace any timber removed. Better still, establish your own purpose-planted firewood plantation. Even if you think you won't see it reach maturity, it is an asset that will add value to your property and will save fallen logs in the future from becoming firewood. Even a small firewood lot consisting of 10 or 20 trees is useful.

Keeping safe



Fire risk is the most commonly considered risk when retaining the ground storey. Your personal safety is the priority in a fire. It is imperative that your house, sheds and surrounds are free from all flammable material, and you have prepared a fire plan.

You can have fallen logs on your property *and* keep safe. Removing all flammable materials around your house and sheds is the best way to protect yourself and your assets in a fire. Remember too, that any material located around the house and sheds can also inhibit emergency access and egress. As the CFA website

states: *Research shows that clearing fuel near your house is one of the most important things you can do to help protect it from a bushfire. Fuel management (such as mowing or slashing grass) and other preventative measures around key assets on your property will have a significant impact on your safety and survival from bushfire.*

It is also recommended that the ground along fence lines is kept free from any flammable material, so it doesn't burn in the event of a fire. If there are larger fallen logs or branches near the house or sheds, they can be re-located to a safe, appropriate area on your property.

Away from your house and sheds, fallen logs become useful habitat, protect the soil, inhibit the effects of erosion, serve as scratching posts for stock and safe havens for newborn calves and lambs, or if semi-submerged can become basking platforms for turtles or perching habitat for water birds in the farm dam.

Next month's article, the final in this series, will sum up the practical actions you can take to maintain a healthy and beneficial ground storey on your property.

* 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.

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Strathbogie Forest Citizen Science - Frogmouths and Nightjars

In last month's article we met the Australian Owlet-nightjar, the smallest of the Australian nightjars. Two other members of the nightjar family can be found in our district - the Tawny Frogmouth and the White-throated Nightjar.

The Tawny frogmouth is the largest representative of the nightjars in our region and it's regularly seen at night sitting on fence-posts and exposed branches, waiting for insects to snap up with its huge mouth (which is bright yellow inside!). It's large size, grey plumage and long wings mean it's often mistaken for an owl, especially when it swoops through your car headlights. If that swooping bird is the size of a kookaburra and mottled grey in colour, then it's a Tawny Frogmouth, not an owl. Their other well-known behavior is to adopt a day-time roosting habit, where they use their camouflaged feathers and facial bristles to mimic a tree branch. So good is their talent that they can be difficult to see, even if you know they're there. Also known as 'Mopoke', or 'Morepoke', these terms likely result from confusion with another common nocturnal bird, the Southern Boobook Owl, which occurs in most places that Tawny Frogmouths do and has a two-syllable call that sounds just like 'mo-poke'. The Tawny Frogmouth, on the other hand, makes a slow and steady 'Oom, oom, oom', often repeated for lengthy periods and can carry for long distances at night.

Perhaps the most amazing feature of this bird is its ability to slow its heart-rate, reduce body temperature by up to 10 C, in order to conserve energy. Torpor, or short-term hibernation, is well known in a wide variety of mammals, but is less well-known in birds.

Intermediate in size between the Tawny Frogmouth and Australian Owlet-nightjar is the White-throated Nightjar. It's a much less common bird, but has a distinctive and rather spooky call (<https://ebird.org/species/whtnig3>), described as a series of rapidly ascending bubbling notes: wow-wow-wow-wow-ho-ho ho-ho-o-o-O, most often heard at dusk and dawn in Spring and Summer. It's beautiful plumage provides excellent camouflage when it sits on the ground among forest leaf litter.

These nocturnal birds are both magical and mythical – there is a wealth of folklore surrounding species like these here in Australia and overseas. Every continent has its resident Caprimulgiformes – a Latin term for 'goat sucker', look it up!



Bertram Lobert, Strathbogie Ranges CMN

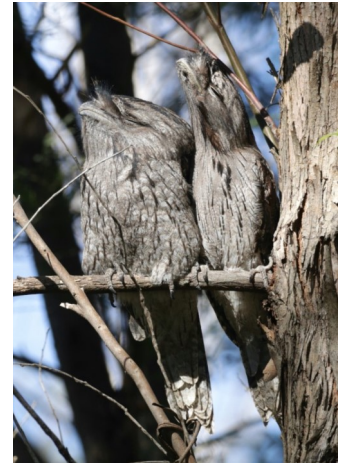
Strathbogie Ranges CMN- Festival of Fungi

This last weekend saw the third, biennial, Festival of Fungi – a series of public events on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, in Euroa, Strathbogie & Mt Wombat. It was once again a full and successful program. Our sincere thanks to everyone that helped organise and participate in what has become an exciting and anticipated community event.

Though it was all good, perhaps the most exciting component was Friday night's sound and light fungi installation in Euroa, featuring the work of so many fantastic local school kids, projected onto buildings, trees and shop fronts and all creatively brought together by the Little Projector Company.

Our special thanks and huge appreciation goes to Alison Pouliot, an exceptional mycologist, communicator, photographer, author, story-teller and all-round generous human being. Alison, a bit like her beloved fungi, is a force of nature, infecting those around her with an awe and curiosity for the natural world and fungi in particular. Alison has not only been the centerpiece of each of our three festivals, she shares her enthusiasm with countless other community groups and events in this country and abroad. Thank you Alison.

<https://www.strathbogieranges.org.au/>



Tawny Frogmouth day-roost, by Wanda Optland



Tawny Frogmouth at night



White-throated Nightjar, lithograph by JG Keulemans



A brilliant team (L-R): Helen McKernan, Alison Pouliot, Suzie Bates, Penny Algar.

Walk of the Month - Violet Town Heritage Walk

<https://walkingmaps.com.au/walk/4630>

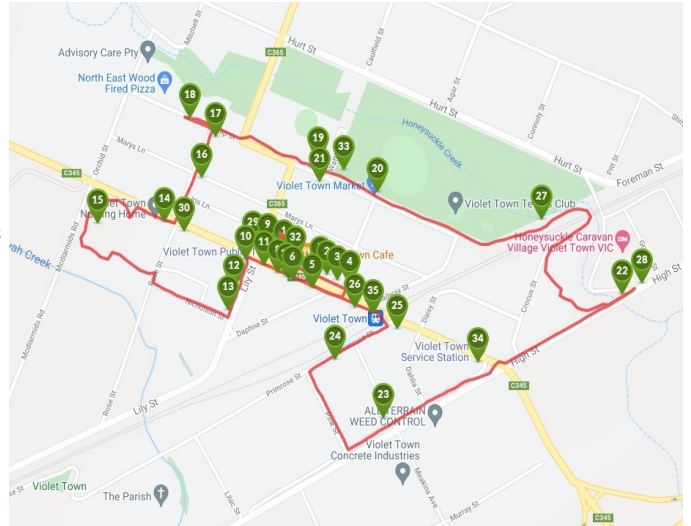
Start: 49 Cowslip St., Violet Town

Time: approx. 2 hours. Length: 5.1km.

Difficulty: very easy.

As you can see, there is plenty of interest along this Heritage Walk around Violet Town. Including historic features, services, and amenities, it has something for everyone. Go to the web site for Points of Interest details. Optional shorter version: <https://www.violettown.org.au/what-s-on/the-heritage-walk>

The suggested Lion's Park start/finish offers toilets, shelter, water, a playground and shops nearby. However, you can start and finish wherever you like.



Violet Town Origins

In 1838, the government surveyed the site 'Violet Creek'. Land sales began in 1839. Named after prolific native Violets seen by early explorers, it is the oldest surviving inland town surveyed from Port Phillip District of NSW. Mitchelltown was earlier, but no longer exists.

The Royal Mail Hotel opened in 1846, the village began to grow. Buildings went from bark huts to timber construction. By the 1860s it had 3 hotels, a bakery and school. The main road was High St (Beechworth Coach Rd). The town was an important coach stop on the Melbourne to Sydney Road where it met the overland telegraph and tracks to Bendigo and the north-eastern gold fields. Some current High St houses were tea rooms & inns.

Railway arrival in 1872/3 saw a CBD shift west of the line. Principal streets became Cowslip, Hyacinth, Tulip and Rose. In 1895 the Shire of Violet Town was gazetted. In 1994 it was amalgamated with adjoining Shires to become part of the Shire of Strathbogie. You can walk this history.

Today

The town and locality have great tourism, recreation and sporting features. The shopping centre caters for visitor's needs. Swap a yarn or spot a bargain at the famous Violet Town Market held in the Recreation Reserve on the second Saturday of each month. Walk, birdwatch or picnic at one of the delightful Bushland Reserves: Honeysuckle Creek Track or Shadforth Reserve. Watch for the very sociable, but threatened, Grey Crowned Babbler as you move around. The community efforts to improve habitat are worth experiencing.

A sub committee of Violet Town Action Group, the Violet Town History Group was formed to preserve and document the story of Violet Town. Information and photographs provided for the Victoria Walks walkingmaps version by current and former residents of Violet Town have been gratefully received. The History Group created the original version of this walk.

Sean Mathews

