1990: The Story of the Last Major Strathbogie Bushfire

1990 was the last time a major bushfire threatened Strathbogie. Now 33 years have passed and the fire is fast fading from memory. With the influx of new residents to the Tableland the Strathbogie CFA feels it is important to tell the story of that day.

25,000 hectares burnt, with a loss of 16 houses, 17 woolsheds and 119 significant buildings.

1 fatality (volunteer firefighter).

13,090 sheep, 473 cattle, 1 horse. At the peak of the fire 96 CFA tankers were involved.

25th December 1990; along the Mansfield-Longwood Road the temperature is pushing into the high thirties, 2 young lads have been gifted a motorcycle for Christmas and after wolfing down their Christmas lunch they're out on the bike and across the paddocks, circle work in the dry grass, pushing their new bike way beyond a comfort level for a 2 stroke. Till one of them lays it down in the dry Phalaris and sparks a fire, and before they know it 25 acres are burnt. The local brigades are onto it though and round up the fire and damp down the edges and make things safe as they can. Christmas is a family day after all, the Aunties and Uncles are over and there's cool beers back in the fridge.

A fire is as safe as you leave it!

Two days later the wind is blowing steadily from the north, unbeknown to all concerned smouldering coals are hiding in the roots of a dead tree. The wind gently fans a fire as it heads towards the light of day pushing sparks beyond the safe burnt edge. It's the Wombat fire tower that picks it up at around 12.30pm, a fire bursting the containment and heading South and East, in 30 minutes it had spread 2 kms and is heading for Ruffy. Soon the brigades are struggling to keep up with it. The phone trees are calling volunteers out, and tankers are arriving from all over. The Bogie tanker is in the thick of it, and then the wind changes. Pat McCormick from Creighton's Creek talks about that change. "The wind changed to a sharp westerly and was blowing that hard it would knock you over, all of a sudden we had a 6 km fire front heading East, the fire was moving that fast it raced underneath the truck before we knew it."

Pat's wife Julie, is back home just off the Merton Road and suddenly embers are falling on the house, they've got 3 children under 9 and panic sets in. The wind is gusting 40km's now and chaos is spreading, the CFA petrol tank by the sheds is shaking violently before it explodes and takes off in a huge ark over the house.

Brian Law is heading down Galls Gap Road with a relief crew for the Bogie tanker and at Killeen's Hill Road they meet the wind change.

Continues page 3

What's On

Boho South Hall AGM July 14 7pm. See page 2

Community Grant Workshops
July 13. See page 5

NAIDOC Week at Yea Wetlands July 2—9. See page 8

Every Last Saturday of the Month Strathbogie Golf Club Community Meals. See page 11

Every First Monday of the month - Strathbogie Tableland History Group meets 1.30pm, Strathbogie Memorial Hall.

strathbogiehistory@gmail.com

Every Second Wednesday of the month - Strathbogie Memorial Hall Committee meets 7pm in the Soldiers Room. 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.

Co-ordinator Kay Righetti 0418 171 439

Every Fourth Saturday of the month - Australian Plants Society Group meeting Pete 0402 882 959

Every Third Sunday 10am STAG Committee at the Hall. All welcome.

Tennis at the Recreation Reserve. Enquiries about social tennis: contact Secretary Mayra Walsh 0423 475 564

Euroa Cinema

Jesus Revolution M Jul 1 7.30pm, Jul 2 4pm The Little Mermaid PG Jul

The Little Mermaid PG Jul 5 11am

John Farnham, Finding the Voice M Jul 8 7.30pm, Jul 9 4pm

Bank of Dave M Jul 15 7.30pm, Jul 16 4pm Sweet As M Jul 22 7.30pm, Jul 23 4pm

Tix \$10. Book online at https://www.trybooking.com/

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

Jokes of the Month

No matter how far you push the envelope it will always be stationery.

A sandwich goes into a bar and orders a drink. The Bartender says, "Sorry, we don't serve food in here."

I've been charged with killing a man with sandpaper, but I only wanted to rough him up a bit.

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

When Pomegranates Howl M Jul 1 11.30am

Splice here: A Projected Odyssey M Jul 1 6pm, Jul 2 5pm Director / Writer Rob Murphy will give a talk at intermission

It must be Heaven M Jul 1, 8.45pm, Jul 2 7.45pm

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



BOHO SOUTH HALL INC.

Annual General Meeting (inc. election of Office Bearers & Committee)

Friday 14th July @ 7pm New members very welcome

If you have any questions or are unable to attend, please contact any of the following members.

Margaret Mactier

Ph: 0458 328 873

Stewart MacLaughlin

Ph: 0457 652 105

Christine Ellis

Ph: 0419 908 522

Contribute to Tableland Talk

Our community newsletter relies on community contributions to publish. We are all about sharing and enjoying Tableland stories and activities. Send us your local tall tales and true, photos and sketches, community and business advertisements. We love to hear from community members of all ages. See email below >>>>

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:

July 8 and 22 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 August edition of Tableland Talk is Thursday, July 27, 2023.

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.

Continues from Page 1

They decide to head back up the hill and collect the old Bogie tanker because things are rapidly deteriorating.

Meanwhile at CFA headquarters they're escalating their response, brigades and tankers are being called in from all over.

Up in Bogie, the country is still green in places, on the southern slopes and the fringes of swamps. The phone trees are working, and folks can see the thick smoke to the West, neighbours are calling each other. The fire is out of control, and it's fast headed up the hill. Brian Law and his crew pick up the old Bogie tanker and head back down Galls Gap Road. The fire channel is so busy it takes 5 minutes to get on the radio and report where they are headed, at Polly McQuinns there's a spot fire they put out before heading on. At Fergusons Lane they are meeting spot fires all over and pull into Tom Fergusons place, the flames are licking his shearing shed and the main fire front is yet to arrive. When it comes after a few short minutes it's "a ball of fire". And there's fire all over the place, its racing up the gullies, up the Wombat Creek, up the Sevens, through the scrub and forest. Back in Creighton's Creek Pat McCormack hears on the CFA radio that there's a fire in Coach Road, he's convinced at the time that someone must be lighting fires, because fire can't move that quick, can it?

Eric Tame wasn't rostered on that day, he loaded up his Ute with the fire fight unit and headed down to Gooram and helped where he could. When the wind changed, he turned for home, the Galls Gap bridge was alight as he crossed it, so he used what water he had to put out the burning bridge and head up the hill.

The fire had spotted 7kms ahead of the front. Mount Wombat fire tower evacuated at this point, they could see the enormity and the threatening path of the coming fire. Meanwhile at Tom Fergusons place near the corner of Fergusons Lane and Polly McQuinns Road, Brian Law and Ike Miller and the crew are fighting spot fires, beating the flames back from Tom's shearing shed.

The sun has been swallowed by the thick and darkening smoke, and the wind is like an express train, and when they see the main front coming, it's like a fire ball spread out across the sky, flames 30 and 40 ft long coming over the top of them, and they all run like hell for the tanker and the flimsy shelter of Tom's house.

Part 2 next month

Sim Ayres on behalf of Strathbogie CFA and those that lived through that day.

Window Gazer

as a yoof, I was somewhat aloof accused of having my head in the clouds

a dreamer a schemer an inveterate window gazer always staring to ponder

now supposedly grown up an adult keen to own up to sitting there staring to yonder

Mt Wombat is there this fact I do know but in my vision it does not show shrouded in mizzle and murk

because my whole body lives here in the clouds, with

the haar the brume the smur the smaze

and all the winter people of Strathbogie

John O'Brien



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Strathbogie Ranges - Nature View –

Stories, activities & more. Ecology, landscape and natural history https://bit.ly/3sh52K1

Jackson's Produce Store

Cowslip Street, Violet Town

We are located in the main street of Violet Town and proudly stock our shelves with local produce and products, as well as fresh fruit and vegetables, gourmet cheese, biscuits, yoghurts, organics and superfoods, and lots more.

We also offer "Coomalong Estate" Oil re-fills and have recently commenced selling on order each week another great local product - "Milkwood Bread".

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





Strathbogie Brewing Company

Dave & Sandy Joyce See our website for stockists www.strathbogiebrewing.com.au

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 share the following information and more:

- · 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

To learn more or join the Bogie Tree, please send an email to Stuart on stuartb446@gmail.com or call on 0422 408 915

Very Reasonable Advertising Rates - Advertising solely funds this newsletter. Advertisements for revenue raising or business advertisements are charged per issue at 1/8 page \$7, 1/4 page \$14, 1/2 page \$21, full page \$42. Exact size and placement is at the discretion of the Editor. Free community event advertising is at no cost. For more information e: tablelandtalk@gmail.com or m: 0400 019 607. Please support our advertisers.

Beautiful Bogie Trees

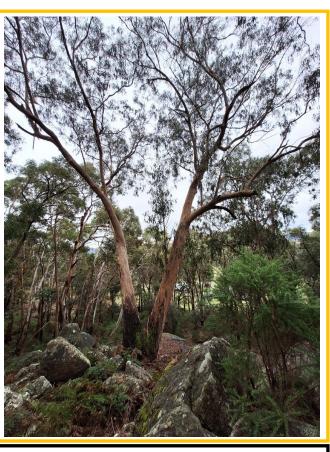
This tree (long leaf box) is on the hillside in the bush behind our house. It is much larger than it appears in the photo and is one of the tallest trees on our hilltop.

Like most of the Strathbogie area, our property was logged around the turn of the century, but probably because the tree trunk branches from the base, rather than being a single straight trunk, it was left behind.

We have a favourite sitting spot on the top of a rock outcrop up behind the house where we have had picnics and this looks across to this tree.

We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful environment.

Stuart Bridgeman



Community Grants Now Open

Strathbogie Shire Council has updated its community grants program to better deliver outcomes for the community. The grant amount has been doubled to \$10,000 and Council had simplified processes for application and administration.

There are now three funding opportunities for community groups and an events funding stream. Groups will now be able to apply for Community Strengthening Grants of up to \$10,000 – with applications open from now until August 7. \$1000 Quick Response Grants will be open year-round, with approval by the CEO ensuring they are quick and accessible. The funding pool for Event Grants has increased from \$30,000 annually to \$50,000, with event organisers able to apply for up to \$5000.

Council's grant review highlighted the need to simplify the model for community and Council. "We're excited to present a new funding model that removes category restrictions and encourages significant projects with greater benefits for the community," Mayor Binks said. "Our Community Action Groups and Community Houses are now also eligible to apply. "In one big change, community infrastructure maintenance and upgrade projects have been excluded from the community strengthening grants as these projects need to be referred to Council's Building and Maintenance Budget to be assessed in line with Council's renewal program. "This maintains the focus of the grants program on strategic projects with tangible deliverables for the community."

For 2023/24 financial year there will be one-off access to funding to facilitate community conversations around how townships will mark January 26 with grants up to the value of \$5000 per township.

Cr Binks extended an invitation to potential applicants to attend either an online or face-to-face workshop. The workshops will be held on July 13, 2023 to introduce the new community funding model and guide community members on how to prepare a grant application and answer any specific questions around project suitability.

Workshop dates and times
In person and online July 13, 2023 3pm to 4pm
Online only July 13, 2023 7.30pm to 8.30pm
Bookings can be made via https://events.humanitix.com/community-strengthening-grant.

Further information: Kristin Favaloro

E: Kristin.favaloro@strathbogie.vic.gov.au P: 0438 670 762





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Consider joining Landcare!

Landcare is a volunteer not-for-profit organisation that • works to protect, enhance and restore the natural . environment in our local area through sustainable land . management and conservation activities.

Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Group is an active body • of local residents and farmers who really care about our environment.

activities:

- Tree planting
- Soil and pasture improvement

- Soil testing
- Roadside weed program
- Wildlife surveys
- Farm visits and discussions
 - Improving Farm dams program
- Field days
- Pests animals and plants

If Landcare sounds interesting to you, please contact Secretary, Peter Righetti at prighetti@macsfield.com.au You may have an interest in some of our current or call on 0418 148 511 for more detail and a Membership Application form. Membership is a very low \$10 per family per year.

We'd love to hear from you.

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For all your On-Farm fuel deliveries and lube supplies please contact Mark Reynolds

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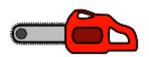






Now open in Strathbogie - Ted Paterson's Mechanical Servicing and Repairs.

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

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



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berry liqueur made at Merton.

Our ever expanding stock reflects the diversity of food produced in our region by passionate and committed people.

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Fmail.

dayle@theweekendlocal.com.au

Mobile: 0490 842 383



Your Gambler's Help



Your local Gambler's Help service agency is Primary Care Connect. We offer free, confidential information, advice, and counselling to anyone affected by gambling.

Phone: (03)58233200

Email: intake@primarycareconnect.com.au 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday. After hours Hours:

services can be arranged.

You can also contact Gambler's Help on 1800 858 858 or go to gamblershelp.com.au 24hrs a day for immediate

support.



Join us at the Yea Wetlands to celebrate NAIDOC week 2023. Activities will be held on Sunday July 2 (Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony, morning tea & an address on the matter of the Voice to Parliament by Uncle Ron) and on Wednesday 5th July artist Cassie Leatham will conduct art/weaving sessions. Sunday's events are free but registration for catering purposes would be appreciated. Wednesday's sessions are ticketed. For booking and information use Try Booking and / or www.yeawetlands.com.au



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Based Creek Junction VIC 3669

A Tribute, a Thank You and a We Hope You Can Help Out!



For many, many years Olwyn and Ben Brook have been personally, hand delivering Tableland Talk to households across Boho South. Every month come rain, hail or shine they have been the reliable pair that have ensured the localest of news gets to our readers — where the Strathbogie mail run doesn't reach. They deserve a heartfelt thank you from everyone who has ever come out to their letterbox to find TT waiting to be read.

This sterling voluntary run couldn't go on forever. Olwyn and Ben now feel it is time to ask someone else to take up the baton of the Boho South TT delivery run.

What is involved? At the end of each month a bundle of freshly printed hard copies of TT will be delivered to the new volunteer/s at

any location of their choosing (or they can collect them directly from the Editor). The monthly letter boxing is to approximately eighty households in the Boho South locality.

Are you interested in this worthy voluntary role? If so contact Sean Mathews (TT Editor) via either e: tablelandtalk@gmail.com or m: 0400 019 607.

Sean Mathews: On behalf of the Tableland community thank you Olwyn and Ben!

Goulburn Gates Weir walk (Goulburn Gates Walk, Goulburn Weir - Walking Maps)



In 1887, weir wall and gate construction commenced on the Goulburn River at Nagambie. Work was completed in 1891 at a cost of £113,599. This was the first of Australia's significant irrigation network infrastructure. It was designed to control irrigation diversions throughout northern Victoria.

Goulburn Weir was thought to be a visionary project at the time. The Weir

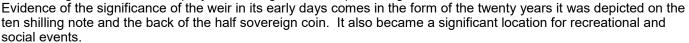
would raise the Goulburn River level in such a way that water would flow by gravity along the three main irrigation off-takes, Stuart Murray Canal,

Cattanach Canal and the East Goulburn Main Channel. You will visit each of these during your walk.

The Stuart Murray Canal supplies parts of the Central Goulburn Irrigation System. Both the Stuart Murray Canal and Cattanach Canals divert water to Waranga Basin for extra supply to the Goulburn irrigation system. The East Goulburn Main Channel supplies the Shepparton Irrigation System.

Included in the construction was one of the first hydro-electric turbines. People came from all over to witness electric light as it

lit the weir gates and the fine spray when the gates were open at night.





The granite blocks of the downstream face were quarried at nearby Mt Black. The concrete walls were rooted in the underlying bedrock. The metal superstructure had cast iron piers supporting 21 cast iron and wrought iron gates. The gates were lowered into indentations in the top of the wall to allow river and flood flows. Lowering and raising the gates was powered by water driven turbines.

Stabilising and refurbishment works were undertaken in 1983 and 1988. Two of the original western gates and lifting gear have been preserved in recognition of this special piece of Victorian history. Created by the weir upstream, Lake Nagambie is a great place to visit too. A popular place for fishing, it is also well known for water sports. Lake Nagambie is home to major annual events such as rowing regattas and water skiing.

Note: weir wall access is only from 8 - 4pm.

Sean Mathews

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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Tractor Work: \$77 per hour incl. GST (\$70 + GST)
Other Work: \$55 per hour incl. GST (\$50+GST)

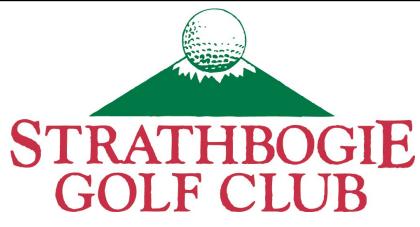
- Rates include fuel & oil - transit time charged - materials and other consumables extra -

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



Now offering Deep Ripping, Pipelaying (via ripper), and Fertiliser Spreading!

Jobs requiring two men charged with additional \$55/hour





Offering a Monthly Saturday Night Club & Community Meal

When: Every last Saturday of the month

Time: 6.00 to 9.30 p.m. at SGC clubrooms

Cost: \$25.00 per adult

\$10.00 for children 15 or under

Typical menu:

Garlic and fresh breads

Roast Lamb

- -Sausages will be available for children should they prefer them
- -Vegetarian Burgers will also be available

Scalloped potatoes

Choice of 3 fresh salads

Fruit crumble dessert with ice-cream and or cream

Pay on night but <u>essential</u> to make a booking by texting Ria Pearce on 0405 100 859. Please state your name and the number of guests (adults and children attending).

Bar at bar prices - No BYO

Peranbin Primary College Strathbogie Campus

On Wednesday we went to the Euroa Secondary College for Experience Day. First, we did Science, and we made bottle rockets. We pumped air into them to make them blast off.

Then we did Technology, and we cut shapes out of plastic to make a key ring. I did a letter C.

In Art we drew some mushrooms with Charcoal.

Carissa

In Math we have been measuring. We went outside with the Juniors and measured lots of different things in the school ground.

In Reading we have had lots of Indigenous stories, and we have been writing information reports about push and pull, spin and slide, and bounce and roll.

It was too wet to go down to the creek for Bogie Backyard, so we made puppets of the animals we might find at the creek, and later we might use these to do a play.

Grade 3-6 from across Peranbin enjoyed a three day camp at Swan Hill, staying at the Pioneer Settlement. Here are Alex and Quinn's recounts.

Peranbin went to Pioneer Settlement for 2023

Camp. We made lamingtons in the Inn, butter in the bakery and nails at the blacksmiths. We watched some wood turning, and saw a light show. We had photos taken of us in old time clothes. Morse code was my favourite. The dots and dashes send out codes. The P.V. Pyap is a steam paddle boat and it took us up the river into NSW. I liked being on the boat and being by the edge near the water. Alex Delahey





Dan and Quinn, and Alex and Dan enjoying camp

We weren't here on Monday!

On Tuesday we watched a State Library Webex with authors Matt Cosgrove and Eva Amore who have written "Worst Week Ever!"

On Wednesday we made Marble Runs. It was great fun. We used lots of things from the classroom, we were allowed to use anything!

On Thursday we made sausage rolls for our lunch. I like cooking, and I brought an egg to mix with the meat to make the filling.

Maggie



Maggie and Pip were looking at what happens when you put a magnet amongst iron filings.

We went to Swan Hill On Camp. It was Pioneer Settlement. I really liked going on the P.V. Pyap, I liked the way the water moved beside the boat, and I liked the view from the boat. I like being on the Cart, the horse was just walking slowly.

We were put in groups, and we did lots of activities, we ate lamingtons at the Inn and it was fun watching them make butter.

Yesterday we were able to say goodbye to Mrs Willaton in person. We thank her for sharing her ideas and knowledge with Peranbin and wish her the very best at Numurkah. A familiar face in Angela Tough will be acting Principal for the remainder of 2023.