

The Cockfighter

Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale

FREE



**BROKE
FORDWICH**
WINE REGION

The tranquil side of the Hunter Valley

October 2015



*A return to the tranquil side -
Buddhist monk Bhante Jason Chan pays a return visit*



***Art in The Vines 2015
16 years and another successful event***

The Cockfighter

THE PAC AND MT THORLEY: UNDER FURTHER EXAMINATION — OR THE TOO-HARD BASKET?

As most of Australia slips into catatonic mode for another Long Weekend of League as in AFL, NRL and of course the Game that's Made in Heaven with the Wallabies pressing their World Cup hopes, it's hard to isolate our local concerns for home and habitat from the footy fever that seems to grip the nation. And things aren't helped by the apparently unavoidable bureaucratic delays that have resulted in the PAC ruling on Mt Thorley expansion—a decision we expected by mid-September- becoming something of a critical mass in the bowels of government decision-making. Over now to our chef de mission John Krey for this analysis of the impasse - see pages 4 and 5.

In the heady aftermath of a certain company's capitulation over coal seam gas exploration in our little bailiwick, it's salutary to face up to the fact that if there is one leopard that ain't changing its sooty spots, it's the decidedly Gloucester-fixated AGL (well, they are Australia's biggest carbon emitter). The company expected something of a shareholder shirtfronting at its AGM, despite the fact that directors have agreed in recent weeks to certain climate change concessions. Eco-friendly stakeholders in AGL maintain they want more action towards environmentally sustainable practice—and guess where the focus is in relation to their more strident stand? No other than the appalling continuation of the mired-in-controversy Waukivory project which our Gloucester brothers and sisters have resisted for so long. It was only after the disclosure of the staggering contamination loads of excavation water that protesters forced AGL into removing this carcinogenic muck interstate to avoid fouling the Avon River.

In recent weeks Greenpeace released findings by an eminently qualified eco-scientist who delved into the prospects for an entirely fossil-fuel free society, as we prepare to farewell Ol' King Coal. The report says that, with the momentum building for an end to the environmental cancer unregulated mining has brought to the world, we could enjoy a totally renewables-based habitat by—wait for it—2060. Oh, Brave (Re) New(able) World, as Shakespeare nearly said. And I think this is what irks the AGL and Origin shareholders who have badg-

ered directors about their social responsibility to the rest of Australia: how come so much emphasis is still being placed on the electricity and gas business while the big players (thank you Messrs Obama and Zhi) march on relentlessly to capture carbon?

It's heartening to know, on behalf of our Gloucester colleagues, that both AGL and energy colleague-in-grime Origin face this shareholder opposition, buttressed as it is by the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility; this is just one of several investor groups who are fighting the emissions sector because ethical financial advisers (yes, they do exist) are agitating for further and faster action on reductions to avoid the inevitable: big drops in profit and big stranding of assets (like derelict coal mines, perhaps). And now Origin faces hell on water, or more precisely Gladstone land with its liquefied gas project about to start shipments just as stockmarket pandemonium butchers share prices and the company's margins plummet to near-unsustainable lows.

At this point, bear with me while I exercise some allegedly literate thoughts about what the PAC decision could mean for all of us—not just Bulga or Broke or Milbrodale or Fordwich, but for the Hunter Valley as a whole and maybe other parts of our wide brown land. Like, as our PNG neighbours salute him, Number One Piccaninny Bilongim Kwin, or Prince Charles to us, I talk to my plants-- and particularly the three gorgeous ironbarks in what Sue and I call our Park (a little too near Mt Thorley for our liking). So, in the hope that we get a favourable nod for our case from the PAC deliberations, I offer my little piece of doggerel: it's called 'My Trees' and you'll find it elsewhere

(Tom Jackson)

October 2015

Last Month Rainfall

19mm

YEAR TO DATE

635mm

Diary Dates

5th December 2015

Community Christmas Party
Bulga

December 11th

Carols in the Park - Broke Village

31 December 2015

New Years Eve Dance
Bulga

9th -10th April 2016

A Little Bit of Italy in Broke

First Sunday of the Month
Community Markets

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Series 2015

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BULGA
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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.

Introducing the Plain Buddhists Bhante Jason Chan and Ayya Kathrin Heidl

Some of you may have noticed a barefoot robe clad group wandering within our region. We are fortunate to have Buddhist monk Bhante Jason Chan and Buddhist nun Ayya Kathrin staying within our region for their 'rains retreat'.

I recently spoke with Bhante and Ayya about their life as Buddhist monastics and their time in our region.

Buddhism is a religion based on the teachings of the Buddha - "a man who gave up being a wealthy noble 2500 years ago to search for the truth as a wandering homeless philosopher." said Bhante.

Bhante ordained as a Buddhist monk five years ago and Ayya as a nun one and a half years ago. Both were drawn to Buddhism because they believe its teachings provide the blueprint for living a happy, healthy and fulfilling life.

However, both Bhante and Ayya, independently, became dissatisfied with the way Buddhism is practised today.

"In many cases we practice the opposite of what the Buddha taught." claims Bhante. "The early teachings are clearly about sufficiency in material things and abundance in non-material things. Whereas today it is a standard part of traditional teachings to

say - 'practice Buddhism so that you can get good karma so that you can buy a new car'.... Buddhism is supposed to be about the alleviation and end of suffering. If every person in this world had a car we would need at least two earths. That is a lot of suffering".

Bhante left monastery life in 2011 and has since been living as Buddhist monks did in the time of the Buddha. He's walked barefoot from Brisbane to Townsville, then back to Sydney and owns only his robes and an alms bowl.

Bhante spent three months in our area last year during his 'rains retreat'. The spirits attracted him back again this year. "I became acquainted with the powerful aboriginal spiritual forces in the area. This area (in particular the Biame Cave, Milbrodale



"Bhante" and "Ayya" are Pali words and are a polite way to refer to Buddhist monastics. Bhante literally means "venerable sir" and is used when addressing monks. Ayya translates as "honourable" or "worthy" and is used when addressing Buddhist nuns.

and Bulga) was the centre of spiritual civilisation for thousands of years. And that is what Buddhism is all about – spiritual civilisation".

Continued page 7

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Warkworth Mount Thorley Continuation Projects..... Still Waiting

Planning assessment commission meeting 7th and 8th of September.

And so another PAC hearing on the Warkworth Mount Thorley Continuation Projects has finished.

On behalf of the Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association I thank all of those who attended and to those who made presentations supporting our fight against the expansion of the Warkworth mine. For many it was at least the third time you have travelled long distances and given up many hours to help us beat Rio Tinto and the State Government.

Submissions

The submissions made to the PAC over two days supporting our fight were fantastic not only in the way they were presented but in the quality of the presentation and the research needed to make such a submission.

As part of the 60 submissions made supporting the BMPA we heard from consultants and organisations such as

- Dr. Glen Albrecht on the social impacts,

With the bias the Department of Planning has shown in supporting this project it will still be difficult for the PAC to overcome the Dept. and reject the application.

- Dr. Stephen Bell on his research into the Warkworth Sands Woodland,
- Rod Campbell of the Australia Institute,
- Dr. James Whelan of the Environmental Justice Australia

- Steve Phillips and Georgie Woods of Lock the Gate Alliance,
- Stewart Ewen speaking on the behalf of the Hunter Valley Wine Tourism Association and the Hunter Valley Protection Alliance,
- Kate Smolski of the Nature Conservation Council
- Ted Finnie of the Merriwa Healthy Environment Group,
- David Whitson of the Lake Macquarie Climate Action Group,
- Nell Schofield on behalf of Running Stream Water Users Association,
- Wendy Wales of the Denman Aberdeen Muswellbrook Scone Healthy Environment Group,
- Jasmine Kaizer a 13 year old and school captain of the Milbrodale Public School,
- Kevin Taggart from the Wonnarua people,

- Jane Delaney-John, on aboriginal matters including the intention submit application under section 9 and 12
- Barbara Brown, Broke Fordwich Wine Tourism Association
- Jan Davis and Bev Smiles from the Hunter Environment lobby.

• and many others from the community of Bulga and beyond.

I trust that the Planning Assessment Commission took notice of the many emotional presentations that were made as the outcome of this PAC means a tremendous amount to the people of Bulga and Milbrodale and the survival of our towns.

The emotional presentation by Kevin Taggart speaking from the heart must convince the PAC of the rotten deal negotiated with the aboriginal peoples of the area. The intention stated by Kevin to lodge a section 9 and 12 action confirms the aboriginal people are not going to take this lying down.

I believe with the weight

of evidence provided supporting the fight it would seem impossible for the PAC to recommend an application approval. However we do understand with the bias the Department of Planning has shown in supporting this project it will still be difficult for the PAC to overcome the Dept. and reject the application. Clearly if a decision is made against Bulga then the fight will continue.

The visual evidence

Some of the matters which made an impact were the visual presentations on the screen which reinforced our arguments and certainly must have had an impact on the PAC.

Some of these were.

- The photograph of the dead saplings taken by Hugh Upward in the nursery area for the Warkworth Sands Woodland off Wallaby Scrub Road. This area of course is quoted by Rio Tinto's as having a 70% success rate. However, the advice of those who have viewed the experimental area believe it's a 70% non-success rate. 70% loss of saplings is not successful.

- The slide shown by the ecologist Dr. Stephen Bell which indicated the quality stands of Warkworth Sands Woodlands which will be destroyed compared with the barren looking areas that are proposed to offset the Warkworth Sands Woodland. Also his statement that you cannot reproduce the Warkworth Sands Woodland but what you will produce is a novel (new) ecosystem which is not the same as the one you have destroyed.

- The photographs showing the explosion and dust from Warkworth as viewed from Abbey Green projected by Christopher Kelly. The slide show which continued throughout Christopher Kelly's and Kevin Waldock presentations had impact.

- The slide shows providing facts and figures from the Australia Institute presented by Rod Campbell torpedoed Rio Tinto's expert Dr. Brian Fisher who offered comfort to Rio Tinto's that despite of a major downturn and the price of coal and falling demand, that the economics have not changed. Also the statement by Rod Campbell on the well-publicised and anticipated sale of Warkworth and Mount Thorley mines to a list of contenders all of which will have a different mode of operation and all of which places the employment at Warkworth Mount Thorley under a big cloud.

- Alan Leslie's slides showing the major discrepancies between the 2010 Economics and the 2014 economics in language we

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...and still waiting

understand.

- Dr. James Whelan with his startling graphs and records shows that numerous exceedances of maximum pollution levels which are increasing in Bulga every year and yet the forecast by Rio Tinto is that these will decrease as the mine gets closer.
- Paul Harris with his PowerPoint presentation showing dust build up on his solar panels.
- The slide presentation from the Hedleys showing the alternative routes if Wallaby Scrub Road is to close. We have quoted many times the 8 minutes additional time involved in taking the alternative route but as John Lamb pointed out a loaded tanker going to an emergency will take at least 10 minutes. The aerial slides with routes marked on including the alternative route shows the impact of the road closure.
- Singleton Council appeared to be less fence sitting in this presentation.
- The one hour private interview between the Commissioners and Kevin Taggart, family and supporters to discuss aboriginal

There are a few rumours around including the PAC is completely snowed under with the complexity of the matter and is having trouble tying to work it all out.

heritage and culture will have hopefully given the PAC commissioners detailed argument why the aboriginal culture and other artefacts in this area must be preserved.

Jobs

From Rio Tinto and suppliers we understand their position and the argument where they wish to support their jobs and the suppliers wish to keep working supplying equipment and services to Rio Tinto. However as each individual employee presented their view one could not help notice the structured presentation which covered the family, the kids by name, the school they went to, the support Rio has shown to them and what life will be without employment at the Rio Tinto mine. Not putting down their argument in anyway but this well orchestrated structure and presentation tends to lessen the impact of the arguments put forward.

Local businesses outside of mining must have been extremely concerned with the stance taken by the Business Chamber of Singleton and others which in their wholehearted and unqualified support of the Mount Thorley-Warkworth mine ignored the damage which will be caused to other industries in Bulga and surrounds such as wine, tourism and agriculture. It is my view that this organisation would have been better to have remained silent on this subject rather than take sides promoting one industry to the detriment of others.

The PAC final report

We can now only wait until the 21st of September or shortly thereafter to hear the recommendation of the PAC on these projects. **(At the time of printing, 1 October, the PAC have still to hand down their recommendation)** It is unfortunate that with the prejudice and support by the Department of Planning for this mine, it will be difficult for them to come up with a recommendation that the mine be rejected if that is the recommendation from the PAC. However it would not be the first time that a PAC has gone against the recommendations of the Department of Planning as will have been seen with Drayton South.

Despite the mining company making statements in the EIS such as "the most important factor relating to the assessment of their project is clause 12AA of the mining sepp" and then attempting to have the Mount Thorley Warkworth applications quarantined from the effect of removing clause 12AA it is interesting to see that both Rio Tinto and the Department of Planning a working closely together to state that

the removal of clause 12 AA will make no difference whatsoever to this assessment process.

Publicity

The organising of the press releases and the lining up of interviews by Alison Orme was amazing. The press and TV coverage was brilliant and our thanks to all who participated.

The performance on air of Jasmine Kaiser when interviewed by ABC Newcastle was nothing short of amazing. Jasmine responded to the interviews questions with remarkable ease and knowledge.

There is more reporting to come in the Newcastle Herald

Written submissions

Finally the hundreds of written submissions sent in to the PAC including Ian Dunlop, (ex-Managing Director of the Coal Board), Brian McGuigan of the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association, Stewart Ewen of the Broke Fordwich Wine and Tourism Association, Tim Buckley, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis and the authors of the original (but rejected) Social Impact Assessment.

Thanks to EDO for arranging consultant submissions, Lock the Gate for Rally organisation with music and singing from our locals.

I (and others) have been following up with the PAC on the progress through the process for a recommendation on Warkworth Mount Thorley. The officer at the PAC advises that the PAC sent a letter to the DPE requesting information and until that is received (no time frame on this) then they cannot release their report.

Advice has been given by the PAC that the letter to the DPE will be displayed on the PAC and DPE website. Despite undertakings to date this has not been done. My chat with the (difficult to understand) officer is that he is waiting for a signature to release the letter. We continue to wait. I think this letter will provide a clue to the direction the PAC is heading.

George Woods notes in an email that the PAC letter to DPE was related to new matters presented at the second PAC public hearing review. I think there were three major issues presented which could have set the hares running

1. The letter from the original author of the Social Impact Assessment to the PAC with important background to the SIA

presented in the EIS

2. The 1 hour private briefing session between the PAC panel and the Wonnarua elders (Kevin Taggart etc.) held after the completion of the hearing on the 8th Sept.

3. The revelations presented by Steve Phillips and George Woods on the coal resources available within the current 2003 approval

There were many other items of new information presented by our supporters which must have added uncertainty to the technical matters contained in the EIS and the Department's reports.

There are a few rumours around including the one passed on this recently that the PAC is completely snowed under with the complexity of both Warkworth and Drayton South and is having trouble tying to work it all out.

John Krey and the Coal Sub-Committee.
Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association.

Art in the Vines



Roy Palmer, art judge Peter Sesselman & organiser Maxine Alexander open the exhibition



Peter Sesselman, Dorothy Compton, winner of the Best Acrylic Exhibit congratulated by sponsor, Coal & Allied representative Kylie Devine.



Vicki Reynolds being congratulated for the Best Watercolour Exhibit.



Kerren Steel was awarded the prize for the best Mixed Medium Exhibit



Sarah Harrison was awarded the prize for the Best Photography Exhibit



Kylie presenting the winner, Debbie Becker for the Best Australian Indigenous Exhibit.



Bree-Anne Bendeich received the Judith Danks Encouragement Award



Stacey Cox, received the prize for Highly Commended in Pen, Pencil & Ink Exhibit



Lyniece Garland Highly Commended in Photography and also Pottery.



Hope Hardy - Highly Commended for Print

Sixteen years ago Art in the Vines was realised by the late Judith Danks. Her sister, Maxine Alexander has carried the event for most of those years and seen it grow into a great opportunity for local artists to achieve recognition.

Spanning a huge gap from amateur to professional and with the large majority of

exhibits submitted by local artists, Art in the Vines is now an established part of the Broke calendar.

Art in the Vines is supported by local businesses many who supplied the wine for the opening as well as providing some of the prize money. Coal and Allied was the major sponsor.

Art judge for this year's event was Peter Sesselmann.

Peter is an Artist/Musician and lives and works in the Hunter Valley.

Peter has traditional as well as modern influences, and is from a family of artists. Peter paints mainly in Oils and has a Studio in Sawyers Gully.

His work can be view online

<http://www.peterman.com.au/art/>

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Plain Buddhists - continued from page 3

Bhante has walked almost 10,000 km along the east coast of Australia - and out of all the places he has visited - has chosen Bulga/Milbrodale as his spiritual home for now.

Bhante practises Plain Buddhism - "an attempt to directly practice what the historical Buddha taught - without over 2000 years of commentary. It's plain because it is direct and plain because the original teachings emphasise simplicity, contentment and renunciation".

Ayya recently joined Bhante in practising Plain Buddhism after being inspired by what Bhante is trying to achieve. "I quickly realised that monasteries don't work. The Buddhist teachings work - but the way it is practised these days doesn't." said Ayya.

Last year there was one Buddhist monk wandering into our area for rains retreat. This year there was a monk and a nun. I'm looking forward to seeing how many monks and nuns return for next year's retreat.



What is a rains retreat?
The Buddhist 'rains retreat' or 'vassana' is a three month period each year when wandering monks and nuns traditionally settle in one place. It's a time when monks and nuns offer regular teachings and the community can earn good karma by making regular offerings of support. It's also a time when wandering monks and nuns can have a break from travelling and can direct more energy into meditation practice.

How to make an offering

Anyone is welcome to leave offerings of food between 9.30am - 1pm on any day at the Plain Buddhist Tent Monastery at 2372 Putty Road, Bulga. Locals will know it as 'Sarah and Stirling's place'. There's a table in the carport where offerings can be placed. Lay Buddhist supporters Kilian and Jac will be there to collect any offerings.

Bhante suggests "any kind of food is good. But fresh local organic vegetarian is better out of compassion". Fresh fruits and vegetables, nuts and honey are high on their wish list.

Opportunity to meet Bhante Jason and Ayya Kathrin

Public dhamma discussion and guided meditation sessions are offered 12th and 27th October and 11th and 26th November.

Location: Plain Buddhist Tent Monastery, 2372 Putty Road, Bulga (Sarah and Stirling's place).

Schedule:

10:30 - arrive

11:00 - food offering

12:30 - Dhamma discussion and guided meditation

2:00 - finish.

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Wine - and more wine

In ancient Greece, the dinner host would take the first sip of wine to ensure it was safe to drink, giving us the phrase to “drink to one’s health.”

The tradition of a celebratory “toast” began with the ancient Romans, who would drop



a piece of toasted bread in their wine to buffer unpleasant tastes and excessive acidity. The Romans also boiled wine in lead pots and mixed lead with wine to help preserve it and impart a sweet flavor. There is much debate among historians about how much lead poisoning contributed to the decline of the empire.

The alcohol bill for a celebration party for the 55 drafters of the Constitution was 54 bottles of Madeira, 60 bottles of Bordeaux, eight bottles of whiskey, 22 bottles of port, eight bottles of hard cider, 12 beers and seven bowls of alcohol punch large enough that “ducks could swim in them.”

In 1801, President Thomas Jefferson spent \$3,000 on wine, 12 percent of his annual salary. To put that in modern context, that would be like President Obama spending \$48,000 on wine this year alone.

When Tutankhamun’s tomb was opened in 1922, wine jars buried alongside him were labeled with the year, the name of the winemaker and descriptions about the quality of the wine. The labels could actually comply with modern wine label laws of

several countries today.

In ancient Egypt, the ability to craft wine that improved with age was considered alchemy and was a privilege reserved for the pharaohs.

One glass of wine consists of juice from one cluster of grapes. Seventy-five grapes comprise one cluster. One grape vine produces 10 bottles. One acre can contain 400 vines, resulting in five tons of grapes. On average, five tons of grapes can be made in to 300 cases or 3,600 bottles of finished wine.

Wine grapes rank first among the world’s fruit crops in terms of acres planted. You’ve probably never heard of the world’s most widely planted grape variety, Airén. It is grown primarily in Spain where it is used to make white wine and brandy.

California, by itself, is the world’s fourth largest producer of wine

after France, Italy and Spain. Washington, D.C., consumes more wine per capita than any state in the nation.

A few vine cuttings from the New World brought to Europe spread a tiny insect called *Phylloxera vastatrix*, which feeds on the roots of vines. The only way to save all of the European grape vines was to graft native American vines to the European rootstocks. While some European vines are justifiably hallowed, none of them are pristine and without an American element after the mid 1800s.

The average age of a French oak tree harvested for use in creating wine barrels is 170 years.

The Whistler Tree is the most productive cork oak tree on record. It grows in the Alentejo region of Portugal and is more than 230 years old. Harvested on a 9-year cycle, in 2009, it yielded enough cork for 100,000 bottles. As a comparison, the average cork oak produces material for 4,000 bottles. Named for the countless songbirds that occupy its dense canopy, the Whistler Tree is in excellent condition and is well on its way to produce a total lifetime production of more than one million corks.

Finally, less a fact and more of a polite admonition: please pronounce the “t” in Moët & Chandon Champagne.

Derek M. LaVallee, partner at Kemp Goldberg Partners and certified wine buff, can be reached at dereklavallee@hotmail.com

And more wine....

In ancient Rome it was forbidden for women to drink wine. If a husband found his wife drinking wine he would be allowed, by law, to kill her.

The world champion of recognizing wine by smell was crowned in 2003. Richard Juhlin, a sport ed from Sweden was able to recognize 43 wines out of 50. For comparison – second place was only able to recognize 4 of them.



A survey that was being held in Australia said that women that drink 2 cups of wine a day tend to enjoy sex more than women who don’t drink at all.



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Have your say on Singleton Youth Strategy

Singleton Council is inviting feedback on the Singleton Youth Strategy 2015 – 2019.

The strategy aims to provide strategic direction for youth services, targeting young people aged 12-24 years old, in the Singleton local government area (LGA).

The strategy was developed based on the findings of consultations undertaken with young people and those working in the youth sector, as well as research conducted by the Hunter Research Foundation.

Singleton Council's Acting General Manager Gary Thomson says the strategy will help Council make positive long term decisions that meet the needs and expectations of young people in the community

"Initiatives included in the strategy were developed using the underlying principles of engagement, empowerment and inclusion," he says.

"Singleton Council's youth workers and Singleton Youth Venue offer a variety of programs and activities for young people from the Singleton LGA aged 11 to 17 years. These include weekly social and recreational activities, such as workshops, supervised drop-in, school holiday activities and excursions.

"Programs, including skill-focused groups, client focused case management, advice

and referral educational information and leadership opportunities, are provided to assist young people deemed 'at risk'."

In December 2014, a report from the Hunter Research Foundation estimated Singleton's youth unemployment rate to be about six per cent.

The Hunter Research Foundation YOUnite Project June 2015 report also found that young people who are less academically inclined, do not have a support network and do not have clear work aspirations, find the transition to adulthood daunting.

"The main barriers felt by young people in the Hunter were stress associated with the HSC; lack of alternative pathways for non-academic students; lack of clear aspirations and goals; lack of work experience and an inability to secure work," Mr Thomson says.

"Council is therefore developing strategies designed to support local young people in gaining work experience and facilitate an easier transition into adulthood."

Services offered to young people aged 18-24 years include: advice and referral; volunteer opportunities and work experience; computer and internet access; recreational activities and representation on Council's Youth Action Team.

Singleton Council calls for nominations for 2016 Australia Day Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2016 Singleton Australia Day Awards.

Singleton Council is looking for extraordinary people in our community who have helped make Singleton a thriving and diverse place.

Nominations are invited for Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year with the winners to be announced on Australia Day Tuesday, 26 January, 2016.

The awards recognise outstanding personal achievement or outstanding contribution to the community during 2015. All residents of the Singleton Council local government area are eligible to nominate.

Nominees for Citizen of the Year should be 28 years or older on 26 January

2016 while nominees for Young Achiever should be aged between 16 and 27.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from

www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/australiaday or collected from Council's Customer Service Centre, Civic Ave, Singleton. Nominations close 27 November 2015.

Singleton Council's General Manager Lindy Hyam says the objective of the awards is to recognise individuals who achieved significant personal achievement or demonstrated considerable dedication to our community during the past year.

"The committee may also give consideration to nominees who have been contributing to the community over a number of years and whose achievements are ongoing," she says.

"The Young Achiever of the Year should have either achieved a personal goal in 2015 or been working to achieve a milestone over a period of years. Areas

of achievement could be music, sport, academia, arts, citizenship or other activities. "There are many people in the Singleton local government area that may go unrecognised for their tireless efforts and dedications to this community, these awards are a great opportunity to show our appreciation to these unsung heroes.

"I urge everyone to consider nominating someone they know who deserves such recognition at the 2016 Australia Day Awards."

For more information contact Council's Executive Secretary Cheryl Smith on 02 6578 7206.

Council is inviting feedback on the Youth Strategy and written submissions will be accepted until 30 October 2015.

Download the Youth Strategy from www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/youth or pick up a copy from Singleton Youth Venue or Singleton Library.

Email your comments to ssc@singleton.nsw.gov.au or mail to PO Box 314

Singleton NSW 2330 and quote "Youth Strategy".



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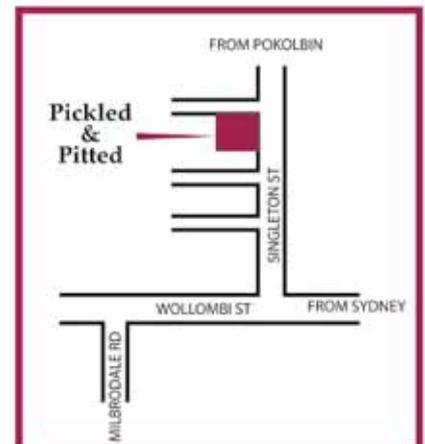
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MY TREES

My trees are what the region is:
 Green, but flecked with mine spoil
 The Wannaruah say:
 My trees are what the Dreaming is:
 Soaring shade, on sacred soil.

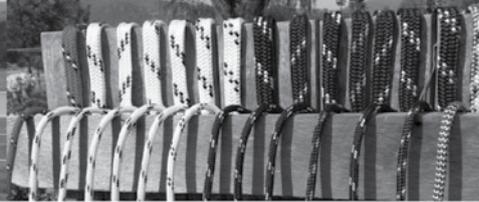
My trees are there
 For all to wear
 Like forest-cloaks of nature
 Unmarred by mining's manic march
 To moonscape wood and pasture.

I wonder where my trees will go
 If dragline's claw extending
 Mauls village life and people's law
 For what—Sahara dunes unending?

I think my trees tell me this
 With wind words sighing through
 them:
 Let us hold birds
 Not mine-blast shards
 Or poison clinging to them.



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

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fighter@broke.nsw.au



COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Broke Bulga Landcare Group Inc.
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

Bulga Community Centre Inc.
Secretary Belinda Passlow 65745113
Treasurer and bookings Phillip Reid 65745237

Broke Community Hall
Kathleen Everett (02) 6579 1470

Broke Public School
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Cochrane Street, Broke NSW 2330

Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association
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bmpa@savebulga.org.au

Bulga Rural Fire Brigade
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6574 5205
Captain: Michael Bendall
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Permits: M Bendall 6574 5193
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NSW Rural Fire Service Hunter Valley District
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Manager, Inspector Martin Siemsen

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Dawn Lambkin 6574 5277
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National Parks and Wildlife Service- Upper Hunter Area Bulga and Scone
Peta Norris, Putty Road, Bulga
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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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Secretary: Sarah Purser
Production: Eden Anthony
Accounts: Ken McCraw
Advertising: Chris Hagan

OUR WILDLIFE

Redback Spider. (*Latrodectus hasseltii*)

The female redback's bite is potentially lethal. Males are harmless, they are about 3 mm long, cream with brown markings. Females have a black or brown abdomen with a red stripe on its back. Redbacks are timid and reclusive and will only bite if handled or disturbed. They build untidy webs in a cool dry places such as tree stumps, in empty containers and under houses or sheds. Stout sticky trap lines run from the web to the ground. When touched the web recoils, suspending the victim in mid-air. They feed on small arthropods and occasionally small reptiles or frogs. Larger animals are paralysed and wrapped in silk before being eaten. They mate in summer and to avoid being devoured before he can insert his sperm, the male allows the female to begin digesting his abdomen. Females lay several batches of 3-10 egg sacs in their web, each holding around 250 eggs. Tiny green spiderlings emerge about 2 weeks later, spin a long silk thread and drift away on the breeze. They live in forests, woodlands and urban areas.



Elizabeth

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