

June 2015

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GST

# Delegate Doings



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Volume 14, issue 6.

## Men from Snowy River March Re-enactment

The Men From Snowy River march re-enactment from Delegate to Sydney will leave Delegate on the 1st of November 2015 and arrive in Sydney for Armistice day 11th November 2015. The march will follow as close as possible the original march in January 1916. As we are not allowed to march on any roads with a speed limit over 60 we will be marching through the towns and a few minor country roads only.

If you wish to participate in the march as a marcher or just as a helper along the way please register on the web site [www.themenfromsnowyriver.com.au](http://www.themenfromsnowyriver.com.au), or drop in at the Delegate RTCT Centre and fill in a registration form. Registration is very important for insurance purposes. There will be a limit on marches so please register soon, as descendants of original marches will be given preference. You do not have to commit to the whole 11 days, if you can only commit to one or a couple that is ok.

A meeting was held in Bredbo recently with a representative from each town to start organising town events along the route. Most towns will have a march through town and a ceremony. It is a great opportunity for these towns to run a fundraising event in conjunction with the march.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

F01095.001



Above left: Crossing the bridge into Queanbeyan 1916

Left: meeting at Bredbo.

Next Issue: 3rd July

then: 7th August

and: 4th September

### Inside this issue:

Cabanandra campdraft	4
Delegate campdraft	6
Biggest Morning Tea	8
School news	10
Bright trip	12
Here & there	13
Looking Back	14

### Dates for your Calendar

- 10th June—Amalgamation meeting Bombala RSL
- 12th & 14th June Working B at St Josephs Church
- 14th June—Women's Yam Project
- 18th June—Seniors Bus trip to Berridale
- 23rd June—Curating Workshop

### Reserve these dates

- 1st—11th November Men from Snowy River March Re-enactment Delegate to Sydney
- 29th November St Josephs Church Centenary
- 23rd January 2016 Australia day festival at Delegate
- 24th January Men from Snowy River March Centenary

### LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

A man playing in a band at a wedding was approached by the best man and asked if he would mind keeping an eye on the gift table.

“There are a few people here the newlyweds don’t trust around all that money,” he confided.

“Then why on earth were they invited” the man asked.

The best man looked at him as if he was mad and said,

“They’re family.”

#### School Daze

The answers to school tests reveal why teachers need long holidays.

Q: Use the word baron in a sentence.

A: Mrs Jones is baron and can’t have children

Q: The war of 1812 was between .....

A: 1811 and 1813

Q: What is an index?

A: It’s what you wash windows with.

### Medicare - Part G - Nursing Home Plan

A zero premium, no deductible Long Term Health Care Plan.

Say you are an older senior citizen and can no longer take care of yourself and need Long-Term Care, but the government says there is no Nursing Home care available for you.

So, what do you do? You opt for Medicare Part G.

The plan gives anyone 75 or older a gun (Part G) and one bullet. You are allowed to shoot one worthless politician.

This means you will be sent to prison for the rest of your life where you will receive three meals a day, a roof over your head, central heating and air conditioning, cable TV, a library, and all the health care you need. Need new teeth? No problem. Need glasses? That's great. Need a hearing aid, new hip, knees, kidney, lungs, sex change, or heart? They are all covered!

As an added bonus, your kids can come and visit you at least as often as they do now!

And, who will be paying for all of this? The same government that just told you they can't afford for you to go into a nursing home. And you will get rid of a useless politician while you are at it. And now, because you are a prisoner, you don't have to pay any more income taxes!

Is this a great country or what?

Now that you have solved your senior Long-Term Care problem, enjoy the rest of your week!

## Southern Phone Grant

Delegate Progress Association received \$4057.00 from The Southern Phone Company to obtain and erect 2 seats at the Delegate Cemetery and to construct and erect 2 show cases in

the Delegate Museum to display memorabilia from WWI. Members of the Progress Association would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to Southern Phone. The seats will provide a place for people to rest when visiting the cemetery. The 2 showcases will enhance our museum, which attracts tourism.



## Sydney Conservatorium of Music - Great Southern Tour 2015

CONQUEST XIV – Bombala High School

Thursday 25 June 2015 at 7.30pm

The fourteenth annual tour by students of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music will be in Bombala on Thursday 25 June. The concert, with renowned Australian accompanist: David Miller AM (Piano), this year showcases the talents of Rachel Thompson (Clarinet), Breeanna Moore (Flute), Levi Johnson (French Horn), Liam Webb (Bassoon) and Hamish Spicer (Oboe).

The students will perform chamber music from contemporary composer Ray Pizzi to Handel's Water Music which premiered on 17 July 1717 after King George I had called for a concert on the River Thames. Similarly their solo work stretches from Poulenc to Debussy, Vivaldi and Saint-Saens.

Those who have enjoyed these wonderful performances in the past know that we are in for something special in this, the Centenary year of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Living, breathing music from five of Australia's brightest young talents, a revered accompanist and a fabulous repertoire in the comfort of our own town are not something to be missed!

Adults: \$10, children: cold coin-tickets at the door.

## **CABANANDRA CAMPDRAFT 2015**

Following several days of heavy rain and inclement weather, the Cabanandra Campdraft was run on the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April in perfect conditions (no wind, rain or dust!)

Competition commenced Friday at 1.00 p.m. and both Maiden drafts were completed in good time; Maiden One being taken out by Ben Mooney on Sue Haslingden's horse, Dude. Maiden Two was won by Matt French riding Comic.

An early start Saturday and Brett Rowlandson and horse Donna took out the \$1000 first prize and trophy in the hotly contested "Buff" Rogers Memorial Novice. "Buff" was a long time supporter and cattle donor and made his home and facilities available for the musterers and drovers who each year give of their time and experience to get a large mob of cattle together and guide them down Turnback mountain and cross the Snowy River at McKillops and on to the Campdraft venue at "Deddick Springs".

Local Darcy Walker was victorious in the Encouragement event on Duchess. There was a large line up of Juniors (our future Campdrafters) and Jack Ventry took first place ahead of his cousin, Montanna Chamberlain. A similar line up of Juvenile competitors resulted in Joel Clarke and Riley the 1<sup>st</sup> place getters.

The big event of the day, the Pat Ventry Memorial Open, was very closely contested. Pat's son, Damien, emerged the final winner of the \$1000 first place and trophy.

The highlight of Saturday night was the sprint race on the ploughed arena. Selected contestants were capably auctioned by Harry Larnach, with the proceeds of \$590 going to the Leukaemia Foundation. This being the inaugural event and the brainchild of Johnny McMahon and Blake Thompson, and looks set to becoming a bigger and better annual activity.

Zac Mooney took the line honours from Andrew Sutton, with a 30 year age advantage in a blistering sprint; Lucy Sellers being right amongst them at the post! Although other contestants claimed to have undergone vigorous training regimes (whilst being auctioned), they failed to perform in the field!

Another perfect day Sunday and all events were completed in good time. Our sincere thanks to all who helped in any way to make this years draft a resounding success; with special thanks to cattle donors Frank & Dawn Boulton, Gordon & Sally Moon and Black Mountain Station, and Janine & Chris Cooper and Joanne for their hospitality. Also, a big thank you to Tim Golby, who each year accompanies the drovers with the "chuck wagon" and keeps them supplied with cuppas and meals.

The Camp at the Little River paddock the night before the descent to the Snowy River was something to be remembered this year! The freezing wind and rain cut short the usual camaraderie around the campfire, with hats dripping into plates of chops and roast spuds which Tim had somehow cooked up.

Then it was into floats etc. and swags and dodge the drips for a mostly sleepless night while the rain lashed and the wind roared. At 5am a hurried breakfast and everyone mounts up their cold backed horses in the howling southerly and driving rain to be ready to move the mob on at first light!

When the Snowy was reached it presented with a murky yellow rise and horses floundered over hidden rocks and boots filled with icy water.

After the draft the drovers spent all the following week getting the cattle back and drafted up into their various paddocks, only returning home on Saturday.

We sometimes wonder if Competitors appreciate what goes into running the Cabanandra Drafts, but we'll be back to do it all again next year!

# *Delegate Café*

**64 Bombala St Delegate**

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***ELGAS Distributor***

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## **DELEGATE HOTEL**

*Your host: Graeme Payten*

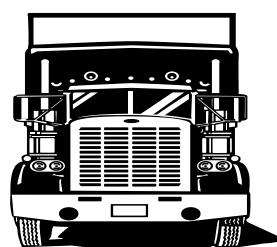
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## ***TALBOT TRANSPORT***



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**Fax: (02) 6458 8055**



# DELEGATE CAMPDRAFT 2015

The Delegate Campdraft Committee held a very successful campdraft on the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March, commencing at 2pm on Friday. There were around 720 entries over the 10 events requiring about 900 cattle for events and finals.

Competition kicked off on Friday arvo with the Encouragement being won by Alex Miles and Magic. The Ladies was next up and Lucy Sellers and Wallaroo Casey took out the honours.

Maiden draft was first up Saturday morning and Graeme Afflick and Nala were winners of Maiden One and local Dave Merritt with Hustler took out first place in the second Maiden.

The Committee drovers were kept busy bringing in cattle and taking them away, along with Norm Talbot and his very generous B Doubles, which he makes available every year.

Once again, a big thank you to Yvonne and Vernon Camm for providing first aid and for contending all weekend with the dust without complaint! We will try and organise the weather more favourably next year.

Veteran draft supporter, Frank Coonan, was present to sponsor the Junior event, won by Carlie French and Likable. Joel Clarke and Riley, together with a complete Braidwood line up, took the honours in the Ron Flanagan sponsored Juvenile draft. There were big entries of future drafters in both these events.

Profits from this annual event are put back into the local Community and the facilities on the ground and can only be brought to fruition by the generosity of the many cattle donors and helpers who work tirelessly to achieve a successful result; our sincere thanks to all concerned.

There were many complimentary remarks on the new amenities block and our thanks must go to the Bombala Council for their help in obtaining this much needed facility for the Community.

## Centenary of St Josephs Church

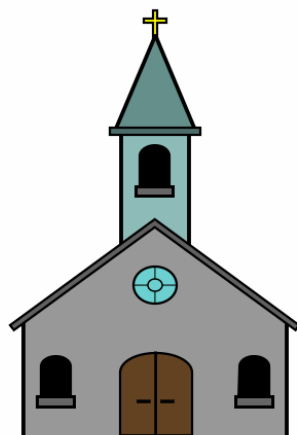
Plans are underway for the Centenary of St Josephs Church Delegate beginning with a wood raffle to raise funds to purchase a plaque to mark this historical occasion.

Organisers are busy gathering history, photographs & memorabilia. If you are able to make a contribution to the Display or assist at the Working B to be held on June 12th & 14th, it would be greatly appreciated: please bring buckets, rags and plenty of energy.

Contact

S Walker 64588089

J Reed 64588228



## Seniors Bus Trip

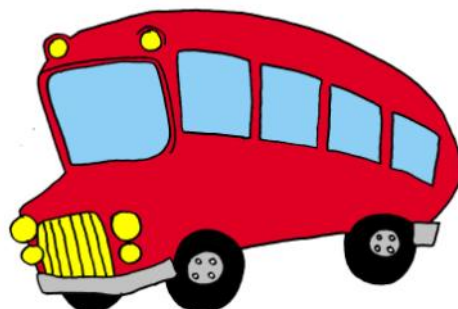
This years seniors bus trip will go to Berridale on the 18th June.

We will stop at Dalgety for morning tea and then on to Berridale for lunch.

A tour of Berridale will include the Berridale Art gallery and a wonder around the shops.

**Bookings are essential.**

Contact RTC 64588388.



# LANDMARK

an AWB company

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a.h. - Justin Lewis  
Ph: 6458 8106  
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## **DRAFT INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING DOCUMENTS** **ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

Council has prepared its Draft Community Strategic Plan 2013/2025, Operational Plan for 2015/16 (including Fees and Charges). Delivery Program for 2013/14 to 2016/17 and Resourcing Strategy, (including Workforce Plan, Asset Management Strategy and Long Term Financial Plan 2015/16 to 2024/25) and now invites comments and submissions from members of the public.

The documents will be placed on public exhibition for a period of twenty eight (28) days from 27 May 2015 and may be viewed at the Council Chambers, Bombala; the Bombala and Cooma Libraries; the Rural Transaction Centre, Delegate; the Cathcart General Store and on Council's website [www.bombala.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bombala.nsw.gov.au)

Council is proposing a general rate increase of 2.4% for the 2015/16 financial year which is the allowable rate peg increase as set by the State Government.

## **Delegate Multi Purpose Service (MPS) Community Consultation Committee (CCC)**

The Delegate MPS CCC vision statement is:

To communicate and promote the role of the Delegate Multi Purpose Service within our community by supporting, maintaining and enhancing health services.

The Delegate MPS CCC meets once a month at the Delegate MPS. We currently have 7 members including a DMPS staff representative. Managers from both Delegate and Bombala attend this meeting.

Delegate MPS CCC members are Gloria Cotterill, Gail Smallman, Charlie Burton, John Judge, Rhonda Linehan (Staff rep), as well as 2 new members Deb Foskey and Peter Jeffreys. The committee would like to welcome both members to the committee and like to thank the outgoing members Jan Ingram and Natalie Armstrong for their hard work and commitment to this committee.

The role of the CCC includes being a link for consumers and community members to raise any issues or viewpoints to the health service and for the committee members to be a key source of information about health service provision within the community, so that we can build a healthy community together. If you would like to discuss a health related issue please don't hesitate to contact one of the above committee members or the Manager at either Delegate or Bombala MPS's.

## **The Biggest Morning Tea**

The Biggest Morning Tea hosted by the staff and residents at the Delegate MPS was another resounding success, proving once again that Delegate is a small town with a big heart. An amazing \$703 was raised for the Cancer Council with donations coming in before the event, on the day and through the raffle plus a special donation from the ladies of the Tuesday Club. The lucky winner of the big morning tea themed baskets was Greg Walker.

The staff and students of the Delegate Public School were involved again this year. The school's Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program produced the ingredients for the delicious mini quiches and sausage rolls created by the student chefs especially for the event. Senior students Jaidyn Clear, Bowen Farran, Alex Reed and Brigid Dunn assisted on the day, delighting the other participants and hospital residents in attendance. All agreed that these wonderful young people impressed as ambassadors and excellent representatives for the Delegate Public School.

Thanks to all who contributed in any way to the success of this important annual event. Sharing a cuppa at morning tea is such an enjoyable way to raise monies for the Cancer Council!





## **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

3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of the month

Dietician and Diabetes Educator

2<sup>nd</sup> Thur of the month

Immunisations – 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



**WorkAbility**, a service of The Disability Trust, across Lower Far South Coast and Cooma-Monaro , assists people with disabilities to live the life style of their choice with dignity, respect and equality.

The right person will be committed to:

- Person Centred and Strength Based Individualised Services
- Family/Carer Support
- Social Justice
- Quality Customer Service
- Team Work

Direct Support Worker

### **CASUAL POSITION**

**Delegate & Bombala**  
**To obtain an application package**  
**or**  
**for more information please**  
**contact**  
**Taryn Beesley or Jo Goodlock**  
**On (02) 64923222**

# DELEGATE SCHOOL NEWS

## Kinder /1/2 studying the Earth



## Summer Harvest







## FIRESIDE CHATS - JUNE 2015

### Delegate School of Arts

**Sunday**  
14 June 2015  
from 10am



**Tuesday**  
23 June 2015  
from 10am

Guest presenter:

**Aileen Blackburn**  
Indigenous Cultural Advisor  
Bundian Way Trail

Guest presenter:

**Andrew Gray**  
General Manager  
Regional Arts Development Officer  
South East Arts

### WOMEN'S YAM PROJECT

Aileen is an Aboriginal woman of Monero/Yuin descent from Cann River. She is currently working as Cultural Adviser on the Aboriginal Women's Yam Project and involved in the traditional harvesting of yams and oral traditions along the ancient Bundian Way.

She will introduce AWAY; the Aboriginal Yam Project and address issues of cultural ties to the Monero/Cann Valley, traditional burning, local Aboriginal land management, native grasslands and Ancestral trading.

\$5 entry

Morning tea will be served.

### CURATING WORKSHOP

AT THE COMMUNITY TRANSACTION CENTRE

Andrew will present a practical workshop on aspects of curating and managing exhibitions.

The workshop will include:

- acquisitions and loans
- writing captions and text panels
- display and arrangement
- associated public programs
- merchandising opportunities

The workshop will also cover ideas for developing new audiences and use of social media for promotion and awareness.

Andrew worked for many years in cultural institutions in Canberra and has recently curated exhibitions including Price's Cafe for South East Arts and Mainland to Island for the Narooma Visitors Centre.

**Book at Platypus Country Visitor Information Centre 02 6458 4622**

## Bright in Autumn



We headed off on Thursday with our first overnight in Omeo. We visited the Cuckoo Clock shop, Petersons Art Gallery and the historical precinct. Then on to Dinner Plains for a lovely picnic lunch.

Harrietville was next where we stayed two nights whilst attending the Bright Autumn Festival. They had a street parade, lots of stalls and other events. Some good ideas were gathered for our festival in January.

Then onto Beechworth with its famous Lolly Shop and a great meal at the local brewery.

Next day saw us heading to Milawa and the Browns Brothers Winery and Milawa Mustards. Gourmet goodies and wine what more could you ask for.

On to Corryong then Khancoban, Thedbo, Jindabyne and Home. Thanks must go to Charlie for his wonderful driving.

Above : Sculpture in the main street at Corryong.

Below Left: Bendoc Bus loading up in Harrietville. Below Right: Silver Brumby at Dinner Plains.



## High Tea

The Tuesday club held a High Tea at the Borderline Gallery. Delicious food was enjoyed by all who attended. Photos courtesy of Marion Sheldrick.





# HERE & THERE

We have a host of birthday wishes for those born in June. Joan Jones, Craig Lewis, Lakeisha Clear, Tayla Mikula, Evelyn Walker, Sandra O'Hagan, Carol Graczol, Lillian Ber, Wendy Bruce, Trish Guthrie, Phil Pope, Norman Armstrong, Barry Reed, Kay Reed, Bradley Matthews.



Last month we mentioned the death of local man Barry Ingram., who died in Canberra. His funeral took place in Delegate on Friday 8th May at St Phillips Church, followed by internment in the Delegate Cemetery.

Barry is survived by his four children, Robert, Sue, Colin and Russel and 8 grandchildren and one great grandchild. One brother Ian and one sister Barbara also survive him.

A former man who spent his early life in the local area died in Bairnsdale on the 4th May. James (Jim) Cameron was buried at the Bumberah Cemetery, Bairnsdale. He is survived by his wife Janet, 2 daughters Pam and Lyn and one son Chris., two great grandchildren and one sister Ila.

Another well known resident of the district passed away on Sunday the 8th May, Peter (Doc) Hepburn. A funeral service was held at Bendoc Church at 12 o'clock Monday 18th May, followed by interment in the Delegate Cemetery.

The death occurred at Bombala Hospital on the 10th May of Mrs Stephanie Turner.

Stephanie is survived by her husband John and two children Peter and Gretchen and one granddaughter. The funeral took place in Delegate with a service at St Phillips Church, followed by interment in the Delegate cemetery.

Sympathy is extended to all families.

We also extend our sympathy to one of our long standing volunteers, Jan Ingram on the death of her sister Bev.

Those who went on the trip to Bright and district on the Bendoc Bus had a great time, enjoyed beautiful weather and left just before the cold change.

One thing we noticed that the European Wasp is a major problem in that area and we are told in other parts of Victoria. They even have notices outside Cafes with outdoor eating areas to beware of the wasps. So far they are not as bad here, but we need to maintain our vigilance in destroying their nests wherever possible.



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Arrangements are now at full pace regarding the Men From Snowy River Re-enactment, with a meeting of all stake holders at Bredbo on March 18th. It is only a little over five months till the beginning of the March, and all arrangements for each town and village need to be in place. See front page for full coverage of meeting.

The small group which gathered at the MPS to play cards each Thursday has grown and they now have two tables of card players. From reports all are enjoying the get together and newcomers are welcome.



We experienced a blast of winter during the week beginning 5th May, with constant strong winds coming straight from the Antarctic.

Nick Armstrong, grandson of Norm and Audrey has recently returned from a school trip to Europe accompanied by his mother Jenny. After spending a week in Spain, they flew to France where they visited Villers Bretonneux for the Anzac Service. Dad Jamie stayed home to keep the home fires burning.



# LOOKING BACK

THE PHOTO BELOW WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN EARLY LAST CENTURY, JUDGING BY THE DRESS OF THE FOLK HAVING A GOOD TIME IN THE SNOW. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS ON THE HILL IN THE BACKGROUND, BUT WE ARE NOT SURE OF THE LOCATION OF THE BUILDING IN THE FOREROUND.



# 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 Mick McAndrew 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 (3 days per week)**

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**

## **Delegate Progress Association Inc.**

**66A Bombala Street**

**DELEGATE NSW 2633**

**PH 6458 8388 Fax 64588 374**

**E-mail dpaooffice@bigpond.com**

**delegateprogress@exemail.com.au**

**(for paper)**

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## **‘Delegate Doings’ Subscription:**

\$32.00 by post (\$50.00 overseas)

Email \$14.20.

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Cash or Cheque payable to  
The Delegate Progress Association Inc

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Address or email:

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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**

# Winter Pruning

The heavy frost that came with winter brought an abrupt end to the flower display. Summer flowering shrubs such as roses, buddleias and hydrangeas; the perennials like Easter daisies; annuals such as zinnias and petunias as well as the late summer standbys e.g. dahlias, have all suffered.

It is tempting to launch into a thorough tidy up of the garden while the days still have enough warmth to make working outside a joy. It is absolutely the right time to pull out and replace the spent **annuals** as well as cut back the clumping perennials. Wherever the annuals come out a thick layer of mulch will stop the weed explosion that always accompanies bare and disturbed ground. The mulch will also replace the soil carbon and nutrients used up over summer giving a good start to any replacement winter-season seedlings.

Dealing with the **perennials** takes a bit more effort. Unfortunately, the job is not finished when the withered tops are removed because it is essential that the clumps are reduced by thinning. If this step is neglected the clumps will be so congested by next year that flowering will be lank and disappointing as well there is the potential for them to expand taking over swathes of garden space. A fair bit of heavy fork work is necessary as well as enduring the “emotional pain” of destroying a lot of healthy plant material. It feels a bit better if some can be given away.

However, (and this is really important for the long term health of the garden) - it is still too early to prune the **shrubs** because the woody parts do not instantly response to the first frosts to become fully dormant. They need extended exposure to cold through a series of cold nights.

Pruning shrubs too early exposes plants to a number of dangers. Should the weather deliver a warm spell new growth will be initiated from buds that would ordinarily burst next spring. This soft and out-of-season new growth will be cut by the next frost creating many points for disease entry. In addition there may not be enough unused buds left for robust growth to occur in the next year.

Even more critically if hard frost follows, the stems are often still full of sap leading to both physiological and physical consequences. Some species need to withdraw and store this sap as an energy source for bud burst next spring and by removing growth before this has happened the total store is reduced. Plants that flower before producing leaves fall into this category of physiological need. Another is the grape vine that quite literally bleeds to death if stems are cut while the sap is still functioning.

However, the more common effect of early pruning is physical damage. Removal of dead but still sheltering foliage from plant parts before they have hardened will expose them to the full brunt of further frosts. The physical effect is that the watery sap will expand on freezing causing woody stems to split or if the tissues are very soft the frost will cause them to liquefy. Either way the damage gives points of entry for disease. Dahlias often fail as the rot runs down into the tubers.

Then there is the angst-ridden issue of **fruit tree pruning**. If the task is renovation it is easier to assess branch structure when the trees are leafless but a consistent and less radical summer pruning is the better long term option. Since some varieties bear on new wood and some on permanent spurs it is always best to refresh the memory by consulting a manual produced by a respected Australian or N.Z. author.

In our area the most common cause for fruit tree decline is lichen on the bark that prevents the tree breathing through its lenticels. Lenticels are often quite prominent and give the bark of many trees their decorative appearance e.g. the horizontal black stripes on silver birch bark . When the affected tree is fully dormant spray copiously with lime sulphur and later scrape off clumps of dead lichen where practical.

So where does the mulch come from mentioned at the beginning of the article? From composting all those fantastic autumn leaves and pruning's. It is an absolute waste to let them go up in smoke, polluting the atmosphere. Composting can be hastened by adding nitrogen and keeping the pile damp. It is not only the carbon and nutrients in compost that feeds the soil but also the accompanying micro-organisms that fluff up the soil and interact with plant roots, keeping them well fed and healthy.