

September 2014

Delegate Doings



Delegate Progress
Association

\$1.20
incl. GST

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Volume 13, issue 9.

MONSTER MARKETS SUCCESSFUL

The Delegate BIG End of Winter Market Day was such a success, certainly more than what was expected by organisers.

With over 25 stalls there was a fantastic range of stalls including knit wear, jewellery, horse shoe creations, wood work, picture frames, paintings, slumped glass creations, soy candles, face painting and more. This market displayed just what talented and creative people we have in our district. Along with the creative products there was the opportunity to grab a bargain from one of the local Independent Consultants or from one of the local stores having a stall.

The stall holders were happy with the day, all coming away with positive reports and happy to do it all again. It was a great opportunity for some stall holders who had never been to a market before with their products, with most coming away from the experience feeling confident that they have great products to sell.

It was a great opportunity to fundraise, the Delegate School of Arts Committee made some extra money with their delicious cakes and sandwiches, the Delegate School P & C sold out at the BBQ and Platypus Pals had a very successful raffle.

The Lucky Door Prize winner of the day went to Mirra. Those that are wondering if this event will become regular, the answer is "Yes it will be an annual event". The organisers would like to thank all stall holders for coming along and for helping to promote the event, thanks to all who took the time to come along making the day such a success for all.

Some of the colourful stalls, Katrina Jamieson with her mixed stall, Jodie Reed sold essential oils. Bella Tonissen with her face painted.



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then:

and:

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Dates for your Calendar

- 6th September—Darts doubles Delegate Hotel
- 16th Sept—Delegate Progress Assoc. General meeting
- 20th Sept—Bundian Gallery opening and book launch
- 26th September—Men from Snowy River Committee meeting
-
-
- **Future events**
-
- 2nd Nov—Men from Snowy River book launch in Delegate School of Arts
- 9nd Nov—Men from Snowy River book launch in Bombala RSL

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

A lady running a small country motel received a phone call for a booking. The guest said they would fax the details over.

Several hours later the local funeral director drove up and handed the motel proprietor her a piece of paper. It was the guest's booking fax. "I think this one's for you he said as he drove off. "When they book in with me, they generally don't leave."

OVERHEARD IN AN OFFICE.

1st. Colleague "My son is 18 months old today"

2nd Colleague: "So that is like a year and a half old."

1st Colleague: "You really aren't sure that 18 months is a year and a half?"

2nd Colleague: "How am I supposed to know that? I don't have kids."

FOR SALE

AB Wave Exerciser with instruction DVDs

\$150.00 or nearest offer.

Victa Lawn Mower for sale \$40.00

Or make an offer.

Laurie Neven Phone (02) 64588021

KITCHEN SPECIALIST

We are offering a casual position for a passionate cook to deliver the innovative Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program at Delegate Public School and open our students' eyes to the possibilities of fresh, home-grown food. Candidates must have proven ability to relate to young children, excellent communication skills and have knowledge of cooking and preserving seasonal food. The successful applicant must be available to work Fridays.

The position is subject to NSW Department of Education and Communities mandatory child protection checks.

Please phone Carol Sellers on (02) 64589278 for an information pack and an Expression of Interest form.

Applications close on Monday, 15th September, 2014.

HOSPITAL AUXILIARY HOST ANNUAL LUNCHEON AT COUNTRY CLUB

Despite unpleasant weather conditions a good crowd of ladies turned up for the Annual luncheon at the Delegate Country Club to raise funds for the local Hospital Auxiliary.

The food was plentiful as always with a splendid array of hot dishes and a tempting display of sweets. Heather Jones having retired as President of the Auxiliary is now officially their Patron and was presented with a badge by Secretary Claire Strickland. The winner of the lucky door prize was Trina Manning and raffle held in conjunction saw several nice prizes for the lucky winners. An added attraction was a large selection of smart handbags and wallets shown by Cleo Jamieson. A percentage of her sales went to the Hospital Auxiliary funds.

Below: Top line—Heather Jones and Claire Strickland, Sandra Walker and Alma Reed.

Middle row: The helpers in the kitchen, Philomena Collins, Janice Lewis and Claire Strickland, Louise Manning tries to decide on which handbag to purchase, Jayne Sellers one of the lucky raffle winners.

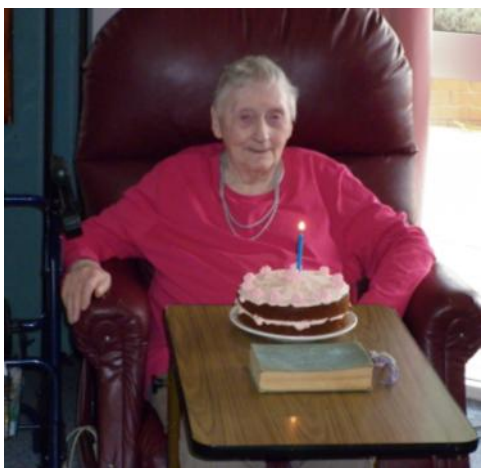
Bottom row: Trina Manning, Sue Guthrie, Doreen Standen, Gloria Cotterill, Natalie Armstrong and Jayne Sellers, Fay Turnbull and Judy Cameron were also lucky prize winners.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO LOUISE GAY

Louise Gay resident of the local MPs celebrated her 84th birthday on the 24th July with residents and staff. Louise moved to the area from Canberra 25 years ago when she retired from the Public Service. Louise is well known in both at Bombala and Delegate. She has been a resident of the MPS for the past two years, and continues to enjoy life and her passion for reading.

Louise is pictured with her lovely birthday cake.



Fortnightly transport from Delegate to Bombala

Bombala Community Transport provides a fortnightly transport service from Delegate to Bombala. The schedule for the next 5 months is included below. This is a service that anyone in Delegate can utilise if you are having difficulty in getting to where you need to go. Cost is \$10.00 for a return trip. Some Delegate residents are utilising this service to attend Drs appointment in Bombala and the Drs at the Bombala Medical facility have been extremely proactive in ensuring that Delegate residents are seen as soon as possible after the bus arrives in from Delegate. However it is not only for people wishing to attend medical facilities and you can use the service for social/recreational or for shopping and access purposes. This service could also potentially link you into other transport services such as travel to Cooma, Bega or Canberra. If you have any transport needs that are currently not being met please call Bombala Community Transport to discuss how we may be able to meet your transport needs on phone 64584620



Health
Southern NSW
Local Health District

Annual Public Meeting

The Southern New South Wales Local Health District Board invites you to attend its Annual Public Meeting to be held on:

Thursday 2 October 2014

Meet the Board and refreshments from 5.30pm

APM from 6pm – 7.30pm

Acacia Room, Queanbeyan Kangaroo Leagues Club
Cnr Stuart and Richard Avenue Queanbeyan

**To register your interest, please RSVP by Monday 22 September to
Steven.ridgway@gsahs.health.nsw.gov.au**

Tel: (02) 6213 8327

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**



**Darts Doubles
Saturday 6th September**

**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

HEALTHSHARE SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Michelle Ingram and Glennis Ingram were recently recognised by the Health Service for their service to the Delegate MPS, during Healthshare service recognition week 21-27 July 2014.

Recognising employees for their service is an excellent way for Healthshare to show all their employees that they value their ongoing dedication and contribution. This presentation is a chance for celebration and reflection and gives the opportunity to discuss the importance of the work and the achievement of the person being awarded. The gathering together and sharing of experiences is a powerful means of validating those experiences.

The valuable contributions made by Healthshare staff locally were acknowledged by the Acting Senior Nurse Manager Janice Rumph.

The Healthshare staff have a wonderful work ethic and are so responsive and flexible to the individual needs of the residents at Delegate MPS. The staff, residents and their families thank them for this level of care.

Glennis Ingram commenced at Delegate on 23rd July 1986 giving her 28 years of fulltime service to date.

Michelle Ingram commenced 11th July 1994 and she has given 20 years service to date.

The staff were presented with a certificate and badge as a memento.

SPLENDID FISHING TROPHY

Brendon and Merie Cotterill's son, Carl, was recently awarded 2014 Junior Male Fishing Champion by the Malua Bay Fishing Club. Over the past season Carl won 5 of their competitions, for his consistent efforts he received a lovely trophy and a great shirt as his prize.

Carl is Gloria Cotterill's grandson and is following the family tradition of keen fishermen.



GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Delegate Progress Association have applied for some grants on behalf of the Men from Snowy River Re-Enactment Committee to help with expenses which will mount up as plans proceed.

There will be expenses involved with the book publishing and information days this year. The book printing costs will be in the vicinity of \$4000.00, the forming of the local children's choir and the re-enactment will see expenses start to mount up.

We note that the Kangaroo Re-enactment March have just been allocated over \$37000.00 from the local Anzac Centenary Grants so are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be successful with our applications.

Below: Marching through Cooma in 1916



LANDMARK

an AWB company

Delegate
Tel: 6458 8004

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

**Livestock
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Finance - Fertilizer**

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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**



Year 12 HSC Major Work:

The Road Home

This work represents fragments of the Monaro landscape I know as home. Painting this work has deepened my connection with and appreciation for the complexity of our relationship with the natural environment. I have been influenced by the methods of local artists Hilda Rix-Nicholas and Lucy Culliton, and the way they choose to represent the landscape. The works of Turner, Preston, Chen and Hockney have also influenced my use of colour and understanding of perspective and composition. My paintings attempt to express my feelings for this landscape; my love of its beauty and respect for its dominance.



MAJOR WORK ON SHOW AT BORDERLINE GALLERY

Lily Platts, daughter of Ann and Michael Platts of Monaro Tree Nursery entered this lovely work for her year HSC Major Art Work.

It was selected to be taken on tour along with other works submitted from schools throughout NSW.

Ann and Michael have kindly loaned the paintings for exhibition at the Borderline Gallery where it will be viewed by many visitors.

The Bundian Way and Borderline Galleries will both have new exhibitions on show with the official opening taking place on 20th September at 11am. All welcome

BOMBALA/DELEGATE BLUE HEELERS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

The Bombala Blue Healers Junior Rugby League Presentation Day was held on Saturday the 16th of August. It has been a challenge for the Junior Club in Bombala this year with only being able to register teams for the under 9s and under 7s. Numbers were so desperate in fact that special permission had to be sort to enable 10 year old Zayne Phillips-Jones to play in a grade below what he should have been, but it was the only way to make the team.

Although despite the difficult start the teams have worked very hard during the year and the difference in their overall playing ability was definitely visible in the last few games of the season.

When it came time to awarding the prizes the Delegate Boys certainly did not miss out with under 9s Jaidyn Clear being awarded both the Highest Point Score and the Best and Fairest and Fletcher Manning once again picking up the Most Improved. Even though he had a late start due to formalities, Zayne Phillips-Jones still managed to take home an Encouragement award.

In under 7s it was great to see Lachlan Reed in his first ever season put so much effort in and be rewarded by receiving the coaches Encouragement Award. He may well be able give younger brother Mitchell a few lessons for next year. Mitchell Reed also had his first season but was not as serious about the competition as his brother and was far more interested in the canteen and entertaining the spectators.

Another player that Delegate are happy to claim as their own is Bertie Telford, Gail and Eddie Sellers grandson who took to the game like a duck to water and was awarded the Coaches Special Defense Award.

All the awards given were well deserved and brought smiles to the boys as well as their proud parents. The players were not the only ones to be awarded for their efforts this year with one of the parents Louise Manning being voted the Committee Person of the Year for 2015 for her work as Publicity Officer and general club duties.

So all in all it was a wonderful way to finish the 2014 season for the Bombala Delegate Blue Heeler Junior Teams and everyone looks forward to another successful season for 2015, with the highlight to be the 50 year Anniversary of the Bibbenluke Carnival.



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: Wendy Chapman

Job Description: Clinical Nurse Specialist, Diabetes Educator and Wound Management.

Wendy is based in Cooma at the Cooma Community Health Centre with outreach clinics to Delegate and Bombala. These are provided on a regular free and confidential basis with no referral needed.

Service provided: Diabetes education, mostly with Type 2 diabetes, wound management that includes running a dressing clinic and respiratory education for people with asthma and chronic airways disease. Wendy sometimes visit schools to update their asthma emergency management or to provide education to staff if needed if there is a newly diagnosed child with diabetes.

Appointments for Delegate MPS:

2nd Thursday (mornings) of the month.

Ring Delegate MPS to make an appointment 6459 8000.



DELEGATE SCHOOL NEWS

Education Week 2014

Education Week 2014 was a busy week for the students at Delegate Public School. Events included open classrooms, interactive numeracy activities, special assembly, short film preview, NAIDOC Week activities and preparations for an art exhibition.



New exhibition at Bundain Way Gallery in Delegate opens 20th September

The Yuin in Me by Natalie Bateman is a new exhibition of work at the Bundain Way Gallery in Delegate, opening on Saturday 20 September. Natalie, who is based in Narooma, is a finalist in this year's Parliament of NSW Aboriginal Art Prize. Natalie says of her work; "I am a part of the 'Walbanja tribe' that belongs to the Yuin of NSW. The 'Stewart' is one of the largest Aboriginal families on the south coast, we are sea dwellers and our life revolves around the ocean hunting and gathering seafood. Growing up in this lifestyle and family has influenced the style and subjects of my artworks. My paintings all have the essence of my family in them, they are my life and they bring colour to my world. I started painting 24 years ago now, started off mucking around with acrylic paints while living in Lennox Head, 1990. I did a lot of drawing throughout my teenage years. Yet being so far away from family, missing them so much, painting was a way for me to connect and the land, ocean and animals became my subjects.

This was the start of 'The Calling' back home to the places I grew up in, Maroubra and my South Coast homeland. When I look at most of the paintings I have done, they have been about ocean and sea creatures. This felt so natural to me. As a large family we would always go back to our homelands and camp, fish and reconnect as a whole. Even growing up in Maroubra & La Perouse, besides sports we fished, dived and surfed everywhere and stayed together as family.

I get all sorts of ideas from everyday living, most of these ideas come from the land, the incredible colour, shapes and patterns in everything around, the smells, sounds, and the stories passed down from my elders. With the love from my family, sharing of knowledge, being part of our family kinship, all this beauty gets put into my paintings as some sort of story. I use dot work as this can make the paintings look so complete, I also use line work as well because this is my imprint. I enjoy playing with colour and using them in a way that will uplift me and everybody".

'walawaani njindiwan ngayaga Yuin Natalie Bateman'

'Hope you all had a safe journey here and to your next destination.'

Bundain Way Aboriginal Art Gallery, Delegate. Opens 20 September

Below : Bidhingga (Oyster)

Glass Workshop

Fusing and slumping

27th / 28th September

Morning or afternoon

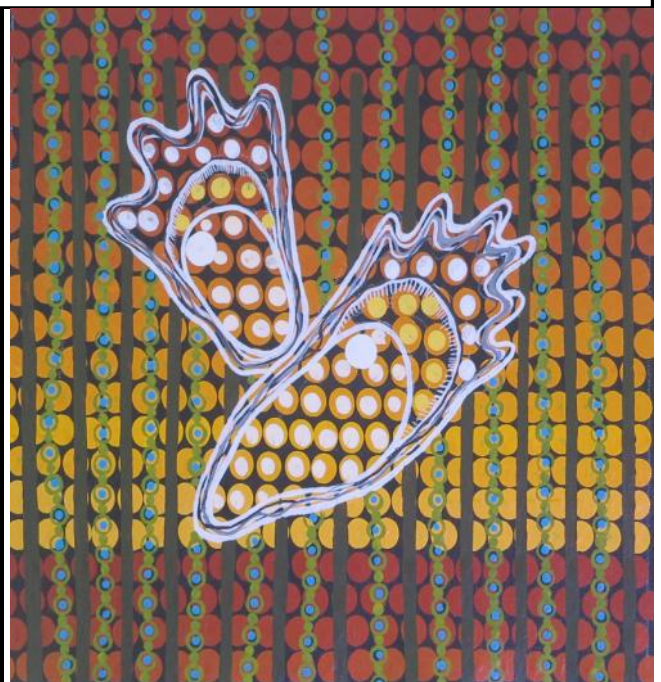
\$5.00 plus Glass

Jewellery approx \$10 to \$30

Plates start at \$40

Bookings Bombala Visitor Centre

64584622



FAREWELL OLDTIMER

A sadness falls upon the bush,
A man who it once knew,
Has gone to his resting place
His life with us is through

I know with God's Justice,
He will spend his days in peace,
With stringy bark and gum trees,
And green grass beneath his feet.

The Corrowong plains will stretch before him.
And the camp fire will be aglow,
And bushmen who passed before him,
Will salute him as he goes.

And down by the Snowy River,
Along the rocky banks,
The trees sway graceful on the hillside,
And bow to give him thanks.
Give him thanks for being a bushman,
A man of yesteryear,
An oldtimer, a gentleman,
A man we feel is near

His hair is grey and thinning,
His face was getting lined,
And when he spoke of the bush life,
His old eyes they would shine.

And all the miles he used to walk,
Though trodden slower by the years,
With rabbit traps and pack of dogs,
Into the scrub he'd disappear.

With an old battered billy,
And a tuckerbag on his bag,
Fond memories fill our hearts,
As he walks down heaven's track.

The above poem appeared in an old issue of the Bombala Times. It was written by Gaye Webster (nee Shinfield) as a tribute to her late father Jim Shinfield

MEN FROM SNOWY RIVER MARCH NEWS

Things are moving along with the arrangements for the MFSR re-enactment celebrations. All the major towns along the route have been sending representatives to the meetings which have been held at the Cooma RSL Club. On 9th October there will be a meeting of all participants with Steve Elliott of NSW Traffic in Queanbeyan where arrangements for the march through towns will be finalised. The book *The Men from Snowy River* written by Natalie Armstrong is in the hands of the Editor at present and should be ready for printing by the end of September. There will be several book launches held in conjunction with information days regarding the March to be held as follows:

Delegate 2nd November, Bombala 9th November, Cooma 23rd November, Goulburn 24th November and at Queanbeyan RSL Club on the 3rd December. The launch in Delegate will be done by former local Jennifer Collins, Deputy Director of the Department of Veteran Affairs and in Queanbeyan by Dr. Brendon Nelson, Director of Australian War Memorial. Arrangements for other launches to be finalised shortly.

The re-enactment march which will take place next year begins in Delegate on 1st November and finishes in Sydney on 11th November where marchers will be joined by the Wagga Kangaroos, the Cooees, the Waratahs, the Australian Stock Horse Association and the Kurrajongs to march to the Cenotaph in Hyde Park. Organisers will shortly be calling for volunteers to take part in the march.



HERE & THERE

Happy birthday to September birthday people who include Jean Talbot, Tom Ventry, Russel and Allen Buckman, Chelseah Kimber, Renee Crawford, Helen Crawford, Kyden Reed and Neil Curry.



The death occurred at the Delegate MPS on Saturday 23rd August of well known lifelong resident of the area Mrs Elizabeth Cameron (Bessie). Bessie had been a resident of the MPS for the past 12 months where she made the very best of her remaining time, joining in activities and spending days away with her family or enjoying a few hours out at local lunchtime functions. Her funeral service took place at St Philips Church on 1st September, followed by interment in the Delegate Cemetery. Bessie who came from a family of eight is survived by one brother Barry Stewart and by three children, Hazel, Pam and Doug, son-in-law Tony and daughter-in-law Judy. Her grandchildren number nine and there are 17 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

The death occurred at Bombala Hospital on Sunday 31st August of Bombala resident Sylvia Whittock. She is survived by a family of four, three sons and one daughter Penelope Judge who still lives in the area. The remains were cremated at Wolumla

and a Memorial service will be held at St Stephens Church Craigie on Saturday 13th September at 2.30. Sympathy is extended to the family.

There are a few crafty people planning to take



part in the Red Flanders Poppies Project and knit or crochet some of these colourful flowers for the 100 Year Centenary of WW1 patterns for which are available at the RTC.

The Monaro Regional Library has an exhibition of photos, letters and other information from WW1 at the Bombala Library this month.



On Wednesday 3rd September residents were greeted by news of another road closure because of snow. A cold blast of air from the south bringing back winter conditions. There was snow around the Brown Mountain turn-off and Nimmitabel and roads were temporarily closed.

It appears magpies now nesting are not deterred by the return of wintry conditions and are as always very protective of their nests. So beware of swooping magpies on your daily walks.



The Bundian Way will have a new exhibition opening in September. The Borderline Gallery will also feature a new exhibition which will be displaying a series of paintings done by Lily Platts, daughter of Ann and Michael Platts of Monaro Tree Nursery. Lily's paintings were done for her year 12 Art and were chosen to be part of the travelling exhibitions of student's paintings.

Two former locals will shortly be celebrating their birthdays in style in a villa in Tuscany, Italy. Jenny Collins turns 60 and Kim Taylor (nee Jones) turns 50 and they will be joined by other family members and friends for the special occasion. Joan Jones, is both excited and nervous at the prospect of flying to the other side of the world to celebrate her sister's and daughter's birthdays.



A big thankyou to Marilyn Callaghan who has been helping out as photographer for the "Doings". The Market day photos were taken by Marilyn as well as those at the Auxiliary luncheon.



LOOKING BACK



The above Deb photo was taken several years after the one published in the last issue of the Doings

With the help of Maria Callaway, we have some of the names. The male partners are L. To R. Peter Hepburn, Barry Watling, Mick Armstrong, Barry Jamieson, Jim Hepburn, Garry Callaghan. Debs L. To R. Coral Camm, Alma Lucas, Mavis Quinn, Maria Martin, Dorothy Jamieson, Dorothy Groves. We don 't know the flower girls but think one looks like Cheryl Roberts.

Dorothy Hepburn was not the Deb named in the last photo. We are told it was possibly Amy Armstrong. Also the Deb named as Trixie Manning was Margaret Ryan. These photos were taken a long time ago and even those who took part cannot remember all the names, so we do the best we can.



ney Thompson, Adam Mikula, Jucinda Walker, Luke Mikula, Terry Tighe, Daniel Talbot, Tash
vert and Grace Malone have all caught onto the rollerblading craze that has hit Delegate, an
oy Saturday afternoons skating within an organised group.

This photo courtesy Alma Reed and Beryl Phillips is from an old edition of the Bombala Times shows a group of youngsters in the Delegate School of Arts, all set to try their skills at roller skating.

The names are underneath with front row named first.

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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(for paper)

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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

Onion Weeds and Nut Grasses by Susan Tocchini

During the week I was asked how to identify onion weed. The difficulty with common names is that they mean different plants to different people and are even applied to quite diverse species in different districts. This causes much confusion especially since the 'weediness' factor also varies with the land use and climate of each area. The main benefit of using the scientific name is that the plant I.D. is certain but also because its Latin name tells you a lot about the plant. The first word shows what are its immediate relatives and the second word says something that distinguishes it as an individual. Generally the only absolutely sure way to identify a plant is by seeing its flowers.

Take the plant below, *Romulea rosea*, where the first word tells us its immediate relatives and the second word tells something about it, the 'rosea' refers to its pink flower colour. However some call it ONION WEED, due to its onion like leaves and brown round corm and some refer to it as NUT GRASS because the corm is brown and quite hard. It is from South African Cape area introduced as a garden plant in the early 1800's. It is very hard to pull out because its corm is deep in the ground and usually has a subcorm developing below the main one that is left behind to sprout anew. Herbicides tend to roll off the thin shiny leaves causing peripheral damage. However, in garden beds it can be killed by shading with a cardboard mulch. Cockatoos and galahs helpfully remove the corms and seed pods from the plants in grassland reducing its density dramatically.



There is another plant common in our district also called **onion weed** *Allium triquetrum*. The first name tells us that it truly belongs to the garlic and onion family and the second that the flower stem is triangular. It was introduced as a kitchen herb and was grown in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens in 1878. It is a native to the West Mediterranean where most of our food plants originate and can be distinguished by its dainty white bells with a green stripe that are held in down pointing clusters. It likes damp spots and is rarely invasive so is still a good garden specimen. Although considered a useful vermifuge where it occurs in pasture it can taint milk and meat if eaten in quantity by sheep and cattle.

There is another plant called onion weed *Nothoscordum burbonicum* that is of similar appearance and this cannot be eaten. It is much more troublesome and invasive and comes from S. America. It is rare in our district liking warmer temperatures. Its grey-green leaves are similar to those of the *Allium triquetrum* but the flowers are creamy and held upright on a more rangy plant.



Nothoscordum burbonicum

Now going back to the beginning there are other plants also known as Nut Grass and these come from the sedge family. They all like dampness often found growing in gutters. They produce an edible rhizome that has been a staple starch free food of all ancient cultures across the world. It contains a substance that reduces the tooth decay organisms in the mouth and is thought to be the plant responsible for preventing caries. Good teeth are a notable feature found in ancient bones. The rhizomes do not suit modern tastes however. There are many more plants that bear the common names onion weed and nut grass and some are noxious in different parts of Australia such as *Asphodelus fistulosus* in sandy soils.