

June 2013

Delegate Doings

**Delegate Progress
Association**



\$1.20
incl. GST

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Volume 12, issue 6.

HILDA RIX NICHOL'S EXHIBITION NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

Paris to Monaro Pleasures from the studio of Hilda Rix Nicholas.

On Thursday 30th May this exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery was officially opened. After introductions and acknowledgements of the Wright family, in particular Bronwyn Wright, granddaughter of the artist and custodian of the Hilda Rix Nicholas studio, Louise Doyle the director of the Portrait Gallery invited Robyn Archer AO to open the exhibition. Ms Archer emphasised the significance of this exhibition in this centenary year for the National Capital Canberra.

The accolades and thankyou's completed, the large crowd, which included several people from the Bombala/Delegate district, was invited to view the exhibition. And what a feast for the senses it was!

Roaming through the four distinct galleries the colourful personality of Hilda was presented through an eclectic collection of paintings, sketches, letters, whimsical costumes, puppets, artefacts from around the world and furniture from her beloved studio.

The portraits of her family and local people and the placing of these people in the achingly familiar landscape of the Monaro, juxtaposed with small personal items from her studio give the visitor to the exhibition a sense of being invited into Hilda's very special world. Her world reached from rural Victoria to Paris, to the horrors of World War I and back to the peace of the Monaro. Through her wonderful creativity we can share all of her experiences.

The curator of this exhibition, Sarah Engledow is to be congratulated on creating a fabulous multifaceted portrait of Hilda Rix Nicholas.

The familiarity of the landscapes and characters presented make this a must see exhibition for the local Bombala/Delegate people.

The exhibition will be at the National Portrait Gallery until August 2013.

THE BIGGEST MORNING TEA



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Dates for your Calendar

- 8th June—Jonathon Glonex—Violinist School of Arts
- 13th June—RFS AGM
- 18th June—Snowy River March Meeting
- 21st June—Macbeth at Bonang Hall
- 25th June—DPA Meeting
- 26th June Workshop School of Arts
re Historical Records
- 14th July—Friends of Errinundra AGM

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Billy stops Paddy in Dublin and asks for the quickest way to Cork.

Paddy says “Are you on foot or in the car?”

Billy says “In the car.”

Paddy says, “That’s the quickest way”

Paddy and Mick are walking down the road and Paddy’s got a bag of doughnuts in his hand. Paddy says to Mick “If you can guess how many doughnuts are in my bag, you can have them both.”

FRIENDS OF ERRINUNDRA

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 14th July, 2013,

2.30pm Bonang Hall

All welcome

Delegate Rural Fire Service

AGM

Thursday 13th June

7pm at the fire station

YVONNE RICHARDSON

22-12-38 to 15-6-07

In our hearts and thoughts everyday

Missed by your loving families

David, Darrren, Megan and families

PAGANINI

THE 24 CAPRICES FOR VIOLIN

Saturday June 8th – 2.00pm

Delegate School of Arts

**Performed by Jonathon Glonek,
Violinist**

Rarely performed these spellbinding
pieces are the most difficult ever written
for the violin.

Bookings: Phone Doreen Standen –
64588937, Sandra O’Hagan 64588028.
Afternoon tea, tickets available at the
door. \$15.00, Pensioners \$10.00

INAUGURAL MEETING SNOWY RIVER MARCH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

A well attended meeting at the RT/CT Centre discussed proposed celebrations to mark the centenary of the Men From Snowy River March in 2016.

- The meeting resolved that Delegate would hold a similar re-enactment to that which took place in the town in 2006, and that a date be claimed for January 2016. This will replicate what took place in the town on the morning of the historic march which commenced in Delegate in 1916.
- Enquiries to be made regarding the entirely separate proposed march re-enactments to take place in November 2015, on the centenary of the famous Cooee March. There were nine recruitment marches which took place throughout NSW on different dates in 1915/16. Plans were discussed in Sydney recently about the logistics for the re-enactment of all of these marches taking place at the same time, arriving in Sydney together for the 100 year celebrations.

How different is the landscape today, to when those 13 men left Delegate, stopping at towns and hamlets along the way, before arriving at Goulburn 142 strong. The road in those days would have followed the old railway tracks, and motorised vehicles would have been few in number.

We hope to have further information regarding this proposal before the next meeting on **18th June at the RTC Centre at 7 pm to which all interested people are invited to attend**



OSWALD BRIERLY EXHIBITION

An exhibition of paintings by Oswald Walters Brierly (1817-1894), will shortly be opening in the Bundian Way Gallery. Brierly was the son of an amateur painter who struck up a friendship with Ben Boyd in London, who invited him to join him in the voyage of his yacht, Wanderer, to Australia arriving in Sydney Harbour during July 1842. By mid December they were anchored in Twofold Bay, where

Brierly was to be manager of Boyd's pastoral and whaling business. Almost immediately on landing he displayed a rapport with the Aboriginal people. He formed a deep friendship with Budginbro, also called "Toby", who showed him the old pathways to the Monaro. Some of these ways were surveyed and later became roads. He painted a watercolour of Twofold Bay, the year before he left, and although he went on to fame and knighthood, his later paintings were never as personal as the scene he captured as a thirty year old at Bilgalera. After departing in 1848, he travelled extensively and became close to the royal family, mostly painting ships. In 1874 he was made marine painter to Queen Victoria and to the Royal Yacht Squadron.

R: Photos of his works, appearing in the Gallery, courtesy Mitchell Library State Library of NSW.



CABANANDRA CAMP DRAFT PHOTOS

The following photos by Jenny Soloman received too late for out last “Doings” show the cattle crossing the Snowy River, and some of the competitors at this popular event.



FEED BACK FROM OUR POEM NIMBLE NEVILLE

We received a phone call from Philip Reed, who remembers his Dad, Charlie, telling him about the incident, which he said took place at Cecil Casey's house. Neville did actually receive a hit with a frozen leg of lamb after an altercation with the late Charlie Guthrie, referred to in the poem as "Rab". Philip says the author of the poem was the late Neville Shorrock, the author of many such humorous poems. The incident Philip thinks happened in the late 60's.

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Your host: Graeme Payten

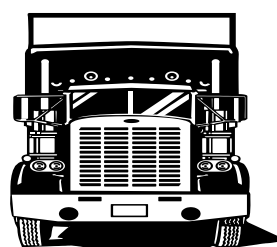
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Open 7 days

From 7.30am till 6pm week days

Saturday— 9am till 1pm

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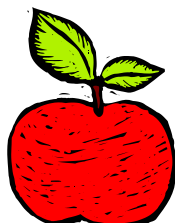
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Eftpos

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Food

BOMBALA COUNCIL

The Council's Draft Community Strategic plan 2013/2023 is available for public exhibition at the Delegate RT/CT Centre. It has been available for perusal since the 22nd. May, 2013, and the closing date for submissions is the 19th. June, 2013.

The following ad recently appeared in an English Newspaper.

FOR SALE

Complete set of Encyclopaedias

No longer required

wife knows everything.

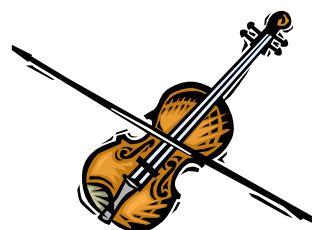
JONATHON GLONEK VIOLINIST

Delegate folk are indeed fortunate to be able to see a performance at the Delegate School of Arts by internationally known violinist Jonathon Glonek.

Jonathon commenced studies in South Australia at an early age with Latvian violinist Alita Larsens and Professor Ronald Woodcock, and first toured internationally at the age of 12. He has since developed as a gifted violinist and performing artist. He has presented many challenging and serious programs in solo performances throughout Europe and USA.

As a performer Jonathon Glonek enjoys an unusually broad and flexible repertoire. He is recognised for his intense personal style in presenting dramatic and impactful accounts of these works. In the course of his performances he has attracted strong critical acclaim for live performances across the range of this repertoire from J.S. Bach, classical sonatas, the romantic virtuoso medium and 20th century works.

He has also worked extensively organising and promoting serious classical repertoire to novice audiences in the belief that this can be accessed as a valuable experience by any person. In particular he has been strongly committed to bringing his performance to communities who would not normally have the opportunity.



LANDMARK

an AWB company

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Tel: 6458 8004

a.h. - Justin Lewis
Ph: 6458 8106
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Finance - Fertilizer

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Anniversaries,
Wreaths and
Private
Functions

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on 6458 7240



MARILYN'S SURPRISE 60TH BIRTHDAY

Apparently Marilyn had an inkling that something was in the wind when she arrived at the Delegate Hotel on Saturday 25th March for a family dinner. What would certainly have been a very pleasant surprise was the presence of brother Carl (Crunchy) and wife Barbara, all the way from Darwin for the occasion. Over 30 guests were also there to greet her when she arrived at the dining room, colourfully decorated for the occasion. Daughters, Renee, Devina, Denielle, sons-in-law, Robert, Simon and Trent and 6 grandchildren were of course there for this special occasion, including a very new member of the family, baby Lola, daughter of Denielle and Trent.



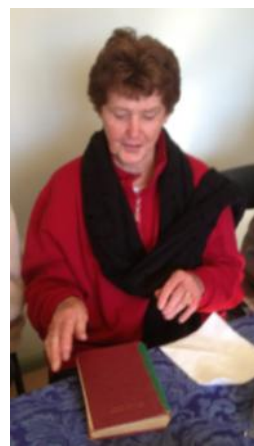
THE TUESDAY CLUB VISIT BENDOC

Members of the Tuesday Club visited Bendoc on May 14th, kindly transported by Sue Guthrie in her bus, which she kindly donated for the occasion. Sharon Buckman also offered her car to take along residents from the MPS, both gestures much appreciated by all. The visit coincided with Bendoc's Biggest Morning Tea, and the Bendoc ladies put on a delicious spread for the visitors. The subject of the day for the Tuesday Club was "Show and Tell, and many interesting items were brought along for display. These included a very old book of poems by Banjo Patterson shown by Joan Jones, a coffee set which Sue Guthrie's grandmother brought with her from England, Sharon Buckman's grandmother's tea set, Gloria Cotterill's parents wedding present of a boxed set of teaspoons.

Enid Stewart showed the group a very old book, some pages of which appear on our Looking Back page. Dorothy Hepburn brought along a moustache mug, and an heirloom family ring.

There was a lucky door prize with winning stickers placed under plates of saucers, and Gloria and Natalie were the lucky finders, receiving a bouquet of yellow chrysanthemums as well as their prizes.

Pictures: Gloria and Natalie with their prizes, and Joan Jones explains how she came by her old poetry book.



A DAY OUT IN CANBERRA

Seventeen people from Bendoc, Delegate and Bombala had a wonderful day out in Canberra on Saturday last. Transport was provided by the Bendoc Neighbourhood House Bus, capably driven by Russel Buckman. Setting out from Delegate at 9am on a cold drizzly morning, did not dampen the enthusiasm of the group. All were keenly looking forward to their visits to the National Museum to see the 1913 exhibition and on to the National Gallery where they had a guided tour of the current exhibition of Hilda Rix Nicholas' paintings "From Paris to Monaro". Fortified by a very good lunch at the Gallery Cafeteria, the group had time to see the Hilda Rix Exhibition and a quick look at some of the other magnificent portraits in the main gallery. Everyone agreed they had a wonderful day, both exhibits exceeding expectations. A detailed description by Penny who was present at the official opening of the Hilda Rix exhibition, is on page 1 of this issue. The 1913 exhibition at the Museum took everyone back to a bygone era, with fashions, cars, bicycles, and paintings, just to mention a few of the items on show. There was a small room for taking photos against a backdrop popular in the early 1900s, and a few took advantage, trying on the hats provided. On arriving home the group gave 3 hearty cheers for our driver Russell.

Below: Denise and Philomena, enjoying heir lunch, Joan seated in the "moon", Alma, Sandra, Natalie and Gloria.



Council Doings from Cr Bill Bateman

The notes under were sent to staff about a fortnight ago as a result of queries or complaints from Delegate residents. As I will be away for some weeks if you see no action over the next month or so I would

recommend you ring Council and ask when action might possibly be taken on your particular issue.

Trees lining the footpaths have branches hanging so low they are a danger to pedestrians. Could they be trimmed please?

Powers Road; As previously requested, could the road be attended to please?

Rocky Range Road is potholed and has been reported as needing “scrubbing” in a couple of sections. Gutters in Craigie Street are so rutted people are having trouble getting in and out of their driveways.

Residents in Hensleigh Street report that the dirt road surface is getting “very ordinary”. It has been reported that Council is (or has been) quoting \$200 to remove car wrecks from the village. With scrap metal prices quite high, companies will remove old vehicles and pay a modest sum to do so. Could this be looked at as a means of removing old car wrecks please?

Water pooling at the corner of Bombala St and Church St. Could a report on the progress to fix this be given. Water drainage about the kindergarten was investigated; it has been a known problem for some time. Could we have a progress report on what is being done to remedy this problem please?

I have had reports from residents at Wallendibby that they have lost tyres due to the poor condition of the road surface.

In general I might make the observation that it would appear that, apart from some major works keeping the unpaved surfaces of the Highway south of Delegate in repair, the local roads seem to be suffering a lack of attention, particularly in the township.

The Delegate water supply problem is being worked on by staff and further information will become available as and when Government departments get back to us with more details on what might be done.

Cr Bill Bateman

THE BIGGEST MORNING TEA AT THE MPS

Another successful morning tea to raise funds for the Cancer Council was held at the Delegate MPS, on Monday May 13th where an amount of \$273.00 was raised. The event was enjoyed by both residents and visitors, and it was great to see pupils from the local school being involved. They not only helped out, but brought along some tasty treats prepared by the school for the day. Congratulations to Lorraine Kading who won the raffle held in conjunction. Lorraine was responsible for co-ordinating the first “Biggest Morning Tea” held in Delegate, and several were held in her home in the following years.

It is great to see that the tradition of holding morning teas to raise funds for the vital work of the Cancer Council is still going strong.



DELEGATE SCHOOL NEWS

BDPSSA ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On the 10th May the students had a very successful day at the carnival which was held at Bombala Primary School. Delegate won the Handicap trophy thanks to the fantastic effort of all our children who competed. We had a record breaker, Jaidyn Clear. He broke the old 1996 record for the 8 Year Old 100m sprint. Well done Jaidyn let's hope the record remains for many years to come.



SMDPSSA ATHLETICS

Ten students represented our school on the 21st May at the next level of competition which was held at Cooma. Bryson, Dylan, Brahnie, Ellery, Faith, Sophie, Russell, Logan, Jaidyn and Fletcher all had a great day with the boys relay team coming 3rd.



JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

On Wednesday the 29th May Delegate School held their Jump Off day. Students participate in a circuit of fundamental movement skills before practicing their skipping skills to a song and presenting it to their peers. Parents and community members were welcome to come and see their skipping presentations that afternoon.

Thank you all for your support and we hope you enjoyed our skipping skills.



Pam Clear and Kevin Callaway Presenting a \$400.00 cheque to Robin Mikula for the Delegate P & C to help out with their Canberra & Melbourne trips from The Delegate Hotel Sunday Sips. So a big thank you to Graeme Payten and Sunday Sippers

The P & C Committee along with the students would like to thank Graeme Payten of the Delegate Hotel for allowing them to hold the meat raffles to raise money for the trip as well. it is very much appreciated.



BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Delegate Public School students enjoy giving back to our community. Recently students from all years participated in cooking for the Biggest Morning Tea held at the Delegate MPS on Monday 13th May.

Student leaders from Year 6 participated in the morning tea by not only cooking but talking with the residents, serving community visitors and resident's morning tea. Students also enjoyed reading to Mrs Mac, a long-time resident of Delegate MPS

Students helped Cynthia Dolan tidy up and take dishes to the Kitchen. The children went on to talk to residents about where they went to school and what they enjoyed about school.

Mrs Heather Scroope, Acting Nursing Unit Manager of Delegate MPS kindly took the students on a tour of the MPS, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Student's would like to thank all the MPS staff and residents for making their contribution to the Biggest Morning Tea an enjoyable experience.



Delegate Multi Purpose Service

Wellness Clinic is held at the MPS, in Craigie Street Delegate. People come to the clinic for procedures and assessment by nursing staff.

The clinic is open

Mon 9am -10.30am Tues 9am – 10am

Thur 9am – 10.30am Fri 9am – 10am

Every week except public holidays.

No Appointments necessary.

A variety of procedures are available.

- Wound care
- Blood pressure readings
- Blood sugar readings
- Non-urgent ECG's
- Suture or clip removal
- Injections – with Dr's written order
- Other procedures that do not require a Dr.

Pathology clinic

Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30 am. No appointment necessary. Closed public holidays.

Other Services

Women's Health Nurse

3rd Wed of the month

Dietician and Diabetes Educator

2nd Thur of the month

Immunisations – 4th Fri of the month

Podiatry – for HACC clients – monthly

Ring the MPS for appointments for the dietician, diabetes, immunisation, podiatry and women's health 6459 8000

Child and Family Health – visits Delegate MPS on a regular basis ring Kirsty on 6458 5777 for an appointment.

Goongerah P-8 School Presents

A night of intrigue and suspense

with their interpretation of

Macbeth

Was he a ruthless ruler who would stop at nothing to establish his reign or was he the pawn of his maniacal and power hungry Queen?

You can decide when you join the Court at Castle Macbeth for a medieval feast.



When: 6:00pm Friday 21st June

Where: Bonang Hall

Please come and join the drama of the Highlands of Scotland. Prizes for best dressed Highlander

Play: Gold coin donation

Dinner: \$15.00 adults School age children \$8.00 Preschoolers Free

Ph 0351540133 or 0264580261 to book for dinner.

This event is a fundraiser for Georgia's Transition trip to Melbourne.

One of Hilda Rix Nichol's paintings on display at the National Portrait Gallery

“ Shepherd of Knockalong”



HERE & THERE

We have a big birthday list for June, and would like to wish the following many happy returns. Trish Guthrie, Phil Pope, Sandra O'Hagan, Wendy Bruce, Evelyn Walker, Tayla Mikula, Carol Graczol, Lakeisha Clear, Joan Jones, Craig Lewis, Angela Bates.



A correction to last month's Anzac report, Keith Bent did not read the poem "Mates", but did a great job of reciting it word for word.

The death occurred at Nowra recently of former Delegate Riverman Charlie Allen. The youngest child in a family of four, his siblings, Thelma, Doug and Cliff all having pre deceased him. Charlie started his career with Stock and Station agents Dalgety at Delegate before moving on to the Bombala Branch, where he later became manager. He moved from Bombala to Yarram Vic. to manage the Dalgety branch there for several years, before moving to Nowra, NSW. He is survived by wife Nola and two sons, and sympathy is extended to all.

Congratulations to Mark and Cathy Reed on their recent wedding. Guests arrived for an engagement party, which turned out to be a wedding. The service in the couple's garden was conducted by Rev. Judy Holdsworth. Guests then adjourned to the Exhibition Hall for the reception.



Local footy is up and running, with the Bluetongue Rugby Union team kicking off their season, after having received two forfeits, and travelled to Broulee to take on last year's champions. Since then results have been more favourable and the team looks forward to a successful season.

The Bluedogs Rugby League team which combines players from Bombala and Pambula/Merimbula, have according to reports been their own worst enemies with mistakes and bombed opportunities. However they scraped a draw with Narooma, and look forward to better things. Some of the district boys playing with the Bluedog Juniors are Harry Sellers, Kurt Lomas.

Lachlan Sellers has been doing very well playing with the Cooma Colts, getting Man of the Match on two occasions.



The Council's Draft Integrated Community Strategic plan for 2013/2023 is on exhibition at the RT/CT Centre until 19th June.

The School of Arts will be the venue for a violin performance of high standard by Jonathon Glonek on Saturday afternoon 8th June.

Mr. Glonek spends most of his time in the Thailand, returning periodically to his property at Bendoc. On a previous visit to the School of Arts, he was so impressed by the setup that he decided he would like to have a performance there with proceeds to go the School of Arts Committee for maintenance and upkeep. (see ad page 2)



On the 27th June, students from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music will be coming to Bombala and playing at St. Joseph's Hall.



Pupils of Tubbut and Goongerah schools are staging a play at the Bonang Hall on Friday 21st. June. It will be an interpretation of Shakespeare's Macbeth.

LOOKING BACK

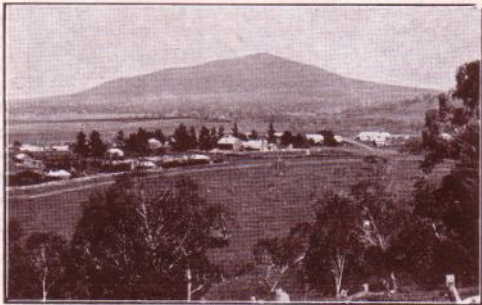
Southern Monaro, N.S.W.

Noted for its large Sheep Stations.
The Land of Sheep, Wool, Cattle, Horses, Grain and Potatoes.

W. STANLEY VOGT, Scenic Artist, Bairnsdale (Vic.)

Delegate.


DELEGATE is situated on a permanently running stream of the same name, 22 miles from Bombala and about 4 miles from the Victorian border. It is an important pastoral district, the chief industry being wool-growing. Of late years particularly sheep-breeders, both large and small, have devoted attention to the improvement of their flocks, and a lot of high-class blood has been introduced. The cattle industry is a large one, the Shorthorn blood predominating, although of late years some Hereford blood



Delegate Township.

[Delegate]

has been introduced. The land is highly suitable for wheat growing, and other cereals do well; also potatoes and other vegetables. The average annual rainfall for the five years ended December, 1919, was over 25 inches. Large stock sales are held periodically. The P. and A. Society holds a show annually in the autumn, and attracts a large attendance of district and outside folk. Nearly 1000 entries were received for the 1920 show. Delegate possesses a School of Arts, with a large concert hall and well-equipped reading room and library, also a billiard room. The Delegate River and streams are stocked with trout, and frequently fish up to 3lb. each and over have been hooked. The football, tennis, cricket, racing, dramatic and musical clubs are all live concerns. Communication with the railway terminus is per medium of motor passenger cars and motor lorries. Merimbula is the seaport.



At the Delegate Show.

For Advertisements see Index.
[Page 56.]

Left: Taken from a very old book kindly loaned to us by Enid Stewart.

We also scanned from a book of similar vintage, at the time in the possession of Charlie Burton.

The books cover is titled "Princes Highway" (Southern Monaro, South Coast and South East Gippsland). and covers towns and settlements from Bairnsdale through to Bombala, as well as coastal towns. We hope to publish more in future issues, as it is very interesting to see what some of the bustling towns of today looked like 100 years ago.

MEMORIES OF LOCAL BULLOCK TEAMS

An interesting piece of history supplied by Beryl Philips has come to our attention. When Beryl read the account in both Bombala Times and Delegate Doings of the dedication of the aboriginal reserve at Delegate, the photo of the McLeod family brought back memories to Beryl of her grandfather Joe Bartley's bullock teams. Arthur McLeod, an aboriginal from the Reserve was employed as a driver of one of the teams. She said she recalls that years later Arthur's son visited the Bartley family at Delegate. Beryl wishes she had known about the McLeod family being here for the dedication, as she would have loved to have talked to them. It is unfortunate that the dedication was not advertised well and many people who would have liked to attend did not know until after the event.

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
Rev Judy Holdsworth—64583513
Services: 11am every Sunday.

St. Andrews Community Church—
To be Advised

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Generalist Community Nurse –Monday, Thursday, Friday

Wellness Clinic—Monday and Thursday 0900-10.30

Tuesday and Friday 9.00—10.00

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— dpaooffice@bigpond.com

Newspaper: delegateprogress@exemail.com.au

NRMA/RACV: Jack Stewart: 64588047

TUBBUT ACCESS CENTRE: 6458 0295

DELEGATE CARAVAN PARK: 64584047

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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

The Mystery of Life by Jean Manning

The thunder of hoofs, the wind rushing by
The reins of control from a shaking hand torn
The shrieking sound on the wind was borne
The blackness, oblivion and nothing more.

Her eyes opened slowly, a glimmer of light
Where was she? Why was she here?
The muted voices, blurred figures in white
The wrenching feeling of fear.

The weeks and months dragged slowly by
Filled with anger, bitterness and despair
The furrowed brow, the tortured eyes
The many, many silent cries.

The twisted limbs, the immobile joints
The lack of all life's pleasures
The agony of mind, the future so dark
The things she loved, all her treasures.

Oh so slowly there came a gentle smile
A light behind those tortured eyes
Of love, acceptance, behest of guile
No room now for tears or sighs.

Ah, at last you've found the mystery of life!

This poem received a Highly Commended from the Judge