



March 2026

## Responding to catastrophe

by John O'Brien

The Longwood fire in January 2026 was our first major local fire threat in many years. Conditions were bad enough that many evacuated for several days. Naturally, a disaster so large and out of control right on our doorstep caused us all great concern.

After the fire had started (on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>), Bogie Tree had been humming along, providing mostly useful information and help for those in need – exactly as it should in such harrowing times. I was impressed by how on topic most people stayed during this period.

As soon as the Emergency warnings changed colour and downgraded to Watch & Act on Monday 12<sup>th</sup>, everyone relaxed a bit, and a lot of pent-up angst spilled out. A thread on Bogie Tree got heated and was fast spiralling out of control. I stepped in and shut it down, abruptly and firmly. Think of it as the 'Emergency Stop' button for our community comms platform. Thankfully, everyone shut up and went to bed. Immediate mission accomplished.

The next morning, I knew we needed more positive than just grumps and bickering. Further, the whole community needed to start afresh. So, I got to work on something that could help us all to appreciate that scale of what we had all endured and just how lucky we had been. This was to be the 'Emergency Reset' button.

Several hours later I hit send on the following message to everyone via the Bogie Tree:

\*\*\*\*\*

### A pause for reflection

On Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 2:08 PM John O'Brien via Bogie Tree <<>> wrote:

I was blunt yesterday but feel that was required. Here is the nuance that I more strive for. I put this up not for comment, discussion or response (it will be muted as soon as I post, to keep the noise of BT to essentials). This is more a general call for calm and deep honesty with ourselves and our current situation. Take it in and take a moment to reflect on all of the good that has, and will continue to, come out of this bad. Read on if you wish.

-----

*Continues page 3 .....*

### What's On

- March** Artbox Euroa Michael Flatt p4
- March** Climate Ready Garden Workshops p14
- Mar 6** International Women's Day event p5
- April 23** Primary School Open Session p16

**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](mailto: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

## Euroa Cinema

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

Anconda M March 1 4pm  
Somebody to Love M March 7 4pm  
Song Sung Blue M March 7 8pm, March 8 4pmch  
Wuthering Heights M March 14 8pm, March 15 4pm  
The Housemaid MA15+ March 21 8pm, March 22 4pm  
Crime M March 28 8pm, March 29 4pm

## 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](mailto:info@bohosouthhall.org)



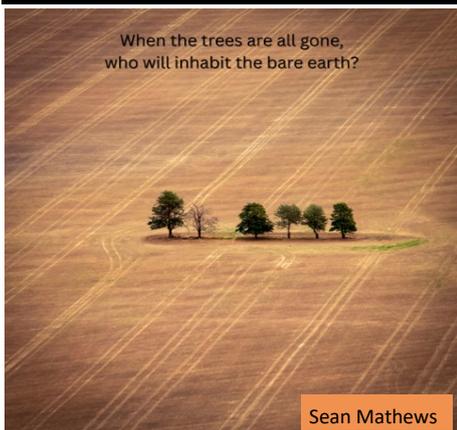
## Swanpool CINEMA

Tickets \$14 / \$12 / \$8  
[trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com)

Sentimental Value M March 1 6pm  
The Mastermind M March 1 8.30pm

No other screening times available at the time of going to press.

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](mailto:villagevoice@violettown.org.au) online at [www.violettown.org.au](http://www.violettown.org.au)



## An Historical Joke

"You know Paddy, whenever my wife and I get into an argument she gets historical."  
"You mean hysterical, don't you?"  
"No Paddy I mean historical, - she remembers everything I ever did wrong and even when I did it!"

John Ryan

## 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 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://gamblerhelp.com.au) 24hrs a day for immediate support.

The Deadline for the Marprilch edition of Tableland Talk is Friday, March 27, 2026.

e: [tablelandtalk@gmail.com](mailto:tablelandtalk@gmail.com), m: 0400 019 607

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

*Continues from page 1 .....*

I'd like to pay tribute to the thousands of amazing volunteers, emergency services personnel and agencies that have spent the

last 5-6 days working around the clock to keep the rest of our community safe. They have risked their lives, taken their bodies and souls through torture, and faced horrific experiences that most on this group will never go through, let alone truly appreciate. But they do so to help ALL of us. The least that everyone not directly involved in the battle against the fire beast that threatened us can do is to show tolerance and compassion for those putting it all on the line.

They are the ones who dropped everything, left their loved ones behind, waved goodbye to their homes, and wondered if they would ever see any of that again, let alone just get through the day alive. They are the people who had to suppress all of that, bottle it up and focus on the immediate and visceral danger directly in front of (and all around) them. It takes a special breed to do this, yet they are also ordinary - our neighbours, work-mates, friends and family. There will be scars. Please help them as they help us.

Today, they are still on the fireground, and will be for a long time yet.

Most volunteers are scared witless out there when it's all going pear shaped. I know, I've been there enough times. It can be utterly exhausting; physically, mentally and psychically. But some thrive in that environment, pushing through pain and fear, seeking moments of strategic clarity to make the right call, under extreme duress, again and again. The more I did it, the more I sought it. The adrenaline rush of being way out of your comfort zone, life on the line, bonding with a crew in ways that remain ever deep, is intense but brutal.

When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro. (un)fortunately, my body will not permit this anymore but I have great faith in all the people that continue to risk it all in caring for others. This is truly selfless and the rest of us owe eternal gratitude.

We are all scared. I get it. We are all on edge. Because we just faced a calamity way beyond any individual's control. What happened over the last week was literally a catastrophe. Right on our doorstep. Our lives and livelihoods have been threatened. Many nearby have lost everything, dreams and memories shattered. That could so easily have been us.

Our collective 'fight or flight' responses have not just been triggered but, for many, are still very active. Nerves are raw and jangly and we are very much not out of it yet. Crews and agencies will be out there for weeks getting this one completely tame. The rebuild will take years. Without alarm, it also is worth noting that this is only the start of a long hot summer in a land that loves to burn. It is far from over...

We are all hurting and we all want answers. Pointing fingers or playing the blame game achieves nothing but animosity and confusion. There will be a time for finding better ways to deal with the dangers we regularly face here in rural Australia. Bogie Tree is not that platform and now is not that time. We still have a very large active fire scene in our backyard. I look at it from my front door (which I am oh so grateful for still having).

Now is the time to keep calm, support those around us and look after the legions of legends who are tidying up the mess while keeping everyone else safe. Now is when we see our resilient community coming together, bonding in what joins us rather than any differences that might keep us apart. We all love being here, so let's keep making it such a special place.

Hug someone you love; seek solace in your belief systems; show care for those who need it most; support those who are risking it all to care for the rest of us; and drink plenty of water. If you can find some clean air, take a few moments for a deep breath and give thanks that most of us dodged a big one.

Pray to your chosen deity; hug your favourite tree; worship your number one podcaster; do whatever keeps you grounded and sane. Please shed a tear or more - it is healthy to let it out - you will feel better for doing it. If it all seems too much there are myriad support services available online - please use them.

The armchair generals and keyboard warriors can have their day when all the hotspots are quenched, the trucks are back in the sheds and our normal (what actually is normal these days?) lives have resumed.

In the meantime, stay positive.

We are all in it together.

With Love, Johnno

PS and Postscript page 4 .....

Continues from page 3 .....

PS. Reply directly if you want to. I may, or may not, respond. I'm as emotionally fraged and overloaded as the rest of us.

But I'd like to keep BT safe, happy, positive and a resource for help and hope. Particularly with what we are all going through.

+++++

### Postscript

This expression touched a nerve for a great many people. I was flooded with positive responses from far and wide. It has since been shared among other community groups and CFA folk across the state.

Before long, Bogie Tree resumed its usual signal to noise ratio. But the reset worked. Everyone has been calmer since.

A few weeks later, and the fireground to our SW is dampened and looking much safer. However, the fire season is not yet over, and we can't truly relax just yet.

## An Artbox photographic exhibition by local artist Michael Flatt.



Strathbogie Forest and Stream presents a decade of images made across the Strathbogie Tablelands. The exhibition draws together Michael's favourite works - landscapes, textures and quiet moments—revealing the subjects he is most drawn to and reflecting his enduring connection to the region.

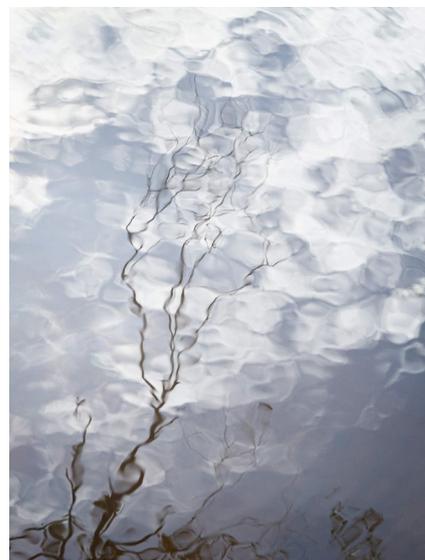
"This exhibition is drawn from my favourite photos taken in Strathbogie over a period of 10 years," Michael said. "It aims to show the subject matter I am drawn to and my particular photographic vision. It also reflects my love of the Strathbogie tablelands."

Artbox provides an accessible arts experience for the whole community, with exhibitions designed to be viewed safely at any time through its glass windows. Council encourages residents, visitors and traders to stop by **Euroa** throughout March and enjoy the exhibition as they pass through the main street.

### About the Artist: Michael Flatt

Michael Flatt discovered photography at age nine when his father gifted him a Box Brownie camera -an early spark that led to more than 60 years behind the lens. Now living in Strathbogie village, he focuses on the forests, farms and waterways of the tablelands. Drawn to subtle details - Michael's work highlights texture, shape and the quieter moments in the landscape. He prefers printed images and mostly exhibits locally. All photographs in this exhibition were taken on the Tablelands.

For more information about ARTBOX and upcoming events, visit: [www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au)



# International Women's Day event returns with inspiring speakers and a message of resilience

Strathbogie Shire Council's hugely successful International Women's Day event is back for 2026 - and once again expected to sell out quickly. This free, much loved annual gathering brings our community together to reflect, connect and celebrate the vital contributions women make every day.

This year's focus is on **finding strength and resilience during disasters**, highlighting the powerful role women play in leading, supporting and rebuilding during times of crisis. With our community's ongoing recovery from the Longwood Berry's Lane fire, the theme could not be more relevant.

As Mayor **Cr Scott Jeffery** reflects, *"International Women's Day is an opportunity to recognise the extraordinary contributions women make every single day - often quietly, often courageously, often while carrying the weight of community recovery on their shoulders."*

Guests will enjoy a delicious afternoon tea, featuring **live music by Gayle Mawson** and hear from two exceptional guest speakers that bring national expertise in disaster recovery, community wellbeing and humanitarian leadership.

**Michelle Roberts**, a Churchill Fellow and co-founder/co-chair of the National Infant & Child Disaster Mental Health Advisory Committee, is widely recognised for her leadership in child trauma, disaster mental health and psychosocial recovery. She has worked across government, education, community health and emergency management, shaping national policy and developing leading practice guides to support infants, children and families through crisis. Her work blends deep technical expertise with compassion, practicality and a strong belief in community capability.

**Fyowna Norton**, Victorian State Manager at the Australian Red Cross, draws on 27 years of humanitarian, public and private sector experience. Her career spans emergency management, child protection, mental health, economic development and major workforce reforms. Fyowna has contributed to international publications, presented at national and global conferences, and leads statewide programs that strengthen community preparedness and support people before, during and after emergencies. She brings a systems-wide understanding of disaster

impacts and a deep commitment to community resilience.

Together, Michelle and Fyowna will lead an uplifting discussion about resilience, community strength and the crucial leadership women provide during recovery and rebuilding.

## Event Details

**Date:** Friday 6 March 2026

**Time:** 1.30pm – 4.00pm

**Location:** Fowles Wine, 1175 Lambing Gully Rd, Avenel

**Catering:** Afternoon tea, tea and coffee provided (wine and espresso coffee available for purchase)

**Cost:** Free

**Transport:** Free bus (bookings essential)

**Bookings are essential for this event.** To book, visit: <http://tiny.cc/strathbogieiwd> or call 1800 065 993

For more information on local events and activities, visit: <https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/events/whats-on/>

For further information:

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





Fyowna Norton Michelle Roberts

Strathbogie Shire Council presents  
**International Women's Day 2026**

**Free event!**

Join us in celebrating International Women's Day 2026 with an inspiring afternoon of conversation, connection, and community. This year's focus is **finding strength and resilience during disasters**, and the unique and powerful role women play in leading, supporting, and rebuilding during challenging times.

Enjoy a delightful afternoon tea, featuring live music by **Gayle Mawson** and presentations from our guest speakers:

**Fyowna Norton** - Victorian State Manager at the Australian Red Cross  
**Michelle Roberts** - Churchill Fellow and co-founder/co-chair of the National Infant & Child Disaster Mental Health Advisory Committee

**When:** 1.30pm - 4pm, Friday 6th March  
**Venue:** Fowles Wine  
1175 Lambing Gully Rd, Avenel



Bookings are essential for this event. To book, visit: <http://tiny.cc/strathbogieiwd> or call 1800 065 993  
Bus transport available - bookings essential

SCAN TO BOOK!



# A AERIAL SERVICES

Drone photos, videos and sales

Sales of DJI drones and spares at competitive prices

High resolution digital farm mapping

Property and real estate photography

Commercials and promotional videos

Asset and roof inspections

Call [0490 805 379](tel:0490805379) or email [alastair@ataerial.com](mailto:alastair@ataerial.com)

**Strathbogie Ranges**  
**- Nature View -**  
*Stories, activities & more.*  
*Ecology, landscape and*  
*natural history*

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

## RUSHWORTH HARDWARE



Bob and Linda from Boho South have just purchased Rushworth Hardware. We will be delivering to the Strathbogie

region, so don't be shy and order from us. We will drop your order off on our way home. We can match or beat any price for timber and fencing. We have done this before, so we are specialists in large orders. We really want to look after the local community up here, so we will help you any way we can. We take over on March 9th.

**Call Bob m: 0400 890 916**

**HIGH PLAINS**  
 TREE & GARDEN CARE

DYLAN KEMP 0467 088 248  
 DBEKEMP@OUTLOOK.COM



### Strathbogie Brewing Company

Dave & Sandy Joyce

See our website for stockists

[www.strathbogiebrewing.com.au](http://www.strathbogiebrewing.com.au)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:tablelandtalk@gmail.com) or m: 0400 019 607. Please support our advertisers.

# Strathbogie Shire launches Recovery Hub to support community healing and rebuilding



Pictured at the opening were (from left) Gaelle Broad, Member for Northern Victoria; Annabelle Cleeland, Member for Euroa; Strathbogie Councillor Gregory Carlson; Strathbogie Mayor Scott Jeffery; Emergency Services Minister Vicki Ward; and Wendy Lovell, Member for Northern Victoria.

Strathbogie Shire Council has established a new Recovery Hub in Euroa, providing a central, welcoming space for residents impacted by the recent fires to access support, information and essential services in one coordinated location.

Located at 34 Railway Street, Euroa, the Hub was officially opened on Wednesday morning by the Minister for Emergency Services, Vicki Ward, and Strathbogie Mayor Cr Scott Jeffery.

The Recovery Hub brings together key government agencies, wellbeing providers and recovery specialists, making it easier for individuals, families, businesses and

community groups to receive practical assistance and guidance throughout their recovery journey.

It offers a safe and inclusive environment where people can connect with services including recovery case management, health and wellbeing support, rebuilding advice, financial assistance information and community resources.

Mayor Jeffery said the Hub would play a vital role in supporting both immediate recovery needs and long-term community resilience.

“The Recovery Hub is about making sure our community has a trusted, accessible place to turn to during what can be an incredibly challenging time,” Mayor Jeffery said.

“By bringing services together in one location, we’re removing barriers and helping people get the support they need more easily - whether that’s practical assistance, wellbeing support, or simply a place to connect with others who understand what they’re going through.

“Recovery doesn’t happen overnight, and this Hub will be a cornerstone of our long-term approach to healing, rebuilding and strengthening our community for the future.”

In addition to providing coordinated services, the Hub will host community meetings, workshops and activities designed to foster connection, promote wellbeing and empower residents to take part in shaping recovery efforts.

With a strong focus on community-led recovery and preparedness, the Hub will also work alongside partners to build long-term resilience and support a safer, more prepared future for Strathbogie Shire.

The Community Recovery Hub is jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

It is open from 9am – 3pm weekdays or by appointment.

Phone: 1800 065 993

## For further information:

Sharon Rainsbury

E: [Sharon.rainsbury@strathbogie.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sharon.rainsbury@strathbogie.vic.gov.au)

P: 0436 465 252

## Strathbogie Recreation Ground

All bookings are to be made with  
John O'Brien  
0439 818 366  
[rec@strathbogie.org](mailto:rec@strathbogie.org)

## Strathbogie Memorial Hall Rooms & Accessories Hire

- ⇒ Main Hall -\$200
- ⇒ Supper Room - \$70

- ⇒ Soldiers Room - \$50
- ⇒ Kitchen -\$50
- ⇒ Projector -\$60
- ⇒ PA hire -\$20

Any excessive power usage due to heating/cooling will be invoiced to the user.

For more information ring:  
Mary 0419 592 211 or  
Marg 0407 919 005.

# Bogie Playgroup

Thursday  
9.30am-11.30am

During school terms

Peranbin Primary College  
19 Main Street  
Strathbogie

Friendship and community for families  
with children age 0-5yrs  
Healthy morning tea provided  
Free to attend

Sharna 0401 445 675  
Ally 0426 992 355

[strathbogiecommunityplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:strathbogiecommunityplaygroup@gmail.com)

## Try something different?

Want to learn more about your house or farm?



Come along to our relaxed local History group at:

1.30pm first Monday of each month  
(or 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon when Public Holidays fall).

Soldiers Room, Memorial Hall, Strathbogie.

Talk to us about displaying/donating photos, a small local history item, or papers.

Email for more info: [strathbogiehistory@gmail.com](mailto:strathbogiehistory@gmail.com)

Strathbogie Tablelands History Group

## STRATHBOGIE GENERAL STORE

Open 7 days a week

Your local general store, café and post office. Fully licensed.

Yummy breakfasts and lunches, Friday night Fish and Chips.

Local honey, wines and beer.

Local handcrafts.

Phone 0473 211 400



## DENTIST

Strathbogie  Dental

FAMILY DENTAL CARE

03 4702 2111

36 Kennedy St Euroa  
At Euroa Health

## Goulburn Valley Water Water Matters – Summer 2026 Edition



Recent fires and periods of extreme heat have had a significant impact on many people across our region, and we want to acknowledge just how challenging this time has been. Our priority throughout emergency response, and then recovery, has always been to support communities in every way we can.

During the Longwood fires in our southern region, our staff worked around the clock to keep water and sewerage services operating safely. As conditions changed rapidly, our teams stayed on the ground to ensure towns had reliable access to water when they needed it most.

We also assisted communities outside our service area, providing emergency drinking water sources for non

customers who were directly affected and needed supplies close to their homes and properties.

As the recovery continues, extended extreme heat has placed additional pressure on local water systems. To help meet demand, our crews have established water fill points in Euroa, Alexandra, Yea and Bonnie Doon, and provided access for nearby communities including Ruffy, Yarck and Molesworth.

For larger water carters supporting impacted residents, we have made select drinking water standpipes available free of charge during this period to ensure supply can be maintained where it is needed most.

At the same time, we continue to tanker water into Longwood while the local treatment plant remains offline due to fire impacts.

Find information on your water supply during a fire, visit [www.gvwater.vic.gov.au/service-interruptions/emergencies-and-natural-disasters/your-water-supply-in-a-fire](http://www.gvwater.vic.gov.au/service-interruptions/emergencies-and-natural-disasters/your-water-supply-in-a-fire)

For information on water use during a heatwave, visit [www.gvwater.vic.gov.au/service-interruptions/emergencies-and-natural-disasters/heatwave](http://www.gvwater.vic.gov.au/service-interruptions/emergencies-and-natural-disasters/heatwave)

### Shaping our next Urban Water Strategy together

Thank you to everyone who shared their views last year at our November and December pop ups at markets, shopping centres and community events.

Your feedback will help shape our next Urban Water Strategy, a long term plan guiding how water is managed across our towns over the next 50 years.

Community engagement will continue into this year, with more opportunities to have your say.

### Water knowledge a focus during October's National Water Week

Recent research shows that while many people care deeply about waterways, understanding where water comes from and how everyday actions affect it can vary across the community.

October's Water Week highlighted how small changes can make a big difference. Through events like our Waterwise Gardens seminar, Water Night and school programs such as the Don't Flush It competition, the community built practical knowledge about saving water and protecting wastewater systems.

As summer continues, building water knowledge is one of the most effective ways to take action. Understanding how and where you use water is the first step to reducing demand at home, both indoors and outdoors.

If everyone in our service area saved just 10 litres a day, together we would save around 504 million litres a year. That's enough to fill 200 Olympic swimming pools!

For tips to save drips, or visit: [www.gvwater.vic.gov.au/save-water](http://www.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](mailto:mail@gvwater.vic.gov.au)



## Light the Way Counselling Brianna King

I live locally, I understand country life, and I know that around here people tend to just get on with things. But carrying everything on your own gets heavy — especially when stress, relationships, parenting, or past experiences start affecting your sleep, your patience, or the way you feel day to day.

I offer down-to-earth, practical counselling for individuals, couples and parents — without judgement, labels, or pressure to talk about things you're not ready for.

Sessions are online, so you can speak privately from your own home, without driving or being seen.

- No referral needed
- No long wait times
- Online sessions Australia-wide
- Sliding scale available
- Independent of the medicare system
- Occasional free local workshops

Based in Creek Junction, Victoria  
0439 776 040

lightthewaycounselling.com  
lightthewaycounselling@gmail.com  
Facebook: Light the Way Counselling

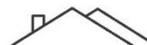


Liquor License No. 3651841

**BOOK YOUR AMAZING WINE TASTING EXPERIENCE TODAY.**

**STRATHBOGIE ESTATE P/L**

602 Tames Road Strathbogie Vic 3666  
www.strathbogieestate.com.au  
Mob: Karin 0412 442 174



## REDDING HOME MAINTENANCE

- Painting
- Mowing and garden maintenance
- Roof & gutter cleaning
- Property cleaning & rubbish removal
- Window cleaning
- Deck building and repair
- House repairs
- Kinfe sharpening
- And more!

LEIGH REDDING

0400 176 159

leighredding@gmail.com

## TQ Top Quality plumbing services

0407 095 179

Servicing the Strathbogie Shire and Surrounds

### “No job too big or too small”

- Qualified Plumber and Gas Fitter
- New homes, renovations and extensions
- Roofing, spouting and down pipes
- Septic tanks, pumps and blocked drains
- Gas heaters and kitchen appliances
- 24 Hour emergency plumbing
- Wood heaters and skylights

Licensed Plumber & Gas Fitter 50447

## CROYDONDALE CABINETS

CABINET MAKERS, KITCHENS,  
SHOP FITTINGS  
NEW HOMES, RENOVATIONS, REFACES

Ph: 0408 349 072

Graeme McKenzie, Strathbogie ABN 27 746 178 130

Email: [gmc13990@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gmc13990@bigpond.net.au)

## “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](mailto:kathstuart60@gmail.com)

or

Pennie Beard: [claneypenne@gmail.com](mailto:claneypenne@gmail.com)



## Bogie Playgroup Update

We've had such a lovely start to Term 1 at our new home, Peranbin Primary College Strathbogie Campus! The children have been having a ball exploring the space, spending sunny mornings in the sandpit, climbing and running around the oval and playground. While we sometimes offer organised craft activities, there's never any expectation for children to join in; play is always about choice, exploration, and following their own curiosity and imagination.

One of the most remarkable examples of child-led play this month has been bushfire play that has naturally emerged. The cubby "caught fire" and the kids decided what to take with them if they needed to evacuate, worked together to put the fire out and kept each other safe. Play is such a powerful way for children to process experiences safely and meaningfully, express their understanding of real-world events, and work through emotions, practising empathy and cooperation.

Our playgroup families live across a large geographical region, including Longwood, Gooram, Alexandra, Ruffy, Strathbogie and surrounds. As we drive around the region during the week for activities or kinder/school drop-offs, many families have been having ongoing conversations about the impact of the fires. The children are inquisitive about the charred trees and blackened patches of grass, burnt buildings and sheds, and the absence of livestock in burned paddocks.

Over the past week or two they've also begun noticing signs of new life: green shoots pushing through the ash, epicormic growth on eucalypt trees, and little pockets of grass returning along the roadside. Children can be incredibly observant, often noticing both the devastation and the renewal with equal depth. These small, profound moments of noticing feel important. It's also been meaningful for parents to have space to chat about navigating tough conversations around bushfires and big feelings, and to support one another as we guide our children through what they're seeing and experiencing.

This term has brought new beginnings for some of our playgroup friends. A few children have started kindergarten, and others are embracing new seasons of learning and growing at home. We've also celebrated several first birthdays as some of our littlest members move from babyhood into toddlerhood!

It feels especially meaningful to be fostering a space that is inclusive and respectful of the many different parenting, lifestyle, and educational choices within our group. Our families all walk slightly different paths, and Bogie Playgroup continues to be a place where those differences are welcomed, valued, and supported. There's such joy and richness in raising children side-by-side in community.

We're looking forward to many more sunny mornings of digging, running, building, imagining, giggling and growing together. Thank you to everyone who makes Bogie Playgroup such a warm and supportive space for families across our region.

Warmly,  
Sharna Holding & Ally Keenan  
*Strathbogie Community Playgroup Coordinators*



What's worth finding out on [www.strathbogie.org](http://www.strathbogie.org)?



## Cricket

The Bogie Panthers' have joined the WDCA (Wangaratta and District Cricket Association). Strathbogie "Hillmen" have had a long and very successful history with cricket and it is terrific to see this start up again and the Rec Ground being put to good use. The Panthers field a side in C grade They would love to see you there.

Find the page here: [https://strathbogie.org/?page\\_id=4402](https://strathbogie.org/?page_id=4402)

STAG Communications subcommittee

BAGGED

Kindling  
Wood



0412 606 364

## 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](http://www.strathbogie.org)

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

Sean (Ed.)

## Refuelling Solutions

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](mailto:mreynolds@rfs.com.au) [www.rfs.com.au](http://www.rfs.com.au)



## The STAG Report

The following notes are from our most recent Strathbogie Tableland Action Group meeting, which was held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at the Boho South Hall.

- Local groups are encouraged to contact STAG to assist them with obtaining grants for projects. Now is the time to complete funding applications.
- The misuse of the recycle bins at the Strathbogie Recreation Reserve continues. STAG is working with the Shire for a solution. STAG will update the community when and if a solution has been found.
- The community directory is at the printers and it is expected that it will be delivered with the next edition of Tableland Talk.
- STAG will meet with representatives on the Strathbogie Shire Council to discuss gaps in services that we experienced during the recent local emergencies.
- Community bus service to Euroa: Marion's survey for the community bus received almost 100 responses. The data from the responses is being reviewed.
- STAG is creating an account with Refuelling Solutions/Maxi-Tankers, (the company who manages the diesel facility at the Strathbogie Recreation Ground), which will provide STAG with access to diesel refuelling during power outages. The intention is for STAG to keep the generator working during extended power outages. Refuelling Solutions have advised that they will donate the fuel to run the Recreation Ground and Strathbogie Memorial Hall generators during these power outages.
- Cleanup Strathbogie Day will be on Cleanup Australia day: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March. STAG will provide the BBQ lunch for all helpers - most likely to be held at the Strathbogie Recreation ground.

There seems to be much uncertainty in the Community as to what the Bushfire Place of Last Resort (Neighbourhood Safer Place) is and is not. STAG will have the Emergency subcommittee provide a clear communication piece on what to expect if it is opened.

[The next STAG meeting will be held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>](#) most likely at the Strathbogie Memorial hall.

<b>GRANITE BRIDGE AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES</b>		<b>Rural Contracting Tractor, Fencing &amp; Chainsaw Work</b>
<p><b><u>Tractor Work Using Deutz Fahr 96hp Tractor:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◊ Flail Mowing with 2.4m (8ft) cutting width</li> <li>◊ Front End Loader Work - Bucket, Heavy Stick Rake, Pallet Forks</li> <li>◊ Hay handling with front and rear forks</li> <li>◊ Post Hole Digging - 6" to 24" diameter augers</li> <li>◊ Harrowing with 4m (13ft) harrows</li> <li>◊ Grading with 1.8m (6ft) grader blade</li> <li>◊ Light Plowing / Scarification with 3.2m S-Tine Cultivator</li> <li>◊ Pulling, Pushing and Towing - 4wd and 4 wheel diff locks can pull whole trees!</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Fencing, Chainsaw &amp; General Work:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◊ New Fence Erections - timber, steel or concrete posts, wire or wire/hinge joint fences</li> <li>◊ Fence Repair and Clearing Trees Off Fences</li> <li>◊ Chainsaw Work and other tasks around the farm</li> </ul>		
<p><b>RATES:</b> <b>Tractor Work: \$77 per hour incl. GST (\$70 + GST)</b>  <b>Other Work: \$55 per hour incl. GST (\$50+GST)</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">- Rates include fuel &amp; oil - transit time charged - materials and other consumables extra -</p>		<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div> <div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Now offering Deep Ripping, Pipelaying (via ripper), and Fertiliser Spreading!</p> <p>Jobs requiring two men charged with additional \$55/hour</p> </div>
<p><b>Call Big Clarky on 0406 074 019 or Julie on 5790 5226 to discuss!</b></p>		

# Future Proof Your Garden: Climate Ready Gardens 2026 Design Course



Strathbogie Shire Council is pleased to announce the return of its highly successful **Climate Ready Gardens** design course in 2026. Following last year's program, which received *rave reviews* from participants, we are thrilled to bring the course back to the community. The program will run with two

participant groups - one based in Euroa and one in Nagambie - with identical course content delivered in each location.

This **12 hour intensive course** is designed for residents seeking to futureproof their gardens through practical, hands on design strategies that respond to a changing climate. Participants will learn how to create drought resilient and flood smart gardens, as well as explore bushfire sensitive design principles.

While no garden can ever be bushfire proof, thoughtful planning can significantly reduce risk around the home and support ecological recovery after fire. The course will guide participants through plant selection and garden layouts that contribute to safer, more resilient landscapes, while also restoring habitat and supporting native wildlife in a changing climate.

Whether starting with a blank canvas or reworking an established garden that isn't thriving, attendees will gain the knowledge, tools and confidence to design a functional, beautiful, climate-ready space. Participants are encouraged to bring along their existing garden schematics and will walk away with a bespoke garden plan, as well as new skills that can be applied immediately.

The program is delivered across four interactive sessions, with morning or afternoon tea provided. Places are limited, and there is no cost to attend.

## **Bookings are essential.**

To register, visit:

Euroa: <http://tiny.cc/climateeuroa>

Nagambie: <http://tiny.cc/climatenagambie>

or call **1800 065 993**.

## **Euroa group program:**

**Book now:** <http://tiny.cc/climateeuroa>

### **Introduction Session (In person or online)**

- Date: Friday 13 March
- Time: 10am – 12pm
- Location: Microsoft Teams or Euroa Conference Room

### **Workshop Day 1 (In person)**

- Date: Wednesday 16 March
- Time: 9.30am – 1.30pm
- Location: Euroa Conference Room

### **Workshop Day 2 (In person)**

- Date: Wednesday 23 March
- Time: 9.30am – 1.30pm
- Location: Euroa Conference Room

### **Workshop Day 3 (In person)**

- Date: Saturday 28 March
- Time: 10am – 12pm
- Location: Euroa Arboretum Native Nursery

## **Nagambie group program:**

**Book now:** <http://tiny.cc/climatenagambie>

### **Introduction Session (In person or online)**

- Date: Friday 13 March
- Time: 10am – 12pm
- Location: Microsoft Teams or Euroa Conference Room

### **Workshop Day 1 (In person)**

- Date: Wednesday 18 March
- Time: 9.30am – 1.30pm
- Location: Nagambie Regatta Centre (Upstairs)

### **Workshop Day 2 (In person)**

- Date: Wednesday 25 March
- Time: 9.30am – 1.30pm
- Location: Nagambie Regatta Centre (Upstairs)

### **Workshop Day 3 (In person)**

- Date: Saturday 28 March
- Time: 10am – 12pm
- Location: Euroa Arboretum Native Nursery

For more information on local events and activities, visit:

<https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/events/whats-on/>

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

## INTO THE STORM



A squall builds before me,  
I hear the clouds roaring,  
A tameless wind is blustering.

I won't go inside,  
Where it's safe and dry  
The turbulent force is detonating.

I'll dance rabid wild  
Like a tantrumming child,  
In chaos my joy is the dreaming.

In fiery hot vision,  
With whirling collision,  
Washed down to a grounding clarity.

I spin through the night,  
Which turns wind through my hair.  
I absorb in the storm as I fly.

It's a cycle itself,  
And the reminder is felt.  
The system is designed as disorderly.

Throw me the rain,  
It will wet me again,  
And once I am soaked, I'll be saturated.

The wet makes me clean,  
A cool rinse of energy.  
Change makes the seasons appreciated.

Don't grumble the warning,  
I know darkness is coming,  
Crack open the grey, throw it at me.

*Linda Jay*

## My Metahuman Love Affair

I recently met a metahuman.  
Her name was Tina Fleet.  
I found her interesting and she attracted me.  
She was living just down the street.  
I admired her superhuman power.  
Her's was flying feet!  
She could launch into the sky on a personal whim  
or run like the wind -  
as just above the ground she skimmed!

She was also super smart,  
in a class of her own.  
None of us un-enhanced humans  
had like her evolved or grown.

Her ancestry was drone AI,  
from the time of the 21st century.  
Now, one hundred years later  
here she was living –  
right near me.

A product of a mutant gene implant,  
crafted by an ultra-mind  
placed into a cloned human form  
with attributes refined.

So, I can't call her just human  
because technically she was designed to mutate.  
But on the other hand she became a friend  
or dare I say, even a very special "metamate"

We'd meet at the local cafe for a cuppa.  
Her supernature and powers didn't bother me.  
We would play a game testing her memory.  
She never failed - infuriatingly.  
We'd walk together on summer evenings.  
She even held my hand once, after an impassioned  
plea!  
She almost treated me as an equal  
even though I was the inferior human species you  
see.

However,  
there was a definite personal attraction.  
I often wonder if it was a love that could have been?

I would have liked to have kept on seeing her,  
but word had got around our town  
that she was associating closely with a basic  
ancestral  
on whom her metahuman friends looked down.

I didn't want to embarrass her  
my feelings were that strong!  
I wanted her to be happy,  
so I dropped out of where I didn't belong.  
And yet, despite that decision and to this very day  
I feel that the way the Metas treat the rest of us  
is quite unfair .....  
and wrong.

*Sean Mathews*

# Peranbin Primary News



Planting pea seeds.

It's hard to believe that February is almost gone at the time of writing this, let alone that we are already in Week 5 of school!

We have had a great time settling back into school life and adapting to some new daily routines to keep the learning on track as well as ensuring that everyone feels included and safe. In fact, part of our Wellbeing learning around Emotional Literacy has seen us brainstorm ways that we can improve our skills as readers of each other and ideas on how we can boost someone's emotions to be more positive in the classroom and playground. We discussed how it can be confusing at times because people often express themselves differently and so the more opportunities we get to see different expressions of feelings (real people, pictures, movies), the better developed our skills will become.

Our Tuesday's with Sim have continued to see us delve into all things mud wasps with us adding longer wire legs, painting black bands and bright colours as well as constructing wings from wire and old curtains. We haven't got much to do to make our piece come together before the R.A.G.E. exhibition show on the Easter long weekend.

We have continued to work away in literacy (reading *Esio Trot* has been interesting) and maths (from playing Bonds of 10 Go Fish to reading analogue and digital clocks with increased confidence and accuracy) plus learning signs for colours, everyday words and the alphabet in Auslan. On Thursday and Friday Mrs Fry teaches our term Inquiry topic – Living Things – and we have made newspaper pots and planted pea seeds. Some are now sprouting through but not quite all...yet.

We are planning on holding another **open session** to invite everyone from our community to join us on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April from 10-10:30am** and chat with the students about what they have learnt and share in stories about all things living. A morning tea will follow. If you have any dietary needs please don't hesitate to let us know – we all want to make sure everyone knows and feels welcome at our campus. We hope to see you there.



Sena in her individually designed workspace

**Email:** [kate.hand2@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:kate.hand2@education.vic.gov.au) or **Text:** 0419 154 505

**School fundraiser:** We are very pleased to welcome Tesselaar Bulbs back to Peranbin as they have always been a proven winner for quality bulbs over the years. If you would like to support our school and add some colour and heavenly scents to your garden, visit the website below. Any orders need to be made by 10<sup>th</sup> April. All orders and monies are handled directly with Tesselaar.

<https://www.bulbfundraiser.com.au/PERANBINPC>



Clara works out ways to add three numbers



Pip paints a paper mache wasp

## Strathbogie IT

0428 327 203

[simon@strathbogieit.com.au](mailto:simon@strathbogieit.com.au)

[www.strathbogieit.com.au](http://www.strathbogieit.com.au)

CCTV Systems  
Hardware Sales and Support  
Managed Services  
Starlink