

October 2015

1.50 incl.
GST

Delegate Doings



Delegate Progress
Association

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Volume 14, issue 10.

DELEGATE'S CHAMPION POPPY MAKER

Local man Kevin Callaway, recently retired after working for 50 years in the Timber Industry, firstly for Mason's Sawmill, sold later to Richards sawmill at Bendoc and he finished his working life at Jamieson's mill.

Anticipating retirement he had built himself a great workshop, but probably did not expect to be given the job of making 460 poppies from 920 aluminium cans. This job now completed has taken up all of his time during the winter months, cutting, washing, painting and screwing the poppies together.

Marilyn Callaghan and Sandra Walker who came up with idea are looking forward to decorating the town on November 1st when the re-enactment of the Men from Snowy River March takes place and again on January 24th next year for the town celebrations. They are planning to make a replica of the Men from Snowy river flag using the poppies and other materials which will be on display at the monument in January. We thank Kevin for his wonderful community effort and Marilyn and Sandra for their project to make the town look special on the 100 year commemoration days. It is gratifying to see the interest and support of some members of the community for the commemorations.

Below: L: Kevin in his workshop with the aluminium cut outs. R: With the completed poppies

The re-enactment on 1st November, promises to be a big day on the local calendar, with people travelling long distances to take part. See update on page 12.



Next Issue: 6th November then: 11th December and: 5th February

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Dates for your Calendar

- 19th Oct. CW Landcare meeting
- 22nd October Life Cycle Bike Ride
- 7th November 3pm Delegate School of Arts, Tom Roberts Chat with the National Gallery of Australia
- 1st—11th November Men from Snowy River March Re-enactment Delegate to Sydney
- 29th November St Josephs Church Centenary
- 6th December Golden Age Party at Country Club.
- 6th December Delegate Hotel Sunday Sips Annual Community GiveAway

Claiming the Date

- 23rd January 2016 Australia day festival at Delegate
- 24th January Men from Snowy River March Cen-

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

You hate bad service.

A man allegedly attempted to hold up a bank, but the first teller he tried to rob fainted and the next two insisted they had no cash in their drawers. Fed up the man stormed out, threatening to write an angry letter to the bank.

THANKYOU

Marilyn and Sandra would like to thank all those who dropped off cans for the poppies and others for saving the bottle tops. Also the can cutters, Kevin, Sue Guthrie, Max Walker and Ian Ingram.

A thankyou to Elsie at Bombala Electrical for donating paint, and Jan Murphy for discount on rods.

Thankyou also to all the ladies who are continuing to make paper poppies up at the Art Centre.

SOME WANTED ADS WHICH LEFT A LOT TO BE DESIRED.

WANTED

Preparer of food. must be dependable, like the food business and be willing to get hands dirty.

WANTED

Man to take care of cow that does not smoke or drink.

WANTED

Hair-cutter. Excellent growth potential

INVITATION

To descendants and relatives of the Men from Snowy River to walk behind the twelve men carrying the flag at the beginning of the March Re-enactment in Delegate at 11am on 1st. November.

Assembling at the Monument at 10.30am





Left: Sinead and Jordan Cameron with daughter Anna, Marshal Cameron Doug Cameron.
In front Doug's wife Judy with three grandchildren, Lily, Aspen.

Also attending the birthday were:
left to right: Stephen Lewis, Mark Bruce, Doug Cameron, John Stewart, Alan Mathews, Merrilyn Mathews .

DOUG CAMERON CELEBRATES HIS 60TH

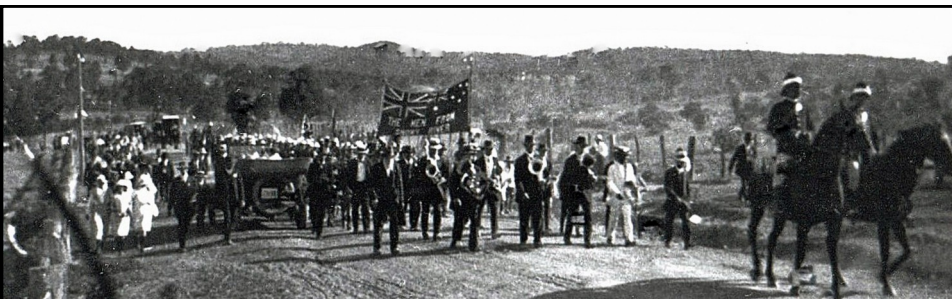
A large crowd of family and friends joined Dough Cameron and family at the Delegate Country Club on Saturday 26th September on the occasion of his 60th Birthday. A marquee was erected at the end of the Clubhouse for the guests to enjoy the generous supply of finger food. Doug's son Jordan who had been in hospital made a big effort to be there for his Dad's special day.



HISTORIC LINKS TO THE MEN FROM SNOWY RIVER MARCH

"Glenrock" the residence of Mr and Mrs Hayse was where the Men from Snowy River had their first sight of Queanbeyan and where they were entertained and served luncheon in the grounds. It was quite close to the Queanbeyan River and the men were able to enjoy a refreshing swim. Back then the area around "Glenrock" was rural and would have given the marchers their first sight of Queanbeyan, down the long hill to the township, but it is now part of the busy suburb of Karabar. The main highway from Cooma to Queanbeyan now follows a different route but back in 1916 the road the men walked down into the township is now known as "Old Cooma Road". "Glenrock" is still lived in today and the lady who resides there phoned us to enquire where she could get a copy of the Men From Snowy River book.

"Dromore" homestead is where the men stayed the night is another place still in existence and the present residents Mr and Mrs Kimber have invited the re-enactment marchers to have morning tea there before continuing on to Bredbo. Back in 1916 the plan had been for the men to camp at Umeralla, but there was a severe sandstorm and the



Manager of "Dromore" Mr. Feilen invited the man to cross the Murrumbidgee River and take shelter in the woolshed.

Obituary

John Geoffrey (Jack) Stewart

29 April 1933 to 30 August 2015



The Delegate district is mourning the sad loss of Jack Stewart who passed away on Sunday 30 August 2015 in Bombala Hospital after a long and valiant battle with cancer.

A life long resident of Delegate, Jack was a well known and respected local identity who was still contributing to his community right up to the end of his 82 years.

Jack is survived by his wife, Enid and his seven children, John, Julie, Susan, Janelle, Karen, Peter and Anmaree, 15 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

The only son of the late Geoff and Ellen Stewart, Jack is also survived by two of his four sisters, Edna Reed (Delegate) and Roma Baker (Moree). Kitty Guthrie and Madge Crotty predeceased him.

Just last November Jack and Enid celebrated 60 years of marriage with a big celebration at Delegate Country Club, bringing together family and friends from far and wide.

Owner and operator, along with son, John, of Stewart's Garage, Jack was an integral part of the district's motoring heritage. He continued the work of his father, Geoff Stewart, a pioneer of the southern Monaro's transportation and mechanical repair businesses.

Like his father before him who provided Delegate with it's first electrical power, Jack contributed to his community in many ways, maintaining the town water supply and sewerage and service with the rural fire brigade.

For 60 years, Jack provided NRMA services to the Delegate District making him one of the longest serving NRMA road service provider he also held the RACV for going on 50 years.

In his youth, Jack was the goal kicker for the Delegate Tigers rugby league football team and later became a coach and selector. He recently enjoyed the Delegate Tigers reunion held at the Delegate Country Club, where former footballers came together to reminisce and enjoy each other's company. Jack was also a very active cricketer and tennis player in his younger days and he and wife, Enid took up golf in their 40's and played in competitions around the district for well over 30 years. Jack actively contributed to the Delegate Country Club serving on the board

Father Mick McAndrew officiated at a Requiem Mass at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Delegate on Friday 4 September 2015 followed by the burial at Delegate Lawn Cemetery

Delegate Café

64 Bombala St Delegate

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OPEN 7 DAYS

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DELEGATE HOTEL

Your host: Graeme Payten

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give away
December.**

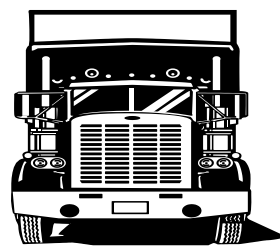


Sunday 6th

**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



Life Cycle is coming to Delegate on October 22.

This event raises funds for the Leukaemia Foundation with funds raised going towards the John James Village in Canberra. This facility provides care and accommodation for blood cancer patients from the ACT/NSW including the Delegate Bombala region.

The riders will be arriving in Bombala on October 21 and then travelling to Delegate on the 22. Delegate community members will be providing morning tea and welcome at the School of Arts 10am, everyone welcome. The riders will also be riding a small section of the Bundian Way out along the Corrowong Road.

Lunch, BBQ and cob oven pizzas, will be available, provided by the Delegate School P and C, on the return of the riders, 12ish at Bill Jeffrey's Park.

The Delegate primary School will be undertaking a sponsored ride-a-thon around the Bill Jeffrey's oval with proceeds going to Life Cycle. Community members are encouraged to join in and help this very worthwhile cause.

Cyclists will leave and follow the Bundian Way to Craigie and from there back onto the main road to Bombala. Further events will follow in Bombala and people are more than welcome to attend.

Funding Opportunities

The next round of the Boco Rock Community Grants are now open. Not for Profit Community Organisation are encouraged to apply. Application forms are available at Council Chambers and can be downloaded from the website www.bombala.nsw.gov.au

Federal Member Dr. Peter Hendy also has a small pot of funds to support local infrastructure development. Funding of up to \$20,000 is available. Community groups must have matching funds; in kind contributions are considered. There is a two stage process the first stage is an Expression of Interest which is due by 8 October. If you are interested in apply please contact Karen Cash at Bombala Council 64583555 for an Expression of Interest form.

LANDMARK

an AWB company

Delegate
Tel: 6458 8004

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

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Birthdays,
Anniversaries,
Wreaths and
Private
Functions

**Phone Pam
on 6458 7240**



Art From The Inside Exhibition Opening

The new exhibition of work by inmates from NSW Corrective Services' facilities was opened at the Bundian Way gallery on Wednesday evening.

The co-ordinator of the Bundian Way project, John Blay opened proceedings with an Acknowledgement of Country, in which he talked briefly about the significance of this exhibition and the way that the inmates have benefited from their engagement in the art programs offered by the facilities.



Mayor Bob Stewart then re-iterated his enthusiastic support for the Bundian Way program and the gallery, outlining the present and future benefits such a project brings to the region.

State Member for Monaro John Barilaro then officially opened the exhibition. He extensively praised the work of the Delegate Progress Association, the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council, Bombala council and South East Arts. He spoke of the role that art plays in the rehabilitation of the inmates and the inspiration that the Gallery gives as a showcase of Aboriginal culture. He described the co-operation of the various groups in ensuring the continuation of the Bundian Way project and the gallery, as an exemplar of reconciliation and recognition.

Sammantha Angeloski

Daughter of Ian and Vi,
Police officer in Delegate 2003-2007

Sammantha Angeloski married Jim Temelkovski on Saturday 19th September at Saint Dimitrija Solunski Macedonian Orthodox Church, Wollongong, in a traditional ceremony. The reception was held at Panorama House, Bulli Tops.



Over 300 guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal, and traditional dancing, until midnight. Sam's sisters Amy and Cassie, and Jim's sister, Mary, were the bridesmaids, and Sam's brother Cody was a groomsman.

Ian made an excellent speech, full of humour, love and emotion. Sam's first dance was with her father, who then handed her over to her new husband.

The couple will honeymoon in Bali.

Working Bee Success

A 4 stand shearing shed was constructed during a working bee at the Delegate Showground for the 49th Australia Day celebrations to be held on January 23rd 2016 in Delegate.



The death occurred at Bombala Hospital on 27th September of Delegate district resident, Mrs. Mary Horton. Mary had been unwell for quite some time and was a resident at the Delegate MPS, but was transferred to Bombala Hospital when she took a turn for the worse. Mary is survived by husband John and four children, Robin, Peter, Ron and Kylie and nine grandchildren. Sympathy is extended to all.

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.

MASSAGE THERAPIST

SALLY MILES

IN BOMBALA on

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- Postural discomfort
- Sporting injuries
- General stress or Depression
- Skeletal conditions affecting muscles
- Tension or sinus headaches/migraines
- Constipation
- Arthritic pain & Inflammation
- Low energy levels and more...

Phone Sally for
an appointment

0448 837 650.





Update on Developments in the Upgrading of Delegate Water Supply

Council wishes to provide an update to the residents of Delegate in regards to the status of its water supply.

It is widely known that the reticulated water supply has been classed as non-potable due to changes to the NSW Public Health Act and Regulation. These changes have had implications on all water supplies throughout NSW with the requirement for water supply authorities such as Bombala Council to develop drinking water management systems (DWMS) for their individual water supplies.

The Drinking Water Management Systems requires Bombala Council to ensure their water supplies comply with the National Health and Medical Research Councils' "Australian Drinking Water Guidelines".

To try and address the new requirements, an option study was prepared comparing all the available technology and systems on the market, identifying the most economical solution for upgrading the water supply. One option was identified as having the least financial impact upon residents whilst having the capacity to meet the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines standards.

Council engaged the Department of Public Works to do a detailed assessment of this option and tailor an application in accordance with the grant funding guidelines at the time. The assessment of this option revealed it to have the least economic and environmental impact whilst being able to secure and resolve the Delegate water supply quality issues.

Council has since revised and submitted this proposal to two separate funding rounds of the Restart NSW Water Security for Regions Program in 2014. The funding sought was for the option of a:

- Microfiltration Small Package Treatment Plant; along with water meter installation.

The estimated cost of this option is in the order of \$1.35 million. In addition, Council also proposed necessary refurbishment of the water supply weir, raw water pump station and the construction of a new reservoir along with the replacement of critical water main pipelines. This is estimated to cost a further \$3.55 million.

Bombala Council monitors the Delegate water supply in accordance with a strict Drinking Water Monitoring Program adhering to the microbiological and chemical sampling and testing regime set in consultation with NSW Health. Daily operational monitoring of chlorine levels within the Delegate water supply is also undertaken.

Council is continuing to seek grant funding to minimise the cost impact upon ratepayers and will continue to explore every avenue to try and achieve this.

If you would like further information on the proposed upgrades to the Delegate Water Supply please contact the Council Engineering Department on (02) 6458 3555.

WHAT MAGIK AND MYSTERY CAN WE MUSTER UP FOR OCTOBER?

THE MINI MARKET & PRODUCERS SWAP!

So Sunday October 11 it has been decided that we will hold our first Mini Market or Producers Swap at the Delegate School of Arts Hall. Starting from 1pm for 2 to 3 hours only, is an opportunity for those with extra plants, fruits or vegies to come along to try to exchange their extra produce.

So far we have some very interesting stalls. Barbara from Bombala will bring some home grown lettuce, Maria Calloway is going to have some extra jams and sauces and will also cook some special treats that are sure to go quick as they will be a hit in the Monday lunch boxes.

Gilberts have been busy planting on their berry farm at Balgownie, come along to talk to them about the possibilities of trading with them through the summer months. Anthony will give a short talk on what to do with your excess produce such as preserving, etc.

Karen Cash will bring along some Lavender and Rosemary I am sure and talk to us about labelling requirements for those keen to take that path.

Katrina Jamieson will have some fabulous plants ready to be planted in your garden and she will give you the opportunity to try some Kombucha, she will look forward to what you think about the flavoursome fermented tea that is so good for you.

Want to talk chooks, stop by to talk with SallyAnne about her new venture, she will be more than happy to chat with you and she may even have some extra eggs for sale or exchange.

Anyone can come along to the market, and if you would like to have a stall please feel free to call Su King on 6458 8315 to book your table. I am also sure we will have more stalls book in before the actual event.

There are some rules, such as, your produce must be home grown or home made. This producers swap or mini market is all about giving other options to healthy eating, local planting and eating and the possibility of future producers opportunities. This market is not about increasing revenue or making thriving business plans. This is about some hobby people exchanging goods and allowing the local community to benefit from each others gardens. These products are locally grown or made and are not up to supermarket standards – although some would disagree and think that they are of better and fresher quality without pesticides, etc.

If all goes well we will look at making this event a regular thing. Please give us your feedback on the afternoon. We look forward to seeing you.

Snowy River March Re-enactment Update

Only one month to go to the send-off!

The many threads of organisation are gradually pulling together to create a wonderful tapestry for November.

Sunday 1st November will be the official send-off for the Marchers in Delegate. A group of twelve marchers representing the original twelve Men will fall in at the MFSR memorial in Delegate at 11am. A procession led by the Bemboka Light Horse will make its way to the Delegate School of Arts. In the procession will be a piper and drummer, the twelve Men behind their banner, descendants behind a special banner, RSL members, schoolchildren and other members of the public.

At the School of Arts there will be a short ceremony, with Colonel Mike Kelly giving the keynote address. There will be a light luncheon and some musical entertainment.

At 1.30 the marchers and Light Horse will again Fall-in and start their march to Craigie.

Any descendants who would like to be a part of the group of twelve Men please contact the RTC as we have not yet finalised who these men will be. Other descendants will be able to march behind their own banner.

To add to the festivities the street will be decorated with bunting, flags, balloons and streamers. If you wish to decorate your home-front please contact the RTC to arrange for materials. Bunting and flags can be re-used for the January event. As well as the street the School of Arts needs to be decorated, any help with this will be gratefully received, please contact the RTC if you can assist in any way.

There will be a strong media presence, so we would love to see as many people as possible in Period Costume or uniforms. If you are marching as part of the twelve men or of the registered group of marchers you will need to wear dungarees or work trousers in subdued colours, a collarless white shirt, braces and plain work, walking or riding boots. NO sneakers or blue jeans ! A white floppy hat will be provided.

Many people have indicated that they want to march to Craigie. If this is your intention please let the RTC know as we will need numbers for catering afternoon tea at the top of the Craigie range at 'Kilmersdon'. If you wish to stay overnight at Craigie Hall we will also need to know so that catering numbers can be confirmed. You do not need to formally register for this first leg but if you plan to be part of the march from then on you will need to register.

We have seen some lovely weather in the last week, let's hope that the same will apply for the first weeks in November. Any other enquiries please direct to the RTC in Delegate.

18th NSW Weeds Conference

Cooma 12th—15th October

Public sessions and trade displays (Free) on Wednesday 14th

10am to 4pm

www.weedscooma.com.au

HERE & THERE

Lots of October birthdays including Janice Lewis, Shannen Talbot, Daniel Talbot, Doreen Standen, Uland Sievert, Annette Twomey, Val Crawford, Gloria Cotterill, Peter Guthrie, Trine Manning. We wish them all Many Happy Returns.



A special Happy Birthday for Doug Cameron who celebrated his 60th at the Country Club on Saturday 26th September. His special gift on the night was a signed Melbourne Storm jumper. His delight in the gift would have been marred by the results of the final played later that evening when the Storm were well beaten by the Cowboys.



The death has occurred on the 29th September of local man, John Bates. Sympathy is extended to Tom and John's sister Ilma Stewart & Amy Talbot & families

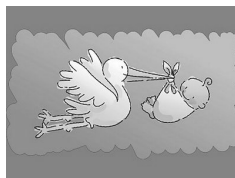
Best of luck to all the High School Students, just completing their final year, with exams looming in October and big decisions to make regarding their future.

Congratulations to Patrice and Clay Clear, who are proud parents of a baby girl, born at



Cooma Hospital on 3rd September.

The little girl who is to be named Bridget Angela is the third grandchild for Michelle and Garry Ingram. She is also the great granddaughter of Lorna Trevanion and Val Buckley.



The Gundagai Tigers Rugby League team which recently celebrated grand final wins in both grades, as well as in the women's Tag Team, this year had a local flavour with Dane O'Hehir son of Vicki and Gerald playing full-back in the winning first grade side. Proud Grandfather Scrub Crotty was of course present to celebrate the Victory. Gundagai, the smallest town in group nine has always punched above their weight, playing in nine grand finals since their last win in 1983. The winning 1983 team also included a former Delegate footballer, Neil Armstrong as well as Cliff Lyons who went on to play for Manly, State of Origin and



Australia.

Great news from Council, that they have received a grant for a new amenities block at Bill Jeffreys Park, tenders for which will be called shortly. The old units have served the town well, but are a long way past their use by date.

Hopefully residents in the main street will make an effort to make everything ship shape to make a good impression on the visitors who will be coming from far and wide on the 1st. November.



After a long cold winter the town has been rewarded by a wonderful display of spring blossoms. Daffodils planted around the town and in the park are looking particularly good.

Delegate Primary School will be undertaking a sponsored ride around the Bill Jeffreys oval with proceeds going to Life Cycle. Contact the school for details.

Delegate School of Arts November 7 3pm **Fire Side Chat** with representatives from the National Gallery of Australia on the upcoming **Tom Roberts Exhibition** at the National Gallery. This is a chat not to be missed. Bookings call the VIC on 64584622.



Gloria with her pen pal Elizabeth.

LOOKING BACK



During the 1900's the little settlement of Cabanandra came to life on New Year's Day for many years when an influx of visitors came to enjoy the races and sports,. Back in the days when motor vehicles were scarce, everyone was looking for a lift when all roads lead to the races at Cabanandra. Back then it was a longer trip going via Bonang.

We received the following information when researching the Men from Snowy River Book. William Louis Pryce was an uncle to the Rev. Bill Price who was in Delegate in the fifties.

William Pryce was one of the "Men from Snowy River" marchers (recruitment march from Delegate to Goulburn Military Camp January 1916). He and two friends from Berridale (Edgar Eric Pattrick and James Henry Reid decided to travel to Goulburn on the train. Here the three men were met by the Anglican Bishop of Goulburn and Army Chaplain, Bishop Lewis Radford. The Bishop then allegedly drove the men to Tiranna where the marchers had camped for the night. Here Edgar, James, William and the Bishop joined the "Men From Snowy River" and marched into Goulburn with them.

Private William Louis Pryce, a 29 year old grazier was the second son of Charles and Louisa Pryce of "Fullwood", Berridale. He fought with the 55th Battalion and was killed in action in February 1917, two months after he landed in France. Willie moved to front line trenches at Le Trans Loy where, on 3rd February, a bomb landed in his section of the trenches. He was 30 years old when he died. He is buried in the Bancourt British Cemetery near Bapaume in northern France. In one of his last letters home, written on December 27, 1917 he described the conditions on the front, his Christmas lunch, included snippets of information about his friends and mentioned that he had not had any mail for a month.

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 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. Bob Lindbeck 64583018

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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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

Bulbs Again! With Sue Tocchini



The display of daffodils, jonquils and snowbells that do so well here will end in the next few days which then leads into the vexed issue of what to do with their foliage. Remember that it is the normal pattern in a bulb's growth cycle for the foliage to continue growing after flowering. Eventually the foliage becomes a dull green as nutrients are withdrawn into storage. Near the end of this process the foliage becomes a yellow mess. We know we have to keep the foliage intact because of its role in creating the food store that not only maintains the bulb in the dormant period but also forms the flower that lies within its heart ready to emerge next Spring. New layers in the bulb form at the base of each leaf expanding the bulb from the inside out i.e the newest tissue is in the centre. When removing the spent flower it is best to leave a piece of stalk well above ground level as pulling it out hard it will leave a wound for water to enter the centre of the bulb possibly causing loss through rotting.

Despite being really vexed by the mess of the foliage as it declines I cannot wean myself off the joy of the late winter display. I have lately devised a number of compromises. The first is to cull the number of plants of those varieties that have excessive leaf growth, namely snowbells and lemon jonquils and grape hyacinths. They will be replaced with daffodils that are true dwarfs or semi-dwarf like the double ones so prevalent in our district, hoop petticoats and the more compact 'paperwhite' jonquils. The next step is to thin out the clumps of preferred varieties because overcrowded bulbs have a great proportion that do not flower at all. This consequently clogs up the display with unnecessary leaves. However, digging and spacing out the bulbs leads into the next dilemma i.e. what to do with all those spare bulbs when you end up with sacksful and have run out of willing friends.

The next approach I have devised is disguise achieved by inter-planting the daffs etc. with follow-on flowers that will hopefully divert the eye away from the decaying bulb leaves. I am attempting two schemes. The first is to put bearded iris slightly to the front of the bulbs in the hope that their flowers will obscure the bulb foliage. This is not an ideal plan as iris rhizomes prefer to be exposed to sun and kept dry. Being overlain with moist fallen bulb leaves (as they will inevitably be) may become a new problem to the iris. The second approach is to simultaneously go vertical with a backdrop of sweet peas on a support with the odd sunflower thrown in.

Going back to the spare bulbs problem - being soft hearted with 'still good plants' leads to all sorts of gardening-time-and-energy black holes. For example failure to limit the replanting of thinned out bulbs because they are too good to throw out (my daffodil quandary) can lead to a garden full of three-week colour with no room for the follow on plants. And who hasn't invested loads of time into an ailing African Violet or similar or even wrapped a frost tender plant with an on again off again blanket until the night you forget and disaster occurs.

Declining energy that comes with ageing certainly helps with the garden tough love concept. I have mulled over Michael McCoy's article in the most recent Gardening Australia magazine where he pointed out that the gift of plants may be a burden to the recipient as they are accompanied by an implicit ongoing duty of care and often had the capacity to spoil the carefully crafted display garden. I can see his point as a landscaper but I could never be quite so cool headed to regret a plant gift. Nor can I be comfortable with a garden not built on sentiment. I maintain plants in my garden as a living memorial to friends, places and relatives in, I suppose, a superstitious way. I need their seasonal reappearance to keep alive those people and events in my memory. Sixty years ago my Grandmother gave me a feverfew plant, thereafter known as Nana's daisy, a weedy plant which has accompanied me everywhere since. So too has the nondescript white iris that bloomed the day of my son's birth even though in this climate it now flowers at least two months later than his birthday.

The act of gardening is so complex in its motives and skills. The agreeable balance between the emotion, artistry and science is in continual flux relative to the position in one's life journey and there are as many resolutions of these competing aspects as there are gardeners. That is why every garden is so different thank goodness.