

August 2021

**1.50 Incl.
GST**

Delegate Doings



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Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund

The Delegate Progress Association have been successful in obtaining a grant through the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund to help with ensuring our community remains vibrant and resilient. The grant totalling \$686,755 will see much needed additional accommodation options for visitors, contract workers and when needed emergency personnel, the establishment of Discovery Centre which will focus tourism development in the village and the contracted employment of an Indigenous Project Officer to assist with the roll out of the Bundian Way in the immediate area.

The Discovery Centre will host a program of workshops, allow for specialised displays depicting both historical Indigenous and European history as well as current day projects, and act as the booking office for Bundian Way tours and activities in the Delegate Node. Some of the planned displays will be permanent features while others will be developed for specific events and to celebrate particular aspects of the life and times within the village or to support the workshop program.

The additional accommodation will include three new huts modelled on the cattleman huts of the high country and are sure to be popular with visitors wanting an unique experience in our historic village. Also include in the project are some minor improvements at the Nurses Cottage and the Old Bank Flat and the remodeling of the surgery at the old Doctors House to create a two bedroom self contained flat.



Next Issue: 3rd September

then: 1st October

and: 5th November

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Dates for your Calendar

- 12th August—DPA meeting 5.30pm @ RTC
- 28th August—Markets @ Old Post Office

Save the Date

- 17th October—St Joseph's Centenary (subject to covid)
- 30th/31st October—Heritage Weekend and Public School 150 year Celebrations



Hardware Repairs / Software Repairs
Networking
Computer Upgrades
Virus Removal

Assistance with all computer problems
Windows, Linux/Unix, Apple

Phil Pope
0417 453 545

DEATH NOTICE

On Saturday, 17th of July, Blue Minchin passed away peacefully. Much loved brother-in-law to Helen and Alan Neven. Beloved Uncle to Philip, Patrizia, Great Uncle to Penny, Stu, Clare, Jarryd, Daisy, James and Jess and Great, Great Uncle to Piper, Lachlan, Oscar, Olivia, Hazel and Charles. Thank you so much for everything. To Opal Bairnsdale, he loved 'his girls,' thank you so much to all the girls and 'good lads' for taking such good care of him.

RTC Delegate

Mon, Wed, Fri

2nd and 4th Sat

10am to 3pm

Photocopying

Photo Printing

Free Seniors Internet Access

Fax

Laminating

RTA E-Tags for hire

Borderline Gallery

Bundian Gallery

Nurses Cottage Accommodation

Gallery Flat Accommodation

Centerlink Access Centre

02 6458 8388

66 Bombala St Delegate

DELEGATE BIN ENCLOSURE TO RE-OPEN 3rd AUGUST.

Council has put out a second release regarding the bin enclosure at the Delegate Tip stating that the facility would be re-opening on 3rd August. Their first Media Release merely stated that the facility would be closing, leading users to believe that it would be closing permanently. It was in fact temporarily closed for cleaning purposes following the dumping of needles and a mattress with blood on it. Council will be monitoring the facility and further illegal dumping and misuse, may result in the facility being closed to the public.

Because the first message was misleading, Councillor Bob Stewart called for a meeting with the community to clear up the matter. The meeting was held at the Rural Transaction Centre on Friday 23rd July, where one Council Staff representative was present and another on a phone hook-up. Councillors Stewart and Haslingden were present, as well as members of the public, where the matter was discussed at some length.

Council staff also informed the meeting that at least four cameras placed at the bin enclosure, had been removed or rendered inoperable, so it is obvious that some people are doing the wrong thing. It is a sad blight on our society that something placed there for people's convenience is treated with such disrespect.

Therefore, it is quite obvious that such a free rubbish disposal enclosure, sitting beside a Transfer Station (Rubbish Tip) which is only open for two half days per week, where ratepayers have to pay for items placed there, is set up to fail.

- One solution would be to change to a Bank of Bins, which are locked, giving the out of town ratepayers, keys.
- Placing a camera inside the Bank of Bins, facing outward where it would catch unauthorised dumping beyond the enclosure.
- The amount of rubbish placed in the bin enclosure has increased, because it is open while the Rubbish tip (Transfer station) is only open for two half days per week.
- Costs associated with the use of the rubbish tip have increased drastically and there are those who cannot afford the extra costs. For example, there are no green bins for garden waste supplied and the cost of taking green waste to the tip is becoming prohibitive.
- Council will be increasing the hours of opening for the tip itself, to Tuesday: 8am -1pm, Saturday: 9am to 1.30pm, but with costs of usage increasing, this will not solve the amount of rubbish left in the free bin enclosure

There needs to be a re-think for users in smaller villages, e.g. to get rid of a mattress and many other items, users are asked to do a 60km round trip on top of paying a fee. It should be pointed out that many people in the town do not have any means of transporting larger items. Bombala Council trialed a pick up of large items twice a year, perhaps this could be tried again.

Servicing Rural towns with small populations may present problems, but surely thinking outside the square could produce a plan to help residents in these areas, who have a right to such basic services as rubbish removal. Also, those who are responsible for the dumping of illegal items need to be reminded that there are penalties for such behavior.

R: The disgusting mess left at the bin enclosure and far R: The needles appear to have been wrapped in foil.



MEMORIES OF A LIFETIME FOR DANE O'HEHIR AFTER REPRESENTING NSW COUNTRY

Gundagai Tigers fullback Dane O'Hehir has achieved many goals in his rugby league career, including first grade premierships in London and Gundagai and also making the Australian side whilst in London which was selected from Australians based in London. Dane was also selected in the under 18's NSW country side, but being picked recently in the open-aged NSW Country side against City was something he will never forget. Coaches of the team were former NSW Origin and NRL stars Terry Campese and Beau Scott both of whom Dane states were highly knowledgeable as well as being clear and precise in what they wanted from each player.

Whilst the team went down to City, 38-10 at Wollongong, Dane said the whole week was an awesome experience being able to mingle and play with other players from all around country NSW.

Keen to cheer Dane and his team mates on were parents Gerald & Vicki, sister Sophie & family, Grandfather Scrub, Great Uncle Bernie & family, Uncle Tommy and members of the Southam family. It also proved a great opportunity for a "Delegate Reunion" in Wollongong. Well done Dane!



NEW BARBECUE IN THE MEMORIAL PARK

A new barbecue has been installed in the Memorial Park. The Delegate Progress Association obtained a grant from FRRR and it was installed at the same time as Council upgraded the electricity to the park. Electrical work was carried out by Jake Heffernan, and a big thankyou to Delegate Station for the loan of the tractor which was used to place it in the rotunda. It will be a great addition to the park, which is a popular place for barbecues in the summer.



Delegate Café

64 Bombala St Delegate

DINE IN - TAKE AWAY

OPEN 7 DAYS

Fruit & Veg - Groceries

DVD Hire - Eftpos

Tel (02) 6458 8171

Pizza available most Friday & Saturday Nights

New Trading Hours for

Sundays 9.30am to 2pm

DELEGATE HOTEL

Your host: Paul Herringe

**Accommodation
Counter Lunches**

**Spin to win every Friday
night.**

Pick of the table and cash

**Sky Channel & Pub Tab,
ATM and Eftpos**

Ph: 6458 8091

TALBOT TRANSPORT



LIVESTOCK & GENERAL

1 Hensleigh Street, DELEGATE 2633

Mobile: 0418 516 076

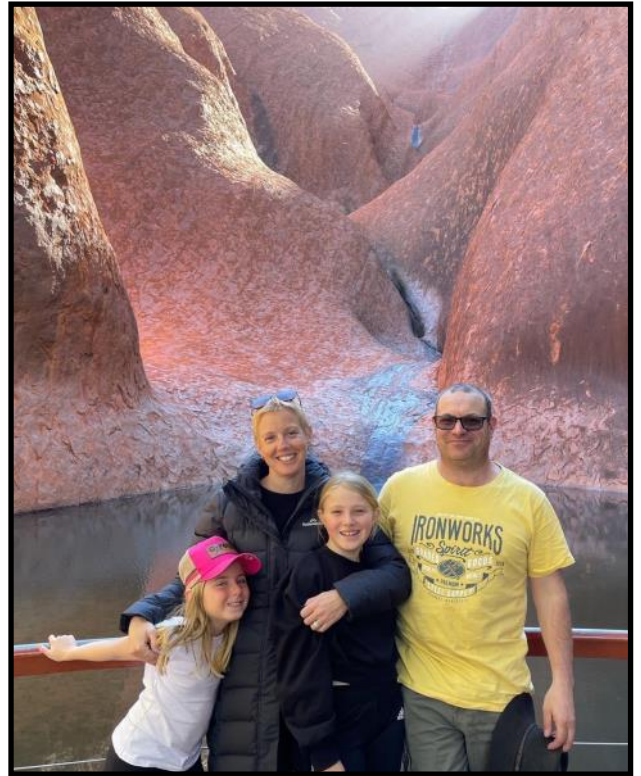
Phone: (02) 6458 8085

Fax: (02) 6458 8055

TRIP TO NORTHERN TERRITORY

Denielle and Trent Tonissen with daughters Bella and Lola, have recently returned from a trip to Central Australia and Darwin, a trip which covered thousands of Kilometers. As well as taking the opportunity to call on Denielle's uncle Carl Cotton and his wife Barbara in Darwin, the group were able to visit many of the interesting sites covering that large area. They were accompanied by friends Rosie and Tim Gillespie Jones.

Below are some photos taken during their long trip:



LOCAL COUNCIL'S TERM EXTENDED

In response to the evolving Covid 19 situation in NSW, Council elections for voters in Queanbeyan-Palarang and Snowy Monaro local Government will now not be held until Saturday December 4th.

Mayor Peter Beer felt that there should have been more consultation, rather than a snap decision, but Member for Monaro John Barilaro said the decision was made after consultation with NSW Health and the Electoral Commission. Local Councilors were divided in their opinion, some being disappointed, while others felt that it was logical with the ongoing Covid outbreak in Sydney.

Nominations for Council will open on October 25th and close on November 3rd.





Delegate

Tel: 6458 8004

Livestock— Tony Brady,

Sam Platts

Agronomy— Milly Arnold

0488281253

Merchandise

Insurance - Wool

Finance - Fertilizer

*Delegate
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Mob: 0427587240



FARMER FOUND A WIFE

The long awaited screening of Farmer wants a Wife went to air a couple of weeks ago and created great interest for locals and for former locals. With the picturesque countryside around Delegate looking it's best after lots of spring rain, it was a great promotion for the local area. Local man, Andrew Guthrie found love with Jess Nathan, and said it was a challenge keeping their relationship a secret between the filming and airing of the show 6 month's later. However we all know that reality shows and not very "real" and the final edit would probably be very different to what the participants expected, and Andrew felt that Jess had been made out to be the villain in some episodes. In one of the early episodes, the girls visited the Rural Transaction Centre, where they interviewed local residents, supposedly for the Delegate Doings and the photo below shows the girls on that day. R: Andrew and Jess.





Saturday 30th October

Bill Jeffreys Park

8.00am Markets and Food stalls

9.00am Kids Games

11.30am Tug of war and Snowy River Sprint

1pm Cricket

Delegate Public School

1pm Historic Display and memorabilia

Afternoon tea and Music

BBQ evening meal

Movie for kids

Fireworks after dark

Sunday 31th October

8am Bundian Walk

11.30 Blessing of the flock at St Phillips Church

12.30 Lunch at School of Arts and Best period costume judged.



Delegate Multi Purpose Service
Craigie St, Delegate 6459 8000

Wellness Clinic

Monday 9am-10am

Every week except Public Holidays

No Appointments necessary.

A clinic where well people come for health monitoring and a variety of nursing procedures such as:

- Wound care
- Blood pressure readings
- Blood sugar readings
- Suture or clip removal
- Injections with Doctors written order
- Other procedures that do not require a Doctor

Pathology clinic (conducted by Pathology West)

Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30 am.

No appointment necessary.

Every week except public holidays.

Women's Health Clinic

4th Thursday of the Month

Phone 1800999880 for appointments

Other Community Health Services

- Dietician
- Diabetes Educator
- Immunisations
- Podiatry
- Child and Family Health Nurse
- Generalist Community Health Nurse

To refer to any of the above please ring Community Health Central Intake team on 1800999880

Victorian Visits

Community Nurse visits Victorian Clients every fortnight. For referral or info ring Orbest Regional Health 03 5154 6666 or Delegate Community Health Nurse on 6459 8000

OLD DELEGATE POST OFFICE

Home of the

Healing Hub and Creative

Hub

And Retailing

Homewares

Gourmet Foods

Handcrafted Gifts & Toys

Thursday to Saturday

10am to 4pm

40 Bombala St Delegate

02 64585289

Thursday afternoon Creative

Hub Workshops

12.30 to 2.30pm

Small charge for materials

Serendipitous Markets last

Saturday of the month.



DELEGATE SCHOOL NEWS

What an incredible two weeks of learning that we have had. Behaviour standards have hit an all time high and we are seeing significant improvements in work ethic and attitudes toward learning. K12 have been immersed in work related to the Tokyo Olympics and any information they can't tell you is not worth knowing. Mrs McKinnell and her crew have integrated, maths, writing, reading, geography, art and technological research skills. It has

been so wonderful to have a constant flow of K12 students visiting me in my office to proudly show me their work. 3456 have really developed their technological research



skills also and have been extending themselves with work on the Olympics as well, plus building Solar Cars and working on developing and understanding of electrical circuits.

Thank you so much to those parents that engaged with Mrs McKinnell, Miss Buckley and the children in our Student Led Three Way Confer-

ences last week. The feedback from the students and teachers was just how positive an experience it was for all concerned. There was a clear and high level of pride displayed by the students when sharing their work with mums and dads. It was also fantastic to hear of students setting learning and social goals for the rest of the year.



Ken Collins and His Family

Ken is the eldest child born to Stan and Una Collins. He was born at Delegate Cottage Hospital on the 10. 01.1942.

Ken, along with his wife Deidre and baby Jason left Delegate in November, 1968.

Some of his siblings said that Ken left with his arse out of his pants, and moved to Swan Reach, Victoria. The next three and a bit years Ken worked at the hotel as well as shearing in Bairnsdale and Gippsland District. The district was badly affected by drought. During their stay in Victoria, Justin Kenneth was born. He passed away sadly in 2002. After this time, Ken and family then moved back to Tasmania in 1972, selling their block of land in Bairnsdale.

Ken started work on the construction of the new Launceston to Bell Bay rail line, where he was supervisor of the finishing work. During this time, they built a new home in Tasmania. At the completion of the rail way work, Ken returned to shearing for four months. He then started work in the Comalco Aluminum Plant at Bell Bay, 1974.

While in Tasmania, Joshua Arthur Stanley and Jonathon Raymond were born. In 1981, they moved to Queensland.

Jason Patrick is an electrician by trade, specialising in the use of water in casting of metal, as well as the use of water in coal and gold mines. He also did similar work with very large shopping centres. He moved into recruitment for a number of years employing people to work in various roles throughout the state. His achievements were rewarded winning a number of awards for his work. He is currently the manager of a multi -million -dollar company in Australia. His wife Kelly, works in the coal industry as a Quality Control Supervisor.

Joshua Arthur Stanley is a Physiotherapist. He moved to the UK and worked with the West Ham Soccer Club for a number of years. He then moved into Recruitment for a number of years, employing people from around the world to work in the UK. He also spent 12 months in Sydney doing the same recruitment job. Joshua then went back to college and successfully completed an MBA in London which he passed with Honours. He then went to Argentina auditing companies. Joshua is now CEO of a Health Care Company in London employing over 5000 people. He married in the UK where his family members travelled all the way to London to attend. He now has 2 girls and 1 boy.

Jonathon Raymond did a Justice and Law Degree at Griffith University which he passed with Honours. At the completion of that, Jonathon joined the AFP, working on a number of special assignments. Jonathon spent 2 years in Cyprus, peace keeping with the United Nation. He then joined John Howard Security Team for 6 years and this is where he met his wife, Danielle. She was a Personal Assistant to Mrs Howard and now currently works for DFAT. Jonathan and Danielle had 1 boy and 1 girl at this time. He and his family then were posted to New Delhi Embassy for 3 years as a Diplomat. At the completion of that, he travelled to various Embassies around the world doing 'Audits'. He was asked to go to college to learn French. Which he did successfully.

After this, he and his family were posted to Noumea for three years as an Australian Diplomat and working throughout all the Pacific Islands on Operations. He has just returned from Tahiti, spending 4 months there setting up an Australian Office.

In July of this year, he and his family have been posted to the Middle East as an Australian Diplomat for 3 years.

Ken and Deidre are retired and live on a small island off the Central Qld Coast.

Over the years they have travelled extensively by all forms of transport throughout Australia and New Zealand.

They have had many trips to London with side trips throughout the U.K. They crossed the English Channel by ship and rail, with one trip to Cyprus.

Ken and Deidre have had many trips out of Australia. They have visited Europe, most Asian countries and most Pacific Islands. Their 12 day land trip through China was amazing. (Contd. Page 12)

Ken's memoirs (contd.)

We had a family holiday in Langkawi. Deidre had a trip to America with her sister.

Ken and Deidre are enjoying retirement where they spend time in their prize winning garden and their 200 plus Orchids. On the most part, they enjoy spending time catching up with their family and spending time with their grandchildren.

They follow the Hawthorn Football team which Ken has supported since 1970 and is a member of the club. Ken has become quite the connoisseur of beer. His best two being in McDonlald in Prague and the local beer at the Canberra airport.

Ken was a shearer between the years of 1960 to 1980, continuing part time in the last 7 years whilst working at Bell Bay, Smelter. He shore in 5 states of Australia, 6 months in NZ and on one occasion in Western Queensland in a caravan with Deidre. He shore 254 000 and 200 sheep in a day on many occasions. He has kept a record of all the sheds he has worked in.

"The biggest shed I shore in was Oakwood at Augathella 20 stands 40,000 to shear, 2 Cooks, 2 Pressers, Wool classer had a Jockey and 2 Experts who had to start at 5am to fire up the steam engine for a start at 7.30am.54 in the mess including some station hands. Closer to home, I shore at Delegate Station in 1960, 25,000 sheep, 8 stands."

Good 360 Donations to Delegate

Delegate Progress has received numerous donations from Good 360 Charity over the last 2 years.

After the bushfires we received comfort packs for seniors, children and families. We received men's products for fathers day, some new mattresses for the cottage, some cat food and oil drop cloths for the garages.

For covid we have received masks and sanitizer for the Rtc and for the community. This week they are supplying hand sanitizer to all the businesses in town.

They have also supplied toys, masks and hand sanitizer for our Heritage Festival in October.



HERE & THERE

Happy birthday to those who celebrate a birthday in August, including:

Claire Strickland, Su King, Hunter Reed, Philomena Collins, Laura Chapman, Sharon Buckman, Amelia and Georgina Jeffreys, Ton Ventry, Chops Guthrie.



The death occurred at Bombala Hospital of long time resident, Warren Haley. Warren is survived by his wife Christine, one daughter Tammy and two grandchildren, Adam and Leanna. Sympathy is extended to all.

We have been notified of the death of a former resident of the Bonang area, Blue Minchin who passed away on Saturday, 17th of July. The son of Fred and Minchin of Bonang, Blue spent most of his life in the Gelantipy area, but we understand moved to a Nursing home in Bairnsdale where passed away peacefully. He is survived by his sister and brother-in-law Helen and Alan Neven, nephews and nieces and sympathy is extended to all.

Well known local identity, Lou Joseph recently passed away at Currawarna. Sympathy is extended to his family.

One thing I have noted with everyone wearing masks, it is sometimes hard to recognize people you know. We are slowly getting used to wearing them, but those of us who wear glasses, need a demister.



Please be advised that Delegate River Bridge will be closed from 9 – 13 August 2021. The reason for the closure is to carry out repairs on the approach roads to the bridge. The alternate route to be used during this time is Delegate River Road (light vehicle access only). The detour via Delegate River Road is 10km and estimated to take 14 minutes. The increased distance between two points is 6.5km. Any border entry restrictions due to COVID-19 will apply during the closure and diversion period. Motorists are requested to verify the restrictions prior to starting their journey in line with VIC Health and NSW Health requirements for cross border communities.

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after consultation with NSW Health and the Electoral Commission. Local Councilors were divided in their opinion, some being disappointed, while others felt that it was logical with the ongoing Covid outbreak in Sydney.

Nominations for Council will open on October 25th and close on November 3rd.

As October draws closer, we can't help but wonder whether plans for the St. Joseph's reunion and the Heritage week-end will have to be put on hold. The Delta variant of Covid is proving to be the most contagious yet. Let us hope that the lock-downs work.

LOCUM DOCTOR.

The local community were very pleased to welcome a former local to the Bombala Surgery. Dr. Keith Gleeson, formerly of Bombala who will be at the Surgery for the next two months.

Keith graduated in 2014 and has been working around the country as a General Practitioner. He resides in Taree, which like many rural towns is experiencing GP shortages.

Dr Gleeson who attended Bombala High School, has relatives in the area and is looking forward to reacquainting himself with the region and is encouraging everyone to come forward and receive their Covid vaccines which are available



LOOKING BACK

The photo below is of a welcome home from WW2 to Percy Walker at Tombong. A number of Ingram and Wright families are pictured. At the bottom of page are photos of Delegate River school in the 1930's and 1880's.



Community Information

EMERGENCY / AMBULANCE: 000

FIRE: 000

POLICE

Delegate: 6450 3360

Bombala: 6458 3444

Cooma: 6452 0099

Bendoc: 6458 1523

CHURCHES

CATHOLIC

Father Mick McAndrew 02 8331 7609

Sister Teresa Keane: 6458 3045

1st 5th Sundays Mass Delegate Sat
5pm and Bombala Sunday 8am

2nd & 4th Sunday –Liturgy Del.Sat 6pm

Bombala Sun. 9am

3rd Sun. Mass Del. Sun 8am Bom. 10am

Mass Delegate MPS 2nd Wed. 10.30am

Website www.cg.org.au/bombala

Email: joeysdelegate@gmail.com

ANGLICAN

Rev. Judy Holdsworth 04 0853 1544

Rev. John Kuruvilla 0406765443

Services: 11am every Sunday.

DELEGATE MPS 6459 8000

BOMBALA MPS 6458 5777

Community Health Central intake team on 1800 999880

Victorian Visits—Community Nurse visits Victorian Clients every fortnight. For referral or info ring Orbest Regional Health 03 5154

6666 or

Delegate Community Health Nurse on 6459 8000

Bombala Medical Practice 6458 3022

Healthdirect and GP helpline 1800 022 222

(See advert in paper for detailed information)

MONARO FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

Bombala Office: 6458 4888

open Tues to Thurs - 9:00am to 5:00pm

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

Tubbut Access Centre 6458 0295

NRMA/RACV: John Stewart: 6458 8047

DELEGATE CARAVAN PARK: 0447151228

Delegate Progress Association Inc.

66A Bombala Street

DELEGATE NSW 2633

PH 6458 8388 Fax 64588 374

E-mail dpaooffice@bigpond.com

delegateprogress@exemail.com.au

(for paper)

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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

All About Strawberries

I keep buying punnets of strawberries and am always disappointed to find them fairly hard and flavourless so once again I have decided to grow them myself even though I have had varying success in the past. I now realise that not all the named varieties are going to give good results here.

So first some strawberry history. Until exploration of other continents the only member of the genus in Europe was the Alpine strawberry *Fragaria vesca*. It is a tiny fruit, tedious to pick that needs to be macerated with a little sugar to release its flavour. However, in France about 1740 a plantsman made an accidental cross between the wild strawberry collected from Nth America, *Fragaria virginiana* (very similar to *Fragaria vesca*) and the much larger fruited *Fragaria chiloensis* from Chile. This cross is known as *Fragaria ananassis* and is the source of all the strawberry varieties grown today.



Some Strawberry biology. All the original strawberries were short day plants meaning that the flowers are initiated late winter and fruiting occurs for only a short season in Spring peaking in early Summer. Pollination success is critical to the shape of the fruit. Many different insects visit strawberry flowers including flies,



beetles, thrips, butterflies however, only bees, especially the honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) are efficient pollinators. Unfortunately, bees are not particularly interested in strawberry flowers and this is a problem exacerbated because the female parts develop sequentially over 7 days with each flower needing about 15 bee visits to pollinate the fruit fully. Added to this is that temperature in late winter has a marked effect on honey bee activity which is very limited below 13° C. As well in rainy conditions bees fly for very short distances and wind will reduce the number of flights per day. When a strawberry is cut open it is easy to see that each seed contributes to the development of flesh clearly demonstrating the need for all the seeds to develop for nice fruit shape. The fruits below demonstrate cold damage that occurs at -2°C and uneven seed development.

A big advance in overcoming the constraints of late winter has been the recent breeding of day neutral types that will produce flowers steadily from Oct-June. This largely overcomes the risk of poor bee visitation, cold damage and extends the season of fruiting.

The position of the flower in the truss determines the potential size of the fruit. The first flower has many more stigmata to receive pollen than the subsequent flowers explaining why fruits become smaller on the truss and no cultivation technique will change this phenomenon.

The Victorian DPI recommends 'Alinta' as best for home gardens due to its long season and ability to withstand summer heat. 'Lowanna' and 'Melba' are also day neutral and bred in Australia for consistent production over a long season. Old fashioned types will give a short heavy flush that may suit Jam makers, best are 'Chandler' and 'Tioga' both sweeter than 'Red Gauntlet'. A very new cultivar is 'Temptation' that starts in January when most others are declining.



Many novelty types are being offered with pink or red flowers and some with white fruit (not so interesting on Pavlova perhaps). The plants prefer a loose, slightly acid soil and will suffer if allowed to dry out. Most fruit rots can be avoided by preventing contact with soil by using an airy mulch. Production is maintained by removing runners early. In winter remove all old leaves and spray with a copper spray along with other fruit trees. Slugs, Portuguese millipedes, harlequin bugs and earwigs can all be damaging. Catch and destroy is the only option really, done as you pick fruit daily. Fruit will ripen nicely indoors so no need for it to be dead ripe before harvest which is handy in hot weather.

