

# Strathbogie Fires 1990

Continued from the July edition.

Brian Law and Ike Miller and their crew beat back the flames around Tom Ferguson's house, though the fire claimed the hay shed. When it's safe enough to leave they fill up the tanker and head back towards Bogie, by now the fire had widened out to Kipping's and Coach Roads and into Enderleigh. The conditions are chaotic, on Channel 7's incident reporting from Creighton's Creek that afternoon the reporters voice is barely audible above the wind. Up in Bogie all hell has broken loose, and the brigades and property owners are barely holding their own.

Trevor and Jo Hoare are both home that afternoon, living just above Polly McQuinns. "It was a shocking day, thick smoke everywhere, and you couldn't tell what was going on." That afternoon they didn't have enough time to bring in all the sheep and lost a couple of hundred to the fire. Jo evacuates the kids to the Memorial Hall, whilst Trevor stays to save what he can. "It was that scary, the fire was moving so quick and was that volatile, no one knew where it would end up."

Betty and Nev Broughton are newly married, they are living in the last house on the right in Strathbogie heading out to Tames Road. Betty's A Wangaratta girl and new to the area, their daughter Bec is six months old. When they hear the fire is going down at Creighton's Creek, Nev heads off to bring the sheep in and join up with the Kelvin View tanker. An hour later and the police are knocking on Betty's door suggesting she evacuate. Looking south and west and the wind has picked up, the sky is dark and smoky and she's worried about Nev. The Strathbogie Memorial Hall is full of people, there's very little news as to what's really happening, the fire is moving up the hill at an incredible rate and the Township is threatened. Someone remembers the petrol Bowser, and the diesel and gas bottles at the depot at Dick Rowrath's place, and the panic flushes through the hall at the thought of this exploding in the fire. DWELP decides to cut a containment line below the houses on what is now the Bridge-tobridge walk. The locals advise not too, but DWELP forge ahead and bog the bulldozer. A CFA tanker is stationed to protect the fuel depot that night. There is a sense of togetherness in the hall, even through the stress. In an emergency you get to know your people very quickly. Betty remembers just how scary it was, she also remembers it was the first time that her daughter Bec sat up by herself.

Anthony Delahey remembers that afternoon well, he was pressing hay out on Watkins Road but had to stop because of the bark and debris whipped up by the wind falling into the newly turned hay. He remembers driving with his dad in the Ute just ahead of the fire, relaying information back to CFA. The fire jumped them three times, on Kipping's Road on Wakenshaws Road and on Coach Road. *Continues on page 3 .....* 

# August 2023

# What's On

**Aug 7** Strathbogie Shire Community Grant applications close. See p 5

Aug 10 Dying To Know Day. p 10

Oct 8 Landcare Field Day. See p 13

Oct 29 Bushfire Sunday. See p 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

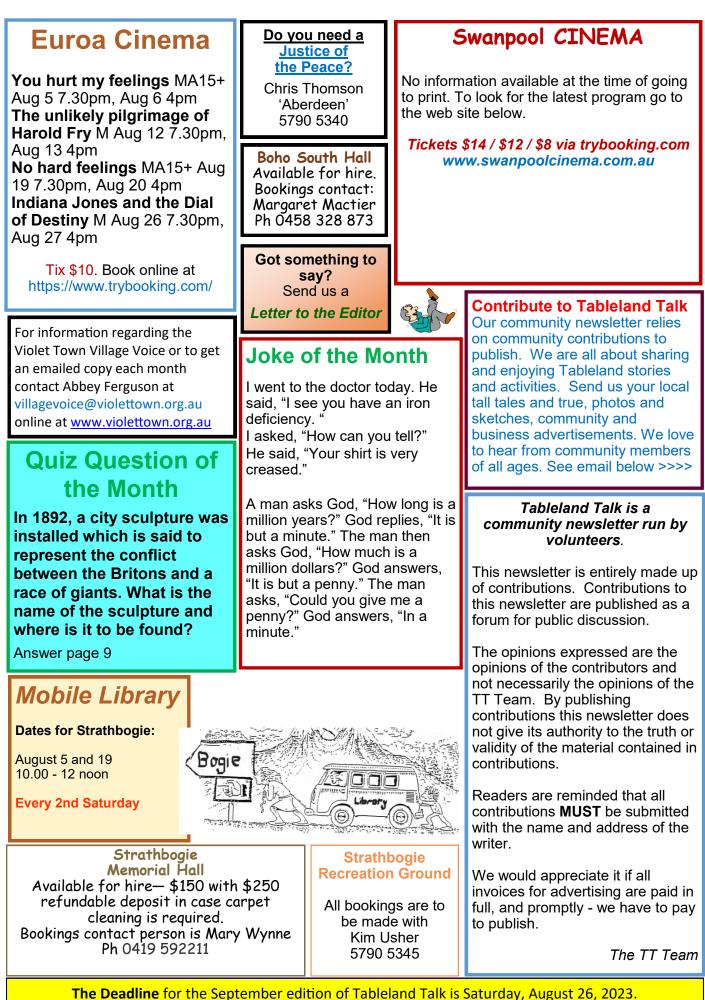
**Every First Wednesday** of the month - 1.30pm Strathbogie Garden Group.

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



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.

It was the speed of the fire he remembers most, that and the way it continually spotted ahead. By the time they got to Graham Moore's there was a helicopter buzzing around the house. "The house would be long gone save for that helicopter." The fire got into the pine plantation there. Anthony remembers the trees being 80 ft high and the flames being another 40 feet above that.

Graeme Moore was fishing that afternoon in Barmah, it was the police who came and grabbed him to say that wildfire was in Bogie, he got home to find the fire racing through the family farm. Graeme reckons it took between 5 and 7 minutes to burn through 1000 acres. The Moore's lost a hell of a lot of young weaners that night, they panicked in the smoke and suffocated in the corners of paddocks. That was one of the hardest things, loosing your livelihood. Having to shoot those that were too badly burnt, it was a horrible thing.

The fire didn't slow until that westerly wind backed off, and into the Southerly change that evening. Then the crews could begin to make the edges secure. Like a lot of volunteers up in Strathbogie, Graeme spent the next week on the back of the fire truck mopping up embers and hot spots.

Don Smith who farmed at Bullagreen for most of his life remembered getting lost in his own paddocks because the smoke was that thick, even though he had put all the fencing in himself. On the Southerly change in the evening the fire jumped the Wombat Creek and headed up into Kelvin View, about a third of the land in Kelvin was burnt, and still the fire marched on, burning over Mount Wombat into Carpenters Lane and the Cemetery Road. The next day the fire jumped the Bogie Road and into Quails Lane before being rounded up.

When the fire was eventually contained, old trees on Wombat were still glowing red a week later. And the swamps held the slow smoulder for close to ten days. It was two weeks before you could safely say the fire was truly out. That New Years Eve there was a dance at the Bogie hall, it was the biggest turn out in memory. That fire really brought people together.

As I talked to people who lived through the fires, I asked them what advice they would give to newer residents up here.

"Look after your safety and your family's safety. You must have a plan. No one knows when a fire will come. One day it will."

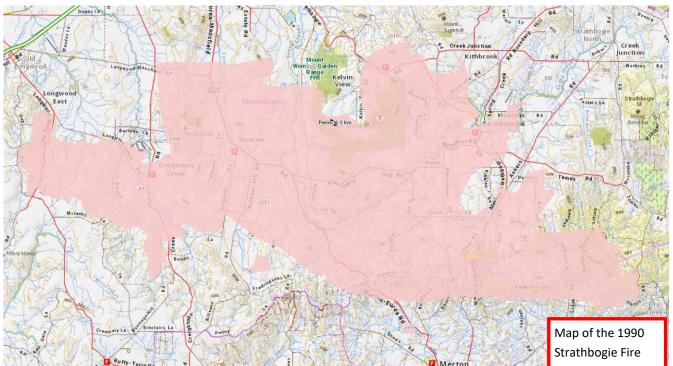
"Don't rely on power, have a generator, don't think a fire truck will turn up to your place."

"Know where you live, know your neighbours, know which roads lead to where? Be safe."

"In a fire you can't just call 000 and someone turns up to save you. We live in a small rural community with a precious small number of CFA volunteers. If you don't want to put your hand up and join the CFA, then for God's sake be sure you make the right decisions. You being safe helps your community."

"Learn all you can about fire, keep the area around your house and buildings clean. Join a community fireguard group, join the local CFA, be in regular contact with your neighbours."

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





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## Jackson's Produce Store Cowslip Street, Violet Town

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# The Bogie Tree

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- 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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Further information: Kristin Favaloro E: Kristin.favaloro@strathbogie.vic.gov.au P: 0438 670 762

As I wait for the volume to increase

First, the Kookaburras break Zen

One, then two, three then ten

Ring out around the valley

In a cacophony of laughter

to a destination I cannot hear.

As eyes take over auricles and the stars complete their chronicles of another lap around our sky.

Before our own hot rock. the almighty Sun and my clock, takes centre stage for its daily performance

Colours are then cleft on a palate recently bereft of any hue not black and white

Hello daytime.

Johnno O'Brien

# **Community Grants Still Open**

call

Morn\_23

clear morn I sat and

watched the

There is a background hum

as the Seven's water's strum

a guitar of natural dimension

to join in and sing the chorus

Quietly, the currawongs make a

One by one, then them all

With their melifluous song

just chortling along

They set an audible rhythm

for the amphibian prism

dawn

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.



Then the cockies chime in unchaining infernal din As a hundred blanket the sky To yell their war cry Of mad avian acrobatics

And my ears get to hurting

These most bogan of birds are never short of words And I'm glad to watch them take flight



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# **Recipe of the Month**

A sweet winter warmer Sticky Date Pudding with Butterscotch Sauce

### Serves 6

Sauce

1 cup cream

1 3/4 cups of dates, seeded and roughly chopped

1 1/4 cups water 1 tspn bicarb soda 60g butter softened 3/4 cups castor sugar 2 eggs

1 cup self raising flour

1 cup firmly packed brown sugar



### 200g butter

### Method

Preheat oven to 180 degrees. Combine dates and water in a medium saucepan and bring to boil. Remove from heat, add soda, let stand 5 minutes. Blend until smooth. In a small bowl beat butter, sugar and one egg until light and fluffy. Add the remaining egg. Stir in the flour and date mixture. Pour into a greased dish. Bake about 55 minutes or until cooked. Serve with warm Butterscotch Sauce. **Sauce**:

Combine ingredients in a saucepan. Stir over heat until sugar is dissolved, but do not allow to boil. Simmer for 3 minutes.

Ref: Delish: Our family favourites. Peranbin Primary College

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# Mark Reynolds

**Business Development Executive** 

Shepparton

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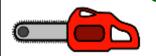




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# **BUSH FIRE SUNDAY**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Yep I know it's cold and you most probably won't be thinking about the fire season, however, because we have chosen to live in an acknowledged bush fire prone area it is appropriate that we start to consider our preparedness well in advance

The Bush Fire Sunday training day is run every year either just before or at the start of the fire season with the aim being to help to prepare the community in the event of a bush fire, remembering your preparedness could help to prevent a serious event.

Topics covered will include preparation of personal fire plans, preparation of property, fire alarms, establishing fire guard groups, use of UHF radios.

The day is open to everyone, doesn't matter where you live, so please put the date in your diary.

More information will be provided progressively as we draw closer to the date.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

You will also need to book for the day.

Further info to follow soon.

Kim Usher,

**CFA Community Safety Officer.** 

# The Weekend Local

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10am to 3.30pm  $\Rightarrow$ Weekends: 9am to 3.30pm  $\Rightarrow$ 

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Sambler's

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# Quiz answer:



Gog and Magog. They stand on either side of a clock, presideing over the domed central vault of the oldest arcade in Melbourne, The Royal Arcade. They strike bells to sound each hour. Magog has the slightly longer beard.

Ref: Taft Belinda, Kerr Thelma Victorian Quiz Book Axiom Publishing 2000



**Brianna King** 

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# Dying To Know Day 2023

FamilyCare and GV Hospice have partnered to bring Dying to Know Day to Shepparton. Several speakers, including; Services Australia, Owens Funerals and GV Hospice, will address prevalent topics about death. Stall holders will be available to answer questions and explain their area of expertise. Information about advance care plans, end-of-life planning, and funerals are just some of the topics to feature. The event aims to bring awareness to the Shepparton community of how to live and die well.

### Tuesday 8 August, 11:00am - 3.00pm at GV Hospice, 102 Balaclava Road, Shepparton.

**Quotes:** "Being a carer can be challenging, rewarding, frustrating, confusing and overwhelming, sometimes all in the one day. FamilyCare's Carer Support Team are here to listen, empathise and seek to understand the needs and aspirations of carers. From this starting point we provide carers with the information, supports and services to assist them in their caring role and support them to have time for themselves."- Jason Watts FamilyCare

## Information about Dying to Know Day

Dying to Know Day is an annual campaign that empowers Australians at all stages of life to live and die well. Dying to Know Day seeks to radically reshape how Australians approach death, dying, and end-of-life planning. This years campaign asks Australians to 'getFor further media information contact:

Molly Stephens (*she/her*) Mobile: 0477 741 926 e-mail: <u>mstephens@familycare.net.au</u> Marketing and Communications Officer dead set' by taking simple steps to plan for end-of-life. (Dying to Know Day website 2023)



# Dog owners reminded to report attacks to Council



Council is reminding dog owners to report any incidents of your dog being attacked to Council so the appropriate steps can be taken.

Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor Cr Laura Binks said, "Council has a legal obligation to undertake the appropriate course of action following a dog attack and this cannot be achieved if the victim doesn't come forward. Ultimately, to reduce the risk of these incidents happening in the first place, we continue to urge pet owners to do the right thing."

In Strathbogie Shire, there is a zero-tolerance policy for dogs being off-leash and unrestrained, unless you are using the dedicated off-leash dog park in Euroa. All dog owners must ensure their dogs are on a leash when being walked, or they are confined to their property at all times. As a dog owner, it is your responsibility to ensure your dog is properly secured. This vital responsibility goes a long way to reducing the risk of dog attacks.

Cr Binks said not only were these important responsibilities, but they are also a requirement under section 45 of the Domestic Animals Act. "Our compliance officers take a zero tolerance approach to dogs being off-leash and/or wandering dogs. These laws are in place to ensure the safety of all."

Dog owners could be infringed or prosecuted if they do not comply with the Act. We urge our community to do the right thing and follow these simple rules so you do not end up in a serious situation."

### Tara Whitsed

Communications and Engagement Adviser Strathbogie Shire Council Direct: 03 5795 0065 | Mobile: 0447 712 121 | Toll Free: 1800 065 993 www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au



# We're beere beere beere beereMonday:9:30am - 4:30pm\*Monday:9:00am - 12:00pmMednesday:9:30am - 4:30pm\*Mursday:9:30am - 4:30pm\*Mursday:9:00am - 12:00pmMinsday:9:00am - 12:00pmMursday:9:00am - 12:00pm<t

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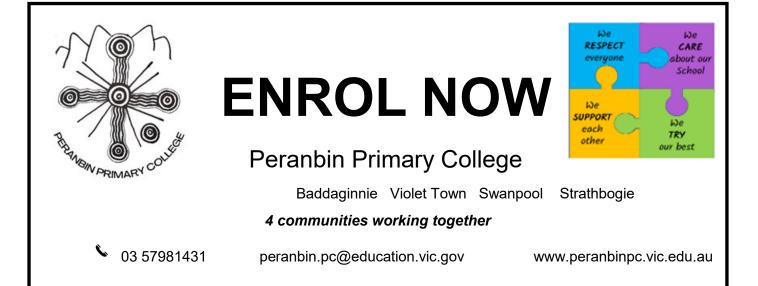
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# **Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) approved**

A new Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) has been approved for Strathbogie Shire. The plan was approved in May this year by The Hume Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee, setting out the local arrangements for emergency management.

Mayor Cr Laura Binks said, "It provides an overview of previous emergencies that have taken place in the shire and sets out Council's role at the local level in the context of regional and state emergency management planning. The MEMP identifies legislated emergency management roles of Council officers and the establishment of Council's Critical Incident Management Team which will be set up to coordinate recovery efforts."

The MEMP was prepared by the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee which is made up of a cross section of agencies, both response, relief and recovery and we thank the committee's efforts in the development of this plan.

A copy of the plan can be found at: https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/20230504-Strathbogie-Shire-Council-MEMP-2023-2026.pdf

Tara Whitsed E: tara.whitsed@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

# Wildlife Photo of the Month

Got a great Strathbogie wildlife, birdlife or landscape shot you would like to share? TT is just the place to do it.

Here we have one on those wonderful local icons, a Swamp or Black Wallaby. In fact, they are found along the entire east coast and have numerous other names, but I think we can claim the locals as our very own anyway.

One interesting fact is that the females are permanently pregnant throughout their reproductive life. They can have offspring any time of the year.

Sean Mathews.



# What is Landcare all about?

Landcare is a volunteer organisation with thousands of people in countless communities across Australia working towards sustainable land use by taking local action to restore, protect and enhance the environment for the benefit of communities.

**Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Group** has over 30 active members with a wide range of current projects designed to improve the environment on the Tableland. Everything from planting more trees to dealing with weeds and pest animals, soil and pasture improvement, wildlife surveys, maintenance of public walking trails and facilities - and you can be involved as much or as little as you wish.

- How do I improve my pasture?
- When is the best time to plant trees and which species?
- Do I need to spray weeds or are there other options?
- Where can I find people who have more knowledge and experience of farming and land management in this area?
- How can I arrange a farm visit?

## Join In! Become a Member.

Why not become a member? You will be joining a group of local people who care for the environment and want to make a difference. Membership cost is \$10 per family per year.

Our next Field Day is planned for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October where we will have experts to discuss pasture improvement and establishment, weed management, spraying techniques in inaccessible locations and the opportunity for questions and discussion of options. More info in the next few weeks.

To join Strathbogie Landcare email Peter Righetti on <u>prighetti@macsfield.com.au</u> for an application form. We look forward to welcoming you.

# White's Rock Walk - Walking Maps a lovely Strathbogie Forest walk.

Find the map: https://walkingmaps.com.au/walk/4789



Corner Lima East Rd and Stans Track, Strathbogie Forest, Creek Junction 3669

After a beautiful drive through Strathbogie Forest, begin your walk on the foot track opposite Stans Track. Walk through lush native vegetation to the spectacle of White's Rock. This is a linear return track that takes you to and from your destination. The track is narrow, but clear. Most of the way it is a dirt base. There are some mild rocky rises as well. Take care on loose surfaces and where it may be muddy or slippery in wetter months.

If you are on the lookout for a walk that takes you through the protected gullies and slopes of the moist, cool climate Strathbogie Ranges forest, then out onto a large exposed granite platform with an impressive view – this is a walk for you.



Along the way you will pass ferneries, tall cool climate eucalypts, a dense midstory, prolific seasonal shrub blooming and wildflowers. Then you will cross a ridge line through drier open grassy woodland onto a dramatic granite outcrop. However, this is just the precursor to the enormous slab that is White's Rock. As you walk out onto this vacant expanse, you will find yourself with 180 degrees of view directly opposite Rocky Ned. This place certainly has a "Wow" factor!

There is car parking for a half dozen cars on Lima East Rd where it intersects with Stans Track. *Sean Mathews* 

# Peranbin Primary College Strathbogie Campus

It has been really exciting to see and hear the enthusiasm from the students on their return to school after the term break. The Junior Class have begun learning the art of summarising in reading (the main idea of the text) and have enjoyed some familiar and new texts. Trying to use your own words to summarise can be a bit challenging but we have worked on developing our oral and written skills in this area. Sometimes a summary is one sentence long and other times it may be two or three.

In Maths we have been revisiting and becoming great with location skills—left and right, reading and following directions in the room and even following and writing directions using a grid map to help us. We started our new unit on money, learning about and describing the coins of Australia has meant learning through short videos, playing with, talking about, feeling, drawing and making rubbings of coins. Language and ideas of coin value, size and shape has been key. We know that silver coins are always cent coin values and the gold coins are dollar coin values. The best part—going shopping in the classroom with our own coin purses.

The Senior Class have been busy writing speeches for the Lions Club Public Speaking Competition. The Grade 3/4's topic is 'Being a giant', and the 5/6's is on World Records. The children delivered their speeches at Violet Town campus with the other Peranbin students in front of the Lions Club judges.

We are doing Naidoc week, and we have been making indigenous posters about Strathbogie and where we live. We have been learning about acute, right and obtuse angles in maths, and I am writing a giant story for the Lions Club speeches. Next week we will be making damper with bush tucker ingredients like bush tomatoes, warrigal greens, pepperberry and macadamia nuts. Happy Birthday Miss Johnson and Mrs Fry! This week we have been learning about angles in Math. I know 5 different angles- reflex, right, obtuse, acute and a doughnut!!! (360 degrees)

Today Roger and Jessica are at school. I think Jessica is cold this morning, she won't stop shaking.

On Tuesday we went to VT for the Lion's Club Speeches, I was a little bit nervous.

On Monday we did PE, a quick walk down the creek and then a game of dodgeball. We had great fun.

# Maggie

Congratulations to Quinn, Carissa, and Alex, (pictured below) and Clara for receiving Participation Awards, and Dan, pictured right, for



