



February 2026

IT'S BUSHFIRE SEASON! CAN EVERYONE PLEASE READ THIS ARTICLE!

Strathbogie Tableland Recovery Hub at the Strathbogie Memorial Hall: Main St, Strathbogie

The Strathbogie Tableland Recovery Hub has been set up, by the STAG Emergency sub-Committee, at the Strathbogie Memorial Hall. The idea of the *Hub* is to assist with recovery, **immediately after (not during)** a major emergency, such as a significant fire. It will not be open if our town is under bushfire threat (**Watch and Act**, or **Evacuate Now**), as it is not a safe place to be in these situations.

The Recovery Hub is NOT our Bushfire Last Place of Resort (BPLR).

The BPLR is the parking area at the Golf Club, in Armstrong Ave. You should only go there if your personal Fire Plan (which each household should have) fails, i.e. it really is your last resort. If you did have to go to the Golf Club in such a situation, there is unlikely to be anyone there to assist you. The parking area is simply an open gravel space where you could park further away from radiant heat. Take water with you – it is very important to stay well hydrated.

Please put the *Vic Emergency App.* onto your phone, and check it regularly so that you remain aware of warnings, plus listen to your local ABC Radio 97.7FM (a battery operated radio is very useful).

The idea of the *Recovery Hub* is to provide support and information for people on the Tableland after an event such as a destructive local bushfire. It will be run by local volunteers, if we can get there. The *Hub* is not a *Relief Centre*. That will be set up by Council after an event, but this may take a few days, and we may not be able to get on and off the Tableland due to road closures. Please plan for the first 72 hours.

During the fire season you should have an evacuation plan, and a trigger that you use to enact this plan. Use your *Vic Emergency App* to check and act on the 4 day fire forecast. It is always safer to leave the night before.

If you need information on how and what to prepare, please go onto our Strathbogie.org website, [Emergency Pages](#), (eg: https://strathbogie.org/?page_id=4263) which will take you to links with information on how to prepare. There is also a hard copy folder on Emergency at the Strathbogie General Store.

Please stay safe, and be aware and prepared – we only have a limited number of CFA vehicles on the Tableland, and they may not be able to reach you.

On behalf of your STAG Emergency sub-Committee

What's On

Mar 1 Clean Up Australia Day p10

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 Thursday (school term) Bogie Playgroup 9.30–11.30am at the school Sharna 0401 445 675

Swanpool CINEMA

Tickets \$14 / \$12 / \$8
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The History of Sound Feb 7 6pm, Feb 8 6pm
The Last Journey PG Feb 7 8.30pm, Feb 8 8.30pm
Song Sung Blue PG Feb 13 10.30am, Feb 14 8.30pm, Feb 15 8.30pm
My Brother's Band M Feb 21 6pm, Feb 22 6pm
Somebody to Love M Feb 28 8.30pm, Mar 1 8.30pm
Sentimental Value M Feb 28 6pm, Mar 1 6pm
The Mastermind M Feb 28 8.30pm, Mar 1 8.30pm

For information regarding the Violet Town Village Voice or to get an emailed copy each month contact AB 0408 551 455 or villagevoice@violettown.org.au online at www.violettown.org.au

The Australian Darter



The Australian Darter builds its nest from twigs and sticks and happiness

Sean Mathews

Library Service

The GV Mobile Library service comes every second Monday 10.00—12.00 in the Soldier's Room at the Hall.

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 gamblershelp.com.au 24hrs a day for immediate support.

The Deadline for the March edition of Tableland Talk is Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

e: tablelandtalk@gmail.com, m: 0400 019 607

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

Do you need a

Justice of the Peace?

Chris Thomson
'Aberdeen'
5790 5340

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>

My Brother's Band M Feb 7 4pm
Kangaroo PG Feb 7 8pm, Feb 8 4pm
Eternity M Feb 14 8pm, Feb 15 4pm
John Cleese Packs It In M Feb 21 8pm, Feb 22 4pm
Anaconda Feb 28 8pm, Mar 1 4pm

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

Fire Ground

The highway doesn't seem like a highway,
It's a heavy weight, guided by lines.
No grass touches its boundaries,
Black carpet flanks it, both sides.

The hills are rolling, black velvet,
The trees are glowing red inside.
The smoke is still rising from the crevices,
And I think that's what's stinging my eyes.

I feel like I am gliding through a moonscape.
There is nothing for miles and miles.
Golden fields are now a dark desert,
Colours won't be back for awhile.

The paddocks are vast and empty,
The animals are few and sparse.
When you see them, they're huddled together,
Nibbling the last piece of grass.

The stench catches you from a distance,
Long before you lose the green.
It hums with you, like a continuous drone,
A mute reminder of what caused the scene.

The smell is sweet, but acrid,
Sickening in the searing heat.
I long for the gentle dancing
Of a breeze in the heads of wheat.

The silence here is deafening,
The stillness feels so loud.
There is nothing moving in the branches,
Nothing walks on the ground.

The tin lies brittle and fractured.
The rubble lies still, where it lands,
Waiting for a cold assessment
From a broker dodging a can.

I've travelled this route a thousand times,
I know all its places so well
The charming, historical houses,
The shearing sheds and windmills as well.

But my eyes can't find any pictures,
That resemble the places I know.
My mind is scrolling through the concept,
Where did everything go?

One hand holds tight to the steering wheel,
The other is touching my mouth and chest.
I ache for all who are hurting,
This drive is one I won't forget.

My wheels roll through the silence,
There isn't a word I could say.
There are no phrases or sentences
That could describe how I feel today.

But I can see where battles were fought,
Where porches have been licked by flames,
Where soldiers with bravery and water,
Have worked until another was saved.

Under the crust of blackened bark,
Nature will draw, once again.
Sap will burst from its darkened covers,
In long, fluffy branches of green.

Friends will rebuild each other,
With strangers offering their hands.
Trailers pour in through the blockades,
Loaded high with all that they can.

People will wire together
And build one length at a time.
Love will come from all angles,
With hay and posts and wire.

Together we become stronger,
And soon, this will lie in our past.
I can already see the beginning
Of the first shoots of recovery grass.

Linda Jay



For the latest bushfire updates find the **Community Newsletter** **Southern Hume (Longwood Berry's Lane Fire)** and those for other regions via this link:

[Community Newsletters](#)



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Facebook

I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.

Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom.

I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch and doing what anybody and everybody does every day.

I also listen to their conversations, give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them.

And it works just like Facebook! I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

Strathbogie Ranges - Nature View -

*Stories, activities & more.
Ecology, landscape and
natural history*

<https://bit.ly/3sh52K1>



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Bogie Tree

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Bogie Tree is our unofficial Strathbogie Tableland bush telegraph. It is an email list based on Gaggle 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

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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

Room For a Stranger by Melanie Cheng, Text Publishing, 2019.



I've said this, in words to this effect, before: 'we are so accustomed to the hype and the blah-blah that sometimes the ordinary or more mundane events and interactions of life pale by comparison'. This is unfortunate, and I hope that writers will not shy away from capturing the gentle sensitivities and the pain that people inflict upon themselves or that others unwittingly cause them to suffer, in order for attractive sales figures and publicity.

Melanie Cheng has created a story of an unlikely connection between Meg — a never-married, ageing woman, now living alone, after the death of her sister, in the house she was raised in — and Andy, a twenty-something Chinese student, who takes a room in her house. Andy is ostensibly close to graduating, or so his family believes, but all is not as it seems with his studies.

Cheng's development of a small cast of characters is done with a light hand. They are not flamboyant; rather, they are the people we might meet in the supermarket, or neighbours who call on a whim to see how you are travelling. Their actions and responses are ones we ourselves might well make. Cheng is able to reveal their fears and hopes, and their pains and delights in a tangential way that the reader can identify as very real and very human.

This is a light read and not one that will necessarily stay with the reader, but its worth is in reminding us to take a second look, and to listen to the words behind the words as we move in and out and around our fellow travellers.

About the author:



I am a writer, mum and general practitioner from Melbourne, Australia. I have been published in print and online. My writing has appeared in *The Age*, *Meanjin*, *Overland*, *Griffith REVIEW*, *Sleepers Almanac*, *The Bridport Prize Anthology*, *Lascaux Review*, *Visible Ink*, *Peril*, *The Victorian Writer* and *Seizure*. My short story collection, *Australia Day*, won the 2016 Victorian

Premier's Literary Award for Unpublished Manuscript and went on to win the 2018 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction. My latest book is the novel, *Room for a Stranger*. If Saul Bellow is right and "a writer is a reader moved to emulation" then I am moved by authors like Richard Yates, Alice Munro, Haruki Murakami and Christos Tsiolkas.

Next month:

Wearing Paper Dresses

by Anne Brinsden

Macmillan, 2019

Strathbogie Memorial Hall report

January saw the Hall used extensively over the period of threat from the Longwood fires. The generator was running, the CFA base radio was up loud, and air con pumping out comfort for our fire fighters to rest and recharge the batteries. Once the evacuation order was lifted, the kitchen was taken over to provide meals for our CFA members. After the fires had settled down, all three of the tableland brigades ran a debrief session with lunch in the Supper room.

The GV Mobile Library will be taking over the Soldiers room on the 2nd and 16th of February. Come along to peruse their collection of books to read and borrow. February also sees the Hall host meetings for the History group on the 2nd, Hall committee on the 11th and STAG on the 15th. These meetings are open for all to attend.

Dana Last

Strathbogie Memorial Hall secretary

Strathbogie Recreation Ground

All bookings are to be made with
John O'Brien
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rec@strathbogie.org

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Mary 0419 592 211 or Marg 0407 919 005.

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Golden Mountain Walk, Strathbogie Forest

Corner of Ferraris Rd and Harpers No. 4 Track, Bonnie Doon 3720
Intermediate, 90 minutes, ~4.5km.

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



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

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

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

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

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

Sean Mathews

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

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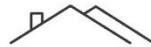


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**“Hi” to all newcomers to our
beautiful Strathbogie
Tableland & Community**

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: claneypennie@gmail.com

Bogie Playgroup Update

Like so many in our community, we have been closely following the Longwood Bushfire situation and holding deep gratitude for those supporting and protecting our region. In December we were fortunate to meet some of the **Strathbogie CFA volunteers** during a fire truck day (pictured). It was an experience the children are still talking about! The volunteers kindly took the time to chat with the kids, answer their questions, and show them how the truck works. Considering recent events, it cannot be overstated how incredible their work is and how much we appreciate the care, courage and commitment they continue to show our community.



Supporting Families Impacted by the Longwood Bushfire

In response to the bushfire, our playgroup community came together to support families directly affected. Through a GoFundMe fundraiser, we raised over \$1,000 to help with immediate essentials. This made a huge difference to three families connected to our playgroup who really needed extra support in the first days of displacement. The funds helped cover urgent needs such as groceries, nappies and toiletries, fuel, clothing and other essential items. We are deeply grateful to everyone who donated, shared or supported the fundraiser. It was a powerful reminder of the strength, generosity and care within our community.

Exciting News: Our New Location

We are thrilled to share that our weekly sessions are moving to **Peranbin Primary College Strathbogie Campus** this year. A big thank you to the Recreation Reserve for hosting us during our first year; their support was invaluable while playgroup was getting established. The school has generously offered us a space free of charge each week, giving us shared resources, more storage space and a chance for more families to connect regardless of whether their preschoolers are heading off to formal schooling in the coming years or home educating.

Thank You to the Festival Committee

We are also very thankful to the **Strathbogie Cup Weekend Festival Committee** for their generous donation. These funds will cover our core essentials, as well as a membership with the Euroa Toy Library. This will allow us to regularly rotate high-quality toys, keep play experiences fresh and reduce the need to purchase or replace items. The funding also enables us to continue providing a **shared, healthy snack each week for the entire year**, ensuring every child has access to nutritious food and helping maintain a welcoming, inclusive space for children and caregivers alike.

Playgroup Details

Strathbogie Community Playgroup runs every **Thursday from 9.30–11.30am** during school terms at **Peranbin Primary College Strathbogie**. Our first session for 2026 will be **Thursday 29 January**. There's no need to register, just drop in. Local grandparents are very welcome to attend with their grandchildren, and the whole family is welcome.

- Tea and coffee provided for caregivers
- Shared fruit platter for the children
- Free to attend
- Access to air-conditioned/heated indoor spaces and outdoor play areas

In 2025, playgroup connected 9 families and more than 15 children, with most sessions seeing around 4–6 families attending. Families are welcome to come along whenever it feels right for them.

We aim to be a **safe, welcoming, screen-free space** focused on **child-led play** and meaningful **connection** for families.

We feel very lucky to be part of such a supportive and generous community and are grateful to everyone who continues to show up for our children and families.

Warmly,
Sharna Holding & Ally Keenan
Strathbogie Community Playgroup Coordinators

Clean Up Australia Day- Coming Event

Every year on the 1st March people across Australia come together to take part in 'Clean Up Australia Day' events.

As many of you would be aware, waste disposal is a very topical issue within our community at the moment, especially on Bogie-tree. So this year, some local residents have decided it's time to hold our very own 'Clean Up Australia Day' event on the Tableland.

This local event is currently in the planning phase, but will be supported by Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Group and Clean Up Australia.

If you are interested in volunteering on the day or would like to help organise this event, you can register your interest by contacting either:

Claire Noonan: Email- pansa7@hotmail.com Mobile-0434 620 833

Natasha Baldyga: Email- rainbowtriggerplant@hotmail.com Mobile- 0402 785 965

More details about the this event will be advertised on Bogie-tree as they become available.



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

Croquet

Croquet is available at weekends by appointment – contact Denis Taylor 0429 190 807 Fernhill, 123 Hills Road Strathbogie

There is no fee and equipment is available. There is also a BBQ available and players can bring their own food and refreshments.

Once the warmer weather arrives Denis is planning to arrange regular weekend games.

Find the page here: https://strathbogie.org/?page_id=3768

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.)

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Peranbin Primary School

News Strathbogie

It is hard to believe that the new school year is upon us, with teachers back on Tuesday 27th of June and kids returning on the Thursday. When we farewelled one another in December the holidays were filled with promise of excitement and relaxation. Boy, did that not come to fruition for very long.

We are mindful of the ongoing threat in our Tableland setting, with continued efforts outside by Brandon, our outdoors maintenance person, keeping the grass and other hazards greatly reduced during the break. Inside, the Emergency protocols are well and truly familiar in the event of a sudden fire threat. The Strathbogie campus is designated as a Level 3 BARR (Bushfire At Risk Register) school which means that in the event of a catastrophic fire level day, the campus is closed and no-one is allowed on site.

We wish everyone on the Tableland a safe 2026 and hope that our places of learning, playing, working and living remain a haven for all.

A brief recap of December 2025

With only 3 school weeks we managed to fit in A LOT!



Year 6 Graduation where we celebrated and farewelled Lachlan Garden and Dan Dealy,



We had swimming lessons at Violet Town Pool that left students Senna and Pip exhausted.



Our Community Open morning to showcase student work.



An end of year College concert (on the 42-degree day) as well as some final week activities to celebrate the end of year.