

The Cockfighter



**BROKE
FORDWICH**
WINE REGION

The tranquil side of the Hunter Valley

**OLIVE OIL -
PROVENANCE TO
BOOST MARKETING**

•

**WINE PEAK BODIES
TO MERGE**

•

**CLIMATE CHANGE
OUR ROLE**

•

**ENVIRONMENTAL
DEFENDERS OFFICE**

October 2018.



ACCOMMODATION BROKE FORDWICH

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)

Rainfall
September 20 mm
Since January 214 mm

From the Editor

REGIONAL RIP-OFF HIGHLIGHTED BY THE NOT-SO-GREEDY

Because of good planning for mums and dads, the recent Long Weekend missed out on the blissful rain which was so welcome a week later just a smidgeon short of two inches on the old scale for downtown Bulga). What was not so welcome was the near-historic not to say hysteric high for petrol price charged by our fresh fuel friends at Woolies and Coles. In relating this story, I could be accused of boosting the image of one of our valued advertisers at THE COCKFIGHTER, the Broke General Store. To this I unashamedly plead guilty for the following reason.

The Broke Store is and has been run for some time by a family of Indian origins—hard-working and personable, with unfailing customer identification and support. By any standards, this is a small business with an image far outweighing its size and success. How then can such a minnow maintain and ostensibly profit from their own pricing- for- petrol regime vis-à-vis a monolith like Woolies?

Just before, during and af-

ter the Long Weekend, the Broke Store charged \$1.60 a litre for premium petrol---10 to 11 cents a litre less than Woolworth's \$1.71-plus.

The answer to my earlier query about profit is simple—the Broke store is happy with its charging policy: it makes money on this deal. What then does it say for the outlandish slug foisted on long-suffering Singleton-and-environs motorists by a company which could, if it wanted to, embellish its rewards scheme so that it could carve a possible 20, 30 or even 40 cents from these imposts?

A friend, suitably enraged by the long-standing Woolies' policy managed to contact a staffer at the firm and was told that the pricing was arranged to cater for competition with rival companies. Competition with whom, you may ask. Sounds very like a very cosy mutual back-scratching routine to me. Surely, we deserve better—as the Broke General Store amply demonstrates. Here's to our mates on the corner of the equidistant roads to Cessnock and Wol-

lombi—people who show that greed is NOT good.

Read within for more news on the subject of climate change and other issues that State and Federal Governments seem to have edged into the Too-Hard basket. COCKFIGHTER thanks Judith Leslie for her contribution—I am particularly concerned about Australia's position on the world stage regarding its comparative lack of enthusiasm to harness the unbelievable advantages of renewables. We lag behind—spectacularly so when you consider our climate and its enormous suitability for everything from solar to wind and hydro.

Less serious matters dominated this weekend as the Bulga Community Hall celebrated its 125th anniversary with an outstandingly successful lunch—congratulations to new Life Members Phil and Carole Reid for their unselfish devotion to our little patch of Australian history and its residents. Here's to 2093 and an equally bonzer party.

(Tom Jackson)



ACCOMMODATION IN BROKE FORDWICH

There are many quality holiday accommodation places in the Hunter Valley Broke Fordwich region. Featured this month is *Corymbia*.

Corymbia was hand-built by one of the founding brothers of Axolotl, Kim Torma, over a five year period using adobe (mud-brick) which

was sourced from the property. The house is situated at the foot of the Brokenback Ranges with glorious views
Continued next page



across paddocks, vineyards and olive groves. Nestled into rocks at the high end of the 100-acre property, the house is private and serene.

The mud-brick construction and meticulous carpentry are perfectly complemented by eclectic artwork, creating an ambience which attracts

many return visitors.

Fully self-contained and air-conditioned, the house is a perfect base to explore the

Continued next page



nearby wineries and cellar doors as well as other Hunter Valley attractions ...or just sit back and enjoy the solitude of the surrounding native

flora and fauna.

Wine tours and concert shuttles pick up from the front gate.

For more information visit hunterstay.com.au or phone 02 8840 2852



Corymbia was built by Kim Torma, co owner and founder of Axolotl. The company was launched to facilitate and create architectural and art projects through innovative surfaces,

The company has locations world-wide. Brands such as Tiffany's, Louis Vuitton and Four Seasons Hotels are regular clients.

Axolotl has gathered over 40 industry awards.

axolotl.com.au



ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Air pollution levels in the Hunter are regularly exceeding safe levels and the cumulative impact upon Camberwell of several open-cut mining complexes and two coal-fired power stations is particularly severe. It is time the NSW government took its' fiduciary "Duty of Care" to citizen's health seriously and put that ahead of the relatively small financial gains (less than 2% of State revenue is derived from royalties from all sources). The financial burden of extra health care directly attributable to PM 2.5 and 10 particulates largely caused by mining and coal-power is estimated at \$600 million annually. This dollar cost does not include the emotional cost of people seeing their much-loved homes becoming inhospitable and unsaleable (stranded assets) at the same time as their health deteriorates.

These costs are "externalised" and not included in any EIS but the dollar costs for healthcare come from the same coffers that receive royalties and the emotional costs are simply counted as "collateral damage"

The major prize of course is the profit made on an

Australian resource. Those profits generally accrue to the multi-national company offshore.

Hunter communities have been decimated by coal-mining and the remaining residents have not even been granted acquisition rights which would, at least, give them an opportunity to move to a healthier environment.

Australia continues to accept the "inevitability" of final voids and to falsely point to other areas in the world where void regeneration has worked.

Such a simplistic view ignores the huge differences between Australian climate and that of those countries which have temperate climates and significant rainfall. Australia has a hot (and getting hotter) climate with little rainfall (and getting less) Such an environment results in "toxic sinks" unsuitable for any use and a permanent blight on the landscape.

This simplistic comparison also ignores that the area and depth of these voids in Australia vastly exceeds those being compared elsewhere.

It is a fact, as highlighted in statements given by previous

mine proponents that were the cost of even simple back-filling included in EIS the project (s) would be financially unsustainable.

Thus, the major monies derived from mining leave Australia but Australia and future generations of Australians are left with a toxic legacy and desecrated land that can never be reclaimed.

Climate change is a fact and the majority of Australians have concerns related to climate change and want to see governments at every level take measure to address it.

- Australia has been ranked as the worst-performing country in the world on climate action, according to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index.
- In addition to having one of the world's highest per capita domestic carbon emissions, the main reason Australia has fallen to last place is that the SDG Index now factors in Australia's colossal fossil fuel export footprint.
- As the world's largest coal exporter and 4th largest liquid 'natural' gas exporter, Australia's annual exported CO2 emissions are 44 tonnes

Continued next page

per person, greater than even Saudi Arabia's 35.5 tonnes per person, and much larger than the US' 710kg per person.

- Despite this, Australia plans to add billions of tons of new fossil fuel production to the mix.

- The rest of the world is committing to and acting upon climate change with the notable exception of Trump's America.

- Countries such as China and India have committed and are already taking specific action (s)

- As this trend progresses much of Australia's fossil fuel projects will end up becoming stranded assets, thus leaving Australian communities and workers worse off.

- Australia expanding its coal exports is not economically efficient. As research in the journal Nature shows, for the world to efficiently meet even a weak 2°C target, Australia would have to leave 90% of coal reserves in the ground. This is because winding down coal-burning is one the most cost-effective forms of climate action

- Following the economics of supply and demand, increasing coal supply

simply reduces the global price of coal.

- China and Germany have created a virtuous cycle by deploying solar and wind and bringing down the costs of the technology for everyone, Australia is putting pressure in the opposite direction.

- Australia expanding its coal is inequitable.

As a rich developed nation that has benefitted disproportionately from fossil fuel burning and extraction, and who can most afford the transition away from them, Australia has a moral responsibility to lead other, less prosperous countries by leaving fossil fuels in the ground.

Emerging improved technologies and knowledge of harm has led to the modification or transition from many industries and history shows this can be achieved without harmful side effects

Phased Transition from Coal mining and coal-fired power in The Hunter is feasible

- There is no doubt that there are jobs in mining and coal-power but elsewhere in the world jobs in renewable technologies have been

shown to exceed the numbers previously employed in coal-based industry•

The Hunter is in an enviable position to be a "Renewable Industry Hub" creating jobs and ultimately exports for Australian Companies where the profits and taxes stay in Australia.

- Newcastle University among a number of notable innovations including solar paint, has pioneered revolutionary printed photovoltaics with the potential to slash the cost of solar power and create an export industry with huge potential for jobs.

- CSIRO Mayfield leads the world on the generation of super-critical steam from solar power

- Newcastle TAFE offers an Associate Degree of Applied Engineering (Renewable Energy Technologies)

Instead of expanding a harmful and unsustainable coal industry for the profit of Multinationals and royalties that are such a small part of the NSW Government's revenue The Hunter could lead the world in sustainable technology AND create jobs.

Judith Leslie

Bulga

OLIVE OIL PROVENANCE TO BOOST MARKETING

You may have bought a red wine from Bordeaux or Barossa Valley, but would you buy olive oil based on its origin?

Identity is a huge selling point for winemakers and now Australia's olive industry is set to follow suit.

An initiative is underway to

entiated for consumers and hopefully flow onto higher prices for growers."

The initiative hopes to discover whether regionality can significantly impact an oil's flavour and chemistry profiles.

The research will investigate creating a system called

the taste and health-giving components in olive oils. (ABC Rural: Jo Prendergast)

"Provenance underpins food authenticity and puts consumers and growers together," she said.

"We estimate 85 per cent of Australian extra-virgin olive oils are made from olives

“Provenance underpins food authenticity and puts consumers and growers together,”

assess whether location can significantly impact an oil's flavour and chemistry profile in a bid to create regional palate profiles.

Involving members of the state olive bodies from South Australia and Queensland, the project's scientific collaborator Dr Richard Gawel said it would help better market a product's unique characteristics.

"Most of the industry is dominated by high-volume blended oils coming out of Europe," he said.

"This project is looking at the possibility of setting up an appellation system whereby consumers can associate an oil with a place and a grower.

"The product can be differ-

a product designation of origin (PDO) where oils can be physically placed somewhere.

Mr Gawel said the PDO system in Europe had seen a spike in returns for growers.

"Those oils get much higher prices than average bulk oils," he said.

"The average price of oil in bulk, that is blended, is only about \$5 per litre, and that is a good price.

"PDO oils get significantly more than that in the marketplace."

The CEO of the Queensland Olive Council, Amanda Bailey, said establishing a product's origin links buyers to the farmer.

The initiative looks to assess how regionality can impact

grown in a single grove that has been maintained by the owner who cares."

So would consumers be willing to pay more for a premium quality oil?

Mr Gawel said there definitely is a market waiting to be tapped.

"Having something that can differentiate a product or an olive oil from one region to another ... and also understanding that oils from a particular place have a certain flavour that you may like ... will drive you to buy that oil again and again," he said.

ABC Rural

By Tom Nancarrow



**Broke Fordwich
Private Irrigation District
NOTICE of ELECTION**

Notice is hereby given that an election of the Broke Fordwich Private Irrigation Board is to be held on Saturday, 24 November 2018.

Nominations of candidates are called for and will close at 4pm on 12 October 2018.

Nomination forms may be obtained from pid@saywells.com.au and must be lodged at Saywells Chartered Accountants, 12 Vincent Street, CESSNOCK NSW 2325 where the Final Roll of Electors for the above election is on public exhibition.

Water Management (Elections) Regulation 2002. Clauses 22 & 25.

**Broke Fordwich Private Irrigation Board,
Craig Saywell, Returning Officer. Dated 28
September 2018**

For information call 02 4990 9766

When it comes to seeking legal support to provide advice and protection small communities are generally at risk of losing out. No matter how important the issue, small local communities are at the mercy of state and federal governments and large corporations.

It would seem that to threaten the condition of prime farming land or low impact community development would be an action not supported by government agencies. But as we have seen in the Hunter and many other communities, the influence of large corporate vested interests over-rule common sense and long-term well being.

In regions like Bulga in the Hunter, the image of an under resourced community standing up to multi-billion dollar interests backed by government seeking short term gain would seem doomed from the outset.

Win or lose, the fight is sometimes balanced in favour of the small defendant by the availability of free legal representation. Such is the Environmental Defenders Office New South Wales. The EDO NSW is a commu-



nity legal centre specialising in public interest environmental law. The EDO is designed to help people who want to protect the environment through law. The core functions being:

Legal advice and litigation

Policy and law reform

Public engagement and education

Each year the EDO NSW provides free legal advice to more than 1,000 individuals and community groups across NSW. It also runs free legal workshops for local communities.

EDO NSW has run a number of landmark legal cases in the courts and undertakes policy and law reform work at both the State and Federal level.

EDO NSW also operates an Aboriginal Engagement Program, a Scientific Advisory Service, an Outreach Program and an International Program providing assistance to legal groups in the

south Pacific.

With 30 years' experience in environmental law, EDO NSW has a proven track record in achieving positive environmental outcomes for the community.

EDO NSW is the acknowledged expert when it comes to the law and how it applies to the environment. EDO NSW helps the community to solve environmental issues by providing legal and scientific advice, community legal education and proposals for better laws.

As a non-government and not-for-profit legal centre, EDO services are provided without fear or favour. Anyone can contact them to get free initial legal advice about an environmental problem, with many of its services targeted at rural and regional communities.

EDO NSW is part of a national network of eight independently constituted and managed community environmental law centres located in each State and Territory of Australia. Each EDO is dedicated to protecting the environment in the public interest.



Community barbeques in Bulga and Broke

Come and enjoy a delicious dinner and music with your friends, neighbours and the Bulga Coal team.

We'll also provide an update on our mining activities.

BULGA HALL

Tuesday 30th October
5.30pm

RSVP: 22nd October

BROKE HALL

Thursday 1st November
5.30pm

RSVP: 25th October

RSVPs essential to Teegan on 6570 2976, or teegan.hayward@glencore.com.au with the venue, names of people attending and contact details.

For information about our mining activities, call Ralph Northey, Environment and Community Manager on 6570 2539.

**BULGA
COAL**

—
GLENCORE

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TELSA BATTERY SUCCESS IN SA INSPIRES BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN SIMILAR INVESTMENTS

Source: Renew Energy

Giles Parkinson

It's now been just over 18 months since those famous "billionaire tweets" – between Australian software pioneer Michael Cannon-Brookes and Tesla founder Elon Musk – set in motion a

More importantly, it has given a glimpse of the future, how a grid can be effectively managed with a very high share of wind and solar – not just faster, but also cleaner, smarter and more reliable than the dumb and ageing fossil fuel grid we now depend on, and which

the government contract (\$A4 million a year, paid in monthly instalments, for system security), and total revenue of \$A14 million in the first six months of 2018.

One day out from the second anniversary of the state-wide blackout that helped trigger its construction – it is

....there is no doubt it has played a more significant role in grid security that anyone thought it could

process that would see South Australia install the largest lithium-ion battery in the world.

The Tesla big battery, officially known as the Hornsdale Power Reserve (it is located next to the 317MW Hornsdale wind farm) has defied skeptics, and even the experts, in almost every conceivable way.

They said it couldn't be done. Batteries can't be that big. They can't be built that quick. They won't work. Ten months on from its installation, the Tesla big battery has emphatically proven its worth – faster, quicker, more accurate, more reliable and more flexible than even the market operator thought possible.

has become victim to endless market rorting from the industry incumbents.

So much so that it may turn out to be the best value investment that the South Australia Labor government ever made, although their political opponents may be reluctant to admit it.

As RenewEconomy revealed exclusively last Friday, the Tesla big battery is making money that promises a quick return on investment, something not thought possible when the battery was built on time and on budget.

Share listing documents from its owner, the French renewable energy developer Neoen, reveal the construction price (\$A90 million),

worth reminding ourselves just how sceptical everyone – from the market operator all the way through to the rusted on renewable technology deniers – was about the technology.

There's a lesson in this, and it is that technology developments are happening faster than most people have imagined. And will continue to do so, no matter how attached conservatives and political ideologues are to the technologies of the past. As we noted at the time of the tweets, it signalled the start of the end of the fossil fuel industry.

The battery was built more quickly than anyone thought possible.

Continued next page

So what has the South Australia government got for the \$A4 million it has committed for the first 12 months of operation, and every year for the next 9. Certainly, the then Labor government got a huge amount of publicity, although not enough to save it from an election defeat.

But there is no doubt it has played a more significant role in grid security that anyone thought it could – from keeping the lights on,

the market on November 30, just as prices soared amid the heat, low wind generation in South Australia and a missing coal unit at Loy Yang A.

And it didn't take long to show off its wares once officially opened. Two weeks after its official opening it stepped in when a unit at Loy Yang coal generator in Victoria suddenly tripped, just to illustrate how quickly and accurately it could respond.

particularly in the FCAS market where the local gas operators had a cosy little cartel running.

Various private estimates have suggested that the big battery has slashed prices in key markets, and AEMO has acknowledged this and provided estimates of the battery's own earnings.

That was confirmed by the details of Neoen's share offer documents, which provision of frequency con-



intervening in several major “contingency events”, and lowering costs by a significant amount.

The Tesla big battery didn't have wait long before showing off its wares. It was called into action by AEMO even before its official launch, injecting 70MW of “stored wind energy” into

It did this on numerous occasions, causing AEMO to admire its “speed, accuracy and flexibility” and causing it to mull the idea of changing the market rules to accommodate technology that was so quick.

There is no doubt that the presence of the Tesla big battery has slashed prices, par-

control and ancillary services (FCAS) and in time shifting the output of wind power and arbitraging the surge in wholesale prices. It made more than \$14 million in the first six months of 2018, putting it in line for a healthy return for the year.

So what has the South Aus-
Continued next page

tralia government got for the \$4 million it will spend in the first 12 months of the Tesla big battery? For a start, a \$90 million investment in a new facility, a significant reduction in prices (possibly a ten-fold reduction over the cost), and a significant boost to grid security.

But there can be no doubt that the Tesla big battery – and the other batteries that are following – will give the government confidence as the state’s share of wind and solar leaps from 50 per cent

be realised.

The market for battery storage is not yet developed, as Tesla has outlined and AEMO has recognised, and crucial changes to the settlement period that might favour battery storage (to 5 minute price intervals instead of 30 minute) have been delayed until 2021 under intense pressure from the coal and gas lobby.

But, thanks to the Tesla big battery at Hornsdale, and the investment from Neoen, more battery storage is on

Neoen partnership is to be built at the Bulgana Energy Hub near Stawell,

And there’s more. in South Australia, Sanjeev Gupta is planning an even bigger battery at Whyalla, a 10MW battery is being added to the new Lincoln Gap wind farm, a 50MWh battery at the Lake Bonney wind park and another battery at the Snowtown wind farm which will also see a solar farm added.

In Queensland, Windlab is installing a battery for its



now to more than 73 per cent by 2021 and 100 per cent by 2025. (Those are AEMO forecasts).

That is a key point. Tesla has been a path finder for the battery storage industry, proving that it can deliver energy security, can lower costs, can find revenues, and identify what it needs to be changed so that the full value of battery storage can

the way:

The Dalrymple North battery in South Australia,

The Ganawarra battery – another Tesla installation – is due to start commissioning in the next week

Another battery at Ballarat will be the largest to be installed next to a critical network point in Victoria, while yet another Tesla/

unique wind-solar-battery hybrid at Kennedy, and almost everywhere you turn, another battery is being proposed with yet another new wind and solar farm, including at the new South Mortlake wind farm.

Utility-scale battery storage come a long way, bigger, faster and more efficient than anyone would have thought.



Concerts & events at Sacred Spaces in 2018 and beyond

All details & tix at www.sacredspaces.org.au/events

Sun 21 October:

Roaming concert by local school music students

Wed 24 Oct, 7pm:

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra ensemble

Sat 27 and Sun 28 Oct:

Fibrefest organised by the NSW Knitters' Guild

Sunday 11 November, 2pm:

***Classical guitar & saxophone recital - Dennis van
Rooyen & Alice Morgan***

Sunday 25 November, 2pm:

Plektra mandolin & guitar ensemble

Sat 9 Feb, 8pm

***Chamber Philharmonia Cologne, touring from
Germany***

Sun 19 May, 2pm

Soulful gospel with The Café of the Gate of Salvation

A great night out Bingo



November 5th

***@ 6:30 Bulga Community
Centre***

All welcome

Contact

Phil Reid 0438 865 064

Bring a plate to share

First Sunday of the
Month
Broke Village Market

FKA FESTIVAL - 13th
October

JAZZ IN THE VINE-
YARDS - 24th November

GRAPEVINE GATHER-
ING – 1st December

A DAY ON THE GREEN -
1st December

SHANIA TWAIN - 8th De-
cember

THE RED HOT SUMMER
TOUR 2019 - 2nd February

The Cockfighter Editorial:
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Eden Anthony 0407 069682
jeraharvest@icloud.com



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For more information 6573-4198
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"IN-SYNC" Adverb; simultaneously, at once, at the same time, in concert, concurrently, all together

Lifestream

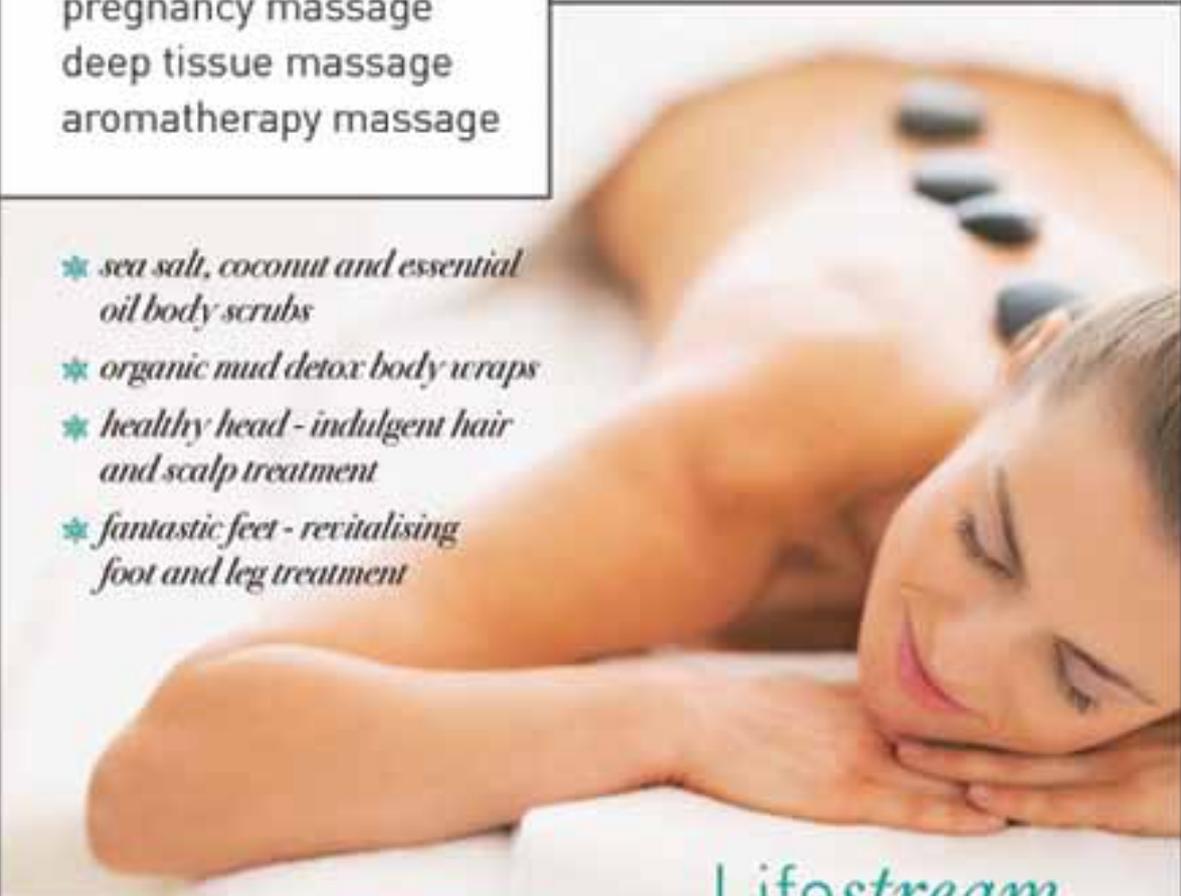
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Lifestream

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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

Community complaints line
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**BROKE
VILLAGE**

MARKET

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8:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY MARKET



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Vigneron: Dave Fromberg
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The Cockfighter

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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

0407 069682

jeraharvest@icloud.com

Proposed amalgamation of Australian Vignerons and Winemakers' Federation of Australia

Discussions have taken place over the years for reform of the grape and wine sector representative bodies, with a particular sentiment for greater unity and representation of the sector as a whole.

It is in response to this feedback that Australian Vignerons (AV) and Winemakers Federation of Australia (WFA) have been holding discussions to create a single advocacy body to represent the interests of grape growers and winemakers.

The aim through this proposed amalgamation is to strengthen the voice of the wine industry in Canberra, increase efficiency and most importantly, ensure the interests of members are advocated for at the highest level.

The Federal Government has advised that representation from a single body for the grape and wine sector would not only be welcomed, but also strengthen advocacy efforts.

A letter to members goes on to say:

“We are now in the process of formally discussing what a single organisation could look like. The board members of WFA and AV have supported this move and we are working with external legal advisors to direct us down this path.



We believe that a single body will deliver better outcomes for grape growers and winemakers and will lead to sustainable long-term national representation for the Australian grape and wine sector.

The next steps:

Development of a draft constitution for the united body

Release of a discussion paper outlining the governance and operational aspects of

the united body

Voting papers to be sent to Members (by 22 October 2018)

Meeting of Members (AGM) on 13 November 2018 to vote on the amalgamation

The work we have achieved over many years to ensure the interests of grape growers are advocated for will continue. We look forward to being able to deliver more for our members, and the sector as a whole, should the membership of both AV and WFA support the proposed reform.

Members will be kept informed of the process as it evolves over the coming weeks.

Your opinion is important to us. If you have any ideas, issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me directly at any time on 0427 685 077 or anna@australianvignerons.com.au.”

SINGLETON CANCER COUNCIL APPEAL MAD AFFAIR

A Mad Hatters Tea Party was held at the Upward's garden at Bulga recently.

The Upward's garden is well known for its variety and colour. A feature of the day was the rock orchid in bloom - see picture below

High tea was served - minus the mouse in the teapot - underneath the garden arch which was covered with beautiful mauve wisteria. A raffle was held to raise funding towards the Bulga Crafters Group to purchase materials, cotton, wool etc. for the Singleton Cancer Council Appeal. The Group have already contributed over 200 items for Cancer patients so far with more on the way. The group make bandanas, all varieties of hats, knitted beanies, and pillows for breast cancer patients, small and large bags, knitted finger gloves.

Bulga Coal recently gave a donation towards this project which was greatly appreciated.

Any materials and wool can be dropped in at the Singleton Cancer Council in John Street Singleton or drop it off at the Bulga Recreation Grounds Clubhouse or phone Helen on 65745119





Australian Owlet-Nightjar. (*Aegotheles cristatus*)

Australia's only owlet-nightjar. It is grey above, speckled and barred with white or rufous and white below speckled with grey or pale rufous. Size is up to 25cm.

Black stripes above and below the eye join at the crown. Night-jars are rarely seen, they mate for life and pairs roost alone by day in tree hollows and rock crevices. They live in a territory of 50-100 ha year-round and meet to hunt in the first hours after dusk and before dawn, flying low through the trees to catch insects. They breed from August to December and lay 2-5 eggs in a rough dish-shaped nest in a small hollow or crevice up to 5m high. Both parents share incubation of 25 - 27 days and feed the young who fledge in 20-30 days. They have a loud rattling 'chirr-chirr' call. Diet is of insects and small invertebrates. Habitat is sclerophyll forests, woodlands.

We are lucky enough to have 2 of these beautiful birds nesting in a Possum box in a tree outside the bedroom window.

Elizabeth

Joeys Retreat

WATER BILLS TO CHANGE IN SINGLETON LGA

Water prices across the Singleton local government area will be levelled with a uniform tariff pricing model to be progressively implemented over three years, starting from July 2019.

Uniform prices will apply to both residential and commercial customers, resulting in reduced water bills in Broke, Jerrys Plains and Mount Thorley over three years to be in line with Singleton bills.

There will be no additional increase in Singleton bills as a result of the level pricing model.

Mark Ihlein, Singleton Council's Director Planning and Infrastructure Services Group, said higher prices at Broke, Jerrys Plains and Mount Thorley had been justified because of the increased capital costs of connecting outlying areas.

In Broke, for example, the capital outlay to provide the connecting water infrastructure had resulted in the current rates for Broke being 23% more than Singleton.

"Uniform pricing is consistent with industry best practice, simplifies understanding of water charges within the community and improves equity across the Singleton

LGA," he said.

"Higher prices in outlying areas were as a result of the higher capital cost of originally providing the infrastructure, however Council is now in a position to provide equal pricing across all areas as the initial capital costs have since been recovered.

"Uniform pricing will apply to both residential and commercial customers equally. Commercial customers in Broke, Jerrys Plains and Mount Thorley will also experience reduced bills in 2019/2020.

"But cheaper water bills should not equate to increased usage. Council will phase the changes in over three years and will retain the current two tier pricing system with increased usage prices for residential water usage above 450kL/year to encourage efficient residential water usage. Large families are able to apply to Council for a reduction in this step-increase."

Council's decision to introduce a uniform pricing model follows an eight per cent increase in water costs each year for four years, while maintaining comparatively low prices to other

water utilities. The money will fund operational, maintenance and capital works projects throughout the LGA, including new reservoirs, water treatment plant upgrades and water main replacement.

It also comes as community consultation continues on the proposed Bulga Water Supply Scheme, to provide potable water to the township.

Community workshops were held at Bulga Community Hall last month, ahead of a Council decision later this year on whether the scheme will proceed.

"The current multi tariff model has meant the costs of water under the Bulga Water Supply Scheme could not be determined until after the projects was complete and all capital expenditure was realised," Mr Ihlein said.

"The inability to provide firm pricing information for the proposed scheme has been a key factor for community concern during community consultation.

"A uniform pricing system means Council can provide some certainty to the Bulga community about the cost of water supply under the scheme."

Broke Village Recreation Grounds

Community access information:

A great spot to enjoy the great outdoors

Free BBQ with sheltered picnic tables
Tennis courts with lights for night use
Netball court
Basketball court
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.



TRADES SERVICES DIRECTORY

CARRIER - General

John Lamb
6574 5205
Mob 0427 695 468

CATTERY

Jan Pennell
6579 1450

CLEANERS

Professional Hunter Valley Cleaning Group
Hospitality and private cleaning
0439 841 487
hunintervalleycg@gmail.com

COMPUTERS & COMMUNICATION

Bruce Cowan
6579 1130

PRINT & DESIGN

BINK Creative
4990 3230

GOURMET FOODS

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

MECHANICAL & AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

Beyond Broke
Mechanical & Automotive
Jason McCraw
Licensed Motor Vehicle Repairer
0414 264 515
beyondbrokemechanical.com.au

PIANO LESSONS

Jan Pennell
6579 1450

PLUMBING

Paul Woods
Licensed Plumber,
Drainer, Gasfitter & Roofer
Putty Rd Milbrodale
0404 488 462

POOL & YARD MAINTAINANCE

Anthony Smolenaers
65791228 or 0400 367025

VINEYARD SERVICES

Bright Vine Services
Vineyard consulting
0410625540
jennybright@bigpond.com
www.brightvineservices.com.au

WINE MAKING

Michael McManus
6579 1400
Mob 0403 014 787

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

President Jody Derrick
Secretary, Mike Wilson
secretary@brokefordwich.com.au

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.

Broke Rural Fire Brigade

Captain: Paul Myers
C/o Broke Post Office,
Broke NSW 2330

Bulga Rural Fire Brigade

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

Broke Community Hall

Kathleen Everett (02)
6579 1470

Broke Public School

Principal/P&C
Association,
Cochrane Street, Broke

Bulga Milbrodale

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

Bulga Community Centre Inc.

President/bookings
Claudette Richards
65745 495
Secretary Belinda
Passlow 0427 305 519
Treasurer Phil Reid 0438 865 064

Justices of the Peace

Tom Jackson 6574 5266
Graham Farish
0414842327

Milbrodale Public School

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

Private Irrigation (PID)

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

PID Admin

Saywells
12 Vincent St
CESSNOCK
office@saywells.com

St Andrews Anglican

Church Broke
Parish Secretary at 6571 1414

St Marks Anglican Church

C/o Marie Mitchell
Inlet Road, Bulga NSW
2330

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Broke

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

Wildlife Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release

www.wildlifeaid.org.au
0429 850 089