

Bogie Tree Transition - Johnno moves on

After 9 long years, I am backing away from running the Bogie Tree. I've given it a good shot but it's time to pass on the baton. For many, the Bogie Tree is synonymous with me. But the group is much greater than that. It is all about YOU, the Bogie Tree members. Some silent consumers, some active participants, but all there for each other.

Similarly, I am about much more than just this group. I've truly enjoyed watching what it has become. I'm also looking forward to seeing how it evolves as our community grows and changes.

For me, Bogie Tree is entirely about fostering community spirit. All of my efforts have gone towards this ideal and I hope it continues in that direction.

Brief History:

Bogie Tree initially evolved from the SCOFF email list. It was split off in April 2013 to host all the broader Strathbogie Tableland community messaging and leave SCOFF to local food matters. Trevor Elliot and John Hooper assisted in getting it running. From a couple of dozen members, it has now grown to over 450. Further, it has become the go-to platform for connecting with others in our area.

After proving very popular, overall management of the list came under STAG Communications sub-committee in 2019.

Why leave / why now?

All through that time, I have been the main administrator. Early on, I also assumed the role of moderator, knowing that people on platforms like this benefit from a little guidance. I did this for the greater good, seeing just how much connection and joy that our community got through keeping this platform stable and friendly.

However, nearly a decade of playing online community cop has taken its toll.

A good moderator needs to remain impartial. Without fear or favour. I have exhausted my reserves and cannot do this anymore. Moderating is a very tough task, particularly when the members are also your friends and neighbours.

These roles have also been very time-consuming. Conservatively, I have invested well over 1000 hours into this venture. When I see what the group has become, this seems like a good return.

What's next?

For the near future, the BT mantle goes to Stuart Bridgman, who has been ably assisting with admin for the last year. He will be assisted by Johnno Townsend but we need to see more members putting their hand up to help out.

Continues on page 3

What's On

Please check with organisers regarding current covid-19 arrangements.

May 4 Geology of the Strathbogie Ranges see page 11

May 21 Election Day - Strathbogie Memorial Hall Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser see page 2

Late May / Early June watch out for the date of the STAG AGM

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

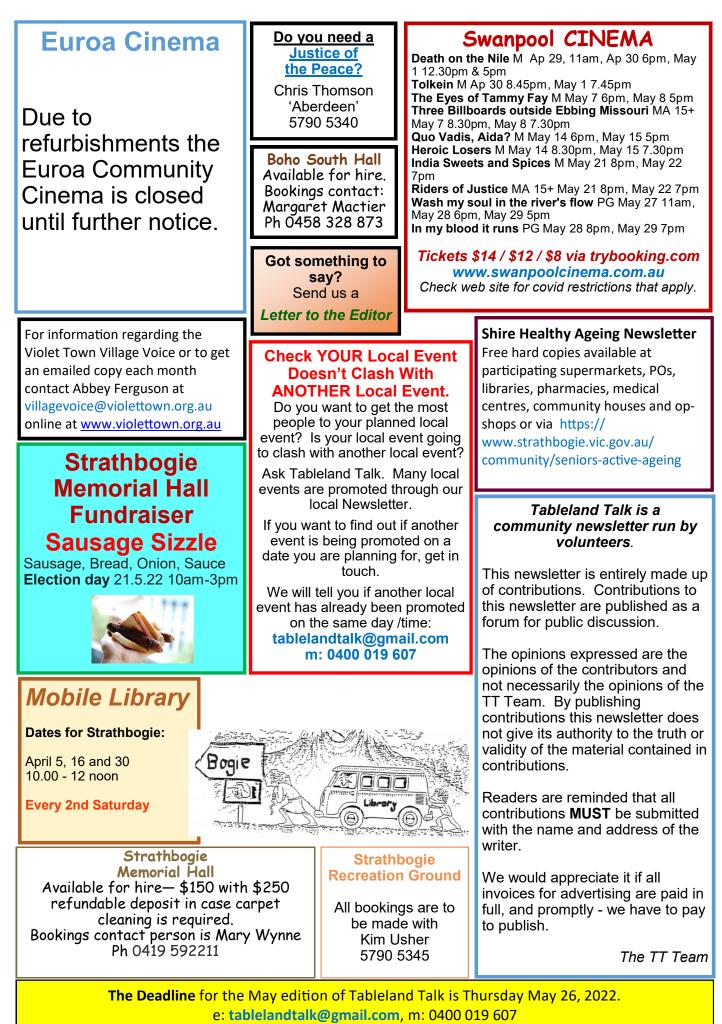
Every First Wednesday of the month - 1.30pm Strathbogie Garden Group. Contact Wendy 5790 8523

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

1



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

Continued from page 1

STAG Communications would like to formally establish a Bogie Tree Management Team, with several BT list members who can perform administration tasks. Further, we'd like to have a team of moderators who can assist each other in keeping the group running smoothly. We are working to set up a system that shares the load and keeps the Bogie Tree flourishing. Ideally, with a rotating roster, so that no-one else burns out or gets overloaded.

In the interim, I will stay available to assist in an orderly and elegant transition to the new team. **Want to help?**

If you feel like you would like to help, or have something to offer, with running the Bogie Tree please contact Stuart on stuartb446@gmail.com or call 0422 408 915.

Thanks to everyone for all the support and encouragement along the way.

It's been some journey so far... and it ain,t over yet.

Johnno (John O'Brien)

An article of thanks for Johnno O'Brien



As TT Editor it was pretty easy to decide this month's front page story. I don't think anyone questions that bogietree has become a wonderfully beneficial service to our community. Without Johnno's endurance at the helm it wouldn't have survived to become what it is today. He is to be congratulated and thanked for this remarkable achievement. I wish to thank him personally and publicly.

To Stuart Bridgeman and Johnno Townsend thanks are also owed for stepping up to continue Johnno's good work. With Johnno's guidance bogietree is in good hands.

Fortunately, Johnno will remain on hand for his many other

community contributions including CFA, Pizza Nights, Arts Festivals, music festival organising and mixing amongst them. Johnno role models the ideal volunteer with impeccable credentials, so please take note of his other article in this edition and consider what your role might be. Sean Mathews, Editor.

Show your support for Climate Action in Strathbogie Shire

Cr Laura Binks says Strathbogie Shire Council is serious about mitigating against the risks that climate change pose for the social, economic, and environmental prosperity of our community. "In 2021 we became the 100th Council in Australia to declare a Climate Emergency and just the third to pass this Notice of Motion unanimously," Cr Binks said. "We believe leadership is needed on this issue. "The Climate Change science is undeniable, and we must act now to protect the future for the generations to come."

Since declaring a Climate Emergency, Council has been working with its community to prioritise and set mitigation, adaptation and resilience actions. Through this process it has developed a Draft Climate Change Action Plan that is now open for public feedback. "We have sought advice from our community to help us understand key focus areas and priorities and all this input is reflected in our draft plan.

"The draft plan will embed climate emergency responses into all Council activities and decisions. "It will accelerate our climate change adaption and mitigation actions and it will direct our efforts to engage and empower our community and businesses to foster cultural shifts so that ongoing climate action becomes the new standard."

Cr Binks urged the community to visit www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au to read the draft plan and provide feedback. "Here you can also pledge your support for Climate Action in Strathbogie Shire on our wall of support," she said. "During our Councillor roundtables we heard our community was keen to show its support for climate action so we've created a platform where you can show your support by sharing words, pictures and videos."

The draft plan has been split into five main areas with corporate and community actions for each target area. The areas are: 1. Protecting our natural environment 2. Reducing our emissions 3. Our climate resilient community 4. Moving sustainably 5. Advocating for change Overall, there are 50 actions, of which implementation is expected to start in 2022/23. "Across each of these Strategic Focus Areas Council, residents, businesses, farmers and community groups have different roles to play in driving climate action," Cr Binks said. "By working together and taking a partnership approach we can build a climate resilient, net zero community."

Feedback is open for six weeks, from Tuesday, April 26 to 5pm on Tuesday, June 7. To have your say go to www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au Copies of the draft plan are also available at Council's offices in Euroa and Strathbogie and feedback can also be provided in writing and posting to PO Box 177, Euroa VIC 3666.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Seeking expressions of interest from our Community or Not for Profit Groups Theatre Chairs (vintage) - Seats are in banks of six. Must collect and transfer chairs from Euroa Community Cinema Expressions close on 13 May 2022 e: <u>procurement.strathbogie@eprocure.com.au</u>



I recently came across a file of historical documents when relocating desks at

home. The following is an extract from The Argus, dated Thursday January 20, 1955. The extract appears at the bottom of a page under the weather and crossword, and looks rather like an advertisement with Betty and Joan lounging around in bathers looking very relaxed. I thought it worthy of sharing.

Lucky me.....this took place before I was born but when I read it I felt very sad and appalled that signing up to go to War was being promoted as something rather glamorous.

My sincere apologies if this article raises some raw feelings for you of lost loved ones who served our country in wartime and paid the ultimate price.

Lest we forget.

Dayle Tame

Who marries a soldier marries a king......

BETTY: "Who said that?"

JOAN: "None other than William Shakespeare."

BETTY: "Oh, I remember. 'Henry V wasn't it? I saw the picture. Anyhow, as you were saying....?

JOAN: "Bill's joining the Army!"

BETTY: "How do you feel about that?"

JOAN: "I think it's grand. We can really start saving now. Look at it this way: the pay's good, he lives free and is cared for in every way......no medical, dental, or hospital bills and full pay all the time if he becomes ill. As soon as we marry he gets an immediate increase of over £4 a week. He'll have a secure job for at least six years, and longer if he wants it – good times or bad. Bill's smart too. He'll get ahead. He'll be out for promotion , and I'm sure he'll get it."

BETTY: "He certainly didn't look like getting far in his present job!"

JOAN: "That's what he realises. And another thing------when Bill decides to finish his term of service he can expect a good lump sum gratuity, or a position if he decides to go the full distance."

BETTY: "Sounds good to me Joan, and it's a great life for a young man. Bill will look grand in uniform."

JOAN: 'Hmm Hmm! Wait till he takes me to a dance in his 'dress up' outfit! They do look smart don't they? There's something about a man in uniform who takes a pride in himself."

Continues page 5

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CONGRATULATIONS STRATHBOGIE TENNIS CLUB



2022 Benalla District A Grade Champions!

After a great season of summer tennis, consistently maintaining their position at the top of the ladder, Strathbogie Tennis Club's A Grade team won the Benalla District Grand Final on Saturday 5th March 2022.

It was an epic day of tennis playing against the formidable Terip Terip at the Euroa Lawn Tennis Club. Having watched the rain set in throughout the morning, the team were relieved to be able to play on the synthetic grass courts in what ended up being perfect tennis weather (not much sun and no wind). Everyone played their hearts out and there were some fantastic and very close matches, including two tie breakers.

After playing 8 sets, Strathbogie led the day by just 1 game. A crowd had gathered and tension was high going into the deciding final set. Craig and Meg stepped onto the court with determination, ready to battle it out in their mixed doubles match against Sally and Don. Murmurs rippled through the crowd half-way through the match as Craig developed a slight limp... oh no, not an injury! But our heroic club

president held strong and Meg served the set out, winning 8-5 in a dramatic end to a great day on the courts.

The final score was Strathbogie 59 games to Terip Terip 55.

While winning the grand final is a triumph, as Ash Barty has shown us in her impeccable example, sport is not just about the big wins. It has been wonderful to see the Strathbogie Tennis Club build a community of tennis players over the last two years who are developing new friendships, learning new skills, getting fit, and having fun together on and off the court. Everyone is welcome, from beginner players to advanced. You will often find someone having a hit on a Thursday evening, but we also have a Facebook messenger group that we use to keep in touch and organize social hits. matches, and group lessons. Contact Club Secretary Mayra Walsh (0423 475 564 or mayrakwalsh@gmail.com) if you'd like to know more.

A huge thank you to everyone who played in our team this season. On Grand Final day the team was: Jason Eveleigh - Merton Mayra Walsh - Strathbogie Mark Borthwick - Euroa Gen Johnstone - Strathbogie Craig Mercuri - Strathbogie Meg Ford - Sheans Creek

Our other players this season who also made substantial contributions to the team include: Niki Sales - Euroa Greg Rowe - Euroa Marco Carafi - Creightons Creek Marcello Mercuri - Strathbogie Stevie Mildren-Nicel - Euroa Rod Andrews - Euroa Steph Glasbergen-Murray - Strathbogie Kelly Chapman - Euroa

Mayra Walsh

Continues from page 5

BETTY: "Well, he'll have something to be proud of, and so will you. The job he's going to do is really

worthwhile. Sometimes I wish I was a man "

JOAN: "Oh I don't know. I'm sure I'm going to be happy enough as a soldier's wife.....married to a man I can look up to and whom can command respect anywhere."

BETTY: You're a lucky girl Joan. "Who marries a soldier marries a King! " You know what? You'd better have Bill introduce me to some of his boy friends. I don't see why you should have the Army all to yourself.

Any fit, able man aged between 17 and 43 will find an opening and an opportunity in one or other of Australia's three great services......Navy, Army, Air Force. Enlistment in the Navy and the Air Force can be for either 6 or 12 years and in the Army for 6 or 3 years, with subsequent re-engagements in all three services.

Full information may be obtained without obligation from the Combined Services Recruiting Centre.

Dayle Tame



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Open Wednesday - Friday 10am to 4pm and Saturday 10am to 1pm Mobile: 0418773877 Email: jacksonsvt@gmail.com



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The Bogie Tree

- 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



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Beautiful Bogie Trees - May 2022: Snow Gum

This very gnarly snow gum, *Eucalyptus pauciflora*, (photo on left below) is one of several large old trees of this species in the paddock on the opposite side of the road to the Spring Creek picnic area in Strathbogie. There are also a few young specimens on the roadside verge. We are lucky to have some patches of snow gums, a tree we normally associate with the subalpine areas of the Australian high country, in the Strathbogie Ranges. The ancient stunted specimen (less than 4m tall) in the photo below right, stands in the Kosciusko National Park, and was growing on very shallow, rocky soil near the headwaters of the Snowy River. These trees provide a nice example of how the growth form of trees, even within a species, can vary substantially with variation in temperature, soil type and rainfall patterns. The upcoming winter planting at the picnic ground, by our Strathbogie Tablelands Landcare Group, will include putting in a small patch of these lovely trees.



I know that many of you must be seeing some wonderful native trees around the Strathbogies, so why not contribute a photo of your favourites for Tableland Talk? Please send photos, and indicate the locality, plus a short paragraph if you wish, (or contact me and I can write something for you).

Email to: <u>kathstuart60@gmail.com</u> a few days before the last Friday of each month or send directly to the Tableland Talk team at: <u>tablelandtalk@gmail.com</u> Photos & text, Kath Handasyde

Have your say on asset management in Strathbogie Shire

Strathbogie Shire Council is inviting community feedback on its Draft Asset Plan which outlines how assets are managed in the municipality, including maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, and decommissioning. Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor, Cr Laura Binks, said Council managed assets on behalf of the community with a value of more than \$283 million. "This includes 2204km of roads (735km sealed and 1469km unsealed), 125 road bridges, eight foot bridges, 387 buildings and structures, 37km of footpaths, 11 parks and reserves, four aquatic centres, 26 playgrounds and 42 hard courts and bowling greens,"

Laura said these assets were used by the community or by Council to provide services to the community. "Over the next 10 years we expect to budget a total of \$71.40 million for renewing, improving, and growing our assets," she said. "We are also projected to allocate about \$93.20 million over the same period to operate and maintain our assets. Combined, on average 42 per cent of our total annual expenditure is asset related "This investment is made so that our assets remain fit-for-purpose, are safe, and support the delivery of services to our community. "It is vital that we are responsible asset managers, so our assets continue to support community outcomes."

Asset management helps Council effectively plan the maintenance, upgrade and renewal of our assets as timely investments save money in the long term. Under the Victorian Local Government Act 2020, Council must produce and maintain a 10- year asset plan.

A copy of the Draft Asset Plan can be viewed online at www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au or at any of Council's customer service centres in Euroa and Nagambie. The feedback period will run from April 20 to May 31 and feedback can be provided via:

• Online submission at www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au • In person at our Customer Service Centres in Euroa and Nagambie • Emailing info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au • Writing to PO Box 177, Euroa, Vic, 3666. Community feedback will be incorporated into the final version of the plan to be adopted by Council before June 30, 2022



The Weekend Local

Euroa's gourmet providore stocking produce from the Strathbogie Ranges and surrounds. Relax over a great coffee or tea from Mansfield Coffee Merchant, take away a local bottle of beer, wine or Sassy Sister berry liqueur made at Merton. Our ever expanding stock reflects the diversity of food produced in our region by passionate and committed people. *Weekdays:*

 ⇒ 10am to 3.30pm (Closed Wednesdays)
<u>Weekends</u>:
⇒ 9am to 3.30pm
Email: dayletheweekend-local.com.au

Mobile: 0490 842 383

Housing information and support for older people

Do you need assistance to find affordable housing? Home at Last is a free service that provides confidential advice, support and advocacy for people aged 50 years and older to assist them to find housing.

Home at Last is available to any older person in the Hume Goulburn Valley region on a low income. We will provide one-to-one assistance to you, or link you into a service that can help. Call 1300 765 178 for assistance.



Joan Broughan (pronouns – she, her, hers) Regional Project Worker

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Brianna King ACA Reg Counsellor AIPC Dip.Couns.

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Strathbogie Shire Council's Draft Budget released for consultation

Strathbogie Shire Council's 2022/23 Draft Budget includes funding for 12 projects that were pitched by the community through Council's innovative Pitch my Project initiative. It is the second year Strathbogie Shire Council has run the Pitch my Project initiative, which Mayor Cr Laura Binks, says ensures Council is funding the projects and works that matter to its community. "We're now calling on the community to have its say on the 2022/23 Draft Budget," Cr Binks said. "This is a significant document for our community as it sets our fees and charges for the next year, along with our capital works program and the money we will spend on community services and resources to deliver these services. "We're excited this year's Draft Budget includes funding for about \$360,000 of projects through our Pitch my Project initiative.

This year's 2022/23 Draft Budget provides for operating expenditure of \$31.91 million on services. This includes \$7.174 million to roads, drains, bridges, and footpaths, \$402,500 to sustainability initiatives, \$1.241 million to parks and reserves and \$2.342 million to planning. Operating expenditure is also used to fund important services such as libraries, maternal and child health, swimming pools and arts and culture. This year's Draft Budget provides \$15 million capital works program, together with \$9.8 million carried forward from 2021/22. This includes \$7.45 million in roads, \$1.2 million for bridges and culverts, \$1.31 million for pedestrian bridges and footpaths, \$2.807 million for recreation, leisure and community facilities and \$2.145 million for parks, open spaces and streetscapes.

The capital works program includes projects such as the completion of the Nagambie Foreshore Walk, rehabilitation of the Violet Town Landfill, sealing of Habel Rd in Nagambie, aquatic facility upgrades, information technology improvements, options development for the future of Kirwans Bridge, streetscape improvements and an upgrade to Strathbogie Recreation Reserve pavilion.

"In preparing the 2022-2023 Budget, Council has considered many factors to try and balance community expectations and benefits with financial responsibilities," Cr Binks said.

"We have worked to minimise rate increases and have prepared the Budget based on a 1.75 per cent increase in the average rate per property, which is in line with the State Government's 'Fair Go Rates' legislation." Cr Binks reminded residents that rate outcomes for individual properties would vary, depending on how that property's valuation has changed when compared to the average increase.

Waste collection and disposal charges will rise by three per cent, with costs impacted by increases in both the State Government landfill levy of 19 per cent and increases in fuel prices which are a major input into Council's waste collection contracts.

Council is seeking feedback on the 2022/23 Draft Budget. The community encouraged to make a submission via: • Visiting www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au • Writing to us at PO Box 177, Euroa VIC 3666 • Emailing info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au. Submissions close at 9am on Monday, May 23, 2022.



Jady Roberts, Culinary Nutrition Specialist and Author.

I am releasing my new cookbook, "*Nutritious and Delicious*" on 26th April 2022. **#1 seller on Amazon** *Nutritious and Delicious* will broaden your culinary horizons in simple yet exciting ways as Jady draws upon her broad gastronomical skills and experience, to

emphasise the nutritional value of macro and micronutrients that provide you and your family with optimal health and vitality.

Jady's simple and sound tips ground us in healthy living principles that encourage us to rethink how we plan, shop, cook and eat. *Nutritious and Delicious* will bring out the innate cook in each of us.

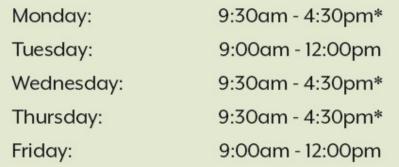
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(* Closed for lunch 12:30pm - 1:30pm)

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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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- Rates include fuel & oil - transit time charged - fencing materials and other consumables extra -

Call Big Clarky on 0406 074 019 or Julie / Clark on 5790 5226 to discuss!







Getting Involved

We have a wealth of community groups around the Tableland. Many are in hiatus and need fresh new faces. Too many of the same people are seen across a lot of the groups. It is not fair that so few do so much. It is time for a few more of you to stand up and take your turn.

Volunteering is fun. It is rewarding.

It can be hard work sometimes, but generally, you get what you give.

For those new to the area, what a great way to meet new people.

For those who've been here a while, what a great way to take your share.

For those that have been here your whole life, what a great way to cement your legacy.

A non-exhaustive list of groups actively seeking new members includes:

- Bogie Tree
- STĂG
- Recreation Ground
- Memorial Hall
- CFA
- History Group

Many are listed on the strathbogie.org website. However, a lot of the contact details are out of date. TT has some listings, and they are current. STAG Communications sub-committee is undertaking a revamp and update to get all these updated. In the meantime, ask around or check at the store. Someone will know how to find the right people.

You don't have to be a 5th generation 'local' to be welcomed in. Our grand traditions / local story might be rooted in the exploits of a handful of colonising families, but the reality is that much of our current local demographic is made up of recent 'blow-ins'. Some here for decades.

I reckon if you are willing to contribute, you can take some ownership of Bogie as it is now, simultaneously becoming part of the new tradition.

These are uncertain times, and we face more unrest, division and uncertainty than ever. When difficulties hit, it is natural to bunker down and look after yourself first. However, during early lockdowns and beyond, we've seen the kindness and generosity of our Tableland community members. Helping each other to shop, sharing food at the shed, running errands, cooking pizzas. This, and the many active groups, are what keeps the Strathbogie Tableland such an enjoyable place to live.

What better time to give some of your time to help the broader Bogie community?

Johnno O'Brien

Early notice of the 2022 STAG AGM

Sometime in late May or early June the Strathbogie Tableland Action Group (STAG) Inc will hold its AGM in the Strathbogie Memorial Hall .

Please consider becoming a part of this community action group.

STAG is the main group that liaises with the Strathbogie Shire Council, on behalf of our community and our various community groups.

We have a few upcoming matters which need to be resolved, including the new Strathbogie township streetscape plan.

Please keep a look out for further notifications and consider participating.

E: stag@strathbogie.org

Stuart Bridgman

Geology of the Swanpool district and Strathbogie Ranges

• A public lecture and discussion led by Neil Phillips •

Universities of Melbourne and Stellenbosch RSA



The Strathbogie granite fills the large area between the Hume freeway, Goulburn Valley highway and Midland highway. This triangle between Benalla, Seymour and Mansfield is an iconic landscape of boulders, slabs, cliffs, gorges and numerous waterfalls carved into the granite. The same granite extends east to the Samaria plateau placing Swanpool and Lima in more fertile gaps where the granite has been eroded by the ancestral Goulburn River and now the Broken River.

THE STRATHBOGIE GRANITE PROJECT

is a long-term collaboration amongst researchers led by John Clemens and Neil Phillips involving particularly the University of Melbourne, and Stellenbosch University in South Africa. John has a global granite perspective and leads the laboratory work; Neil leads the field work covering much of the ground from Tallarook to Mt Samaria. This field work has been supported through the generous co-operation of many hundred landowners who have provided land access, and many others who have shared their knowledge during the community walks on the Tallarook, Highlands and Seven Creeks plateaus. Community presentations such as this one at Swanpool are opportunities to provide feedback on the research findings. An aim of the project has been to develop the geological platform to assist in understanding the whole natural environment including groundwaters, soils, vegetation, agriculture and geomorphic landforms.

The Strathbogie Granite is recognised globally amongst granite experts for its widespread mineral (cordierite) and for the exceptional period of violence when it formed 370 million years ago. The research continues to pose challenging questions, and we might be able to answer some of these such as why the Broken River valley is so broad, and what role the granite has played in the quarry at Lima South adjacent to the granite. There are also puzzles such as why gold is found adjacent to the granite but not in it, and how quartz crystals form.

The evening will include a small display of some typical rocks, and a presentation by Neil Phillips followed by general discussions.

For details on the field work, contact neil.phillips@bigpond.com



WHERE: Swanpool Memorial Hall, Swanpool. TIME: 7.30pm for 8pm If you are attending please advise Ian Herbert – limaeaster@bigpond.com

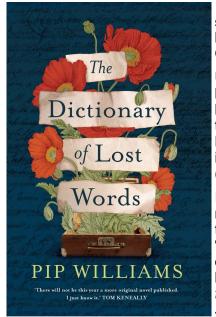
No Charge. Supper follows.

THIS PRESENTATION COULD BE PROVIDED AT A FURTHER LOCATION IN THE FUTURE

wednesday 4th May 2022

The Bookshelf – notes from the Bohomians Bookclub

The Dictionary of Lost Words, by Pip Williams, Affirm Press, 2020



The Dictionary of Lost Words is historical fiction, set when the women's suffrage movement was at its height and the Great War loomed. It is based on true events, the central one being the compilation of the first Oxford English Dictionary (OED).

Under the leadership of Sir James Murray, a team of lexicographers began compiling the dictionary in 1879. It was unfinished at the time of his death in 1915 and completed by his fellow editors in 1928. One of their tasks was to sort and assess the potential contributions sent to Murray by volunteers, following his worldwide appeal for words to be included in the new dictionary. If you are a lover of words and dictionaries (like me!), this aspect of the story will appeal to you.

In 1901, a concerned member of the public noted that there was a word missing. It had taken 40 years for the first volume – the letters A and B – to be published, and now they had left out a word! The word was "bondmaid"*, and when Australian author Pip Williams learned of its exclusion, she knew she had the makings of her first novel. She says that her novel "began as two simple questions. *Do words mean different things to men and women*? And if they do, *is it possible that we have lost something in the process of defining them*?"

The *Dictionary of Lost Words* ingeniously injects the fictional character Esme into this world, as the daughter of one of the men working on the OED, and follows her interactions with characters based on the real men and women behind the book. Williams weaves in many other contemporary events and historical figures, providing a rich picture of the times and context for Esme's imagined life story. Her extensive research is evident throughout. She writes: "I have carefully woven my fiction through key historical events and people. I have not meddled with timelines and I have tried to render the personalities and motivations of real people as truthfully as I can."

In the novel, the disappearance of 'bondmaid' is Esme's doing. When the word falls off a table in the Scriptorium– the Oxford garden shed in which the dictionary is compiled – she pockets it. Esme begins to collect other words from the Scriptorium that are misplaced, discarded or have been neglected by the dictionary men.

Over time, Esme realises that some words are considered more important than others, and that words and meanings relating to women's experiences often go unrecorded by the male lexicographers who are shaping the English language. She takes it upon herself to collect and preserve women's words and eventually, she includes these and others heard on the streets (e.g., knackered, latchkeyed, dollymop, morbs, and many others considered 'vulgar') in her own manuscript, *Women's Words and their Meanings*.

Concurrent with the historical story is the personal one. Esme undergoes many changes in fortune, as she emerges from the sheltered world of the university and ventures out on her quest. Her story has many of the familiar themes from literature set in the Edwardian era: harsh treatment at boarding school; naivety about relationships with men; love, loss, emerging sense of self and her place in the rapidly changing world. (No spoilers here) Many readers have warmed more to this aspect of the novel, populated with a cast of charming characters, beautiful prose, and a story that is intriguing and sometimes heart breaking. Emotional investment in Esme and her friends is difficult to resist (although some Bohomians remained unmoved!). I loved this book and wept my way through the final chapters!

About the author:

Pip Williams was born in London, grew up in Sydney and now calls the Adelaide Hills home. She is coauthor of the book Time Bomb: Work Rest and Play in Australia Today (New South Press, 2012) and in 2017 she wrote **One Italian Summer**, a memoir of her family's travels in search of the good life, which was published with Affirm Press to wide acclaim. Pip has also published travel articles, book reviews, flash fiction and poetry.

*bondmaid - a young woman bound to serve until her death

Next Month: Scrublands, by Chris Hammer, Allen & Unwin, 2019

Mary Mathews



Walk of the Month

Golden Mountain

Park at the corner of Ferraris Rd & Harpers No 4 Track, Bonnie Doon



5km, 2 - 3 hours, intermediate difficulty

Slow ramble to Golden Mountain. An ex logger's track takes you into grand eucalypt forest, past huge mossy boulders, through ti-tree thickets and onto gratifying views.

Head deep into Strathbogie Forest. This return walk starts 23km from Strathbogie Township. The drive is about 25 minutes from Strathbogie or 45 minutes from Euroa. Plan to take plenty of time. Stop. look, listen and smell for a full sensory forest experience.

From where you park, the entrance is not well marked. Walk uphill along Ferraris Rd 80m to find the gap on the right in the understory that identifies the beginning of the track. Motorcycle use has made this fairly clear. The forest is quite open here. As you head up the track you will soon discover a magnificent granite boulder stack to your left that tells you are on the right path. This stack is well worth exploring. Rounded granite boulders are randomly stacked into a great labyrinth. In winter and spring the mosses and lichens are vibrant and alive.

The route follows an old logger's track just to the south of the stack (the north side of Mt Tels). Motorcycles sometimes use the track, so be mindful. As you trend west deeper into the forest, you pass through ti-tree thicket before it opens up again. The Mountain Grey and Peppermint Gums are the giants in this part of the forest. Some are hundreds of years old. Further exploration is recommended, but be careful not to get lost!

The track is easy to follow and heads below the spur that links Golden Mountain with Mt Tels. At one point motorcycles have veered left off the track heading up the spur. Keep on straight ahead. As you approach the peak, the walking track meets Golden Mountain 4WD Track. follow it up the hill until you meet a track heading off to the right towards the summit. This takes you to the Trig Point at the top. At 1028m, Golden Mountain is the second highest peak in the Strathbogie Ranges.

From here cross the summit to the boulders immediately below. To the west between the trees are views to Mt Wombat and the Strathbogie Tableland. However, the real gem of the walk lies back at the base of this path just east of the Golden Mountain 4WD Track. Snow Gums line the edge of an escarpment suspended above Clear Creek valley. From here looking east you can see Lake Eildon, The Paps, and further into the High Country of Mt Buller, Mt Stirling and The Bluff.

This is indeed a glorious spot. In spring, wildflowers add even more to its beauty.

Periodically trees fall across the way. Generally they are cut fairly quickly. The gradients are occasionally moderate, but the track itself isn't long enough for this to be a

big issue. Pausing from time to time helps. Be prepared for bushwalking. The weather can change quickly, have appropriate clothes, carry food, water, wear sturdy shoes and be sunsmart.

Follow the same path back.

Dogs <u>must be on-leash</u> and under control at all times. The forest is closed on days of Total Fire Ban

Victoria Walks version: walkingmaps.com.au/walk/4548 Sean Mathews



Peranbin Primary College Strathbogie Campus

We are at the end of the school term and the students are tired but still working extremely hard. In Writing we have been working on information reports and in Inquiry we have been researching the ocean, so we combined both and the students made a fabulous information report on the ocean. The students gave a few oral presentations on ocean animals and threats to the ocean and cultures of the world. They all did such a wonderful job, projects and presented very professionally!

We also worked on measurement and time by making Anzac biscuits, we will continue learning about the ANZAC's and do some other arts and crafts so the students can engage with the events of and leading up to ANZAC Day.

We had a fantastic lesson down at the creek, conducting an experiment on the water cycle as well as doing some drawings. On our final day of school we had a mini session on native bees and tasted some different types of honey. This led into our brainstorming session on an environmental project for next term. Thanks to those parents that took us up on the offer to join us for this. The students decided that that they would like a hybrid bush garden which can house and attract native bees, as well as grow bush tucker foods that we can cook with, so this is an exciting project for all of us to embark on next term!

We celebrated world wide Harmony Week! The children have been busy researching a famous person from another culture. Looking at the countries flags, food, games and clothes. The children dressed up and came as their famous researched person. The staff also had fun dressing up, Roxy came as Audrey Hepburn, Miss Johnson was Jacinda Ardern, and Mrs Wilson was her Secretary of State. There were some very famous people in the Senior Room, and some of the dress ups were fantastic. After lunch we also played Italian version of Hide and Seek.

We have had visitors to the Senior Room from Euroa Secondary College. They were checking in to let the students know about their wonderful school, and beginning the transition process for those students who will be leaving for high school next year. All of the Seniors were very interested in the programs and options that Euroa has to offer.

The student's had a fantastic time at the Easter Egg Hunt with everyone from all the campuses, the Violet Town kinder and playgroup, at Violet Town. Thank you to the staff at the Violet Town Campus for organising and hosting such a wonderful event for us.

The students have done a wonderful job this term settling back into a routine at school and making solid progress in all areas of the curriculum. Thank you very much to all of the parents, guardians and other helpers within our school community.

Hope you had a lovely Easter break and we will see you all in Term 2.



Prince Harry and Princess Beatrice



Stella McCartney and Donald Trump



Malala Yousafzai