

The *Cockfighter*

Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale

April 2020

The Richard Gill School
Hunter Valley's innovative new school

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OUR WILDLIFE



FROM THE EDITOR

VALE



Roger Goldfinch
29 March 2020

Roger lived in Broke for some 20 years with his wife Anne growing his grapes and enjoying life.

Roger was an early participant in the establishment of the Broke Fordwich wine industry and was active in the merger of the Wine Association and the Tourism Association to form the current Broke Fordwich Wine and Tourism Association , Roger also helped run The Cockfighter magazine for some time

Roger and Anne moved to Wagga Wagga to be near family when cancer hit him ...he fought it bravely but as he said in the end “..quality of life not quantity .”

He managed a trip to Canada to see family last year and really enjoyed the venture .

THE RICHARD GILL SCHOOL

BRINGING EDUCATION INNOVATION TO THE HUNTER

“We teach music because it acts in a unique way on the heart, mind, soul and spirit of the child, stimulating thought and imagination in very special ways. These are the real reasons for teaching music.”

Richard Gill AO

As a passionate musician, music education advocate, and national music leader



Richard Gill School playground. Artist's impression

Richard Gill inspired countless thousands of students, musicians and audiences across Australia.

Richard was one of Australia's pre-eminent and most admired conductors specialising in opera, musical theatre and vocal and choral training. Richard conducted all the state orchestras and many productions for Opera Australia. He was Artistic Director of Opera Australia's OzOpera and Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra. He was also the foundation Director of the

Continued next page

Western Australian Conservatorium and founding Music Director and Conductor Emeritus of the Victorian Opera.

Richard was well known for his advocacy of music education and was respected world-wide for his work in mentoring and educating musicians, conductors and teachers. He was Artistic Director of the Education Program for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Advisor for the Musica Viva Education program. He was Artistic Director of Sydney Chamber Choir, Artistic Director of the Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra (ARCO) and the Founder and Director of the National Music Teacher Mentoring Program.



Richard Gill

Richard's long-time dream to offer a full curriculum of education, inspired and driven by the creative disciplines, especially music, brought about the establishment of the Muswellbrook based 'Richard Gill School' now in the final stages of preparation to be opened for kindergarten, year 1 and year 2 students in 2021.

With Richard's untimely passing in 2018 the work of bringing the dream to life has been enthusiastically taken on by a Board under the leadership of Kim Williams with the 'on-the-ground' work being headed by Principal Chris English.

Continued next page



The Principal Chris English

The educational philosophy of the school is to use music and other creative activities to enhance the growth of learning in high-tech and STEM curriculum requirements.

In 2017, Richard and the Director of the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music took advantage of a unique opportunity for the establishment of an independent primary school in Muswellbrook, in collaboration with Muswellbrook Shire Council. After significant analysis of the benefits of the school to the region, Muswellbrook Shire Council resolved to fit out the Council administration building into a primary school.

Education architects specialist were engaged to develop

a masterplan and work is currently underway to convert and prepare the site for the 2021 school year. Information sessions will be announced shortly for families to view progress of the school development and all opportunities available for a unique education for their children.

The school is aligned with Muswellbrook Shire Council's vision to enable and improve access to educational opportunities for all children in the region. The school is committed to low fees and access for all to high-quality primary education.

Opening in 2021 to Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 students the school plans to grow progressively each year as it becomes a Kindergarten to Year 12 school.

The Principal Chris English is an experienced educator and musician, having worked in various teaching and leadership roles around the Hunter Valley and beyond. As a passionate and practicing musician who has worked with regional

Continued next page

and remote communities, Chris is thrilled to be leading the Richard Gill School as Foundation Principal. Originally hailing from Newcastle, Chris and his young family are now residents of Muswellbrook where they are proud to call home. Chris believes quality relationships are the most important element of successful teaching and leadership and is looking forward to working with the community and welcoming our inaugural students and their families on what promises to be a most exciting educational journey.

The 'capital' of the Hunter, Newcastle, is a leading educational centre with the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music, the University itself and the new Nihon University's Newcastle campus all pointing to innovation and leadership in education. The Hunter itself is 're-tooling' to move from mining and heavy industry to 'mind' industries including education. Muswellbrook led by its far-sighted council, and inspired by Newcastle's educational growth is well placed in being future ready. The Richard Gill School is a clear glimpse of that future.

Visit:

www.richardgillschool.org.au

for more details or, to register your interest

Email:

admin@richardgillschool.org.au



RUNNING HORSE WINES



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Vigneron: Dave Fromberg
0474156786

PLAYTIME REACHES NEW HEIGHTS WITH COMPLETION OF BULGA PLAYGROUND

Play time will be elevated to a new level at the Bulga Recreational Ground next week, with a new playground unveiled at a public opening recently. The \$150,000 upgrades include a shade sail, all-new modular play unit, outdoor gym equipment and seating.

Funded by Voluntary Planning Agreements from Bulga Coal and Mount Thorley Warkworth, Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said it was fantastic to see the play-



ground open ahead of the Easter school holidays.

“In this era of screens and digital communication, playgrounds are important social spaces for children and adults alike to get outside, meet other people and talk to each other,” she said.

“And there is something for everyone at this playground —an outdoor gym area, as well as traditional equipment including slides, wiggly bridge, rope net and climbing challenges, and even a toddler zone with sensory music chimes, noughts and crosses and a ‘shop-front’.

BROKE FORDWICH WINE AND TOURISM ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO UPDATE LOCAL SIGNAGE



The Broke Fordwich Wine and Tourism Association (BFWTA), formed in 1998 has been an important part of the growth in the business community in the region. Run as a NFP volunteer group the BFWTA has faced many hurdles over the years and not least of which has been keeping visitors on the right track finding their way to the area. The current set of signs in the region have been designed and installed by volunteers, Association funds and with the help of Singleton Council. Latest to be upgraded are the information boards in Broke Village in Wollombi Street.

For more information: Mike Wilson, Secretary BFWTA
secretary@brokefordwich.com.au



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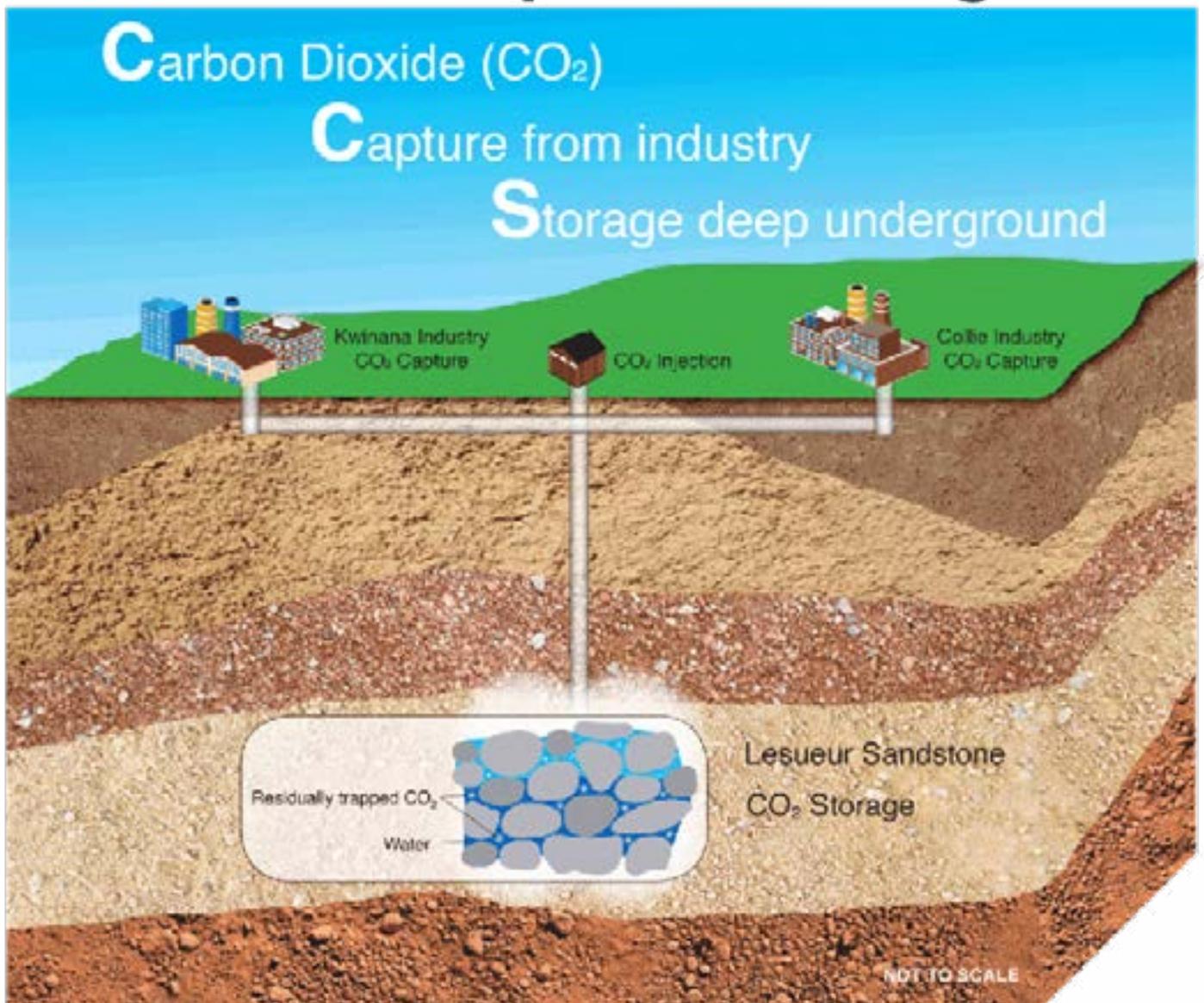
IS THERE A FUTURE IN A LOW-CARBON WORLD FOR COAL?

If the target is to generate electricity without adding more CO₂ to the atmosphere, there are a few options. A low-carbon world means one in which we stop pumping endless amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere in the quest to generate much desired electricity. Some of the options I have already outlined: nuclear, solar, hydro, wind, biofuel, geothermal, oil and gas. Each has a place in the world and this place is generally dictated by the geography. For example, some countries can easily tap into geothermal energy, others can't. Some have reserves of oil, gas or coal, but not everybody. Rainfall is not evenly distributed across the planet.

New South Wales has coal: lots of it.

Continued next page

Carbon Capture & Storage



Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety - Western Australia

From south of Wollongong to Gunnedah there are reserves of coal close enough to the surface to justify mining. The Bowen Basin in Queensland has even more. Coal is relatively easy to extract and transport and is in high demand. But: 1 tonne of coal burnt releases 2.8 tonnes of carbon dioxide as the carbon in the burning coal reacts with oxygen in the air during combustion. Eraring Power Station burns 5.2 million tonnes of coal a year: 15.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide that have to go somewhere.

Can we generate electricity from coal without the pesky carbon dioxide? Actually, yes we can. Carbon capture and storage may be the saviour for coal. Technology exists to capture much of the carbon dioxide leaving the smoke-stacks, compress it and store it underground. Storage is relatively easy, but the capture part is expensive. So yes it can be done, but yes it will cost extra.

This is the question that Australia has to face in the next 10 years – as our existing coal fired power stations reach the end of their useful life as Liddell is about to do: what next? This has been closely watched by the electricity wholesalers such as Energy Australia as they seek to buy from various generators and sell to their industrial, commercial and domestic customers at a price where they can make a profit. The traditional market has been dominated by coal, but there are major changes happening. Both PV solar and wind generation are producing a lot of electricity cheaper than the coal fired power stations are able to do, but not as reliably. As more of us put solar panels on the roof, as more wind farms get built the need for a new massive coal fired power station starts to fall.

Given that any new coal fired power station would almost certainly be required to install carbon capture technology due to public pressure to reduce carbon emissions, which would in turn increase the cost of its electricity, is this the sort of investment that a bank is likely to want to finance? Already many people are looking to buy their electricity from 'green' suppliers – Red Energy has made major inroads by doing this: Newcastle City Council is buying all its electricity from a wind farm operator in New England.

What will the picture be like in 20 years' time? We will still demand electricity, but will a lot of small-scale solar and wind generators, back up by storage systems like pumped hydro (more on this later) and batteries be a better option than building a multi-billion dollar coal-fired (or perhaps nuclear powered) power station?

The key will be our ability to store the electricity that we produce when the production is cheap demand is low, and release it when the demand is high.

Mike Wilson
Broke

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND PAYS DIVIDENDS TO HELP ADDRESS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19 IN SINGLETON

A \$475,000 assistance package is being developed by Singleton Council to support local businesses and the community deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.



Mayor of Singleton Cr Sue Moore and Singleton Business Chamber President Sue Gilroy.

Council is working with the Singleton Business Chamber to develop a \$250,000 business support package, using money from the Community Economic Development Fund as well as bushfire grant funding to pool resources for the

benefit of people across the local government area.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said the Community Economic Development Fund was designed to help deliver economic development and social development outcomes across the whole of the local government area.

The allocation of funds will require a formal resolution of Council at the Ordinary April meeting, in whatever format the meeting proceeds.

“The proposal to combine the bushfire grant money with an extra \$125,000 from the fund adds up to \$250,000 to get programs running on the ground right now, right here in our local government area to support our local businesses,” Cr Moore said.

Continued next page

“We also propose to allocate a further \$125,000 to add to \$100,000 from bushfire grant funds for a similar program targeting social issues arising from the current crisis, taking the total for both packages to \$475,000.

“Council’s foresight in creating the fund, using Voluntary Planning Agreement money, has allowed us to be in a position to fund these programs.

“And although we never thought we’d need to spend some of the capital this early, we are in a position where we can and should take action to allocate some of the funding right now.”

Singleton Business Chamber president Sue Gilroy said with businesses already dealing with bushfire impacts, nobody could have foreseen the COVID-19 pandemic that was to come.

“These are unprecedented circumstances, and this is a great example of the proactive relationship between Council and the Chamber for the benefit of our local business community,” she said.

“We are fortunate to have these resources available to us to develop a package of measures to put in place now, in addition to the assistance coming from the Federal Government for small businesses and their staff.”

General Manager Jason Linnane said an announcement about a raft of social programs to help members of the community in these very tough times would be made next week.

“We will be working very closely with Council’s Interagency to identify and address social issues arising from the impacts of COVID-19,” he said.

“There is no way to overstate the challenges of the unprecedented situation the whole world is in at the moment, and Council is still working hard to support our community as best we can

RATES, FEES AND CHARGES INCLUDED IN SUITE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore announced that Council proposes to allocate \$475,000 to economic and social programs in response to the pandemic, and said Council was going further to provide even more support under its Community Resilience Package.

The measures include an extension for the fourth quarter rates instalment from May 31 to August 31, and childcare cancellation fees have been waived.

Cr Moore said the urgency of the issue meant Council was working to provide solutions now, and more announcements would be made.

“Council is working quickly to review all fees and charges with the objective to find opportunities to provide further relief for our community,” she said.

“We will review water bills ahead of the next quarterly meter reading in May. If need be, we will provide payment extensions for this as well.

“We are also investigating a range of other options to help offset the impact on the community, such as procurement and service delivery changes and in-kind work, to help support the economy.”



COUNCIL FACILITIES CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

General Manager Jason Linnane said Council was continuing to operate to provide services to the community as much as usual, although modified in some instances.

He is encouraging people to tap into the range of online services available, including the digital library catalogue and new ways of interacting with the community such as StoryTime on the Library's Facebook page.

The full list of Council closures at this time is:

Singleton Library closed to visitors

Singleton Youth Venue closed to visitors

Mobile Preschool closed

Singleton Visitor Information Centre closed

Customer Service in Council's Administration Building closed to visitors; please call us if you have enquiries as our customer service teams are available

Riverside, Rose Point and Allan Bull playgrounds closed

Waste Management Facility closed to household disposals; please use your kerbside collection to dispose of rubbish

Burragan Recycling Centre at Waste Management Facility closed

Council buildings closed, including **74 George Street** and the **Museum**

Work on Broke Skate Park has been suspended

All public toilets closed with the **exception** of Burdekin Park (24 hours) and Townhead Park (daytime hours only), and toilets in our villages

All Council run events or events on Council owned and managed land are cancelled until the end of April.





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A great night out Bingo



1st Monday of the month

*@ 6:30 Bulga Community
Centre*

All welcome

Contact

Phil Reid 0438 865 064

Bring a plate to share

OUR WILDLIFE



Peaceful Dove. (Geopelia placida) 19 – 21 cm.

The forehead, throat and breast of this dove are blue-grey. The back, crown and wings are grey-brown with black bars and streaks. The belly is pinkish. They are usually seen in pairs or small groups, they roost in trees and shrubs, forage on the ground and sunbathe on dusty ground with one wing raised. Large groups congregate around water holes and feeding sites. They bob their head when running and take off with whirring wings, usually flying only short distances. Males bow, fan their tail and coo in display to females, rise in a steep, clapping display flight. They breed year round and lay 2 eggs in a frail stick nest on a horizontal limb of a tree or shrub about 1-2 m high. Both parents share incubation of around 14 days. The young fledge in about 16 days. They have a high pitched “Goola-goo” call and soft cooing. Diet is seeds and they live in woodlands, rain forest margins.

Elizabeth

Joeys Retreat



**BROKE
VILLAGE
MARKET**

**POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE**

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8:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY MARKET



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ABN 6579 8335 847

**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.



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

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: Jill Kranias
Phone:- 0408 652 668
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

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



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great no-contact sport go ahead and contact

Chris Robertson

Secretary

0418 427 320

6574 7194



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 65791334.

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.



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John Lamb
6574 5205
Mob 0427 695 468

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Jan Pennell
6579 1450

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Jason McCraw
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beyondbrokemechanical.
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Jan Pennell
6579 1450

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Paul Woods
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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.brightvineservic-
es.com.au

WINE MAKING

Michael McManus
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Mob 0403 014 787



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