

The Cockfighter

Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Millbrodale

FREE



BROKE
FORDWICH
WINE REGION

The tranquil side of the Hunter Valley

December 2017

'Sarge' Painted by Kathie Sowell -
Horse portraits and more



The best of the Holiday Season

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

Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale

From the Editor

Christmas Curmudgeons Spread the Cheer

After interrupting my normal residency at Singleton hospital with an unprecedented spell of good health, I decided a month before Christmas Day to return to the wonderful care and attention of the staff at the end of Dangar Road.

I did this by dropping a 15 year old, almost solid 15 kg shard of cement on my ankle which led to the Rural Fire Service, the New South Wales Ambulance and my pet peacock Ankh joining in transporting me to bed 38 of the Hunters premium health service facility.

So who's complaining? Not I said the fly, who hopes to wing or walk out of here by mid December before his entire system feels like it has been cemented mortared and generally plastered beyond belief.

And then there is Christmas - that great explosion of (a) joy at the birth of a world-changing infant, and of (b) lust at the commercial opportunities for wolves to tear him to bits to uncover a dollar.

Too dark a scenario for this time of (one hopes) giving and not taking? Possibly, but I have to share my favourite memories of Christmas with two outstanding critics of its worst vulgarities.

Number One would be the wonderful American 'Dame about the Bronx' Fran Leibowitz. Unashamedly a New Yorker, she doted on the place, and its unique cultural, and -yes - criminal flavours. She explained to an interviewer that her admiration was stirred one night decades ago when a top TV Xmas show asked the audience to nominate (for a thousand-dollar prize) a name to rival the absurdity of that of a certain sleigh-pulling Arctic herbivore with unfortunate nasal rosacea. (The melody featuring this reindeer was even more prevalent then than now) The winner of the quest had Fran open-mouthed with delight: Rudolph Hitler!

And yes, I agree, Rudolph should 'go down in history' - in the history of bad taste and limping lyrics in song-writing.

My second Xmas Jack-in-the-Box (following the preceding Jill) is no stranger to our columns - the acerbically artistic George S. Kaufman, co-writer of several Marx Broth-

ers movies and producer of many Broadway hit shows.

After the movies and the shows, Kaufman enjoyed great success on panels, celebrity talk-fests and other TV appearances.

Towards Christmas Eve some years ago, Kaufmann was nearing the end of his immensely successful Xmas special when he paused, with the fateful message "How about we make this ONE Xmas show without "Silent Night"

Kaufman was sacked from the show the next day.

We have happier Xmas stories in this issue. Read about 'Sarge' our beautiful cover model and the artistry (of Stirling Keynes of In-Sync Halters) he exhibits as a Christmas gift for all horse lovers. Nothing phoney about that.

To read of professional and moral character, join in Cockfighter's sadness at the resignation of John Krey over the Council's handling of the distribution of funds from the mines for Broke and Bulga.

At the start of 2016, Cockfighter told of the growing fear about voids - the giant holes, and crevasses the mines will leave after leaching the Hunter of its coal. Now the story has hit the headlines, and as we showed, companies who have reaped countless billions from 'our' resources are unwilling to cater for the cost of remediation.

As a Christmas Special, we thank National Geographic and China for a fascinating story of millions of years old relics - no, not terracotta warriors, but eggs laid by pterosaurs when no man roamed the earth. The East may be Red but its also the head of paleo activity.

On the subject of 'thanks', Cockfighter of course acknowledges the (slightly) growing corps of advertisers, you, the readers and our supporters in and out of the mines and all the tiers of Government.

It has been a turbulent 2017 but a rewarding one, and on behalf of my thankfully intact ankle, I say to all concerned - "Them's the breaks!"

Tom Jackson

December 2017

November Rainfall 16.00 mm
Since January 428 mm

Diary Dates

First Sunday of the Month
Broke Village Markets

7 and 8 April A Little bit of Italy

9th Feb Broke Village Fair

Each weekend Whispering Brook Wine Flights

10th Feb Crossroads in the Vines

24th Feb A Day On The Green

10th Mar A Day On The Green, James Blunt

24th Mar Crossroads in the Vines, Country



The Cockfighter

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Full Page	185 mm x 270 mm	\$260

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A FULL PALETTE

Kathie Bowtell is a passionate person and she uses her art to express that passion. Working in the real estate industry is just the background to her life. An accomplished artist, Kathie has applied her skills to energise a charitable organisation that helps heal the trauma suffered by families of suicide victims. Kathie founded 'stART talking' to gift portraits of the victims as a way of helping families grieve for their loved one, and also start conversations about preventing suicide.

To date, more than \$30,000 has been raised for Lifeline as a result of the project.

In addition she is a successful painter of horse portraits and knowing that her beloved 'Pops' - a veteran of WW2 - was a great Clydesdale enthusiast took the opportunity to name her newly acquired Clydesdale 'Sarge' which was Pops' nickname. She also carried out the promise to dress him in the colours of the 2nd 1st Field Regiment, Pops' old regiment.

In-Sync Halters provided the halter of Royal Blue and Red and 'Sarge' was duly dressed and his portrait is our front cover.

For more of these striking images visit www.facebook.com/painthorseportraits

If you or someone you know needs help, call:

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(or 112 from a mobile phone)

Lifeline on 13 11 14

Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800

MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978

Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467



George 'Sarge' Quinn in front of his portrait (oil on canvas)



Kathie specializes in painting from photos and works with clients to merge images to get the exact portrait they want.



COUNCILS BEGIN TO WORRY ABOUT MINING 'VOIDS'

The role of mining companies in the long-term rehabilitation of open cut land came under discussion at a meeting between Singleton and Cessnock councils and Mining NSW recently.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore, Cr Danny Thompson and Singleton Council General Manager Jason Linnane joined their Cessnock City Council counterparts, Mayor of Cessnock, Cr Bob Pynsent, Cr Melanie Dagg and General Manager

“It’s our view that the monies that will potentially be returned to open cut mining companies be redirected to a fund to support and oversee the ‘best practice’ use of mining land post production.

“This is a unique opportunity for NSW to look at the best possible use of these post mining landforms, at no additional costs to producers.”

Cr Moore said the meeting followed similar

“But what I most hope for is that all stakeholders, including the Government and the mining industry, take action on this issue sooner rather than later.

“In the Hunter Valley, post-production mining land may result in numerous final voids that are several hundred metres deep and may take up to a thousand years to fill. There will be thousands of hectares of land that could play very important social, economic, environmental and cultural roles

“In the Hunter Valley, post-production mining land may result in numerous final voids that are several hundred metres deep and may take up to a thousand years to fill.

Stephen Glenn at the meeting with NSW Mining CEO Stephen Galilee and Policy Director Claire Doherty in Sydney.

discussions with NSW Minister for Planning Anthony Roberts on 24 October 2017.

for the future.

“If a fund is established with sufficient resources, the economic and cultural potential of post mining land could become an asset for the people not only of Singleton and Cessnock, but NSW.”

They called for industry support for a fund to facilitate the best use of post-production open cut mined land and the need for research into the economic potential and environmental impacts, particularly of final voids.



Cr Thompson said the solution could be that money paid by open cut mining companies to mine subsidence be redirected to the rehabilitation of open cut mining land.

A motion by Singleton Council for Local Government NSW to lobby for an industry-funded body to facilitate the best use of post-production open cut mined land has been backed by the LGNSW Annual Conference.

“The NSW Government is changing the funding requirements for the Mine Subsidence Board to relieve open cut mining of subsidising the surface damage caused by underground mining,” he said.

needs to be had and I appreciate both Minister Roberts and Mining NSW opening their doors to us, and for their support generally for the idea,” she said.

A second motion for Local Government NSW to lobby the State Government to maintain the current production levy on coal operations in NSW was also passed on the second day of proceedings.

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SECURITY DEPOSITS - WILL THEY FILL THE VOIDS?

It is the responsibility of Resources & Energy to ensure that land disturbed by mining activities is returned to a sustainable post-mining land use.

A security deposit that covers the full rehabilitation costs is required on all authorisations. This requirement ensures that the State does not incur financial liabilities in the event of an authorisation holder defaulting on their rehabilitation obligations.

The authorisation holder is required to provide an estimate of rehabilitation costs for consideration when determining the security deposit amount.

Resources & Energy will assess and determine when rehabilitation obligations have been met and the security deposit can be released. Partial release of the security deposits may occur when successful rehabilitation has been demonstrated for part of the site.

user to accurately assess the cost of closing down a mine. The outcome of the calculation then becomes the 'Security Deposit'

Based on a mid-sized mine of say 5000 hectares, by the time you calculate the removal and reparation of buildings, roads, rail line, power grids, washeries, pipes, cap tailings etc the sum is about \$80,000,000

Then you need to fill the voids - another \$200,000,000

The average security deposit held by governments is about \$120,000,000

According to the NSW Auditor-General, as of 30 June 2012 there were about 573 derelict mine sites in NSW (including gold and other minerals, as well as former coal mines). And only a small fraction of those

The issue had been raised as part of the commission's report on an expansion of Mount Thorley-Warkworth, which concluded that the project could be approved but suggested the company be forced to reduce sizes of the mine's proposed final void.

Rio Tinto claims the expansion would be less than that of the total two separate voids it has already approved of at existing operations.

"The final void will be largely hidden from view due to the surrounding landscape and extensive rehabilitation works planned after mining," a company spokesman said.

Rio Tinto has also said that it would not be reasonable to impose a condition that requires them to completely or even partly backfill the final void, referring to an estimation that it would cost the department \$2 billion to fill them.

Department of Planning ... "not aware of the total size" of voids in the Hunter area.

If you know where to go (http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/applications-and-approvals/environmental-assessment/mining#_rehabilitation-security) a Rehabilitation Cost Calculation Tool is available to assist in calculating the security deposit for a mining site.

A simple Excel spreadsheet, it enables the

derelict mines were being rehabilitated.

The Hunter Valley mines may leave more than 10,000 hectares of land consumed as "final voids", or giant holes left by mines, calling for a push towards the state government to consider the culminative impacts on the region's water table and agriculture.

The independent Planning Assessment Commission has pushed the government to do a study of mining giant Rio Tinto's proposal for a 950-hectare final void at its Mount Thorley mine site, which has been deemed as "unacceptable", and a prime example of giant holes left by mines.

The advice of the commission has been commented on by the Department of Planning quoting it was "not aware of the total size" of voids in the Hunter area.

The commission opposed the department's assurance that it is only a small amount of the region's land where there are large areas of mining voids across the Hunter Valley.

Rio Tinto has also expressed that there may be risks associated with filling the void, such as saline water that may migrate off the site and therefore not act as a groundwater sink.

The main concern of the commission is they want the impact that voids have on the water tables and agriculture looked at by the government.

Since the commission's report the government has been considering their options.

So it looks like the security deposits will not be sufficient to fill the voids - and to part fill them until the money runs out is not a viable option.

Why not, instead, use the funds to build a sustainable project that will work towards creating jobs and income for the local communities. Build a solar farm that feeds back into the grid and the profits go back into a local community fund to enhance the region by funding local medical care, activities and infrastructure for the local youth population and the generation of employment through the support of local businesses?

This article first appeared in The Cockfighter Jan/Feb 2016 edition

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COMMUNITY LEADER RESIGNS FUNDING COMMITTEE OVER “DISTRUST OF COUNCIL DECISIONS”

The process of reimbursing communities in mine-affected areas is often implemented through what is called a Project Voluntary Planning Agreement. Mines owned by Rio Tinto (now Yanco) and Glencore both have such agreements in place.

The value to the community of these agreements is well in excess of \$25 million.

“The Mount Thorley Warkworth VPA was required to be signed within six months of receiving approval from the PAC but two years have passed since that approval date”

Overseen by mine representatives as well as members of the local community the distribution of funds is chaired by, in this case, Singleton Council.

One member, representing the community is John Krey. John is articulate and well versed in lower-case politics and has developed further combative skills helping to spearhead the fight to preserve the Bulga region from encroaching mines.

John was a member of the Project Voluntary Planning Agreement since its inception several years ago. He worked hard to see that the funds were used to the benefit of those communities who were most adversely affected by mine pollution and land encroachment.

In a recent letter to Jason Linnane, General Manager, Singleton Council John outlined the frustration he felt about the process. Other members of the committee have privately voiced the same frustration.

“Dear Jason,

I am concerned with the delay in progressing projects under the Bulga Coal Optimisation Project Voluntary Planning Agreement [VPA-Ed.] and the delay in forming the Community Committee for the Warkworth Mount Thorley Continuation Project VPA. Both of these VPAs were intended to be beneficial for Broke, Bulga and Milbrodale and go some way towards mitigating the impact of both Mine expansions.

The delays are disadvantaging the local communities.

At the invitation of Rio Tinto and Council, community representatives participated in

meetings to resolve issues around the VPA for Warkworth Mount Thorley. It appears to me that those discussions were simply a stalling process to give time for the mining company and Singleton Council to resolve the issue of Wallaby Scrub Road and wasted everyone’s time.

The Mount Thorley Warkworth VPA was required to be signed within six months of receiving approval from the PAC but two

years have passed since that approval date with apparently little prospect of gaining a VPA before the current extension of time at the end of 2017. The community of Bulga cannot understand the delay in reaching agreement considering two months ago Singleton Council signed off on an acceptable VPA.

The communities now view with great mistrust any deals between the mining

of consideration of detailed community input, you will understand my concerns that the Singleton Council will not honour that commitment.

I do not understand why we have not resolved the Village Master Plans and the selection process for projects.

We do not have a timeline for the way forward. There appears to be no valid reason

for the delays other than I suspect Council is trying to tie the Bulga Coal and the Mount Thorley Warkworth VPAs together and this approach is stalling progress.

My perception of the current delays is that your Council officers are continuing to negotiate a MTW VPA clause similar to the one which was rejected by Council and which was not in the community’s interest. The secrecy on negotiations between your Council Officers and the mining Company does not imbue confidence or trust in Singleton Council.

Given that there were previous attempts to remove all funding from Bulga and Milbrodale projects and allocate these to Broke it appears that these matters are related. I remind Council that these VPAs are part of separate conditions of consent and cannot be dealt with as one

(refer to previous correspondence on this matter). The current situation with the MTW VPA appears to be stalling progress on the

Bulga Coal VPA.

I have participated in the Bulga Coal VPA committee and hopefully have been able to provide constructive comments by my participation. However given the unacceptable delay in project selection and delivery, and my distrust of Council decisions to work in the interests of the country communities I can no longer justify investing time into this VPA Committee.

Please accept my resignation from the Bulga Coal VPA Committee.

Yours sincerely,

John Krey”



The Village Master Plans identify projects and streetscape improvements that will benefit the communities of Bulga, Broke, Milbrodale and Jerrys Plains to offset the impacts of the Bulga Optimisation Project.

company and the Singleton Council.

The Bulga coal VPA has now been in place for two and a half years and the Council and community participants have invested substantial amount of time and effort but with very limited outcomes to date. The only beneficiaries of the Bulga Coal VPA at this point in time have been the works to the Community Halls in Broke and Bulga.

In your previous email you assured me that the funds from the Bulga Coal VPA would be fairly distributed between Bulga and Broke but that it was up to Council to make final decisions. Considering the bias shown in your Council Officer’s report on the closure Wallaby Scrub Road and lack



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the Publications tab on the menu.

HUNDREDS OF PTEROSAUR EGGS FOUND IN RECORD-BREAKING FOSSIL HAUL

In a world first, paleontologists working in northwestern China have discovered a cache of hundreds of ancient eggs laid by pterosaurs, the flying reptiles that lived alongside the dinosaurs. Some of the eggs contain the most detailed pterosaur embryos ever found.

Although scientists have studied pterosaurs for more than two centuries, no eggs were discovered until the early 2000s, and fewer than a dozen turned up in the intervening years. The new haul, discovered by Chinese Academy of Sciences paleontologist Xiaolin Wang, includes at least 215—and perhaps as many as 300—stunningly preserved pterosaur eggs.

His team also found 16 embryos within the eggs, and they suspect that more remain locked away in the stone. Wang and his colleagues announced the finds today in *Science*.

“We get a lot of hyperbole in paleontology, but it’s pretty phenomenal,” says David Hone, a researcher at Queen Mary, University of London who wasn’t involved with the study. “The science is at the absolute start, but the mere raw material is game-changing, potentially.”

The newfound eggs belong to *Hamipterus tianshanensis*, a previously known species of pterosaur that lived in northwestern China more than a hundred million years ago. With a maximum wingspan of 10 feet and a probable taste for fish, these animals may have resembled today’s herons, living near waters that crisscrossed inland terrain.

“The site is in the Gobi desert, and there are strong winds, a lot of sand, with few plants and animals,” says study coauthor Shunxing Jiang of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. “However, when *Hamipterus* lived, the environment [was] much better—we call it Pterosaur Eden.”

Wang’s team suggests that an ancient nesting site may have flooded repeatedly. This would imply that, like modern birds and turtles, *Hamipterus* used the same nesting sites over and over. What’s more, the sheer number of eggs suggests that *Hamipterus* bred in large groups like some living birds.

As the waters raged on that ancient Chinese lake, many of the pterosaur eggs split open, letting in sediments that ultimately preserved their oblong shapes. And in at least 16 of these eggs, the sediments also cradled the delicate skeletons of developing pterosaur embryos, including one bone that



Two of the newfound pterosaur eggs. Paleontologists say that they have found hundreds of eggs so far, including at least 215 within a single sandstone block. More are probably hidden within the block’s interior.

the team thinks belonged to a hatchling.

“We could look at the bones and see what features characterize an embryo, a hatch-

“.....the sheer number of eggs suggests that *Hamipterus* bred in large groups like some living birds.”

ling, and a young individual when he’s matured,” says coauthor Juliana Sayão, a bone-structure expert at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. “This is a one-of-a-kind record for pterosaurs—for the first time, we have the whole spectrum.”

By comparing isolated bones from pterosaurs of different ages, researchers can roughly piece together how *Hamipterus* developed. They found that the late-stage embryos didn’t yet have teeth, and their forelimbs were less developed than their hind limbs. The seemingly weak arms came as a surprise, because many paleontologists thought that pterosaurs were fliers nearly straight out of the egg. The *Hamipterus* fossils, however, imply a slower-growing pterosaur that scampered around on all fours as an infant.

“I think they have a good argument, [and] it’s an interesting result,” says University of Southern California paleontologist Mike Habib, an expert on reconstructing how pterosaurs moved. He hopes that future work on these fossils will use mechanical analysis to test how well the small reptiles might have actually flown.

Further studies should help flesh out even more of the details about how these winged beasts reproduced. The shells resemble living turtles’ leathery eggs, which means that *Hamipterus* probably buried its eggs to protect them—but where or how is unknown.

What’s more, we don’t yet know how many eggs a single female *Hamipterus* laid or the size of its breeding groups.

Given the incomplete fossil record, it’s also possible the proposed *Hamipterus* growth sequence will need to be adjusted. Perhaps the largest embryos the team found weren’t quite ready to hatch, which would throw off the developmental time line. More fossils would help, and Wang’s team remains on the hunt in northwestern China.

“What’s on my wish list?” says coauthor Alexander Kellner, a paleontologist at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. “Number one: to find more embryos. Number two: I wish we would find eggs in situ—that means ‘not moved.’ We would learn a lot from that.”

Michael Greshko

National Geographic



WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL BATTERY TO HELP BRING S.A. POWER PRICES DOWN

South Australia's giant Tesla battery has begun dispatching stored wind power into the electricity grid a day ahead of its scheduled switch-on.

The battery system will operate continuously and charge using renewable energy from the wind farm, and ultimately serve as back-up power in the event of energy instability from local utilities. "Tesla Powerpack will charge using renewable energy from the Hornsdale Wind Farm and then deliver electricity during peak hours to help maintain the reliable operation of South Australia's electrical infrastructure.

Premier Jay Weatherill visited the battery site — alongside the Hornsdale windfarm near Jamestown in the state's mid north — on recently, to mark its official opening of the first day of summer.

But with temperatures across South Australia and Victoria hitting the mid 30s, and output from the state's wind farms low, the battery was called upon early to help meet previous afternoon's peak demand.



The battery system will operate continuously and charge using renewable energy from the wind farm

The battery dispatched a maximum of 59 megawatts of power.

The 100MW/129MWh battery is capable of powering about 30,000 homes for a little over an hour.

The manufacturer, Tesla says the lithium-ion device — made up of PowerWall 2 batteries — is both the "largest" by storage and "most powerful" of its type in the world.

South Australian taxpayers will be subsidising its operation with up to \$50 million over the next 10 years.

In return, the South Australian Government will have the right to use the battery to prevent load-shedding blackouts.

It will also be able to use a portion of the battery's output to provide system security services to the grid, in an effort to bring down prices.




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

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AUSTRALIAN MADE

BROKE PUBLIC SCHOOL - REPORTING

Bock, Bock, Bock!!

Broke Public School now has chickens! They like to play around in the chicken pen and scratch the dirt looking for worms.

Our chickens eat grubs and fruit scraps left over from our fruit break, it makes them poop a lot.

We help look after the chickens and clean their pen area. We clean the yucky hay, clean their beds and then give them new hay and woodchip to lie on.



We hope our chickens lay eggs to grow into little chicks. It takes a couple of weeks to grow into chickens.

Our chickens are big, little, fluffy and cute. They are brown, white, black and some have speckles.

We are really happy we have chickens at school and hope you come and see them too.

Story by Angus and William (Kindergarten)

Lifestream

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Lifestream

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2018 FOR BROKE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Thinking outside the box at Broke Public School is the plan for 2018. We are all excited about our new Project Based Learning. We are looking forward to being set challenges and having to think about and be creative in our thinking. Students in Kindergarten to Year 6 will be collaborating and being innovative in our learning.

The teachers are keeping our Project Launch a secret, and we can't wait to start school next year and see what all the excitement is about.



Project Based Learning is about 'real life' education, and our teachers hope to spark our curiosity. Our teachers will support us with our learning and we can make mistake and find our way by helping and supporting each other. Anything is possible if you can think or image it!

Story by Broke Reporting Team

INTERVIEW TIME

Miss Cunningham



Sometimes we forget to ask our teachers what they love about teaching and what part of the day is their favourite, so we have been working on our interview skills here at Broke, and our teachers are the most amazing people you will ever meet.

Our first interview was conducted by Jessica, and here are Miss Cunningham's responses.

Q1: Why did you decide to be a teacher?

I really like being around children and

helping them to learn.

Q2: What is your favourite part of the school day?

When we study maths, because I love teaching maths.

Q3: What is your favourite thing about teaching?

I love teaching all of the subjects and meeting amazing children.

Miss Mahony



Our second interview was conducted by Paige, and here are Miss Mahony's responses.

Q1: What do you like most about Broke Public School?

Our small school community, the students, the staff and doing sport.

Q2: What is your favourite subject and why?

I love PE and Sport, as my class know, I am very competitive. I enjoy taking part in sport outside of school and like to share my skills with my students.

Q3: If you could tell your students one thing, what would you tell them?

Always have a positive mindset and aim to exceed your best.

As you can see we are very lucky to have these teachers at our school. All of our teachers here love Broke and always try their best to make our learning exciting.

Story by Paige and Jessica



Singleton swimming pools targeted in proposed inspection program

With temperatures warming up and summer holidays on the way, Singleton pool owners are being encouraged to dive into the development of Singleton Council's pool inspection program.

Under State Government legislation aimed at ensuring pool safety across NSW, all pools must be on the NSW Swimming Pool Register and all councils must develop a Swimming Pool Inspection Program in consultation with the community.

The inspections will look at safety requirements such as fencing in a bid to keep everyone safe from risks associated with pools and water and reduce the incidence of drownings.

Mark Ihlein, Council's Director Infrastructure and Planning, said Council was proposing to inspect all pools in Singleton over the next three years, with a random inspection of 25 per

cent of pools each year afterwards.

Inspections will incur a \$150 fee in the first instance, and \$100 if a follow-up inspection is required.

"Backyard pools are a great way for people to cool off and enjoy spending time

together, but there is an element of risk that can very quickly lead to tragedy," Mr Ihlein said.

"The NSW Government has introduced a range of measures aimed at reducing the number of drownings across the State and one of them is a Swimming Pool Inspection Program for all councils to make sure pool owners comply with fencing and other safety requirements.

Program for all councils to make sure pool owners comply with fencing and other safety requirements.

"Council has proposed a program that would start with all pools in Singleton to be inspected in the next three years followed by random inspections thereafter, but we are keen to hear from pool owners about what they think.

"The proposed Swimming Pool Inspection Program is available on Council's website and pool owners will also soon receive a letter about the program."

Property owners can add their details to the NSW Swimming Pool Register directly, or Council can assist for a fee. The register can be found at www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au



A great night out
Bingo
1st Monday of the month
6:30 Bulga Community Hall
 Bring a plate to share
 Enquiries Phil Reid 65745237



Broke Village Recreation Grounds

Community access information:



A great spot to enjoy the great outdoors. It offers: free **BBQ** with sheltered **picnic tables**, **tennis courts** with lights for night use, **netball court**, **basketball court**, and **children's play equipment**. The courts are located at the end of Cochrane Street.

The Hut at the Recreation Ground is available for the community's use for no charge.

If you wish to use the facility please make a booking with Wendy on 65781334. The key for the Hut can be picked up at the Broke Village Store with a deposit of \$20.00 which will be returned when the key is returned.



The Cockfighter Editorial:

Tom Jackson phone: 6574 5266

Eden Anthony 65791259

mail@hunterstay.com.au



COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Broke Bulga Landcare Group Inc.

C/o President, Wendy Lawson
PO Box 120, Broke NSW 2330

Broke Fair Committee

Secretary, Maxine Alexander
alexandermaxine6@gmail.com

Broke Fordwich Wine & Tourism Assoc.

Secretary, Mike Wilson
secretary@brokefordwich.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

President - John Krey
6574 5376
PO Box 1032, Singleton 2330
bmpa.contact@bigpond.com

Bulga Rural Fire Brigade

Captain: Adrian Gallagher 6574 5100. Permit officers:
A Gallagher 6574 5100 and B Anderson 0417 403 153

Bulga Community Centre Inc.

Secretary Belinda Passlow 65745113
Bookings: Claudette Richards ph: 6574 5495

NSW Rural Fire Service Hunter Valley District

2161 Putty Road Bulga 2330
Phone 6575 1200, Fax 6575 1299
email huntervalley.team@rfs.nsw.gov.au
Manager: Superintendent Ashley Frank.

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
Putty Road, Milbrodale NSW 2330

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
Kath Watkinson (02) 65722121

PID Admin

Saywells
12 Vincent St CESSNOCK
office@saywells.com

PID - Private Irrigation

admin@bfpid.com.au
Water On/Off 1300 767 118

St Andrews Anglican Church Broke

Parish Secretary at 6571 1414

St Marks Anglican Church

C/o Marie Mitchell
Inlet Road, Bulga NSW 2330

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Broke

Paul O'Toole
C/o Broke Post Office, Broke NSW 2330

Wildlife Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release

www.wildlifeaid.org.au 0429 850 089

The Cockfighter is a not-for-profit community service publication run by volunteers

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OUR WILDLIFE



SQUIRREL GLIDER. (Petaurus norfolcensis)

This small gliding possum has a long pointed face (which distinguishes it from the more common Sugar Glider), with black markings around the base of its narrow ears. The throat, neck, stomach and paws are creamy white. The name comes from the soft, bushy squirrel like tail and the way it glides gracefully between trees using parachute – like flaps of skin between its limbs. They breed from May- December. The Squirrel Glider can be found eating and nesting in most types of forests and woodlands. It has a preference for eucalypts such as Red Gums, Spotted Gums, Ironbarks, Boxes and Bloodwoods. Nests which are made in tree hollows are cup-shaped lined with leaves. Diet consists of sap, gum, pollen and nectar and the Glider also eats insects. They make a deep, throaty gurgling chatter and can be seen scrambling through the tree tops at night. Squirrel Gliders are on the NPWS vulnerable list of threatened fauna as land clearing in the area, loss of nesting hollows and the diverse range of food it requires, means they are unable to adapt to rapid change.

We have these beautiful Gliders in Broke and Bulga but numbers have diminished.

Merry Christmas Everyone - Have a safe happy holiday.

Elizabeth

Joey's Retreat :)

Trades & Services Directory

Want to list your services?

Just \$60 per year

65791259 mail@hunterstay.com.au

CARRIER - General

John Lamb
6574 5205
MOB 0427 695 468

CATTERY

Jan Pennell
6579 1450

**CLEANERS - PROFESSIONAL
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0439-841-487
huntervalleycvg@gmail.com

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rob.mac46@hotmail.com

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marian@riverflatsestate.com.au

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Jason McCraw
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NATURAL THERAPIES

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6579 1401

PIANO LESSONS

Jan Pennell
6579 1450

POOL & YARD MAINTAINANCE

Anthony Smolenaers
65791228 or 0400 367025

REAL ESTATE

Taylor Real Estate Hunter Valley
1300 803 300
0404 494 482
Catherine@taylorproperty.com.au
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VINEYARD SERVICES

Bright Vine Services
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0410625540
jennybright@bigpond.com
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WINE MAKING

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