

December 2020

**1.50 Incl.
GST**

Delegate Doings



ISSN 1446-6716

Volume 20, issue 1.

NEW EXHIBITION IN BUNDIAN GALLERY.

After a lapse of many months a new exhibition is opening at the Bundian Gallery on the 18th December. Alison Simpson is an exciting new artist who recently won first prize in an art competition recognising International Day of the World's Indigenous people. The co-ordinator of the competition said there was an enormous response with works of such high quality that choosing a winner was difficult. Alison a former student of Eden Marine High School and originally a Wiradjuri woman of central NSW, works in Age and Disability Health Care. The exhibition of her very attractive works will be on display at the Delegate Bundian Gallery until February 2021. An exhibition of her paintings has recently been on show at the Spiral Gallery, Bega along with several other aboriginal artists.

ALISON SIMPSON

BUNDIAN WAY GALLERY, DELEGATE
18 DECEMBER 2020 - FEBRUARY 2021

Gift cards and prints of the artworks are available
Presented by South East Arts and the Delegate Progress Association
Image: Sea Turtle Journey by Alison Simpson

**SOUTH
EAST
ARTS**

Next Issue: Feb 5th

then: March 12th

and: April 2nd

Inside this issue:

Farmer Wants a Wife Interviews	3 11/12
Delegate History	4
Preschool news	7
School News	8
Here & There	13
Looking Back	14

Dates for your Calendar

- 14th January—DPA Meeting
- 6th March—Delegate Annual Show.

Wishing our readers a
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year.



Hardware Repairs / Software Repairs
Networking
Computer Upgrades
Virus Removal

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

Phil Pope
0417 453 545
glenoracs@gmail.com
20 Corrowong Rd. Delegate NSW

THANKYOU

I would like to sincerely thank the staff of the Delegate MPS for the wonderful care and attention given to me during my recent illness.

It is most reassuring to know we have such a wonderful health facility still available in our town.

John (Scrub) Crotty

NOTICE RE TOURISM.

Following a meeting of the Delegate Progress Association on Thursday the 10th December it was resolved to approve the application of a grant to upgrade and add to existing accommodation facilities in the town. Lack of accommodation is one of the major disadvantages in promoting tourism, and a tourism discussion paper will be available for community perusal at the Rural Transaction Centre.

Community feedback is welcome.



REPORTERS FOR A DAY.

The four girls who will be featuring in *The Farmer Wants a Wife*, spent the day being filmed in Delegate at the Rural Transaction Centre. As part of the story line they played the part of reporters for the Delegate Doings and interviewed locals asking them to tell their story and to give advice on how to achieve a happy marriage. They set off down the main street and chose the following locals to interview: Rachel met up with John Stewart and Norman Armstrong at Stewart's Garage, Lucy caught up with Ian at Nutrien ag Solutions, while Ashleigh went to the local pub and found Max and Gail Smallman. Jess interviewed Gloria Cotterill, who happened to call in to the RTC

The girls were attractive and charming and farmer Andrew having had several week's to get to know them has to decide if one of them is his ideal partner. Filming in the local area is still happening and knowing the work and all the extra "takes" that goes on behind the scenes for such a production, no doubt all involved will breathe a sigh of relief when life returns to normal.

"Two Cents from Two Gents"

A Delegate lesson on love

Reporter Rachael (future wife of Mr. Andrew Guthrie), bumped into two delegate locals who claim their fame around town as the "Love Gods". The fellas let us know it's not just a little country in the air that makes this town what it is, rather, its love... priceless. The two gents gave us their two cents on a city chick wanting to start a life here with Farmer Andrew.

John Stewart tells us that although these days he mostly seen covered in grease, he was covered in cupid's bows 39 years ago the day he met his Sydney-sweetheart. Working as an apprentice in Cronulla after 18 years on the farm in Delegate, he lassoed himself a wife who he thought would be cut out for the farm. He brought his bride, their beautiful three-month-old, and started a life as a family here in Delegate. They made this decision so they could be apart of a small community that John had already fallen in love with growing up, allowing their kids to enjoy the most important things in life. The day he bought his wife back here he brought his two loves together, giving us full faith that not only can a city chick can hack it on the land but she can fall in love with it too. Although two of their children have moved to Canberra and one across the world, they are still connected to what's happening here in Delegate through the magic of the Delegate Doings (Hi Stewart kids, just wanted to let you three know you are each invited to the upcoming Guthrie wedding).

Norman Armstrong (the charmer) was married to his first and one and only love for 60 years. Norm shares his pearls of wisdom for marriage (this one's for you Andrew so listen up): "Love your wife above all else, always tell her the truth and don't tell her lies and lastly only have eyes for one woman". This advice is for the lucky lady who ends up with Andrew: "help out where you can, work as a team and get involved in the community." Norm's advice sure didn't triumph over his charm - I can see that would be why his wife stood by his side for all those years.

It was wonderful to get to know a couple of hard-working blokes who are so open about the most important thing in life, which is love. It's safe to say if none of us girls have yet fallen for farmer Andrew, they have definitely fallen in love with the Delegate community. Thank you very much for taking the time to read my article. It's been Dele-great!

Rachael Guthrie (has a *ring* to it doesn't it).



DELEGATE HISTORY.

A group has been formed to gather together parts of local history, some of which has not already been covered in other publications. The first meeting was held at the RTC on Wednesday the 25th. November and those present were able to contribute some more information on each town building. There is still much more to cover as we intend to gather information on nearby settlements as well as those over the border. So far we have quite a lot on the post office history, the history of hotels in the town and district, the Delegate Argus and Delegate Border Post and the Delegate Police Station.

The group will meet again in January and will welcome anyone who feels they may be able to contribute, to come on board. When completed it is hoped it will be put together in book form.

We have a great lot of old photos in our collection and would welcome more for us to copy and add to our collection. Below is an early photo of Delegate Police Station and a very early photo of Delegate.

Delegate Police Station



HISTORY OF DELEGATE IN SNOW POST

Sam Tonks will be in Delegate on Friday 11th December, with copies of the Snow Post, which will feature photos and articles on the history of Delegate.

We were able to supply Sam with lots of photos and information of early settlement, the establishing of a village and the growth which followed.

Like many other small towns, Delegate has seen the decline of businesses and population over the years. With growth being mainly confined to large regional centres and cities, we have seen the drop in many services including health and transport.

Old photos will show many shops and businesses in the town, large school attendances, sporting fixtures and regular social events.

It is important to keep what we have left, by supporting local businesses and organisations, while maintaining our sense of community, which has always been the lifeblood of rural towns.

DELEGATE RIVER TAVERN OPENS AGAIN

The Tavern is under new management and open for business. With the opening of the Border, visitors have enjoyed a meal and hospitality at this very pleasant venue just over the Victorian border. They also have accommodation at the cabins on site, which will be a welcome addition, as many seeking accommodation have had to be turned away this year.



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

ELGAS Distributor

Pickup Only (Sorry no Delivery)

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

MEDIA RELEASE

4 December 2020

2021 Australia Day Award nominations open in Snowy Monaro

Snowy Monaro Regional Council is encouraging residents to recognise hard-working individuals and community groups in our region with nominations now open for the Australia Day Awards.

2021 Australia Day events will be held in towns and villages throughout the region with award ceremonies to celebrate the achievements of community members, organisations and events that make the Snowy Monaro the great place it is to live.

Mayor Peter Beer is calling on locals who know of someone making a difference in their town or village, to nominate them for this year's Australia Day Awards.

"Australia Day Awards are a great way to honour the hard work and dedication of community members and groups, who otherwise might not receive recognition for their efforts," he said.

"Our region relies so heavily on volunteers and I'm not sure we would have made it through 2020 without them. They are the unsung heroes of our community, and while volunteers don't seek awards for their efforts, it's a fantastic way for us to say thank you."

Nomination forms are available at all Council offices, libraries and visitor centres. Forms are also available on Council's website. Nominations will close 12.00pm Tuesday 22 December 2020.

Award winners will be announced at ceremonies in Bombala on Saturday 23 January with Cooma and Jindabyne on Tuesday 26 January. The categories for the 2021 Australia Day Awards include:

- Citizen of the Year (19 & older)
- Young Citizen of the Year (18 & younger)
- Sportsperson of the Year (19 & older)
- Special Achievement of the Year
- Young Sportsperson of the Year (18 & younger)
- Community Event of the Year
- Community Group of the Year
- Arts Person of the Year
- Business of the Year
- Emergency Services Worker of the Year
- Environmental Award (Individual or group)
- Junior Environmental Award (School aged)

Media contact

Gina Woodward, Chief Communications Officer 0475 787 429 gina.woodward@smrc.nsw.gov.au

To read more about Snowy Monaro Regional Council's latest news, please view our website <https://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au> or follow Council's Facebook page.



Delegate
Tel: 6458 8004

Livestock— Tony Brady,
Sam Platts
Agronomy— Hugh Platts
0488281253
Merchandise
Insurance - Wool
Finance - Fertilizer

*Delegate
Hair Boutique*



Open
All Day Fridays
Delegate School
of Arts
Call in on the day
or telephone
0427587240
For an appointment

PLUS For all
Your Floral
Arrangements
weddings,
Birthdays,
Anniversaries,
Wreaths and
Private
Functions
Phone Pam
on 6458 4346
Mob: 0427587240



Preschool children unite with Rural Aid to help Aussie farmers.

All the children at Delegate and District Preschool have been using their creative skills to help make Christmas cards for farmers in Australia. Rural Aid has called on the children of Australia to show their love and kindness to making a lasting impression on our farmers who help feed us, clothes us and keep our country rolling. In conjunction with Rural Aid, children have helped create and send thousands of handmade cards to farmers all over Australia. Children at Delegate Preschool were happy to get on board and be a part of this wonderful project to make and send a Christmas card to an Aussie farmer. Children used sequins, felt, pieces of tinsel and glittery pieces to make their cards as bright and uplifting as possible.

R: Dennielle Tonissen with the children, proudly showing their hand made cards.





HealthShare

Hospital Job Opportunities

We are looking for a team player to join us in a food and cleaning role

You'll need to

- Be an enthusiastic team player with a 'can do' attitude
- Be friendly and cooperative in a team environment
- Provide outstanding customer service

We can offer

- Food and cleaning assistant roles
- Permanent full time roles with a pay rate of \$49,710.00 per annum (excl. 9.5% superannuation)
- Hospital Assistant Grade 2

Where you'll be working

You'll be working at Delegate Multipurpose Service for HealthShare NSW, which is the backbone of NSW public hospitals. We provide critical support such as food and cleaning services, so hospitals can do the important work of caring for patients.

What you'll need

- A recent resume
- Identification
- NSW Health Category A vaccinations - Whooping Cough, Hepatitis B, MMR, Varicella and Tuberculosis (at your expense)
- You may need a valid Working With Children Check

How to apply

Visit iworkfor.nsw.gov.au and search for 'REQ 199841' or scan the QR code. For additional information contact

Michelle Ingram on

Michelle.Ingram@health.nsw.gov.au

Applications close 8 December 2020.



Hospital job - Food and cleaning

Visit iworkfor.nsw.gov.au and search 'HealthShare Delegate' or scan the QR code



i work
FOR
NSW

Registered Nurse – Full or Part Time

Department: Southern NSW LHD

Location: Delegate Multi-Purpose Service

Salary: \$32.34 - \$45.45 per hour

Enquires:

Heather Scroope on (02) 6459 8000 or

Heather.Scroope@health.nsw.gov.au

Applications must be lodged electronically at
healthnsw.gov.referrals.selectminds.com

NSW Health Service: Employer of choice

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

December Saturday Serendipitous stalls will be held on Sat. 19th, otherwise will always be on the last Saturday of the month.



DELEGATE SCHOOL NEWS



While the Police were manning the Border they took some time to pop into the School and have a talk to the students.



Bush Christmas

Today K12 had the pleasure of zooming into a Bush Christmas virtual lesson on the release of the new Christmas story 'Santa and the Sugar Glider' by Alex Moses. This story featured around 6 native Australian animals. Students sang and danced in a movement session to mimic the animals in the story. They also participated in a guided drawing lesson of a sugar glider. A great experience for all.

It's Magical Mystery Tour Week here at Delegate PS and boy are the Year 6 students having soooooo much fun. First stop was Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Camp for Monday and Tuesday. Students participated in a range of activities that included Slider Trikes in the rain, Canoeing and Kayaking on Lake Jindabyne (which also saw this principal find himself at the bottom of the lake as he tried to turn his kayak sharply to take a photo), Rogaining (orienteeing without a compass), Pioneering (teamwork based construction activities), planning, constructing, starting and maintaining a fire ready for cooking a hand-made damper and a series of Initiative Games that kept our kids challenged. We also managed to fit in four fabulous meals and a night drive around Jindabyne. I am pretty sure the kids didn't want to return on Tuesday afternoon and would have been very happy to just continue on to their next mystery destination.



INTERVIEW WITH IAN SELLERS by Lucy

“Ian Sellers was born in Bombala hospital 60 odd years ago. He has lived and worked as a Merino sheep farmer in Delegate his whole life.

Ian met his wife, Carol, in 1988 while he was acting in the play “The very fast train”, a play about a train line that was meant to be built through the area. He had seen her around the pub prior and she had caught his eye, he worked up the courage to talk to her when she was doing makeup for all the actors in the play.

Carol’s teaching career brought her to Delegate from Wollongong where she got a job teaching at the local school. Their romance blossomed and the couple got married in April of 1991.

Carol’s biggest concern about moving to a small town from the city was the fact she is so close with her family, they made sure to visit them as regularly as possible and they kept up a family tradition of “Christmas in July” where they all gathered on the farm to spend time together rugged up and cosy.

Ian’s top tips for a city girl coming to the live on a farm are to always be yourself, make time to see your family, be flexible about life and don’t make any solid plans because things change constantly on the farm and you have to be prepared to make sacrifices.

Ian’s laidback view of life is a breath of fresh air and I’m grateful I was able to meet and chat with such a great bloke.



INTERVIEW WITH GLORIA COTTERILL by Jess

I was fortunate enough to spend some time on the Borderline Gallery porch chatting with the wonderful Gloria Cotterill.

Gloria was in her early 20’s, a driven and ambitious mid-wifery student in Wollongong when she was approached by a friend for a sea change.

In January 1962, Gloria moved to Delegate to assist the new local Doctor for 6 months. 58 years later, Gloria claims the move to the supportive community was “the

best thing that ever happened to me”.

Soon after settling in at her new hometown, Gloria met Carl.

Gloria’s face lit up as she reminisced of their first date driving local footballers to a game.

Gloria shared fond memories like nighttime table tennis her and Carl would play, weekends going on different adventures and fishing, and the annual Delegate Dance at the local hall – there was no drink and it was still one of the best nights of the year each November.

L: The producers Erica and Chelsea who have had a very busy time in the last few months. R: Gloria taken during her interview.



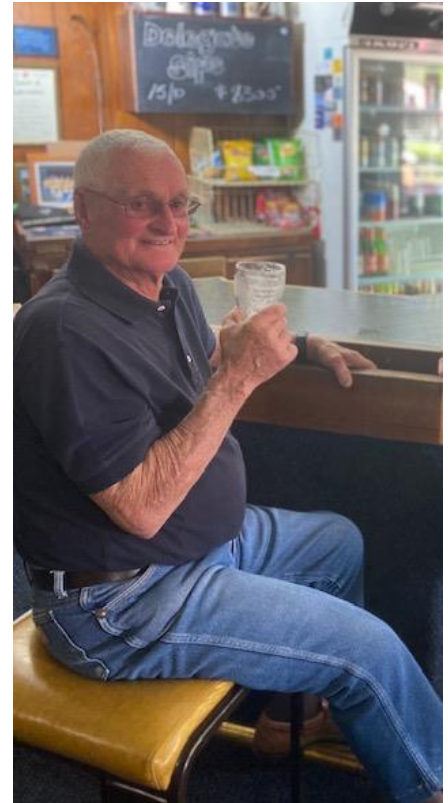
MAX SMALLMAN INTERVIEW. By Ashleigh.

Max and his wife Gale moved from Sussex inlet have been living in Delegate for 21 years now. They met 30 years before moving to Delegate and were caravanning through. They both fell in love with a small property and decided to stay. Max and Gale now have a small novelty farm and share many of the same interests.

After 65 years of living the so called single life before marriage Max decided to propose to Gale and have been happily married living in Delegate ever since. Max helps his wife Gale with the Hospital Auxiliary catering which they catered Andrews's brothers wedding only a year ago. Max also helps out in the community and is a part of the Craigie Rural Fire Service at the age of 82 which is just amazing.

There are a couple of standout reasons why Max loves Delegate. One being how lovely and supportive the small community is, if anyone needs a hand there's always someone there. The other that stood out to Max is how respectful the young children around the town are towards the older community. At any event max said the kids actually take the time to have a chat and see how he was going.

Max and Gale have fallen in love with Delegate and still love each other more and more every day. Max's last words of advice to me were to always be honest with each other, that is the secret to love and a long healthy relationship.



Are you Looking for
that last minute
Christmas gift?
Delegate Borderline
Gallery may have what
your looking for.
Come in and have
a browse.



HERE & THERE

Many Happy Returns to all December birthday people, including Raymond Jamieson, Megan Downey, Nerida Reed, Dennis Reed, Alma Reed, Heather Jones, David Jones.



The 23rd November sees the border between NSW and Victoria open, which was good news for locals, living either side. The Police were the last to leave and the town returns to almost normal.

The District was saddened to hear of the death of Tori Finnane (nee O'Hare), youngest daughter of Sue and Bill O'Hare, formerly of Corrowong. Tori whose sudden death took place at Orange Hospital leaves behind a husband and three small children, including a young baby. To her husband Liam, children, Oliver, Elke and Maisie, parents Bill and Sue and siblings Caddy and Geoffrey, our deepest sympathy is extended in your sad loss.

This district is looking better than it has looked for years—so green, it could be mistaken for New Zealand or Ireland. As long as the showers keep coming and we are not coping with a lot of dry grass in the fire season. While Terry Perkins the foreman for Parks and Garden works has been on

sick leave, Delegate mowing got very badly behind, with long grass left unchecked in the camping ground, cemetery and around the town. Several people phoned Council to complain.

However it is good to see Terry back on deck and the town looking much tidier. Mowers have certainly been kept very busy at the moment.

An email from Carl (Crunchy) Cotton to say his grandson Mitchell who lives in Brisbane has just celebrated his 18th birthday. Also Carl tell us that he commenced work at the Delegate Bank on November 24th in 1970.

No doubt his signature is on the vault door.

Happy 18th birthday to Mitchell.

The Rural Transaction Centre now has a solar system on the roof, so are looking forward to receiving smaller electricity bills in the future.



There is no doubt 2020 is a year we will never forget, beginning with the pall of smoke from massive bushfires, from which we were thankfully saved from the trauma which thousands of others endured, then followed by Covid. Let us all hope that with the promised vaccine some time in 2021 and the opening of borders, this Xmas and New Year will bring in happier times.

The Progress Association held their Christmas party on Saturday evening the 5th December. At the same time we were sorry to farewell Alan Hale and partner Ocean, who moved to Delegate 7 1/2 years ago. During that time they renovated the old building they had purchased, both inside and out and established a large garden. They plan to travel round Australia and do house sitting, their first port of call being Cooper Pedy. Robin Guthrie presented them with gifts from the Progress Association and the Settlers Hut Committee and wished them all the best. Their house has been sold and we can only hope that good citizens such as Alan and Ocean will make it their home. It was also good to catch up with our members and also to see Clare and Lyn from the Bendoc Progress Association

The Snow Post is out and there are plenty of copies in local shops. Sam managed to put together eight pages, packed with photos and history of Delegate, supplied by the DPA and others. It makes very good reading and encapsulates the rich and varied history of our district.

THE DELEGATE SHOW IS ON THIS YEAR. At a recent meeting the Committee decided to go ahead with the local show next year.

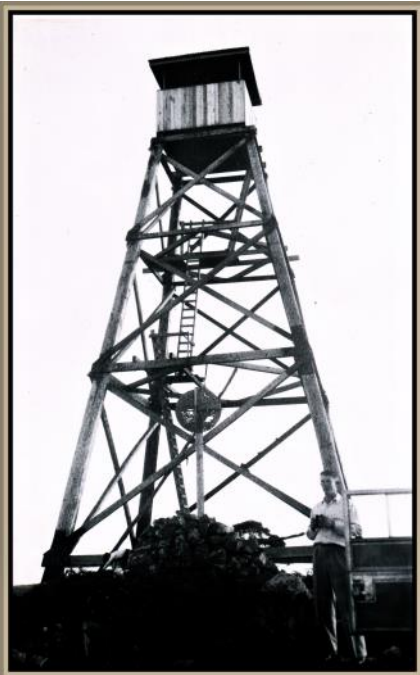
To all our readers:

**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!**

LOOKING BACK



An old photo of the Delegate show, which was taken judging by the dresses well over 100 years ago. The showground was where the present Bill Jeffreys Park is. The first Delegate show was held in 1907 and has been held continuously ever since except for one year during the war and one recent year due to floods.



Who is the gentleman pictured in front of the old fire tower on Delegate Hill?

If any of our readers know, we would be pleased to have the information.

The new tower is very much higher. Several years ago there was a permanent fire watcher who lived on the hill doing the summer months. He was quite a character and known locally as “Bill from the Hill”.



Community Information

EMERGENCY / AMBULANCE: 000

FIRE: 000

POLICE

Delegate: 6458 8044

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 6pm 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)

‘Delegate Doings’ Subscription:

\$40.70 by Post

Email \$16.50.

Cash or Cheque payable to
The Delegate Progress Association Inc

Amount \$ _____

Name

Address or email:

The Delegate Doings is published by the Delegate Progress Association. We welcome information about meetings and reports on functions and other activities of local people and organisations, factual historical articles and poetry etc. We do not publish letters to the editor. The publisher accepts no responsibility for any advertisement, or articles. Any advertisement or article is published at the risk of the contributor, who accepts liability for any intended publication. All such contributors agree to indemnify the publisher and warrant that the material is accurate and is neither deceptive or misleading, in breach of copyright, defamatory, or in breach of any other laws and regulations.

ADVERTISING IN THE “DELEGATE DOINGS”

Spot Ad:	1	6	11
\$5 cash—\$7.50 a/c	Issue	Issues	Issues
1/4 Page	\$17.50	\$87.50	\$157.50
1/2 Page	\$35.00	\$175.00	\$315.00
Full Page	\$70.00	\$350.00	\$630.00
Back Page	\$80.00		
Full Page Insert	\$90.00		

Colour advertising: prices on application

Gardening in a time of rapid climate change.

It is nearly impossible to write about gardening in Delegate with any credibility when everything that we have learned from the past as gardeners in this district is now seemingly irrelevant because climate change has recently galloped in. This year we have had a very short Spring that has catapulted into heatwave. A great many things have bolted to seed without making any harvestable growth, the floral display of many Spring mainstays has been cut short e.g. iris and poppies and there has also been premature fruit drop all caused by hitherto unseasonal temperatures.

Climate change does not just mean a generally warmer temperature it really means lurching from one extreme to another as Earth's systems continue to destabilise. And if we cannot predict what the weather will do next week or the next where does that leave a plant that generally responds to cumulative cues e.g. hours of cold to make buds in deciduous plants or hours of heat to cease growth and make seed in annuals.

The one thing that is certain is that water will be in increasingly short supply. We often put things in pots thinking that that will give the plant some protection and it can do if you are able to move them around as the sun changes during the season. The real difficulty with pots is maintaining consistent watering. Once the soil dries out pots are almost impossible to rewet unless submerged in a tub which is clearly not doable for big containers. However, watching the bubbles of air emerge when immersion is possible gives a sense of how much water was missing and is quite good fun. It also drowns pests such as ants and slaters that often colonise pots.

When I do repot or replant, I am constantly surprised by the bone-dry soil in the pots that I had thought well maintained. The problem mostly arises from the fact that once soil dries it shrinks and any subsequent watering tends to run down the inside wall of the pot leaving the root ball dry. Drippers do not solve the problem either as they often create a narrow column of watered soil. In addition, potted plants standing in isolation suffer from intense heat in the soil as the container absorbs and radiates heat to the root ball. This can be modified by placing a pot within a pot which also helps at repotting time or if you want to introduce a seasonal display in a choice position say on a deck or patio.

Warmer summers does not mean the end of green tomatoes in Delegate – it can mean no tomatoes! Temperature in the tropics are more moderate and constant than in the arid and temperate zones. Tomatoes will not set fruit above 30°C and will drop the fruitlets already set. Do not forget that the tomato flowers are buzz pollinated and this in itself is becoming a production issue as insects in general continue to decline and especially native pollinators such as the blue banded bee. This native bee is the equivalent of the Northern Hemisphere Bumblebee, honey bees cannot fulfil the role of buzz pollination.



Another facet of climate change that can be seen in Delegate is the decline of some deciduous tree species. It is readily apparent this year in mature silver birch that in December have not yet developed the top part of the canopy. In recent years heat stress has caused them to defoliate as early as February which means that they have not had sufficient growing time to accumulate the reserves that fuel the next year's budburst. All this means that we must garden thoughtfully and be keenly observant of the responses of the plants in our care.