

DELEGATE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY LUNCHEON

The hard working local hospital auxiliary held their annual luncheon at the Delegate Country Club on the 14th June. As usual the food on offer was plentiful with a great variety of hot casseroles, followed by tempting sweets. The raffle was won by Sue Guthrie who travelled up from Merimbula for the occasion, and the lucky door prize was won by Fay Campbell who kindly returned two bottles of wine for further prizes and these were won by Sandra Walker and Gloria Cotterill. Because people are being encouraged to live longer in their own homes, a speaker from the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care was present to give advice to those considering applying for an Aged Care Package. Renata Sheehan from Southern Area Health was also in attendance and information books and pamphlets were



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Dates for your Calendar

- 13th July DPA General Meeting
- 19th July —Currawarna Fund Raiser, Imperial Hotel, Bombala.
- 22nd July—Volunteer afternoon Country Club.

THANK YOU

The Delegate Country Club Committee, would like to thank all volunteers involved in the football competition week-end which was a great success.

From the preparation of grounds, manning the bar and Kiosk at the game and helping at the Club. Too many involved to thank all individually, but be assured your help was greatly appreciated.

The country club would like to thank volunteers by hosting a afternoon on Saturday the 22nd of July from 4pm.

The Country Club welcomes highly acclaimed chef Adam McLean who is starting Friday night bistro meals in July.

Adam has a great reputation from his pop ups in Bombala .

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DONATIONS OF PAINTINGS AND PHOTOS

A shout out to all artists and photographers for donations of works for the silent auction to be held at the Imperial Hotel on 19th August.

The last major fund raising of the year for Currawarna will also include the launch of the Almost Bare Calendar

Paintings and photos can be left at the Rural Transaction Centre by August 12th

LAUNCH OF ALMOST BARED CALENDAR AND ART AUCTION IMPERIAL HOTEL BOMBALA August 19TH.

Cover charge to cover food provided Drinks at own cost.

PROCEEDS TO CURRAWARNA

COUNTRY CLUB HAPPENINGS

Pat Campbell reports that there was a great roll-up for the luncheon by new chef Adam McLean on Sunday the 2nd July. The guests enjoyed a superb four course meal, the first provided by Adam, following the renovations to the kitchen. The Club are very grateful to Boco Rock for the grant which enabled them to have the work done on the kitchen, something which could not be achieve without financial assistance.

Adam will also be providing meals Club patrons starting Friday the 7th July and for any special events, something which will be welcomed by locals.

The Country Club Committee would also like to express their thanks to those volunteers who helped out at the football night in May. A special volunteers afternoon will be held on July 22nd.

Below: L top: All set for the occasion, middle some of the guests: Bottom: Robin and Chops.

R: Adam with preparations well in hand. Right: The Menu.









CANAPES

Prawn and vegetable bau w chilli oil. Wings of the god king (Persian spice chicken wings) Herb crusted tuna with celeriac remoulade

ENTREE

Spinach and blue cheese crumble with rare roast beef and onion confit Butter fried White fish with chorizo and lentil stew, radish and rocket salad

MAIN

Sticky beef short rib with white bean puree, buttered Silver beet, tempura pickles and glace Chilli

Butterflied quail with duck fat potatoes, sauteed brussel sprouts, crispy bacon, pear chutney and port jus

DESSERT

Pumpkin pie with bacon maple icecream and chantalilly cream Baked lemon cheesecake with caramel macadamia nuts and cherry coulis 1

M E N U

Happy 60th PJ

A fabulous celebration took place on Saturday night, 24th June for the 60th birthday of Peter Jones (AKA PJ).

The Jones Clan were in full attendance plus many other relatives and friends at PJ's Delegate home. Thankfully it was a relatively mild night and the food was sensational and in abundance to say the least. My favourite was the flathead fillet (caught by PJ) nibbles. Marinated, battered and cooked to perfection – look out Jamie Oliver.

PJ received a brilliant surprising gift from his Mum, Joan Jones. It was a framed Delegated Tigers Guernsey that was given to PJ by his Uncle Ron Collins. Ron had worn the Guernsey in the Premiership winning team of the Claytons Cup in 1970. As you can see it's certainly seen better days. PJ religiously wore it, and wore it and wore it and had given very strict instructions to Joan that it was never to be thrown out. So, PJs 60th was the perfect opportunity to frame this treasure. And indeed it looks fabulous. Well done Mum.

PJ also received another footy related and emotional gift –It was the framed embroidered blazer pocket from the 1958 Delegate Tigers Reserve Grade Premiership win that belonged to his late Dad (Flatout). We were all pretty chuffed with that one.

I'm not sure if I should say what time the party ended – but it was about 4:30am!

Cheers Happy Happy 60th Birthday PJ. You're the best.



Delegate Café

64 Bombala St Delegate DINE IN - TAKE AWAY OPEN 7 DAYS Fruit & Veg - Groceries Eftpos Tel (02) 6458 8171 Pizza available most Friday Nights

New Trading Hours for

Sundays 9.30am to 2pm Grill off at 2pm

DELEGATE HOTEL

Your host: Paul Herringe

Accommodation

Spin to win every Friday night.

Pub Tab, ATM and Eftpos

Ph: 6458 8091



TRANSPORT



LIVESTOCK 1 Hensleigh Street, DELEGATE 2633 Mobile: 0418 516 076 Phone: (02) 6458 8085 Fax: (02) 6458 8055

Bushfire Awareness Training

- -Community focus
- -Bushfire conditions
- -Basic Fire Weather
- -Basic Fire behaviour
- -Fire control overview
- -Prepare & survive

Delegate - 1st August 23 Bombala - 2nd August Nimmitabel - 3rd August







Booking and information 02 64584003 or srilc@bigpond.com

This project is supported by the NSW Reconstruction Authority through the NSW Bushfire Recovery Fund



Delivered by









FIRE AWARENESS TRAINING

This Bushfire Awareness Course is designed to give participants knowledge on bushfire safety including fire weather, how fires can behave, bushfire resources, an overview of how bushfires are managed, and how participants can prepare for future bushfires.

This course can lead to Nationally Accredited Qualifications which may be required for entry to fire grounds, workplaces such as an emergency operations centre, traffic control, support activities, animal rescue, and even progression to higher level bushfire training.

This training is delivered by highly experienced personnel from Fireground Pty Ltd, specialising in bushfire training in Australia.

- Will you be ready next time?
- Where can you get help?
- · How will you respond?
- It is up to you!

Reserve your place now by contacting Snowy River Interstate Landcare Committee 02 64584003 srilc@bigpond.com





Local Brokers Australia Wide supporting Regional and Rural Businesses, Sporting Groups, Community Associations and more...

Our broking specialists will work with you to assess your risks and implement protection strategies that work for you. They will represent you to negotiate insurance cover and premiums and guide and support you through the claims process.

Your Local Broker is: Fiona Corby – Snowy Monaro Region Ph: 0437 668 910

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Delegate Multi Purpose Service Craigie St, Delegate 6459 8000

Wellness Clinic

For Bookings ring 1800 999 880 A clinic where well people come for health monitoring and a variety of nursing procedures such as:

- \cdot 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 Orbost Regional Health 03 5154 6666 or Delegate Community Health Nurse on 6459 8000 OLD DELEGATE POST OFFJCE

Home of the

Healing Hub and Creative Hub

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

Serendipitons Markets last Saturday of the month.

Barista Coffee, Hot chocolate and Tea

Herb and lower posies now available







Get connected, stay connected.

We provide **independent, free** connectivity advice for regional, rural and remote Australians. An **Australian Government initiative** run by the National Farmers' Federation since December 2020.

What we do

Our regionally-based team supports people living and working anywhere in regional Australia with tailored advice on their internet and phone options, as well as troubleshooting issues.

We offer a completely **free** and **independent service**, providing advice on the choice of digital technologies, applications, and solutions for equipment, set-up, and installation. We also help build skills and literacy for people to give them confidence when using technology.

How we have helped

Engaged over 130,000 Australians since the program launch, including delivering over 2,500 connectivity reports, 103,000 website visits and approx. 1,000 personal 1:1 sessions. We regularly receive positive feedback on the program's impact.



Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, ransport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

3 RTH Services

1. Connectivity reports, escalation service and phone support. 1:1 support for people wanting to understand their internet and phone options or troubleshoot issues. We are here to help!

2. Social channels and free book-in service helping people troubleshoot issues, respond to queries, link to relevant content, and provide outage updates.

3. Connectivity Resource Hub provides a wealth of information, resources, tools and troubleshooting advice via our website.

4. Attending events and engaging with people in their communities helps increase our reach into regional Australia and connect with people on-theground to solve their issues or answer any concerns.

5. Two-way information exchange with partners, stakeholders, and government to identify common questions, issues and outages.

www.regionaltechhub.org.au

Contact: Regional Tech Hub on 1300 081 029

or email on helpdesk@regionaltechhub.org.au

Open Section - Coloured Enlargement Class 1 – Landscape – 1st Drew Chapman, 2nd Andrea Mitchell Class 2 – Fresh Water – 1st Julie Herringe, 2nd Russell Buckman Class 3 – Sea Water – 1st Russell Buckman, 2nd Drew Chapman Class $4 - \text{Animal/s} - 1^{\text{st}}$ Drew Chapman, 2^{nd} Andrea Mitchell Class $5 - \text{Birds} - 1^{\text{st}}$ Katrina Jamieson, 2^{nd} Katrina Jamieson Class 6 – People in Action – 1st Simone Ward, 2nd Brieanna Hepburn Class 7 – Reflections – 1st Katrina Jamieson, 2nd Julie Herringe Class 8 – Weather – 1st Drew Chapman, 2nd Julie Herringe Class 9 – Machines – 1st Drew Chapman, 2nd Katrina Jamieson Class 10 – Buildings/Structures – 1st Russell Buckman. 2nd Drew Chapman Class 11 – Still Life – 1st Katrina Jamieson, 2nd Sally-Ann Thompson Class 12 – Flower/s – non macro – 1st Russell Buckman, 2nd Drew Chapman Class 13 – Macro – 1st Katrina Jamieson, 2nd Katrina Jamieson Class 14 – Any Other Subject – 1st Julie Herringe, 2nd Andrea Mitchell CHAMPION COLOURED ENLARGEMENT - Frill Neck Frames' Trophy - Simone Ward **Open Section – Standard Colour Print** Class 15 – Landscape – 1^{st} Carla Hepburn 2^{nd} Rebecca Kading Class 16 – Fresh Water – 1^{st} Lynette Summers, 2^{nd} Lynette Summers Class 17 – Sea Water – 1^{st} Carla Hepburn, 2^{nd} Frances Kimber Class 18 – Animal/s – 1st Carla Hepburn, 2nd Lynette Summers Class 19 – Bird/s – 1st Frances Kimber, 2nd Lynette Summers Class 20 – People in Action – 1st Allen Buckman, 2nd Audrey Buckman Class 21 – Reflections – 1^{st} Carla Hepburn, 2^{nd} Carla Hepburn Class 22 – Weather – 1^{st} Lynette Summers, 2^{nd} Lynette Summers Class 23 – Machines – 1^{st} Audrey Buckman, 2^{nd} Lynette Summers Class 24 – Buildings/Structures – 1st Carla Hepburn, 2nd Carla Hepburn Class 25 – Still Life – 1st Frances Kimber, 2nd Lynette Summers Class 26 -Flower/s – non-macro – 1^{st} Frances Kimber, 2^{nd} Frances Kimber Class 27 – Macro – 1st Allen Buckman, 2nd Carla Hepburn Class 28 – Any Other Subject – 1st Frances Kimber, 2nd Rebecca Kading CHAMPION STANDARD COLOUR PHOTOGRAPH - Frill Neck Frames' Trophy - Allen Buckman Open Section – Black and White Enlargement Class 29 – Landscape – 1st Rebecca Kading, 2nd Katrina Jamieson Class 31 – Sea Water – 1^{st} Rebecca Kading Class 32 – Animal/s – 1^{st} Brieanna Hepburn, 2^{nd} Brieanna Hepburn Class 33 – Bird/s – 1st Katrina Jamieson Class 34 – People in Action – 1st Katrina Jamieson Class 37 – Abstract – 1st Katrina Jamieson, 2nd Sally-Ann Thompson Class 39 – Buildings/Structures – 1st Russell Buckman, 2nd Andrea Mitchell Class 40 – Still Life – 1st Katrina Jamieson, 2nd Katrina Jamieson Class 42 – Macro – 1st Katrina Jamieson

Class 43– Any Other Subject – 1st Katrina Jamieson, 2nd Rebecca Kading

CHAMPION BLACK AND WHITE ENLARGEMENT – Frill Neck Frames' Trophy – Russell Buckman

Portraits

Class 44 – Single Portrait (waist up) – 1st Laura Chapman, 2nd Rebecca Kading

- Class 45 Portrait Depicting Head and Shoulders 1st Brieanna Hepburn, 2nd Katrina Jamieson
- Class 46 Group Portrait 1st Katrina Jamieson, 2nd Katrina Jamieson
- Class 47 Portrait Depicting Works, Sports, Play, etc 1st Rebecca Kading, 2nd Katrina Jamieson

Class 48 – Black and White Portrait – 1st Rebecca Kading, 2nd Katrina Jamieson

CHAMPION PORTRAIT - Frill Neck Frames Trophy - Rebecca Kading

Christine Walker Memorial Encouragement Awards - Caitlyn Regent, Tara Hay and Ian Sellers

HERE & THERE

Happy birthday to all those born in July, including Robin Mikula, Su King, josh Stuart, Kaye Reed, Bradley Matthews, Stuart Reed, Peter (PJ) Jones. Karen Cash, Carol Graczol, James Macmillan.



Special birthday greetings to PJ Jones who celebrates his 60th this month. Friends and family

will gather at his home to ioin him on his special day.



Those who knew the late Jim Badiewitz were saddened to hear of his passing at the Pambula Nursing Home. Jim was a long time employee for both the Bombala and Snowy Mountains Regional Shire. He was a hard worker who would be seen in Delegate regularly as part of the parks and gardens crew. His wife Carol pre-deceased him several years ago and he is survived by three sons, Tim, Josh and Clinton, their wives and children. Sympathy is extended to all

A man who was born in Delegate Bombala has finally been 102 years ago passed away on the 2nd July at a Nursing Home in Singleton. Reigh Lewis, whose 100th birthday was mentioned in the Delegate Doings two years ago, left Delegate at a young age . His brothers Neville and Walter (Ron) both pre-

deceased him.

The death occurred on the 7th July, in a nursing home in Victoria of long term district resident Robin Fry. Robin moved to the Tubbut area with her parents as a child and after marrying Keith Fry carried on farming the family property at Ambyne. She also continued her profession as a nurse for at the Delegate Hospital and later at the MPS for over 40 years. Robin's husband Keith died 30 years ago and their only son Paul's sudden death, several years ago was a great shock to the family. Robin is survived by her daughter Natalie, 4 grandchildren and one sister. Sympathy is extended to all.

A rate rise is imminent for the ratepayers of the Snowy Monaro Regional Shire, as the proposed rise has been approved by IPART., but Council came under severe criticism for its many errors in communicating the proposal to ratepayers. Clear lines of communication have been lacking with this Council since the amalgamation, with too much emphasis on online methods of imparting information, to a community where access to internet is not available to many.

The burned out Globe Hotel in demolished, which will be a relief to all as it has caused disruptions to the main street. There have been suggestions already about what to do with the block. One was for a park to join up with the riverside area, another for more parking, which is often

needed. As it is privately owned, it will be up to the owner to decide.

Whoever thought Test Cricket was dull will have changed their minds after the second test at Lords. There was plenty of great action with bat and ball, but the controversy that erupted after one dismissal was unprecedented, with several entitled "gentlemen" verbally abusing the Aussies singling out Kwaja for most of their vitriol.as they walked through the long room. The next test should be interesting!!!



A summary of Council's extraordinary general meeting to discuss the matter of rates and charges can be viewed on line at Council's website. What we do know is that we will all be paying more.

Many people who have problems with internet and phone connections, would not have heard of the Regional Tech Hub, which is available to help. They support people living in regional areas and give advice on phone and internet problem and troubleshoot issues. (see page 10)



LOOKING BACK



Above Back when Delegate held dance classes in the old Bowling Club building, at the end of each year a concert was held in Bombala. Above is a group of Delegate dancers.

The photo of the debs which was in last month's Doings has had people guessing who all the glamourous young ladies and partners are. Sandy Cameron who supplied the photo, also supplied the names and they are as follows:

L to R : Zelma Alexander and Colin Mustard, Beulah and John Cameron, Janet Haylock and Jim Cameron, Sandy Ingram and Clive Ingram, Ila Reed and Alan Neven, Helen and Ian Minchin, Beverly and Keith Reed, Hilda Ottery and Peter Cameron.

Front Colin Taylor and Sandra Taylor, Mrs. Charlie Henry, Toni Hammond?

Mrs.Henry seated in front was Matron of the Ball.



Community Information

EMERGENCY / AMBULANCE: 000		MBULANCE: 000	DELEGATE MPS 6459 8000		
<u>FIRE</u> : 000		<u>=</u> : 000	BOMBALA MPS 6458 5777		
POLICE		LICE	Community Health Central intake team on 1800 999880		
	Delegate:	6450 3360	Victorian Visits—Community Nurse visits Victorian Clients every		
	Bombala:	6458 3444	fortnight. For referral or info ring Orbost Regional Health 03 5154		
	Cooma:	6452 0099	6666 or		
	Bendoc:	6458 1523	Delegate Community Health Nurse on 6459 8000		
CHURCHES		<u>R C H E S</u>	Bombala Medical Practice 6458 3022		
CATHOLIC	Father Mark Croker 02 8331 7609	Healthdirect and GP helpline 1800 022 222			
		Sunday—Saturday Virgil Mass	(See advert in paper for detailed information)		
Delegate 4.30pm—Bombala 6pm 3rd Sunday—Sunday Mass Delegate 8am—Bombala 10am All other Sundays—Liturgy @ Communion Delegate Sat 5pm—Bombala Sun 9am		, ,	MONARO FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE		
			Bombala Office: 6458 4888		
			open Tues to Thurs - 9:00am to 5:00pm		
			Delegate Pre School: 6458 8196		
		at 5pm—Bombala Sun 9am	Delegate Public school: 6458 8183		
	-	ww.cg.org.au/bombala			
Email: joeysdelegate@gmail.com			DELEGATE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION		
		ouologato@ginamooni	RTCT Centre - 6458 8388— dpaoffice@bigpond.com		
ANGLICAN	Rev. Judy	Holdsworth 04 0853 1544	Newspaper: delegateprogress@exemail.com.au		
Services:	11 are 2 ad 8 Atta Curadavia	Tubbut Access Centre 6458 0295			
	11am 2nd & 4th Sundays.		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 dpaoffice@bigpond.com delegateprogress@exemail.com.au (for paper) *****

'Delegate Doings' Subscription: \$42.90 by Post Email \$16.50. ****

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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	¢250.00	\$630.00		
Back Page	\$80.00	\$350.00			
Full Page Insert	\$90.00				
Colour advertising: prices on application					

Delegate Show Results (contd.) High School Section 13 – 17 Years Class 49 – Landscape – 1st Lydia Jamieson, Class $51 - \text{Sea Water} - 1^{\text{st}}$ Lydia Jamieson, 2^{nd} Lydia Jamieson Class $52 - \text{Animal/s} - 1^{\text{st}}$ Joise Reed, 2^{nd} Lydia Jamieson Class $53 - \text{Bird/s} - 1^{\text{st}}$ Lydia Jamieson, 2^{nd} Lydia Jamieson Class 55 – Reflections - 1st Lydia Jamieson, 2nd Lydia Jamieson Class 56 – Weather – 1st Joise Reed, 2nd Lydia Jamieson Class 57 – Machines - 1st Lydia Jamieson Class 58 – Still Life – 1st Lydia Jamieson Class 59 – Flower/s – non macro – 1st Lydia Jamieson, 2nd Lydia Jamieson Class 60 – Macro - 1st Lydia Jamieson, 2nd Lydia Jamieson Class 61 – Coloured Portrait - 1st Lydia Jamieson, 2nd Lydia Jamieson Class 63 – Coloured Any Other Subject - 1st Lydia Jamieson, 2nd Josie Reed Class 64 – Black and White Portrait - 1st Lydia Jamieson Class 65 – Black and White Landscape - 1st Lydia Jamieson Class 66 – Black and White Environment – 1^{st} Lydia Jamieson, 2^{nd} Lydia Jamieson Class 67 – Black and White Any Other Subject – 1st Lydia Jamieson, 2nd Lydia Jamieson Encouragement Award - High School - Schoos Studio Prize - Josie Reed CHAMPION HIGH SCHOOL EXHIBIT - Schoos Studio Prize - Lydia Jamieson Primary School Section – 12 Yrs & Under Class 68 – Landscape – 1st Oliver Brady Class 69 – Fresh Water – 1st Oliver Brady Class 71 – Animal/s – 1st Florence Buckman, 2nd Florence Buckman Class 72 – Bird/s - 1st Florence Buckman, 2nd Florence Buckman Class $73 - People in Action - 1^{st}$ Grace Henry Class 77 – Still Life – 1st Grace Henry, 2nd Grace Henry Class 78 – Flower/s – non macro - 1^{st} Grace Henry, 2^{nd} Grace Henry Class 81 – Selfie – 1^{st} Thomas Kading, 2^{nd} Lily Kading Encouragement Award - Primary School - Schoos' Studio Prize - Malakye Henry Most Successful Exhibitor - Primary School - Mrs Alma Reed's Prize - Grace Henry

CHAMPION PRIMARY SCHOOL EXHIBIT – Schoos' Studio Prize – Grace Henry

MAMMOTH FUND- RAISING EVENT FOR CURRAWARNA.

On the 19th August the hardworking fundraising Committee for Currawarna, will be hosting a big evening, at the Imperial Hotel, Bombala, the last major event for the year. Between 30 and 40 pieces of art and photography by local artists will be auctioned and will be followed by the launch of the (Almost) Bared Calendar for 2024. It should be a great night and the Committee are hoping for a good roll up for the occasion. The local community have wholeheartedly backed the cause from the beginning, and the effort has been much appreciated by the Committee. With the promise of Government Funding, and the magnificent fund raising effort, we can all forward to the dream soon becoming a reality. Nibbles provided for a cover charge of \$20. Drinks at own cost.

The Delegate Progress Assoc. recently donated \$2000 to the cause, takings from the movies.

SOME HISTORY ON GEORGE ALAM STOREKEEPER IN DELEGATE IN 1930'S

John Alam, son of George Alam recently paid a visit to Delegate and called in at the Rural Transaction Centre. The Alam family moved to Delegate in 1934 from Dunedoo, bringing the Ford Agency, as well as leasing Peter Joseph's store. George built a new store on the site of the present one, after a falling out with Peter Jo-

seph. The family left the area in 1946, but renewed a connection to Delegate, when Margaret (nee Alam) Michael and husband Alan bought the original Joseph store from WJ (Bill) Ingram in 1948.

Dr. John Alam has a medical practice in Sydney and has left his email with us for further contact



Wood Ash in the Garden.



Winter provides several resources that improve the soil and health in the garden. Wood ash and fallen leaves provide nutrients, frost works on soil structure and, even better, the cold interrupts the reproduction of many pests such as aphids and white butterfly. When you look into the fireplace that is producing the ash it is an entertaining thought that the heat and light released again today represents a little piece of the sun captured by plants. It is even more interesting to understand that this very heat and light fell on the earth decades, possibly centuries ago, depending on the age of the wood that is being burnt.

Wood ash is mainly valued by gardeners because it supplies potassium which is the element that promotes flower formation. It also typically contains 33% calcium which raises the soil pH in the same manner as

lime, but at 50% the rate, so it is important to be cautious about putting too much around acid loving plants such as blueberries, azaleas, rhododendrons maples, birch and oaks common in Delegate gardens. Wood ash also increases carbon in the soil which is critical to soil function. It is important to scatter the ash in light applications because the particles are so fine that they have the capacity to block soil aeration. Wood ash in the compost pile has the benefit of absorbing odours.

Fallen leaves in winter are mostly available from deciduous plants. They provide mainly carbon to the soil as the plant has already reabsorbed any valuable nutrients into the woody parts in order to kickstart rapid growth in spring when the soil maybe still be too cold for uptake of good quantities of those soluble nutrients essential for growth. Fallen leaves are the food resource of fungi, microbes and a range of invertebrates like worms and beetles that create soil structure. A layer of fallen leaves insulates soil from cold and protects the crowns of many plants allowing them to rebound in spring. Composting leaves that fall on inappropriate places like paths provides a resource for propagation mixes and a really effective mulch for summer water retention. Burning leaves is so polluting and counter to soil health that it is banned in enlightened countries of the Northern Hemisphere.

Although it will be frosty here for some time yet there are many things that can be planted now. The most obvious are the bare root roses, trees and fruit trees. However, it is also peak time for asparagus crowns, herbaceous perennials such as foxgloves and of course strawberries. Many varieties have been developed for Queensland commercial production and these tend to need more warmth and have a more distinct bearing period. It is probably more advantageous in the home garden to select varieties



that are 'everbearing'. It is still too early for potatoes. Many seed plantings can take place now especially the broad beans and sweet peas. Broad bean flowers are not affected by cold but it is important for the vegetable pea crops such as snow peas to allow at least ten weeks to the last frost because cold damages the fertility of the flowers and therefore pod development. Broad bean flowers have a lovely scent and the red flowered type make a great display in early spring when there is little other colour and lush growth in the garden. Coloured pea flowers and pods are garden worthy too but there is no perfume. And a last thought. It takes one hectare of trees to provide oxygen for forty-five people so plant your life support trees today!