

The Cockfighter

FREE



BROKE
FORDWICH
WINE REGION

The tranquil side of the Hunter Valley

Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale

JUNE 2018



NEW CELLAR DOOR BUILT FROM SHIPPING CONTAINERS ADDS STYLE TO WINE REGION

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)

The Cockfighter

Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale

From the editor: SUBMISSIONS THAT MISS—WHY?

Here beginneth the lesson, as I recall from distant Sunday School gatherings: the lesson being the hard reality of life in newsletter production—when advertising income doesn't match the cost of that production. So we hope you'll bear with our all-digital onslaught on your computers, while missing that vanishing spectre of readin' and writin', the hard copy.

In this issue, we've taken the opportunity to reprint the Singleton Council news release about yet another rejection of their bid for the regional grants that seem to favour other Valley localities more than somewhat, as that great chronicler of Broadway, Damon Runyon would say. We can't comment on the rights or wrongs of this issue, except to agree with the proposition that in some respects (short and long term health hazards because of mining expansion, environmental issues, etc.), our part of NSW would seem to warrant a little more consideration for funds to research and remediate these threats than other State outposts. Sure, there is the view that the grants go according to the quality of the written approach—and according to more than one objective and highly qualified local government watcher I hear from in the Broke-Bulga-Fordwich-Milbrodale sub-region, Singleton Council should pull up its submission socks. Over to you, Sue Moore and Coy.

Getting back to those mining issues, our readers will have their anxieties renewed by the Peter Hannan expose of the threat to water reserves in the Hunter. Only a fool would deny the menace of climate change in our sun-drenched continent (whatever the cause of that change), and as a self-confessed tree-hugger -move over, Prince Chilla- I have to mention Katinka Ruthrof

and her crusade for the leafy giants that are so imperilled by monstrosities like the Adani project or, nearer home, more Warkworth sprawl.

Katinka is research ecologist at Murdoch University and, let's be clear, is no anti-mining or crane-climbing zealot—she merely fights to keep what we take for granted in the form of our fantastic flora. Thus she told Fairfax Media's David Wilson:

"We rely on forests for the air that we breathe, for water and timber, carbon storage not to mention their cultural and recreational value. As such, mass die-offs, like the one we saw in Western Australia seven years ago are shocking and worrying." That die-off saw more than 16,000 hectares of the Northern Jarrah Forest near Perth collapsing in fierce summer conditions. Katinka is optimistic: she seeks an answer—possibly from nature, a solution to a particular problem. As a botanist credited with more than 120 citations for her work including drought and canopy collapse, she heads research which, we pray, filters through to bean counters in Canberra as well as mine expanders in the Hunter.

I'll leave the last words to old schoolyard friend Gordon Bottomley who dedicated his verse to Iron-Founders and Others:

*When you destroy a blade of grass
You poison England at her roots:
Remember no man's foot can pass
Where evermore no green life shoots.*

*You force the birds to wing too high
Where your unnatural vapours creep:
Surely the living rocks shall die
When birds no rightful distance keep.*

*Your worship is your furnaces,
Which, like old idols, lost obscenes,
Have molten bowels; your vision is
Machines for making more machines.*

(Tom Jackson)

The Cockfighter goes digital - advertising costs reduced

Most of our readers (over 1500) receive their copy of the Cockfighter online. For many years the cost of printing has seen our ability to produce a hard copy become more difficult so this is the first issue that has no printed version.

This has meant a great reduction in running costs which we can pass on to advertisers :

Business Card	90 mm x 50 mm	\$2
Quarter page	90 mm x 135 mm	\$5
Half page	185 mm x 135 mm	\$10
Full Page	185 mm x 270 mm	\$15

For more information contact Eden Anthony jeraharvest@icloud.com

JUNE 2018

May Rainfall 8 mm
Since January 160 mm

Diary Dates

First Sunday of the Month
Broke Market

9th September - BROKE VILLAGE FAIR

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'



*The Cockfighter Editorial:
Tom Jackson phone: 6574 5266
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0407069682*

Running Horse Wines cellar door provides a new look to wine region

Bringing a startling new look to Broke Fordwich cellar door operations is Running Horse Wines.

Building with shipping containers has been adopted worldwide as a way to bring flexible design solutions to homes, apartment buildings and office space but winemaker and horse-trainer, Dave Fromberg has produced one of the most aesthetically pleasing cellar doors in the region.

Dave is well known in the local community for his two fold passion of horses and wine.

His top homebred horses, Rhyno Chaser, Dee Generation, Mean Beans, Grab The Jewels, Cher Cher Shark and now the unraced 2 year old Crime Wave keep him busy enough whilst displaying a satisfying string of city and provincial success.

On the property, for 18 years now Dave has brought the same patience and commit-



Shipping containers cantilevered above other containers



Three years of hard work has created a great venue for wine-lovers



Beautifully framed views of Yellow rock through 2 large windows enhance the stylishly designed interior.

ment needed to nurture horses to compete at group 1 level to producing grapes from "rough and tough ground" with the sole purpose of having wines, that will stand up for years. Running Horse Wines are predominately from grapes grown on the same property that some of the horses share.

Driving along Milbrodale Rd from Broke village a functioning set of starting gates appear with, the Running Horse logo galloping on top of the gates - here is where

the wine tasting adventure begins.

Making up the cellar door complex is two 12 metre long shipping containers which are cantilevered above another two 12 metre long containers, and are placed almost randomly into the landscape which both contrast and blend in with the surrounds. With aspects aplenty showcasing how special this valley is.

Yellow Rock is the iconic mountain that forms the gateway to this part of the Broke Fordwich wine region and Dave is careful to ensure that the view around the buildings and from within, feature the mountain.

Gigantic boulders of conglomerate sandstone bulk up the walk-way to the main
Continued Next Page



From Previous Page

Running Horse Wines

entrance, gradually lifting the visitor above the level of the vineyard and training paddocks. A series of stainless steel cables are subtly anchored into the impressive sandstone rocks leading to a viewing bridge and then onto the front door.

Once inside the beautifully framed views of Yellow Rock through 2 large windows enhance the stylishly designed interior.

A wall of bottles displaying the Running Horse Wine spiral label works as a design piece in its own right.

The main serving counter incorporates a series of light panels, enabling the taster to more closely inspect the wine for colour and intensity. "With such rugged ground giving really low yields the colour of these wines look so much younger than they are, this land forces me to predominantly focus



Modern and comfortable, Running Horse cellar door is an exciting addition to the Broke Fordwich Wine Region



The main serving counter incorporates a series of light panels, enabling the taster to more closely inspect the wine ... In pic, owner/winemaker, Dave Fromberg

on wines that can stay (run distance) not sprint" David says. The counter is further highlighted by a panel of woven copper which contrasts well with the outside patina of the weathering steel.

Almost every wall inside, and the decks outside have shelves for customers to place their glass, and admire both the landscape and wine.

The containers are fully air-conditioned and the exterior walls are clad with 140 mm of insulation.

Running Horse Wines have had a quiet place in the Broke Fordwich line-up with unstinting praise going to the 2005 and 2006 Shiraz which are for tasting now.

A classic, spicy Hunter bouquet complements the smooth palate of cherries and subtle mint, with silky tannins and hints of chocolate and vanilla from 18 months maturation in new French Oak. After some 12 years, Running Horse Wines has a 'drink now' Shiraz.

Matching the reds are an array of aged Semillon, Verdelho, Chardonnay and Rose providing the customer with a good selection of carefully made wines.

Dave has developed a strong skill in producing aged wines having good attributes across a long life.



A functioning set of starting gates used to train the Fromberg horses

For more information contact Dave:
0474 156 786
david@runninghorsewines.com.au
1133 Milbrodale Rd, Broke Fordwich,
NSW. Australia



IT'S AN ILL WINDDRY SPELL GOOD FOR GRAPE GROWERS

As vintage 2018 wraps up around the country we thought we'd review what happened and how things are shaping up for winemaking this year.

By all accounts, growing conditions across most of the country have been favourable

in terms of ripening, and disease pressure has been low. In other words, it's been dry!

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, the January to April period was the seventh-driest on record for southeastern Australia and total rainfall for Southern Australia was the third lowest on record for April with exceptionally warm weather exacerbating these effects.

The Wine Grape Council of South Australia said that the warm, dry weather had helped produce exceptional grapes with intense colours and flavours, across all regions.

Careful management has been the key for growers in all regions of SA. Frosts on the Limestone Coast in early November caused some yield losses however fortunately due to timing, fruit quality and evenness was not impacted. Low rainfall across the state has required careful attention from all growers about irrigation scheduling.

The state as a whole seems to have

produced great quality grapes with limited disease and great ripening. It's definitely a year to invest in some South Australian wine.

2018 was one of the most compressed vintage on record in Tasmania. Yields were generally at or above average. Early indications are that the quality of all whites are genuinely outstanding with Riesling and Chardonnay being particular highlights.

The Hunter Valley kicked off the 2018 Vintage in Australia with picking starting in the first weeks of January, earlier than previous years. Like most regions in Australia, NSW had a dry growing period which has resulted in high-quality grapes. The stand out performers for the region are Chardonnay, Verdelho, Semillion and Shiraz.

Across all of Western Australia 2018 was an exceptional vintage. Sufficient rainfall during spring and early summer was followed by an extended period of sunny, yet seasonally cooler weather through February, March and April. As a result, optimum ripening conditions occurred in unison with very low disease pressures.

In Victoria, quality was excellent and tonnages about average. Rain in December caused some yield losses in parts of the state due to downy mildew. This raised some concerns about fungicide resistance and the need to advocate for alternative control measures. While vintage looked like being early, fruit ripening slowed towards the end with harvest extending out until mid to late April.

Australian Vignerons Report June 2018

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Broke Fordwich Private Irrigation District - rates could almost be halved

Report from The Board of Management,
Broke Fordwich Private Irrigation District (PID)

Member demand for water has been at an all-time high during the period from August 2017 to the end of March 2018. Through a sustained focus on system reliability and effective water distribution, the PID has delivered a record volume of water to members in excess of 1300 Mega litres during this 8 month period. It is pleasing that the entire system has performed extremely well reflecting the ongoing improvements in equipment maintenance and operating efficiencies.

The PID has been running at a system availability above 98% of calendar time during the current financial year providing consistent supply of water. During January and February it was necessary to rotate supply through the various sectors of the system to meet demand.

The PID Board is confident that sustained, reliable operation of the PID will continue into the future. The PID is now in a financially strong position with sufficient reserves of cash and equipment to deal with

any unexpected major problems or unforeseen events that may occur.

We are continuing to focus on improvement of both system efficiency and operating cost. Electricity costs are an ongoing issue as we have seen these rise 60% with introduction of the current electricity sup-

We expect that annual rates will then settle between \$270 and \$300 per share. A significant reduction from the current rate of \$425 per share

ply contract in July 2017. We have recently negotiated a new electricity supply contract that commences in July 2018 and will deliver a 19% reduction from the current high pricing.

The construction of the PID was 100% debt funded via a loan from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Year 2000. Within a 3 year horizon we will see the last of the loan repayments occur in December 2020.

The completion of loan repayments will result in a \$600,000 per year reduction in

costs for the PID. We expect that annual rates will then settle between \$270 and \$300 per share. This is a significant reduction from the current rate of \$425 per share with a \$50 rebate available if paid by the due date.

In the interest of bringing forward some of these future rate reductions we intend to continue to reduce the PID rates across the next three (3) years. You can expect to see a reduction in the 2018/19 rate that will be finalised with completion of our next budget in late May.

Broke Fordwich PID
Saywells Chartered Accountants.
PO Box 263/12 Vincent St. Cessnock
02 4990 9766
email pid@saywells.com.au

Chairman: Geoff Sharrock 0427 671 878
Deputy Chairman: Terry Lambkin 0408 888 538
Treasurer: Bob Kennedy 0418 262 918
Operations: 1300 767 118



Cricket game raises funds for cancer victims and provides a fun day for locals

Lua Roser and her Raindrops Youth Group arranged a Cricket Day at the Bulga Recreation Ground on 22nd April, 2018 to raise funds for the Bulga Crafters Group who are sewing items for cancer patients.

The Black Team came out victorious over the Red Team. Commentators were Mark Roser and Jason Kolatchew with some assistance from some of the younger local aspiring “radioheads”.

Rex Davis and Ray Powell provided their umpiring skills along with the help of the “slow motion replay”. A lunchtime sausage sizzle and drink for a gold coin donation was provided by the Roser family.

In what became a great fun day \$95.00 was raised for the group.

If you would like to join Rainbows Youth Group contact Lua on 0400456603 or

*email:
lua.roser@gmail.com*



Slow motion replay was achieved by taping the ball to a stick - the video ref was called many times ...



**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 Craft Group create for Singleton Cancer Council

Hospital equipment, designed to facilitate the recovery and healing process is by nature and design very sterile and misses some of the more comfort-oriented needs of the patient. The Bulga Craft Group have been working to provide add-on items to help make cancer patients time in hospital more comfortable.

The group members have been hard at work sewing items for the Singleton Cancer Council.

The items are based on specific designs for patients recovering from cancer. The bags are for tubes/ drains or pump returns; the pillows are designed to sit under the arm of patients who have had lymph nodes removed.

They also enjoy the social aspect of getting together each week while having morning tea and doing something positive for their community.

So far the group has created
60 bags,
13 turbans,
11 scarfs,
12 beanies,
16 pillows

Recently Bulga Coal donated \$500 to the group towards materials (fabric etc).

The project followed on after the success of the Days for Girls project run at the end of last year. Days for Girls is an international program run by volunteers to provide feminine hygiene kits for girls in the third world. Started by Celeste Mergens in 2008 Days for Girls has reached over 640,000 women and girls in 100+ countries providing Kits, each of which will last a girl or woman 2 - 3 years. This translates into over 115 million days of education and opportunity that would otherwise be lost without sustainable hygiene solutions.



Sue Turnbull, Mara Herba, Marie Mitchell and Helen Upward



So far the group has created over 100 items for use by cancer patients

The Bulga group completed 50 packs to be delivered to girls in underprivileged countries.

For more information please give Helen a call on 6574 5119

Teegan Hayward

For more on Days for Girls see The Cock-fighter November 2017 issue at <http://www.brokefordwich.com.au/the-cockfighter/>

The Willows Restaurant & Broke Village Store

The focal point of the Broke community and surrounding area
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Singleton Council announces paid domestic and family violence package for staff

Singleton Council is leading the way for local government in the Hunter Region, with the introduction of a package of initiatives designed to protect and support its employees impacted by domestic and family violence.

In addition to up to 10 days of paid leave for employees directly affected for legal assistance, court appearances, relocation and counselling, the staff support package also includes:

- The development of a support plan which will assist the affected employee to work with their people leader to manage their workload and hours of work;
- Flexible working arrangements; and
- Training of leaders and Organisation Development (HR) staff to help them better respond to domestic and family violence issues in the workplace.

General Manager Jason Linnane said safety was “the number one priority and the foundation of all work performed by Council”, and keeping employees safe extends beyond work to home.

“As a major employer in Singleton, we recognise our community responsibility to help address this issue”, he said.

“With one in three women affected by physical violence, and one in four experiencing physical or sexual violence from the age of 15 — it’s terrifying that these are the sorts of statistics alive in modern Australia.

“At Singleton Council, over 50 per cent of our staff are female, 50 per cent of our leadership team are female, 50 per cent of our elected Council are female, and we have a female mayor. As an organisation, we fly the flag for equality and this is another really great example of how we can continue to support the women in our lives by tackling one of Australia’s hidden issues.

“We are really proud to be leading from the front by offering this package to our employees — but hope that no one has to use it”.

To deliver the new program, Singleton Council has partnered with Singleton Family Support to roll out training to the entire organisation.

Manager of Singleton Family Support, Lindsay Rutherford said it is really exciting to see local government make the issue a priority.

“It’s really quite ground-breaking in the sense that it’s often private business that provide their employees experiencing violence paid leave, so for us it’s a huge step towards where we want to go in supporting affected people in our community and eliminating it,” she said.

“There is so much shame associated with domestic violence, which prevents people from seeking support — so to have a full organisation trained with the skills to manage the situation, it enables an environment for victims to feel safe.”

Singleton Council began rolling out training yesterday to all staff to equip them with the skills to recognise and respond to issues of family and domestic violence in the workplace.

“Together we are taking a stand in saying domestic violence is never okay, and we are going to support our people affected by it. Ultimately, what we want is for people to understand what domestic violence is, how to identify it and how to help stop it,” Mr Linnane said.

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence and need help or support
call 1800 737 732
24 hour national service

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Environment and Community Contacts

Ralph Northey - Bulga Coal
Environment and Community Manager
T: 6570 2539 M: 0418 439 874
ralph.northy@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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Singleton Mayor stands firm on call for a “fair go” from the NSW Government after missing out in latest Resources for Regions announcement

The people of Singleton may have lost out in the State Government’s latest Resources for Regions funding announcement, but Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore has vowed to keep up the fight for a fair go for our community.

Cr Sue Moore said she was “bitterly disappointed” Singleton Council would receive nothing towards its application for \$8.25million to continue the Singleton Town Centre revitalisation project from the State Government program, despite Singleton’s significant contribution to NSW’s income.

Singleton’s 17 mines make up almost a third of the State’s coal exports and almost a third of the State’s mining royalty contributions.

Cr Moore said considering mines in Singleton contributed \$415million in royalties to the State Government’s coffers annually, Council’s funding application represented only a two per cent return on one year’s contribution.

“Resources for Regions is an important funding source for Council to improve local infrastructure and deliver outcomes in our Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

that our community told us they wanted, so to say I am disappointed is an understatement,” she said.

“We all know mining is fundamental to the success of the NSW economy, and people across the State benefit because of the proceeds that come from natural resources mined right here in our LGA.

“But it’s the people of Singleton who live with the day-to-day impacts of coal mining.

“It’s our people who experience the pressure on our infrastructure, particularly traffic congestion on our roads, and the real impacts on community services such as limited passenger train services.

“The last two rounds of this program have failed them.”

Cr Moore said with applications opening in two weeks for a share of \$50million under the next round of Resources for Regions, Deputy Premier John Barilaro was on notice he had not heard the last from Singleton.

As an Executive of the Association of Mining Related Councils and as part of the Hunter Council’s delegation, Cr Moore met with Mr Barilaro in May to discuss the fu-

ture of the Resources for Regions program.

“The NSW Government may have let down the people of Singleton, but I will never stop fighting for a fair go for our community - and I made that very clear when I met with the Deputy Premier,” she said.

“The changes to the criteria for funding applications, including co-contribution requirements, is a major area of concern, although we were pleased to learn this morning that we have made some progress there, with it reduced to 25 per cent next round.

“I am confident our high quality application to support our funding request met the program’s criteria this round, including our co-contribution which encompassed the Riverside Park project and the planned redevelopment of 189 John Street.

“Singleton has done more than its fair share of heavy lifting for the State’s economy, and to receive absolutely nothing is not good enough. With a State Government election fast approaching, we are looking for investment in Singleton to be stepped up, not cut off.”



Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore with Michael Johnsen MP, Member for Upper Hunter during happier times last year when Singleton received \$45,733 for the Singleton Council YMCA Heights Sports Centre Amenities from the Social Housing Community Improvement Fund



Singleton Evangelical Church is a genuine community of people from all cultures, ages and walks of life. Not just for Singleton residents, but for all those who want to hear God's word and share the amazing impacts of His love. You are most welcome to come along to Sunday Church 9:30am at Singleton Public School, Elizabeth St, or even try one of our smaller groups or Youth Groups.

For more information 6573-4198 or www.singletonchurch.org



Broke Village Recreation Grounds

Community access information:



A great spot to enjoy the great outdoors. It offers: free **BBQ** with sheltered **picnic tables**, **tennis courts** with lights for night use, **netball court**, **basketball court**, and **children's play equipment**. The courts are located at the end of Cochrane Street.

The Hut at the Recreation Ground 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.



The logo for the Broke Village Market features the words "BROKE VILLAGE MARKET" in a stylized font. "BROKE VILLAGE" is in red, and "MARKET" is in large, bold, black letters. Above the text are green and red triangular flags. To the right is a green circular graphic with a leafy design. Below the text, it says "1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH" and "8:00 AM TO 1:00 PM". At the bottom, it says "A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY MARKET". A small photograph at the bottom shows several white tents set up in a grassy field under a clear blue sky.

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 Licensed Motor Vehicle Repairer
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 6579 1401

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Jan Pennell
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ZEBRA FINCH (*Taeniopygia guttata*)

Males have rusty cheeks, black chest bar, fine black bars on the throat and russet flank spotted white. Females have grey cheeks and buff underparts. Both sexes have red bills

They mate permanently and live in close knit flocks of 10 - 100 year round, roosting in communal nests, feeding together in mornings, pecking seeds and insects from the ground and vegetation. These Finches stay in the same area, close to water and gather in late afternoon to drink, bathe, and preen each other. Up to 12 breeding pairs will nest in the same shrub in poor habitats. They breed most months of the year and lay 4 - 5 pale blue eggs in an untidy flask - shaped nest with a side tunnel, lined with feathers, plant down and fur in a low tree or shrub, termites nest or on the ground. Both parents share incubation of 12 - 14 days and both parents feed the young who fledge in about 3 weeks. The young can breed at 10 weeks. They have a nasally harsh loud toy trumpet sound and trilling

Their diet consists of seeds and insects and live in dry woodland, grasslands and farmlands.

Elizabeth Joeys Retreat

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 65745 495
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@fs.nsw.gov.au
Manager: Superintendent Ashley Frank.

Justice of the Peace
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