

February 2013

Delegate Doings



\$1.20
incl. GST

ISSN 1446-6716

Volume 12, issue 2.

BUNDIAN GALLERY OPENING WINS AWARD

At the Australia Day celebrations held in Bombala on Saturday, the Delegate DPA and Eden Land Council were joint recipients of the Community Event of the Year Award.

The award was given for the Bundian Way Art Gallery Official Opening held on Saturday 1st December 2012.

In the citation read by Mayor Bob Stewart, the collaboration between the Eden Lands Council and the Delegate community was described. The Bundian Way project has provided a unique opportunity for the recognition of a shared history and the building of a shared future. The Bundian Way project has provided the region with a wonderful showcase of the uniqueness of the local landscape, and an opportunity for tourism.

John Blay co-ordinator of the project and BJ Cruse from the Eden Lands Council and members of the Delegate Progress Association were on hand to receive the awards. BJ Cruse also performed the welcome to country at the beginning of the ceremony.

Other recipients of Australia day awards were Citizen of the Year Jodie Jones for her tireless community work and Junior Citizen of the Year Tim Yelds for his consistent contribution to community projects.

Bombala Council is to be congratulated on the visionary nature of this award on a day which marks the beginning of European history in Australia. The award to the Bundian Way Gallery gives recognition to the significance of our indigenous history. (Mayor's citation on page 11)

Left: Tim Yelds, Bob Stewart, Jodie Jones, Australia Day Ambassador, Brad Farmer, John Blay and Bill Guthrie.



Next Issue: 8th March then: 5th April and: 3rd May

Inside this issue:

Water restriction	4
Bennett / Johnson Wedding	7
WW2 art Display	9
School news	10
Country Club News	12
Here and there	13
Looking Back	14

Dates for your Calendar

- 3rd. February—Meeting Cross Border Arts Network
Bundian Way Gallery
- 16th February— Exhibition paintings Bombala RSL
- 26th February Cobb oven full moon dinner
- 2nd March—Delegate Show
- 29th March—Duck race Bill Jeffries Park

Delegate 105th Annual Show Saturday 2nd March

Horse events, cattle and sheep judging, pavilion, Barnyard Nursery, sheep colouring competition, billy boiling competition, Basketball shootout, guess the weight of the bull, children's novelty events, Poetry competition, Dog jumping competition and Fire Twirling display.

Entries in the pavilion need to be at the pavilion before 10am Friday and **photography MUST** be there by 7pm Thursday night.

Pavilion will be open on Thursday from 10am for entries to be delivered.

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

A Pastor goes to the dentist for a set of false teeth. The first Sunday after he gets his new teeth, he talks for only eight minutes. The second Sunday he talks for only 10 minutes. The following Sunday, he talks for two hours and 48 minutes.

The congregation has to mob him to get him down from the pulpit, and they ask him what happened.

The Pastor explains the first Sunday his gums hurt so badly he couldn't talk for more than eight minutes. The second Sunday his gums hurt too much for him to talk more than ten minutes. But on the third Sunday he put his wife's false teeth in by accident and suddenly he couldn't shut up.

- - - - -

"Always go to other peoples funerals, otherwise they won't go to yours." (Yogi Berra.)

BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

Sponsored by Delegate Progress
Association

Entries close 18th February
as poems have to be judged prior to the
show.

Excellent prize money for 1st place, 2nd place
and Highly Commended.

Due to lack of entries in the Junior section,
this year there will be an open section only.

Pick up entry forms from RT/CT Centre

NOT JUST A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Doug Callaway's return to Delegate to celebrate his 60th birthday proved to be a reunion for many Delegate families. A very large crowd gathered at the Delegate Hotel, and there were greetings all round between families and friends who had returned for the occasion. Doug's five brothers, Kevin, John, Ray, Dennis and Flynn were all there, but another brother Jim was not able to attend. People came from all over, including Darwin, Brisbane, Perth, Sydney, Newcastle, Melbourne, Gundagai, Cooma and all around the local region. Six of those present had all started at the Delegate Public School on the same day in 1959. There were High School mates, football mates, and lots of relatives and friends, some who hadn't seen each other for nearly 40 years. All agreed it was a wonderfully happy occasion, and a great idea on Doug's part. There was plenty of delicious nibbles on offer, and later the popular Poddy Dodgers band kept the music going until the early hours.

Doug thanked all who had attended, and said that although it was many years since he had left Delegate, he would always consider it home. He went on to say that as children they did not have a lot of material things but were taught respect for others, something which is often lacking today. Above: Neil Armstrong with some of the Callaway Clan, Peter and son Shannon Flynn, John, and Doug's son Clinton.

Seated: Neil and the birthday boy Doug.

Some old school mates and friends got together, L. to R. Neil Armstrong, Ken (Spud) Ingram, Doug Callaway, Jennifer Collins, Carl Cotton, John Roberts, Paul Tarlinton.



WATER RESTRICTIONS

DELEGATE WATER SUPPLY

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, customers of the Delegate Water Supply Scheme are advised that the following **Level 1** Water Restrictions will be in force **from 23 January 2013**.

Level	Uses Allowed	Daylight Savings Time	
		Start	End
1	Hand held hoses, buckets, watering cans	6:00pm	9:00am
	Fixed hoses and sprinklers	6:00pm	8:00pm
		7:00am	9:00am
	In ground irrigation systems without timer	6:00pm	7:00pm
	In ground irrigation systems with timer (Maximum of 1 hour per period)	6:00pm	8:00am
	Washing of Motor Vehicles	No Restrictions	
	Washing of paved and sealed surfaces	6:00pm	8:00pm
		7:00am	10:00am

There have been several occasions this Summer where the excessive demand for water has exceeded the supply capacity of the Delegate water supply scheme. The restriction will continue through until the end of Daylight savings time.

A penalty of \$220 applies for non-observance of Water Restrictions.

If there are any questions, please contact Council on 02 6458 3555.

Donald C Cottee

Donald C Cottee

GENERAL MANAGER



Above L. Wayne and Jackie, R. Two of the paintings on show.

Below: Jacqui unveils the painting of WW1 digger the late Jack Armstrong, which they presented to Sandra O'Hagan, who made an emotional response when thanking them for their wonderful gift.

(Article page 9)

Delegate Café

64 Bombala St Delegate

DINE IN - TAKE AWAY

OPEN 7 DAYS

**From 9:00am Weekdays -
10.30am Weekends and Public Holidays**

Fruit & Veg - Groceries

Video Hire - Eftpos

Tel (02) 6458 8171

Pizza available most Friday & Saturday Nights

A new service available - Repairs on scratched CD/DVD discs

DELEGATE HOTEL

Your host: Graeme Payten

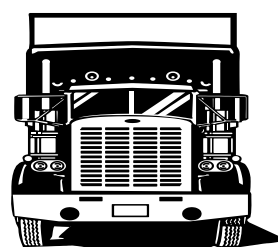
**Accommodation
Counter Lunches**



**Sky Channel & Pub Tab,
ATM and Eftpos**

Ph: 6458 8091

TALBOT TRANSPORT



LIVESTOCK & GENERAL

1 Hensleigh Street, DELEGATE 2633

Mobile: 0418 516 076

Phone: (02) 6458 8085

Fax: (02) 6458 8055

DELEGATE FRUIT BARN

Alana's

43 Bombala St., Delegate.

Open 7 days

From 7.30am till 6pm week days

Saturday— 9am till 1pm

Sunday—9am till 1 pm.

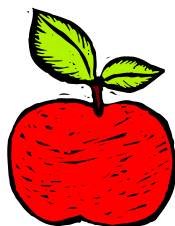
Public Holidays 9am till 1pm

Specialising in:

- Personal service.
- Fresh Fruit & Vegetables
- Groceries and Frozen Food
- Confectionery and Ice Creams

Eftpos

Phone (02) 64588051



VISIONS OF MONARO

The Bombala Hospital Auxiliary Committee is hosting an art show, sale and auction at the RSL, Bombala on Saturday 16th February featuring landscape paintings by well known artist, the late Douglas Pratt, who painted a number of Monaro scenes as well as cityscapes. His paintings appeared in the Art Gallery of NSW.

Artists and photographers are invited to submit paintings, photographs or sculptures depicting the local area for show, sale or auction. There will be wine tasting and nibbles between 5.30 and 8.30pm, and admission is \$10.00. Commission of 10% from sales will go to the Bombala Hospital auxiliary who will use it to improve the palliative care garden, providing wheelchair access for clients and their families.



KAREN CASH RETIRES FROM SEAC COMMITTEE.

A get together was held at the Heritage Restaurant Bombala recently, to show appreciation to Karen Cash for her years of service on South East Arts Council, . New Chairperson of the Council Lindy Hume from Cobargo, spoke in appreciation of Karen's services to SEAC and to the local region where she was strongly involved in bringing Art to the Bombala Council area. Former President of the SEAC Committee Kathryn Hackney from Cooma, also complimented Karen on her dedication and hard work, and wished her well in future endeavours.

Other speakers, were Mayor Bob Stewart and Andrew Gray from SEAC who thanked Karen for the work she had done, and presented her with two framed photographs of local scenes by Sally-Anne. Guests also included representatives from Council and the Delegate Progress Association.



LANDMARK

an AWB company

Delegate
Tel: 6458 8004

a.h. - Justin Lewis
Ph: 6458 8106
Mobile 0429 991 240

Livestock
Merchandise
Insurance - Wool
Finance - Fertilizer

*Delegate
Hair Boutique*



Open
All Day Fridays
Delegate School
of Arts
Call in on the day
or telephone
6458 7240
For an appointment

**PLUS For all
Your Floral
Arrangements**
weddings,
Birthdays,
Anniversaries,
Wreaths and
Private
Functions

**Phone Pam
on 6458 7240**



Bennett - Johnson Wedding

On the 23rd of December 2012 Samuel James Arthur Bennett, eldest child of Bradley and Jeanette Bennett, formally of Delegate, married Temika Lee Johnson of New Norfolk. Bianca Hall was matron of honour (eldest sister) and Danielle Shields, Abbey Johnson, (youngest sister), Danielle Bennett (Samual's sister), Makayla Walsh were bridesmaids. Flower girls were, Ellen Bennett (youngest sister), Lorriane Taylor and Lily-Rose Bennett (daughter of Samual and Temika) 20 months of age. Best man was long time mate, Charles Monteith. Groomsmen were Luke Slater, James Lethborg, Will Maarsebeen, Patrick Johnson (brother). Wedding photos were taken by Veronica Youd of New Norfolk. Brad's father Barry and sister Kerrie Bennett came down for this special occasion. Unfortunately Norm and Audrey Armstrong (Sam's Nanny and Poppy) could not make it. Samual has joined the Australian Army and during training, the Christmas break seemed to be the ideal time to tie the knot. They have been engaged for 3.5 years. An enjoyable day was had by all.

Right: Samual, Temika and
Daughter Lily-Rose

Supplied by Jeanette Bennett.



Below: Another birthday/reunion photo:

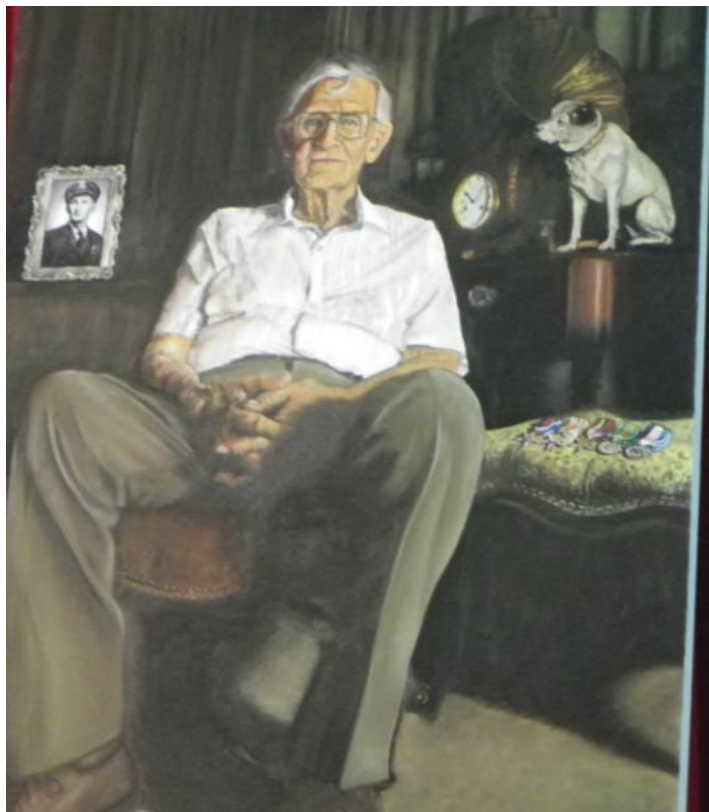
L. to R. Ray Callaway, Neil Armstrong, Brian (Keg) Guthrie, Carl (Crunchy) Cotton, Colin Ryan, Glen Callaway, Ken Ingram. Front: Max (Cracker) Clear.



MORE AFRICAN PHOTOS FROM DAVID AND RACHEL BUTTERWORTH



WORLD WAR 2 ART ON DISPLAY



Some examples of the excellent paintings by Wayne Dowsent which were on show at the School of Arts on the long week-end.

Wayne is an artist who is passionate about portraying WW2 Veterans and telling their stories. So far he has completed 12, and plans to keep going while ever there are returned men and women willing to tell their stories.

Wayne came to Delegate with his wife Jacqui at the invitation of Sandra O'Hagan who had been in contact with him after seeing his web page. While in Delegate they stayed with Sandra and husband Terry, and on Friday evening to Sandra's delight and surprise presented her with a painting of her grand uncle Jack Armstrong who had been killed in Belgium during WW1. While in Delegate they interviewed, took photos and videos of Sandra's father Curly (aged 97) and Keith Bent (aged 89). They will return to Delegate again when these two projects are completed and their work will once again be on display at the School of Arts. Whilst chatting to visitors they also found more WW2 contacts, one being Russel Buckman's father who was in the RAAF 450 Squadron, and part of the Australian contingent who were honoured in London last year. Also another local John Horton, who was in the Occupation Force in Japan after peace was declared. *(More photos page 4)*

LANDMARK UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Following the sale by Phil Cottrell of the Landmark Franchise back to Landmark Operations, it is business as usual in Delegate and Bombala. Ian Sellers who manages the Delegate branch says they will now have a large support network, both in agronomy and livestock.

DELEGATE SCHOOL NEWS



Below: New children this year are Logan Evlan in year 5 and Zane Oldis who are brothers.

Above: The new Kindergarten class for 2013 is Zane Oldis, Georgie Dunn, Lachlan Reed and Cooper Kidd.



LOCAL WRITERS GROUP

The local writers' group had their first get-together for the New Year on Monday 28th January.

They met at the home of Nancy Northrop and her partner Gert Blaaw at Merriangah. It is such an interesting place, being two storey and built from local stone and recycled materials. Since Kathy Kituai's workshop, most were inspired to write a story or poem, which they each read out. Plans are afoot for a Writers Festival in April and more details will appear in future editions of the Doings and the Bombala Times.

MAYORAL CITATION
THE BUNDIAN WAY ART GALLERY OFFICIAL OPENING
COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR, 2013

On Saturday 1st December 2012, the Bundian Way Art Gallery was officially opened. This marked the culmination of a year's effort to transform the old bank rooms in the Delegate RTC/CTC building into a world class indigenous art gallery. This work was made possible by a Community Futures Grant from the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW.

The event was attended by members of the Eden Local Aboriginal Lands Council, with BJ Cruse giving the Welcome to Country, speeches from John Blay, Bundian Way Project Co-ordinator and author Mark McKenna, and a presentation of a plaque to the Delegate Progress Association by Jocellin Jansson from RAS who was presented with a bouquet of flowers by a local koori girl.

After the official opening, people were able to wander through both the Bundian Way Art gallery and the Borderline Gallery. Guests were served wine and canapés. Many of the indigenous artists' paintings were sold on the day. The day was a truly inspirational event for the following reasons

- This event represented a unique collaborative effort by the Delegate community, the Eden Local Aboriginal Lands Council, Bombala Council and local artists.
- The event was widely advertised and provided a far reaching showcase for Delegate and district.
- The event was a wonderful affirmation of the power of culture and art to transcend differences between urban and rural, Indigenous and European.
- The event has already resulted in an increase in visitors to the Art galleries.
- The opening was performed by an eminent author/historian Mark McKenna with a powerful statement about the importance of a shared history and a shared future made possible through the Bundian Way pathway.
- The opening was attended by a wide variety of people, locals and visitors all of whom were very impressed by the quality of the venue and the artworks.
- The event marked a significant first as the Bundian Way Art Gallery is the first designated Aboriginal Art gallery in the South- East Region. The artists exhibited offer a unique South-East perspective to an otherwise North-ern dominated art field.
- The event cemented the significance of Delegate as the mid-way point on the Bundian Way and represents a significant step in the development of this heritage trail.
- The RAS representative at the opening was delighted with the results of their grant and said that this project and the opening was a perfect example of what the RAS was hoping to achieve in Rural NSW.

The day really showcased the community spirit and co-operation that is within the Delegate district. The gallery provides an exceptional tourist attraction for the area, one that will continue to give rewards for many years to come. I congratulate the Delegate Progress Association, Eden Local Aboriginal Lands Council and all those involved with the setting up of the gallery and on receiving the Community Event of the Year Award for 2013.

Mayor Robert J Stewart - Bombala Council - 26 January 2013

Below: Brad Farmer, Bob Stewart, John Blay, Robin and Bill Guthrie, Penny and John Judge and BJ Cruise.



NEWS FROM THE DELEGATE COUNTRY CLUB.

Due to the tight trading circumstances we all face, the Committee was forced to increase fees and dues for the 2013 year to keep the Club running. While we know that it is never a popular thing to see prices go up, the Committee are very aware of an increasing number of Registered Clubs in NSW either in the receivers' hands or seeking amalgamation with other Clubs in an effort to stay afloat.

It is only through the massive volunteer effort given to us that we are still able to open. The Committee thanks all the volunteers who have given their time and effort during the year.

We are always looking for an extra volunteer or two to help take the load of the current "staff". Training in responsible Serving of Alcohol can be provided. Come down to the Club and see how you can help keep us going by donating a few hours each month.

Golfers are now being asked to bear some small portion of the approximately \$10,000 it costs each year to keep the Links in playable condition. It is a modest contribution but will help.

Functions and bar sales continue to be major revenue sources.

The "Kids' Room" project is nearing completion. X Box 360 and PS 3 games units together with 2 TV sets have been purchased thanks to a Grant, and painting and equipping the room will shortly be completed.

Entertainment will be coming shortly as we are negotiating with artists to come to the Club over the next 12 months.

The Joker Draw on a Friday night will be back shortly. More details will follow.

We are trying to find a sponsor for the Club dart team before the season commences.

Friday night meals continue to be popular and our new cook Shirley Powell will be providing a varied menu.

During the coming Football season the Club will organise snacks and other services and invites all footy fans to come to the Club on a Saturday and Sunday afternoon to watch games in comfort and have light snacks available. Together with the facility of the kids room we are sure it will make for an enjoyable afternoon.

The Committee invites all local and visiting people to enjoy the Clubs amenities.

Bill Bateman

President.



HERE & THERE

The death occurred on 11th January at the Delegate MPS, following a long illness, of Madge Crotty a lifetime resident of Delegate. A large number attended the funeral service at St. Joseph's Church, Delegate, following which interment took place at the Delegate Cemetery. Madge is survived by husband John (Scrub) one daughter Vicki, and three sons, Chris, Carl and Greg, eight grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Sympathy is extended to all.

The funeral service took place in Delegate on Friday 18th January of former resident Mrs. Mary Demmery. Mary moved to Corrowong after the War with her husband Tony when he took up a soldier settlers' block in that area. The past few years she had resided in Melbourne with her daughter. She is survived by two sons and one daughter, and sympathy is extended to all.

Hot dry winds have burnt off the countryside, and residents live in dread of a fire starting. However as we write this we can report there was a nice fall of rain overnight, however there is a lot of summer left yet, so we can't breathe easy for a while.



Happy birthday to Laiken Clear, Michael Lewis, Georgia Reed, Natasha Raines, and all others who celebrate a birthday in January. February birthdays are Sam Buckman, Jaidyn Clear, Flynn Callaway, Cathy Smith, Penny Judge and Max Smallman. Max and Gail also celebrate their 10 years wedding anniversary.



The Bundian Way Gallery has had a stream of visitors since it's opening on 1st December and many compliments have been received regarding the whole set up of the two galleries. Former tech art teacher at Bombala, Sylvia Wall visited with friends, and was lavish in her praise, saying Delegate can be justly proud.

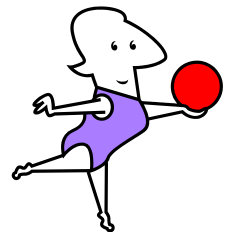
Those of you who enjoyed the Irish Concert in the School of Arts two years ago, will be sad to learn of the passing of singer/entertainer Jimmy Moore. He and Maria Forde loved their stay in Delegate and Jimmy always declared that he would return and do another concert, but unfortunately his health declined and he was unable to fulfil that wish.

Sympathy also to Terry O'Hagan on the loss of his brother who died in Ireland recently.

The Delegate Show on Saturday 2nd March is the next big calendar item with the usual events and displays. Let us hope that flowers and vegetables survive the long dry spell. Jams will be in short supply as following a late frost there was very little fruit left in the district.



Participants in the exercise classes by Gordon Budd, are disappointed to learn that he will not be continuing the classes this year due to other commitments. Gordon had quite a following in Delegate and Bombala, and the ladies will need to keep motivated to carry on the good work.



Congratulations to Jodie Jones on receiving the 2013 Citizen of the Year Award for the Bombala Council area. Jodie is a deserving recipient of the award, being involved in many good works.



The district was saddened to hear of the passing of Ken Standen on Thursday 31st January. Sympathy is extended to his family

LOOKING BACK

Below: An old photo of Bendoc, we do not have a date, but the vehicles look like an early vintage.



The opening of the red Granite Monument to servicemen of both WW1 and WW2 in Delegate.



The late Tony Garnock who headed the project holding the microphone, with the late Bill Keys then RSL National President, and State and Federal representatives Russel Smith and Jim Snow to their left.

Community Information

EMERGENCY / AMBULANCE: 000

FIRE: 000

POLICE

Delegate: 6458 8044

Bombala : 64583444

Cooma: 6452 0099

Bendoc: 6458 1523

HOSPITAL: 6459 8000

DOCTOR: 64951369

CHURCHES

Catholic: Father Paul Hothnance PP 64522062
Sister Teresa Keane: 6458 3045

Services: Delegate Saturday 6:00pm
Liturgy of the word and Holy Communion
Bombala Sunday 9:00am
Liturgy of the word and Holy Communion

Anglican: Rev. Denise Channon 64583018
64957040

Services: Rev Judy Holdsworth—64583513
5pm every Saturday.

St. Andrews Community Church—
To be Advised

COMMUNITY HEALTH (3 days per week)

Generalist Community Nurse –Monday, Thursday, Friday

Wellness Clinic—Monday and Thursday 0900-10.30

Pathology—Wednesdays 0930-1-3- hours

Immunisation Clinic—Fourth Thursday from 1100hours.

Podiatry Clinic

Victorian Visits Tuesdays

Call MPS 64598000

Healthdirect and GP helpline 1800022222

MONARO FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

Bombala Office: 6458 4888

open Tues to Thurs - 9:00am to 5:00pm

COUNCIL CHAMBERS: 6458 3555

DELEGATE PRE-SCHOOL: 6458 8196

DELEGATE PUBLIC SCHOOL: 6458 8183

DELEGATE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

RTCT Centre - 6458 8388— DPAoffice@bigpond.com.au

Newspaper: delegateprogress@exemail.com.au

NRMA/RACV: Jack Stewart: 64588047

TUBBUT ACCESS CENTRE: 6458 0295

Delegate Progress Association Inc.

66A Bombala Street

DELEGATE NSW 2633

PH 6458 8388 Fax 64588 374

E-mail dpaoffice@bigpond.com

delegateprogress@exemail.com.au

(for paper)

‘Delegate Doings’ Subscription:

\$26.50 by post (\$50.00 overseas)

Email \$14.20.

Cash or Cheque payable to

The Delegate Progress Association Inc

Amount \$ _____

Name

Address or email:

The Delegate Doings is published by the Delegate Progress Association. We welcome information about meetings and reports on functions and other activities of local people and organisations, factual historical articles and poetry etc. We do not publish letters to the editor. The publisher accepts no responsibility for any advertisement, or articles. Any advertisement or article is published at the risk of the contributor, who accepts liability for any intended publication. All such contributors agree to indemnify the publisher and warrant that the material is accurate and is neither deceptive or misleading, in breach of copyright, defamatory, or in breach of any other laws and regulations.

ADVERTISING IN THE “DELEGATE DOINGS”

Spot Ad:	1	6	11
\$5 cash—\$7.50 a/c	Issue	Issues	Issues
1/4 Page	\$17.50	\$87.50	\$157.50
1/2 Page	\$35.00	\$175.00	\$315.00
Full Page	\$70.00	\$350.00	\$630.00
Back Page	\$80.00		
Full Page Insert	\$90.00		

Colour advertising: prices on application

FEBRUARY GARDENING (By Susan Tocchini)

Although the recent rain has eased conditions the extreme heat experienced in January has caused patchy damage in local gardens. Some plants have defoliated, some evergreens have ceased growth, some species have run up to seed prematurely and some plants have succumbed completely. We are often surprised that supplying copious water does not reverse plant stress. This is because we have intervened only after damage has become apparent to us. The changes in physiology that has allowed the plant to embark on its survival strategy (that we see as damage) have been set in train days earlier and are largely irreversible.

How should we intervene? Once again there is no all-encompassing rule that can be applied to all types of plants— different strategies are needed based on precise knowledge of each plant species. In addition a good guess is required as to what the weather is going to do next because when you take on the responsibility of interrupting the plant's survival strategy you need to carry it forward until the crisis is over. That may mean that the extra care supplied to a favoured plant may stretch from an anticipated few days to many months. The one generalisation that is safe to follow is not to tidy away dead material. Dead leaves adhering to the plant shade vulnerable stems and dormant buds and they even continue to give a degree of protection to the understorey plants that ordinarily require lower light conditions. Where there are fallen leaves seed and soil organisms continue to gain some protection from extreme heat and in due course enjoy enhanced moisture conditions aiding germination.

Let's examine a few cases. In Delegate gardens ornamental Northern Hemisphere plants are favoured based on the cool climate growing conditions that to date have been our norm. Such plants generally have big thin leaves designed to maximise the capture of weak sunlight. These leaves rapidly overheat because they do not have the automatic shutdown mechanisms routinely found in plants from harsher environments. In addition these 'broad leaves' are not thick and substantial like the leaves of plants originating from areas with high sunlight and it takes less heat for them to reach boiling point. Therefore big thin leaves are more likely to suffer sunburn e.g. snowball tree. Their strategy is to wilt early in the day in order to concentrate their fluids to avoid water boiling within the cells. Ultimately the point of no return is reached (permanent wilting point). It is critical to supply water before this but never onto the leaves directly – water the roots only. If there is no response overnight then either permanent leaf tissue or root damage has already occurred. Any residual hope for the plant lies in dormant buds surviving until better times or even into the next growing season.

Many big trees such as Eucalypts and Pears have dropped their leaves in response to the dry soil conditions deep in the soil horizon where their main root activity occurs. This ploy is a last ditch effort to conserve moisture for the woody parts and regrowth buds. The fallen leaves blanket the soil giving further heat protection to the roots and the ground litter also serves to absorb light rain protecting the plant from receiving weak moisture signals to break out shoots prematurely. In the garden there is a risk that in watering other shallow rooted plants in the vicinity gives sufficient signal for the tree's buds to shoot. In the absence of a deep watering these reserve shoots will die leaving the tree without any means of producing leaves in the future. In this instance a decision needs to be made to favour the tree or the more easily replaceable shrubs i.e. a single good deep watering to maintain the tree or several shallower watering to maintain the shrubs risking the tree.

Many annuals have bolted in an attempt to ensure a new generation by quickly making seed in the few flowers they have had. This is disappointing for the summer display but has no permanent consequence. Grass will survive very well if it is not mown to dirt level and will respond virtually overnight to even light rain. It is probably environmentally irresponsible to maintain a green lawn when extreme conditions prevail.

Finally we may need to completely rethink our plant choices. We may not be able to continue to grow so readily those plants such as rhododendrons that are the backbone of cool climate gardens. Long lived plants are like people – they can only endure a limited number of setbacks in their life particularly if the frequency increases. Unfortunately changes in atmospheric physics have been set in train that are now irreversible. This means that it is inevitable that the future will be one of increasing extremes of temperature and moisture availability – indeed a challenging time ahead for gardeners as well as nature as a whole.