

May 2014

Delegate Doings



Delegate Progress
Association

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incl. GST

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ANZAC DAY 2014

A large crowd gathered for this year's Anzac Day service in Delegate. We were blessed with a lovely sunny, warm day. Phil Pope, President of the Delegate RSL Sub-Branch did an excellent job of conducting the service. The Delegate School children proudly marched as usual, and Russell Jamieson and Maddison Manning represented the children with their readings of the Prayer for Thanksgiving (Russell), and the Prayer for the Nation (Maddie). Carol Sellers read a very descriptive and memorable letter from Gunner Horace Hart, which he wrote to his mother. Horace enlisted in August 1915 and served until December 1919. He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery.

Robyn Mikula read the Prayer for the Queen, Jackie Chapman wrote and read the Commemorative Address and Raymond Kading read the Commemoration of the Fallen. Will Horton lent his talents with the bagpipes, playing the march music and the "Flowers from the Forest" lament.

One of the highlights of the service was listening to a recording of Keith Bent reciting the "Mates" poem. As everyone knows, our beloved Keith recited the poem at several Anzac Day services. Sadly, he passed away a few months ago, and we all thought how sad it would be not being able to hear his wonderful recitation again. However, artist Wayne Dowsent had recorded Keith reciting the poem and very kindly provided a copy so that his tradition could continue. It was a very emotional part of the proceedings. It was great, also, to see his widow, Dulcie, wearing Keith's medals. He would have been very proud.



Phil would like to thank all who participated in the service, and the members of the community who came along to show their respect and appreciation for all the men who gave so much of themselves in all wars and conflicts.



Next Issue: 6th June then: 4th July and: 1st August

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Dates for your Calendar

- 8/5/14 Visit of Victorian Fire Commissioner
- 11th May—Mothers Day luncheon at Hotel
- 20/5/14 Men from Snowy River Comm. Meeting
- 24/6/14 DPA meeting
- 28/6/14 Country Club 40th Anniversary.

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Two Kiwis are walking down a street in Sydney. One of them happens to glance in one of the shop windows and sees a sign that catches his eye. The sign said "Suits \$5 each, shirts \$2 each, Trousers \$2.50 per pair. The Kiwi says to his mate, look we could buy a whole lot of those, and when we get back to New Zealand, we would make a fortune."

"Now when we go into the shop, let me do the talking, I'll speak in my best Aussie Accent". They enter the shop and the Kiwi says "I'll take 50 suits at \$5, 100 shirts at \$2 and 50 pairs of trousers at \$2.50 each, I'll back up my ute and .."

The owner interrupts and says "You're from New Zealand aren't you? "Well yes, how did pick that?"

The shop owner replied. "This is a bloody dry cleaners mate!"

GALLIPOLI CENTENARY

In August this year it will be 100 years since the beginning of World War 1 when many young Australian men joined the army to fight for King and Country. Next year on 25th of April, Australia and New Zealand will commemorate the 100 year Centenary of the landing of the Anzacs at Gallipoli and there will be special events in memory of that event held throughout both nations.

Sandra O'Hagan has compiled a list and obtained Military Records of those from throughout the District who went to Gallipoli.

In the meantime plans for the Men from Snowy River Centenary are ongoing, with meetings held monthly at the RT/CT Centre. The Committee would welcome interested people to attend, as this will be a big event on Delegate's calendar. On the recent Anzac day service in Queanbeyan the Mayor in his opening address spoke of the Men from Snowy River march which left Delegate on 6th January 1916, receiving Civic receptions in towns along the way. He went on to say it was one of the most famous and well known recruitment marches of WW1.

Right: Some of the "Snowies" in camp at Goulburn.

Far Right: A group of marchers, location unknown. They had many stops along the way, not just in towns, but in small settlements.



GOOD FRIDAY FUN IN THE PARK

Another successful Duck Race this year with over 100 people attending the event. The weather held off again, the ducks sold out and everyone had some fun.

The kids kicked off the event with the Easter Egg Hunt, then they followed on with some great activities for kids and adults alike. Family races kept the kids busy and then they got to make their own delicious mini pizza to have cooked in the cob oven and then they got to eat it.

The kids Boat Race was a great success with a record 19 boats in the event. The boats ranged from adventurous buildings to simple recycled floaters. The effort put in by the kids was brilliant. The winner was Gabby Kidd, second went to Will Tibbet and third belonged to Aspen Cameron. Well done to all the kids who built a boat.

The Duck Race was set off with the help of Peter Rosenkrantz and Dennis Reed, thank you boys for fighting the cold waters of the Delegate River for these events. The river was flowing well with the recent rains. This meant some ducks needed help to get out of reeds, some got stuck in swirls in rapids, but they all eventually made it across the finish line.

First place went to duck number 8, congratulations Tyler Jones, second went to Gabby and Cooper Kidd and third went to Chaz Campbell. There were plenty of prizes for lucky placegetters after this. Thank you to Doreen Standen for the plants, Lavender House, Delegate Cafe, The Pages Of Life Book Shop – Cooma and Lou Lou's of Bombala. Other prizes included Body Shop, wines and liquers and of course chocolates. Also thank you to the Gilbert Family for attending with the Coffee Van.

Thank you to all who attended and to all who supported this years event. Platypus Pals raised \$375. Next year will be even bigger. There will be another 50 ducks, that is over 100 ducks and the prize money will be back up to over \$400. Platypus Pals appreciate the support given by this community.



Above: The children lined up on the steps to watch the fun. R: Braving the cold water to help the ducks on their way.



Cabanandra Campdraft

Competitors from far and wide took part in the Cabanandra Campdraft over the weekend of the 4th, 5th & 6th April. With the most entries to date (around 1000), the committee had a very busy time.

Once again, the drovers spent the previous week getting the cattle together in the Gelantipy/Wulgulmerang area and then piloting them safely down the notorious Turnback Mountain and fording the legendary Snowy River at McKellars crossing.

Heavy rain on the Friday night didn't deter any of the Competitors and some excellent drafting was run in the heavy conditions. The feature events of the Pat Ventry Memorial Open and the "Buff" Rogers Memorial Novice were won by Damien Ventry and Lauren Ryder, from Stratford, respectively.

Rain held off for the "Poddy Dodger" entertainment on Saturday night and a big crowd enjoyed dancing on the outdoor floor to the music of this popular Band.

The Committee would like to thank cattle donors Frank & Dawn Boulton, Black Mountain Station and Gordon & Sally Moon and also the drovers who gave the best part of two weeks of their time. A special thankyou to Yvonne & Vernon for once again providing First Aid over the weekend and to all who helped in any way to make this event run smoothly. To the people who helped in the yards (no dust this year!), the Judges, Caterers, Barmen & volunteers of all descriptions, this event could not happen without your valuable assistance.



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

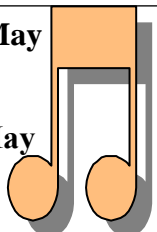
Your host: Graeme Payten

**Accommodation
Counter Lunches**

Mothers Day luncheon 11th May

Please book.

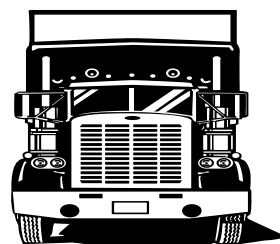
"Slippery When Wet" 31st May



**Sky Channel & Pub Tab,
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Ph: 6458 8091

TALBOT TRANSPORT



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Phone: (02) 6458 8085

Fax: (02) 6458 8055

For Sale

Scorpion Generator SW8100E 15ph 8.1kva 25lt tank **\$1700**

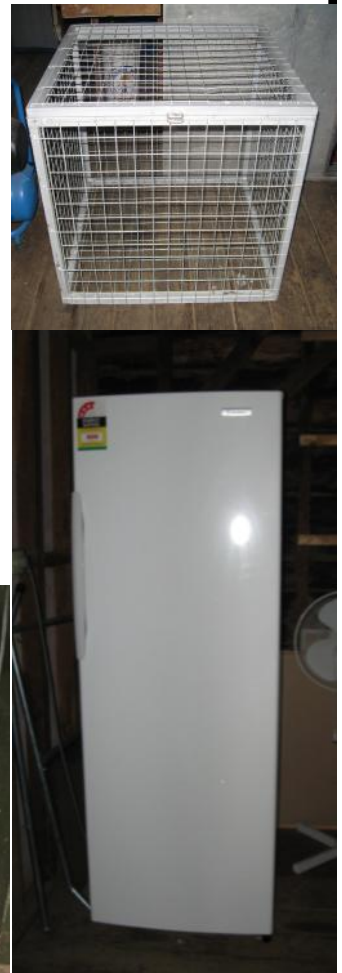
Westinghouse Upright Freezer 300lt **\$1200**

Cool room with fittings **\$7000**

Crate **\$250**

Contact Alana 0458171222

All as new



Sisters of Charity Outreach Country Care Link

Country Care Link (CCL) is a program of the Sisters of Charity Outreach embodying our Mission of "Compassion in Action".

Administered and provided wholly by volunteers, CCL offers transport and other assistance to country families accessing health services in Sydney.

Services provided free of charge to clients by CCL include:

Transport to and from airports, railway stations etc and services including hospitals, clinics, specialist doctors, cochlear implant and Far West centres, (48 hours notice for transport preferred, though allowance made for emergencies)

Accommodation referral assistance in Sydney for Country patients and their families.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GIRL



Lola Tonissen really enjoyed her first birthday party, which was celebrated on Easter Saturday

Shattered Dreams

I came to this town (home) just 4 years ago
Not to make millions , just to grow old
I gave it my best to please you all
But now my back is against the wall
My dreams became shattered by watching you
all
To the one's that supported me, to the one's not
at all
To the one's that supported me I can't thank
you enough
To the one's that pretended I don't give a stuff

Because they are the reason our town is dying
Taking money elsewhere and covering by lying

When the "Post Office" closed they were all in
despair
They all said "How could this be fair!"

Well when you don't use it and go elsewhere
Who could blame them for shutting and going
somewhere

They all talk about services they have lost
If talk were a business, well nothing would cost
The support would be great and the town would
thrive
But instead of reality, they all take a drive!

Though lack of support—I had to shut my doors
The town made this happen—Now I'm not
yours

I'm saddened to see that it has gone this way
But the **little you shop local does not pay!**

Alana Brownlie (Delegate Fruit Barn)

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
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Arrangements**
weddings,
Birthdays,
Anniversaries,
Wreaths and
Private
Functions

**Phone Pam
on 6458 7240**



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

CABANANDRA CAMPDRAFT RESULTS

MAIDEN ONE

1 st	Phillip Collins	Roxy
2 nd	Mick Brown	Ambyne
3 rd & 4 th	Bevan Reed	Dolly
&	Mick Otton	Abalone
5 th	Brett Rowlandson	Billy
6 th	Mary Ventry	Caviar

“BUFF” ROGERS MEMORIAL NOVICE

1 st	Lauren Ryder	Combaning
2 nd	Stuart Webb	Erindale Ollie
3 rd	Toby Rofe	Clancy
4 th	Brendon Warren	Reggie
5 th	Brett Rowlandson	Donna
6 th	Toby Rofe	Milly
7 th	Toby Rofe	Molly
8 th	Glen Dixon	Bonny Lass
9 th	Matt French	Rayburn
10 th	Matt French	Comic

JUNIOR

1 ST	Ella Brabon	Athena
2 nd	Amy Clarke	Cash
3 rd	Jack Ventry	Rosie
4 th	Tayla Ventry	Pebbles
5 th & 6 th	Dan French	Miss Drover
&	Emily Lucas	Spike

ENCOURAGEMENT

1 st	James O’Ryan	Stetson
2 nd	Mick Brown	Ambyne
3 rd & 4 th	Sarah Harry	Bert
&	Paul Miners	Sass
5 th & 6 th	Irene French	Joker
&	Bob Brice	Vision

OPEN TWO

1 st	Phillip Collins	Clover
2 nd	Phillip Collins	Switch
3 rd	Ian Hengstberger	Basalt
4 th	Greg Walker	Jillaroo
5 th	Phillip Freebody	Jess
6 th	Tara Hart	Dodger

MAIDEN TWO

1 st	Ted O’Kane	Riley
2 nd	Ben Mooney	Delilah
3 rd	Brett Rowlandson	Pretty
4 th	Glen Dixon	Bonny Lass
5 th	Ted O’Kane	Sapphire
6 th	Ross Miners	Rumour

JUVENILE

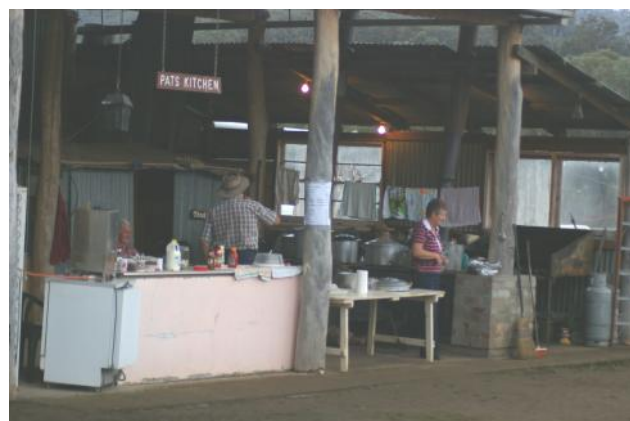
1 st	Joel Clarke	Riley
2 nd	Joel Clarke	Statesman
3 rd	Jane Fitzgerald	Bea
4 th	Jane Fitzgerald	Smoothie
5 th	Jack Hart	Custom Made
6 th	Nichole Thorne	Bowen

“PAT VENTRY” MEMORIAL OPEN

1 st	Damien Ventry	Basalt
2 nd	Stuart Webb	Jimney Cricket
3 rd & 4 th	Kenielle Bechaz	Overcast
&	Mick Otton	Groper
5 th	Glen Dixon	Ingebyra
6 th	Chrissie French	Ki-Kiama
7 th	Keryn Gardiner	Roanie
8 th	Phillip Collins	Spy
9 th	Kerry Payten	Bob Jane
10 th	Steven Clarke	Riley

NOVICE TWO

1 st	Renee Jones	Fiddler
2 nd	Mel Haylock	Ellie
3 rd	Willy Watson	Mia
4 th	Ben Mooney	Dawney
5 th & 6 th	Brett Rowlandson	Mia
&	Matt French	Comic



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.

Visiting Staff Profile

Name: Kirsty Brownlie

Job Description: Child and Family Health Nurse

Service provided: Support and education for new parents regarding breastfeeding, sleep safety, nutrition, immunisation. As well as growth and development checks for children up to 5 yrs old.

A mums and bubs group is also held every 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10am at Bombala Hospital. Informal get together with a guest speaker about a topic relevant to parents or babies. Everyone welcome.

Appointments for Delegate MPS

Can be made with the Child and Family Health Nurse in Bombala 64585777



DELEGATE SCHOOL NEWS

Cooba Trip

Year 5 and Year 6 students enjoyed an adventure packed trip. They completed a number of recreational activities based on teamwork.



Anzac Day



EASTER FILM FESTIVAL IN SCHOOL OF ARTS



The Easter film festival was a big hit with all those that went. About 50 people attended and all thoroughly enjoyed all the short films presented.

The School of Arts committee supplied afternoon tea.

There was a number of visitors from Bombala and the surrounding Districts.



PUBLIC MEETING FOR BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Have you or your family been affected by a diagnosis of breast cancer?

Are you currently having treatment for breast cancer?

Have you finished your breast cancer treatment and feel that you need ongoing support?

You're invited to a public meeting to discuss the need for a local breast cancer support group in our area. There will be two meeting times offered, so you can attend the session that suits you best.

DATE: Wednesday 7/5/2014

TIMES: 12.30pm-1.30pm or 6pm-7pm

VENUE: Cooma Ex-Services Club, Coobah Lounge, 106 Vale St Cooma

Interest has been expressed by some individuals who would like to find others who may be interested in joining a local breast cancer support group. Our aim is to establish if there is a need for such a group and to openly discuss the format for such a group.

Mazda MX-5 Car Club

The Sydney and Canberra branches of the Mazda MX-5 car clubs stopped for coffee in Delegate on a cold Friday afternoon. They were heading for Lakes Entrance and then on to Omeo, Bright, Kan-coban and back to Canberra. They will definitely want to rug up warm for the trip over the mountains.



TRANS CONNECT SERVICE IN FULL OPERATING MODE

The Trans Connect Service to Canberra, a project run by the three Shires, Bombala, Cooma and Snowy River has been up and running for several weeks and is proving popular with residents of all Shires. It picks up at the Old Delegate Post Office, stopping at Bombala HAAC Centre and on arrival at Cooma passengers transfer to another bus from Jindabyne. They can be dropped off at both Canberra and John James hospital, Woden Shopping Centre, Jolimont Centre and the Airport. Passengers may return on the same day, or break their journey. It is necessary to book with Bombala HAAC Centre. A typical journey which recently took place is three passengers from Delegate, two to go on from Bombala to Bega for medical appointments, one for Jolimont Centre. Three passengers from Bombala, two to Deakin and one for the Airport. Two more on the bus from Jindabyne for Woden Shopping Centre. It is a comfortable trip and is a service which obviously fills a variety of needs and at a cost of \$25.00 return is good value. It also stops at Bibbenluke, Nimmitabel and other stops further north as the need arises.

It is pleasing to see that the project is being well received as it's continuation depends on the use made of it.



HERE & THERE

Birthday wishes to the following people who were born in May.

Mark Guthrie, Marilyn Callaghan, Kevin Callaway, Jordon Cameron, Rhett Guthrie, Scott Guthrie, Joan Lundstrom, Natasha Yelds, Lachie Reed.

Kate Wilson celebrated her 50th Birthday on Saturday, 26th April, at home with family and friends.

Another special birthday was Lola Tonissen's 1st birthday which was celebrated with a party on Easter Saturday.



How time flies! The Delegate Country Club will celebrate its 40th anniversary in June! A special celebration will be held on Saturday 28th June, with a night of fun, and a casserole dinner. Put the date on your fridge. More details in the next issue of the Delegate Doings. Forty years ago there was a special celebration with a big opening day tournament and a special night at the Club.

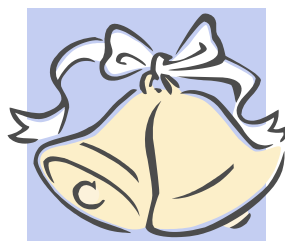
The move to the present site took place during a very wet winter, when boards had to be placed across the gullies for the big fields of golfers taking part back then



Congratulations to a couple who recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Jim and Dorothy Hepburn had a celebratory dinner with family before leaving on a trip which took them from Albury to Victor Harbour in South Australia. They travelled in a 1950's V8 Ford Pilot. Jim is a Vintage Car buff, so no doubt the car would have been in sparkling condition. Dorothy said it was a pleasure to return home to a green countryside.



A happy occasion for the Stewart family, when Kathryn, eldest daughter of John and Sharon marries her fiancée Nicholas Stanton in Sydney on Saturday 3rd May. The wedding will take place in the Catholic Church, Strathfield and the reception will be held at Wollstonecraft. Kathryn's bridesmaid will be her sister Nicole. The happy couple will be flying out to the United States shortly after their wedding. They will be living in Seattle where Nicholas will be working for at least the next two years.



The Dalgety Women's Day is on Wednesday 7th May. The Tubbut Community bus will be going this year, and if you would like to go, contact them on 64580295. It will be an early start, but the bus will return well before dark. The cost is \$20 for the bus, \$10 entry, plus the cost of lunch at the Iona Cafe. Guest speakers, Denise Drysdale, Pat Hall and Christine Hayward.

Parks Victoria advise that many of the tracks that have been impacted by bushfire are still closed, and the conditions of many are unknown. Bushwalkers would be advised to contact Parks Victoria—Bendoc on 64590500.



The Victorian Fire Commissioner will be visiting the Border area on Thursday 8th May. They will arrive at Delegate Airport at 9am, and will then travel to Bendoc to meet with the staff at DEPI. At 10.30 they will arrive at Bonang where they will meet with the elected post fires community group, followed by lunch. They will then travel to Goongerah where they will again meet with Community members. The last stop on the itinerary will be Orbost.

LOOKING BACK

Joan Jones has kindly filled us in on the details of the photo in last month's issue of the Doings. It was taken at St. Joseph's School Bombala, of a group from their Youth Club dressed for their play "A Shotgun Wedding. Father Lohan, who was pictured, formed St Joesph's Youth Club, which had quite a number of members.

Top: L. Greg Wolfe (Photographer) Bride Jimmy Elliott. R: Bride and Groom Jim Elliott and Nola Williams, Moira Tindall (Rayner).

Bottom photo: L to R: Joan Jones (Elliott), Moira Tindall, Bride and Groom, Tony Elliot, Max Elton, Father Lohan.



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 (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

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66A Bombala Street

DELEGATE NSW 2633

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delegateprogress@exemail.com.au

(for paper)

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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

GARDENING NOTES

Winter Pruning

The heavy frost that came with Easter 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 (see photo). 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 prunings. 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.

