



September 2026

Notice of The AGM of the Strathbogie Tableland Action Group

To be held at the Strathbogie Memorial Hall.

10:00 am Sunday 20th September

Everyone in our Tableland Community is most welcome to attend, contribute and then share in the morning tea 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 two 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

What else has STAG been involved with this last year?

- Liaising with the Strathbogie Shire Council and emergency services to build a more resilient Strathbogie community.
- Liaising with the Strathbogie Shire Council to have a footpath constructed between the Strathbogie recreation ground and Main Street.
- Working on establishing a community bus service from Strathbogie to Euroa.
- Assisting local groups with organising grants and providing resources to maintain finances.
- Assisted with the 2025 Melbourne Cup Festival at Strathbogie

What's On

Sept 9 Hall AGM p13

Sept 10-13 The Trouble with Leo p5

Sep 20 STAG AGM p1

Sept 24 Stone Country Community Day p13

Sept 27, Oct 4 & 11 Radio Play Workshops p3

Oct 18 Bushfire Sunday p7

Nov 1 Strathbogie Community Day p3

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

Boho South Hall

Available for hire

Bookings contact:

Christine Ellis

0419 908 522 or

info@bohousouthhall.org

Library Service

The Goulburn
Valley Library
Service bus visits
Strathbogie
Memorial Hall
every second
Monday 10 - 12

Swanpool Cinema

Tickets \$14 / \$12 / \$8 trybooking.com

The Christophers MA15+ Sep 4 10.30am,
Sep 5 5pm

Relay M Sep 5 8.15pm, Sep 6 7.15pm

The President's Cake M Sep 12 6pm, Sep
13 5pm

Primavera M Sep 12 8.15pm, Sep 13
7.15pm

We are not powerless NA Sep 19 1.30pm

Hunt for the Wilderpeople PG Sep 19
6pm, Sep 20 5pm

My Brilliant Career G Sep 19 8.15pm, Sep
20 7.15pm

Sound of Falling MA15+ Sep 26 6pm,
Sep 27 5pm

Euroa Cinema

Tickets \$12 at Box Office or [https://
events.humanitix.com/euroa-
community-cinema](https://events.humanitix.com/euroa-community-cinema)

Colours of time M Sep 5 4pm

Young Washington M Sep 5 7.30pm,
Sep 6 4pm

Pike River MA15+ Sep 12 7.30pm,
Sep 13 4pm

& Sons M Sep 19 7.30pm, Sep 20 4pm

**Shaun the Sheep The Beast of
Mossy Bottom** G Sep 24 11am
(sensory), 3pm

Supergirl M Sep 25 7pm

Practical Magic CTC Sep 26 7.30pm,
Sep 27 4pm

Tom & Jerry: Forbidden Compass
Oct 1 11am (sensory) and at 3pm

Riddles for Kids

Q: What kind of tie do pigs wear?

A: A pigsty.

Q: Why don't chickens get invited to
dinner parties?

A: Because they use fowl language.

Q: Which side of the chicken has most
feathers?

A: The outside.

Q: What did the duck say to the
checkout person when it had
finished shopping?

A: Just put it on my bill.

Do You Need a
Justice of
the Peace?

Chris Thomson

'Aberdeen'

5790 5340

Violet Town Village Voice

For information or to get an
emailed copy each month
contact Abbey m: 0408 551
455 or

[village voice @violettown.
org.au](mailto:villagevoice@violettown.org.au) or read it online at
www.violettown.org.au

Three things to do instead of being on your phone.

1. Turn off your phone before having a
friendly conversation face to face.
2. Find a quiet spot and try a daydream
instead.
3. Pause to reflect on something you
appreciated in the past 24 hours.

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.

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 our
email address 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 our way too!

The Deadline for the September edition of Tableland Talk is Saturday, September 26, 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.

Strathbogie Tableland Community Day 2026

Sunday November 1st

Strathbogie Recreation Ground

STAG wishes to hold a community day on Sunday November 1st at the Strathbogie recreation ground. Likely to have a 10:00 am start

We invite all local groups to participate and show off what you do, your projects, invite new members and engage our community in your activities.

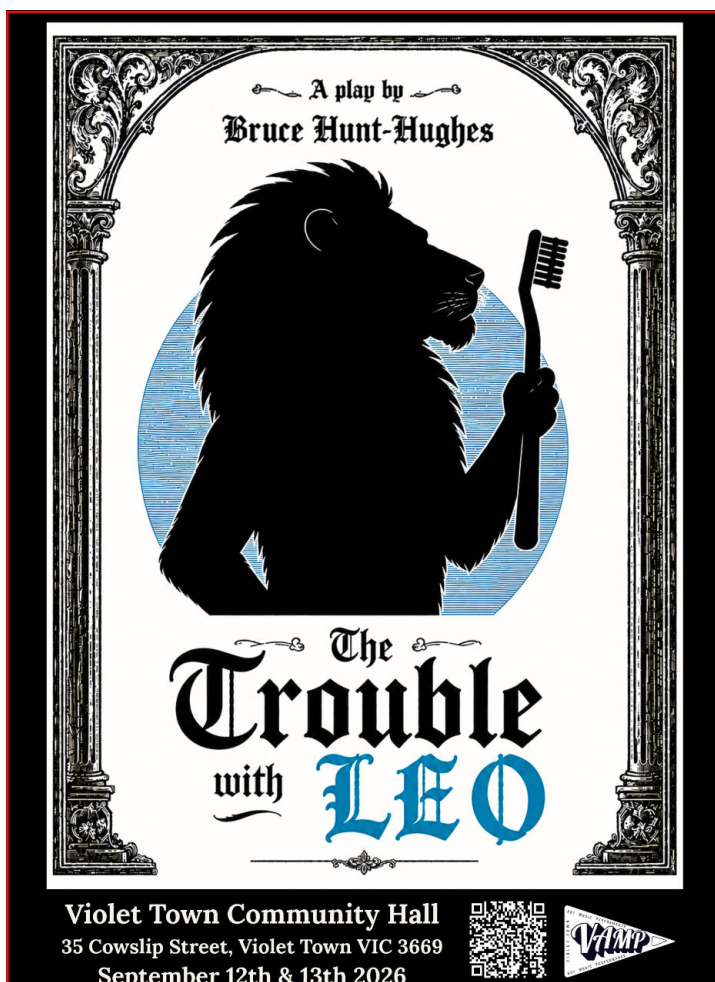
There will be a tennis tournament, a BBQ, kids sports events, CFA demonstration, local groups displays, possibly a dog show/parade and other small events to be decided.

The day is to keep the community involved over what would have been the Cup Day weekend at Strathbogie which will not be held this year.

We encourage all local groups to participate in some way.

Please plan your group's participation while further information will be forwarded over the next few months.

Stuart Bridgman



A play by
Bruce Hunt-Hughes

The
Trouble
with
LEO

Violet Town Community Hall
35 Cowslip Street, Violet Town VIC 3669
September 12th & 13th 2026

Community Learning Euroa presents
RADIO PLAY WORKSHOPS
3 x Sundays: Sept 27, Oct 4 & 11 (10 am - 4 pm)
William Pearson Memorial Hall
21 Kirkland Avenue, Euroa



Ever wanted to try your hand at writing, creating or producing a play? How about cutting your teeth on a fully produced local radio play!

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A Radio Play workshop - over 3 Sunday sessions - will provide you with the skills to create stories and characters a radio audience will care about!

Do you like telling stories ... maybe even the one that's been in the back of your mind for years?

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Two experienced 'Radio Theatre' producers will help you develop a play to enthrall a radio audience, be it drama, comedy or any other other genre.

Learn how to record, edit, mix, add music and sound effects to create a finished radio play, ready for streaming on **7 CREEKS RADIO** for local listeners.

Whether you want to write, produce, edit, create music and sound effects, or be a voice actor, this 3 x Sunday workshop is for you!



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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.

Call Bob m: 0400 890 916

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

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Bogie Tree

+++++

Bogie Tree is our unofficial Strathbogie Tableland bush telegraph. It is an email list based on Gagggle 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, send an email to Stuart on stuartb446@gmail.com or call on 0422 408 915



Very reasonable advertising rates - advertising solely funds this newsletter. Business or revenue raising 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: 0400019607. **Please support our advertisers.**

There's a new theatre company in Violet Town, and it's roaring into life with [The Trouble with Leo](#)



Annabelle James as Anansi, Spider Trickster

VAMP (Violet Town Art, Music and Performance) presents a community production:

The Trouble with Leo and the launch of the newly formed Vamp Theatre.

Violet Town resident [Bruce Hunt-Hughes](#), buoyed into action by a recent cancer scare, decided it was time to realise a lifelong dream: to produce a play he first began writing more than 30 years ago after graduating from NIDA.

He put the call out through the local arts group, [VAMP](#) (Violet Town Art, Music & Performance Collective) and began to share his acting skills with interested people within the local community, with what he called "Play Date for Actors" as a regular on the VAMP calendar.

People came down from the Strathbogie Hills, Boho, Euroa, Mernda, other towns neighbouring Violet Town and soon there was a vibrant collective of theatre-makers including professional actors, designers, lighting wizards, costume-makers, prop-makers, set-builders, and stage managers who joined with a core group of actors, some of whom had little or no previous experience, and some of whom had already accumulated an impressive list of theatre and TV credits including [Charmayne Lane](#)

Word soon spread, and it became clear that a post-COVID tree-change had brought many new residents to Violet Town and surrounds. Among those settling into the community were people with professional theatre experience, eager to share their skills with the already well established creative community here. From costume design and set building to lighting and production, they gravitated to the Violet Town Hall, where the energy of rehearsals has been growing.

[Tickets](#) are selling fast, with the production and the newly established Vamp Theatre capturing the imagination of audiences with it's flare and small town creative abundance, from far beyond Violet Town.

Bruce has been a regular on Australian TV, including A Country Practice, Blue Heelers, Halifax FP, Secret Life of Us, The Man from Snowy River, Edens Lost, Dirtwater Dynasty, Edens Lost, Seachange and most recently, the Disney + series, The Clearing.

Bruce is also a judge for the International Benalla Short Film Festival alongside Australian actress Krista Vendy.

Tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/DNDBN>

Cash sales are available every Tuesday 10am - 3pm at the Violet Town Community Centre, [35 Cowslip Street, Violet Town](#)

Website: www.sovamp.com

Email: violettownarstmusicperformance@gmail.com

Media contact: [Serana Hunt-Hughes](#) | 0408 180 695

The Trouble with Leo (PG) - [BOOK TICKETS HERE](#)

10 September (Thursday) 7pm

11 September (Friday) 7pm

12 September (Saturday) 7pm

13 September (Sunday) 2pm

Serana Hunt-Hughes

Strathbogie Recreation Ground

All bookings are to be made with
Lisa Duggan
m: 0438 005 622
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 on
0419 592 211 or Marg 0407 919 005.



Bogie Playgroup
9:30am – 11:30am
Thursdays during school term
at Peranbin Primary College Strathbogie
19 Main Street Strathbogie

Connection & community
for families with children
aged 0-5years
Free to attend
Bring a piece of fruit
to share



Contact:
Sharna 0401 445 675 or Ally 0426 992 355

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 2nd 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

Strathbogie Tablelands History Group

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Strathbogie Playgroup News



We've been having plenty of fun at playgroup through these frosty Winter mornings, rugging up and making the most of our time together. It's been lovely to see the sunshine making a more regular appearance, and we're all looking forward to the warmer days and the arrival of Spring. For National Science Week, we turned playgroup into a little laboratory! The kids had lots of fun experimenting with bicarb, vinegar and lemon juice, watching the fizzing reactions and talking about what they thought might happen. We also took on a floating boat challenge, creating boats in different shapes and styles before testing them on the water. There was plenty of predicting, experimenting and discussing as we discovered which designs floated best and why.

We also joined the school children to celebrate Book Week. Together we read Derek, a story full of wonderful questions about the world around us. We chatted about all the big questions Derek asked, and how we often ask those same thoughtful questions every day. The school children then organised a beautiful craft activity, where each playgroup child decorated their own 'fish bowl'. It was a lovely opportunity for the older and younger children to come together and celebrate our shared love of reading, storytelling and creating.

As the weather warms, we're looking forward to getting out and about a little more with plans for some nature play adventures around the Tablelands. We're excited to explore some of our beautiful local spots together and enjoy more opportunities for outdoor play, discovery and connection.

It's these simple mornings of stories, play, conversation and community that make playgroup such a special place, and we're looking forward to yet another wonderful season together.

Warmly,
Sharna & Ally, Strathbogie Community Playgroup Coordinators

Strathbogie Fire Brigade Report

August saw three members of our fire brigade, including myself, successfully complete the CFA course Respond to Isolated Structure Fire. The course included a day of practical training at the Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre (VEMTC) in Wangaratta, where we were able to safely practise a range of fire scenarios.

September is a great time to review your fire plan or create a new one if you haven't already. Circumstances can change, so it's important to keep your fire plan up to date. Some things to consider include what your triggers for evacuation might be, such as a predicted Total Fire Ban or Catastrophic Fire Danger Day. If your plan is to stay and defend your property, it's also worth considering whether you are currently physically capable and mentally prepared for the task. Come along to our Bushfire Sunday at the Hall on 18 October. The CFA website also has a huge selection of information on planning and preparing:
www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Dana Last, Captain



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ONLINE NOW – FACE-TO-FACE COMING SOON

All sessions are currently online via Zoom for your convenience.
Face-to-face sessions in a peaceful, nature-based space
coming by the end of the year. ♡



THERAPY HOURS

Tuesdays: 9am – 7pm
Saturdays: 9am – 4pm



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Spring Haiku #01

Sky full of bird sound.

Lush greenery all around.

New life abounds.

Sean Mathews



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0400176159

leighjredding@gmail.com

“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: claneypenne@gmail.com

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Peranbin Primary School News - Strathbogie Campus

At the time of writing this month's edition we have just capped off a fun filled morning with Playgroup for Book Week AND preparing for our Peranbin Athletics Day. Our days have been filled with a variety of maths, reading and writing plus art, science, PE, wellbeing and Auslan. The wet weather kept us indoors on more than one occasion but as always, as soon as we could venture out, we did. The past month has seen some determined skills on the bars – hanging and flipping off as well as backbends and numerous routines/performances being developed.

Save the Date

We are hosting another Community Open morning on Thursday 17th September from 10am-11am. This will be a great opportunity to come in and see what life in a small country school is like. Our theme is procedural texts and there will be a chance to see some of the work from term 3 as well as “live” demonstrations by our students. Fingers-crossed for some pleasant weather to allow us to even take some outdoors demonstrations. Morning tea will be provided from 11am so if you have special dietary needs, please let Kate know. We hope you can join us.

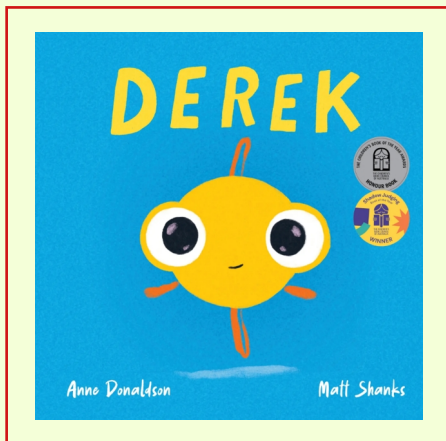
Email: kate.hand2@education.vic.gov.au

SMS: 0419 154 505

Literacy Focus

A recent genre of writing to develop and hone our writing skills was procedural texts. Every day we encounter these, either in written or verbal – the how to...tie your shoelaces, add using the bridge 10 strategy, bake a cake, build a bookcase etc. We were very quick to create the written component of our own choosing – everyone decided on a “How to draw” piece. We created a PowerPoint, each slide including one step and a photo to clearly show the step. Finally, we added audio – recording the step onto the slide. This was a new skill (another “how to” moment). These pieces of work have been added to our school Facebook page along with a special, first ever, cooking segment with Pip. Pip's video format meant that she approached language choices differently AND was able to gesture to add to her meaning.

Book Week



We were very pleased to host Playgroup for a special Book Week activity. Everyone was dressed as characters from a book, and we all enjoyed a read-aloud of Derek. Derek was a fish in a fishbowl who had BIG questions about his world and beyond the glass bowl of home.

Pip and Clara explained how they created their own collage of a fishbowl before our Playgroup friends made their own masterpieces. There was tearing and scrunching of paper, trimming yarns and trying not to glue cotton balls to our own fingers.



It was a hive of activity, with Pip and Clara assisting and encouraging throughout.

Continues page 11

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Peranbin Primary School News - Strathbogie Campus continues from p9.....



Faraway Tree Folk and Hermoine from Harry Potter



Winter Warmer Lunch

One cold winter's day we had a special lunch of soup and toasties. These were leftovers from our Term 2 community open lunch, and we certainly enjoyed the fruits of our labour once again.



Storytelling with Sim

Our Tuesday afternoon "Sim Time" has continued this past month with a variety of tales being told, from Russian folk stories to Celtic tales. Each week is always eagerly anticipated, and the post-storytelling artwork creations see the different interpretations of characters and moments. One week, Sim didn't finish his piece before the end of the school day, and he took it home to work on. It came back the very next morning and so we presented him with a Homework Hero Award, specially made featuring images of the things we know Sim loves and enjoys.

END OF TERM CELEBRATION

The Strathbogie Campus of Peranbin Primary College would like to invite members of our community to join us for a morning of fun activities. Part of our learning in term 3 was based around procedural texts - instructions, experiments, recipes etc.



From making PowerPoints with audio recordings to explaining and showing our playgroup friends how to make a collage in Book Week, we are sure to be able to teach you a thing or two.

WHEN: Thursday 17th September, 10-11am

Morning tea from 11:00am



Please let Kate know of any dietary requirements.

Email: kate.hand2@education.vic.gov.au

SMS: 0419 154 505



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Fencing, Chainsaw & General Work:

- ◊ New Fence Erections
 - timber or concrete posts, wire or wire/hinge joint fences
- ◊ Fence Repair and Clearing Trees Off Fences
- ◊ Chainsaw Work and other tasks around the farm



RATES: Tractor Work: \$55 per hour incl. GST (\$50 + GST)
All Other Work: \$44 per hour incl. GST (\$40+GST)

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Strathbogie Memorial Hall Report

Thank you to Artbox for the past three months of wonderful art exhibitions in the Hall car park. It has been fantastic to see the breadth of local artistic talent on display in our community.

Coming up at the Hall on Thursday 24th September is Stone Country Community Day, where the Taungurung Land and Waters Council will be celebrating Taungurung identity and caring for Taungurung Country.

There are also two AGMs being held at the Hall this month. The Hall Committee AGM is on Wednesday 9th at 6pm, and STAG's AGM is on Sunday 20th. We encourage everyone who is interested to come along and perhaps even join up and contribute to our wonderful community.

Dana Last, Secretary

The Bookshelf – notes from the Bohomians Bookclub

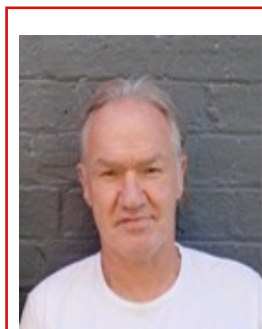
Women & Children by Tony Birch, UQP, 2023

For all the coming aspirations of the '60's, mid-20th century suburbs in inner-city Melbourne carried the distinct markings of post-war poverty. They were also scored through with sectarian division; long-standing Catholic and Protestant allegiances ran deep in the psyches of families that, in many cases, had started from scratch after the Depression of the 30's and the devastation of two world wars.

For Joe Cluny, a wide-eyed 11-year-old, Our Lady's church and school are central in his consciousness, and a source of physical and mental anguish, occasioned by the threats of hellfire and frequent canings for his many perceived wrongdoings. Fortunately for Joe, his close-knit family – mum Marion, sister Ruby, aunt Oona and grandad Char – are much less in awe of the prognostications of Our Lady's priests and nuns. Thus, in spite of hardship, they offer Joe, and each other, the strong bulwark of love and support that can withstand the hardest of challenges; they have each other's backs, come thick or thin. Joe's worldly awareness starts to expand when aunt Oona runs, once again, from her violent partner and he sees the unmistakeable evidence of brutality on her body. His 'workdays' with his grandfather, enlivened with the sardonic interchanges between Char and his old friend, scrap metal merchant, Ranji, also allow Joe to question the nun's predictions of his grim, fiery future in Hell, and to envision a world where the Church's power over mind and body might lose its grip.

The interactions of the Cluny family are rendered with tenderness and empathy. Birch knows when to dial down on the detail, allowing the strength and love in this family to be sensed by the reader, rather than spelled out. The writing is sensitive, and clear, poignant and often gently humorous, and the unexpected ending is hugely satisfying – a real pleasure of a book!

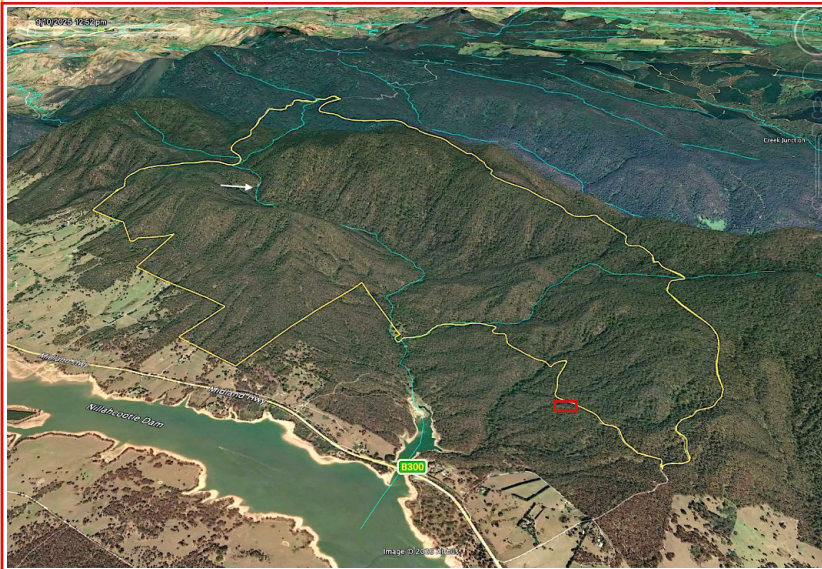
Reviewed by Ruth Fluhr



Tony Birch is the author of four novels: *Women & Children*, which won the 2024 The Age Fiction Book of the Year; *The White Girl*, winner of the 2020 NSW Premier's Award for Indigenous Writing, and shortlisted for the 2020 Miles Franklin Literary Award; *Ghost River*, winner of the 2016 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Indigenous Writing; and *Blood*, which was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award in 2012. He has also published two poetry books and four short story collections, the most recent of which, *Dark as Last Night*, won both the 2022 NSW Premier's Literary Award and the Queensland Literary Award for Fiction. In 2017 he was awarded the Patrick White Literary Award. Tony Birch is an activist, historian and essayist, and is currently the Boisbouvier Chair in Australian Literature at the University of Melbourne.

Next: *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens* by Shankari Chandran, Ultimo Press, 2022

Sandy Creek – water falls and greater gliders



Sandy Creek is the location of one of the better-known water falls in the Strathbogrie Ranges. The creek originates just below the summit of Mt Strathbogrie, picks up several tributaries then flows north and eventually drains into Lake Nilliahcootie. The falls, an extended and steep cascade, lie at the head of a deep, steep-sided valley. They are spectacular, particularly after rain, and well worth a visit.

Apart from the falls, there's another 100 years or so that the forests in that valley have been very little disturbed by fire and by people. The steep topography, rocky terrain and plethora of small creeks mean

bush tracks are scarce – there is very limited access into the valley, other than by walking.

The white arrow marks Sandy Creek.

While this is great from a nature protection point of view, it also means very little is known about the wildlife of the catchment.

With a fuel reduction burn proposed for the Sandy Creek valley on Autumn 2027, local community group, Save Our Strathbogrie Forest, decided to team up with drone specialists, Field Master Systems, to survey the tree-dwelling mammals in several far-flung parts of the valley.

We were particularly interested in learning more about the population of greater gliders, Australia's largest gliding possum, that might be living there. This species has become so rare in Victoria and across SE Australia in recent decades that it is at risk of extinction if the current population trend continues.

The surveys were conducted in mid-2025 and covered about 150 ha. By using drones, we were able to visit sites completely inaccessible to vehicles, many kilometers from the nearest access track and that have never been surveyed for wildlife.



We found that suitable habitat in the Sandy Creek catchment is home to about 1000 greater gliders, almost 2000 ringtail possums and several other tree-dwelling mammal species – koala, mountain brushtail possum, Krefft's/sugar glider and feathertail glider. This result, coupled with knowledge that fuel reduction burns destroy significant numbers of old, hollow-bearing trees suggests that any introduction of fire into that landscape needs to be approached very carefully and needs to be managed in such a way as to minimise the likely impact on hollow-dependent greater gliders.

The Sandy Creek catchment is indeed a very special part of the Strathbogrie Forest – its inaccessibility is its secret weapon!

To learn more about drone thermal camera surveys, detailed results of the survey and some fantastic drone video footage of gliders, visit the [Our Strathbogrie Forest](#) blog.

Bertram Lobert – Save Our Strathbogrie Forest