
Welcome to the Newslink for the merry month of May! Hope you all enjoyed the Easter break. Looking through the news items sent in this month it seems to me that the Senior Citiz. & the kids have the most fun!!! The rest of us must be too busy working. I suppose that's fair enough – we were all kids once and hopefully we'll get to be senior citiz. one day!!

Did you all see the display of Delungra Public School children's work in the window of Sapphire City Bakery? It was there as part of the Tom Robert's Festival. There were some very interesting things there. Don't forget it's Mothers Day this month, so don't forget kids – sometimes just doing the washing up is as good as a present!

Please leave your notices in the Newslink box at the Post Office, or Email: rockvale@northnet.com.au.

Delungra School News.

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope everyone enjoyed their Easter break and were able to find the time to relax and enjoy the company of family and friends. As usual our school term is already fairly full and no doubt will become even busier once we all get back to work and discover what extra opportunities and functions are available for our students and staff.

As Monday, 1st May is a pupil free day, no staff will be in attendance at Delungra Public. If you urgently need to contact the school, please phone 0428232883. On Monday, all the staff will be attending a Small School's conference in Tamworth. Many small schools from the Moree, Tamworth and Armidale districts will be participating in this conference, discussing topics such as programming, student welfare, time management, public relations and promotion, and leadership. Bruce Sullivan from Brisbane is the keynote speaker and his theme will centre around the individual's ability to relate to one another in the workplace and how these relationships impact on the day to day running of the school.

Education Week commences on May 15th and the school will be celebrating on Friday, 19th of May with our annual Cross Country followed by morning tea, a small concert of items the students presented at the Senior Citizens luncheon, a BBQ lunch and a challenge game of Kick Cricket. The students are VERY keen to be the winners of this game but I believe that the parents have other ideas! Please try and leave this date free so you can come along and be part of our celebrations.

At the last meeting, the P & C members discussed the new Student Welfare and Discipline policy and voted to implement it this term on a trial basis. The new policy is based on a levels system where the students move up or down, depending on their behaviour. Parents will be given a copy of the policy in the Newsletter on Monday, 8th May to allow them to gain an understanding of how the policy works.

We were delighted to have Mr and Mrs Calderbank, Mr and Mrs Hirsch and Mr Lewis as guests at our ANZAC Day commemoration on the last day of term – thank you all very much, we really appreciate your attendance. It is important for our students to have this support on special occasions such as this. Thanks also to parents and other community members who were able to come.

We also had our CRAZY HAT parade on the last day of term, following the ANZAC service. Thanks to Scott Chester and David Weidemann for their expert judging. The kids looked fantastic and there certainly were some crazy hats.



Lots of CRAZY hats!



ANZAC Day wreath laying ceremony



Students from K12 sharing information about ANZAC Day

On behalf of the school community I would like to wish Scott Chester all the best for his new job in Inverell. Scott has been a very strong supporter of the school; attending our functions, visiting for special occasions, coming for morning tea and an occasional game of handball - his involvement and support has been very much appreciated. Thank you Scott and good luck.



Easter fun and games

Belinda Eddy Principal.

ONE FOR THE ROAD

Welcome to this months crime report. It would be remiss of me if I didn't make the effort to get one last crime report completed for you all. Although my last official shift in Delungra was on Thursday 20th April 2006, technically (on paper) I am still attached to Delungra until the 6th May. I have taken the time out of my other commitments to draft this months report for the benefit of the Delungra community. This months report will be my last.

It must admit it was an eerie feeling driving out of town for the last time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their well wishes and thanks prior to leaving. I was overwhelmed to hear from so many people, either around town during my patrols or from personal visits at the police station & residence. I will miss the town, the community and my interaction with both. On the other side of the coin, some people will be glad to see the back of me for the last time, you start to get a complex when certain people within the community keep asking how long before I leave. Every community has them and yes, these people were regular clients of mine. I don't think my leaving will prevent police remaining part of their lives - it will just be different police.

Your new officer, Constable Brad LEWIS has taken up residence at Delungra. He is settling in well and is really looking forward to working in and with the community. Brad officially starts on the Delungra roster from the 7th May and no doubt, once he finds his feet and way around, you will enjoy his services as much as you have enjoyed mine.

April was a busy month, significant events included the Delungra camp draft, community breakfast run by the school, senior citizens luncheon, kids disco, relay for life fundraising events and other worthy activities. I pay homage to everyone involved in the success of these events, promoting Delungra and providing events and activities for the community (and beyond). Once again it was a great opportunity to promote Delungra and show everyone what Delungra has to offer.

Without a doubt the talking point last month was the serious assault upon a 26 year old Delungra female. This female received severe head and facial injuries. The incident occurred on Wednesday evening the 29th March at a residence in Burnett Street. The injuries sustained by the young woman were horrific and the worst injuries I have ever seen from a domestic related incident. In saying this, police are the ones who believe the incident was domestic related. The victim of this viscous, callous and cowardly assault does not recall what happened. Her non recollection could be from the severe head injuries received. Her defacto partner has nothing to say and despite having injuries to one of his hands, which he claims was caused by other means, he denies any wrong doing. A crime scene warrant was executed at the residential address where forensic evidence was obtained. An area inside the house was like a battle zone. Despite having limited information about the incident in question, Police charged a 34 year old Delungra man with domestic offences. Charges included Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm, Common Assault and breaching an apprehended domestic violence order. DOCS also became involved as concerns were raised in relation to the welfare and safety of the couples children. Police refused bail upon the 34 year old male however strict conditional bail was granted at Court. The following day the 34 year old Delungra male breached his bail. He was again arrested before being released on further bail.

In relation to matters of interest, I advise the following;

On the 6th March 2006 a 30 year old male wanted for a serious domestic violence assault and other matters was arrested. At a recent Court hearing that 30 year old male was sentenced to 12 months gaol for those offences.

Between the 29th and 30th March 2006 a ladies 24 inch mountain bike was stolen from a residence in Burnett Street. Reliable information was received in relation to the person responsible for the theft. Police spoke with a number of youth in relation to this matter and put them on notice in relation to the theft. Thanks to parent intervention, the bicycle was returned to the owner a few days later. The owner was happy for the bikes return and no further police action was required. The person responsible can count themselves very lucky that the bicycle owner declined to press charges in relation to this theft. Regardless of this the person

responsible is a thief. Stealing is unacceptable to some but unfortunately normal for others.

On Saturday 1st April 2006 a domestic related incident occurred on a rural property south of Delungra. A couple were involved in a heated argument over family related matters.

Just prior to Easter a couple of dogs in the Gleno Street/Coles lane area were found deceased. The cause of the deaths is not known however some form of poison is expected. Samples of the dog are currently being tested in an effort to establish exactly what caused the dogs deaths. During Easter itself, visitors to the area found their dog deceased. Poison is again considered the cause.

About 6.30am on the 14.4.06, Police attended a property on the Bingara Rd regarding alarm activation in the safe room of the rural farmhouse. Police conducted an external check of the premises and it appeared to be in tact.

Over the Easter period the following was reported; a dog pup went missing from Gleno Street. A bull escaped the common and found its way into a neighbouring property. A motor vehicle parked in Railway Street had 2 x 12 slotter chrome Holden wheels stolen from the rear of it. A 35 year old female was detected driving without a licence for which she was fined.

On Tuesday 25 April 2006 8 dogs were caught attacking sheep that were yarded on a rural property along Strattons Lane Delungra. A further examination of the property found other sheep which had been attacked. With the assistance of a neighbour 5 of the dogs were caught. Police attended a neighbouring property and spoke to a 41 year old female. The 41 year old female owned the dogs or was looking after others which were involved in the sheep attack. The dogs have been conveyed to the Inverell Pound. 12 sheep were badly injured and 2 had to be destroyed. Local ordinance is now following up this matter to finality.

Throughout the month of April, too many times to count, a 12 year old Delungra youth was stopped and spoken to by police for riding a bicycle without a helmet and committing other bicycle related offences. This youth does not seem to care, not only for his own safety but for the safety of other road users. The youth continually re-offends day after day. Due to his age infringement notices cannot be issued however once the youth turns a certain age, this youth will be a very poor person. I have no doubt that infringement notices will be issued to this person once the youth turns the legal age for issuing such fines. This youth can best be described as a habitual offender. Despite repeated warnings and re-assurances from the young person's parents or guardians that it won't happen again, it always does. It is obvious that they too don't care about the law and the safety of the person involved. I will be interested to see their attitude if a serious accident does occur involving the young person and a motor vehicle.

As indicated this will be my last crime report for the Delungra District. I hope you have enjoyed each monthly report which I have compiled. I thank you for your positive feedback in relation to these reports. I have enjoyed bringing each monthly report to you and hope that you have found them enjoyable, entertaining and full of information. I start officially in Inverell from the 7th May so I therefore leave your new officer, Brad Lewis, to bring you each month's crime report from next month onwards. Goodbye and thanks.

Scott Chester
Senior Constable

**Delungra Homes for the Aged Meeting
Monday 15th May at 7pm at the Delungra Bowling Club.**

Dianne Brown.

Delungra Community Health News

Dear Delungra Residents

Footcare dates for the next 3 months: **June 5, July 6, Aug 3.**

This will be the last entry in Newslink from Community Health til September. I am going on leave for June and July- returning to work August 7. Another register nurse, Tania Mills, will be relieving for me and the regular Thursday visits will continue, and provide all footcare in my absence.

The Children's Lunchbox:

Packing a healthy lunch for your child can also teach them nutrition at a young age, improve concentration, and help learning. First follow the food guide pyramid by providing a mix of all-grains (eg wheat, rice, corn etc), low fat dairy (eg milk, yoghurt, cheese etc), fruit, and vegies.

The quantity of food is important. Give them an amount that they will eat. Start with less and encourage them to ask for more if they are still hungry. Remember some schools give as little as 20 minutes for children to eat their lunch. So peel and chop in advance. Water and milk are better options than juices, which are usually high in sugar. So parents, lets do our best for those school kids and remember, we are helping to build the future of our country!!

Have a great month. *Jo Campbell* Inverell Community Health Ph: 67219600.

Delungra District Development Council Meeting 2nd May '06

AGENDA

Farewell to Scott Chester
Welcome to Brad Lewis
Minutes from last two meetings
Business arising.
Correspondence.
Treasurer's statement & adoption.
Payment of Accounts

REPORTS

GARBAGE TIP UPDATE.
Aust. Day & Centennial Celebrations.
Work for the Dole Program (park & other)
Water tank at C.W.A. building
New entries for Trades & Services Directory.
Ladies & Gentlemen please bring a plate for supper. *Harry McNaughton.*

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Derek - Mobile: 0428851599

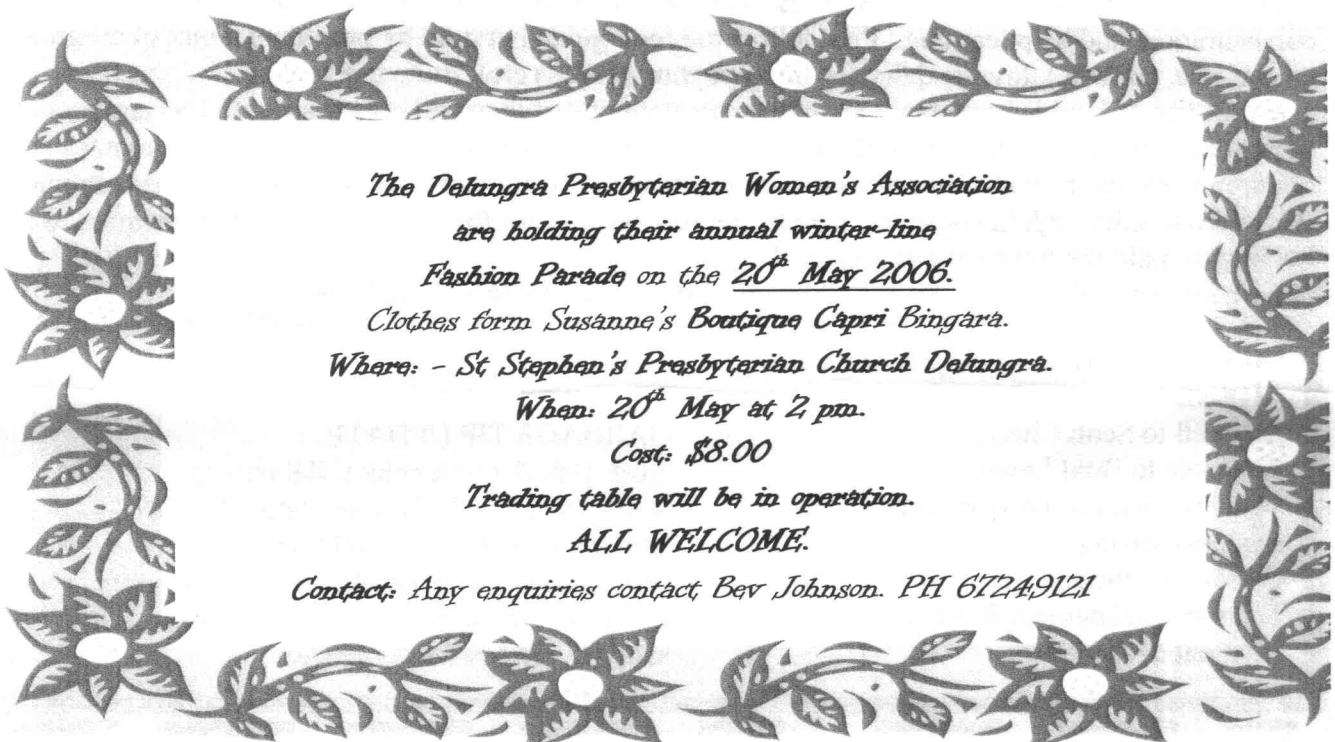
Delungra Centenary and Australia Day Committee

On **Tuesday 23rd May** the Delungra Centenary and Australia Day Committee will be holding a meeting at **7.30pm in Delungra Bowling Club.**

We are inviting representatives of all social and sporting groups and businesses, past and present, to tell us themselves how they will share in our celebrations, so please join us.

For more information, please ring me on 6724 8316.

Sam Dobner, Publicity Officer



*The Delungra Presbyterian Women's Association
are holding their annual winter-line
Fashion Parade on the 20th May 2006.*

Clothes form Susanne's Boutique Capri Bingham.

Where: - St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church Delungra.

When: 20th May at 2 pm.

Cost: \$8.00

Trading table will be in operation.

ALL WELCOME.

Contact: Any enquiries contact Bev Johnson. PH 67249121

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QUILT AND CRAFT EXHIBITION

..... Saturday, 6th, and Sunday 7th May, 2006.....

At the Delungra Multi-Purpose Hall

Opening Times... 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Both Days

\$5 Entry Fee

Light lunches and morning and afternoon tea will be available for an extra small charge, with the proceeds to go to Delungra CWA and Girl Guides.

There will be many attractions..... including....
Many Local Quilts and Craft Items on Display
Queensland Quilters 2005 Challenge Quilts
A Variety of Demonstrations, Raffles, Competitions, A Cent Auction on
Each Day, Trading Table, C.F. Stall, and Lots of Fun..

***You can also contribute to the display of Quilts to be donated to
"Quilts For Keeps" for children in Westmead Hospital.
And/OR Bring along a 12 ½" finished traditional block,
done in Bright Colours, to donate to the same cause. We will then make all
the donated blocks into quilts for the children.***

Proceeds to go to Delungra Multi Purpose Hall, Tamworth Region Westpac Rescue
Helicopter, and NSW Cancer Council.

Come along, and Bring all your friends.

Enquiries.... Phone Di Uebergang (67248460), Gae Smith (67248423),
Dianne Brown (67210007)

Delungra Australia Day/Centenary Celebration Committee

We have had some great meetings of the committee recently, with lots of ideas for how we can celebrate our centenary coming in.

The children in the school have drawn some lovely logos for our competition. Winners will be announced in the first week of term. Thank you to Mrs Eddy and all at the school for your support. We will be having a History Walk as part of our celebrations. We will have a list of buildings which were important to the village- shops, schools, banks, the hotel, with some notes about their history. If you would like to share your memories about any of these, please contact me as soon as possible. Also, I have some maps of the village for anyone who would like to mark in places they remember. Do you have any old photos of the village, or people in the village? I am looking for pictures to use as publicity, on our website, and in the brochure about our History Walk. Pictures of buildings will be great, and also schools, sporting and family pictures will be much appreciated. I won't be keeping them; I just need them long enough to scan and have them ready to use.

At the committee meeting two weeks ago, Russell Blanch told us about the Town Well, and how that became one of the reasons for the existence of Delungra where it is today. He also told us that Little Plain was intended to be the major centre for the district. It goes to show how things have changed. We need your support in many ways, but first of all we are asking every social and sporting group, past and present, to think of a way you can bring your members together for the occasion. You could perhaps hold a lunch, or a short competition, so that members and past members can talk about the fun you had in times past, and what you have been doing more recently. Please think about what your group will do. On Tuesday 23rd May the Delungra Centenary and Australia Day Committee will be holding a meeting at 7.30pm in Delungra Bowling Club where you will be very welcome.

We are inviting representatives of all groups and businesses, past and present, to tell us themselves how they will share in our celebrations.

Please contact me, for any more information or for a town map for History Walk information.

Once again, let's get together and show the world what a great community we have in Delungra!

Sam Dobner, Publicity Officer 6724 8316.

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REEDY CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

We had a really interesting day at the Johnson Families' property "Terrona" for our last meeting. Chris Shands, the Sheep and Wool Officer from Glen Innes, spoke to us about winter feeding options for both sheep and cattle. His information was really helpful, and at this time of the year, something we all need to know about. We had a slide presentation with handouts, and then looked at a new lucerne paddock, discussing options for how it would be used. If you would like copies of the notes, please contact me, or Chris.

The Catchment Management Authority will soon be running a Property Management and Planning workshop series in the area. This is a really great course, and sure to make you start thinking about how to make your place more profitable, while giving you the tools to do so. The course will be heavily subsidized, so the cost to you will be minimal. Please contact me or Warwick Brown at the Border Rivers Gwydir CMA as soon as possible if you could like to participate.

Landcare is not just about planting trees, and collecting money from the government. It is about making sure that there is a future for the land we are using. There are many ways that this can be done, but it is always easier when you are part of a group that is trying to do something similar. The members of Reedy Creek Landcare Group are all trying to make a living off their properties, while doing it in a sustainable way. I am sure that in this, they are no different from their neighbours and everyone else in the district, so why not come along to our June meeting and find out what we are trying to do? You will be very welcome.

Sam Dobner 6724 8316

Delungra C.W.A. News.

Our monthly meeting was held on the 19th of April and we were surprised when we arrived to find a working bee in progress! Thank you very much to Harry McNaughton, Warren & Summer Stewart and Denis Lowe (and any other helpers who we didn't see!) who installed the tankstand and stand which the DDDC procured for us with a Shire Council grant. It really does show what we can achieve when we all get together. The Playgroup were having a working bee on Sunday too, to do more wonderful landscaping work.

We really do appreciate what you have done to beautify our backyard! The winners of our Easter raffle which was at the Post Office were 1st - Ken Edmonds and 2nd - Debbie Larken. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets. We are planning an excursion to the tomato farm at Guyra later in the year, and will probably manage to find somewhere nice for lunch while we're out and about! Saturday the 6th of May we are catering for the Quilt show in Delungra so you can all come along and have lunch with us and see all the beautiful work done by people of the district.

Ainslie Savage.

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DELUNGRA RURAL FIRE SERVICE NEWS

We were called out twice in the past month. Firstly to the fire at the tip, there was nothing we could do and we considered that there was no danger of it getting away so we left it to burn itself out. I speculate that this will hasten the day when the tip is fenced and we only have access for limited hours. Secondly to a garden rubbish fire in the village, this is not allowed and we asked the resident to put out the fire. All in all quite a good month, so thank you for your care.

As we now come to the time of year when we start to have fires, use electric blankets and the like please make sure that whatever you use is safe and use it properly. This way we can all get through the winter without a tragedy.

Last month I tried to remind you to get a fire permit, of course the bushfire danger period is over, sorry for not thinking that through. Nevertheless care and attention are always required around fire or anything that could start one, never ever take fire for granted.

Lets all hope that winter isn't too cold or too dry and we can all enjoy the passing of the seasons.

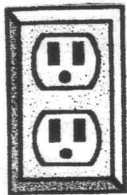
As always – be careful!

Fred Dobner (Chairperson) 6724 8316

Delungra Historic Motor Club Inc.

On the last day of march the Delungra Historic Motor Club had its inaugural run. The destination was Bingara by the river. Hedley and Harry tried their hand at catching fish for lunch. It's just as well we bought plenty of meat with us for the Barbies. Hedley said "This looks like a Big Cod Hole", a few minutes later we were fishing his AKUBRA out of the river. The fish were well fed! We had a great day and look forward to many more runs. Our next run is to SWANVALE on the 30th April '06. Our monthly run is on the last Sunday of each month, plus any organized run during the month. Any person interested in the preservation & restoration of vehicles and machinery 30yrs old are welcome to join our small group of enthusiasts.

Contact Russell 67248112, Hedley 67248327, Harry 67248445.



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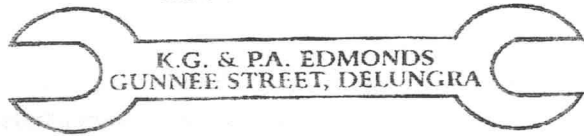
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Delungra Anglican Church Times.

Sunday - May 7th - 11 am

Sunday - May 14th - 8.30 am

Sunday - May 21st - 11 am

Sunday - May 28th - 8.30 am

Thank you to everyone who helped with the catering for the sale on 23/4/06. It was a great success. *Marlene Ballinger.*

Delungra Catholic Church mass Times.

Sunday - May 7th - 5.00pm

Sunday - May 14th - 10.00pm

Sunday - May 21st - 5.00pm

Sunday - May 28th - 8.00pm

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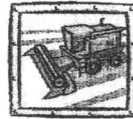
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Delungra Senior Citizens News.

On the 6th April '06 we celebrated our Senior Citizen's Day. We were welcomed by our Chairperson Cynthia. There were about 50 of us all eager to have fun. We began with a cuppa, then played Hoi until the Delungra School children entertained us. They were GOOD!! Ainslie Savage entertained us until lunch at 12.30. Catering was done by the Delungra Playgroup. Excellent. No-one should have gone hungry!! We had a competition which was won by Muriel Woodward. Lucky spots were everywhere and members had great fun finding them. Some senior members were fined for not wearing their name tags – Naughty Naughty! President Cynthia welcomed our special guests, Peter Lloyd, Paul Henry and Scott Chester. Scott will be leaving us to take up a position in Inverell. He will be missed. We had visitors from Inverell, Mt Russell, Bingara and Warialda. The raffle won by Claire Kent. What a great day was had by all. On 5th of April seven Delungra citizens went to Bingara for their day and by all accounts had an enjoyable day. We have an invitation to Mt Russell on 18th May. We will meet at the C.W.A. rooms at 9.30am for car arrangements. Tanya Mills will be out on the 15th June in the morning. Our next meeting is 18th May t 1.30pm.

Elaine Wenzel.

Delungra R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary.

The Delungra R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary thank all who helped in any way with the Anzac Day service at the Memorial Stone at the Delungra R.S.L. park. We were very pleased to see the large crowd of people who came to honour the memory of the Soldiers, those who died and those who lived. The R.S.L., the Inverell Shire Mr Peter Lloyd, the citizens, the Guides, the school children and all who came together for this important occasion, the music lady, Mrs Ainslie Savage, the Guide Leader Mrs Veronica Farragher, the boys who brought the chairs.

We thank anyone who helped us in any way on this special Australian day.

Nancy Calderbank.



Hobday's Transport

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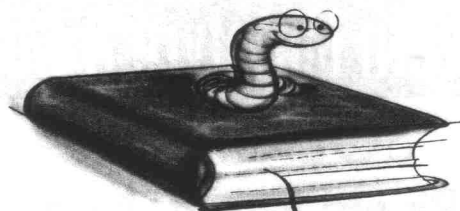
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"Trevallyn"
Delungra.



The Delungra Library is situated at the C.W.A. Hall in Burnett St. It is a branch of the Inverell Shire Library and they have just sent us some new books!

Borrowing books is FREE to all members of the Inverell Shire. The library is open on Saturday mornings from 10am to 11 am, so come along and borrow a book. If you don't find the kind of book you're looking for, just let us know and we'll get it for you. Details Ph: Ainslie on 6724 8365



The NSW Rural Fire Service Position on Smoke Alarms

A smoke alarm is a device that contains both a means of detecting smoke and a device for sounding an alarm. A domestic smoke alarm is one manufactured principally for use in the home.

The following is the New South Wales Rural Fire Service (NSWRFS) position on domestic smoke alarms installed in residential accommodation. Residential accommodation includes buildings defined by the Building Code of Australia as Class 1 buildings and sole occupancy units in Class 2 & 4 buildings.

This position is designed to be consistent wherever possible with the Australasian Fire Authorities Council's (AFAC's) position on domestic smoke alarms.

This NSWRFS position, just like the AFAC position, is based on current knowledge about smoke alarm performance. This position may change following further research into the performance of smoke alarms in the Australian environment.

NSW Rural Fire Service Position

Minimum requirements

- All residential accommodation across NSW have at least one working smoke alarm from 1 May 2006.
- All smoke alarms installed in residential accommodation across NSW meet Australian Standard 3786 or Australian Standard 12239.

Power supply

- Smoke alarms installed in permanent residential accommodation are preferably hard-wired to a 240 volt AC power supply, or to a 12/24 volt DC power supply connected to a 240 volt supply.
- Hard-wired smoke alarms are wired to the unswitched active side of a light circuit.
- Hard-wired smoke alarms are equipped with an on-board battery back-up so that power is still available to the smoke alarm in the event of failure of the 240 volt supply.
- NSWRFS considers that smoke alarms that rely solely on power supplied by a removable 9 volt battery provide protection only if the battery is properly installed and regularly replaced.

"However, research indicates that failure to properly install and replace smoke alarm batteries is a frequent cause of smoke alarm failure."

Location

- Smoke alarms in single dwellings (Class 1 buildings) are located outside all sleeping areas and in all paths of travel between sleeping areas and exits to the open air.
- Smoke alarms in buildings containing 2 or more separate dwellings (Class 2 and Class 4 buildings) are located outside all sleeping areas and in all paths of travel between sleeping areas and exits to common corridors.
- Smoke alarms in multi-level dwellings, in addition to the above provisions, are located in the path of travel between each level in multi-level dwellings.
- Due consideration is given to the effect on smoke alarm performance of air conditioners, heaters, fans and other temperature control devices, and that smoke alarms are located where these devices won't compromise the effectiveness of the smoke alarms.

- Where a smoke alarm is located in close proximity to a kitchen or bathroom because the location is in a sleeping area or in the path of travel to an exit, the smoke alarm is a photo-electric smoke alarm.

"Research indicates that photo-electric smoke alarms located in close proximity to a kitchen or bathroom are less likely to produce false alarms than ionisation smoke alarms installed in these areas."

Installation

Research indicates that photo-electric smoke alarms may be more effective at detecting smouldering fires and fires starting in areas remote from smoke alarms, and that ionisation smoke alarms may be more effective at detecting flaming fires. Both types of fires may occur in residential accommodation.

- Where possible, photo-electric smoke alarms are installed in paths of travel between sleeping areas and exits to the open air or to common corridors.
- Either photo-electric smoke alarms or ionisation smoke alarms are installed outside sleeping areas.

To maximise the opportunity for early alarm in all fire scenarios, NSW RFS recommends that where possible householders install both photo-electric and ionisation smoke alarms.

- Smoke alarms are installed in accordance with manufacturers' instructions, and located in accordance with the Building Code of Australia, Australian Standard 1670 parts 1 or 6, and manufacturers' instructions.
- The responsibility for installation rests with the building owner, including, in the case of rental accommodation, the landlord.
- 240 volt smoke alarms are installed by a qualified electrician.

"NSW RFS is satisfied that smoke alarms with a DC power source may be installed by competent persons who are not qualified electricians."

Temporary accommodation

- For temporary accommodation where 240 volt power is unavailable or impractical (eg. tents, boats, caravans), battery-powered smoke alarms are used.
- In temporary accommodation, smoke alarms are installed in all sleeping areas.

Sound levels

- The minimum smoke alarm sound pressure level at the bed head in all sleeping areas is 75 decibels.

While this will not guarantee that all sleeping persons (particularly children under the age of 16, elderly people and the hard of hearing) will be woken by a smoke alarm, research indicates that adults with normal hearing are likely to be woken.

We therefore also want to emphasise the need to continue planning and practicing home fire escape plans and for adults to awaken children and assist them to escape in the event of a fire.

Smoke alarms for the deaf and hearing impaired

- Smoke alarms with sensory stimulation devices other than standard audible devices are installed in residential accommodation occupied by the deaf or people who are hard of hearing.

Alternative alarm methods may include an alarm tone of varying frequency, vibrating pads and strobe lights.

Interconnection

- Interconnection of smoke alarms ensures that regardless of where a fire starts, all smoke alarms in a dwelling will sound to alert occupants at the earliest possible time.
- That wherever possible all smoke alarms in a dwelling are interconnected.

Smoke alarms connected to security systems

- Smoke alarms connected to a security system are installed and maintained in accordance with these recommendations.

Maintenance

NSW RFS supports the maintenance requirements for smoke alarms as detailed in Australian Standard 1851. Key maintenance and maintenance frequency includes:

- Smoke alarms are tested once per month to ensure the battery and the alarm sounder are operating;
- Smoke alarms are cleaned with a vacuum cleaner twice annually to remove particles that will hinder smoke alarm performance; and
- for smoke alarms with removable batteries, including those powered primarily by 240 volts, batteries are replaced annually (unless 10 year Lithium units).

Furthermore:

- the responsibility for monthly smoke alarm testing rests with the occupant, and
- the responsibility for annual battery replacement (for smoke alarms with a removable battery) and cleaning rests with the occupant.

Where landlords seek to minimise maintenance costs, NSW RFS recommends the use of hard-wired smoke alarms equipped with a rechargeable on-board battery back-up power supply.

Life expectancy

Smoke alarms are replaced when the service life date (usually 10 years), which should be clearly indicated in the base of each smoke alarm, is exceeded.

Disposal

Smoke alarms are disposed of as follows:

- For ionisation alarms, in accordance with the recommendations of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, ionisation smoke alarms in quantities less than ten may be disposed of in domestic waste.
- Quantities of ten or more ionisation smoke alarms shall be treated as radioactive waste and disposed of in accordance with local regulations.
- Photo-electric smoke alarms in any quantity may be disposed of in domestic waste.

Effect of domestic sprinkler systems

- The presence of a domestic sprinkler system in a dwelling does not diminish the need for the installation of smoke alarms in accordance with these recommendations.

For the Building Legislation Amendment (Smoke Alarms) Bill go to the *Parliament of New South Wales website*.