

The Cockfight



Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale

December 2019



Hunter Jewellery and
Craft Studio **School and sales outlet opens
in Broke Fordwich**

FROM THE EDITOR

SAY G'DAY TO ST PETER, CLIVE

Hunter Jewellery and Craft Studio
Classes, advice and repairs opens in
Broke



LOCAL VINEYARDS SURVIVING EXCESSIVE DROUGHT CONDITIONS



BEEKEEPERS TRAUMATISED AS THEY CHECK ON HIVES AFTER FIRES



OUR WILDLIFE



30 YEAR OLD CLIMATE CHANGE PREDICTIONS ACCURATE



CAN STATE GOVERNMENT DO MORE TO SLOW GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE



HUNTER EVENTS 2020



NSW FOOD AUTHORITY SERVES UP PRAISE FOR SINGLETON COUNCIL



Reader's contributions:

FACES IN THE WALL

By Steve Mushenko



FROM THE EDITOR

SAY G'DAY TO ST PETER, CLIVE

Do you, like me, sometimes ruminate about the number of GREAT Aussies you don't know, never did and never will? I console myself with the view that most of my acquaintances, here and in the past, are or were, thank the Gods, GRAPE Aussies. And I have to admit one or two, who paid the price for it, were GROPE Aussies, like former public figures and even religious leaders who come to mind but came to nothing when you evaluate their contribution to some sort of Aussie-ness and pride in self and country.

We certainly can't include Clive James (1929-2019) in the latter category of unholy misfits; rather, think of an internationally acclaimed giant of the media, projecting a wholesome, healthy dinky-di image while beguiling the civilized world with the beauty of his prose and poetry. And did you now, by his own verification that it was by his poetry that the Kid from Kogarah wished to be remembered?

To me, the fact that he was diagnosed with terminal cancer ten years ago and yet battled it with levity and wit to the end, says it all about greatness.

But to think that he could tackle the presence of the Grim Reaper with the gentle lyricism of acceptance that we see in **JAPANESE MAPLE (2014)** adds to my salute to this very, very great Aussie.

Your death, near now, is of an easy sort.
So slow a fading out brings no real pain.
Breath growing short
Is just uncomfortable. You feel the drain
Of energy, but thought and light remain

Enhanced. In fact. When did you ever see
So much sweet beauty as when fine rain falls
On that small tree
And saturates your brick back garden walls,
So many Amber Rooms and mirror halls?

Ever more lavish as the dusk descends

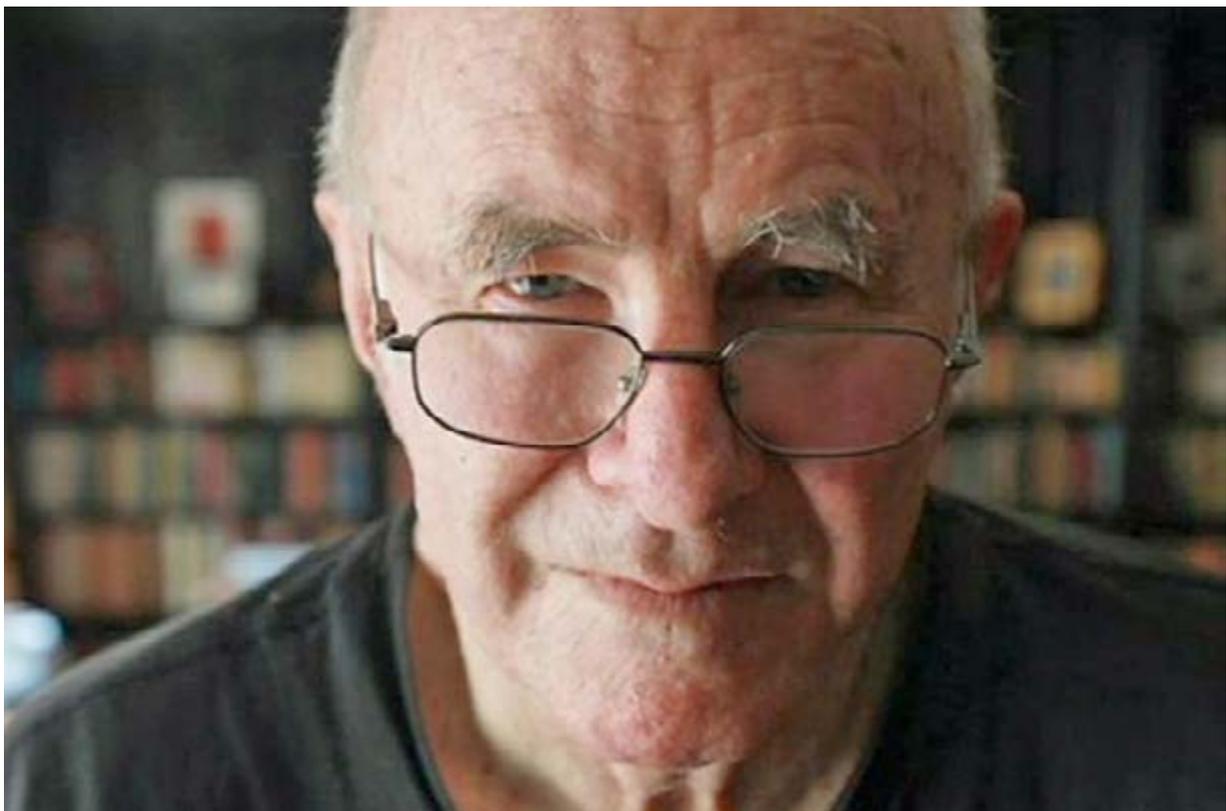
This glistening illuminates the air.
It never ends.
Whenever the rain comes it will be there,
Beyond my time, but now I take my share.

My daughter's choice, the maple tree is new.
Come autumn and its leaves will turn to flame.
What I must do
Is live to see that. That will end the game
For me, though life continues all the same:

Filling the double doors to bathe my eyes,
A final flood of colours will live on
As my mind dies,
Burned by my vision of a world that shone
So brightly at the last, and then was gone.

Here's to a safe and shared Christmas from all at COCKFIGHTER--and
a twinkled dig in the national ribs from Santa Clive.

(Tom Jackson)



Hunter Jewellery and Craft Studio

Classes, advice and repairs - Kevin McCleod brings a fascinating business to Broke

Wine tourism alone cannot fully supply the needs of visitors to the Broke Fordwich region - ancillary attractions need to be in place to help make it a mature and successful way-point for tourists - and Kevin McCleod offering fits the bill perfectly.

Housed in a mid-twentieth century cottage in the main street of Broke, The Hunter School of Jewellery is the right fit for locals and tourists alike. Opened earlier this year, the venue provides sales as well as the opportunity to learn many aspects of craft jewellery.



.....most of the construction dates back to the original building giving a perfect backdrop for both the manufacturing process and the pieces produced.

Visitors get to see a professional jewellery workshop in action - perhaps learning some of the basics of the craft or being tempted into buying the perfect gift.

A long-time professional jeweller by trade, Kevin and his wife Esta, live and work locally and the studio/school is the realisation of long-time plan for Kevin. Having a full time occupation means he needs to run the venue part-time. The school operates Wednesdays and Saturdays. This is not to say that the investment in the studio leaves something to be desired - far from it - the quality and quantity of the equipment is at a professional level ensuring the items crafted there are perfectly manufactured to the highest professional level.



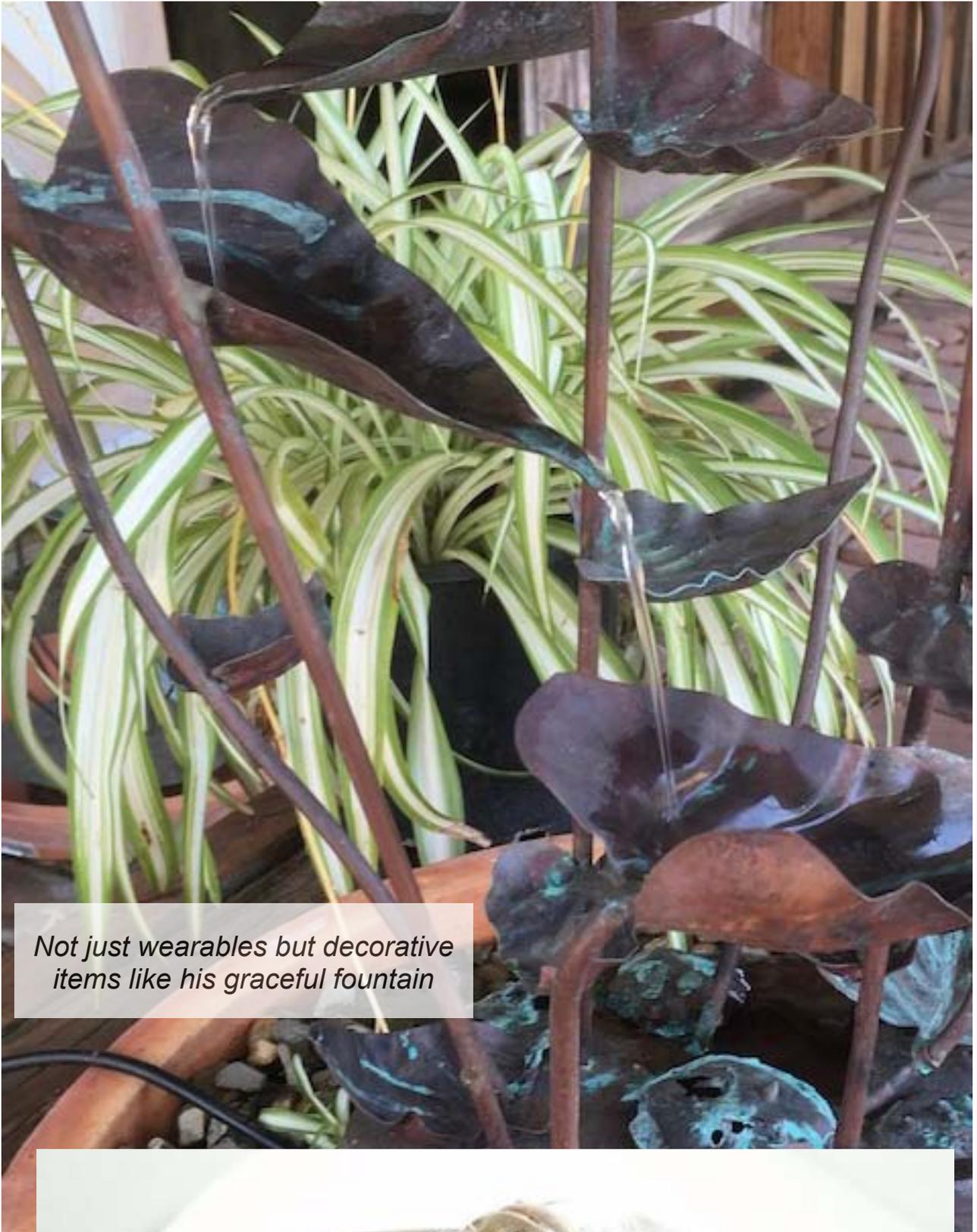
.....the studio/school is the realisation of a long-time plan for Kevin

On display are pieces crafted by Kevin and his students and they range from delicate ornate wearable pieces to beautiful tabletop fountains and home decorations. The workshop is built of timber - most of the construction dates back to the original building giving a perfect backdrop for both the manufacturing process and the pieces produced.

Kevin's approach is friendly and informative and he welcomes casual drop ins.



The pieces range from delicate ornate wearable pieces to beautiful home decorations and utensils.



Not just wearables but decorative items like his graceful fountain



Hunter Jewellery and Craft Studio

67 Wollombi Street BROKE NSW
hunterjewelleryschool@gmail.com
0404 842 130



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Fordwich, Hunter Valley NSW

Vigneron: Dave Fromberg
0474156786

LOCAL VINEYARDS SURVIVING EXCESSIVE DROUGHT CONDITIONS



Although it doesn't look it, the soil beneath the green vineyards of the Hunter Valley are dryer than ever after four years of drought. (Janie Barrett)

Most of the vineyards in the Broke Fordwich region are supplied irrigation water by the local Private Irrigation District (PID). The system has a recent record of supplying an uninterrupted flow to users at a cost that has been going down over the years - yet it still a cost that growers need to monitor carefully in the current drought conditions. And it is comfort to growers to know that there is this supply of water to ensure the vintage will be productive. But river water, as any farmer will tell you, is no substitute for rain because of the cost factors and the special quality that fresh rainwater brings. Well established vines have a root growth of several meters and good soaking rain is the only way to ensure that there is a good supply of water at depths needed for proper growth. Although it doesn't look it, the soil beneath the green vineyards of the Hunter Valley are dryer than ever after four years of drought.

Altogether, winegrowers do have it a little easier than broad-acre farmers during dry conditions if the vines are irrigated. Dry weather also means less problems with fungal diseases.

Part of a report from Olivana Smith Lathouris of Channel Nine News is reproduced below highlighting Hunter Valley vineyards:



The Hunter Valley wine district in its fourth consecutive year of drought with conditions expected to worsen.

The most recent climate snapshot from the Office of Environment and Heritage shows weather conditions in the Hunter are expected to worsen over coming years.

Maximum temperatures are expected to increase, as will the number of hot days over 35 degrees while rainfall and minimum temperatures are predicted to drop. An increase in heatwaves and dry conditions mean a higher chance of fires in summer, spring and even winter months.

Chair of the Hunter Valley Wine Tourism Association, Lindy Hyam, says adapting to changing conditions are part and parcel of life in the wine industry.

“Being innovative, being adaptive, constantly updating our practices, our energy sources, the types of grapes we grow, it’s all part of life here in the Hunter,” she said.

Liz Riley is a leading viticulturalist in the Hunter Valley and she says its undeniable that climate change is having a real impact on the industry.

“The reality is that climate change will affect us and temperatures are increasing,” she said.

“But climate change is not just about hotter - it’s about extremes and extremes are what can damage the vineyards. You can lurch from being too wet, to too dry in weeks.”

Ms Riley says those operating vineyards in the region need to be proactive in finding ways to conserve water and plan ahead.

“People need to be actively engaged in their vineyard now more than ever because those that don’t think carefully about how to preserve and manage water effectively are going to really struggle,” she said.



‘SCREAMING ANIMALS IN PAIN’: BEEKEEPERS TRAUMATISED AS THEY CHECK ON HIVES AFTER FIRES



Countless hives and millions of bees have been lost in NSW bushfires. (Supplied: Australia's Manuka)

Beekeepers checking on hives are some of the first people into fire-ravaged forests, and are not prepared for the traumatic sights and sounds of wounded and suffering animals.

Key points:

Some beekeepers say it will take three to 20 years to fully recover from hive and flora loss in north-east NSW

Checking on hives also causes trauma to beekeepers who come across burnt animals from bushfires

Some farmers are contacting the NSW Apiarists Association and offering their land for beehives

NSW Apiarists Association president Stephen Targett said the situation in north-eastern NSW was “truly devastating” to beekeepers and extremely traumatic.

“It’s doing their heads in, the screaming animals, the animals that are in pain, that are crying out in the forest, it’s absolutely horrific,” Mr Targett said.

“One beekeeper employs some young people and it has really traumatised them.

“So the beekeeper has arranged counselling for these young beekeepers who went into the forest and he won’t allow them back into the forest for a period of time.

Concern for mental health

If you or anyone you know needs help:

Lifeline on 13 11 14

Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800

MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978

Beyond Blue on 1300 22 46 36

Headspace on 1800 650 890

Many people are taking advantage of the Rural Fire Services 'FIRES NEAR ME' App

Users can set up a notification so that if fires are reported near them a message is sent to their phone.

It includes a map and location and other information about the fire as well as updates

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me> or *click here*

The impact of the drought and now bushfires has worn beekeepers down.

More than a million hectares has burnt in NSW since the start of this year's bush-fire season, with hives and key foraging country for bees burnt out.

Peter Matthison from Elands, south-west of Port Macquarie, estimated he had lost 70 per cent of his hives and 90 per cent of the sites he used for his bees.

"I'm a pretty resilient guy, but I've lost a lot of bees," Mr Matthison said.

"If I have to watch [more hives] burn after we've lost a hell of a lot already, I just don't even know about starting over again, I just don't know what to do next."

Impacts of fires to be felt for years

Despite the devastation, Mr Matthison was starting to think about rebuilding — a process that would involve sacrificing honey production for a year to split hives "over and over again" to build up numbers.

"I've got just enough hives that if I decide to keep going I could start rebuilding over the next year or two," he said.

Mr Matthison said it would be at least three years before he could use some of his sites again, some of which supplied flowers for the highly sought-after Manuka honey.

"Up and down the coast it seems like most of what burnt first was all of that coastal Manuka country, and we won't get to make honey on that for at least three years,"

he said.

Mr Targett believed a three-year recovery estimate was conservative.

“The fires were that hot in places that some beekeepers, who have a fairly good understanding of their local bush, don’t believe those trees will be flowering or producing nectar and pollen for the bees for at least 20 years and in some cases they don’t believe it’ll be in their lifetime,” he said.

Cost of honey to rise

Mr Targett warned consumers would soon pay more for their honey.

“In the short term it will definitely reduce the honey production in the state, so you’re likely to see a price increase happen in the short term at least,” he said.

“It won’t be a doubling of the price of honey — but prices will move up.

“It’s not just [bad] for honey production ... bees are worth far more to the NSW economy through pollination.”

“Up and down the coast it seems like most of what burnt first was all of that coastal Manuka country, and we won’t get to make honey on that for at least three years,”

Seeking new areas

The NSW Apiarists Association is calling on anyone with land available for bees to get in touch.

“I’ve received phone calls from people who have land, they’ve got a farm, and no beekeeper is putting bees on their farm, and they have rung me up and said, ‘I have 100 acres, beekeepers are welcome to put bees on there if they wish’,” Mr Targett said.

“I get their contact details and flick it out to NSW Apiarists Association branches and then the branches flick it out to the members, and if any of the members require somewhere for their hives they can contact these farmers.

“It’s very much appreciated. People are thinking about bees and the importance of bees for food security, regional employment, and everything like that — it’s great.”

Mr Targett also hoped to work with the State Government to allow beekeepers to use public land including national parks to temporarily house beehives while bushland recovers.

ABC News





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OUR WILDLIFE



COMMON BRUSHTAIL POSSUM. (Trichosurus vulpecular)

This arboreal marsupial has large pointy ears and a moderately prehensile tail. Active at night, they forage in trees and shelter in tree hollows, logs, undergrowth rabbit holes and roof spaces. Several dens are used within a home range of 5-7ha. And adults often travel long distances, scent-marking their den sites. They have a large vocal repertoire including coughs, hisses, loud chattering and screeching. They breed mainly autumn and spring and the female gives birth to a single young 16 – 18 days after mating. The joey suckles in her forward-opening pouch for 4- 5 months and then it is either left in the den or rides on mothers back until 7-9 months old. Possums eat leaves, native blossoms, fruit, grass and insects. They live in sclerophyll forests, woodlands.

Possums are protected species and are very territorial, so for anyone to trap or relocate, is a certain death for them. Possums and indeed any wildlife problems PLEASE call your Local Wildlife group for help. Wildlife Aid 0429 850 089.

With the hot dry weather our wildlife are struggling to survive. Bush fires and dry waterholes are taking its toll on all.

Could you leave some dishes of cool water out for the birds and animals please. Put some stones at bottom of dishes so the small birds and animals don't drown.

Thank You.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy safe 2020.

Elizabeth

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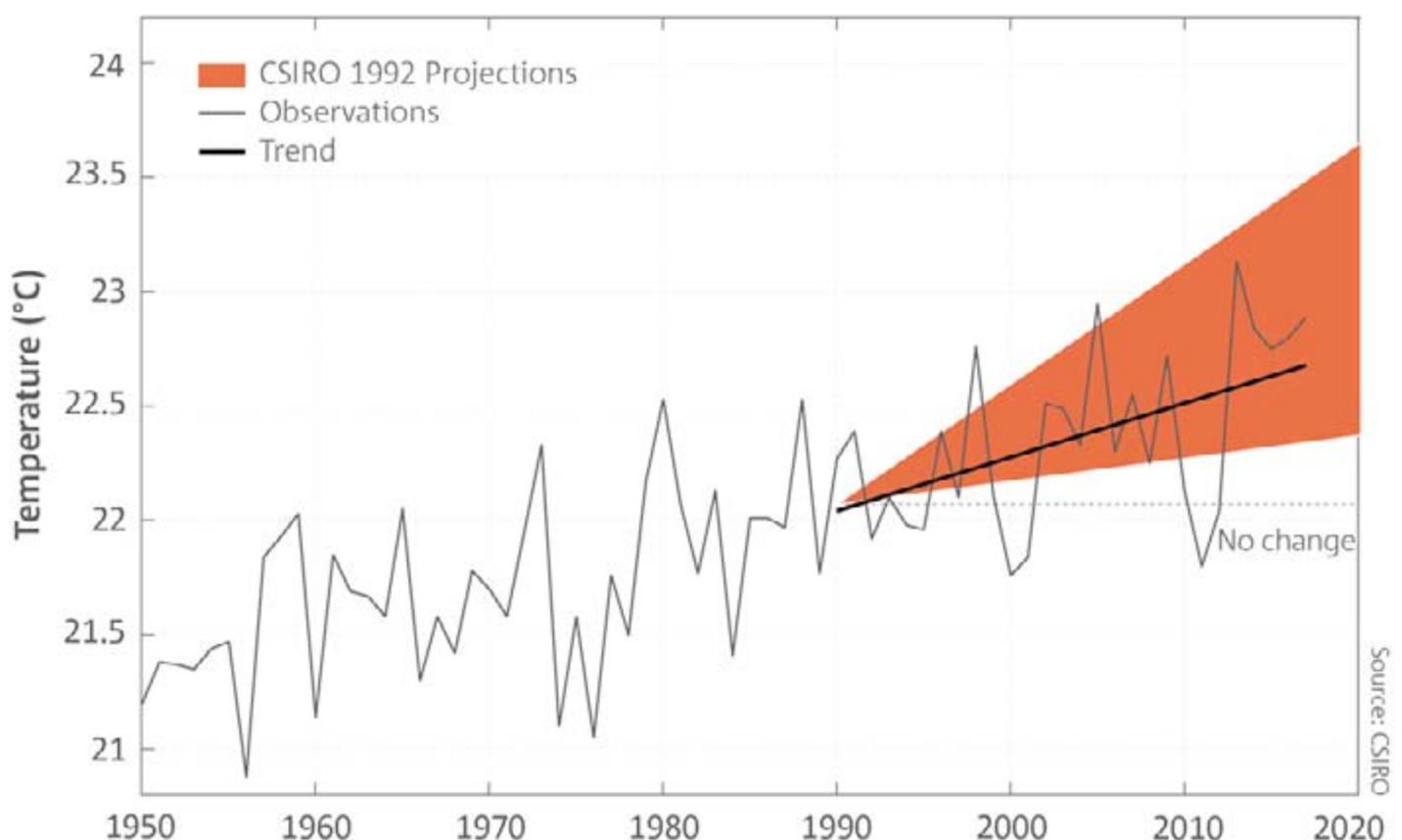
Email: stay@weekenda.com

Phone: 1300 386 170

30 YEAR OLD CLIMATE CHANGE PREDICTIONS ACCURATE

It has now been almost 30 years since the first sets of climate model projections were published, providing the opportunity to compare those projections to observations of the actual climate. CSIRO (1992) produced projections of Australian temperature from 1990 to 2030 for Australia divided into three regions. Drawing the projections together as an Australian average, the linear trend in observed temperature has been tracking within this published range, and above 'no change'. The fact that observations have been tracking within the envelope of projections builds confidence that climate models represent the key processes responsible for the warming trend and therefore these projections were a useful resource for future planning when they were released.

It should be noted that factors such as unforeseeable changes to the atmospheric composition and variability from influences such as specific El Niño and La Niña events mean that we can never make a forecast of the exact time series of Australian temperature, and that the projections will differ from observations over short to medium periods.



CAN STATE GOVERNMENT DO MORE TO SLOW GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

A former Supreme Court judge and environmental law expert has warned NSW's push to stop greenhouse gas emissions being considered in mining decisions is a "dangerous retrograde step".

Paul Stein, QC, who was also on the Land and Environment Court bench for more than 12 years, says "NSW residents should be alarmed" by proposed changes to so-called scope 3 emissions.

The Independent Planning Commission rejected a plan to develop a coal mine in the Bylong Valley.

Planning Minister Rob Stokes has introduced legislation to stop consent conditions relating to greenhouse gas emissions from export coal being imposed on NSW mining projects.

Scope 3, or indirect emissions, are those caused by users of miners' products like coal and the steel-making ingredient iron ore and are far greater than emissions caused by miners' own operations (scopes 1 and 2 emissions).

Mr Stokes has said the bill would clarify "that development consent conditions can only be imposed if they relate to impacts occurring within Australia or its external territories".

The government introduced the new laws on the back of a concerted campaign by the NSW Minerals Council, which ran advertisements attacking the planning system for "failing the people of NSW".

But Mr Stein described attacks on "independent institutions", including the Independent Planning Commission and the Land and Environment Court as "deplorable".

He said the government's changes to scope 3 emission showed it had its "head in the sand" over global climate change.

"It amazes me that in 2019, almost 2020, and we have our state government enacting legislation that ignores global climate change," Mr Stein said.

"These decisions don't just impact NSW ... emissions don't stop at state borders.

"It is a green light to climate-change deniers within the Liberal and National parties and will damage Australia's already-lagging international reputation on climate."

Mr Stein said "he would not be at all surprised" if the decision came after intense lobbying from the Minerals Council and other mining companies.

“All NSW residents should be alarmed, this bill is a dangerous and retrograde step which flies in the face of combating global warming,” he said.

Mr Reid’s comments comes as the Australia Institute launches a counter-campaign to the Minerals Council’s advertisement which targeted Mr Stokes.

“If the NSW government is genuine about its own goal of net zero emissions by 2050 it should abandon this legislation,” the institute’s executive director Ben Oquist said.

“In an age of accelerating climate change, it is unconscionable for the government to rush laws in that actually wind back protections against greenhouse pollution.

“Buckling to the coal industry like this sets a terrible democratic precedent.”

The institute’s campaign follows experts signing an open letter to the Berejiklian government urging it not to cave in to pressure from coal lobbyists to overrule NSW laws.

Signatories to the letter include climate scientists: Professor Will Steffen, from the Australian National University, Professor Katrin Meissner from the UNSW’s Climate Change Research Centre, and Professor Steven Sherwood from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes.

The proposed laws followed a series of court cases where the likely impacts on climate change were cited as a possible reason for stopping new coal mines. Earlier this year, the Land and Environment Court also found greenhouse gases and climate change impacts from the proposed Rocky Hill open-cut coalmine were reasons to reject it.

The proposed Bylong Valley coal mine in western NSW was also rejected last month, with its projected greenhouse gas emissions cited as one of the reasons for the refusal.

The Independent Planning Commission rejected the mine, about 55 kilometres from Mudgee, despite the prospect of \$290 million in royalties and a large economic impact on the region.

By Alexandra Smith



HUNTER EVENTS 2020

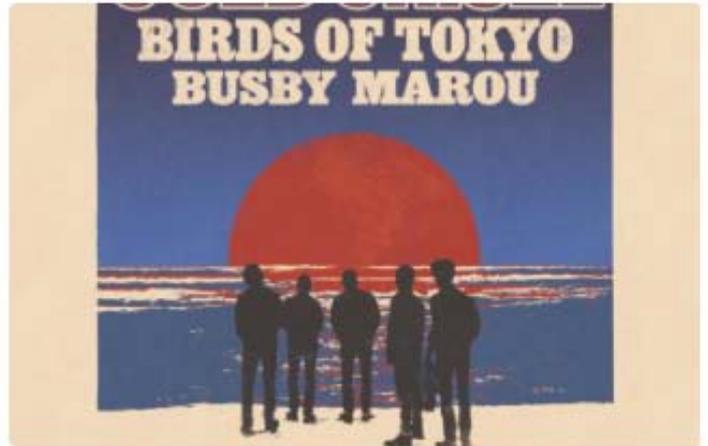
A LITTLE BIT OF
ITALY IN BROKE



Friday 1 - Sunday 3 May 2020



Elton John 11/01/2020 & 12/01/2020



Cold Chisel 18/01/2020



Red Hot Summer Tour 2020 - Hunter Valley
15/02/2020



a-ha + Rick Astley 29/02/2020



Wine Machine 14/03/2020



Rod Stewart 24/10/20

NSW FOOD AUTHORITY SERVES UP PRAISE FOR SINGLETON COUNCIL

Singleton Council's food compliance program has proven to be industry-leading, according to the latest correspondence from the NSW Food Authority.

That means from paddock to plate, consumers can be confident Council is working with local retail food businesses to minimise foodborne illness, undertake important compliance and enforcement work, and be the providers of the most up-to-date food safety information.

Mark Ihlein, Council's Director Planning and Infrastructure Services said the commendation was testimony to the dedication of staff in ensuring Singleton food businesses are educated about safe food production, compliance and procedures.

"Council submits an annual activity report to the NSW Food Authority, outlining data on our food safety inspection programs," he said.



Council's Environmental Health Officer Lucy Packham

"The Authority has praised our compliance activities, regarding them as best practice, with no areas of concern for the monitoring of food premises for public health risks.

"Council has also implemented a risk-based inspection frequency approach to food safety inspections, where inspection frequencies are based on a combination of the types and methods of food production and the previous inspection history of the premises.

"This allows our Environmental Health Officers to focus more time on the businesses that need it — those that are deemed a higher risk or have struggled in the past to meet safety standards and procedures.

"This result is testimony to the hard work and dedication of Council's Environmental Health Team, who are committed to exceeding benchmarks and ensuring Singleton's food businesses are informed so that they can provide safe food."

Singleton food businesses are encouraged to participate in the NSW Food Authority's Scores on Doors, a program based on regular food premises inspections that aims to improve food safety standards as well as reduce instances of foodborne illness in the retail food industry.

Mr Ihlein said customers could look out for purple and green certificates and stickers on display in their favourite eatery so they know what's happening in the kitchen.

"Singleton has been involved in the Scores on Doors program for six years and it is a great way for businesses to show customers just how seriously they take food hygiene and the results they have achieved by displaying a Scores on Doors rating on their door," he said.

"Singleton is very fortunate to have a high level of compliance among our food businesses and a great variety of fantastic places to go out to dinner. Customers can dine safe in the knowledge the establishment has met and exceeded minimum hygiene and food safety standards.

"We encourage all food businesses to be involved in the program as an extra reason for people to choose their restaurant, along with great food and service."

NSW Food Authority benchmarks include:

Paul Woods
Licensed Plumber,
Drainer, Gasfitter
&
Roofer

0404 488 462

Putty Rd
Milbrodale

Lic # 219717C,
ABN 6579 8335 847

Conducted inspections of all high and medium risk fixed food businesses.

Inspected all childcare facilities serving food

Provided written direction to businesses that failed their inspection

Implementation of escalatory enforcement action

Carried out inspections of high and medium temporary food stalls and mobile food vans

Provision of additional services – provision of food safety information and technical advice, provision of training





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.



I'm dreaming of a White Christmas..



But if the white runs out
I'll drink the red

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ralph.northey@glencore.com.au

Community complaints line
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You can also view our approvals, management plans
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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



Reader's contributions: *FACES IN THE WALL*

By Steve Mushenko

Faces in the wall,
locked away by the flood.
Cold and frozen in time,
until exposed with a thud.

Only at night, do they come out into sight;
as shadows expose their horrible plight.

There's Mary and an old man, and that fellow -
I've seen him before, and the look on that girls face,
and, oh yes, I see more.

Only a few are privileged to see,
what's exposed in the wall.

The wall near to me;
twisted, or laughing side glance or full on.

They've been locked in the rock;
only God knows how long.

The next path of the drillers,
the charge then, the blast,
finally ends their imprisonment
at long and at last.

Carted away, and yet I can see,
new faces on the wall - the wall near to me.

And one day, shock, horror in my disbelief,
someone, somewhere may even see me!

For nearly 40 years Steve Mushenko has lived and worked in the Broke Fordwich area - spending much of that time working in the local coal mines - where the inspiration for this poem is sourced.



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
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John Lamb
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Mob 0427 695 468

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PIANO LESSONS

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6579 1450

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367025

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jennybright@bigpond.
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