

The Cockfighter

MAY 2016

Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale

FREE



BROKE FORDWICH
WINE REGION

The tranquil side of the Hunter Valley



ALSO - THIS ISSUE
Heritage projects to benefit from conservation funds

Bulga Milbrodale residents decide: Thank you - but no thank you

AUSTRALIA'S GOT TALENT, 2016 WINNER TO APPEAR IN BROKE

Our magazine - named after Cockfighter Creek - So named in 1820 by John Howe and B. Singleton because one of their horses called Cockfighter was bogged here on their return trip from Wallis Plains (Maitland) to Patrick Plains (Singleton)

The Cockfighter

May 2016

FROM THE EDITOR: WATER WATER EVERYWHERE (BUT NOT A DROP TO DRINK)

If this issue of our little sandal sheet seem somewhat waterlogged, there are good reasons for it; for one, the talk of the townships has been the promise of a water supply to certain parts of our sub-region, and we are grateful for John Krey's appraisal of this in other pages. Speaking personally, I can't wait, having been cursed with fractured tanks for some weeks before facing the inevitable in the form of a new container; but John covers all the bases but not the marvellous suggestion by a certain wit that all we need is donkey power to carry buckets to a standpipe somewhere between here and Singleton. I know just the neddly for this—his name is Humphrey and he is one of (neighbours and pals) Stirling and Sarah's beautiful visitors who cut my grass so well.

But another aqueous aggravation is upon us—or at least threatens to do so: the plan of Wambo Mine (between Bulga and Jerrys Plains in the Upper Hunter) to modify the underground workings and extend the open cut does nothing to allay fears that this will cause additional environmental and social damage. I hesitate to bore our readers with the facts and figures of this development but something has to be said, if only to acknowledge the travails of locals like the Kidmans; these are our neighbours and friends who have fought the multinational sprawl of Peabody in numerous protests, leading to court action and attempts at resolution.

Some background: American giant Peabody Energy has filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy, which could cast doubt on their financial capacity to comply with obligations under the mining rights. The operators have been many and varied since mining started in 1969, but Peabody has been there for ten years. It digs up more than eleven million tonnes of thermal coal yearly, but at a significant cost to the environment.

Subsidence has cracked Wambo Creek, with the side effect of drained (permanent) pools and the subsequent impairment to local agriculture—to say nothing of our wildlife. North Wambo Creek was divided for a couple of kilometres around the open cut. Landholders maintain that the subsidence commitments in the extension proposals overlook outstanding and

April Rainfall 12 mm
Year to date 262 mm

unresolved promises under current approvals. Because of previous mining lapses, in fact, work is still needed on neighbouring land, as well as on Wambo-owned property.

In this connection, bear in mind that the subsidence impact on the creek is significant, with repair work not carried out under conditions of approval and management plans. In short, the whole shemozzle has been a festering disgrace since longwall work started 25 years ago. And to (un)cap it all, the dam wall at the mine collapsed in January last year, resulting in pollution of waterways and demonstrating harmful and lax project management. Seven years ago, Wambo's South water Storage Dam failed on one occasion when it overtopped with mine waste water.

If there is a glaring fact, a singular sin of omission in this saga, it concerns the interchange, the reaching out to the community which is so absent in Peabody's reaction to the voice of the people (contrast the well-established and informative Q and A sessions which Glencore's excellent environmental team provide regularly for the Broke-Bulga-Fordwich-Milbrodale bailiwick). Information which has been provided by Peabody is considered poor and in fact inaccurate by the landholders who are mounting the current protest. They point to the token company links in 2012, followed four years later by mention at the April 2016 meeting of Wambo CCC. Additionally, opponents ask why a plan developed in 2012 and then withdrawn could somehow resurface four years later. At this stage, it would seem the approvals authority will have to trawl through some turbid waters to get to the bottom of Peabody's expansion plans.

(Tom Jackson)

Diary Dates

- 7 May Go for Broke bike ride Berowra to Broke
 - 7 May Stonehurst Rock & Blue Revival Cedar Creek
 - 27 May (from) The God of Carnage play Laguna Hall
 - 29 May Taste of Wollombi Wollombi Village
 - 5 June Olive Long Lunch Whispering Brook Vineyard Broke
 - 13 June Long Weekend Market Wollombi Sale Yards
 - 26 June Taste of Wollombi Wollombi Village
 - 7 August Hunter Valley French Car Club Nightingale Vineyard Broke
 - 26 August 25th Laguna School Art Show Laguna Hall
 - 27-28 August Wollombi Country Fair
 - 3 September Wollombi Wild Ride
 - 10 September Stonehurst Long Table Lunch Cedar Creek
 - 11 September Broke Village Fair Broke
 - 17 September Sawmans Wine Club Lunch Noyce Brothers Wine Wollombi
 - 24 September Wollombi Music Festival Wollombi
 - 2 October Catherine Vale Jazz Day Broke
 - 3 October Long Weekend Market Wollombi Sale Yards
 - 1 November Melbourne Cup GNTF Laguna & Wollombi Tavern
 - 6 November Meet the Makers Broke
 - 12 November Folk in Broke Broke
 - November (all) Sculpture in the Vineyard Wollombi Wine Trail
 - 3rd December Community Christmas Party Bulga Hall
 - 10 December Outdoor Cinema Grays Inn garden Wollombi
 - 12 December Community Christmas Party Wollombi
 - 31 December New Years Eve fireworks Wollombi Tavern
- Hunter Valley Protection Alliance Annual General Meeting**
5pm Saturday 28th April
@ the Broke Hall

The Willows Restaurant & Broke Village Store

The focal point of the Broke community and surrounding area
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till late.

THE 'VILLAGE PUMP' NOW GONE DIGITAL

The village pump – was a place where village life was outlined in conversation. Of course gossip was the mainstay of the gathering but a more serious and beneficial activity takes place when community members meet. Discovery of neighbours in need, updates on farming and business techniques, knowledge sharing at a positive level covering everything from how to bottle olives to mechanical know-how form part of the interaction associated with the 'village pump' gathering.

Many in the Broke, Bulga, Fordwich and Milbrodale communities (the bailiwick of this journal!) are currently lamenting the loss to digital media, of the face-to-face meetings that contributed so much to village life.

At a recent meeting at the Broke Hall to review a presentation of the 'Villages Master Plan' comments were made about

the need to build interest in communal gatherings to help vitalise community togetherness.

But perhaps all is OK. Over the last few years, the Facebook site "Broke Notice Board" has been steadily growing and fulfilling much of the lost village pump action.

It is often thought that neighbours not knowing each other is a syndrome of city living, but with dual income families, increased travel times and other demands on people's times, it is not unusual for rural neighbours to not know each other.

The Broke Notice Board seems to be opening up people to each other through conversations about lost pets, warnings about suspicious characters seen during a spate of robberies, birthday parties, calls for assistance to help lift a car's differential into place – all posted in Facebook style, allowing further linking to learn more about the person who posted and often discovering they only live down the road or you recognise them

in the mall.

Of course there is no substitution for real people meeting in real places but the online community opens up opportunities for people to physically gather. Take for instance a recent post by Simon Everett calling for community members to meet to plan events. This activity is funded by a local mine to help local communities conduct events that bring people together – as part of the Villages Master Plan mentioned above.

New technology always comes in with a flourish and seems to overwhelm and threatens to destroy established practices. Take the prediction of the paperless office. Didn't happen – instead you can buy a printer now for \$30 because the manufacturer is confident

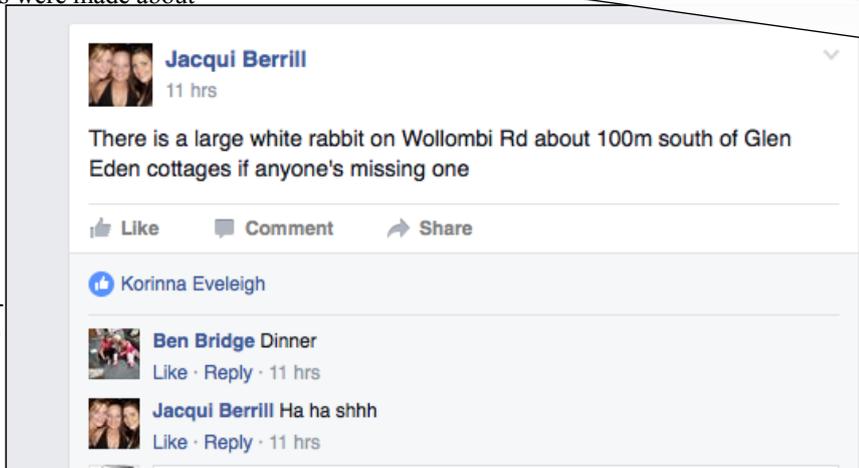
you are going to use so much paper printing that you will end up spending a fortune on ink cartridges

– Why – because information looks and feels better on paper. And, as reported recently, the number of paper books published

in 2015 outstripped the number of digital books – not because digital book purchases went down but because paper book sales have gone up. It is often not a competition to see which technology wins but a process of 'levelling out' to a point where both technologies exist side by side.

Those of us old enough to remember, saw the closing down of cinemas as TV became popular – how wealthy you would be if you had invested in movies back then. – yet another example of mutual existence, as TV, downloading movies and old fashioned 'going to the movies' exist together.

So by all means lets get back around the village pump but don't be too much of a snob – bring your iPad with you.



We beat the GAS but what's next?...
Hunter Valley Protection Alliance
Annual General Meeting
5pm Saturday 28th April @ the Broke Hall

Singleton Council applies to remove 40 trees from Burdekin Park

Singleton Council has lodged an application with the Office of Environment and Heritage to remove 40 of the 83 trees in Burdekin Park in Singleton.



The application follows a resolution of Council to undertake whatever is necessary to make the park, located on the New England Highway, safe for the community.

Council closed the park on 3 March after a large colony of little red flying foxes took up residence in the park's heritage trees, which has been home to a colony of protected grey-headed flying foxes since 2000.

The sheer weight and number of the "little reds", estimated to be about 20,000 at their peak, has caused significant damage to the trees and resulted in large limbs falling to the ground.

An assessment of the trees by an arborist in April identified 40 of the 83 trees were dead or dying beyond saving, 12 will require pruning of the canopy, 9 need pruning to remove hanging branches and dead wood and a further 7 trees will require extensive pruning. Only 15 trees were identified as requiring no action.

"We want to be in a position to remove the trees as soon as possible after the little reds have moved on from the park," said Singleton Council General Manager Jason Linnane.

"Little reds are highly nomadic and follow their flowering food source, found on Spotted Gum. The above average autumn temperatures means the flowering season has lasted longer than usual, resulting in the little reds hanging around longer than anticipated.

"If there have been any positives from this unprecedented event, it's that the grey-headed flying foxes have been all but driven out of the park by their little red cousins, meaning Council is in the best position it has ever been in to implement deterrent measures."

Mr Linnane says once the trees have been removed, Council hopes the community will work with Council to use non-violent methods to discourage the flying foxes from returning to the township.

"This may be the best opportunity we have ever had to rid our town of the flying foxes," he says.

"While we recognise their protected and vulnerable status, and their contribution to biodiversity, our community has lived with the noise, odour and destruction of our heritage trees for long enough."

Mr Linnane says brochures containing information about the flying foxes and Burdekin Park were being letterbox dropped to all households in the Singleton township next week.

"In addition, we are seeking feedback from those residents who live in close proximity to the park and are most affected to tell us what practical assistance they think could improve their current situation," he says.

For more information visit www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/flyingfoxes

Heritage projects to benefit from conservation funds

Community groups will soon be able to access funds for local historical research and heritage conservation projects in the Singleton area.

Coal and Allied has announced the creation of the Mount Thorley Warkworth Historic Heritage Conservation Fund with an initial commitment of \$100,000, and \$20,000 per annum from 2018.

The funds will be available to provide resources for local historical research and heritage conservation projects proposed by the local Singleton community.

Singleton Council Director of Planning and Sustainable Environment Group Mark Ihlein says the funds aim to provide positive local historical and heritage conservation outcomes.

"The funding will provide a platform for heritage community groups to be able to engage in a range of conservation works within the Singleton area," he says.

Coal and Allied has also announced the creation of the Mount Thorley Warkworth Great North Road Conservation Fund which will provide \$100,000 within 12 months of securing project approval and an additional \$100,000 in 2018.

The fund will provide for conservation works on significant surviving elements of the convict-built Great North Road within the Singleton local government area.

The creation of the funds have come about as consent conditions for the Warkworth Continuation development approval and are the result of consultation undertaken with community stakeholders.

The funds are expected to commence in 2017.

Patrick Plains Court Record for men attached to the road department 1833.

Convicts were usually identified by the ship that brought them over. Much need conservation works on significant surviving elements of the convict-built Great North Road within the Singleton local government area will be addressed by the Heritage Project

IMAGE: Courtesy Ian Webb

6891W. PATRICK PLAINS COURT RECORDS FOR MEN ATTACHED TO THE ROAD DEPARTMENT 1833

DATE	NAME	SHIP	ORIGINAL SENTENCE	EMPLOYED	CHARGE	SENTENCE
25 FEB	GROVER WILLIAM	WATERLOO	7 YRS.	Nº 13 R.P.	ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE	50 LASHES
25 FEB	DEAN WILLIAM	WATERLOO	14 YRS.	Nº 14 R.P.	DISOBEDIENCE	25 LASHES
7 MAR	DOLLIMOR WILLIAM	CLYDE	7 YRS.	Nº 13 R.P.	ABSCONDING	50 LASHES
21 MAR	DEVIN FRANCIS	MECCAAN	7 YRS.	Nº 14 R.P.	INTERRUPTING THE COURT	25 LASHES
29 APR	RUFFY MICHAEL	POMERAN CASTLE	7 YRS	Nº 14 R.P.	ABSCONDING	14 DAYS IN THE CELLS
4 MAR	GORDON PATRICK	EDINBURGH	7 YRS	Nº 13 R.P.	ABSCONDING	25 LASHES
11 MAR	FAVINKER JOHN	EDWARD	LIFE	Nº 14 R.P.	NEGLECTING THE SHEEP	50 LASHES
9 MAY	GIDLY TERENCE	WATERLOO	LIFE	Nº 14 R.P.	FEIGNING ILLNESS	25 LASHES
9 MAY	JOHNSON FREDERICK	CAPTAIN	7 YRS	Nº 14 R.P.	NEGLECT OF WORK	26 LASHES
25 FEB	JACKSON JOHN	LOAD	7 YRS	Nº 13 R.P.	REFUSING TO WORK	25 LASHES
8 JUN	KELLY PHILIP	ERMOUTH	7 YRS	Nº 14 R.P.	ABSCONDING	50 LASHES
26 JULY	NONIN JEREMIAH	HIVE	7 YRS	Nº 14 R.P.	ASSAULT	ACQUITTED
16 JULY	EVANS SAMUEL	ASIA*	LIFE	Nº 14 R.P.	ABUSING THE SCOURGER	25 LASHES
22 JULY	KELLY PATRICK	MELNITH	7 YRS	Nº 14 R.P.	Possessing	ACQUITTED
22 JULY	KERWIN JAMES	PHOENIX	LIFE	Nº 14 R.P.	STOLEN TORALLO	ACQUITTED
24 OCT	NONIN JEREMIAH	MANGLES	LIFE	Nº 14 R.P.	STOLEN TORALLO	ACQUITTED
		ASIA*		Nº 14 R.P.	FEIGNING ILLNESS	50 LASHES

I WEBB COLLECTION

CLEAN WATER SUPPLY FOR BULGA AND MILBRODALE

Residents decide: Thank you - but no thank you

Bulga residents, long plagued by encroaching mine activities - an action that has seen the small community go up against mining giant Rio Tinto many times in courts and in public - is now in the throes of more soul-searching.

Bulga, like most rural areas relies on rainwater for household use.

From the outset, Bulga residents in their fight to stop mine expansion, have reported a significant lowering of the quality of the water stored in household tanks.

City-dwellers may complain about water quality but the complaint is usually about the taste due to the purification process.

Living near a mine means that the substantial amount of dust raised by thousands of vehicle movements, blasting of thousands of tons of rock, earth and coal ends up as dust clouds settling on roofs to be drawn into drinking water tanks.

Rio Tinto has agreed to a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) valued at \$11 million to attempt to appease local residents. In discussions with Singleton Council and residents, it was suggested by council that the funds could be used to supply reticulated water to Bulga.

There are two parts to the financing of the proposed water supply. Singleton Council has been trying for the past few years to get a grant from the Government to finance a water supply for Bulga without success.

Thanks to John Krey for the following report:

In 1996 Singleton Council proposed a water supply for Bulga. After 20 years and subject to final funding approval from the State Government, a clean mains pressure water supply will be provided to all of Bulga and Milbrodale at no connection cost to residents. Council will charge normal water rates on an annual basis

As part of the recently negotiated Voluntary Planning Agreement the Singleton Council and Rio Tinto proposed a water and sewer infrastructure project for the village of Bulga to assist in offsetting the impacts of the Warkworth mine expansion.

Residents were concerned about the negotiated infrastructure package which was done without discus-

sions with the residents of the area. At a meeting of residents on the 7 April 2016 Council presented the draft master plan and outlined a proposal for water to Bulga and Milbrodale. The proposal being offered appeared to be limited to a very small number of houses in the centre of Bulga.

Three residents of Bulga met with Council and clarified various issues. As a result of the clarification a further meeting was held with residents of Bulga and Milbrodale in the afternoon of the 1st of May. Fifty residents attended and Council was not involved. The three alternatives were proposed to the residents:

Alternative 1

Do nothing and retain the status quo where we all depend on rainwater from our tanks and top up as required by tanker from Singleton and treat waste water by septic tank or other property contained systems

Alternative 2

Reject sewer and fit individual filtration systems to each residence with UV sanitisation and leave the maintenance of these to each residence.

Alternative 3

Reject sewer. Council to supply clean drinking water system to every residence

in Bulga and Milbrodale at no cost to residents other than ongoing Council rates.

At the end of the meeting there was clear majority of approximately 90% in favour of a water supply system described in Alternative 3. This alternative was a major improvement on the first scheme by Council and the residents of both villages welcomed the proposal to ensure that everyone in Bulga and Milbrodale receives a clean water supply.

Under the current preliminary proposal Council will be drawing water from a bore located in Bulga and processed through reverse osmosis equipment. The stand-alone equipment will have the capacity to provide water to all residences with reserves in the event of breakdowns.

In addition to the vote at the meeting, each resident attending the meeting signed a preference form indicating their vote. These preference forms together with a covering letter outlining the residents understanding of the scheme and on which the vote was based, will be sent to Council.

The MTW Voluntary Planning Agreement

After a brief discussion the residents approved a proposal to request Council to approach Rio Tinto and negotiate a revision to the VPA on the basis that Council and the State Government will be funding the water supply project and that the sewer component of the VPA was rejected by the residents. No funds from the VPA will be used for the water supply project.

The residents will request that the five million dollars proposed for this infrastructure project be allocated to projects for Bulga and Milbrodale which will help reduce the impacts of the Warkworth extension and to improve the living environment for the residents. The projects to be determined following completion of the village master plans for Bulga and Milbrodale and to be made by the committee proposed in the VPA. This project committee is yet to be selected but will comprise two members of the community, two members from Rio Tinto and two from Council.

Completion of the water supply project is estimated by Council to be end of 2017.



Bingo @ Bulga Community Centre

**1st Monday of the month
6:30pm Everyone welcome**

Enquires Phil Reid 6574 5237

OFF THE NET:

Over the years this article has been attributed to many sources including Qantas staff and the US Air Force - all purporting to be actual cases.

A recent emergence of it - doing the email rounds - was titled **Qantas Airways Repair Division**

And included this intro:

In case you need a laugh: remember, it takes a university degree to fly a plane but only a TAFE diploma to fix one."



P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.

S: *Almost replaced left inside main tire.*

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.

S: *Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.*

P: Something loose in cockpit.

S: *Something tightened in cockpit.*

P: Dead bugs on windshield.

S: *Live bugs on back-order.*

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 feet per minute descent.

S: *Cannot reproduce problem on ground.*

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

S: *Evidence removed.*

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.

S: *DME volume set to more believable level.*

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

S: *That's what they're for.*

P: IFF inoperative.

S: *IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.*

P: Suspected crack in windshield.

S: *Suspect you're right.*

P: Number 3 engine missing.

S: *Engine found on right wing after brief search.*

P: Aircraft handles funny.

S: *Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.*

P: Target radar hums.

S: *Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.*

P: Mouse in cockpit.

S: *Cat installed.*

And the best one for last.

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.

S: *Took hammer away from midget.*

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"IN-SYNC" Adverb; simultaneously, at once, at the same time, in concert, concurrently, all together

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BULGA GOES TO RIO

When we were given the opportunity to attend the Rio Tinto AGM by the crowdfunding efforts of the group Market Forces we jumped at the chance. Amazingly; the money required was raised in the first two days.

For us, this was an opportunity to put “the human face of Bulga” before the Rio Tinto Board and shareholders. We hoped this would personalise our dilemma as well as raise publicity in this critical time just one month before our latest appeal against the final PAC decision, which will be heard in NSW Supreme Court from June 6th.

It was with some excitement and not a little trepidation that Rob and AnneMaree McLaughlin and I set out for Newcastle on Wednesday, 4th May to fly to Brisbane for Rio Tinto’s AGM, the following day, 5th May.

The Market Forces team helped us to frame and finesse our questions as well as providing lots of moral support; Brisbane-based volunteer Sam was there with us when we entered the Sofitel Ballroom, the venue for the meeting.

We got to our accommodation on Wednesday evening just about in time to have a quick meal and go back to our rooms to finalise preparations for the next day.

We had decided to split the issues between us. AnneMaree chose “Community impact and ethics”, Rob chose “Economic viability and employment” and I spoke about Warkworth Sands Woodland and the place of personal ethics in Board decisions, as trumpeted in Rio’s own Code of Conduct.

I was able to put my question(s) early in the proceedings before the Board realised who we were. Of course, they sidestepped the questions even when I tried to insist on an answer sans microphone (which had been swiftly removed). Following my question the Chairman studiously avoided Rob and AnneMaree’s waving cards until the bitter end. Again the Board insisted that their clear questions were merely commentary and were quick to give the; “Coal is good for humanity and developing nations want and need “clean” Australian coal” speech! This drew applause from some of the more right-wing shareholders. When the meeting broke for lunch we were approached by several sympathisers as well as fielding some heckling.

It was interesting to note that the questioning, whether from Mongolia, Canada or Australia, was mainly critical. The disclosure that Board members receive a £10,000 (AUD \$19,000) travelling allowance in addition to expenses, caused some indrawn breaths but we were treated to an impassioned defence citing how very hard they work travelling

**AnneMaree
McLaughlin
Judith Leslie
and Rob
McLaughlin
As legitimate
attendees,
were denied a
proper voice
at recent Rio
Tinto AGM**



long distances “several time a year”. I’m sure those of us who have had that as a way of life without extra sweeteners can really feel their pain!

We knew that we were unlikely to get any answers to our questions but we felt it was important to have them heard both by smaller shareholders and the major funds (The proceedings were streamed real-time)

We were also pleased at the huge response from the media; we were kept busy doing interviews from Tuesday onwards. We were contacted by; Prime & NBN, ABC (both Muswellbrook and Newcastle), 2HD

and 2GB. Thursday night’s PM had some actual recording of our questions at the meeting and we were also contacted by NBN on the way home. There was an article by Joanne McCarthy in the Newcastle Herald and Shannon Dann in the Argus.

This was a worthwhile exercise, particularly in that it revived publicity leading into the time when we will be back in the Supreme Court. We are sincerely grateful to Market Forces for raising the money and supporting us to raise Bulga’s profile at this critical time.

Judith Leslie



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AUSTRALIA'S GOT TALENT, 2016 WINNER TO APPEAR IN BROKE

Central Coast star, Fletcher Pilon must have thought appearing at Singleton Showground last year was some kind of good omen. Fletcher had entered the busking competition, which was part of the Singleton Festival last July.

Fletcher won the contest and the first prize, was a paid spot on the 2016 Folk in Broke line-up.

As is now common knowledge, after appearing in Singleton he went on to win *Australia's Got Talent, 2016*.



Folk in Broke Artistic Director, Adrian Buckley, was laid back about the result.

"It was obvious that Fletcher had talent, I have been associated with selecting talent for a long time and Fletcher was a stand-out." He said.

"Fletcher will have the opportunity work with some long time professionals when he appears at Folk in Broke in November - a valuable experience for someone his age."

Georgina Grimshaw who was co-winner of the Busking Competition will obviously be a talent to watch out for in the line-up at Folk in Broke this year seeing she managed to compete successfully with Fletcher.

Future Australia's Got Talent hopefuls can get a leg-up by joining the fun at the Broke Village Hall on the 23rd July when, once again Singleton Festival will be running the Busking Competition.



Folk in Broke Artistic Director, Adrian Buckley




OUR NEW ADDRESS:
THE OLD SERVICE STATION
CORNER OF SINGLETON &
NELSON STREETS,
BROKE VILLAGE

River Flats
ESTATE
HUNTER VALLEY

RETAIL OUTLET OF RIVERFLATS
ESTATE & BARE NATURES'KIN

SINGLETON FESTIVAL Busking Competition

**Broke Village Hall
Saturday 23rd July from
11:00am pm to 6:00 pm
BYO picnic and beverages
Market stalls and great
music
A great family day out**

Each applicant will need to perform 3 songs with at least 2 of them being originals

Winner receives a \$300 paid spot in the *Folk in Broke 2017* line-up and must be able to play a 45 minute set.

For more information Facebook - Folk in Broke

Growth area - Singleton Community Garden

Singleton Community Garden will soon feature a bush tucker garden and meeting place thanks to a funding boost from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) Our Place program.

Our Place is a small-scale, sustainable community engagement program funded by the

NSW Environmental Trust and administered by the OEH.

Singleton Community Garden was established through Singleton Council's Place Making Program, at the community's request, and has been running for two years.

Singleton Community Garden President

Kevin Lomax says the committee intends to build an indigenous bush tucker garden and meeting place at the garden at Albion Park in Singleton.

"Stage one of the funding will go towards creating a meeting place with seating, a removable

fire pit, shade, landscaping, and native plants," he says.

"The next stage of the project will include the planting of an indigenous bush tucker and medicinal plant garden and finally an art and craft program to provide decoration in the garden."

The project has been assisted by the NSW Government through the Environmental Trust and is anticipated to be completed by the end of June.

Singleton Council Director of Planning and Sustainable Environment Group Mark Ihlein says Our Place funding was also received for two other projects submitted by Singleton Shire Landcare Network and Singleton High School.

"We are very excited to be able to support these newly funded projects and look forward to assisting the organisations with the implementation of each," he says.

The Singleton Shire Landcare Network received funding to provide a successful African Olive field day held earlier this month. The field day was organised with assistance from Hunter Local Land Services and attracted more than 80 local landowners.



The Singleton Community Gardens Group looking forward to taking on their next big project at the community garden in Albion Park, Singleton.



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Community complaints line, 24 hours a day,
7 days a week **1800 332 693**

You can also view our approvals, management plans and environmental monitoring data on the website. Go to **www.bulgacoal.com.au** and click on the Publications tab on the menu.

Call for protection from the WET

Last night's Federal Budget announced changes to the WET Rebate regime aimed at improving its integrity but may cost some medium-sized wineries jobs resulting from a reduction in the WET Rebate, said Chairman of the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association, George Souris.

"I have had a number of discussions with Ministerial staff and also with Minister Ann Ruston to be assured the proposed changes to the WET Rebate will, however, remove bulk and unbranded wine producers from eligibility for the rebate from 2019.

I've requested that the Minister consider that these 2019 measures to address the bulk and unbranded problem be brought forward.

Mr Souris said there would be an immediate effect from 1 July 2017 reducing the WET rebate from \$500k to \$350k and from 1 July 2018 reducing to \$290k, whereas tightened eligibility laws will not come into effect until 1 July 2019 giving the super-

markets and the unbranded bulk suppliers, a free run until then.

"The NZ producers will continue to enjoy the rebate under the Free Trade Agreement and will continue to flood the Australian market. The Government has advised that the NZ producers can only legally be excluded from the WET Rebate regime if the regime is abolished."

Mr Souris said the requirement after 1 July 2019 for a producer to own a winery or have a long term lease over a winery will severely affect the Hunter if left in its raw state.

"In the Hunter, there are many small producers who have their wine made by neighbouring and other wineries and then sell their wines from their own Cellar Doors."

"Equally there are legitimate businesses that are the wine makers for those grape growers"

"The Government has promised me, and the broader industry, it will consult on the definition of a winery."



"The Hunter is characterised by these small producers who contribute to the boutique wines market that we are famous for. These multiple Cellar Doors at legitimate growers' establishments are the essence of the special character and vibe that has made the Hunter the No 1 destination for international wine tourism."

Mr Souris said that these were the immediate reactions from the local Hunter wine industry and as more details emerge from last night's Federal Budget, further statements will be made.

"I have consulted Ministers O'Dwyer and Ruston's Offices and have strongly put the case that legitimate and genuine small and medium growers and wine makers should not be unintendedly disadvantaged when the Government formulates its legislation to define what is a winery and should ensure its legislation is aimed at dealing with large bulk wine merchants and re-labelling enterprises that have been enjoying an illegitimate free ride."

"I feel confident the Government is of equal mind."

Mr Souris said, finally, the Ministers have assured me the \$50m marketing initiative will be partly available for wine tourism and I expect the HVWTA will be making applications for assistance in due course.

I am pleased to say I asked Minister Ruston to visit the Hunter as soon as possible to discuss these matters and she has accepted my request.

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COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

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C/o President, Wendy Lawson
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Broke Fair Committee
Eden Anthony
President, Eden Anthony
0498 633 864 mail@hunterstay.com.au

Broke Fordwich Wine & Tourism Assoc.
President, Eden Anthony
0498 633 864 mail@hunterstay.com.au

Broke Bush Fire Brigade
C/o Broke Post Office, Broke NSW 2330

Broke Community Hall
Kathleen Everett (02) 6579 1470

Broke Public School
Principal/P&C Association,
Cochrane Street, Broke NSW 2330

Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association
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Bulga Rural Fire Brigade
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6574 5193
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Bulga Community Centre Inc.
Secretary Belinda Passlow 65745113
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NSW Rural Fire Service Hunter Valley District
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email huntervalley.team@rfs.nsw.gov.au
Manager, Inspector Martin Siemsen

Justice of the Peace
Tom and Sue Jackson 6574 5266
Graeme O'Brien 6574 5185
John Darr, Broke 0437 173 277
Joan McNamara 6579 1057

Milbrodale Public School
Principal/P&C Association
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National Parks and Wildlife Service- Upper Hunter Area Bulga and Scone
Peta Norris, Putty Road, Bulga
NSW 2330 6574 5555

Palliative Care Volunteers
for Singleton & Cessnock
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Water On/Off 1300 767 118

St Andrews Anglican Church Broke
Parish Secretary at 6571 1414

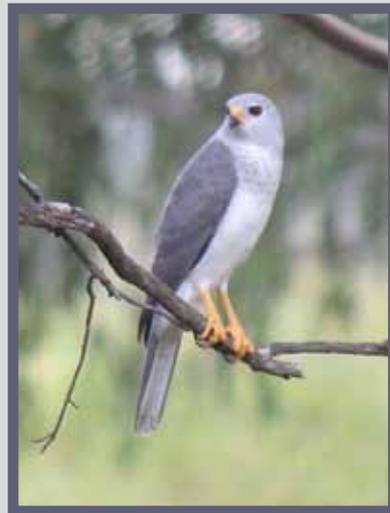
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Wildlife Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release
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The Cockfighter is a not-for-profit community service publication run by volunteers
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OUR WILDLIFE



Grey Goshawk. (Accipiter novaehollandiae)

Powerful Hawk with two colour morphs:

- (1) pure white; eye bright yellow or dark red;
- (2) grey above, white below finely barred grey; eyes dark red.

Both morphs have bright yellow cere and legs. Immature birds, like adults but grey morphs are browner above and more heavily barred on the chest, flight feathers and tail. Singles or pairs watch from trees and flies with quick shallow wingbeats. They build large shallow nest of sticks; high up in live tree, in forest and woodlands. Female lays 2-3 bluish-white eggs. Voice is a shrill repeated rising whistle.

Grey Goshawks are beautiful looking birds. We have one visiting nearly every morning, hopefully just to say "hello" and not looking at my budgie for his dinner. ☺

Elizabeth

Joey's Retreat

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