



February, 2022

Celebrating 100 years:

St Andrews Uniting Church, Strathbogie.



The Centenary of the St Andrews Uniting Church in Strathbogie will be celebrated with a special church service at the church in Main Street, Strathbogie on Sunday, Feb 13th, 2022 at 11am.

The service will be held in the church grounds due to Covid restrictions. The usual distancing will be required and it is advised that masks need to be worn.

Congregation member Joan Wood has been doing research with the assistance of the Archive Unit of the Uniting Church and a search of TROVE found an article from The Age newspaper of Thursday 9 February 1922 which reported that the new Strathbogie Presbyterian Church had been opened on the previous Sunday (Sunday 5th February 1922) by the Rev. James Raff of Whittlesea. The original church was burnt down in 1919.

St Andrews Uniting Church and its predecessors (Methodist and Presbyterian churches) have been meeting the spiritual needs of the Strathbogie community since 1878, and worship services are still held regularly at 11am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

We invite all interested community members to come along to help us celebrate this momentous occasion on Sunday, Feb 13th. For more information, please contact Joan Wood on 5790 5297.

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 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

Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Group AGM 10.30am February 27 at Strathbogie Hall (see p. 2)

St Andrews Church Centenary celebration 11am Feb 13 At the Church Main St., Strathbogie

A Celebration of Helen Keighery's Life February 24. Details to be announced (see p. 9)

Please note there were no Australia Day Award recipients from the Strathbogie Tableland this year.

Euroa Cinema

The Euroa Community Cinema is closed until further notice.

Do you need a Justice of the Peace?

Chris Thomson
'Aberdeen'
5790 5340

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

Pig MA15+ Feb 5 7pm, Feb 6 6pm
Lamb MA15+ Feb 5 9.15pm, Feb 6 8.15pm
Eiffel M Feb 12 7pm, Feb 13 6pm
Breathless PG Feb 12 9.30pm, Feb 13 8.30pm
Delicious M Feb 18 7pm, Feb 19 6pm
Never gonna snow again M Feb 18 9.30pm, Feb 20 8.30pm
Benalla Shorts Feb 19 4pm
West Side Story NA Feb 25 10.30am, Feb 26 7pm, Feb 27 6pm

Tickets \$14 / \$12 / \$8 via trybooking.com
www.swanpoolcinema.com.au

Check web site for covid restrictions that apply.

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

Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Group AGM

February 27, 10.30am Strathbogie Memorial Hall

Contact is Gecko Clan EO
Kerri Robson 0418 140 710
Membership is \$10 per household.

Simply deposit \$10 into the Strathbogie Tableland Landcare account:

BSB 803 078

Acc 10008199

with your name as reference

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 volunteers.

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:

February 5 and 19
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 592211

Strathbogie Recreation Ground

All bookings are to be made with
Kim Usher
5790 5345

The Deadline for the March edition of Tableland Talk is Thursday, February 24, 2022.

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.

Bushfire Places of Last Resort

Strathbogie Shire residents are being reminded about bushfire and preparing personal bushfire readiness plans during the summer months. At its September meeting Strathbogie Shire Council moved the Euroa Bushfire Place of Last Resort (BPLR) from the Kirkland Avenue site to Euroa Swimming Pool car park.

According to Mayor Cr Laura Binks, this new location is separated further from native vegetation along the Seven Creeks reserve and complies with the CFA guidelines for outdoor BPLRs. "It is important to have these areas for our visitors and community members should a bushfire cause an emergency in our Shire," Cr Binks said. "Councils in country Victoria are obliged to identify these emergency areas which were formerly known as Neighbourhood Safer Places, so this just represents a change of location for Euroa."

Other Bushfire Places of Last Resort within the Strathbogie Shire are:



Strathbogie – the Strathbogie Golf Club House

- Nagambie – the Regatta Centre
- Longwood – the Recreation Reserve
- Violet Town – the Recreation Reserve
- Ruffy – the Recreation Reserve
- Avenel – the Recreation Reserve
- Mangalore Airport



These areas are not emergency relief centres they are areas of last resort during the passage of a bushfire, and they are for the use of residents whose primary bushfire safety plans may have failed. With the 2021/2022 fire season approaching it is a good time for our community to review their emergency bushfire plans.

Cr Binks said she would like to thank the community for their increased effort in carrying out fire prevention measures on their properties this year in preparation for the 2021/2022 fire season. For more information on bushfire preparedness visit the Country Fire Authority website www.cfa/vic.gov.au

Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network welcomes new President

Balmattum resident and former teacher Helen McKernan was elected the new SR CMN president, replacing outgoing president Michael Spencer at the 2021 AGM Euroa — 13/01/2022. Ms McKernan succeeds long serving SR CMN President Michael Spencer who stepped down at the recent AGM after 11 years of service to the community. As President since the network's inception in 2011, Mr. Spencer's tenure has seen a multitude of successful projects including the Festival of Fungi, new landholder information days, riparian and community walks, the Under the Microscope symposium, and others.

Ms McKernan says she "looks forward to working with the committee and the wider community to protect our unique biodiversity and mitigate the effects of climate change that are within our sphere of control". "A key aspect of the work [of the SRCMN] is engaging with human communities to protect our natural communities through projects that engender hope and positive action," she said. The committee would like to thank Mr. Spencer for his service, and welcome Ms McKernan into the role. We look forward to continuing and building upon the successes of the last decade.

For more information, press only: Penny Algar 0439 381 132
admin@strathbogieranges.org



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Saturday 10am to 1pm

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The Bogie Tree

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

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

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



Advertising Rates - Advertisements for revenue raising or business advertisements are charged per issue at \$7 ~ 1/6 page, \$12 ~ 1/4 page, \$15 ~ 1/2 page. Exact size and placement is at the discretion of the Editor. Rates are very reasonable. Free community event advertising is at no cost. Advertising solely funds this newsletter. For more information, email: tablelandtalk@gmail.com or phone 0400 019 607. Please support our advertisers.

Beautiful Bogie Trees: January 2022

This massive messmate stringybark, *Eucalyptus obliqua*, is on the south side of Creek Junction Road, about half way between Harrys Creek Road and the Euroa-Strathbogie Road. The trunk of this huge stately tree is over 3m in diameter, and my guess is that it would be several hundred years old. I know I always seem to focus on ancient eucalypt trees, but I think that this is because they make me wonder about what has occurred in this landscape over their lifetimes, and what the vegetation of the Strathbogie Ranges looked like when they were just small seedlings. I am sure it was an even more stunning and beautiful place those hundreds of years ago!

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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Strathbogie Ranges

Have you ever seen the beauty when the sunrise tips the trees
And caught the scent of eucalyptus carried on the evening breeze
Have you seen a full moon rising above the rocky towers
And enjoyed the smell of warm earth, soon after summer showers
Have you ever had the pleasure to see a startled deer
Bound across a forest clearing, without a sound to hear
No doubt you've heard a magpie, warbling songs so sweet
And to hear a Lyre bird calling, is another special treat
Have you sat beneath the tree ferns, by a little tinkling stream
And looked down a leafy valley, like you're looking at a dream
Have you heard at all her music, during Nature's spring time splendor
No sweeter sound in all the land, an orchestra could render
Have you sat and watched the dragon flies, seen the quickness of their turn
And the dainty little blue wren, dancing in the bracken fern
Have you seen the sugar glider spiral round and round a tree
And heard the humming in the blue gums, of the ever busy bee
If you haven't seen these beauties, and you haven't heard these sounds
Go to the 'Bogie ranges where nature's wealth abounds
I know there's thicker forests, where Bell birds dive and dart
But the lovely 'Bogie forest has a firm grip on my heart

Max Burnside 2001

Poem republished courtesy of Dayle Tame.

Quiz question of the month Which moth can be found in large numbers in the Victorian Alps during summer and goes by the name of a Victorian town? Answer: page 11

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- ◊ Harrowing with 4m (13ft) harrows
- ◊ Grading with 1.8m (6ft) grader blade
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 - timber or concrete posts, wire or wire/hinge joint fences
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Helen Keighery - Wise woman of huge heart, cheeky humour and endless creation



On Saturday 22nd January the incredible Helen Keighery passed over to the big art shed in the sky, full of puppets, wine, friends and love.

I have known and loved Helen for a long time and it is with great honour, many tears and a heart full of love that I share some of the magic that Helen Keighery has brought to my life, and many others' too, perhaps yours.

Helen moved to the area in the mid 1980s and her arrival, during a hot north east summer, forms one of my earliest memories, the day I met Ella. Helen was the protective legs and skirt that kept Ella safe as we hid behind our mothers as they chatted poolside at the Community Swimming Pool in Violet Town.

My rambling childhood involved so many memorable times in the Keighery Hooper house as this creative, caring and inclusive family began putting down deep roots into the Marraweeney and Violet Town communities.

Helen landed in town with exotic flair. Rich red henna-dyed hair, a wardrobe of flowing garments in warm colours, her iconic round glasses and a heart and home that was open, generous and welcoming.

Helen's contribution to the VT Kindergarten and Primary School as both Jesse and Ella moved through the grades, and well beyond, involved countless fabulous, magical additions to fetes, fairs and many kids' lives. Helen set up a drama group for the kids who were more taken with music, theatre and making art. She was instrumental in so many iterations of various arts, music, craft and creating groups in the region. I recall with vividness her hours assisting us kids conceive of and execute our, at times winning, at times surprising and, yes always a little cheeky, entries into the Violet Town March Arts Festival Street Parade.

Helen's strong beautiful voice rang out at Music

Nights, held in the Red Room of the Ellen Frances Hotel as I bumped down the carpeted staircase with the other kids, before, exhausted, we curled up under chairs on the plush deep burgundy carpet. Our folks' familiar voices above shared songs, deepened friendships and had what must have been some much needed adult hangs, sharing tips and tricks on home renovations, parenting, the joys and challenges of a rural life.

Growing into an awkward teenager, dropping in for a moment of Helen's wisdom was the reassuring guidance I needed to know I was ok feeling my way into a quirky, creative life, dreaming big, wild and wacky dreams. She didn't hold back in proclaiming "You're so weird Laurz!" However Helen always delivered her assertion with a huge smile, a hearty cackle, a twinkle in her eye and most often with something equally 'weird' being created in her hands or taking up the kitchen table.

As my adult life took me away from town I maintained my connection with Helen. We'd go out for nights of music, dancing and revelry at the Spiegeltent, visit an art gallery or make our way to see Killing Heidi, The Verses and Ella Hooper Solo around the city or the state. A visit home always included a pop in for a cuppa with Helen to catch each other up on what we were creating, dreaming or scheming.

Helen and Howard's creation of a wonderful space, The Parish, has played a huge part in my, and many others', discovery and love of yoga. Hosting multiple teachers over the past 20 or more years I would coordinate trips back home to coincide with being able to make it to a yoga class. Not only for the wonderful yoga session, but equally for the chance to share a coffee, some Milkwood Sourdough freshly toasted and a chat with all who lingered for a late brunch after yoga. This creation of space, an invitation to community, is one of Helen's super powers. I know that so many others felt the warmth, the welcoming invitation that Helen exuded.

The Parish has hosted so many incredible gatherings, parties, weddings, blessings, gigs and farewells. All that had the chance to be hosted by Helen will remember the joy and love that she put into the space and the event. There were walnut wonders that were whipped up in the kitchen and sold at the VT market, workshops making anything and everything felted, women's retreats and quiet getaways for passing travellers. Helen created a space that was so welcoming (oh, except that time one of her human sized puppets fell out the window scaring the bejeezus out of us!).

In more recent years Helen honed her many artistic skills to make a whole village of various puppets. From gorgeous grotty rats for one of Ella's film clips, to bigger than life wearable works of puppetry, a great Gaia Goddess, who joined us for a picnic in the Strathbogrie Forest. *Continued on page 11*

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Continued from page 9

Right until the end Helen was singing, crocheting a colourful cap, molding clay into a wise crone and emitting that warm, welcoming and loving embrace that she so generously shared.

Through my whole time knowing Helen she made waves in the work she did. Helen taught at Wanganui High in Shepparton, worked with young people at Berry Street, changed lives with her social work with The Bridge and had a long, successful and recently celebrated career at Goulburn Ovens TAFE where her caring, inclusive nature and generous heart helped many students achieve their goals. I know she touched so many people she worked with or taught over the years.

I will miss so much our catch ups, our shared creative dreams and the wise elder woman who guided me. I know her spirit will live on strong in the waves of love she created. I am so deeply grateful to have Helen in my life.

On Sunday 23rd Helen's resting body was ushered out of Violet Town, down Primrose Street lined with her friends, her family, her hometown community. Flags of every colour, songs of love and light, incense burning, petals falling and the voice of the community who loved this incredible woman sang her on her way.

A celebration of Helen's life will take place on 24th February. More details to come.

If you would like to share your memories and photos of Helen, you can jot them down and add them to the google drive - just Scan the QR code to link to the folder.

Laura Binks



Lunch in Strathbogie

Some day make your way up North into Kelly country where Ned and the boulders resist the assault of time, mountain paddocks wear fox fur, and the trees, armoured and chipped, are even older than the man.

There find a hollow in the hills, and sheltered from the summer sun by a green dome of filtering leaves, stretch your legs out by a shallow creek and listen to the water singing as it works.

Spread your napkin wide

pile the relish on your pie and leaning way back on the bank ignore the crunch of rushing cars and the signals from your phone.

Upstream a boy casts a fishing line and, waiting, balances on the rocks mid-stream; then finds some shade to laze upon the bank. It is all a glorious waste of time but today the boy and river rhyme.

Pat Walsh, Jan 2022

(Contributed on Pat's behalf by daughter Myra)



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TT is published exclusively through the time and effort of volunteers. No one is paid. Your advertising revenue is our sole income and necessary for this very local and very special Newsletter to exist. Our rates are reasonable and provide a worthy community benefit.

TT is a not for profit enterprise. Without advertising income we cannot pay for either paper or printing supplies. Please help us keep TT going by continuing to make payments when requested. If you wish to discontinue an advertisement please let us know so we can action your wishes.

Unfortunately, if payment for outstanding invoices is not received before next month's edition the relevant advertisements will be discontinued.

Sean Mathews, Editor.

Quiz answer: The Bogong Moth (meaning "High Plain" in one Aboriginal dialect). They migrate up to 1000km biannually. The moths escape Queensland heat by remaining dormant in Alpine caves and crevices until the weather is more favorable. The population of Bogong moths was estimated to have crashed by 99.5% in 2019.





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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.

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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 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

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

gmcu.

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Strathbogie Flavours



www.strathflavours.com.au

Bridge to Bridge Walk, Strathbogie Township

Euroa - Strathbogie Rd.



Immediately below Strathbogie Township running parallel with Main Street, this pretty 2.2km return bush-walk follows permanent waterways through soaring swamp, peppermint and manna gum.

The riparian zone is significant habitat for indigenous flora, fauna, bird and aquatic life. The Seven and Spring Creeks are home to the likes of Platypus, Rakali and native fish, Swamp Wallabies hop the understory and the canopy is home to Bobuck, Koala and diverse bird species such as Grey Fantails, Silvereyes and Kingfishers.

Suitable for all ages, it is a wonderful track for the whole

family to enjoy with picnic facilities at both ends. Children love to explore the water and run along the track at a great pace. However, slowing them down and encouraging observation may result in a pleasing sighting or two. There are several interpretive signs and an Educational Shelter along the way. At the Spring Creek end a small weir accommodates a beautiful shaded spot for swimming or beginning a walk alongside the cascades below the bridge.

A couple of short steep sections may be best negotiated by less able walkers with assistance. Wooden benches are provided at intervals along the track. At the Smiths Bridge end a shorter nature loop can be walked by those less steady on their feet, but still keen to experience some of this lovely location.

This is a Parks Vic trail established and maintained by local volunteers. Please respect our work: take your rubbish with you, do not dig up or disturb the track for any reason.

In warmer months snakes may be present. If you see one by all means admire its beauty, but keep your distance and it will do the same. The track can be uneven and may be subject to flood erosion. Limbs may fall and embankments may be slippery and unstable. Take care.

Amenities

Parking: available at both ends
Spring Creek Bridge: picnic tables and shelter, fire grates
Smith's Bridge Day Picnic Area: picnic tables, no fires
Trailhead signs with maps
Fishing allowed
Public toilets at nearby Strathbogie Recreation Reserve
Store in Main St

Restrictions

There is no public potable water (but it is coming to Main St soon)
Dogs should be on a leash, clean up after your dog
Take your rubbish with you
Fires can be lit only in fire grates provided (and when permitted)
No motor bikes on the walking tracks
No camping
No hunting

VictoriaWalks walkingmaps version: <https://walkingmaps.com.au/walk/4515>

Sean Mathews