

The Cockfighter

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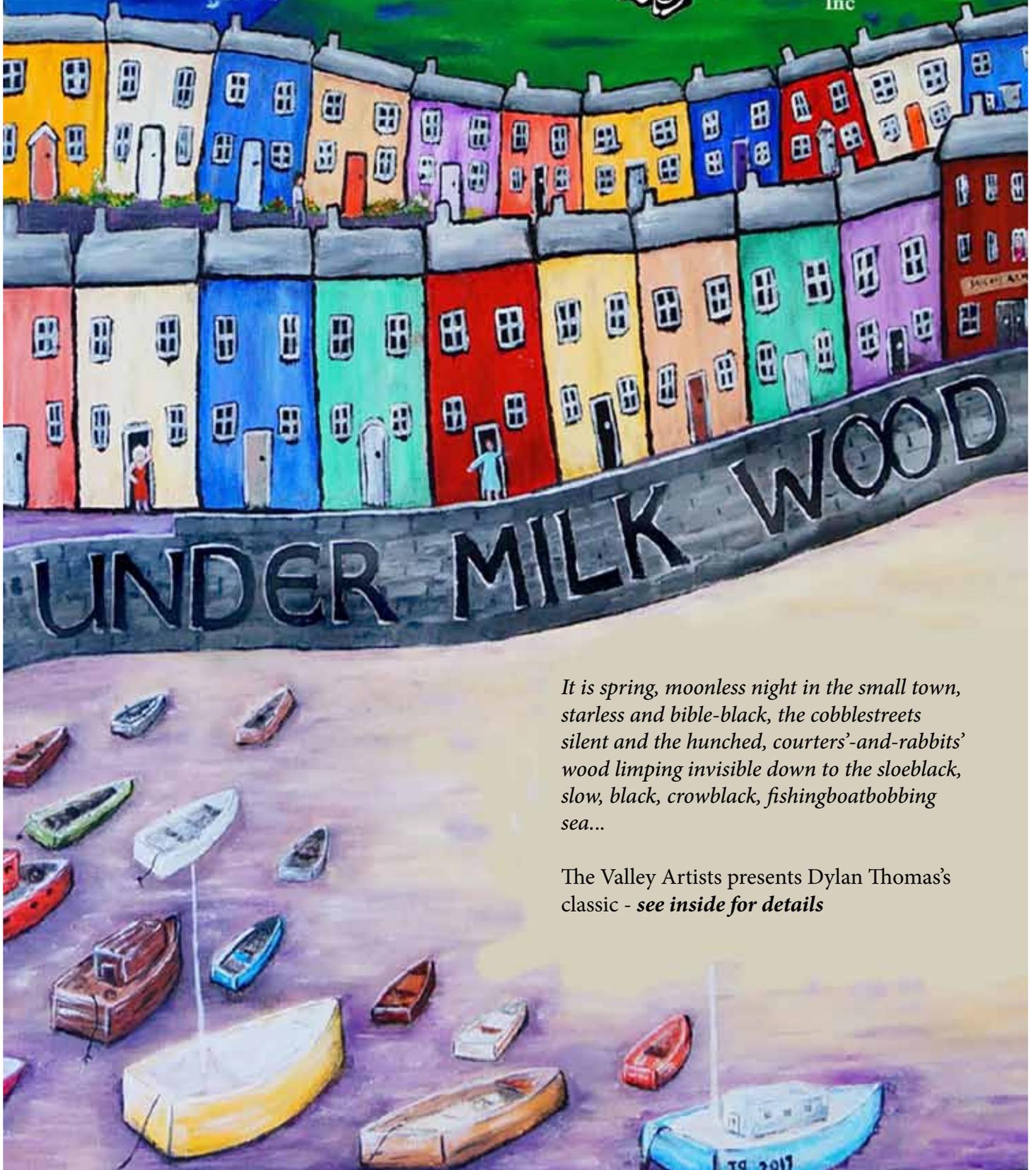
BROKE
FORDWICH
WINE REGION

The tranquil side of the Hunter Valley

Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale

MARCH 2019

Valley  Artists
Inc



*It is spring, moonless night in the small town,
starless and bible-black, the cobblestreets
silent and the hunched, courters'-and-rabbits'
wood limping invisible down to the sloeback,
slow, black, crowblack, fishingboatbobbing
sea...*

The Valley Artists presents Dylan Thomas's
classic - *see inside for details*

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

A HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE BOYS IN THE BUSH FIRE BRIGADE ..

The phrase “Deafening Silence” was always a favourite cliché of mine, so you’ll understand my delight in purloining it from past postscripts to describe the great peace and quiet which has followed the Rural Fire

Service’s (and nature’s) monumental victory over one of the worst examples of renegade fire our little sub-region has known. This is not to imply that I got to be weary of the staccato buzz of helicopters overhead or the heartening grunt of heavily-laden fire-trucks on the Putty Road--how they kept up the pressure on that enormous outbreak is to me a measure of their professional qualities, and we thank them. I write this in the hope that people of the Tranquil Side of the Valley will take on board what an army of volunteers, including the RFS, were up against from approximately mid-January to about the same time in February.

Bear in mind that in this period, well over a dozen SSG (summer-storm generated) wildfires engulfed sections of the Wollemi and the Yengo National Parks. As we know, the biggest blaze (my blushes--known as ‘TJ’) menaced Putty and at one stage devoured more than 5,000 hectares. Thanks to the Sydney Morning Herald’s Dan Proudman for official figures that showed the fire-fighting force grew to well over 200--most of them volunteers and

including dedicated souls from as far as the ACT, the Illawarra, the Southern Highlands and Sydney. Don’t overlook the contribution of the Army---they accommodated, and fed, 150 exhausted and hungry heroes of this saga each night at the Singleton Infantry base.

RFS Superintendent Paul Jones was Incident C.O. during this emergency and reflected on the inescapable fact of nature that masks these beautiful bastions of bush around us--they are devilishly fire-prone: one bad day of wind and heat, and a 500-hectare blaze becomes a 20,000-hectare inferno.

Eleven years ago, firefighters took two months to quell the Wollemi conflagration which razed 77,000 hectares of bush--bigger than the island of Singapore.

Hard work? You said it, as Superintendent Jones told Proudman: “A lot of the work is not even on foot--it is on hands and knees. And what a map shows as a one kilometre trek could be two or three times that, depending on the terrain.” What more to say--I’m speechless with admiration, or, you might say, as quiet as the Putty Road has been since the RFS and their firey friends, male and female, got some help from the weather to quell these monsters in our midst.

In less inflammatory mode, bear in mind, we’re nearer and nearer to that big pre-Easter highlight, the Little Bit of Italy.

(Tom Jackson)

MARCH 2019

Rainfall February 24 mm
Since January 535mm

Diary Dates

24th Feb - A DAY ON THE GREEN, With The Living End, Spiderbait

10th Mar - A DAY ON THE GREEN, James Blunt

10th Mar - HOT DUB WINE MACHINE

24th Mar - CROSSROADS COUNTRY IN THE VINES

7th and 8th April - ITALY IN BROKE

21st & 22nd Sept - WOLLOMBI MUSIC FESTIVAL

6th Oct - OPERA IN THE VINEYARDS

13th Oct - FKA MUSIC FESTIVAL

24th Nov - JAZZ IN THE VINEYARDS

8th Dec - SHANIA TWAIN ‘NOW TOUR’

First Sunday of the Month
Community Markets - Broke

A LITTLE BIT OF ITALY IN BROKE

Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 APRIL 2018



The Cockfighter

Advertising Rates

Business Card	90 mm x 50 mm	\$26
Quarter page	90 mm x 135 mm	\$65
Half page	185 mm x 135 mm	\$130
Full Page	185 mm x 270 mm	\$260

The Cockfighter Editorial:
Tom Jackson phone: 6574 5266
Eden Anthony 6579 1259
mail@hunterstay.com.au

UNDER MILK WOOD

*Welcome to the sloe black, slow,
black, crow black, fishing boat
bobbing sea*

Valley Artists is proud to present, as its first production of 2018, poet Dylan Thomas's undisputed masterpiece Under Milk Wood.

Written originally as a radio play (1954), Under Milk Wood has been adapted over the years for both television and film – two films, in fact, the first featuring Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. This Valley Artists production was conceived and adapted for the stage by Chris Davey and collaborator, Director Janine Oliver.

Under Milk Wood is an affectionate and hilarious portrait of a day in the life of the small Welsh fishing village of Llareggub. We arrive with the dawn, and walk through the day, exploring the dreams and desires, loves and regrets, of a host of unforgettable characters, such as blind Captain Cat, Mrs Organ Morgan, Lord Cut Glass, Nogood

UNDER MILK WOOD opens at 8pm at Laguna Hall, 3734 Great North Road, Laguna on Friday 30 March and continues Saturday 31, Sunday April 1, then Wednesday April 4 through to Saturday April 7. PG Rating

“Valley Artists is run by an enthusiastic bunch of local volunteers, six of whom are founding members and still passionately involved with all aspects of the company. We proudly assist in community events, supplying resources such as lighting, sound gear and a collection of very skilled technicians. We are a non-for-profit community organisation with all funds raised applied to the development and staging of future productions.

20 years of creativity, fun, hard work and a love of great theatre, not money is the business of this community theatre company.

Nowadays, if you hear of a VA production coming up you tend to pen it into your calendar because you know you are going to see a top-quality theatrical event for way below city prices; but with originality, freshness and professionalism equal to or better than a lot of the stuff you would pay a small mortgage to see in the city.

You know you are going to be entertained and have a unique cultural experience brought to you by actors, technicians, producers and directors who have been in the business at some time or another and some who still are. Of course, not all of them have been in the business before. Sometimes you get beginners who are interested in learning the craft or experiencing the thrill of live performance. But they're not being sent out to the front line alone. They're backed up with the support, the expertise and the encouragement of the pros. Some of them have gone on to complete NIDA courses in their particular field, sponsored by the VA organization.



A theatrical success story - To date, The Valley Artists have staged over 40 productions

And another thing. These professionals don't get paid. Why do they do it? It must be love. Love of show business. Love of performance. Love of theatre. Love of the camaraderie that comes with getting a production together. There is also the satisfaction unique to those who experience audience reaction. The exquisite excitement of live performance. There is nothing like it. Ask the Valley Artists. They'll say come and see for yourself. Once you've seen a VA production you won't want to miss another one. And you'll probably rush to become a sponsor.

They've got an incredibly impressive past production list and the next

Boyo and Bessie Bighead.

The lyrical language, humour and characterisation of Under Milk Wood reflect the joys and despairs of age and youth and celebrate how beautiful and strange life can be.

Time passes. Listen. Time passes. Come closer now. From where you are, you can hear their dreams.

Oh, this is a play not to be missed.

“Valley Artists is a good name for a group of artists who live and work in a valley. It would be a good name for a company that puts on plays and theatrical productions. And it is. But it's a lot more than both of those things. It's a community that has become an institution, with a reputation for putting on entertainment of the highest quality and standards. They're a good mob, these Valley Artists. They're organised and they're professional. And they've made a name for themselves.

one always promises to be another unique piece of theatre. So, if you want to see live theatre as you've never seen it before, book early. It will be entertainment as good as you will get, anywhere.”

Peter McDonough

Tickets \$30 Adults \$25 Concession
Tickets are available at www.valleyartists.org, Wollombi General Store & GNTP

WINE ON TAP - A BETTER DROP?

The next time you order a glass of wine in a pub or restaurant it might come from a keg instead of a glass bottle.

While bar taps were once exclusively used for beers, ciders and wines are starting to move into the same space.

Zilzie Wines in north-west Victoria has just introduced two tap wines to its range and international sales manager Caroline Simonis said there were several benefits.

“The first glass to the last glass out of that keg are exactly how the winemaker wants you to receive it and enjoy it,” she said.

Ms Simonis said the 30-litre kegs were easier to deliver to venues and businesses also did not have the hassle of trying to store glass bottles.

“There are nine litres to a case of wine, you’ve got 12 bottles that have got to be transported, they’ve got to be created or recycled, you’ve got a lot less energy and transport costs and fuel costs going into transporting kegs,” she said.
The kegs can also be recycled.

Ms Simonis said their rose and pinot grigio keg wine was being served at venues across the east coast from the middle of Queensland to Sydney, as well as a few places in north-west Victoria.

“We’ve had a couple of groups knocking

on our doors that have 40 or so pubs in their group saying ‘Hey we’re interested in keg wine’, so the response has been amazing so far,” she said.

In the past serving wine at glass-free events like music festivals and outdoor street events has been tricky, but kegs could be a solution.

Keg trial proves successful for one venue

The head chef at Mildura’s Black Stump restaurant Jim McDougall expected people



The restaurant only starting trialling keg wine in late December and it has already made the decision to make a second style of wine available on tap.

“Spoilage and oxidation and all those problems that you have with wine in bottles, that’s not an issue any more,” he said.

Mr McDougall said education would be important for restaurant and bar staff, so they could inform patrons.

“The only thing I can think to compare it to is great wine out of a cask, which is making headway now as well, as opposed to a bottle,” he said.

“There is a mindset that it could be inferior but it’s not, it’s probably a better way than serving wine out of a bottle.”

Keg wine unlikely to completely replace glass bottles

Serious wine enthusiasts should not fear that their beloved bottles of wine will disappear completely from restaurants and pubs, as Mr McDougall said there was a place for both.

“The keg wine system tends to be better suited to wines that are crisp and need to be drunk cold,” he said.

would embrace the concept of buying wine this way.

“Wine coming from a beer tap is interesting and strange to get your head around, but I think it’s an amazing thing,” he said.

Home wine drinkers are also likely to continue buying their wine by the bottle.

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Green Cestrum Project

Fiona Marshall from Hunter Local Land services will be visiting property owners who responded from the February Cockfighter tomorrow. There are a significant number of properties who have responded. Thank you to those who took time to let the Local Land services know.

The Wollombi Brook Project

A meeting was held on the 26th of February with property owners and project organizers to explain the project and the work that will be carried out as a result of funding from the NSW Environmental Trust and Hunter Local Land Services. Further visits to property owners has taken place since that date.

The Broke Bulga Landcare Group will also be applying for additional funding to include additional land holders which will be sought from Landcare NSW. Both of these applications are due the 19th of March.

It is great so see the positive response from property owners. Thanking the community for their interest.

Wendy Lawson
Broke Bulga Landcare Group

Valley Artists Inc

Directed by JANINE OLIVER

8pm LAGUNA HALL
30, 31 March, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 April, 2018.
Tix \$30 adult/\$25 concession
Bookings: www.valleyartists.org
GNTP & Wollombi General Store.

PG



A great night out
Bingo
1st Monday of the month
6:30 Bulga Community Hall
Bring a plate to share
Enquiries Phil Reid 0438 865 064

Bulga Community Centre
March Meeting *Cancelled*
Next meeting 4th April (AGM)



Broke Village Recreation Grounds *Community access information:*

A great spot to enjoy the great outdoors. The Grounds offer: free BBQ with sheltered picnic tables, tennis courts with lights for night use, netball court, basketball court, and children's play equipment.

The Grounds are located at the end of Cochrane Street.

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

If you wish to use the facility please make a booking with Wendy on 65781334.

The key for the Hut can be picked up at the Broke Village Store with a deposit of \$20.00 which will be returned when the key is returned.



WORK STARTS ON NEXT PHASE OF SINGLETON FACE LIFT

Work on the much-anticipated Riverside Park has begun this week in a continuation of Singleton Council's revitalisation of the Town Centre.

The northern end of John Street was a flurry of activity on Tuesday and Wednesday, with temporary fencing erected and demolition and excavation works underway.

Plans for the former Sutton Ford site include two play towers, climbing net, slide, water feature, open space, kiosk, public toilets, street furniture and lighting.

Anthony Egan, Council's Director Corporate and Community, said it was exciting to see the project get off the ground.

"There has been a lot of anticipation leading up to this week and we look forward



The logo for the park

to the people of Singleton enjoying this fantastic new open space," he said.

"The community has really embraced the revived town centre and this project will not only further support the transforma-

tion of John Street into a premier lifestyle precinct for Singleton, but also strengthen the city's historic relationship with the river."

PDA Building Pty Ltd has been contracted to deliver the project and will work closely with Council to ensure construction is completed successfully with minimal disruption to traders and building owners on John Street.

"While there is a lot of work to do over the coming months, Riverside Park will be an incredible open space that adds to the range of leisure options already available in central Singleton," Mr Egan said.

Riverside Park is scheduled to be completed in September 2018.

\$1.27 MILLION IN STATE FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS



The final stages in the Rose Point Park All Abilities Playground will be completed with news Singleton was successful in receiving a total of \$1,265,302 under the NSW Government's \$200 million Stronger Country Communities Fund.

Singleton was successful in three applications, including Rose Point Park which took lion's share with \$879,820 to complete stages 6-11 of the expansion of the all abilities playground, including new equipment and improvements to access in and around the existing playground.

A further \$260,000 was received for the Singleton State Emergency Service Facility Upgrade and \$125,482 for the Singleton

Showground Facilities Upgrade Project.

Michael Johnsen, MP, Member for Upper Hunter made the announcement this afternoon.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore, said she was looking forward to seeing the works get underway.

"Singleton has a fantastic relationship with the State Government and this is another example of how effectively we can work together to deliver the facilities our community needs," she said.

"All three of these projects will make a considerable difference to the people of Singleton, but the Rose Point project is par-

ticularly special to expand what's on offer to everyone in our community – regardless of ability – and reinforce Singleton as an embracing and inclusive community.

"However, they would be projects still be in the pipeline without the opportunity for grants.

"Today's announcement demonstrates Council's ongoing commitment to explore alternative funding options in order to maximise our ability to best provide for the people of Singleton.

"I can't wait to see all of these new facilities in use and thank Michael Johnsen MP for his work in securing the funding to be able to deliver this welcome news."

'NOT A PROTEST' DRAWS POLICE TO MONITOR FACT FINDING TOUR

FOUR police vehicles sat in an isolated carpark for more than 90 minutes last month carrying police waiting for a protest that never happened, while monitoring people meeting Hunter mining-affected communities over a weekend.

Now the NSW Government faces calls to explain the link between multinational mining companies buying up large swathes of the Upper Hunter, including villages complete with churches and businesses, and the potential criminalising of activities by people still living there or visiting.

Police "monitored the behaviour" of people on a Lock the Gate bus tour for hours on February 3 and 4 after deciding it was a "protest group", and despite Lock the Gate publicising the event as a chance for Sydney and Newcastle supporters to meet mining-affected communities over meals at Bulga, Camberwell, Muswellbrook, Wollar and Bylong.

Magistrate David Day reserved his decision after telling police he was "troubled" by the lack of proof for critical elements of charges that Bev Smiles, Bruce Hughes and Stephanie Luce hindered Wilpinjong mine equipment during the protest and rendered a road "useless". The three also

argued their right to protest was implied in the Constitution.

Police provided no evidence to back a description of people on the bus as "protesters" taking part in a "protest group".

But NSW Council for Civil Liberties vice president Pauline Wright, Greens Justice spokesman and barrister David Shoebridge, Environmental Justice Australia spokesman James Whelan and Lock the Gate said the police presence raised disturbing questions about how authorities viewed areas reduced to little more than heavy industrial mining districts, where the few remaining residents are seen as potential troublemakers for speaking out.

The Lock the Gate bus monitoring raises "pretty intense civil liberties issues", said Ms Wright, after confirming that promotional material on the group's website made no mention of protests and concentrated on Hunter areas where expanding mines threaten small communities.

"I believe unless there is a reasonable cause for suspicion that a crime is about to be committed, people should not be under active surveillance by police. It seems to me a guided tour shouldn't arouse that suspicion of criminal activity," she said.

"This is pretty dangerous territory when police have a routine policy to send multiple squad cars to 'monitor' community events," Mr Shoebridge said.

"Perhaps the police need the High Court to tell them once again that citizens in Australia are entitled, if they choose, to come together to try and make the world a better place."

Mr Whelan, who travelled on the bus, said the group included researchers learning about the impacts of mining.

"I was very surprised by the level of police surveillance and scrutiny during the weekend, which seemed entirely unnecessary given the stated purpose of our trip," he said.

"The communities we connected with during the weekend are heroes, not criminals. Their courage and determination are all that's protecting the Hunter's environment and community health from the impacts of coal mines and power stations."

Lock the Gate NSW spokesperson Georgina Woods said the February incident was not isolated and was not confined to police surveillance. Private security firms contracted to mining companies were also reported following vehicles in areas where the majority of land was owned by mines.

"This kind of activity creates a disturbing atmosphere of intimidation that stems directly from the NSW Government, which backs coal and gas mining no matter the environmental and social cost and leaves local communities feeling like strangers," Ms Woods said.

Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnsen did not respond to a request for comment.



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Mr Shoebridge said the Hunter incident was an extreme example of a more aggressive response by police since controversial NSW anti-protest laws were passed in 2016, carrying a seven-year jail term for anyone "intentionally or recklessly interfering with a mine".



BROKE VILLAGE MARKET

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

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY MARKET

GOT AN IDEA FOR AN EVENT? WANT FUNDING?.....

Destination NSW has announced a current round of the Incubator Event Fund.

This funding is part of Destination NSW's (DNSW) Regional Flagship Events Program and focuses on start-up festivals and events to be held in NSW between July and December 2018. The opportunity to apply for this funding program is very tight as application close on Sunday 18th March 2018.

Objective

The Incubator Event Fund offers seed funding to events in Regional NSW to support their first and second years of activity. The fund supports innovative events that demonstrate sound organisational planning, have a unique alignment with the character and culture of the local region and which can demonstrate a broad appeal likely to promote tourism and attract overnight visitation.



Grants

The Incubator Event Fund offers one-off annual grants of up to \$20,000 (excl. GST):

An event may apply for any amount up to and including \$20,000 but must be able to provide justification for the amount requested within the context of their budget and event plan.

Fund Criteria

DNSW have a goal to double overnight visitor expenditure. Events that receive funding align to this overarching objective.

To be considered for funding from the Incubator Event Fund, an event must demonstrate that they sufficiently meet the following fund criteria:

Key criteria:

Have a sound basis for the event concept that aligns with the character and culture of their local area.

Demonstrate a strong appeal to audiences beyond its local area. Note: This fund is not for local-only events, it is for significant attractors.

Have a clear event plan detailing the event structure, operational processes and risk management.

Have a well-structured and organised event management committee or company with appropriate skills to deliver and market the event.

For more information go to destinationnsw.com.au follow the links:

tourism

*business-development-resources
funding-and-grants*

Christian Prayers are available to everyone who is going through a difficult time. We are here to serve the community in our daily prayers. Send us your prayer requests to lilian@tevega.net or contact us on 0412 766 917 to help you in prayer.

Bjorn and Lilian are Christian leaders who dedicated their lives to serve the kingdom of God everywhere. Bjorn and Lilian are residents in Broke and they are happy to serve you and serve the community with grace and peace.

The Willows Restaurant & Broke Village Store

The focal point of the Broke community and surrounding area Groceries, Newsagent, Coffee Shop, Dine-In Restaurant, Delicatessen, Post Office, Bottle Shop, Petrol Station & Tourist Information. Also stocks an exclusive range of Broke Fordwich Wines.



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

SIGNAGE BOOST FOR THE HUNTER VALLEY WINE COUNTRY

Cessnock City Council has been allocated \$1.25 million under the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) for a \$2.5 million Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourism Signage Implementation Project.

This Signage Strategy has been developed as a joint project by Cessnock City Council and Singleton Council to provide guidance on the planning, design and installation of signage in the area known as Hunter Valley Wine Country (HVWC).

It is intended to facilitate the development of well designed and positioned signage that reflects the values of the region and communicates a strong brand identity. The

popularity of the region as a major tourist destination makes effective wayfinding signage a necessity. Existing signage in the HVWC area is dated, overly complex and in poor condition. A hierarchy of new tourism signs has been designed to guide visitors to and around the region and strengthen the branding of the area as a premier tourist destination. The \$481.6 million BBRF supports the Australian Government's commitment to create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities into the future.

This Federal grant was the result of a successful application to the BBRF and Council will leverage from previous funding to match the grant dollar for dollar.

This exciting project involves implementing new signage across the Cessnock local government area (LGA), including information bays, city gateway signs, precinct and directional signage. The new infrastructure will also include braille and QR coding technology which will assist visitors to explore key tourist areas.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent welcomed this much-needed funding boost and said it's the perfect opportunity to progress the new signage strategies Council has in place.

"Welcoming 1.5 million visitors per year, it's no secret Hunter Valley Wine Country is a major tourist destination and the concentration of drive-visitors

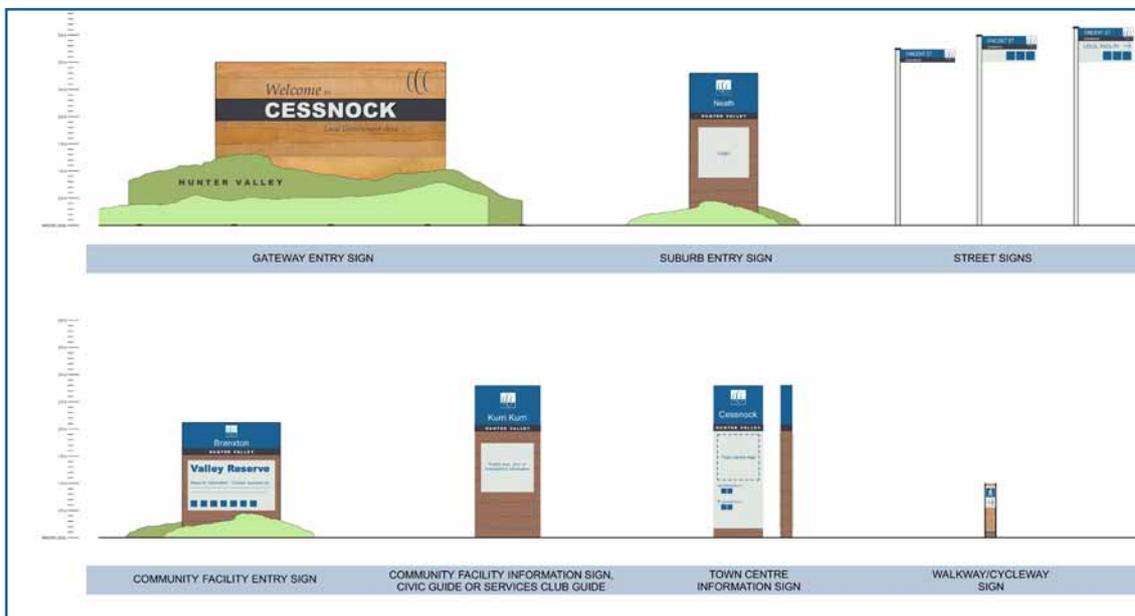
makes effective wayfinding and information signage a necessity."

"Tourism is our largest employing sector and generates high economic activity across the region and it is vital we continue to support the growth of this important industry"

"I am proud of Council staff who continue to apply for and win grants which not only benefit and support our region, but the whole of the Wine Country, which crosses LGA boundaries," added Cr Pynsent.

Once complete, the signage will guide visitors to, through and around the region and strengthen our position as a premier tourist destination in Australia.

For more information about the Cessnock LGA and Hunter Valley Wine Country Signage Strategies, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/planning-and-development/publications/signage.



ENERGY SECTOR A PUZZLE WITH MISSING PIECES, SAYS ENERGYAUSTRALIA CHIEF

By Cole Latimer

Australia's energy crisis is a puzzle that can be solved but it won't be simple and will require more than a few new power stations, EnergyAustralia head Cath Tanna says.

Ms Tanna recently joined Australia's energy sector leaders – Origin Energy head Frank Calabria, WA-based Quadrant Energy chief Brett Darley, and the federal environment and energy minister Josh Frydenberg – at the Citi A50 Australian Economic Forum to discuss how Australia can evolve the energy landscape and overcome the current supply issues.

Ms Tanna said the energy crisis can be solved but it needed to be viewed as a system in transition rather than the basic problems of supply.

"I'm quite optimistic looking forward, and the reason why is because we have all the

“Attracting investment in new generation is critical to restoring the vitality of the National Electricity Market; to achieve that, there is no substitute for stable energy policies.”

pieces of the puzzle, as a sector we know what all the things are that need to be put together, to resolve it for reliable and affordable energy in the future,” Ms Tanna told Fairfax Media.

"It's complex because you have to get all the pieces of the puzzle in the right place but it's absolutely doable."

EnergyAustralia's parent company CLP's Chairman Michael Kadoorie said the Australian generator is gaining momentum in making this shift.

Over the last few years, under Ms Tanna's reign, the company has focused on turning around its underperforming position, recording a 48.1 per cent increase in operating earnings to \$HK2,378 million (\$445.5 million) for 2017, compared to the previous year.

One of the ways EnergyAustralia are aiding this transition to a new energy era is through supporting the growth of renewable generation.

"We're looking at new assets, we have several things, we're looking at pumped hydro in South Australia, this is a piece of the future [energy] puzzle," Ms Tanna told Fairfax Media.

She stated that when you have a large level of variable energy or intermittency, periods when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining, then you need additional

technology to firm this up and make up for the dips in generation.

Ms Tanna said large-scale battery technology will also play a large role in this firming process, and in the integrating their renewable portfolio, comprising around 500 megawatts of new energy brought online in 2017, to reduce issues caused by intermittency.

"We need to learn how to integrate batteries at scale; this is another piece of the puzzle, learning how to integrate this into the new energy system - learning by doing," she said.

"You'll see us actively participate in that and you'll see some positive news on it soon."

EnergyAustralia is also focusing on artificial intelligence and using machine learning, through its partner Redback Technolo-

gies, to develop smarter ways of energy sustainability.

"It's not always about building new things; building things is part of the answer but a really interesting part of the future is intelligent energy systems," she told Fairfax Media.

"[Redback] has developed an intelligent energy management system for the home and its designed specifically for the Australian market, it will use machine learning to optimise how you use energy in the home," Ms Tanna said.

"We always say the cheapest power station is the one you don't build, so if you can find intelligent ways to optimise energy use in your home or to deliver demand response you don't have to invest in a whole lot more expensive kit to get the same outcome for customers."

This interaction with the customers is also leading EnergyAustralia down the path of peer to peer energy trading.

While this form of energy trading – where customers are able to offer their own power, from small-scale generators such as solar, back into the grid or to other consumers directly – to a degree sidesteps the largest retailers, EnergyAustralia views it as a new space to play.

"Peer to peer trading will be the next wave

for residential homes," Ms Tanna said.

"I think that retailers are going to be instrumental in enabling this type of activity."

Ms Tanna noted that while EnergyAustralia made a public commitment to exit coal before larger energy companies such as AGL, it was reticent to talk about possible future movements, preferring to act, then speak.

"We want to talk about what we do and what we've done, not what we're going to do. We don't want to be known for spin, we want to be known for what we've actually done," she said.

However, this commitment does not mean the company will exit fossil fuels entirely as it continues to invest in its existing coal assets such as Mount Piper, with Ms Tanna stating that EnergyAustralia is looking to expand its gas-fired power station asset base.

"We're looking at building new generation assets, including gas-fired power stations, we have the opportunity to build new gas-fired power stations in New South Wales and Victoria," she said.

"We own Tallawarra in Wollongong so we can build a look-alike Tallawarra there, we have a permanent site in Marulan in New South Wales as well; we can also build a gas-fired power station at our own property at Yallourn in Victoria, so we have options for that as well."

Ms Tanna said there was a lot of politicisation of the sector in 2017 which made the sector's role more difficult, stating, "we saw a lot of 'let's make energy companies the villains', but that's politics."

She called on the government to get the National Energy Guarantee in place.

"A lot of these things depend on the missing puzzle piece, which is clear policy."

This was supported by CPL chief executive Richard Lancaster, who said policy will be the foundation of the future NEM.

"Attracting investment in new generation is critical to restoring the vitality of the National Electricity Market; to achieve that, there is no substitute for stable energy policies."

HUNTER LOCAL LAND SERVICES - DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

Drought conditions are now affecting the majority of the region, with feed and water supplies in some areas critically low. Our staff are here to help landholders manage during drought conditions and make the tough decisions in a deteriorating season. We understand many are currently struggling and urge producers to reach out to support services wherever possible. We recognise it can be a challenge to find information on drought support. Our new Drought Support Links has programs and contact numbers for support available. We have our Drought Factsheet which focuses on practical support for managing your property and livestock.

Don't self-assess when it comes to drought support

Hunter Local Land Services is urging landholders across the region battling ongoing deteriorating conditions to seek expert advice when it comes to managing their herd and properties. Hunter Local Land Services staff can help with on ground advice from our agricultural extension staff, district vets and biosecurity team. Landholders are encouraged to connect with

services including the Rural Assistance Authority, Rural Financial Counsellors and the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program for more advice on managing through drought conditions. Landholders are encouraged to visit the DPI Droughthub (<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub>) for information on the services and support available during drought condi-



tions.

If you are concerned about your livestock or property please contact your nearest Local Land Services office today.

If you need to talk to someone about the current conditions in the Hunter we can help.

If you have animal health concerns please contact our vet team on 0427 322 311 or 0439 185 275.

If you are experiencing pest animal problems please contact our biosecurity team on 0429 722 944 or 0429 342 995.

If you want to talk to our agricultural extension team call:

Sustainable Agriculture Officer Sarah Giblin: 0409785172

Regional Livestock Officer Kirstin Bisley: 0438593875

Regional Pastures Officer Justine Baird: 0428107206

If you wish to inquire about roadside grazing permits please contact our Scone office on 6540 2400 or our Merriwa office on 6548 2175.

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

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.

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The Cockfighter Editorial:

Tom Jackson phone: 6574 5266

Eden Anthony 65791259

mail@hunterstay.com.au



COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Broke Bulga Landcare Group Inc.

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

Broke Fair Committee

Secretary, Maxine Alexander
alexandermaxine6@gmail.com

Broke Fordwich Wine & Tourism Assoc.

Secretary, Mike Wilson
secretary@brokefordwich.com.au

Broke Bush Fire Brigade

C/o Broke Post Office, Broke NSW 2330

Broke Community Hall

Kathleen Everett (02) 6579 1470

Broke Public School

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

Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association

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

Bulga Rural Fire Brigade

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

Bulga Community Centre Inc.

President/bookings Claudette Richards 6574 5495
Secretary Belinda Passlow 0427 305 519
Treasurer Phil Reid 0438 865 064

NSW Rural Fire Service Hunter Valley District

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

Justice of the Peace

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

Milbrodale Public School

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

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

Peta Norris, Putty Road, Bulga
NSW 2330 6574 5555

Palliative Care Volunteers

for Singleton & Cessnock
Kath Watkinson (02) 65722121

PID Admin

Saywells
12 Vincent St CESSNOCK
office@saywells.com

PID - Private Irrigation

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

St Andrews Anglican Church Broke

Parish Secretary at 6571 1414

St Marks Anglican Church

C/o Marie Mitchell
Inlet Road, Bulga NSW 2330

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Broke

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

Wildlife Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release

www.wildlifeaid.org.au 0429 850 089

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

Editor: Tom Jackson

Secretary: Sarah Purser

Production: Eden Anthony

Accounts: Ken McCraw

OUR WILDLIFE



Image: Judith Leslie, Bulga

SACRED KINGFISHER. (Todiramphus sanctus)

Widely encountered, this kingfisher is distinguished by its green head and back, black band through the eye and around the head, and buff spot in front of the eye. Usually solitary, they form pairs in the breeding season and live in family groups until autumn. In southern Australia they migrate north in the winter. They hunt from a low perch, sitting motionless, occasionally bobbing the head and plunging onto their prey. They breed from June to October and lay 3-6 eggs in a nest at the end of a burrow dug into termite mounds or stream banks or in a tree hollow. Both parents share incubation is of 16 - 17 days and rear the young who fledge in about 5 weeks. Two broods are raised in a season. Diet consists of small reptiles, fish, crustaceans, invertebrates. They live in open forests, woodlands, mangroves and tree lined watercourses.

Elizabeth

Joey's Retreat

Trades & Services Directory

Want to list your services?

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65791259 mail@hunterstay.com.au

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John Lamb
6574 5205
MOB 0427 695 468

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6579 1450

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beyondbrokemechanical.com.au

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Gale Matley
6579 1401

PIANO LESSONS

Jan Pennell
6579 1450

POOL & YARD MAINTAINANCE

Anthony Smolenaers
65791228 or 0400 367025

REAL ESTATE

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

