



September 2025

Christmas in July Sparkles at Boho South



On a cold and wet July evening, the Boho South Hall glowed with warmth, laughter, and festive spirit as locals and visitors came together to celebrate "Christmas in July." Despite the winter chill, the event offered a heartwarming reminder of the power of community.

The shared meal was a highlight of the evening—a delicious spread that showcased the culinary talents and generosity of the community. Tables were filled with festive fare, and the hall buzzed with conversation, connection, and cheer.

More than just a celebration, the evening served as a timely reminder of the importance of shared spaces like Boho South Hall. Events like this not only strengthen social ties but also underscore the value of preserving and utilizing local facilities that bring people together.

The success of Christmas in July reflects the spirit of Boho South and the broader Strathbogie Tableland—where collaboration, care, and community pride shine through.



The Boho South Hall Committee extends heartfelt thanks to all who attended, volunteered, and contributed to the occasion. With renewed enthusiasm, they look forward to hosting more events that celebrate the unique spirit of Boho South and foster lasting community connections.

Boho South and foster lasting community connections.

Chris Ellis

What's On

- Sept 9** Strathbogie Hall AGM p7
- Sept 9** Boho South Hall AGM p3
- Sept 11** Rec Pizza Night Info p11
- Sept 13** Youth Festival p9
- Sept 14** CFA Training event p7
- Sept 19** Free Business Breakfast p15
- Sept 21** STAG AGM p7
- Sept 27** Landcare Planting Day p16
- Oct 3** Comedy for a Cause p3
- Oct 9** Playgroup Day Change p11
- Oct 9** Strathbogie Tennis starts p15
- Oct 19** CFA Bushfire Sunday p10
- Oct 22** Waterwise gardens p14
- Oct 23** Water Night Challenge p14
- Every Last Saturday** of the month - Strathbogie Golf Club Community Meals.
- 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** - 7.30pm Strathbogie Singing Group - St Andrews Church
Ph: Di Mackrell 0439 008 500
- 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 Third Sunday** of the month 9.30am STAG Committee at the Hall. All welcome.
- Tennis at the Recreation Reserve.** Enquiries about social tennis: Secretary Mayra Walsh 0423 475 564
- Every Second Thursday** 2pm starting. Spinning / Craft. Wajuna 0455 230 317
- Every Monday** during school term - Strathbogie Community Playgroup 9.30 -11.30am at the Rec. - Sharna 0401 445 675

Swanpool CINEMA

Tickets \$14 / \$12 / \$8

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Tina M Sep 5 10.30am, Sep 6 8.15pm, Sep 7 1.15pm
The Penguin Lessons M Sep 6 6pm, Sep 7 5pm
Jane Austen wrecked my life M Sep 13 6pm, Sep 14 5pm
Black Dog M Sep 13 8pm, Sep 14 7pm
The Friend M Sep 20 6pm, Sep 21 5pm
The Correspondent M Sep 20 8.30pm, Sep 21 7.30pm

Do you need a Justice of the Peace?

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Boho South Hall

Available for hire
Bookings contact:
Christine Ellis
0419 908 522 or
info@bohosouthhall.org



Euroa Cinema

Tickets \$12 at box office or <https://events.humanitix.com/euroa-community-cinema>

Four Letters of Love M Sep 6 7.30pm, Sep 7 4pm
Ocean with David Attenborough PG Sep 13 7.30pm, Sep 14 4pm
Nice Indian Boy M Sep 20 7.30pm, Sep 21 4pm
Dog Man G Sep 24 11am (sensory), and 3pm
Freakier Friday PG Sep 25 7pm (free youth movie)
Mr Burton M Sep 27 7.30pm, Sep 28 4pm
Elio PG Oct 1 11am (sensory), 3pm

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 for Kids

Q: Why did the chewing gum cross the road?

A: Because it was stuck to the chicken's foot!

Q: What is a room with no walls?

A: A mushroom!

Q: Why did the scarecrow win a Nobel prize?

A: Because he was outstanding in his field!

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

Library Service

The library service Mondays 10.00—12.00 in the Soldier's Room at the Hall. Next: September 8 & 22.

[GVMobileLibraryTimetable.pdf](#)

gvlibraries.com.au



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.

Ph: (03)58233200
E: intake@primarycareconnect.com.au
Hours: 9am – 5pm Mon to Fri.
After hours services can be arranged.
You can also contact Gambler's Help on 1800 858 858 or go to gamblerhelp.com.au 24hrs a day for immediate support.

The Deadline for the October edition of Tableland Talk is Friday, September 26, 2025.

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.

Comedy for a Cause Brings Laughter and Awareness

Euroa will host a night of laughter and connection on Friday 3 October 2025, as Comedy for a Cause takes the stage at the Euroa Community Cinema.

Featuring a stellar lineup of comedians from the Sydney and Melbourne International Comedy Festivals—including the renowned Dave Hughes, Mark McConville, Billy Styles, and Robyn Reynolds (UK)—this free event is set to entertain while raising awareness about mental health.

Doors open at 6.30pm, with the show starting at 7pm. Alongside the comedy, the evening will include a short presentation highlighting local mental health services and support resources.

Tickets are free, but bookings are essential. RSVP now at comedyforacause.net/event/SSC.

This event is part of Strathbogie Shire Council's ongoing commitment to supporting mental health and wellbeing.

Since the 2022 floods, Council has been actively supporting recovery initiatives that aim to build resilience within our communities, as well as offering opportunities for people to connect and engage.

With the added pressures of drought now affecting local farms and families, the need for mental health support is more critical than ever.

Mayor Claire Ewart-Kennedy said the event reflects Council's dedication to creating safe, supportive spaces for the community:

"We know that laughter can be a powerful tool for healing. Comedy for a Cause is not just about entertainment—it's about bringing people together, breaking down stigma, and reminding our community that support is always available. We're proud to host this event and continue promoting mental wellbeing across the Shire."

This event is funded by the State of Victoria through Emergency Recovery Victoria's Recovery Hub Grant Program.

Join us for a night of comedy, connection, and care—because mental health matters.

For more information on upcoming events, visit: www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Therese Thompson
Media and Communications Business Partner
therese.thompson@strathbogie.vic.gov.au Ph: 0436 603 424



BOHO SOUTH HALL INC.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

**The 2025 AGM will be held on
Tuesday 9th September @ 7.30pm
at the Boho South Hall
New members very welcome.**

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

Stewart MacLaughlin (President) Ph: 0457 652 105
Christine Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer) Ph: 0419 908 522



Note on Committee Positions:

We're pleased to share that the current **President** and **Secretary/Treasurer** are happy to continue for the coming year so there's no pressure to take on a major role—we're simply looking for a few new **general committee members** to join and support our activities. It's a great way to get involved and contribute to this wonderful community.

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Call for Volunteers

Our annual **Strathbogie Festival** will once again be held over Cup Weekend in November this year.

If you would like this fun social activity to continue with much needed funds raised for the community, please help the committee by volunteering your time/skills.

If you are available to help at all, please sign the roster sign up sheet in the general store. All assistance (big or small) will be greatly appreciated.

Any questions please contact me: *Deb McKie*

Chair, Strathbogie Festival Committee

Debmckie7@gmail.com

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Bogie Tree

+++++
 Bogie Tree is our unofficial Strathbogie Tableland bush telegraph. It is an email list based on Gaggie Mail 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
 - Information on your local business or service
- +++++
 To learn more or join 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.

The Bookshelf – notes from the Bohomians Bookclub

Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce, Penguin, 2020



If you've ever been tempted to "throw in the towel" and remake your life, Miss Benson's Beetle might be the story for you! In fact, it has been called "the perfect escape novel for our troubled times."

This historical fiction is set in the years following World War II, when Britain was struggling through debris and deprivation. Miss Benson, having lost her family to tragedy, has become an unmarried, sad and lonely 40-something teacher. She decides all in a rush, that her job, and indeed her life, have become unbearable...and leaves! She embarks on an unlikely and wild adventure to the South Pacific island of New Caledonia in search of the Golden Beetle. This little creature had captured her imagination as a child, while exploring entomological textbooks with her father.

Her expedition needs an assistant, and Miss Benson takes on an unlikely aide in the form of Enid Pretty, a blond, outgoing, saucy and attention-seeking young woman, whose past is somewhat murky. Unlikely companions that they are, they embark on the quest with vigour, trailed by Mundic – a shady character, who is quite clearly suffering post-war trauma, and has *something* he needs to do.

Although the unexpected and zany adventures that ensue might well have you suspending disbelief, the writing is fast-paced and the plot's twists and turns keep you guessing. Holding you there too, is the undercurrent of budding female friendship and loyalty, which, ultimately is what the novel is about – that a relationship can make you feel like you've found a home. The goal of the quest – in this case, the beetle – becomes less important in the end than the quest itself, where the belief in the beetle's existence carries the protagonists through a life-changing journey in which each of them comes to know their best self.



As in *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* (which I preferred), the characters are well drawn and the mix of hilarity and pathos is handled deftly. A good escape novel for a cold, wintry day.

Rachel Joyce (born 1962) is a British writer. She has written plays for [BBC Radio 4](#), and jointly won the 2007 [Tinniswood Award](#) for her radio play *To Be a Pilgrim*.^{[1][2]} Her [debut novel](#), *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, was on the longlist for the [2012 Man Booker Prize](#),^[3] and in December 2012 she was awarded the "New Writer of the Year" award by the [National Book Awards](#) for this book.

Ruth Fluhr

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Winton Wetlands. Photo Sean Mathews

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Strathbogie Memorial Hall Report

With two very successful events at the Hall in August, September has rolled in, and spring is finally here. We would like to invite you all to attend the Strathbogie Memorial Hall Committee of Management's AGM:

Wednesday 9th September at 6.30pm in the Soldiers room.

If you are interested in having a say and contributing to the hall's management, now is your chance to join as all positions will be elected. We welcome all community members.

This is the month of Annual General Meetings. Not only do we have our own AGM, but we are also hosting the STAG AGM on Sunday 21st September. Come along, see what they do for our community and enjoy a BBQ lunch after the meeting.

On the 14th of September there is a combined CFA training event that will see all three table-land brigades: Marraweeney, Kelvin View and Strathbogie, gather for a pre-season training and networking session.

Dana Last (Secretary)

Notice of 2025 STAG AGM

The AGM of the Strathbogie Tableland Action Group will be at 11:00 am Sunday 21st September at the Strathbogie Memorial Hall. Everyone in our Tableland Community is most welcome to attend, contribute and then share in the BBQ lunch which follows.

We welcome anyone from our community, who wishes to be part of this important group, to come along and join STAG. Our goals include assisting our various community based committees in achieving better outcomes for Tablelanders, including liaison with Council.

STAG is one of eight action groups established across the Shire in 2005 to provide direction to Council regarding community development and strengthening through the development of a Community Action Plan, and to generally act as a liaison between Council and the community.

STAG has four sub-committees all of which include both STAG committee members and members of the community:

Communications sub-committee which oversees:

- Strathbogie Tableland email group: *Bogie-tree*
- Tableland Community Directory
- Tableland Talk: our local Community newsletter
- Our Tableland Community Website: *strathbogie.org*

Emergency sub-committee which:

- liaises with the CFA and Council
- has developed community specific emergency guides
- keeps the emergency information pages on *strathbogie.org* up to date
- provides: bushfire emergency and preparation information and other general emergency information
- with the Strathbogie Hall committee, it has established a Recovery Hub at the Strathbogie Hall
- has compiled the Strathbogie Tableland Emergency Information Folder, copies of which can be inspected at the Strathbogie General Store, the Recreation Reserve, the Strathbogie Memorial Hall, Boho South Hall, Kelvin View Hall and the Strathbogie Golf club

Melbourne Cup Weekend Festival – Strathbogie sub-committee which:

- is responsible for organising the festivities for the Cup Weekend celebrations held on the Strathbogie Tableland

Safer Roads Strathbogie subcommittee which:

- aims to make the roads a safer place for both drivers and wildlife
- works with Council to have wildlife signage installed at wildlife hotspots
- collaborates with the community to raise awareness of wildlife welfare



Brianna King

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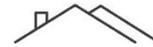
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**“Hi” to all newcomers to our
beautiful Strathbogie
Tableland & Community**

STAG (Strathbogie Tableland Action Group), has prepared a number of Strathbogie Tableland Welcome Packs, which are available for all newcomers to our Tableland community.

The pack contains information on local committees and community groups, local events, bushfire emergency information, an edition of Tableland Talk (our local monthly newsletter), our local website (strathbogie.org), a local business directory, maps, some local goodies, etc.

If you would like one of these packs, please contact:

Kath Handasyde: kathstuart60@gmail.com

or

Pennie Beard: clanepennie@gmail.com

Here and Now Youth Festival: Ella Hooper Leads a Celebration of Young Creatives

Returning this September as part of the annual Victorian Youth Fest, the Here and Now Youth Festival celebrates the creativity, leadership, and community spirit of young people across the state. Led entirely by young Victorians aged 12 to 25, this vibrant regional event showcases not only their musical and performance talents, but also their skills behind the scenes - as sound technicians, producers, and event organisers. It's a powerful demonstration of youth initiative, innovation, and engagement.

Funded by the Victorian Government, the festival champions diversity, inclusion, and empowerment. It provides a platform for young people, including those facing barriers, to be seen, heard, and celebrated.

This year's festival offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for emerging performers to share the stage with **multi-ARIA Award-winning artist Ella Hooper**, who returns to her hometown of Violet Town to headline the event. Ella's journey from local talent to national icon is a testament to what's possible when young people are supported to dream big.

The full line-up features an exciting mix of regional acts including **The Viceroy's, Swim State, Glass Walls, Lill Kill, Clean Coil, Desirable Addictions, Ungraded, Elliot P, Tyler & Alina, Mason Rae Green and Jeremiah Johnston** - each bringing their unique sound and energy to the stage.

Attendees can also enjoy a delicious selection of food trucks throughout the day.

Mayor of Strathbogie, Claire Ewart-Kennedy, "This year's festival holds special meaning for Violet Town as we honour the legacy of Annette Walton, whose tireless dedication uplifted countless young people. Her spirit lives on in every performer who steps onto the stage, continuing the vibrant tradition she helped build."

Held in loving memory of Annette Walton, the festival continues to honour her legacy of helping young people and fostering community spirit. This free, ticketed event is a safe, welcoming space that is strictly drug, alcohol, smoke, and vape-free - a community event open to all ages.

Event Details:

- **What:** Here and Now Youth Festival
- **When:** Saturday, 13 September 2025, 3pm - 10pm
- **Where:** Violet Town Community Complex, 35 Cowslip St, Violet Town

Tickets: Free via <https://events.humanitix.com/here-and-now-youth-festival>



Therese Thompson, Media and Communications Business Partner

therese.thompson@strathbogie.vic.gov.au Ph: 0436 603 424

Save Water: Every Drop Counts

With recent dry seasonal conditions and lower than usual water storage levels we asked people in Euroa, Violet Town and Mansfield to be especially mindful of their water use. Both Euroa and Violet Town had Stage 2 water restrictions in place from May - July, and with higher-than-average water use in Mansfield, we also asked the townspeople to be aware of their water use. Thanks everyone for making every drop count where you can.

We all need to take action to protect our precious water supplies and we'll be sharing the Save Water right across the region as we move into spring and summer. Using water wisely not only help us maintain the supply of drinking water, it helps the environment and can also save you money.

We've created a **Save Water** webpage to help you understand your water use and find practical ways to reduce it. You'll find tips for your home and garden, a water use calculator, and the **Permanent Water Saving Rules**, which apply all year round.

There are simple things we can all do - fixing leaks, taking shorter showers, and being smarter with how and when we water gardens. The webpage also includes videos to help you make easy changes and check your home for hidden water waste.

Every drop counts. Let's be waterwise together.

Visit gvwater.vic.gov.au/savewater to learn more.



Strathbogrie Bushfire Sunday, 2025



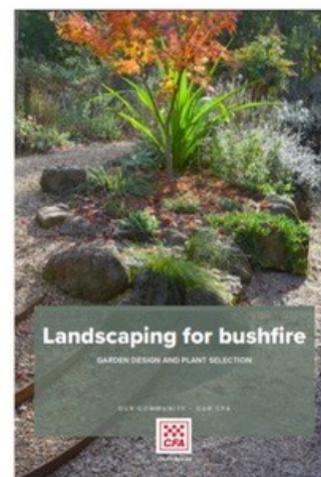
Strathbogrie Fire Brigade, in conjunction with the CFA District 22 Community Safety Team, are pleased to continue the annual tradition of **'Bushfire Sunday'** at the **Strathbogrie Memorial Hall**,
SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2025, 9:45 FOR 10AM START - 2PM



This year we have engaged special guest speaker Owen Gooding. Recently retired, Owen has over 18 years experience with the CFA working on land use planning, planned burning, and the management of biodiversity and cultural heritage values in bushfire mitigation work. Owen was also a member of the national Task Force investigating house loss in the 2009 Victorian bushfires. Owen will talk about what we know about bushfire losses and the role of vegetation in contributing to or mitigating bushfire risk. Topics covered will include plant flammability, plant responses to fire, cultural fire use, fire ecology, climate change, and the use of vegetation plantings and soil moisture conservation to reduce fire intensity and protect assets. The session will include a property walk after lunch (location TBA).

North East Region Manager of Community Safety, Darren Viney, will present on the topic of Bushfire Places of Last Resort (Neighbourhood Safer Places).

As always bring along any questions you have about planning and preparing for fire as we will have a wealth of experience in the room to help you answer them.



Morning tea and lunch will be included.

RSVP is essential to ensure relevant resourcing and catering

Please RSVP to either Kim Usher kim.usher@bigpond.com or Emily Birch emily.birch@cfa.vic.gov.au including your name, phone number and email address.

Further information:

please call Kim Usher 0439 468 906, or Emily Birch on 0447 415 849



Share Your Skills with the Playgroup Kids!

We've had a beautiful month at playgroup, enjoying sunshine, crafting together, and feeling the first signs of Spring in the air.



Our playgroup is a place where little hands explore, create, and learn... and we'd love to invite the wider community to be part of it!

We're looking for local people who might have a craft, skill, or passion they'd enjoy sharing with our children (ages 0–5) during a playgroup morning. This could be painting, gardening, music, baking, woodworking, storytelling, weaving, simple science fun — anything hands-on, engaging, and age-friendly.

It doesn't have to be complicated! Just something you love that our children can experience alongside you.

If you'd like to volunteer, please get in touch with Ally or Sharna, or pop in for a chat at playgroup. We'd love for our children to meet, learn from, and be inspired by the wonderful people in our community.

Playgroup Day Change

From Term 4 (Thursday 9 October), Bogie Playgroup will be moving to **Thursday mornings, 9:30–11:30am** at the Rec Reserve.

We've made this change with lots of thought and care. By shifting to Thursdays, families with children starting Kinder can still be part of playgroup and we'll also avoid clashing with other organised community activities.

We know not every day works for every family, but we hope this new time makes it easier for more of us to keep coming together. Making the switch at the start of Term 4 gives us a chance to settle into a fresh rhythm before the New Year begins.

Until then, we'll continue to meet on Monday mornings for the remainder of Term 3, before making the move to Thursdays.

We're looking forward to seeing you and your little ones for a cuppa soon.

Warmly, Sharna & Ally *Strathbogie Community Playgroup*

THURS SUMMER PIZZA NIGHT FUNDRAISER INFORMATION EVENING

What? Come along to an Information Evening to prepare for this summer's Thurs pizza nights.

When? 6.00pm - 6.30pm Thurs 11 Sep

Where? Strathbogie Rec Ground

Who? Anyone who is involved in a community group on the Strathbogie Tablelands is invited to attend. Experienced pizza night participants and new people all welcome!

Why? Starting on 9 Oct, every Thursday night over summer the Strathbogie community will come together for pizza and a drink at the Rec Reserve. Local groups take turns to use the night as a fundraiser, which involves buying ingredients, making the pizzas, selling the pizzas and cleaning up the kitchen afterward. At the Info Evening we will get together to talk about everything that is involved in being responsible for a pizza night and discuss this summer's schedule.

RSVP? Let Donna or Jane from the Strathbogie Tennis Club know if you'd like to come or if your community group is interested in hosting one or a few pizza nights this summer.

What's worth finding out on www.strathbogie.org?

Walking and Hiking

There are many lovely walks and hikes in our region. Detailed maps have been prepared by locals and published on Victoria Walks. Click on a link to take you to the relevant walk. The photos are all from Strathbogie Tableland. For more walks within a one hour drive of Strathbogie Tableland, see the links listed after the photographs below. Why not create and share one of your own? You can do it on walkingmaps.com.au

Note: Some of these walks have few amenities. Be prepared for self-reliant walking or hiking. Take food, water and be SunSmart.

Click the captions to see a full map and description

Find the page here: https://strathbogie.org/?page_id=2567

STAG Communications subcommittee

Advertise in Tableland Talk

Tableland Talk is a very local and entirely volunteer run newsletter through which local businesses, individuals and community organisations can directly reach a very local audience. Advertising keeps this valuable community service self sufficient.

Each month we deliver hard copies to every Tableland household, Euroa Library and Newsagency. We also publish online (and fund our web site): go to www.strathbogie.org

Our rates are very reasonable. They can be found on the bottom of page 4. Community notices are free.

Sean (Ed.)



A small act makes a big impact.

For information regarding upcoming changes visit our website, download our app or phone us
www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/4-bins | App: BinRight Strathbogie



Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL



Telephone: 1800 065 993

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24/7 Self Service Diesel

Strathbogie Fuel Cell 62 Spring Creek Rd

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

Mark Reynolds

Business Development Executive

Shepparton

M 0418 510 028

E mreynolds@rfs.com.au www.rfs.com.au


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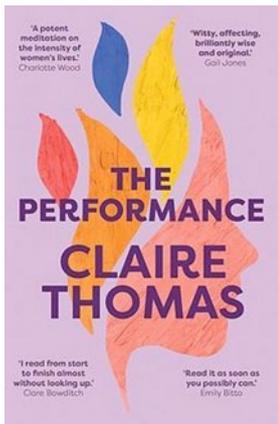

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REFUEL YOUR THINKING

The Bookshelf – notes from the Bohemians Bookclub

The Performance by Claire Thomas, Hachette, 2021



In 2021, the novelist, Claire Thomas, writing for the Guardian (Feb 23, 2021), recalled her first memories of watching, at the Malthouse Theatre, the Beckett play, *Happy Days*, written more than 60 years before: “a woman, Winnie, is buried up to her waist in a mound of earth. She remains trapped for the play’s duration, grappling with her predicament as a relentless sun beats down on her. Winnie is in possession of a bag full of everyday items (and a gun) that offer her some distraction. A man, Willie, occasionally crawls out from behind the mound of earth to mutter something in Winnie’s direction, but she is mostly alone.” The strong impression made by the play became the vehicle for Claire Thomas’ creation of three women characters: Margot, a successful professor, preoccupied by her fraught relationship with her ailing husband; Ivy, a philanthropist with a troubled past, distracted by the snoring man beside her; and Summer, who is a young theatre usher, anxious about the safety of her girlfriend in the fire zone.

Outside the cool theatre interior, the world is airless and hazy with the smoke of advancing bushfires burning in the Dandenong Ranges to Melbourne’s east. As the play progresses, the reader is taken into the inner thoughts, anxieties and self-recriminations of the three women, who each have their own dilemma. Set against Winnie’s rambling repetitions and pathetic diversions with everyday items she locates while repeatedly rummaging through her handbag — at this stage, she can still move her arms — the women’s preoccupations take on a circular and unsolvable nature, and they appear, in a sense, as trapped as Winnie, albeit ostensibly possessing a freedom to move and change that Winnie does not have. The fact that their respective bouts of self-questioning do not arrive at any epiphanies underscores Beckett’s original theme of the futility of existence. Like Winnie, these women want to be seen, heard and ultimately loved.

Claire Thomas writes:

“For each of my characters and for so many real-life audiences of *Happy Days*, the story of this play continues to resonate: a woman grappling with the everyday and the existential on a dying, ruthless earth.”

This is another strong rendering from the award-winning writer of *Fugitive Blue* (The Dobbie Award for Women Writers, 2009; longlisted for the Miles Franklin, 2009). Her characters in *The Performance* are absorbing in their self-absorption, and the claustrophobic heat of the world outside the theatre brings a sense of impending doom and entrapment to the darkened interior of the theatre. The lack of any resolution at the play’s end is perfectly apt; we are all inside the theatre of existence, playing our parts, striving to make sense of it all. Go read it. It’s terrific!



Claire Thomas is a writer from Naarm/ Melbourne.

She holds a PhD from the University of Melbourne and has worked as a mentor, lecturer, supervisor, and teacher for many years.

Claire’s third novel, *On Not Climbing Mountains*, is forthcoming in 2026.



Samuel Barclay Beckett (1906– 1989) was an Irish playwright, poet, novelist, and literary critic. Writing in both English and French, his literary and theatrical works feature bleak, impersonal, and tragicomic episodes of life, coupled with black comedy and literary nonsense. His play, *Happy Days*, was first performed in 1961. It tells the story of Winnie, a woman who is buried up to her waist in a mound of earth, performing routine mundane tasks and spending the entirety of the play talking to herself and her husband, Willie, who is largely hidden and taciturn. Her frequent refrain is “Oh this *is* a happy day.” Later, in Act II, she is buried up to her neck, but continues to talk and remember happier days.

Ruth Fluhr

WATER MATTERS

Join us for National Water Week: 20-26 October 2025

National Water Week 2025 is a vibrant celebration of water, and we are proud to lead the way in engaging communities to understand its importance. Through a series of creative, hands-on events, we want to continue to help people value, understand, and use water wisely.



Free event - Let's Grow: Waterwise Gardens

This year's main event, **Let's Grow: Waterwise Gardens**, will be held on Wednesday 22 October, starting at 7pm at Eastbank in Shepparton. Landscape architect Louise Costa and native plant expert Cathy Olive will inspire residents to transform their yards into beautiful, waterwise outdoor spaces.

Book your seat early to attend the seminar in person and collect a free waterwise garden pack on the night, including our new gardening handbook. The seminar will also be livestreamed for anyone who can't make it to the event in person.

23 October: Register to join and support this year's **Water Night** challenge.

Join us in the national challenge to turn off all non-essential taps for five hours. Supported by Costa Georgiadis, Water Night reached over 4.2 million people in 2024. This year, we're inviting people to nominate their school, club or business to be recognised and celebrated for leading community waterwise action.



Find out more and register:
waternight.com.au



Scan to find out more and book your seat, or visit:
riverlinksvenues.com.au

School kids take part in competition to design a toilet paper wrap.

We're engaging thousands of students to create a design for the wrap around toilet paper rolls. This year's competition reinforces 'Don't Flush It' and the 3Ps (what to flush) - pee, poo and paper, sparking creativity and awareness of wastewater processes. Winning designs will be shared across GVW platforms.



Every Drop Counts - Let's work together to save water.

We all need to take action to protect precious water supplies right across the region as we move into spring and summer.

Using water wisely not only help us maintain drinking water supply, it helps the environment and can also save you money.

You'll find tips for your home and garden, a water use calculator, and reminders about **Permanent Water Saving Rules**, which apply all year round.

Visit our Save Water webpage to help you understand your water use and find practical ways to reduce it.



Scan for tips to save drips, or visit:
gvwater.vic.gov.au/save-water



Need to get in touch?

General Enquiries: 03 5832 4800

24/7 Faults & Emergencies: 1800 454 500

Email: mail@gvwater.vic.gov.au



Tennis Club News



SUMMER COMPETITION TENNIS

Are you interested in playing competition tennis this summer? Now is the time to get in touch!

We are looking for men and women to join our teams for the Sat afternoon comp that starts on 11 October. We are keen to hear from people who want to play regularly or who might just want to dip their toe in and have a hit every now and then as an emergency player.

We are expanding and will have two teams this year.

A four-person team that plays three sets to 8 games each. This team can be made up of any gender.

A six-person team that plays three sets to 6 games each. This team has three men and three women.

Contact us through our email address strathbogieclub@gmail.com, our Facebook page, or give us a call: Club President Craig 0466 565 521 or Club Secretary Maizi 0423 475 564.

SOCIAL TENNIS

Our regular Thursday evening social tennis will start up again on 9 October. It is a relaxed evening for a hit with friends. Play a match or just have a hit and giggle, whatever works for you!

KIDS HOT SHOTS TENNIS

Our kids Hot Shots tennis program will start on 9 October. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page and in your email inboxes for registration information coming soon.

CARDIO TENNIS

Our club will be offering Cardio Tennis sessions this summer for adults, run Maizi - our Tennis Australia Level 1 Registered Coach. Cardio Tennis is a social group fitness program that combines tennis drills and play with a fun, high-energy atmosphere to provide a workout for people of all ages and fitness levels. The intensity will be adapted according to what participants want. It runs for one hour, is a fun way to keep fit and you do not need to have strong tennis skills to participate. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon on Bogie Tree and our club Facebook page.

Mayra Walsh

In Amongst Nature

An Audio-Visual Experience and Exhibition presented by Jacqueline Koolen with paintings by guest artist Sarah Ivanov

Opens Saturday 30th August

Closing on Saturday 4th October

BackArt
VIOLET TOWN ART GALLERY

September 2025

BackArt VIOLET TOWN ART GALLERY

30th August
to
4th October

An ever evolving experience in amongst the Images & Sounds of nature
Come relax, enjoy and find a moment of peace

Every week new additions are to be added because as in nature every day there is always something new to see & experience

20 Cowslip St
Violet Town

OPEN:-
10AM -2PM

WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
SUNDAY

"Local artist Jacquie Koolen's exhibition in the BackArt Gallery is a delightful immersive experience which opens our eyes to the natural beauty we have around us right here in the North East. It will restore your soul!"

FREE BUSINESS BREAKFAST



*Navigating change and complexity
in today's business world*

In today's fast-paced business environment, change is constant and complexity is unavoidable.

Join us for a morning of insights and inspiration to help you lead with confidence, adapt with agility, and thrive in uncertainty.



Featuring Shane Garner
Industry Leader & Change Strategist



Friday 19th September



7:30am - 9:00am



Mely & Me
74 Binney St, Euroa

Places are limited,
bookings are essential.

Scan the QR code to book



Strathbogie Landcare 2025 - Planting Day 2 - September 27, 2025

Wetland Planting Day

Myra Park, Ankers Rd, Boho South - Saturday, 27 September, 8.30 am to 12 noon.

When Europeans first began farming on the Tableland 150 years ago, the area was a haven for wetland species all year 'round, like sphagnum moss and Latham's, or Japanese Snipe. They were also an important refuge for all manner of species not normally dependent on wetlands, in times of extended drought. In those early days wetlands covered about 20% of the entire Tableland area. The figure today is only about a fifth of that - 80% of those former wetlands have gone along with most of the ecological richness they once supported.

These wetlands not only connected different parts of the entire catchment so that animals like bandicoots could safely move around without breaking cover, the tea-tree thickets, swampy forest, reedy marshes and tree-fern lined gullies acted like giant sponges - retaining and regulating the flow of water from the catchment.

Rehabilitating and restoring our wetlands is an important part of any attempt at sustainable farming - in practice, not just as a label. And the good news is - small, healthy wetlands are easy to rehabilitate and they make an outsized contribution to our catchment. For wetlands, small can definitely be beautiful!

Our wetland planting day will demonstrate planting and protection options suitable for local wetlands. The planting site is part of a wetland corridor connecting the forest along Bonnie Doon Rd to the Seven Creeks Wildlife Reserve. As we are now in the Age of Deer, a major focus will be on seedling protection.

All welcome - please join in with other Landcarers, have some fun and make a difference to our local landscape!



Sphagnum Moss growing in a Strathbogie wetland



Latham's Snipe image: JJ Harrison, macaulay-library.org/asset/610443354

Come along and help improve our environment as well as polishing your tree planting skills. We welcome all who would like to participate (even if you are not a Landcare member!!)

Please RSVP (text) Peter 0418 148 511, or Kath 0408 212 645 to help with catering for a delicious morning tea! More information on Bogie Tree closer to the date.

This project is supported by Gecko Clan Landcare and funding from Landcare Australia and Ausnet.



Strathbogie IT

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simon@strathbogieit.com.au

www.strathbogieit.com.au

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