

The Cockfighter

FREE



BROKE
FORDWICH
WINE REGION

The tranquil side of the Hunter Valley

Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale

APRIL 2017



Get your groove on and see you there!

Bulga Beats Festival May 6th-7th, 2017

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

FROM THE EDITOR

**AFTER ITALY'S LITTLE BIT OF BROKE
—THE BIG BEATS FOR BULGA**

With all our too-familiar concerns with industrial expansion, council intrusion and general political bastardisation affecting our sub-regional calm, it's heartening that we can occasionally stop and smell the roses per medium of our marvellous event organisers. I really don't have the words to express the community appreciation of the tireless efforts of the men and women behind the gun, as it were, for these delightful explosions of light and colour—the true 'blasts' like Little Bit of Italy and the Bulga Beats Festival. LBOI is behind us now, but it's great to acknowledge that bright and breezy newcomer to our events calendar in the shape of the BBF. Two full days over May 6-7—from Saturday morning to Sunday night.

With people like the Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association and the Broke Fordwich Wine and Tourism Association working their skills and experience, there seems to be no limit to the entertainment possibilities for the Tranquil Side of the Valley. And with it, a greater visitor interest in, and understanding of the area bordered by Broke, Bulga, Milbrodale and Fordwich. I don't knock the slogan "the Hunter's Best-kept Secret" for our blessed bailiwick—but our local businesses, whether cellar-door, accommodation or tourism transport, deserve every boost they can get to make the place more recognisable and, indeed, more accessible. So hats off to all our mates in the different organisations—too many mates to mention individually—for their months of preparation and perspiration. And it would be churlish not to mention the generous grants from Glencore and Coal&Allied which do so much to make it all happen.

Again (after last month's foray into the use of 'crystal meth' in Nazi Germany), I veer from our local complications to raise yet another sad development in an organisational scandal that, perplexedly, should concern us all. I say this because as you will see from the ANZAC Day notices within these pages, we are about to commemorate (NEVER celebrate, please) one of the saddest events of any country's national makeup—the bloody, tragically devised and ultimately futile sacrifice of thousands of Australian and New Zealand troops on the shores of Gallipoli in 1915. Fellow NSW RSL members would remind me that their organisation, headquartered in Sydney, has always been responsible for that grand march through the streets of

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Sydney and, through our sub-branches, for the (to me, much more personal and affecting) services in our regional cities, towns and hamlets. But with all the recognition and respect I can afford all those good and great men—like Colin Hines, State President par excellence during my term as Editor of Reville—I think the wider public should know that the RSL is facing charges that could destroy its status as a major charity and benevolent entity for years to come.

These charges relate to alleged misappropriation of funds, including nearly half a million dollars in credit card expenses lodged by former State President Don Rowe, and the alleged cover-up of this by the State Council. I understand the State Council has stood aside while inquiries and investigations continue.

The NSW Fair Trading investigation concerns millions of dollars in consultancy fees from RSL Lifecare, an RSL-affiliated nursing home company—fees which apparently ended up in the pockets of certain State Councillors. At this point, I would like to acknowledge the contribution to the debate by a young veteran of Iraq, Afghanistan and the Solomons. James Brown is Vice-President of the North Bondi RSL Sub-Branch, and he told the DAILY TELEGRAPH how this scandal has reflected grave doubts about the probity and transparency of the Sydney Headquarters:

"Tellingly, each of the investigations was only initiated after external pressure from the media, from members and from the RSL: affiliated National Council. Meanwhile, in the real world, younger veterans continue to take their own lives, older veterans deserve support and camaraderie, and ANZAC Day beckons. Not all of the RSL's leadership are involved, but all must take responsibility for a sick culture in which governance has been allowed to rot, accountability has been missing, members neglected and public trust corroded. And through all this bureaucratic wrangling and legal infighting, important charitable service has been left undone."

James Brown has, as he puts it in a magnificently Aussie way, a dog in this fight: he intends to stand for State President at the Annual Congress in Albury next month (21 to 24 May). He wants to see the RSL restored to being a force for good for members and their families. That starts with better transparency for members. Amen to that. James Brown—and good luck at Albury.

(Tom Jackson)

April 2017

March Rainfall	130 mm
TOTAL to date	885 mm

Diary Dates

29 April to 14 May	Singleton Festival
1 May to 30 June	Hunter Valley Wine and Food Festival
6 and 7 May and 13 and 14 May	Meet the Growers
6th and 7th May	Bulga Beats Festival
25 August to 27 August	Wollombi Country Fair
10 September	Broke Village Fair and Vintage Car Display

**First Sunday of the Month
Broke Village Markets**

Other dates to add to your calendar

29th April	The Grape Escape
13 May, 14 May	Lovedale Long Lunch
2nd December	Yusuf /Cat Stevens
21st October	Midnight Oil
21 October	Opera in the Vineyards



The Cockfighter

Advertising Rates

Business Card	90 mm x 50 mm	\$32.05
Quarter page	90 mm x 135 mm	\$81.25
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Full Page	185 mm x 270 mm	\$325

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Get your groove on and see you there!

Bulga Beats Festival May 6th-7th, 2017

The 3rd Bulga Beats Festival will rock at the foot of the magnificent Bulga hills right next to Wollemi National Park on May 6th and 7th at the Bulga Recreation Ground.

Bulga Beats is fast becoming a tourist and festival attraction where people travel from all parts of Australia to enjoy and participate in all that our Festival and the area has to offer. Festival-goers and local businesses are all jumping on board! Anyone who is interested in having a market or food stall needs to apply at bulgabeatsfestival.com soon as bookings need to be finalised.

Bulga Beats is a growing festival that merges the connectivity and love of music and dance with workshops and learning. It brings together a variety of performers and live bands, from blues to jazz, folk to rap, to contemporary and psychedelic rock.

The amazing line-up for the festival this year includes: The Viking N3, VanderAa, Golden Orb, Vanishing Shapes, Nardine, Just Chuck, Crazy Old Maurice, Sammy V, Sugar Gob, Fred's Ginger, The Dershwins, Old Sugar, Mia Lipari, Erfan Dahliri, Ethan Andrews and Sacredgroove Belly Dance.

We also welcome the return of the amazing Wakagetti indigenous dancers. Wakagetti

means 'to dance' in the Ngemba language of North Western NSW. They are committed to sharing traditional knowledge in a fun, exciting and interactive performance. The Wakagetti truly reflect the rich culture of the Wonnarua People, the traditional custodians of this area.

Saturday is the main event day with markets, art, food, the main stage, busking stage and DJ shack running throughout the day until late at night. Make sure you check out the Teahouse Gallery's Art Exhibition & Sale in the Bulga Community Hall. The Teahouse Gallery is open between 10am - 4pm on both Saturday and Sunday. Come along to view the exhibition then take a little time out to relax and enjoy refreshments and goodies in the Teahouse.

Sunday will hold a rejuvenating day where stages will run but there will be a focus on workshops, talks, learning and art. The workshops will range from healing, yoga, dance, music mentorship, art, building and many more. The festival will conclude late Sunday afternoon but an open invite to all who wish to stay on and connect through music jams, talking or dancing.

Camping is free for all and we encourage you to come as early as you wish and stay as long as you want!

For the first time, Bulga Beats 2017 is a ticketed event. Ticketing our event has been a natural, needed evolution to continue attracting great bands, performers, workshops and patrons from all over

Australia. We are making this event as accessible as possible, so kids 16 & under are only charged a donation entry to Bulga Beats.

If you're looking to be part of the action, be sure to jump on board sooner rather than later. Get your tickets and all the info at bulgabeatsfestival.com or check out Bulga Beats Festival Facebook page. Tickets are also available at the gate.

Bulga Beats offers a great escape to the country with free camping, a family friendly environment where you can connect with like-minded people and enjoy a smorgasbord of music, food, art, friends and all round good times.

Get your groove on and see you there!





BROKE FORDWICH
MEET THE GROWERS

BROKE FORDWICH
MEET THE GROWERS

A farmgate experience hosted by the Broke Fordwich Growers

Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 May
Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 May

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www.meetthegrowers.com.au



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Environment and Community Contacts

Ralph Northey - Bulga Coal
Environment and Community Manager
T: 6570 2539 M: 0418 439 874
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

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.

AUSTRALIAN WINE INDUSTRY AIMS FOR WORLDS TOP TABLES

Richard Hargreave, sommelier at Momofuku in Las Vegas, says diners in his restaurant rarely think of Australian wines.

“This is partly because California rules here – much like how American wine is not super popular in Australia,” he said.

That will hopefully change: Mr Hargreave is one of the recruits in the Australian wine industry’s latest push to pour its products into the glasses of the world’s most discerning drinkers and diners.

Wine Australia has flown in 50 sommeliers from some of the world’s best restaurants and bars to showcase fine Australian wines and hopefully get them on the wine list of those establishments.

Sommeliers from the US, Canada, Britain, Denmark, Japan, Thailand, Canada, New Zealand and Australia have been chosen by Wine Australia to taste Australian wines, visit major wine regions and meet winemakers over a 10-day visit.

Wine Australia wants the sommeliers to spread the word that Australian wines are worthy competitors to favoured European wines.

“There is this general sense that even though our [Australian] wines are very popular abroad, often they are under-represented in the fine dining space, where people tend to look to Europe as the mecca,” Wine Australia chairman Brian Walsh said.

“We think our wines stand up very strongly with all our global competitors but we’ve really got to get the attention of the somms.”

Sara Bachiorri, the head sommelier at Chez Bruce in London, said some fine dining customers understand that Australian wines now have more finesse compared to 20 years ago when they were viewed as “sun in a glass” or high-alcohol, big, chunky blockbusters.

“I think that the general consumer and older consumers could still be attached to that old perception though,” she said.

Joining Mr Hargreave and Ms Bachiorri will be Joo Lee, sommelier from 2016 third-best restaurant in the world, Eleven Madison Park; Seamus Williams- Sharkey, head sommelier at the 14th-ranked The Ledbury in London; Vladimir Kojic, head sommelier at Asia’s finest restaurant and No.23 in the world, Gaggan in Bangkok;

and Guillermo Cruz, head sommelier at the 7th-ranked Mugaritz Restaurant in San Sebastian.

The sommeliers will also joined the world’s best chefs at the World’s 50 Best Restaurant awards in Melbourne on April 5 during their stay.

Mr Walsh said Wine Australia has assumed many of the visiting sommeliers have a limited knowledge of Australian wine because much of their training comes from European thought which has a strong bias towards “old world” wines.

He does not expect a quick payback from the familiarisation effort, saying changing the perception of Australian wine will take time.

Mr Walsh said sommeliers often shift from city to city around the world, sharing ideas and following fashions and fads, so if they start thinking of Australia as a supplier of top wine, it is likely to spread to other parts of the dining industry.

AAP

NATIONAL MEAL GUIDELINES LAUNCHED AGAINST BACKDROP OF FUNDING UNCERTAINTY

Ground-breaking guidelines supporting innovative and flexible delivered meal programs have been released by the Australian Meals on Wheels Association.

The National Meal Guidelines were developed by the Australian Meals on Wheels Association in partnership with the Smart Foods Centre, University of Wollongong. The guidelines represent the first nationally consistent approach to nutrition, menu planning and meal presentation for organisations providing delivered meals through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme.

They are an excellent resource for other services providing meals for older people – in community centres, the consumer’s own kitchen, or in residential care settings.

The National Meal Guidelines were formally launched by the Minister Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, Hon. Ken Wyatt AM MP at Parliament House in Canberra last week. A transcript of his speech can be found here.

While AMOWA and Meals on Wheels con-



The Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP (centre right) with (from left) Associate Professor Karen Walton, Project Leader, Smart Foods Centre, Wollongong University, and the Project Steering Group; Sharon Lawrence, Dietitian and DAA Representative; Nelson Mathews, AMOWA President and Steering Group Chair; Julie Bonnici, Manager Services Operations, SA Meals on Wheels; Duncan McDonald, Food Technologist.

tinue to develop and forge ahead, funding uncertainty is threatening service viability. National AMOWA President Nelson Mathews highlighted this in his speech at

the launch, calling for funding certainty and an extra \$5 million dollars in the 2017 budget to address funding shortfalls and inequities.

CALLS FOR COMMUNITY INPUT AS MASTER PLANS FOR BROKE, BULGA AND MILBRODALE MOVE INTO ACTION PHASE

The community is being called on for input into the priority projects for Broke and Bulga/Milbrodale in the next phase of Singleton Council's Village Master Plan.

After concept designs were unveiled last year, suggestions for improvements to build on the villages' appeal as vibrant places to live and visit has taken another step forward with residents invited to tell Council what part of the plans they think should happen first.

The input will be incorporated into a draft strategy and action plan.

Community drop-in sessions will be held on Tuesday 11 April 2017 at Broke Hall, and on Thursday 13 April at Bulga Hall.

Both sessions will run from 4pm to 6pm.

Mark Ihlein, Director Planning said the sessions were a great opportunity for residents to revisit the concepts included in the Village Master Plans and look at the list of priority projects that will be presented to Council as part of the draft strategy and action plan for adoption.

"While ideally all of the suggestions in the Master Plans would happen quickly and at the same time, Council needs to consider the availability of resources and the orderly roll out of improvements," he said.

"But that doesn't mean the projects will be stalled until we can do everything.

"Council wants to start planning for those projects the community identifies as the most important, and to do that we're heading out to talk to local residents directly about what they want to happen first.

"That list of priorities will then be presented to a future meeting of Council to guide the implementation of the Master Plans through a draft strategy and action plan."

Work on the future of Jerrys Plains as part of the Village Master Plans is still underway.

The drop-in sessions will be held at Broke Hall on Tuesday 11 April 2017 from 4pm to 6pm, and Bulga Hall on Thursday 13 April 2017 from

From crocheting to bushrangers, this year's Singleton Festival is a harmony of food, wine, art and music

Planning for this year's Singleton Festival is being fine-tuned as the community comes together for its biennial celebration of all things food, wine, art and music in the heart of the Hunter Valley from 29 April to 14 May.

A new look has been unveiled for the festival in 2017, with a packed program of events that will include a world-record crocheting attempt and a "Day of the Dead" on the trail of Singleton's infamous bushrangers, Joe and Jimmy Governor (complete with visit to Joe's gravesite).

And to demonstrate that art can indeed be found everywhere, there'll be events in some of Singleton's historic pubs and an art exhibition at the Burragan Recycling Shop at the Singleton Waste Management Centre.

General Manager Jason Linnane said there was plenty to get excited about on this year's program, with a variety of options from a range of organisations and businesses across the community who were banding together to be part of the festival.

"This year's festival has a renewed focus on why the Singleton Festival was original-

ly established – to highlight the artistic and cultural achievements of our community, to celebrate the talent we have right here in Singleton and to encourage other artistic people to come here to create," he said.

"The Singleton Festival is a creation of the imaginations and talents of many groups and individuals, and the program we have this year is exceptional.



"It'll all start off with the Guinness World Record Attempt for the most people crocheting simultaneously and the Official Festival Launch on Sunday 30 April. I encourage as many people as possible to bring their crochet hooks along to the Singleton Civic Centre and join in on the

unique record attempt.

"Then of course we'll have the very best in food and wine that our region is famous for, through to the quirky Hunter Strength Wars – an event that has to be seen to believe "We'll also be celebrating our local heritage with a Bush Poets' Yarn Night and music lovers will be treated to the sounds of some of our best musicians in the Sacred Spaces, or head along to the two-day Bulga Beats.

"There truly is something for everyone.

"I'd also like to acknowledge the generous financial sponsorship of Glencore as well as the ongoing support from many community partners who are working with Council to present the festival."

The full program is available at www.wearesingletonfestival.com, and Singleton residents can keep a watch on their letter boxes for their own printed copy to help plan their festival itineraries.

For more information, contact Singleton Visitor Information and Enterprise Centre on (02) 6578 7560.

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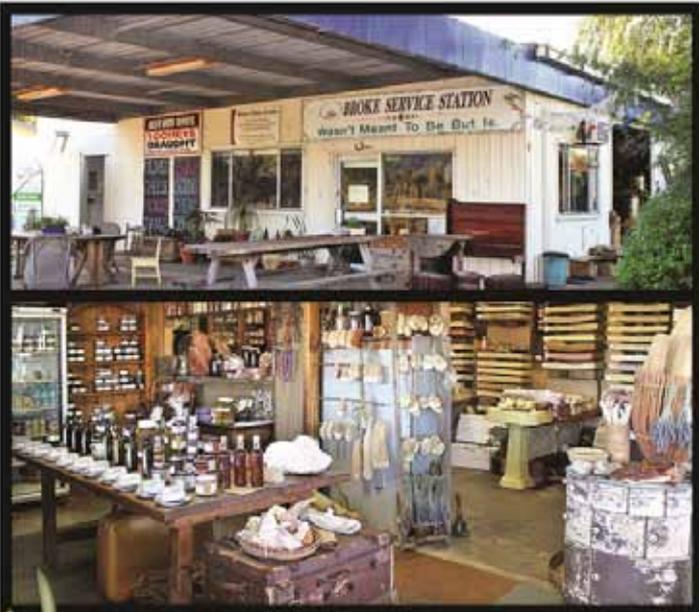


"IN-SYNC" Adverb; simultaneously, at once, at the same time, in concert, concurrently, all together

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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
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Broke ANZAC Day Service

Broke War Memorial

Mid-Morning Service: 10 am

Please bring a plate to share for morning tea

Dawn Service: 6 am

A short dawn service will take place at 6am at the war memorial.

The Broke war memorial has recently had an upgrade.

Over the years it has slowly started to deteriorate

A big thank you to Bulga Coal for their donation to help us restore the war memorial.

Also a big thank you to Wayne Garland for his help with the fence around the memorial and to Gerry and James Feeny of Bulga Civil for their help with the new concrete plinth and to all those that have helped to bring it back to shape

Tulloch Family - Community Farewell

John and Clemence Tulloch along with their daughter Pam have sold and left their vineyard at Fordwich to take up residence in Singleton. John has lived at the property for 84 years with his family owning it since the 1920's.

As a gesture towards their friendship and community involvement an afternoon tea will be hosted by Bulga Community Centre on Sunday 28th May commencing at 2 pm.

Attendees are requested to provide a plate.

Tea & Coffee will be provided.

As the family is widely known it would be appreciated if you could RSVP by 14th May

For any additional information contact Phil Reid on 6574 5237 or 0438 865 064

The Tulloch verdelho vineyard is 84 years old planted by John's father. Its offspring Elysium vineyard is 28 years old looked after by John for all that time

John Tulloch was inducted as a Hunter Valley Legend in 2007.



BULGA BEATS FESTIVAL
6TH - 7TH MAY

THE VIKING N3 VANDERAA
GOLDEN ORB VANISHING SHAPES
NARDINE JUST CHUCK CRAZY OLD MAURICE
SAMMY V WAKAGETTI SUGAR GOB FRED'S GINGER
THE DERSH WINS OLD SUGAR MIA LIPARI ERFAN DAILIRI
ETHAN ANDREWS PLUS MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Two days - Free camping - Music
Markets - Art
Donation entry for kids 16 and under
TICKETS ONLINE
bulgabeatsfestival.com

Bulga ANZAC Memorial Service

11 am 25th April 2017

AN ANZAC Day service will be held at the Memorial Gates in the Bulga Recreation Grounds 11 am on the 25th April.

Each year this has been a community event with local children participating in a march from the Bulga Club house to the Memorial Gates before the Service, and in the laying of the wreaths after.

The Service will be followed by a light luncheon, all welcome and anyone who wishes please bring a plate to help with the catering.

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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

Broke Community Hall

Kathleen Everett (02) 6579 1470

Broke Public School

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

Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association

President - John Krey
6574 5376

PO Box 1032, Singleton 2330

bmpa.contact@bigpond.com

Bulga Rural Fire Brigade

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

Bulga Community Centre Inc.

Secretary Belinda Passlow 65745113
Treasurer and bookings Phillip Reid 65745237

NSW Rural Fire Service Hunter Valley District

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

Justice of the Peace

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

Milbrodale Public School

Principal/P&C Association
Putty Road, Milbrodale NSW 2330

National Parks and Wildlife Service- Upper Hunter Area Bulga and Scone

Peta Norris, Putty Road, Bulga
NSW 2330 6574 5555

Palliative Care Volunteers

for Singleton & Cessnock
Kath Watkinson (02) 65722121

PID Admin

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St Andrews Anglican Church Broke

Parish Secretary at 6571 1414

St Marks Anglican Church

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The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Broke

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

Wildlife Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release

www.wildlifeaid.org.au 0429 850 089

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

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GREY BUTCHER BIRD. (*Cracticus torquatus*)

This familiar woodland bird has a black head with a prominent white collar, grey back, black wings with narrow white streak, a white tipped tail and white or greyish underparts. Established pairs live in permanent territories and usually nest in the same site. They feed alone, hunting from a perch 1- 10 m high and diving on prey. Large items are impaled on the bill and carried back to the perch to be torn apart and eaten. They are bold but wary and often visit gardens looking for food. They breed from July to January and lay 3-5 eggs in a cup-shaped nest placed in a vertical tree fork 3-20 m high. The female incubates the eggs for around 25 days and both parents feed the young who fledge in about 4 weeks. They have a piping whistle; ringing caws in alarm or aggression. Their diet consists of, insects, small birds, reptiles, mice, fruit and seeds. Habitat is open forests, woodlands, parks and gardens.

We have both the Grey and Pied Butcherbirds in our area.

Elizabeth

Joeys Retreat

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