



December, 2021

The Last Donmil Game.

Angus Martin

Going by my records (which I'm sure aren't complete or infallible) **Donmil** has had a home on the pages of almost every issue of *Tableland Talk* since October 2002: a total, that is, of something over 230 contributions. In response to a challenge by a reader to stop hiding behind a pseudonym and reveal his identity, in June 2007 he explained his position thus:

We don't know what that thing is in Loch Ness,
Which leaves us free to speculate and guess;
As the world becomes increasingly revealed,
We should bless each secret that remains
concealed.

For a touch of mystery, ignorance or strife
Is something that enriches every life;
And that, I think, is reason on its own
For the face of Donmil to remain unknown.

Among the people who identified him (and there were a few), one raised the subsidiary question of the origin of the name Donmil. I'll come back to that.

The Name Game had its first outing in March 2019, so has clocked up a mere 27 episodes. In this case the author did reveal himself as Angus Martin: and many readers may have suspected, on the basis of stylistic and topical resemblances, that Angus and Donmil were one and the same person. They were and are. The two of them agree, furthermore, that they've had an excellent run in *TT*, but that the time has come for them to lay down their pens (or keyboards).

Why **Donmil**? Because (this won't surprise you) the derivation is from a scientific name: Donmil and The Name Game are chips off the same block. Donmil is the first six letters – in reverse – of the name of a genus of Australian frogs, *Limnodynastes*. The biggest, most handsome and most colourful member of the genus (and my favourite frog) is *Limnodynastes interioris*, which just edges into northern Victoria, but is abundant in the NSW Riverina. The name is a combination of *limne*, Greek, marsh or pond; *dynastia*, Latin, lordship; *interioris*, Latin, belonging to the interior or inland. Hence 'Inland Lord of the Marsh', commonly known as the Giant Bullfrog.

Continued Page 3

What's On

Please check with organisers regarding current covid-19 arrangements.

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 Natasha 0402 785 965
(currently in recess)

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

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

Every Sunday & Wednesday -1pm
Strathbogie Croquet - Fernhills, Hills Rd. Dennis Taylor on 0429 190 807

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Everyone. Tableland Talk looks forward to hearing from you again in 2022.



A heartfelt word of thanks. *TT depends on local contributors for its very existence. Angus Martin has been a particularly special contributor throughout. His writing has delivered education, interest and entertainment without fail. His words will be sorely missed. Sean, Editor.*

Euroa Cinema

The Euroa Community Cinema is closed until further notice.

Do you need a Justice of the Peace?

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Boho South Hall

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Got something to say?

Send us a

Letter to the Editor

Swanpool CINEMA

Cousins PG Dec 4 7pm, Dec 5 6pm
Two of us M Dec 4 9.15pm, Dec 6 8.15pm
The Rose Maker M Dec 11 7pm, Dec 12 6pm
Valerie Taylor: Playing with Sharks PG Dec 11 9.15pm, Dec 12 8.15pm
Moon Rock for Monday M Dec 18 7pm, Dec 19 6pm
Healing M Dec 18 9.15pm, Dec 19 8.15pm
Diana's Wedding MA15+ Dec 26 6pm, Dec 27 7pm
The Days of Bagnold Sumer M Dec 26 9.15pm, Dec 27 8.15pm
The Dressmaker Dec 31 6.30pm
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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

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rainbowtriggerplant@hotmail.com

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

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:

December 4 and 18
10.00 - 12 noon

now 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 592211

Strathbogie Recreation Ground

All bookings are to be made with
Kim Usher
5790 5345

The Deadline for the February edition of Tableland Talk is Thursday, January 27, 2021.

e: tablelandtalk@gmail.com, m: 0400 019 607

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

Continued from Page 1

This and related species also go under the more colourful name 'Pobblebonk', based on the sound of several males calling in sequence. Each male says 'Bonk!', a common spring and summer sound on the Tableland, contributed by the local bullfrog, *Limnodynastes dumerilii*.

I'm a retired zoologist (that's why many of Donmil's early efforts are animal-themed). I was a colleague of Dr Kath Handasyde at the University of Melbourne, and Kath's ownership of a property on the Tableland was the major factor which led to my connection with the area. Our daughter Jen also studied zoology, and Kath supervised her graduate research program, which focused on the Bobuck (Mountain Brushtail Possum), a handsome denizen of the Tableland. Her main research site was on Bert and Ruth's and neighbouring properties; when my wife Sue and I visited we fell in love with the Tableland and decided to find a place of our own, which would also serve as a residence for Jen while she carried out her years of fieldwork, much of it at night. So the Martins became part-time Marraweeney residents in mid-2000, the year I turned 60. We named the property 'Aviemore' to conform with the local Scottish idiom (Strathbogie, Bonnie Doon) and because it was the name my Scots-born grandfather gave his house. Jen and her family, and her brother Mike and his wife, are Aviemore 'activists'; indeed Mike has established a small orchard on the property. Our elder son Rob, likewise, has been a long-time contributor to Aviemore maintenance and improvement, but is now a Brisbane resident.

We signed up for *Land for Wildlife* and *Landcare* as soon as we got ourselves established, and put in many hours working on the Bridge-to-Bridge project. We also launched an assault on the heavy blackberry infestation on Aviemore, a battle which (needless to say!) continues. We negotiated with the CMA and a neighbour to re-align a fence in order to exclude cattle from our creek. We initiated a program of tree-planting which still continues, and we installed nest-boxes as some compensation for the lack of big, old, hollow-bearing trees. Some trees from our earliest plantings are now big enough to become bearers of nest-boxes.

Long after Donmil and Angus are forgotten, one enduring legacy of their presence will remain. When we bought the property it had an RMB number on Bonnie Doon Road; the unsealed track it stood on was officially unnamed, but was locally known as 'Old Bonnie Doon Road'. When the RMB system was abandoned and all dwellings had to be given a street address, Council proposed the name 'Hammond Road'. I felt that it was a track, not a road, and also that the name didn't fit comfortably with the rural character and prominent natural values of the area. After a bit of digging I found that the land traversed by the track had at one time been designated as the 'Wonganookah Fauna and Flora Sanctuary', a name which surely needed to be preserved. I consulted other residents (including, at that time, Sim and Kate) and represented us at the Council meeting at which this and many other road-naming matters were dealt with. There was also a strong backer for the name Hammond Road, and Sim played a key role in the eventual resolution of the matter, with another nearby road which needed a name becoming Hammond Road: problem solved! Council acted promptly in supplying signage for both Wonganookah Track and Hammond Road.

Sue and I intend to continue to enjoy the Tableland for as long as we can. We thank the neighbours and other residents who have given us help and made us welcome, and I'm particularly indebted to Fiona Townsend, Sean Mathews and their associates, who have been so generous in allowing me space in TT for just short of 20 years.



Donmil's inspiration: *Limnodynastes interioris*

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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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Beautiful Bogie trees

Recently we encountered this decrepit old blue gum, *Eucalyptus globulus* subspecies *bicostata*, on the verge along Kipping's Road. This tree had a DBH (diameter at breast height – a term used by foresters to indicate tree size) of around 3m, so must be very old. Being an important timber harvest species, most of the mature blue gums have long gone from the Strathbogie Ranges. While this old soldier is surrounded by cleared land, it is still a valuable tree in the landscape. Old blue gums form large hollows which provide good quality denning/nesting sites for many wildlife species. They also provide important temporary resting sites for animals dispersing between forest patches through the cleared landscapes that are characteristic of many areas in the Strathbogie Ranges.



Photos & text: Kath Handasyde



I know that many of you go for walks around the Strathbogies, and must be seeing some wonderful native trees, so please contribute a photo of one of your favourites for Tableland Talk. Please send the photo, and a short paragraph to indicate its locality etc.

Email to: kathstuart60@gmail.com a few days before the last Friday of each month or send directly to the Tableland Talk team at: tablelandtalk@gmail.com
Cheers

Kath Handasyde

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The Bookshelf – notes from the Bohomians Bookclub

All Our Shimmering Skies by Trent Dalton, 4th Estate, 2020.

Reviewed by Juana McKeachie



Not knowing the work of Trent Dalton, nor his debut novel, *Boy Swallows Universe*, my mind was a blank canvas. To my delight, it was rapidly painted upon in rich, layer upon layer of magical images – mesmerising, haunting, bold and vivid... and even after having returned the book to the library, these images remain.

That's the power of this book, of Dalton's extraordinary literary craft – passion, observation, honesty and humanity imprinted in each line. The characters jump off the page and into our world, summoning an array of feelings towards them, from love and affection, to horror and disgust – but always empathy. The landscapes come to life, both authentically and otherworldly. Gifts fall from the sky. We follow 12 year-old Molly Hook, the girl they call the 'gravedigger's girl'. Molly is equipped with a treasure map imprinted on her grandfather's gold-washing pan, the heart-shaped stone taken from her mother's grave, and her trusted and beloved friend and protector, Bert, the shovel. She sets off, in 1942, from

bombed Darwin into the northern Australian wilderness, on her quest to find Aboriginal elder, Longcoat Bob, to revoke his curse on her family. She is joined by Greta Maze, a young actress, and Yukio, a Japanese fighter pilot, who are both on missions of their own. It is a journey through light and dark, true love and extreme danger, of loss and new treasures found, an odyssey, a fairy-tale, a dream, a search and coming-of-age, a healing, an awakening.

There are no curses. Molly creates her own destination, as do all of us. "Carry all you own, own all you carry" is Dalton's theme and message, and yes, we all have our skies, places in our hearts and minds that we turn to for questions and answers, shimmering with hope and each in their own colours.

Trent Dalton (born 1979) is a Brisbane-based journalist who writes long-form journalism and adult literary fiction. He is the winner of numerous awards: ABIA Awards; Indie Book Awards; Mud Literary Prize; Walkley Awards. His latest book, *Love Stories* (Oct. 2021), is highly recommended.

Other books by Trent Dalton: *Boy Swallows Universe* (2018); *By Sea and Stars: the Story of the First Fleet* (2018).

December's book: *Gulliver's Wife* by Lauren Chater, Simon & Schuster, 2020.

Strathbogie Memorial Hall AGM

The Hall AGM was held in in November and all positions were declared vacant as per the protocol.

The members now are Mary Wynne, Chairperson, Kylie Penny, Deputy Chairperson, Dana Last, Secretary, Henry O'Connor, Treasurer and ordinary member, Margaret Koenig.

We would welcome more members on the committee, so, if you feel inclined to be involved in a great community institution in Strathbogie by all means come along to our monthly meeting and join in.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday December 8 at 1.30pm.

Mary Wynne

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South African Weed Orchid – An emerging weed in the landscape.

Over the last few years landholders across Central and North East Victoria have often been surprised, even excited, by their find of a new orchid on their property or local reserve, only to realize and then bemoan that they have a new weed – the South African Weed Orchid (*Disa bracteata*) – Disa or SAWO, for short. This is mainly a weed of native grassland, particularly where Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) dominates, but can grow in a variety of settings and once established it is almost impossible to eradicate. Fortunately, it isn't toxic if eaten by grazing animals, but it can form dense stands that exclude, or displace native orchids and lilies.

If you see this plant, dig it out carefully – make sure you get the entire tuber. But be aware, that if you find flowering SAWO, it means there are probably many more SAWO plants that you can't see, because they are not in flower.

It's still safe to dig out at this time of year, but once the weather warms, the dust-like seed will become mature and begin to shed. If that's the case you'll need to be extra careful removing or disturbing any plant, placing it directly into a sealable plastic bag to minimize spreading the seed.



The South African Weed Orchid is a diabolically good weed. The dozens of flowers on each plant are self-fertile (they pollinate themselves). Each plant can produce millions of seeds and the seeds can be spread by animals and humans, by vehicles and machinery and on the wind!

And in Victoria, it's still spreading. It's been in the west of the state for several decades and in the last five to ten years has been expanding eastwards. It's now well-established in central Victoria, around Bendigo, Castlemain, Kilmore, Broadford and Seymour, and records from the last couple of years have shown it's found its way into the Strathbogie Ranges, the Upper Goulburn and on to Benalla and Wangaratta. In our region it's been found at Toorour, Boho South, Ruffy, Dropmore and Gobur.

For more information about this new weed, visit <https://strathbogierangesnaturereview.wordpress.com/>



Bertram Lobert

Recipe of the Month

Pea and Feta Salad from the Valmorbida Family

With peas coming on fast now and Summer here, salads are the order of the day.

Here is one a bit different.

3 cups cooled peas
3 Shallots finely sliced
2 tbspn chopped Chives
7 chopped Basil leaves
7 chopped Mint leaves
50g soft Feta
50g hard Feta



1 tbspn Olive Oil

Dressing (combine and mix well)

1 clove finely chopped Garlic

Sea Salt

Black Pepper

1 tspn Dijon Mustard

1 tspn fresh Lemon juice

1 tspn Red Wine Vinegar

2 tbspn Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Combine ingredients except Feta, drizzle with dressing. Top with soft Feta parcels and grated hard Feta. Drizzle with Extra Virgin Olive Oil.

Ref: *Delish: Our Family Favourites*
Peranbin Primary College, 2012

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Walk of the Month: Avenel Heritage Walk

5.5km easy. Start anywhere, cnr Henry and Scobie St recommended (see map below)

Avenel is a very pretty early Victorian rural township. The trail features natural beauty, parks, gardens and period architecture while taking full advantage of comprehensive signage throughout.

A good place to begin is the town origin (1838) at Hughes Creek crossing. Informative signage begins here, including maps and Ned Kelly Trail markers. 100m uphill, find the Royal Mail Hotel (1847) Cobb & Co staging post.

Walk downhill to examine the historic sandstone bridge (1859). Ned Kelly lived in Avenel (from 1863) aged 8 to 12. He saved 7yo Richard Shelton from drowning 150m upstream. Enter Stewart Park via under the bridge. Magnificent river red gums line the trail. Hughes Creek was fertile territory for Taungurung hunting and fishing. Scar trees and artefacts mark their presence.

At the corner of Queen St and Ewings Rd view the historic police residence (1870s) and Court House (1876). Also, see a Ned Kelly Trail sign. Note, if you follow this to the Kelly Farm, add 1.3km to the trail. Admire the CFA roses over the road. A cemetery visit comes later.

A cluster of churches. Consider the galvanised reno of Avenel–Nagambie Uniting Church (1886). St. Paul's Anglican (1913) is a picture of neatness. St Mary's Catholic Church (early 1900s), features a grand kurrajong tree and stained glass windows. Amongst them sits Avenel Memorial Hall (1963). Avenel Lawn Bowls Club (1959) features meticulous groundskeeping of natural grass.

Coming of the railway (1872) created businesses 1.5km from town origins. A number remain. The Post Office (1880) is now a Doctor's / Pharmacy with food service! Opposite, is the site of the original General Store (1870s). Once operated by Gadd Brothers, it now sells antiques, possum and merino products. The current PO / store is next door.

Maintained by volunteers, Avenel Station is an enthusiast and gardener must see. Across the railway, Harvest Home (1870) presents a beautiful hotel restoration. Further down Bank St, find more historic buildings: Bank St Pizza (Bank of Victoria 1873), 1800s cottages, the domestically renovated Grain Store (1870) and church, butcher (1950s) and baker (1930s) shopfronts. Unless you want to play golf down the road, return to the Cemetery Queen St entrance. The lawn cemetery is ornamented with many plastic flowers. Observe the grand Arthur Bayley grave. He discovered gold in Coolgardie, WA. In contrast, Ned Kelly's father "Red" is buried (1866) modestly.

Avenel has a proud history of fine gardens. Livingstone St presents an opportunity to enjoy more of them. Pay your respects in the Great War Memorial garden. View the well maintained guns.

Ned Kelly went to Avenel Common School (1856), replaced by Public School No. 8 (1874). Next door is the original Teacher's residence.

Above Stewart Park, contemplate historic markers and the grave of a drowned pioneer. The Imperial Hotel site (1872) is Avenel Pub. You might feel like refreshment. Opposite, spot the remains of Whiteman's Garage (1936). Return to your beginning.

Amenities

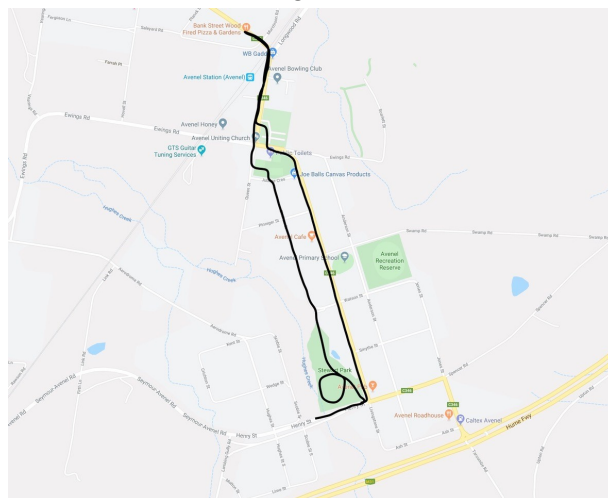
Stewart & Jubilee Park: picnic tables, BBQs

Jubilee Park: toilets, potable water, playground, pool

No camping.

Dogs must be leashed & under control at all times

Victoria Walks version: <https://walkingmaps.com.au/walk/4516>
Sean Mathews



Quiz question of the month

Name the members of the Kelly Gang, apart from Ned Kelly.

Answer: page 14

We're here for you

Monday:	9:30am - 4:30pm*
Tuesday:	9:00am - 12:00pm
Wednesday:	9:30am - 4:30pm*
Thursday:	9:30am - 4:30pm*
Friday:	9:00am - 12:00pm

(* Closed for lunch 12:30pm - 1:30pm)

36 Binney St, Euroa
5795 1771

gmcu Euroa is a part of the Benalla-Strathbogie team.

• Benalla • Euroa • Violet Town •

If you need assistance outside these hours,
please call the Benalla branch.
9am - 5pm Monday to Friday.
03 5762 3380 - gmcu.com.au

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Strathbogie Flavours



www.strathflavours.com.au



**Now open in Strathbogie - Ted Paterson's Mechanical
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reliant, basic car servicing or brake work? With years of previous experience delivering mechanical
repairs to the Strathbogie community - I'm back and I'm your man!**

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).

Mob: 0438 017 361 E: alexvic64@gmail.com



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SEVENS CREEK WAGYU

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

Wagyu & Produce is available for purchase at our Farm Store

Book online at www.sevenscreekwagyu.com.au

Open 11am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday

85 Richards Lane Strathbogie

Phone: 0427 765 550



Sassy Sister Decadent Blueberry Liqueur

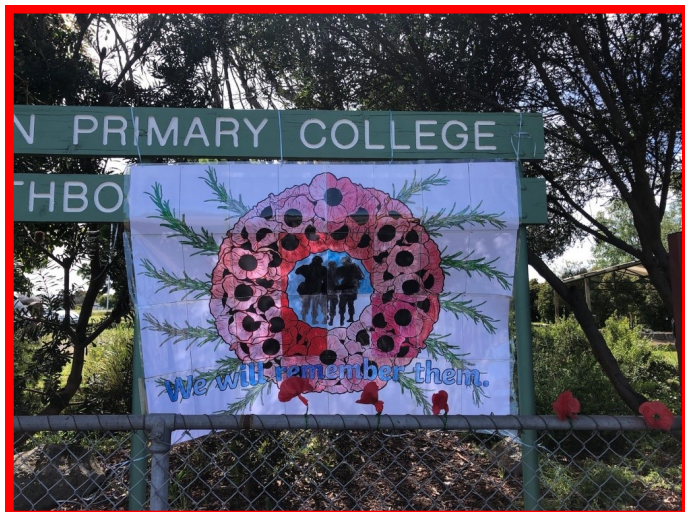
A labour of love and passion from Amanda Furlong and Rob Mitchell. We create Sassy Sister at Bilyara Springs, our sustainable farm and craft distillery, nestled in the foothills of Victoria's pristine Strathbogie Ranges. Made using our organically grown berries, and locally sourced Oak aged spirits, 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 and online through
Strathbogie Local Open Food Network, Weekend Local and Burtons
SUPA IGA. In Strathbogie from Strathbogie Store. 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

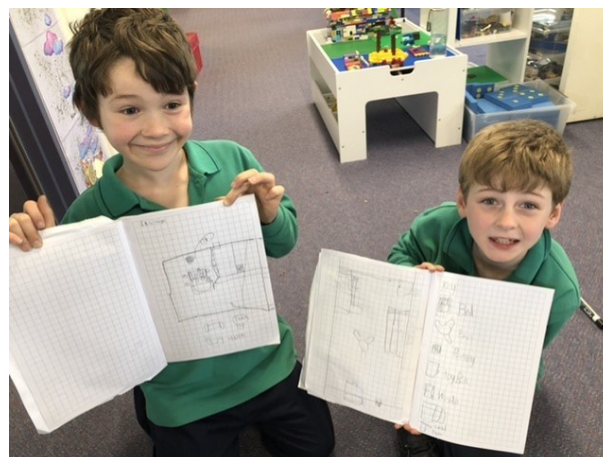
Peranbin Primary College Strathbogie Campus



Remembrance Day at Strathbogie Campus



We have enjoyed some beautiful weather and have taken some of our writing lessons outside. We have begun descriptive writing, and the whole campus wrote descriptions of what we could see and hear in the school yard. In Maths we have been developing our mapping and tessellation skills.



On Tuesdays' we have our Term 4 Transition program, with the Kinder children joining the Junior Class and the Year 2 students spending the day in the Senior Class in preparation for next year. Our four new Foundation students did an amazing job on the Ants, Birds, Chameleon activity related to the shared text Big Dreams Little People- David Attenborough. Over the next few Tuesdays', the Kinder students will gradually build up to full day visits.

We are celebrating the last day of the 2021 school year with our Peranbin Strathbogie Fun Fair with a picnic lunch, food and craft stalls , races and activities from 12 to 3pm. This will be a fun filled afternoon to end what has been a challenging year.

We thank the community for your support throughout the year and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and healthy 2022.

