

The Cocksfighter

Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich

FREE



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WINE REGION

The tranquil side of the Hunter Valley

JUNE 2015

HUMPHREY BOGART

THE STORY OF A
RESCUED DONKEY

DIARY DATE: The inaugural Bulga Beats Festival - Bulga Recreation Ground on Saturday, June 20th.

From the Editor

Our little magazine is the voice of the Broke Fordwich Milbrodale and Bulga communities. Would it that all we had to report on was births, deaths, marriages and the wonderful events and businesses in the area. Sadly the numb fingers of government and big business reach out and stir our tranquil lifestyle in horrible ways - so this month's editorial is handed over to Anne Davies of the SMH whose recent piece is reproduced in part here:

Spare a thought for the folk in Bulga, a village in the Upper Hunter which has twice tried to fend off a proposal by Coal and Allied/Rio Tinto to extend the massive open-cut Warkworth coal mine to within 2.6 kilometres of the town.

In 2013 Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association won an appeal in the Land and Environment court to block the mine, a decision that was later confirmed by the Supreme Court. No sooner had they won than the then Minister for Resources, Chris Hartcher, altered a crucial planning policy to ensure economic issues were given greater priority in the planning process. The mining company promptly reapplied and Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) has recommended it be given approval and the town moved.

"The first stage will bring it 2.6 kilometres away, but there's a closer stage that will bring it within 500 metres," says John Krey, the chair of the progress association which has led the fight.

"People are really angry. We don't want to move. This is a historic town," he says.

Bulga's future hinges on whether the Baird government announces a change in the State Environmental Planning Policy applying to mining before a planning panel of the PAC makes a final ruling on Warkworth in a few weeks.

It's a race against time that has unleashed a ferocious lobbying effort from the mining

industry on one side, and local groups in the Hunter on the other.

A fortnight ago Minister for Planning Rob Stokes and Mike Baird visited Bulga and another contentious proposed mine site, the Drayton South mine extension, which is equally controversial because of its proximity to the horse stud, Coolmore and to several famous vineyards.

They came away conscious that the expansion of coal mining, driven by exports to China, is now one of the most contentious issues in the state.

Like the coal seam gas industry, the state's coal companies employ some of the best connected lobbyists in NSW. The lobbyists' register reveals a veritable army of well connected people, including former Liberal MP Michael Photios, who represents Glencore and Xtrata; and Katie Brassil, a former ALP candidate and adviser to the former minister Michael Costa, who is external affairs manager for Centennial.

Bulga is at the pointy end of the debate.

Soon after his visit, Stokes indicated that he might put out a draft SEPP as soon as possible and he would expect the PAC to take it into account when it came to deciding the fate of Bulga.

The decision is due in July.

The current recommendation of the PAC made in March for Warkworth said the economic benefits associated with the mine – it will provide 10 per cent of the state's export coal for the next 21 years – outweigh the environmental impacts and social aspects, even though the PAC acknowledged the town would become virtually unlivable and should be moved.

The new SEPP is expected to return to the pre 2013 position, which gives equal weight to economic, environmental and social impacts.

SEE Pg 8 for more from Anne Davies

June 2015

May Rainfall

81 mm

YEAR TO DATE

536 mm

DIARY DATES

13th & 14th June 2015
Milbrodale Mountain Classic Off-road
Event

20th June 2015
Bulga Beats Festival

3rd July - 26 July 2015
The Singleton Festival

25 July 2015
Meet the Makers

1st August 2015
Family Dance Bulga

13th September 2015
Broke Village Fair
and
Vintage Car Display

5th December 2015
Community Christmas Party

31 December 2015
New Years Eve Dance

9th - 10th April 2016
A Little Bit of Italy in Broke

First Sunday of the Month
Community Markets

Sacred Spaces Fine Music Concert
Series 2015

For dates go to:
www.sacredspaces.org.au



BULGA COAL GLENCORE

If you would like to talk to us about our underground or open cut mining activities,
call or email our Environment and Community team:

Ralph Northey - Bulga Complex
Environment and Community Manager
T: 6570 2539 M: 0418 439 874
ralph.northey@glencore.com.au

Paul Amidy - Bulga Open Cut
Environment and Community Manager
T: 6570 2409 M: 0428 152 996
paul.amidy@glencore.com.au

Ned Stephenson - Bulga Underground
Environment and Community Manager
T: 6570 4366 M: 0400 266 877
ned.stephenson@glencore.com.au

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.

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

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Wine snippets Canadian equality

Australia pressuring Canada in TPP for greater wine access

Australia is pressuring a reluctant Canada to lower trade barriers on its wine industry, pushing for similar concessions that were won by the European Union, The Canadian Press has learned. An internal memo from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development says Australia is pushing for greater market access for its wine in Canada as part of the ongoing negotiations of the Trans Pacific Partnership. Australia is citing gains made by the EU in its comprehensive agreement in principle with Canada -- known by the acronym CETA -- which was announced in late 2013, but is still being finalised.

Pernod Ricard in China

China is now a major importer of Australian wine.

In the northwest region of Ningxia a major facelift is underway.

Quiet villages are experiencing



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double-digit growth as they work to establish modern cities.

These cities, like the nation's fledgling wine industry, operate on the theory that if you build it, they will come.

It is here that French company Pernod Ricard has planted imported vines of cabernet sauvignon, merlot and chardonnay.

The frosts are so severe here the vines need

to be buried during the winter.

Local manager Min Hua backs the company's vision, saying wine is becoming "more and more" popular.

Chinese vineyards might be young but the local investment in them is further confirmation from those on the ground, that an emerging middle class is ready to splurge on a quality drop of wine.

Choosing the right strategy to market your property

The days of simply placing a 'For Lease' sign at the front of your property or posting a typical internet listing are long gone.

Like all internet shoppers today, prospective tenants are more savvy and discerning when determining their interest in your property when it is on the market to lease.

It is important for you and your property manager to remember the 3 P's that determine whether your property will make it on to a prospective tenant's shopping list: **Price, Promotion and Presentation.**

Price – Remember in today's digital leasing hunt age, prospective tenants are more in tune to the market rent for a particular style of property. You must keep in mind that they have access to every property on the market right at their fingertips. If your property, upon internet comparison is above market, the prospective tenant will



not download more information about your property let alone enquire to inspect it. If you are tempted to place your property on the market at an above market rent, keep in mind that you could be placing your property outside the price range guides on web portals search engines thus reducing the chances of attracting tenant enquiry.

Promotion – You must get this right. Professional photography is a must, a floor plan highly desirable and accurate text and bullet point descriptions will help push your property to the top of the shopping list.

Presentation – Once you have got your price attuned to market and the promotion of your property right, it's now time to look at the presentation of your property. How does it compare to others that are on the internet? Remember this is comparison time for prospective tenants, so it's time to compare and adjust your presentation to market.

By observing the above, you will improve your chances of securing a tenant with as few vacancy days as possible.

Catherine Taylor

Director, Taylor Real Estate, Hunter Valley

Start-up small business techniques for creative people

Monica Davidson is a writer, filmmaker and business consultant for people working in the arts.

She has never had a so-called 'proper' job - she started her career as a journalist while still at high school, and moved into film production at university. After freelancing for years Monica set up her own production company in the early 1990s, and while she felt confident about her creative abilities she realised at that point just how little she knew about business. While there was plenty of information available for start-up small business, none was tailored specifically for creative people.

So, as she learned about running her own creative business, Monica shared her information by running informal workshops about business for other creative people.

Twenty years later, she is a recognised expert in the field of creative industries and entrepreneurship. Monica runs workshops on the blending of creativity and business, as well as delivering keynotes, hosting events, and writing. She is a regular guest lecturer on creative entrepreneurship at a

number of institutions across Australia, including the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS), the National



Institute of Dramatic

Arts (NIDA), the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA), Ausdance and the Australian Institute of Music (AIM). She is also the author of the Australian version of *Freelancing for Dummies*.

In 2013 Monica was appointed as the first Creative Industries Business Advisor by the NSW Small Business Commissioner, a position recently extended for third year. Through this funding she is able to mentor over fifty individual creative practitioners as they build their businesses. In 2014 Monica completed her Masters in Screen Arts and Business at AFTRS, was named as one of Westpac's 100 Women of Influence.

Monica continues to juggle her creative practice with her business, and is in post-production on a feature-length documentary, *Handbag*.

For more information about Monica Davidson or Creative Plus Business visit

<http://www.creativeplusbusiness.com>

The Willows Cafe Restaurant & Broke Village Store

The focal point of the Broke community and surrounding area, the village store serves many needs: Groceries, Newsagent, Take Away-Coffee Shop, Delicatessen, Post Office, Bottle Shop, Petrol Station & Tourist Information Centre. The village Store also stocks an exclusive range of Broke Fordwich Wines.

Enjoy a meal at "The Willows" café restaurant.
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4 Wollombi St, Broke NSW 2330
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till late.

- OUR COVER STORY **Humphrey the donkey**

Locals may have noticed a super cute donkey has moved into a paddock on Putty Road. "Humphrey Bogart" the donkey has sparked a lot of interest and his carers Sarah Purser and Stirling Keayes have been contacted by dozens of people asking where they can get their own donkey.

Humphrey was rescued by Donkey Welfare with Heart Inc – a charity that has been rescuing and rehabilitating donkeys for almost 40 years.

Stirling, an endurance rider, likes the idea of training a mule for endurance riding. He believes their stamina and



Stirling and Humphrey demonstrating donkey handling and training at the recent "Donkey Matters" workshop.

toughness makes them ideal for long and challenging rides. He's yet to acquire a mule – but an invitation to train little Humphrey was too tempting. He saw it as an opportunity to gain experience in training these delightfully stoic creatures.

Sarah tells me that "in the beginning Humphrey was so timid we couldn't go near him. But we sat back and waited for him to come to us. We worked on slowly establishing trust. You need to take it slowly with donkeys because they don't forgive mistakes easily."

Humphrey and Stirling are going so well with their training that they demonstrated donkey handling and training at a recent workshop here in the Hunter Valley. The one day workshop "Donkey matters" provided donkey owners and enthusiasts with information on the care and handling of donkeys.

The day also included a presentation on using donkeys as guardian animals – protecting livestock from wild dogs – a use I imagine may interest landholders in this region. Donkeys are used to successfully guard cattle, sheep and goats against wild dogs.

If you are interested in learning more about donkeys or supporting Donkey Welfare with Heart Inc – visit

donkeywelfare.com.au.

Tricia Hogbin

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

ST MARK'S CHURCH – BULGA – PATRONAL FESTIVAL - Clergy hometown visit

St Mark's Bulga held their annual Patronal Festival on Sunday 17th May, 2015. Once again it was a very successful and enjoyable day with great weather and a very jovial group enjoying lunch at the Recreation Ground Clubhouse after the Eucharist.

We had the pleasure of the company of Reverends Charlie Murry, Maryanne Reynolds and Sandra Hulyer along with Noleen Partridge and Robyn Wylie from Singleton who are both ex-Bulga residents.



We would like to thank all those who attended on the day, those who provided the delicious lunch and those who purchased raffle tickets.

The raffle prizes were won by the following people: 1st Sharna Burgess, 2nd Clare Butler, 3rd Norma Ramsey, 4th Stuart Davies, 5th Richard Drinan, 6th Denise O'Bryan, 7th Jacob Reid, 8th Julie Ole, 9th Rosemary Lyttle, 10th Susan Berghan, 11th Cheryl Louis, 12th Coral Vidler, 13th Janet Dyball.

Marie Mitchell

BULGA COMMUNITY CENTRE CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP CATER AT FAMOUS MOUNTAIN CLASSIC

The picturesque Milbrodale Valley will once again be alive with the sound of Off Road cars on the 13th & 14th June when the Hunter Valley Off Road Racing Association promotes the 29th Milbrodale Mountain Classic proudly sponsored by Hedweld Group of Companies. This event incorporates the 1st Round of the NSW

Premier Long Course Championship, the 2nd Round of the East Coast Tri-Challenge and the 4th round of the NSW Off Road Championship. This event attracts a quality field from around the Nation and thousands of spectators over the 2 day event.

This year the event has been named the Bob Stansfield Milbrodale Mountain Classic in memory of the late Bob Stansfield, a dedicated HVORRA member and our commentator for last 20 years.

For those that do not know, The Milbrodale Mountain Classic race track is off Welsh's Road Milbrodale, 26 kilometres south of Singleton on the Putty/Windsor Road. This venue has excellent spectator viewing, with good photographic points in the spectator area close to the track. Entry fee is \$10 per day for adults and kids 12 years of age and under are FREE.

Racing commences at 9:45am on Saturday morning with the Prologue, cars starting one at a time at 1 minute intervals, times taken will determine the drivers starting position

for the first round of heats. Racing of the medium course begins shortly after with cars split into two heats, of 6 laps over a 10 kilometres course. 8.30 am Sunday sees the medium course repeated, followed by a round of the short course track, after lunch all cars still running head off on the Long Course which is 6 laps of approximately 20 kilometres. Followed by a trackside presentation.

Spectators have a great view of the start/finish line and entire short course track. Full catering, Jumping castles and helicopter rides are also available for some family fun over the weekend.

Over the years the local community has benefited from the Classic, with the local organisations helping the Association by assisting with the catering, manning the gates and supplying infrastructure for the event which is greatly appreciated by the Hunter Valley Off Road Racing Association along with the property owners & neighbours who have supported the running of the Milbrodale Mountain Classic over the years.

Bulga Centre volunteer, Belinda Passlow said, "This is our main fund-raiser for the year and proceeds assist with upkeep and maintenance of the hall. We particularly need help with the catering. We're looking for people to help Friday afternoon from 3:00pm and Sunday Afternoon to 3:00 pm

Any amount of time is appreciated – one hour or more on either day."

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Helen and Hu Upwood 6574 5119

School holiday fun at Singleton Library

If you are looking for way to keep the kids off the couch these holidays then Singleton Library has a range of fun and affordable activities that is sure to keep them entertained.

The ever popular Wii Games & Pizza sponsored by Singleton Dominos returns. These loud and interactive events are a lot of fun and everyone attending receives a free pizza afternoon tea.

Kids Yoga with Janette will see children learning yoga moves to enhance good health and well-being.

Those with an interest in crafts will enjoy the chance to learn from the expert ladies from the CWA with rag rugging demonstrations and other fun crafts.

Lego Big Build and Animation is a free event that offers kids the chance to learn a variety of basic film making skills as children make lego sets, characters and props and produce a fun Lego animation.

Kids can also join in on the entertainment at Singleton Library's morning Storytime by registering to show off their talents whether its music or comedy.

A school holiday highlight will be local magician Joel Howlett who will present a

magic and juggling workshop and demonstrate some great magic and juggling tips.

Singleton Council's Acting Manager Community and Cultural Services Alex Mills says the library encourages all families in the community to get involved.

"We have seen from past experiences that parents appreciate the school holiday activities, almost as much as the kids enjoy them," he says.

"Our library offers free and affordable activities to keep everyone happy these school holidays."

Wii Games & Pizza:

2pm – 4pm on Friday 3rd and Friday 10th July.

Sponsored by Dominos Singleton and making use of the library's Wii units and big screens, these loud and interactive events are a lot of fun.

Everyone attending receives a free pizza afternoon tea.

FREE event - best suited to ages 6 and over.

Kids Yoga:

Children should wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring a water bottle.

Tuesday 30th June from 10am – 10:45am

FREE event and is best suited for ages 8 and over.

Rag Rugging demonstrations and other fun crafts:

Learn with the expert ladies from the CWA.

Wednesday 1st July from 1.30pm-3pm

FREE event and is best for children aged 6 and over.

Lego Big Build and Animation:

Learn a variety of basic film making skills as children have the chance to make lego sets, characters and props and produce a fun Lego Animation.

Tuesday 7th July 1pm – 4pm

FREE event and is best suited to children 8 and over.

Wednesday morning Storytime:

Join in on the fun by registering to show us your talent whether it is music or comedy.

FREE Event, Call Lee on 6578 7520 to register your act.

Wednesday 8th July from 10am – 11am

Local magician, Joel Howlett



Joel will present a magic and juggling workshop, demonstrating some great magic and juggling tips.

Thursday 9th July from 1pm – 2pm

Tickets are \$8 per child and are available from the Library.

This event is best suited to ages 6 and over. Spaces are limited.

All free events require bookings which can be made on our website

www.singleton.nsw.gov.au



If you would like to talk to us about our operations and plans, get in touch with our Community Relations and Environment teams:

Visit:

Shopfronts in Singleton (127 John St) and Muswellbrook (19 Bridge St)

Phone:

Community Info line - 1800 727 745
Complaints Hotline - 1800 656 892

Blasting hotlines:

HVO: 1800 888 733
MTW: 1800 099 669

Read:

Singleton and Muswellbrook Community Newsletters, distributed direct to your letterbox

Email:

cnacommunityrelations@riotinto.com

www.riotintocoalaustralia.com.au

Green group suggests conflict of interest in coal assessments

The NSW Ombudsman has been asked to examine the allegations of conflicts of interest among members of the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) who are involved in assessing and approving coal projects in NSW.

The NSW Environmental Defenders Office has lodged an official complaint about two members of the PAC saying that the members' connections with the coal industry and earnings from the coal industry give rise to unacceptable potential conflicts.

"These large-scale high-impact developments will significantly affect the environment and communities into the long term. They need to be assessed and determined in a transparent and accountable framework," EDO principal solicitor, Sue Higginson said.

"The integrity of the PAC relies heavily on its members being entirely independent of projects and free from conflict of interest."

The office has raised concerns that for-

as a venture capital and property investment advisor. Between 1999 and 2003 he was deputy chairman of Environmental Resources Ltd, one of the largest environmental and planning services consultancies in the oil and gas, mining and power sectors.

The complaint points to Mr McCotter's attendance at an industry conference in 2013, in the Hunter, where Mr McCotter was a speaker.

The EDO says then PAC chairwoman Gabrielle Kibble was also invited but pulled out, and says attendance at industry forums is inappropriate. Mr McCotter was quoted as telling the conference it was up to the government to keep mining strong in the region and it was "virtually impossible to get a win-win situation for everyone with mining".

Mr McCotter has also declared he has shares in BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, Santos, AGL, Flinders Resources, Kimberley Metals, Origin Energy, New Hope Corporation, and KBL Mining. The size of the holdings

potential conflicts and reassure the public it is doing so. The register of disclosures is only available by making an appointment to visit the PAC's offices and no copies may be made.

Ms Higginson said the bar should be set very high for PAC.

"From the community's perspective the PAC is its only opportunity to have the impacts of a large coal or gas project independently assessed, free from the government and the proponent."

She said when a PAC holds a public hearing into a project, the community loses its right to appeal the decision and have the impacts reviewed by the Land and Environment Court.

"The loss of these appeal rights has left many in the community feeling confused and as if the system is being manipulated to lock them out," she said.

She said the Independent Commission against Corruption had recommended to

When a Planning Assessment Commission holds a public hearing into a project, the community loses its right to appeal the decision and have the impacts reviewed by the Land and Environment Court.

mer National Party MP Garry West is the chairman of the Caroon mine community consultative committee (CCC), and is often the chairman of PACS determining mining projects.

The role involves providing liaison between BHP Billiton and the community. In most cases the fee for the chairperson role and expenses are paid by the mining company, though a spokesman for the PAC said in this case the fee was paid by the NSW Department of Resources and Energy.

While Mr West now only serves on this CCC, the former NSW energy and environment minister has held several similar positions in the past.

His 2012 register reveals he was also chairman of the community committee for the Ulan Coal mine being developed by Xstrata; Moolarben mine and Austar mine, both being developed by Yancoal; and the Integra Mine, being developed by Vale. He has since ceased to hold these roles.

In the past three years he has served on commissions deciding major mine projects including Rio Tinto's Warkworth mine extension near Bulga, the Wilpinjong mine in the Upper Hunter, and the Glencore Xstrata Mangoola mine modification.

The EDO has also raised concerns about another member, Bob McCotter, who has a consultancy, McCotter Consulting Services and a company McCotter Investment Services, which is described on PAC's website

is undisclosed.

In a prepared statement the PAC said Mr West has not worked on any mining project he has held a community consultative committee role with. Mr West said the matter had been investigated by the Ombudsman and was now closed.

The PAC said Mr McCotter has only worked on six projects for the Planning Assessment Commission, one of which was a coal seam gas proposal that was refused. Mr McCotter said he had been invited to speak at the conference by the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and that it had been a professional development event, which was also attended by environmental groups. He considered it appropriate.

The PAC said it welcomed the NSW Ombudsman's advice and was in the process of implementing it.

The new policy says the chairperson must take into account the skills and background of each member relevant to the matter that is before the Commission, balanced against the member's personal interests."

"The practice outlined in the policy, of considering the members' declared interests prior to nominating them to a project, has generally ensured that members are not appointed to consider projects that they have a declared interest in," the PAC said.

Obviously the government needs expertise on mining, but it also has to manage

the NSW government that the type of appeal that the public hearing removes should be extended because it acts as an anti-corruption measure.

Other members of the PAC have also disclosed ties to the mining industry

Professor Jim Galvin, an expert in mine geology, has disclosed he is a member of the Mine Managers Association of Australia and member of the Coal Innovation board of NSW, which hands out grants for projects to develop low emission coal and carbon capture technologies. He has also declared that his daughter is manager of strategic planning for Coal and Allied/Rio Tinto.

The PAC said: "Mr Galvin has not been appointed to consider or determine any applications sought by Coal and Allied or Rio Tinto."

Another member, John Cook, is chairman of Tellus Rockvault, a company that is establishing salt mining in the Northern Territory and kaolin clay mining in WA. He has no interests in mining in NSW.

Anne Davies

Investigations Editor Sydney Morning Herald

THEN AND NOW: THE HISTORY OF ELYSIUM VINEYARD

Thursday 28 May 2015 was an auspicious date for Broke Fordwich. John Tulloch who, in 2007, had been named a Legend of the Hunter Valley for his services to Viticulture attended the annual Legends' Dinner, and in Surry Hills

Sydney at Bishop Sessa restaurant another dinner was taking place. Owned by wine and food consultant Erez Gordon and chef Paul Cooper formerly of several Michelin-starred restaurants, this foodies' temple specialises in themed food and wine matched degustation experiences. This one was a Local Harvest Dinner whose mission was "to simply reach out and grab whatever produce and wine is on our doorstep, bring it inside and shape it into a celebration of the best New South Wales has to offer for the table. Local food matched to local wine. It'll make you question why anyone ever leaves the state at all".

So I dropped a bottle of 2015 Elysium Quarter Century Verdelho on their doorstep and Erez and Paul decided to invite it inside and to pair it with some Hawkesbury River calamari. Have a look at the menu! (Below)

ELYSIUM VINEYARD'S QUARTER CENTURY

18 August this year will mark 25 years since a gang of my friends under John's supervision planted 1600 cuttings in two days. The cuttings were from root stock from John's 80 year-old Verdelho vines.

How did this come to be? Back to 1985. My friend Pam Waugh's many skills and passions included creating and renovating unusual properties. She decided on the Hunter and I agreed to go into this venture with her although I had no such skills. We quickly saw that Pokolbin was dollar-wise way out of reach and on advice we headed for Broke. We soon found a property in Fordwich which was remarkable for two things: the magnificent garden of established trees, which we later discovered had been planted by John's mother Edna Tulloch when John's parents had lived in the traditional ironbark cottage, and the extent of deterioration of the cottage now confronting us. However Pam, undaunted, fell in love with both and set about renovating it, doing much of the work herself. Both of us had day jobs. Pam had recently retired from a senior position in the NSW Public Service Board and now worked as a consultant and editor. I was a Professor of Education and also consultant to the NSW Minister for Education. Our first step was to acquire Jessie a local Broke border collie-retriever cross whom we found via the Broke store. We named the property "Elysium", in Greek mythology a place of perfect happiness. Pam was a gifted water colourist and painted the picturesque array

of sheds next door which had once been a farm and vineyard where the Tullochs lived.

We met John who called in one day and offered to slash the 2-acre plot of evening primroses. We soon started talking vineyards. I had long harboured a secret desire to grow a vineyard inspired by my love of great wine. Pam and I discussed the possibility, finances etc and very generously, Pam agreed as long as John would agree to take charge as vineyard manager. In 1989 John did so and for a year he worked to prepare the ground for planting, or rather replanting as 30 years prior, the plot had been planted to Shiraz. Since then John and his family, Pam and Gwendoline, and Edwin and Tracy at vintage time, have looked after the vineyard as they do their own.

John advised that Verdelho was the choice of variety because of its perfect marriage with the Fordwich terroir of sandy loam



John Tulloch and Pam Waugh

soil adjacent to the Brook. In 1993 we handpicked our first tiny crop of 37 cases. In 1995 Bruce Tyrrell agreed to make the wine and has done so ever since. The Tyrrells white winemaking philosophy imbues the wine with its fruity minerality and harmonious sugar-acid balance and alcohol kept at 12% or under which makes for longevity.

A dream became reality when at the 2003 HV Wine Show, the 1999 Vintage won Gold, being 1/2 point off Top Gold. It still drinks superbly. Further rewarding recognition followed. The 2000 Vintage won Silver at the NSW Small Winemakers Show and was exported to China where it featured on the list at Laris, one of the top

restaurants on the Bund in Shanghai. In 2001, wine writer Huon Hooke described Elysium Verdelho as "remarkably consistent" and one of the best Verdelhos of that year. 2005 vintage was judged one of the Top Three Verdelhos in Australia by the ANZ Wine Industry Journal, in October 2007. And Elysium 2012 received an award from the French Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, by a panel of nine French judges led by sommelier Franck Moreau.

The wine has appeal for restaurant wine lists as a dry-style boutique Verdelho from a unique sub-region. In the Hunter, it's been on Bistro Molines list continuously since 2001 and has been accepted for several top restaurants such as Quay in Sydney. And the response of cellar door visitors and regular clients is enormously gratifying.

The 2015 Quarter Century wine shows early promise of greatness, and the enthusiasm of Erez Gordon and others makes it even more enjoyable! Pam died peacefully in March 2014 aged 84 but is never far away from Elysium. Her son Guy visits often and has kindly taken over some of the tasks Pam was still doing up till her death. He has also taken over her tasting responsibilities! John Tulloch turned 83 on 1 June and he and I recently sat on the Elysium verandah enjoying the 2015.

This article is dedicated to the life and work of Pam Waugh and her love of Elysium, and to John Tulloch and his life's commitment to excellence in all facets of nurturing vines and vineyards.

Victoria Foster

Local Harvest Dinner May 28, 2015

Sea urchin crème caramel, fennel, grapefruit

Freeman 'Rondo' Rondinella Rosé 2013 Hilltops

Hawkesbury River calamari, house made bottarga, linguini, charred zucchini, lemon

Elysium Verdelho Quarter Century 2015 Fordwich Hunter Valley

Meerea Park Chardonnay 2014 Hunter Valley

Coal-roasted Jum Jum duck, wild mushrooms, rhubarb, onions & pepper

Three Ponds Shiraz 2010 Hunter Valley

Skimstone Sangiovese 2013 Mudgee

Wild local venison, pear puree, parsnip & potato dauphinoise, smoked port sauce

Freeman Altura Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Hilltops

A.Retief The Alias Mataro 2013 Hilltops

Warm quince & gingerbread terrine, port jelly, almond and raisin ice cream

Mistletoe Noble Viogner 2012 Hilltops

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Federal member recognises Kyle's achievements

The Cockfighter has been reporting the story of Kyle Chapman, who by overcoming physical and mental restrictions, has kept up a wonderful and successful interest in horses, competing as well as being an enthusiast.

Many local individuals and businesses have worked with Kyle and those of us who have, in the process, have discovered a charming and polite young man with an equally impressive support group in his family and friends.

We received a copy of a letter sent to Kyle by Joel Fitzgibbon MP in which Mr Fitzgibbon says:

*Dear Kyle,
I recently read in The Cockfighter publication of your successful debut dressage performance at Alexander Park.
Congratulations on such a wonderful achievement and best wishes for the future.*

*Signed
Joel Fitzgibbon
Member for the Hunter*



The cockfighter is nothing if not a voice of the community and it is heartening to see that some politicians understand that reading community newsletters and magazines is a good way to keep in touch with the electorate

PASSION: Kyle Chapman and his horse Andy. Photo by Danii Lalchere, DJ Lalchere Photography.

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Broke Fair Committee
Eden Anthony
President, Eden Anthony
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Broke Fordwich Wine & Tourism Assoc.
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Broke Bush Fire Brigade
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The Cockfighter is a not-for-profit community service publication run by volunteers
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Brown Antechinus (*Antechinus stuartii*)

OUR WILDLIFE

Chocolate brown above, flecked with buff or paler brown below and on tail. upper surface of feet pale brown. Antechinus are mostly nocturnal; climbs readily with rapidly staccato movements; gleans invertebrates from litter and fissures in tree trunks. Nests are large and communal built with dry leaves in tree hollows. Mating highly synchronised to a 2 week period, which varies from mid August in the south to September in the north. After mating, all males die. The female has 6-10 teats, she suckles and cares for the young alone. They look much like a tiny house mouse but have long pointed nose, with rows of sharp little teeth.

All snakes, lizards and wildlife that sleep though the winter are in bed now so please just be a bit careful when chopping wood for your fire that there isn't something asleep in the wood pile. All migratory birds have left to fly north for the warmer weather and will return in spring.

Please take care on our roads.

Elizabeth

Joey's Retreat



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