

August 2020

1.50 Incl.  
GST

# Delegate Doings



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Volume 19, issue 7.

## BORDER PERMISSIONS BECOME STRICTER

Our border has been closed since Wednesday the 8th July, with only our neighbours in the settlements across the border allowed to pass through for work or medical reasons. One hundred years ago it was closed for the Spanish Flu Pandemic and eighty four years ago in 1936 it was again closed to children from Victoria because of the Polio Pandemic.

Now once again we have Police and members of our armed forces are working in rotation on the border in an effort to stop the spread of Covid 19 from Victoria. The first two Police on duty on the road to Bendoc were Senior Constable Mark Bullock and Constable Michael Sanson, who came from Quakers Hill in Sydney. They were to go off duty at 5pm although these hours would be extended later and the border is then closed with concrete barriers. When we spoke to them they told us that they would be relieved in two day's time, and Leading Senior Constable Mark Bullock said although he had made many journeys to the Snowfields, he had never been to this area before. Constable Sanson said he had done some research and was aware of the earlier border closures. They said they had got to know some of the locals passing through daily to work and could just wave them through. (Since then requirements have become a lot stricter) The same day we visited the check point at the Delegate River which is a 24 hour shift and spoke to Constable Ian Sten and Greg Whitby and Philip Simons from Traffic Control. It was a very cold day and they had a big log fire going.

Below on right: A photo from 1936 of two Constables standing near their tent on the border at Delegate River. They were camped close to the bridge and I have been told there were four of them covering the shifts. At that time, it was only children who were not allowed through as Polio was mainly a childhood disease

Left: Leading Senior Constable Mark Bullock and Constable Mitchell Sanson. (Continued Page 3)



Next Issue: September 4th

then: October 2nd

and: November 6th

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### Dates for your Calendar

- August 11th DPA meeting

### Applications open for Project Firefighters in Gippsland

Employment is full-time for a period of up to 26 weeks, generally starting between November and April. Applications for Project Firefighters are open from Friday 31 July and close on Monday 31 August. For further information and to apply visit

Thankyou to Essential Energy for there prompt response to the loss of power due to the snow on Wednesday.



Hardware Repairs / Software Repairs  
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Phil Pope  
0417 453 545  
**glenoracs@gmail.com**  
20 Corrowong Rd. Delegate NSW

After a number of months on Level 3 restrictions, the Delegate and Bombala community's are set to move to a Conserve Water Notice.

These water restriction reductions will come into effect from 12.00pm Wednesday 29 July, and will be in place until further notice

### PHOTOS FROM 1919/1920 BORDER CLOSURE

**Does anyone have a photo of the border closure due to the Spanish Flu.**

**There is apparently a photo circulating on Facebook saying it was of that time, but the photo in question is of the border closure in 1936.**

**(see our front page)**

**At that time Victorian children were not allowed into NSW because of a Polio Epidemic in Victoria.**

### THANKYOU

On behalf of Barbara Evans (Ian's sister) and myself a big thankyou to everyone who generously donated the wonderful slices, cakes and scones for Ian Ingram's funeral.

Also a special thankyou to the Delegate Rural Fire Service for donating the sandwiches. I must also mention the help of those ladies, who generously gave their time to help make the sandwiches and serve food at the wake.

Because of all of you, we were able to say farewell to Ian in a warm and friendly way.

THANKYOU

Helen Nocny

## THE BORDER AT DELEGATE RIVER.

The police on the Bendoc border told us their colleagues at Delegate River had a much fancier set up with more comforts including a caravan on the site, the border there being manned for 24 hours. Constable Ian Sten who is from the same Police Division at Quakers Hill and two traffic controllers Greg Whitby and Philip Simons were manning the barricades near the border when we arrived. The day was bleak and overcast following a big frost and they had table and chairs set up with food drink next to a glowing log fire, so were making the best of their situation. The day had been quiet they said but had been busy the day before (Friday) with locals passing through, and assured us that they had not had any desperate Victorians trying to break through.

Right: Constable Ian Sten with Greg Whitby and Philip Simons from Platnum Traffic Control

Later the ADF arrived to help out with guard duty on the borders and seven young Navy personnel were photographed at the Delegate Café. Below another group taking it easy on a slow day on the border.



## POLIO MYELITIS THE DREADED CHILDHOOD DISEASE

From the thirties to the fifties Polio epidemics would break out from time to time and in the mid thirties in Victoria it was raging, so in an attempt to stop the spread drastic measures were taken including closing the NSW border to all Victorian children. Swimming pools, picture theatres etc had been closed in Victoria and although the disease was in NSW, it was not to the same extent. There was no cure for this awful disease with many children admitted to hospital for months and in some cases, years on a machine to help them breathe known as an iron lung, while many others were left crippled for life.

There was of course no vaccination available so the disease would break out from time to time and parents were very relieved when a vaccine was developed in the early fifties. A small spoonful of pink liquid administered to all children meant that this dreaded childhood disease was all but eliminated.



## NO BORES FOR DELEGATE OR BOMBALA

The Delegate Progress Association has received a letter from John Barilaro MP Member for Monaro, which we publish below in part.

I can advise that Snowy Monaro Regional Council (SMRC), through a NSW state funding commitment of \$15 million for Bombala & Delegate water supplies, has contracted GHD to undertake comprehensive Water Supply Options Reports for Bombala and Delegate.

Every town deserves safe and secure water and I am committed to working alongside local government in upgrading the water systems, as supported by the NSW State Government commitment to this project in 2018.

The reports will not only investigate water quality but also water security and alternate water supplies. To ensure the reports look at all aspects of the project, SMRC approved the undertaking of an investigative exercise to drill two bores in each town at a location specified by expert hydrologists on the best location and depth. Delegate's location was adjacent to the existing water supply reservoir directly uphill of the river water intake pump station.

In mid-March 2020, bores were drilled and tested and were found to neither have the volume or sustainable flows required to be a viable standalone alternate water supply or to even supplement the river water to the treatment plant. SMRC has abandoned bore water as an alternate water supply for Bombala and Delegate since this testing.

The reports on the water treatment plant processes, configurations and capability are now in draft form. The Bombala report is being presented to Council for endorsement for public exhibition this month and the Delegate report is awaiting additional river water quality data and pump rates to ensure the design of the new water treatment plant are optimal before being reported to Council. The draft Bombala report has also been made available to NSW Department of Primary Industry and Environment Water (DPIE Water) for comment.

## Delegate River Bridgeworks

The old wooden bridge at Delegate River has been removed, while new concrete foundations are being put in place. The old bridge which is heritage listed will then be reassembled with some new timber. The new bridge will be able to take the weight of the timber trucks that use the road.

Below: the low level bypass.

Right: the new bridge under construction.



# *Delegate Café*

**64 Bombala St Delegate**

**DINE IN - TAKE AWAY**

**OPEN 7 DAYS**

**Fruit & Veg - Groceries**

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**Tel (02) 6458 8171**

**Pizza available most Friday & Saturday Nights**

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## **DELEGATE HOTEL**

*Your host: Paul Herringe*

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## ***TALBOT TRANSPORT***



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**Mobile: 0418 516 076**

**Phone: (02) 6458 8085**

**Fax: (02) 6458 8055**



## DELEGATE—THE FIRST SETTLEMENT

When settlers first arrived to set up a village later known as Delegate in 1852 , they decided it would be on the banks of the creek now known as Hayden's Bog.. The land was originally owned by a George Simpson, who was a friend of the Campbells of Delegate Station. Two Hayden brothers worked in Sydney for Simpson and came to work on the property and we believe they ran the Inn which was eventually built just above the creek. At that time a few more houses were established on the land which is now owned by Snowy Pine Company and the whole area is under pine except for a few acres around the homestead and an old graveyard. The property was purchased from the original owner by Paddy Walcott who hired a builder to build the house which still stands on the property known as Bendolba. In 1939 P. Walcott sold the property to W.J. Ingram (Bill) and on his death it was passed on to his daughter Pat and son-in-law Jim Walker. After Jim's death Pat carried on managing the farm until she eventually sold to Willmot Forests Ltd in 2002.

On Sunday the 19th eleven members of the Delegate Progress Association obtained permission from the owners to visit the site.

All that is left of the village are piles of rocks where chimneys and fire places once stood. There is one lone headstone in the cemetery area belonging to Edward Downey and two unmarked graves Edward Downey's wife Jessie, two sons John and James and one daughter Elsie are also named on the tombstone, which unfortunately does not have a date on it.

Below: Edward Downey's tombstone. R: Bradley Matthews friendly cattle were inquisitive about all the visitors and came over for a closer look. (they are the cattle which make up his bullock team.). All that remains of the Inn with Bendolba homestead in the background.





**Delegate**

**Tel: 6458 8004**

**Livestock— Tony Brady,**

**Sam Platts**

**Agronomy— Hugh Platts**

**0488281253**

**Merchandise**

**Insurance - Wool**

**Finance - Fertilizer**

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Birthdays,  
Anniversaries,  
Wreaths and  
Private  
Functions

**Phone Pam  
on 6458 4346  
Mob: 0427587240**



## **BUSH FIRE RECOVERY PLACE MANAGER FOR EAST GIPPSLAND**

### **Bio for Peter Balmer...**

I have been working in the 'community' sector as a Social Planner/ Place Maker for 25 years in a range of locations across south east Queensland, the ACT and Victoria - from highly disadvantaged locations such as the Logan and Ipswich shires outside Brisbane, to the 'salad bowl' farming communities of the Lockyer Valley west of Brisbane to the relative affluence of the Sunshine Coast. More recently I have been working in Victoria's Latrobe Valley.

For these roles I have worked across aged care, migrant settlement, mental health and disability support for local government, federal government, not-for-profits and peak bodies.

I did the sea-change/ tree-change from Melbourne to the Gippsland Lakes four years ago which was like 'coming home' after spending many happy holidays here as a kid and visiting family and friends in between.

I will be working in the Erinunderra to Snowy (E2S) localities of Tubbut, Bendoc, Bonang, Goongerah, Deddick Valley up to the NSW border, and in other districts as required.

My mobile number is 0409 701 309 and my work email is [peterb@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:peterb@egipps.vic.gov.au).

The Place Manager role with EGSC is a new function within council with seven Place Managers now appointed to provide community support in all districts across the shire. The role sits within the Bush-fire Recovery Directorate with the immediate focus on Recovery however this task cannot be done in isolation of all the other social, community, environmental and economic impacts on local communities. My role is to work with communities, to listen - and hear what you know to be best for your community and ensure that message gets through to council.



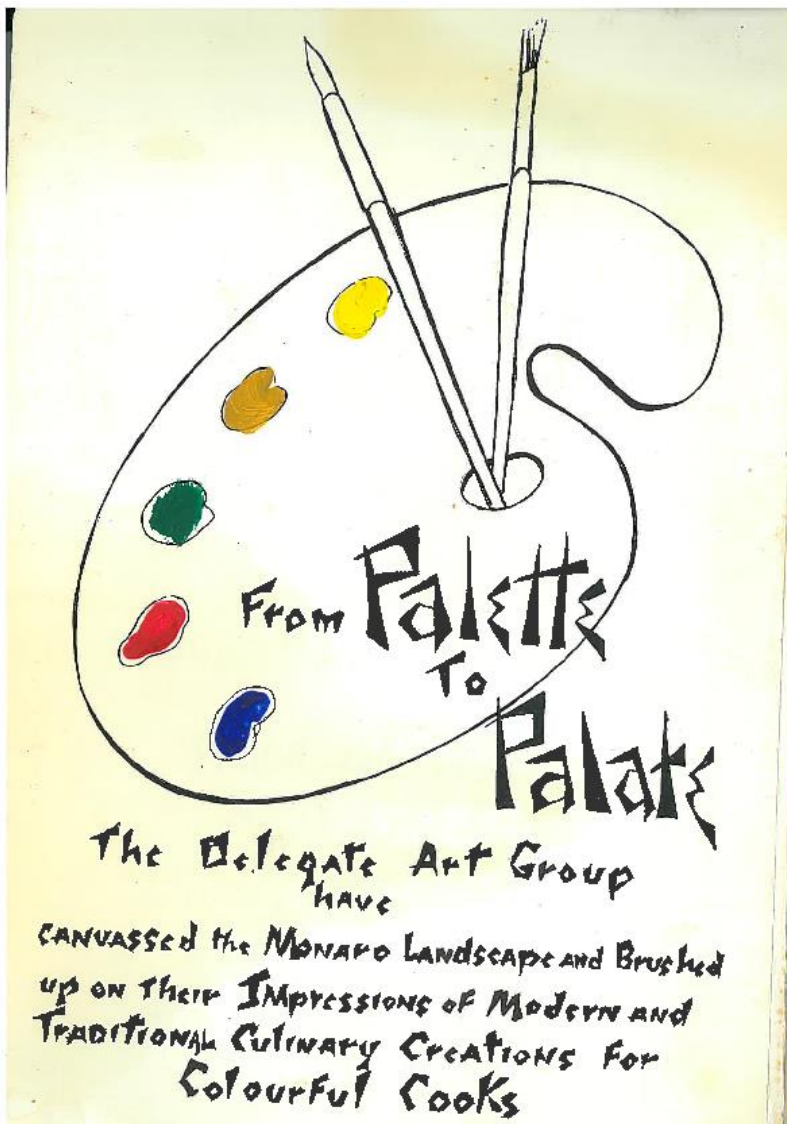
## AN INTERESTING RECIPE BOOK

Those who were members of the Delegate Art Group in the seventies and eighties will no doubt have a copy of this book, which could become a collector's item. It has quite a story behind it.

In the late seventies a pretty young girl from a conservative middle class Canberra family named Mary Tulip, rebelled and left home with her boyfriend whom she described as the wildest boy in Canberra. They moved to the isolated Victorian settlement of Tubbut and she later joined the Delegate Art Group.

At the time the group had decided to raise some money for an Art trip, by putting together a recipe book containing their own tried and true recipes. Mary offered to do the book by hand and the result was a 90 page book full of hand written recipes, each with it's own clever sketches. The cover was designed by Sami Cline, our Art teacher at the time. Contributions to the book were from the following Art Group members, Betty Wait, Barbara Kirkby, Gloria Cotterill, Elizabeth Mathes, Jan Stewart, Jean Manning, Jocelyn Mitchell, Kaye Cameron, Lorna Trevanion, Meryl Lock, Meryl Reed, Natalie Armstrong, Sami Cline, Stephanie Turner and Sue Moser.

To conclude the story of Mary Tulip, a year or so after doing the book she gave birth to a baby girl in the old Delegate Hospital and her parents who were Doctors came to visit and she and her daughter were taken back into the family. We have not seen or heard of Mary since, but we hope she continued her artistic pursuits because she had quite a talent.



One of the recipes in the book by Lorna Trevanion:

### **Butterscotch Raisin Self Saucing Pudding:**

1 1/3 cup Self Raising Flour

Pinch salt

1 cup white sugar

1 cup Brown sugar

2 cups Boiling Water.

1 cup seeded raising or sultanas

1/2 cup milk

1 tablespoon butter.

Sift flour and salt, add white sugar, raisins and milk, mix to a stiff dough with milk.

Spread over base of large greased casserole dish. Mix brown sugar, butter and boiling water and gently pour over cake mix. Bake in moderate oven for 40 to 50 minutes.



**Delegate Multi Purpose Service**  
**Craigie St, Delegate 6459 8000**

**Wellness Clinic**

Monday 91m-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.

**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

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***Healing Hub and Creative Hub***

***And Retailing***

***Homewares***

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***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***



## HUMAN ECOLOGY—Problems and solutions.

By Paul R. Elrich.

Following is an interesting extract from a book written 50 years ago in 1970.

*To recapitulate we would outline the present world situation as follows.*

- *Present technology and patterns of human behavior our planet is grossly overpopulated. Between 2 and 3 billion people are not being properly cared for now.*
- *The large absolute number of people and the rate of population growth are themselves major hindrances to fulfilling the needs of all mankind.*
- *Problems of supply and distribution already have resulted in roughly half of humanity being undernourished or malnourished. As many as 10-20 million people are starving to death annually.*
- *There is good reason to believe that population growth increases the POSSIBILITY OF A WORLD WIDE PLAGUE AND OF A THERMONUCLEAR WAR. Either could provide a catastrophic “death rate solution” to the population problem and even of driving homo sapiens to extinction.*
- *Perhaps more likely than extinction is the possibility that man will survive only to endure an existence barely recognizable as human—malnourished, beset by chronic disease, physically and emotionally impoverished, surrounded by the devastation wrought by an industrial civilization that could not cope with the results of its own biological and social folly.*

## Border Checkpoint Haydens Bog



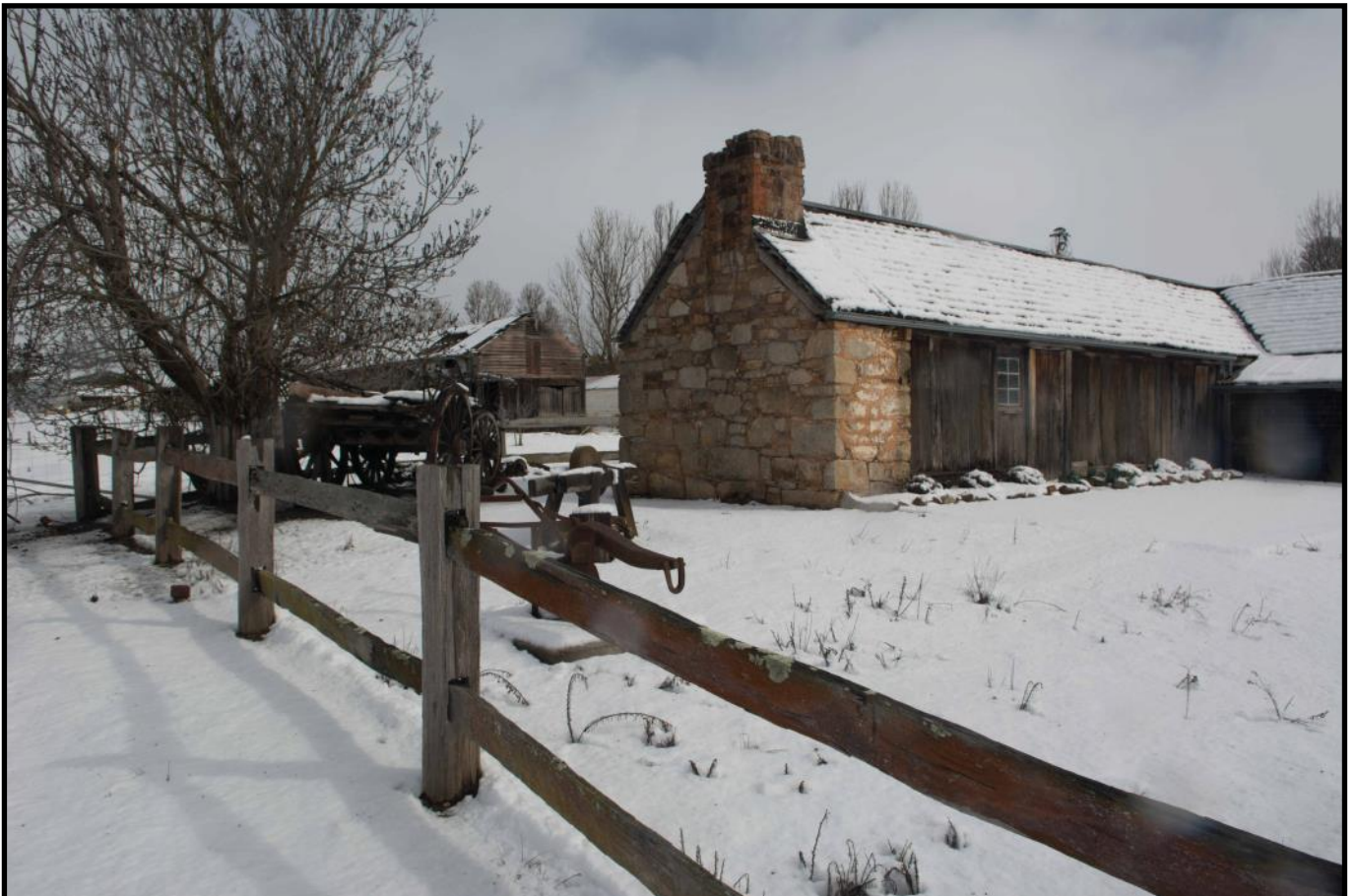


## Delegate Hotel



Photos all taken on Wednesday Morning after a night of snow.

## Settlers Hut





Bill Jeffreys Park







Bombala St / Old Blitz behind Stewarts Garage



# DELEGATE SCHOOL NEWS



Welcome back to Term 3, and another difficult start for us all. It has been fantastic to see all families access a Cross Border Permit. With the spike in COVID-19 cases it is vitally important we all take precautions to keep us all safe.

Until further notice there will be no community use of school grounds.

## Delegate Country Club News

The Club Finally reopened after nine weeks of total shutdown. They held there AGM on Sunday 26th July with a good roll up of members voted in.

President: Pat Campbell

Vice President: Doug Cameron

Sec/Treasurer: Nick Flower

Directors: Allen Matthews, Charlie Hotchkis, Peter Jeffreys, Carl Crotty.

We welcome Charlie not only to the Board but also to Delegate.

### **Covid -19.**

The Club has to abide by all rules set down by authorities. Heavy Fines, not only for the Club but also for Patrons in attendance are in force.

Patrons **MUST** sign log in book on entry and sanitise hands.

You can get your drinks and order meals at the bar, but must be seated after doing so. Safe distancing is enforced. Booking of no more than 10 in groups for meals. Please ring Club on 64588169 after 4pm Fridays or ask any of the above board for any queries, we can advise you on.

### **After Covid.**

On a brighter note, during shut down the Club received a \$10,000.00 grant from the NSW Govt and \$1,000.00 from Golf Australia on top of the \$10,000.00 from Federal Govt in assistance.

This has really helped to open our doors again ( pity we didn't receive a rates reduction from the local shire.)

The Country Club Bus runs on Fridays with the first bus at 5.30pm (64588169).

In the mean time **STAY SAFE**

**Carl.**



## ABORIGINAL ART WORKS DONATED TO BUNDIAN WAY GALLERY.

The Delegate Progress were recently thrilled to receive three excellent aboriginal paintings from Sylvia Wall of Jindabyne, to be either sold or used for display. Sylvia a former Art teacher who had sold her previous residence and moved to a smaller house, found she no longer had room to hang the paintings which she acquired several years ago. Sylvia has often visited Delegate as an Art Judge at the Delegate Show.



Left and below are lino cuts. The other is an acrylic painting. Sylvia and a friend visited Delegate recently to hand over the paintings.



## FAREWELL TO CABANANDRA

A meeting in the home of Jim & Janet Cameron at Cabanandra, attended by 19 people, was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April, 1975 to see if there was sufficient interest in forming a Campdraft Committee. A committee was formed and Tom Ventry was elected President, Jim Cameron Vice President and Pam Cameron Secretary/Treasurer. It was decided that a Campdraft be held on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> May, to start at 9.00 am.

The events were Maiden & Open Drafts & Juniors in two age groups, 12 years & under and under 17 years. Also an Open & Junior Barrel race to be run. The Club to be called Cabanandra Campdraft and to be run on Jim & Janet Cameron's property at Cabanandra on the site where the Cabanandra Races were held some years previously.

Maiden entry was \$2 Open \$3 and Juniors \$1. Prizemoney was paid to 5 places and totalled \$206.

The Saturday night meal and entertainment that became Cabanandra's hallmark began with that first

draft. After a hearty meal, someone produced an accordion and a dance was held on the homestead verandah! This continued for several years until a floor from an old Hall was transported to the ground to cater for the growing crowds.

Competitor numbers grew over the years and competition ran into 2 days. Catering was done by dedi-



Continued next page

cated locals with makeshift tents and trestle tables to help raise money for local Halls, Schools, Hospital and people in need of support through accident, bereavement etc.

Originally, cattle were sourced from local properties and walked to the venue from Delegate River and Tubbut areas by experienced stockmen.

The Campdraft was relocated to “Deddick Springs” in 1991 and a small band of enthusiastic workers gradually built up the facilities over the years to what they are today. Cabanandra’s great meals and kitchen facilities are a product of hard work by the Community for the Community.

Another unique aspect of Cabanandra Campdraft was the distances that cattle were walked in for the draft. Mobs of cattle were walked in from Delegate River on the Border, a distance of approximately 50 kms, taking 3 days for experienced cattlemen who not only made their cattle available but donated their time to get the cattle safely to the venue and then home again the following week.

In more recent years, large mobs of cattle were sourced from cattlemen in the Gelantipy, Wulgulmerang areas. Under the management of head stockman, Damien Ventry, a band of experienced stockmen with horses and dogs would assemble at “Buff” Rogers property where the Rogers family provided great meals & hospitality to sometimes as many as a dozen drovers. Several days were spent mustering and assembling cattle ready for the notorious drive down Turnback mountain, to ford the Snowy River at McKillops Bridge and then on to “Deddick Springs” for the Draft.

Tragedy struck on the 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 when Pat Ventry lost her life in a vehicle accident while mustering sheep on “Deddick Springs”. Pat and husband Tom have been the driving force behind Cabanandra Campdraft since its beginning and Pat’s enthusiasm, organisation & sheer hard work has been sorely missed.

After Pat’s death, the Draft became known as Cabanandra “Pat Ventry Memorial” Campdraft and a special Open was run in her memory.

In 2010 competition commenced Friday afternoon to cope with entries.

Tom Ventry was elected President at the inaugural meeting in 1975 and held that position ever since and presided over 38 drafts in 42 years. 1983 was postponed due to drought and bushfire, 1998 due to drought, 2008 equine flu and 2011 flood in the Snowy River prevented cattle from crossing safely and the bridge decking was unfit for livestock to cross.

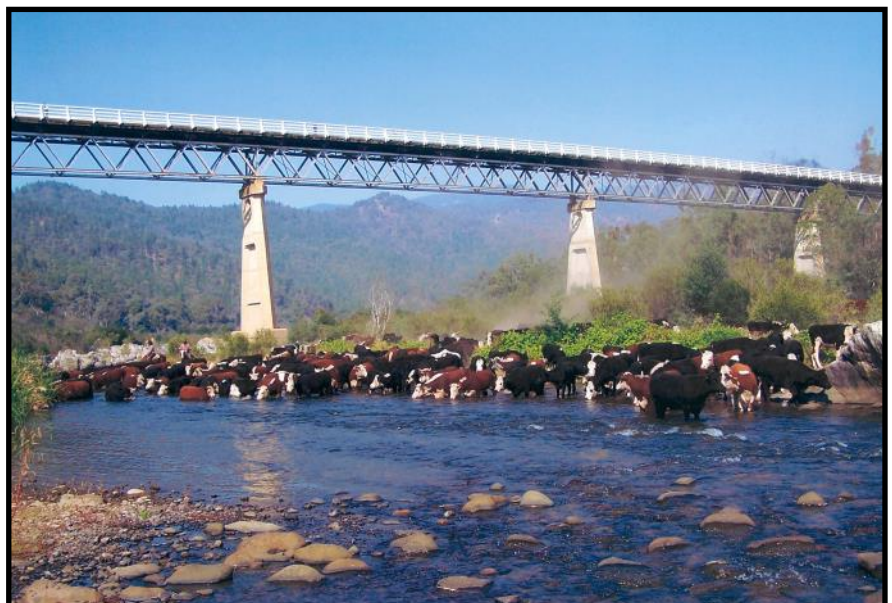
From 1975 with prizemoney of \$206 and 3 events to 2016, the final draft, with over 900 entries, 1100 cattle, competition over 3 days and prizemoney & trophies totalling \$14,000!

Over the years many thousands of dollars have been donated back to the Community through the local Hospital Auxiliary, Fire Brigades, Public Halls, Schools etc; all of these organisations have volunteered their assistance in return.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 the final meeting of the Cabanandra Campdraft Club Committee was held and it was resolved that the remaining money and goods be donated to Delegate Campdraft to wind up the Club after 46 years.

Many fond memories of Cabanandra Campdraft are held by those who were involved over the years. A big thank you to the Community and Competitors for their support, especially to the cattle donors.

Right: Cattle crossing the Snowy River at McKillops Bridge.





# HERE & THERE

Happy birthday to all those born in August including Clare Strickland, Su King, Hunter Reed, Philomena Collins, Laura Chapman, Sharon Buckman, Amelia and Georgina Jeffreys, Tom Ventry, Chops Guthrie, Glynnis Ingram.



The death occurred at Bombala hospital on the 7th July of local Tombong man Ian Ingram. Ian had been ill for quite a long time, but his sudden demise was unexpected. His funeral service took place on the 21st July at Tombong, where he was born and spent his whole life. His remains were interred in the Tombong cemetery followed by a wake in the Ingram shearing shed. Ian is survived by one sister Barbara, two brothers Barry and Peter having predeceased him.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, many of his extended family were not able to attend the funeral.

Sympathy is extended to all.

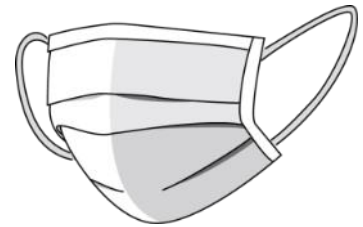
There is a constant turnover of police and armed forces to guard the borders, with each shift only doing a few days. All are staying at the Pub and are probably bored when not working – not a lot to do at the moment for young people. Also as most are from Sydney they must be feeling the cold. Staff at the Pub and Café have been kept busy supplying meals and snacks.

As predicted by many, rules have been broken quickly by visitors and workers on the Snowfields, with dance parties etc., so many seem to be oblivious of the danger of this virus. Once it depends on everyone doing the right thing and with so many ignoring the rules it will be difficult to bring under control.

More follow up rain, just what was needed on top of good falls earlier this month. It is great to see local rivers and creeks flowing well.



TV coverage of two women in Victoria refusing to wear a mask as it threatened their rights and individual freedom has annoyed many. There is a new name going round for people like them “Covidiot.” The time may soon come when we are all encouraged to wear masks. If you are thinking of making your own we have a pattern at the RTC – the best advice is to have three layers.



The Delegate Progress are planning more tree plantings in co-operation with the local Council. Trees left over from the Streetscape have been planted in the Memorial Park and some in Bill Jeffreys Park, where more plantings are planned to replace the Crabapples which have died. The cemetery is also on the list for more planting in the near future.



# LOOKING BACK



Above: Staff at Bombala Hotel taken in 1940. Back row: Lorna Callaway (nee Elliott) Hotel Owner Mrs. Kerr, Kitty Martin, Marian, Yelds .

Front row: Mrs. Chapman, Heather Commons (nee Elliott) Joan Yelds.



Left: Una Collins (nee Elliott) and Hilda Martin

R: Jones family.  
Jean, Nellie and  
Vince.





# 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 Sunday Mass Delegate Sat 5pm and

Bombala Sunday 8am

2nd & 4th Sunday –Liturgy Del. Sat 5pm,

Bombala Sun. 9am

3rs & 5th Sun. Mass Del. Sun 8am,

Bom.10am

Website [www.cg.org.au/bombala](http://www.cg.org.au/bombala)

Email: [joeysdelegate@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:dpaooffice@bigpond.com)

**Newspaper: [delegateprogress@exemail.com.au](mailto:delegateprogress@exemail.com.au)**

**Tubbut Access Centre 6458 0295**

**NRMA/RACV: John Stewart: 6458 8047**

**DELEGATE CARAVAN PARK: 6458 4047**

**Delegate Progress Association Inc.**

**66A Bombala Street**

**DELEGATE NSW 2633**

**PH 6458 8388 Fax 64588 374**

**E-mail [dpaooffice@bigpond.com](mailto:dpaooffice@bigpond.com)**

**[delegateprogress@exemail.com.au](mailto:delegateprogress@exemail.com.au)**

**(for paper)**

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# Winter Gardening

I am sure that everyone is rejoicing the recent rain that ensures us a generous Spring but equally perplexed about what life has in store under Covid.

May I suggest that gardening is a good 'stay at home' option. August is the last official winter month, the days are getting longer which means more light is falling on the soil warming it. Soil temperature is the number one control of plant growth and spectacular results can be obtained if the soil is warmed. In the past growers would dig deep trenches and fill them with a layer of manure and straw before returning the excavated soil. As the straw layer decomposed it provided heat as well as nutrients to the plants grown above. Sometimes pots were half buried directly in the decomposing layer to nurture tender plants through winter.

This method necessarily fell out of practice with the demise of the 'horse and cart' economy but we can see evidence of it today with the rampant growth of pumpkin vines that sometimes appear in the compost heap. Today we are advised to mulch heavily to conserve water and this is lovely in summer as it also protects soil from overheating but a heavy mulch covering in late Winter- early Spring can delay growth by keeping the mulched soil cooler than bare soil simply by reducing penetration of sunlight. Soils heavily mulched in this between season will also be slow to drain reducing the oxygen available to roots which also depresses growth. The best option is to scrape mulches such as sugar cane, straw and bark away until Spring growth is secure. The best option of all is to maintain a big compost pile as this soil like mulch will not only feed the soil but avoid the light and waterlogging aspects of other types.

A slowly developing compost pile will take care of a lot of refuse (cardboard, paper, cotton, pet hair, kitchen scraps) that may be otherwise destined for landfill. A fast compost pile will take care of leaves, lawn clippings and soft prunings.

As much as we become anxious to push things along August is handbrake territory as there may be a lot of frost to come in September and October and those out of the blue late ones in November that decimate soft new growth and the production of fruit trees.

And this is where the unknown effects of Covid ties in with gardening. We do not know what will happen to the economy, its supply chains or its effects on employment or what will take over precedence in our household spending power. If we produce most of our own food it provides a safety net. It is always best to grow those plants that are willing in our climate to avoid the extra nurture work required for tender plants and the inevitable heartache of poor results. August is a good time to plant potatoes, silver beet and broad beans.

Potatoes provide more food per square metre than any other crop. They recover quickly from frost as most of the working parts are protected from frost damage by being underground and can feed regrowth. It is not often realised that the tubers are storage organs that form on underground stems not the roots hence the need to keep putting soil or straw against the plant tops as they grow. This markedly increases the harvest.

Silver beet that has overwintered will run up to seed in Spring. Seed or seedlings planted now will quickly give a pick and remember to put a few in a shady spot for tender leaves mid-summer. Broad beans provide a protein boost to the diet and are much less disease prone planted in late winter than if overwintered from an Autumn planting.

Other plants that do reasonably well started now are parsley, coriander, pansies, onions of all types and even garlic. Hope that gives enough to fill August gardening time along with weeding. All the time watching the wonderful display of daffodils bursting from the cold soil.

Right: crocus flowers are just starting to show now.

