

# The Cockfighter

Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale

**FREE**



**BROKE  
FORDWICH**  
WINE REGION

*The tranquil side of the Hunter Valley*

DECEMBER 2015

*Carols in  
the Park*

*Broke  
Village*

*Friday 11th  
December*

Merry  
Christmas  
and a  
Wonderful  
New Year

*Baileys Union Park Singleton*

**BROKE FORDWICH BUSINESS  
ENTERS TOURISM HALL OF FAME -  
AGAIN**

## FROM THE EDITOR



“Tis the season to be sorry  
For spending all your hard earned lolly”

(Definitely nontraditional Christmas carol)

How the year flies much like your credit card balance at this time of the year but isn't it worth it, especially with some new attractions offering throughout our sub-region over the festive season.

All this is a big fat plug for our vigneron-accommodation-business supporters who do so much to keep Cockfighter away from those waters that doomed the original standard bearer all those years ago ( see elsewhere for more local wins for our wine makers/restaurateurs/businesses)

Many thanks to our loyal advertisers:

*Taylor Real Estate*

*Robert McLaughlin Electrical*

*Mount Broke Wines*

*Bulga Coal*

*Coal and Allied*

*Nightingale Wines*

*River Flats Estate*

*Grandview Gardens*

*Lifestream Body Treatments*

*In Sync Halters*

*Horse Confidence*

*Jerrys Plains Veterinary Hospital*

Special Thanks to our contributors especially Tricia Hogbin

And not to forget *Cessnock Print Place/ BINK Creative Design Studio* who provide a service that allows our little publication to be reproduced within budget and at the highest quality.

All cellars are operating to normal holiday schedules but the dine and wine weekends at Geoff and Barbara Brown's Ascella Organic Estate are really worth a visit especially with the appeal of their wine club which has sparked a keen response from

visitors to the Tranquil Side of the Valley.

The Ascella experience is very much an al fresco affair but visitors who are worried about flies and other buggy problems can rest assured. Geoff Brown has unveiled a top secret fly zapper which I understand has been cleared by the Pentagon and Putin – and I'm working on our gorgeous new Defence Minister in Canberra, Ms Payne in the interests of national security concerning unwelcome visitors.

Nightingales over the road in Broke hits the right buttons with its Christmas day lunch special. I have to say I don't think there is a restaurant in this wide brown land who highlights such an occasion with a true 'blue' Aussie wildlife icon. I'm not referring to the gentleman from the South Pole with the red skivvy and the white whiskers but of course, Bluey the Bluetongue. I'm pretty sure that the kids will be delighted to see Santa as well, but I'm just as sure their preferences might lie with Bluey rather than Santa, on the day.

So enough from us at Cockfighter for 2015. No sad songs about our continuing battle against open-cut expansion, instead read elsewhere for a comprehensive review of this and associated issues including the HVPA contribution.

So here's to a safe and rewarding Holiday Season to all of our readers and please, drink (and drive) moderately, bearing in mind the terrible experience of W.C Fields in 1930's USA; "Once during Prohibition, I was forced to live on food and water for two months"

*Tom Jackson*

December 2015

November Rainfall 105 mm

YEAR TO DATE 759 mm

## Diary Dates

December 11th 2015  
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

Sacred Spaces Fine Music Concert  
Series 2015

For dates go to:  
[www.sacredspaces.org.au](http://www.sacredspaces.org.au)



## BULGA COAL

GLENCORE

## Environment and Community Contacts

**Ralph Northey - Bulga Coal**  
Environment and Community Manager  
T: 6570 2539 M: 0418 439 874  
[ralph.northey@glencore.com.au](mailto:ralph.northey@glencore.com.au)

**Ned Stephenson - Bulga Underground**  
Environment and Community Coordinator  
T: 6570 2541 M: 0400 266 877  
[ned.stephenson@glencore.com.au](mailto:ned.stephenson@glencore.com.au)

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](http://www.bulgacoal.com.au) and click on the Publications tab on the menu.

# BROKE FORDWICH BUSINESS ENTERS TOURISM HALL OF FAME AT NSW TOURISM AWARDS

*Broke Fordwich business, Margan was awarded Gold for Best Tourism Winery and now enters the NSW Tourism Hall of Fame in recognition of three consecutive wins.*

Margan was also awarded Gold for Excellence in Food Tourism

On Thursday 26th November at the 2015 NSW Tourism Awards, Chateau Elan and Margan celebrated with two prestigious wins at a spectacular gala dinner at Dockside Pavilion in Darling Harbour, Sydney.

Chateau Elan was awarded Gold for both Luxury Accommodation and Business Event Venues with Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley taking home bronze in the latter, while Margan was awarded Gold for Best Tourism Winery as well as Gold for Excellence in Food Tourism.

“It is an honour for two of our Hunter Valley businesses to be awarded Gold at the NSW Tourism Awards,” said the Hon. George Souris, Chairman of the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association. “It again reaffirms our commitment to quality, and passion for wine and food and for providing a unique experience for our visitors.”

Both Chateau Elan and Margan now enter the NSW Tourism Hall of Fame in recognition of winning in their respective categories for the third consecutive year.

The Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner applauded the industry’s leading contribu-

to the 2015 QANTAS Australian Tourism Awards to be held at the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre on Friday 5th February 2016.

Presented by the Tourism Industry Division of the NSW Business Chamber (Formerly Tourism Industry Council NSW) and proudly supported by Destination NSW, the Awards Ceremony and Dinner is the largest and most prestigious event on the New South Wales tourism calendar.

It provides the opportunity to publicly recognise and showcase the State’s tourism operators.

Over 600 guests from the tourism industry attended the event to network and celebrate their fellow colleagues’ achievements.

Margan’s Gold for Excellence in Food Tourism is in recognition of its commitment to giving guests a unique food experience via it’s restaurant, range of estate grown produce, vineyard and wine tasting operations and food experiences such as cooking schools and garden tours.



Lisa and Andrew Margan

tors and recognised the diversity, professionalism and world-class nature of the businesses and products within the NSW tourism industry.

Winners from 26 categories will advance

# TAYLOR

HUNTER VALLEY

1300 803 300

taylorproperty.com.au



“Knowing just where you stand in the market gives you better choices!”

A Free Market Appraisal is a start, it gives you the peace of mind of knowing where you stand in the market. I can then plan a successful marketing campaign for your property.

Call me now for a **FREE** market appraisal and let’s discuss your options.

**Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836**

2/72A Maitland St, Branxton NSW 2335  
PO Box 3, Broke NSW 2330

hunter@taylorproperty.com.au

E catherine@taylorrealestate.com.au  
W www.taylorrealestate.com.au

2/72A Maitland Street, Branxton NSW 2335



**Carols in the Park**

**FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER**  
**McNAMARA PARK**  
**6:00 PM**

BYO NIBBLES & DRINKS & PICNIC RUG OR CHAIR.  
 PERFORMANCES FROM BROKE SCHOOL & THE BOYS FROM BROKE.  
 SAUSAGE SIZZLE & SANTA IS ARRIVING ON HIS FIRE TRUCK

**FREE ENTRY**

BROKE FORDWICH  
 City School of the Shire of Broke  
 1000 North Street, Broke, Western Australia

**On Sale: Soft drinks, battery operated candles & glow sticks. PLUS Santa will give all the kids a present**

# Party into the New Year with a great musical line-up

Local Broke Village musician, Clive Webb will be bringing the New Year in at the Willows Restaurant in Broke with a non-stop musical party.

The line-up for this year's New Year's Eve party, including Clive, who sings and plays several instruments, will be Broke girl Cheyanne Howe playing guitar and singing.

Maitland singer Rod Teasdale will join in, to ensure there is a wide range of styles on the night.

Broke local, Trev Read playing harmonica, will provide back up and solo during the event.

Georgia Teasdale is a 15 year old singer/songwriter from Singleton, whose skills belie her age, as she performs in her own very mature style.



Amara Henson 15, from Branxton, plays Ukulele, showing why this instrument has seen a world-wide revival.

"This will be my third New Year's show at the Willows. The previous two were great fun, trouble free, with everyone having a wonderful time, singing and dancing." Said Clive.

The show is FREE of charge and planned to be a fun night for everyone.

"As far as the music goes, we will try to play something for everyone in the show. Acoustic Folk, Country, Pop, Glam, Australian, Rock n Roll and Rock." Clive said

Starting at 8:00 pm, the show is a terrific opportunity to have a meal and join the fun or just turn up for the event.

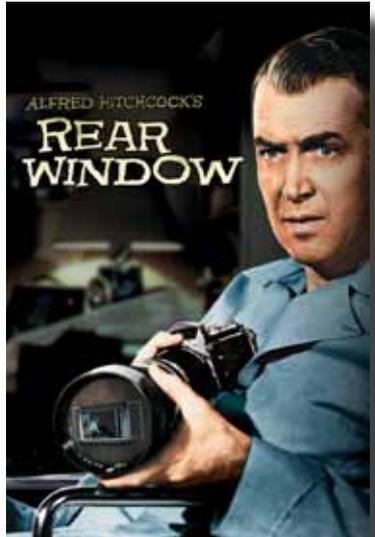
The willows is fully licensed and has beer on tap as well as a great menu.

## WOLLOMBI FILM SOCIETY OUTDOOR CINEMA/DINNER

On Saturday 12 December The Wollombi Film Society will be having the first of this season's Outdoor Cinema series of films in the Grays Inn Garden in Wollombi Village.

The Society will be screening an Alfred Hitchcock classic, Rear Window starring Grace Kelly, James Stewart and Raymond Burr. A surprise short film will also be screened.

Dinner and Movie package: Bruno from Panino Gourmet Deli Caffe & Restaurant will once again be whipping up a terrific pre-movie dinner. Dinner will start at 6:30pm SHARP so diners should start arriving from 6:15pm. A dinner and movie package is only \$60, including a glass of Noyce Brothers wine.



Time: 8pm on Saturday 12 December

Place: Grays Inn Garden, Wollombi Village

Film plus a glass of wine: \$15 a person

Dinner package: 6-30pm SHARP including film, dinner and a glass of wine: \$60 a person

Bookings: ring Julie on 4998 3273, or email sales@noycebros.com.au, or ring 0416 245 655

Bookings for the dinner and movie package are essential. Bookings for the film only are advisable

In the event of inclement weather the event will be in the Wollombi Hall.

# HORSES FOR COURSES BUT NOT FOR PEOPLE

Peter Hannam, Environment Editor,  
The Sydney Morning Herald

**The Baird government has been accused of ranking the health of horses above humans after the state's Planning Assessment Commission approved the expansion of one big open-cut coalmine while rejecting another project further up the Hunter Valley.**

The commission on recently knocked back a plan to extend the Drayton South mine to within 900 metres of the renowned Coolmore and Darley thoroughbred stud farms, a move that miner Anglo American said was "devastating" and would cost 500 jobs.

Residents of Bulga, though, vowed to maintain their fight to stop the expansion of Rio Tinto's Mt Thorley Warkworth mine after the commission approved its extension to within 2.6 kilometres of the village.

"Clearly we need more horses per hectare," John Krey, president of the Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association, said. "People are being put in second place to horses."

The mixed fortunes for the two mining giants and nearby communities came as Opposition Leader Bill Shorten used a speech on Friday at the Lowy Institute to ramp up pressure on the Turnbull government to lift Australia's post-2020 carbon emissions.

Mr Shorten said Labor would consult widely on a plan to cut Australia's emissions 45 per cent by 2030 on 2005 levels – versus the government's 26-28 per cent target – and likely leave calls for a ban on new coalmines such as Rio's expansion to the market.

"We've got a bit more optimism that markets are actually answering that question, rather than legislation in terms of moratoriums," Mr Shorten said, just days before the global climate summit begins in Paris.

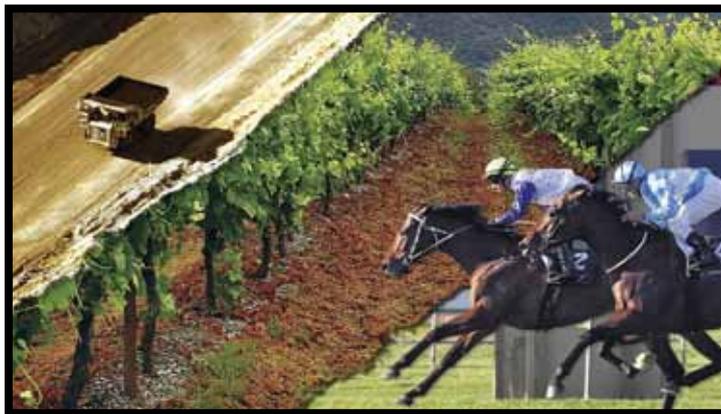
Planning Minister Rob Stokes said the government would consider the independent PAC's final verdicts on the two mines.

In a surprise move, though, Mr Stokes also announced a consultation would begin to prohibit future expansion of Rio's open-cut mine beyond a 2.5km buffer from Bulga.

Rio, which had welcomed the PAC nod as "a great relief for thousands of people", did not comment on the proposal for a ring-fencing of its operations.

"Rio's certainly not happy," Mr Krey said, noting market speculation the miner was planning to sell off the project once it had won approval.

The company had already scoped out an



expansion of the project to within 500 metres of the town, as reported by Fairfax Media, and the restriction could cost Rio dearly.

"It's the carrot dangling on the end of the sales process," he said.

Mr Krey, though, said the proposed buffer was "insulting and disingenuous" since it implied Rio would still get a 100m of potential expansion beyond the PAC approval. That go-ahead already meant that endangered Warkworth Sands woodlands would be destroyed, as would forest that Rio had originally promised to protect.

The PAC's approval included a requirement for Rio to buy out 24 homes. That would still leave 128 households in Bulga with few prospects of selling.

"They are left in the dust, the noise, and there's no future for anyone, young or old," Mr Krey said.

The Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association, meanwhile, applauded the decision by the PAC to block the Drayton South mine expansion for a third time.

The association called on Mr Stokes to accept promptly the PAC recommendations and formally refuse Anglo American's project. The thoroughbred industry is worth \$2.6 billion a year to the NSW economy alone, the group said.

"We call on the NSW government to permanently protect Australia's and NSW's premier studs from future mining threats and place a [State Environmental Planning Policy] over the Drayton South [exploration licence] to prohibit future mining on this site and avoid repeating mistakes of the past," Henry Plumtre, managing director of Darley, said.

The Darley stud is owned by Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Sheikh of Dubai, while Coolmore is Swiss-owned. Redoute's Choice, Fastnet Rock and Exceed are among champion horses produced or sired at the two studs.

**Robert McLaughlin Electrical**

- Domestic
- Commercial
- Industrial

All Electrical Work - Small or Large 46 Inlet Rd Bulga  
**0405555901** rob.mac46@hotmail.com  
 Cont. Lic. No. 196774C

**Mount Broke Wines**  
 Broke Fordwich Hunter Valley

Cellar door open for wine tasting and sales on Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
 Award winning estate grown wines with a stunning view across the vineyard  
 Perfect setting for a unique wedding or social occasion  
 Recently renovated with catering available from our in house chefs

Fully licensed  
 Beer, spirits and aperitifs available

130 Adams Peak Road - Broke  
 0575 3314 or 0419 244785  
 cellar@mtbrokewines.com.au

# OUR COMMUNITY:

## Reports; BFWTA, HVPA and HVWTA

### Broke Fordwich Wine and Tourism Association

#### *Minutes of the Annual General Meeting*

Held Sunday 22nd November 2015 at  
Broke Village Hall

#### *Members Present*

Mike Wilson, Eden Anthony, Chris Wilson,  
Meredith McManus, Ken McCraw, Karren  
McCraw, Tom Jackson, Barbara Brown,  
Paul Burgess, Jody Derrick, Bernadette  
Tolson, Max Tolson, Melissa O'Toole,  
Margueriette Henneberry,

#### *Apologies*

Victoria Foster, Lisa & Andrew Margan,  
Phil & Gina McNamara, Lance Yi, Marian  
Waite, Graeme McDougall, Susan Frazier,  
Adam Bell, Wendy & Bill Lawson, Debo-  
rah Richardson, Rebekka Cunningham,  
Helen & Geoff Sharrock, Helen Kirkman,  
Stewart & Liz Ewen, Tony Bainton.

#### *Confirmation of the Minutes of the last AGM – held on December 7th 2014*

The minutes of the previous meeting had  
been sent to all members after the last  
meeting and a copy was made available for  
inspection. The minutes were accepted as a  
true and accurate record.

Proposed Mike Wilson, seconded Barbara  
Brown

#### *Matters arising from the minutes*

There were no matters arising from the  
minutes that would not be covered during  
the general business reports.

#### *Correspondence*

There were no matters of correspondence  
pertinent to the AGM.

Proposed Mike Wilson, seconded Eden  
Anthony

#### *Presentation by Angus Robinson*

Eden introduced Angus Robinson, CEO  
of Leisure Solutions and a promoter of  
Geo-tourism to explain the concepts and  
relevance of geo-tourism to Broke Ford-  
wich:

Angus noted that he had been a regular  
visitor to the Broke Fordwich area over his  
working life, and that he had been invited  
to discuss the structural change of jobs and  
mining in the Singleton area. Although  
local people are aware of this change there  
is no real planning for future land use here.  
He is proposing the creation of the Wanaru-  
ah National Mining Park, a multi land-use  
strategy covering conservation of existing  
habitat and rehabilitation of former mining  
land. The park is to be modelled on the 72  
existing National Mining Parks in China  
and in other countries and would feature  
soft active use such as walking and bike  
tracks, mining history, indigenous culture,  
geology, and possibly alternate energy  
generation.

Geo-tourism is nature based tourism  
covering geology and landscape. A good  
example is Central Australia where the  
geology of Uluru, Kings Canyon, MacDon-  
ald Ranges and local aboriginal culture all

combine to become  
one comprehensive  
but diverse attraction.  
This model can be  
used to tell the story  
of the Hunter, mov-  
ing beyond the wine  
and its history into a  
more diverse story.  
This essentially would  
incorporate accom-  
modation, transport  
and food for visitors,  
creating job opportuni-  
ties. Promotion would  
be based around apps  
and would be mainly  
targeted at self-drive  
tours.



## The Willows Restaurant & Broke Village Store

The focal point of the Broke community and surrounding area

The Village Store serves many needs:

Groceries, Newsagent, Coffee Shop, Dine-In Restaurant, 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 Restaurant  
ALL DAY MENU  
BEER ON TAP  
Dine in or al fresco

4 Wollombi St,  
Broke  
NSW 2330  
Ph: 02 6579 1056

Open: 7 days:  
Sunday to  
Wednesday till 8 p.m.  
Thursday to Saturday  
till late.

## OUR COMMUNITY: Reports; BFWTA, HVPA and HVWTA

### President's Report

Eden had circulated this President's report beforehand:

Early 2016 will see the last of the current Bulga Coal funding dispersed. As you are aware, we received \$150,000 to engage the services of expert assistance to promote and market the Broke Fordwich region. This funding was made possible by the support we received from Ralph Northey Environment and Community Manager, Bulga Coal. Ralph is a long time member of our

are providing as they build their events and general profile. We need to be more effective in how we build our events and how we run them. By using the Bulga Coal funding to bring expert controllers into our event calendar we stand a greater chance of attracting more visitors.

The position of the Hunter as a tourist destination has fallen and tourism overall has suffered due to the higher dollar in 2013/14 and the more aggressive promotion of regions outside the Hunter.

developing strategies that continue to build the Broke Fordwich wine brand. In 2016, the new committee should devote its efforts to promoting the quality and uniqueness that is the Broke Fordwich wine industry.

Your committee has spent the last 12 months promoting the businesses in the region by working with Singleton Council, building relationships with the other Hunter regions and engaging with the local communities, instigating and supervising many marketing promotional schemes and helping to bring customers to your door.

**"In 2010 there were 280 bed-spaces in Broke Fordwich. This year – we have over 500."**

community and understands the value of lifting our region's profile to better enhance the prospects of your businesses and the needs of the local communities.

The committee began the process of building the region's profile by concentrating on a Public Relations campaign. This campaign, carried out by Agent99PR, culminating in over 40 'familiarisation visits' by journalists and a huge number of pre-event activities.



"Public Relations campaign culminating in over 40 'familiarisation visits' by journalists"

Here a group of journalists are addressed by Rod Windim of Krinklewood vineyard

The BFWTA committee believes that the PR work strengthened the position of the Broke Fordwich Region in the eye of the general public. This being said, the committee realised that we needed to move on to the next phase of building the 'Broke Fordwich Experience' by using the final stage of funding to deliver a more professional control of our events. In order to do this we engaged the services, initially of Adrian Buckley Management and for the next series of events, Rowena Hawkins, as event managers. In addition we invested in building our social media presence and our website has had a major overhaul.

It needs to be emphasised that the role of event manager, whilst in the past carried out by volunteers from the committee, needs to be under the survey of an expert. The reason for this is the competition other regions

Measuring tourism success can be tricky, given the state of the wine industry (and we are a wine tourism based region) so it is best to look at accommodation growth. In a bearish tourism market, accommodation activity has remained steady – in fact a growth could be argued if it is taken into account, the increase in bed spaces over the last 5 years in Broke Fordwich. In 2010 there were 280 bed-spaces in Broke Fordwich. This year – accounting for BFWTA members alone, we have over 500 bed-spaces. This increase in activity – to a great extent – can be attributed to the PR work carried out over the last few years.

We have long regretted the absence of

a wine tour operator who would be willing concentrate on our local cellar doors. Many have remarked on the number of times local accommodation guest were being picked up and taken outside the region for a wine tour. The committee looked at this issue and encouraged one of the committee members to engage in a local tour business. This has been in place for 2 years now, and as it grows, so too will the visitation to the local cellar doors.

Wine tourism is our main activity and as such we need to nurture and assist our wine-grower members – for the sake of the whole region. No accommodation business can argue that they would be where they are without our wine-grower members and we need to start giving some serious thought to

Counting everything from producing maps, running events, assisting the Broke Village Fair committee, participating in other region's events to assisting in activities such as Art in the Vines and engaging in community activities, The BFWTA committee has considered and acted upon over 50 agenda items.

To those committee members and on your behalf, I would like to thank them for their tireless support of your interests and congratulate them on the quality of work they have done as your representatives.

*Continued Next page*



**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](http://www.riotintocoalaustralia.com.au)

## OUR COMMUNITY: Reports; BFWTA, HVPA and HVWTA

To all of you, I wish firstly a healthy and happy 2016 and secondly, a gigantically successful 2016. I ask this report be accepted by the committee.

Proposed Eden Anthony, seconded Barbara Brown

### *Treasurer's Report*

Ken has circulated the accounts by email and made some brief comments on the accounts, noting that our overall turnover was down a little on the previous year, and that we still had a healthy \$24299 in reserve.

Proposed Ken McCraw, seconded Jody Derrick

### *Sub-Committee Reports*

#### ***A Little Bit of Italy in Broke***

Barbara Brown reported on behalf of the sub-committee, commenting on the appointment of Rowena Hawkins to build the event into a Festival.



There had been a decrease in visitor numbers in 2015 and we seek to reverse this in 2016, with new experiences and packages. A heavier reliance of social media and an earlier start to the publicity should help. Thanks to the members of the sub-committee for their help and support.

#### ***Website, Facebook & Visitors Guide***

Mike reported that the new website has been rebuilt by Melanie Morschell and is a vast improvement over the old version. The same look and feel should be transferred to the new Visitors Guide, due to come out when we run out of the existing Guide, at some time in 2016.

Social Media is a work in progress with discussions on how best to use these channels coming up at every meeting. It was noted that it is difficult to know which media is generating traffic, but we do see a role for our Visitors Guide into the immediate future.

#### ***Marketing***

The improved signage along Broke Road is proving effective. Over the past 3 years we

have received \$150,000 from Bulga Coal to employ expert help, originally in PR but now more for marketing, with Rowena engaged to run LBOI and also looking at Meet the Makers, Adrian doing Facebook and social media. There is an interest from some wineries in reviving Spirit of the Vine: this will be considered by the new committee. There is the perception that we need a wine-focused activity for the region.

#### ***Viticulture & Olives***

Mike reported decent year for white grapes, not so good for reds due to late summer rain. Ken reported on the problems of the olive industry, noting that early picked green olives were more viable than later harvested black olives due to fungal problems. The total crop was down due to groves still recovering from a bad infestation with olive lace bug recently. The research program instigated by HOA is showing results, and a growers' handbook is being developed.

#### ***Community***

Eden commented that everything is inter-linked, and our action as a wine & tourism body has ramifications for the wider community. The visitors experience is influenced by the attitude of the community, not just the tourism industry.

#### ***Election of the new committee***

The 2015 committee then stood down, and Geoff Brown thanked the committee for its work in 2015 and called for nominations for the 2016 Committee of Management. Geoff noted that the BFWTA represented great value for the low fees charged.

The Secretary reported that due to the number of nominations received being equal to the number of positions available there was no need for a formal election.

#### ***BFWTA new office bearers***

President: as there was only one nomination; Eden Anthony was duly appointed as President.

Vice President: as there was only one nomination; Barbara Brown was duly appointed as Vice President.

Secretary: as there was only one nomination; Mike Wilson was duly appointed as Secretary.

Treasurer: as there was only one nomination; Ken McCraw was duly appointed as Treasurer.

Committee: Tom Jackson was appointed as community representative:

Marian Waite, Meredith McManus, Jody Derrick and Melissa O'Toole were appointed committee members, with Margueriette

Henneberry & Paul Burgess to share one position depending on who was available.

This being the correct number to fill all vacancies these members were all elected onto the committee.

#### ***Other Business***

Barbara Brown and Lisa Margan are working on a fundraising event to be held at Margan Restaurant in 2016 to raise funds for cancer research. She is looking for volunteers, with a plan to provide something tangible for Singleton Hospital.

Max Tolson commended Angus Robinson on his concepts.

A general discussion on social media resolved that the social media team need more support from the members sending material in for them to use, and that Instagram has fewer restrictions than Facebook



and is photo-based: a Social Media Sub-Committee will be considered at the first meeting of the new committee.

#### ***Meeting of the new committee***

The committee will meet on the first Monday of each month at 5.30 pm at alternating venues in Broke village centre: Adamae, Church View and the Broke Hall all being contenders. The first meeting of the new committee will be Monday 7th December.

#### **Hunter Valley Protection Alliance**

***This year the HVPA brought to a head all the work undertaken over the last 10 years in terms of CSG. The HVPA was formed principally to deal with the exploration activities of Sydney Gas that became AGL. This is not the time to attempt to document the efforts of the HVPA Planning Committee over that period other than to say the results of the work undertaken have been extraordinary and probably set the benchmark for community groups dealing with inappropriate development in rural regions .***

*Continued Next page*



# OUR COMMUNITY: Reports; BFWTA, HVPA and HVWTA

To explain such we are now in a position that:

1. All relevant PELs have been reacquired by the Government.
2. The AGL properties they acquired are currently being marketed by Alan Jurd.
3. The regions around Broke Fordwich to Bulga are now generally included in the defined "Critical Industry Cluster" and the Villages of Broke and Bulga are protected



"The AGL properties they acquired are currently being marketed by Alan Jurd."

by the 2km village radius setback from CSG mining /exploration.

4. the financial position being that the HVPA as a committee raised approx \$214,000 spending approx \$208,000 forcing AGL to write off in direct costs and asset valuations taken up in their accounts of \$1.2 Billion [as per AGL Auditors report].

The balance of funds are being held over at this point until it can be seen as to how the HVPA can effectively apply such in the Warkworth fight against Rio Tinto .

AGL are currently involved in plugging off the various drilling sites as required under their PEL obligations.

The above is a truly extraordinary result ... no region in NSW has achieved a victory of this nature previously. It needs to be reported that every attempt has been made to assist the people of Gloucester during this period however their lack of financial capacity to structure and undertake a campaign along the lines of the HVPA undertook has limited their success to-date.

The HVPA remains active in the fight re Open Cut mining and has lodged a series of submissions supporting the Village of Bulga and has made several presentations to the PAC over the last 12 months supporting such against Rio Tinto proposals to expand the Warkworth mine.

The key personal involved in the above including Graeme Gibson, Ian Napier, Jorge Tlaskal and Hu Upward as well as a number of others. There remains a series of tasks to be completed.

**Stewart Ewen**

**Chairman, HVPA**

## Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association

*Following an approach from the HVWTA committee to the HVPA, both Ian Napier [Around Hermitage] and Stewart Ewen [Broke /Fordwich] were elected to join the HVWTA at their recent AGM.*

The purpose in undertaking this role being 3 fold ....

1. To follow through with the work commenced by the HVPA to get the defined GI Regions of the Hunter Valley acknowledged through Legislation in a similar manner as per the SA & WA Legislation.
2. To attempt to have a greater degree of regional promotion undertaken to cover the regions such as Broke Fordwich , Lovedale , Hermitage Rd etc. to be picked up as being within the critical mass of what is regarded as "Wine Country" of the Hunter Valley.
3. To achieve a more effective membership base, looking at an equitable fee structure for wine / tourist facilities and a more effective reporting process to members.

To-date 2 meetings have taken place under the Chairmanship of George Souris with both the Singleton and Cessnock Councils

being actively involved.

While it remains early days must say progress is being achieved ....

1. Meetings are being set up by the Chairman to approach a series of Government Departments to define and establish support for further protection of the GI areas; these will start in the New Year with the Department of Primary Industry, then through to Treasury with Planning being left until they are ready to push Cabinet for the required support.

2. The Marketing Committee is working on designing as series of "wine trails" that can be best described as being a map not unlike the famous London Underground map that will be designed to take visitors into and around the sub regions and overcome the inherent conflict of one region promoting against another . I'm very supportive of this concept and feel we will see the benefits.

3. Work on this issue has started with both Ian Napier leading the charge.

To attempt to progress the above activities I have been made Chairman in charge of Government representations, Ian Napier is chairing the Membership issues.

**Stewart Ewen**

### Bulga's New Year's Eve Party

Join us from 6:30pm BYO Dinner - BBQ Facilities available for cooking

Live band

'MOGO'

(Graham Oldham & Maureen Bailey)

Music from the 50's to 80's - 8pm to 1am

BYO Basket Supper and Drinks

\$10 per adult - no cost for children

Everyone welcome - Bring your family and friends

Hosted by your local Community Centre - helping grow our community spirit

Enquiries Contact Phil Reid Ph: 6574 5237



### Bulga' New Year's Eve Party

Join us from 6:30pm BYO Dinner - BBQ Facilities available for cooking

Live band

'MOGO'

(Graham Oldham & Maureen Bailey)

Music from the 50's to 80's - 8pm to 1am

BYO Basket Supper and Drinks

\$10 per adult - no cost for children

Everyone welcome - Bring your family and friends

Hosted by your local Community Centre helping grow our community spirit

# Nightingale Restaurant

Family Sunday  
Roast  
Night  
All meals \$25

02 6579 1499

[www.nightingalewines.com.au](http://www.nightingalewines.com.au)



**Restaurant Hours**  
Lunch and Dinner  
*Wednesday to Sunday*  
  
Breakfast  
*Sundays*

The traditional  
**Australian Roast Night**  
is back

Plus  
free BYO wine  
5.30pm to 7.30pm



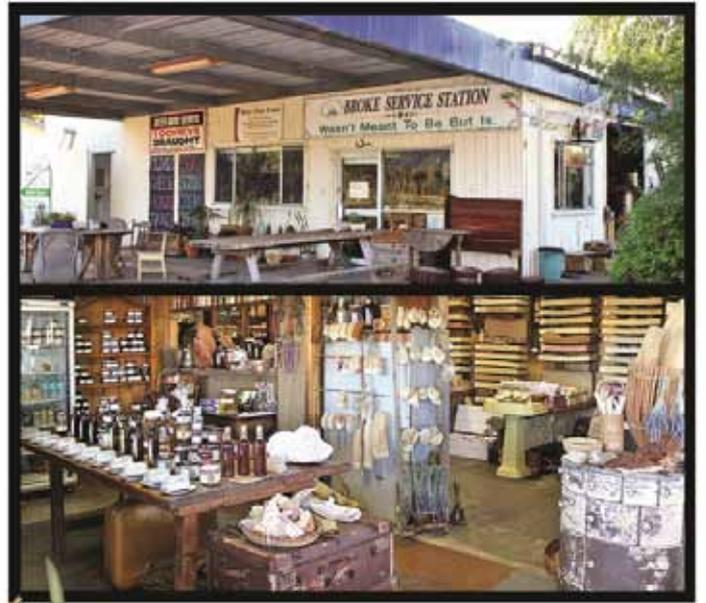
### Functions and Special Occasions

Menu options from \$32 pp with free room hire - Christmas parties, weddings and family festivities.

We can arrange transfers to and from your accommodation



[www.nightingalewines.com.au](http://www.nightingalewines.com.au) 02 6579 1499




## River Flats ESTATE

HUNTER VALLEY

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

RETAIL OUTLET OF RIVERFLATS  
ESTATE & BARE NATURES'KIN



Call for an obligation free quote.  
**m 0404 009 286**

Garden Maintenance  
Garden & Lawn Fertilising  
Lawn Mowing  
Weed & Pest Control  
Irrigation Installation  
and Maintenance

# Grandview Gardens

HUNTER VALLEY



[www.grandviewgardens.com.au](http://www.grandviewgardens.com.au)

### Lifestream Body Treatments

- remedial massage
- hot stone massage
- swedish massage
- aromatherapy massage
- pregnancy massage
- sea salt scrubs
- warm mud wraps

@ Pemberley Grange - 130 Hill St Broke  
Ph: Carmen Cooper - 0425 242 257

## BROKE VILLAGE MARKET

1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH  
8:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY MARKET



# Hunter Valley, the best wine region in Australia -again



**F**or the second year in a row, the Hunter Valley has been chosen as Australia's best wine region in the 2015 Australian Traveller People's Choice Awards.

The Hon. George Souris, Chairman of The Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association says, "We are honoured and excited by the award, which re-affirms that the Hunter Valley is the premier wine destination not only in New South Wales, but in all of Australia."

The prestigious annual Australian Traveller People's Choice Awards were announced on 30th November at an exclusive event in Sydney. The awards, voted for by more than 4000 Australian travellers recognise the best travel experiences and destinations for 2015.

"The Hunter Valley shone above other regions such as runners-up: Barossa Valley,



George Souris, Chairman,  
Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism  
Association

SA; Margaret River, WA; Yarra Valley, Vic and; McLaren Vale, SA," Mr Souris continued.

Dating back 180 years, the Hunter Valley is one of the country's oldest wine regions and also one of its smallest. But oenophiles are not left wanting: only one and a half hours from Sydney, the Hunter Valley boasts in excess of 150 wineries produc-

ing exceptional wines and almost as many cellar doors, welcoming guests to taste its world-famous Semillon, and other notable drops including Chardonnay, Verdelho and Shiraz.

With a rolling landscape that's easy on the eye, a host of accommodation from cosy B&BS to elegant guesthouses and luxe hotels, and more than 60 restaurants in which to wine and dine, the Hunter Valley is the perfect destination for your next getaway.

Preparations are underway for the ultimate Hunter Valley wine & food experience, Hunter Valley Wine & Food Festival, which will take place next year across May and June. For more information visit [www.winecountry.com.au](http://www.winecountry.com.au)

The winners and runners-up of this extensive survey of Australia's best holiday destinations will be revealed in the December/January issue of Australian Traveller magazine.

**IN-SYNC HALTERS**  
AUSTRALIAN MADE

**ROPE HALTERS;** 7mm Standard & Riding Halters in Solid & Multi-Colours  
8mm Double Braid Halters 100% Polyester  
7mm & 8mm "Extra Knots" Training Halters  
Entire Range of Halters available as Padded

**SIZES;** Extra Full/Warmblood, Full, Cob, Pony, Small Pony & Mini

**SPLIT REIN SETS & LEAD ROPES;** 14mm Double Braid Polyester & 13MM Nylon  
Joined Reins in 20MM Flat Strap in Full Colour Range

**An Australian Manufacturer of Quality Rope Products for Horses, Donkeys & Mules**

Stirling 0488 745 260 / Sarah 0414 450 010  
Phone / Fax 02 6574 5262  
[www.insync-halters.com](http://www.insync-halters.com)  
[insynchalters@bigpond.com](mailto:insynchalters@bigpond.com)  
[www.facebook.com/insynchalters](http://www.facebook.com/insynchalters)

Hunter Valley, New South Wales  
abn) 33 600 658 222

**AUSTRALIAN MADE**

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

**Horse Confidence**  
Desly 0434 160 168

**TRAINING - LESSONS**

**JERRY'S PLAINS VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

**Ph: 02 6576 4162**

Vet in attendance  
Jim Rodger

[www.rodgerandassociates.com](http://www.rodgerandassociates.com)  
Find us on facebook

**The Cockfighter Editorial:**  
Tom Jackson phone: 6574 5266  
Eden Anthony 65791259  
fighter@broke.nsw.au



## COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

**Broke Bulga Landcare Group Inc.**  
C/o President, Wendy Lawson  
PO Box 120, Broke NSW 2330

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

**Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association**  
President: John Lamb  
6574 5205  
2334 Putty Road Bulga 2330  
bmpa@savebulga.org.au

**Bulga Rural Fire Brigade**  
President: John Lamb  
6574 5205  
Captain: Michael Bendall  
6574 5193  
Permits: M Bendall 6574 5193  
A Gallagher 6574 5100

**NSW Rural Fire Service Hunter Valley District**  
Phone 6575 1200, Fax 6574 5406,  
email huntervalley.team@rfs.nsw.gov.au  
Manager, Inspector Martin Siemsen

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

**Milbrodale Public School**  
Principal/P&C Association  
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

**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 04 4766 7737

The Cockfighter is a not-for-profit community service publication run by volunteers  
Editor: Tom Jackson  
Secretary: Sarah Purser  
Production: Eden Anthony  
Accounts: Ken McCraw  
Advertising: Chris Hagan

## OUR WILDLIFE

### BARE NOSED WOMBAT.( *Vombatus ursinus*)

Large thick-set grazer, limbs short, powerful claws strong; broad head, short muzzle; short ears, rounded, barely protruding above crown; tail vestigial. Coarse fur usually uniformly grey-brown to blackish. Wombats are mainly nocturnal and shelter by day in burrows to 30m long, dug into banks or gullies. They graze mostly by night, have poor vision and are slow but can bound at around 40km/h. Wombats breed in the winter, the female give birth to a single young 3 weeks after mating, it suckles in her rear opening pouch for 6-10 months, then stays with its mother at heel for 2 years. Diet of grasses, roots and tubers. Wombats are found in forests, woodlands, scrubs.



Finishing off the year with my most loved animal....the Wombat.

They were the starting point for us setting up our wildlife shelter nearly 20 years ago. So many injured and orphaned wildlife have been rehabilitated here especially from the Broke/Milbrodale/Bulga area, that I have lost count but it would be in the hundreds. Some sadness and very hard work but mostly joy to see them grow and have a second chance to live.

### Merry Christmas and Happy Healthy 2016.

Elizabeth  
Joeys Retreat

**Carols in the Park** Friday 11th December  
McNamara Park - Broke - Start time 6pm,  
BYO Nibbles & Drinks & picnic rug or chair.  
Performances from Broke School & The Boys from Broke.  
Fire Brigade sausage sizzle and Santa arriving on his Fire Truck.  
Soft drinks, battery operated candles & glow sticks.  
PLUS Santa will give all the kids a present

## 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

### CARRIER - CATTLE

**Lionel Caban**  
6574 5366  
MOB 0427 745 366

**CATTERY**  
**Jan Pennell**  
6579 1450

### COMPUTERS & COMMUNICATION

**BRUCE COWAN**  
6579 1130

**DIGITAL PRINT & DESIGN**  
**BINK CREATIVE**  
4990 3230

### ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

**Robert McLaughlin**  
0405 555 901  
rob.mac46@hotmail.com

### GARDEN AND LAWN MAINTENANCE

**Grandview Gardens**  
**Paul Dengate** Horticulturalist  
0404009286  
paul@grandviewgardens.com.au  
grandviewgardens.com.au

### GOURMET FOODS

**Marian Waite**  
6579 1063  
Mob 0409 791 063  
marian@riverflatsestate.com.au

### HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

**Hunterstay**  
65791259  
hunterstay.com.au

### MECHANICAL & AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

**Beyond Broke**  
**Mechanical & Automotive Services**  
Jason McCraw  
Licensed Motor Vehicle Repairer  
BROKE  
0414 264 515  
jmccraw@harcoursat.com.au  
beyondbrokemechanical.com.au

### NATURAL THERAPIES

**Gale Matley**  
6579 1401

**PID - Private Irrigation**  
admin@bfpid.com.au  
Water On/Off 1300 767 118

### 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  
Taylorproperty.com.au  
PO Box 3 Broke NSW 2330

### VINEYARD SERVICES

**Bright Vine Services**  
Vineyard consulting  
0410625540  
jennybright@bigpond.com  
www.brightvineservices.com.au  
563 Wollombi Rd, Broke NSW 2330

### WINE MAKING

**Michael McManus**  
6579 1400  
Mob 0403 014 787

