

A woman with brown hair tied back, wearing a yellow headband and a grey denim jacket, is working on a stained glass window. She is looking intently at the window, which features a detailed floral design with red and pink flowers and green foliage. The window is set in a wooden frame. The background is a bright, slightly overexposed area, possibly a studio or workshop.

# *The* Cockfighter

*Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale*

February 2020

**KREYFARER CERAMIC  
STUDIO**

*Bulga brings a new and exciting  
business to Broke Fordwich*

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**GREATER GLIDER. (Petauroides volans)**





# FROM THE EDITOR

## LIFE AFTER DEATH

Words fail me more than most, so excuse my excuse for not making this editorial the heartfelt hymn of praise for our firefighters that it should be. I'll leave that to our local and federal leaders to convey our gratitude especially in the case of Bulga and Broke, so speedily rescued from calamity by the backburning expertise of so many RFS teams.

Instead, I'd like to lean on the plea by groups by the Accommodation Australia of Australia and Simon Westaway's Australian Tourism Industry Council. They are not the vulgarian Bulgarian I am, so I'll say it for them; they want you to get off



*"...the Three Sisters, they're still there and still beautiful and they didn't get a fiery facelift"*

your arses, get out there- and help to get these tortured towns and villages back to some degree of pre-fire normality.

So I herewith cherry pick some of these recommendations.

Observe them and inwardly digest, please!

- Forget that O.S. holiday - buy Aussie, see the wide burnt land- and not because you're a grey nomad but because your money is helping a local recovery.
- Call in at a country pub where the fires were Blitz-like and maybe shout the bar, you mean bastard!
- Think of a region, off-season - there's nothing like the snow country without the snow; ditch the skis for sneakers.
- Be a koala Mama or Papa! You can adopt one of our world famous bears (which aren't really bears) through the Port Macquarie Hospital.
- Order whatever takes your fancy from fire-stricken businesses - the whole range from edibles to Reg Grundies. Google them everywhere.

- Bush hospitality still exists- old hotels (and motels) in the affected areas with usually big meals and a big welcome mat out.
- Nearer home: yes, the Three Sisters, they're still there and still beautiful and they didn't get a fiery facelift . So how about a trip to  
 "The Mountains of Blue  
 Where the sun shines through"  
 (Henry Kendall)
- A passion of yours truly: Use your visit to these valleys of tears to make it an Indigenous Culture Tour and, like me, wonder at the expertise of our First Peoples and their fire control traditions.
- Heard of voluntourism? If you have a particular skill or aptitude, check with the locals about a contribution you could make to helping out by digging-in or lending a hand.
- As mentioned, so many fire hit districts are trying to get back on their feet. Join them by getting out of the car and taking a walking and cycling tour with the kids. Those kids shouldn't forget it. And the locals never will.

**Tom Jackson**



*The Port Macquarie Koala Hospital has been working overtime with their four full-time staffers and 150 volunteers to save the 33 koalas that have come in for treatment*

Port Macquarie and  
 surrounds 24 hour  
 Koala Rescue  
 02 6584 1522  
 sightings@koala-  
 hospital.org.au

# KREYFARER CERAMIC STUDIO

*Beautiful  
Ceramics Made  
to Order*



*The need to have her own studio became essential - Elisa required the ability to fire her own work and get full control over the process. Luckily, her parents have the skills and the space to help out with the design and construction of a quality studio'*  
*COVER PIC: Elisa installing tile mural at Girdlers cafe, Avalon, Sydney.*

*Elisa Krey recently moved from Sydney to Bulga to live a country life. She is a ceramic/photographer artist specialising in large format tile murals and decorative home-wares. Her signature style is created by using photographic images and kiln firing them onto a textured glazed ceramic surface. The images absorb into the glaze to give a rustic aged feel, as if to fossilise them into permanency.*

Elisa is inspired by colours and textures in nature - especially those she discovered whilst exploring the estuaries of the Hawkesbury in her little yacht named 'Sass', and now in the mountains of the Wollemi-Yengo National Park, which her Bulga studio backs onto.

*Continued next page*



Elisa discovered ceramics in particular tile art, during a trip to Portugal. This art and craft has been used since ancient times. “I found it so beautiful! I loved the stories and the history these wall pieces told. I wanted to find a way to use my photographic images and make them archival like the tiles of old.”

Elisa worked as a professional photographer for 15 plus years, living in London for some time and winning four awards in the City’s Association of Photographers for her photojournalism work in Cuba.

**“The reason I got into photography was to be a nature photographer but was led by great opportunities into the advertising world.”**

After returning home from England Elisa went back to study marine biology which was a childhood dream. From there, she found herself assisting the underwater documentary filmmaker Richard Fitzpatrick. Working with Richard, they filmed everything from the Giant squid in Baja California to the tagging of sharks on the Great Barrier Reef.

This connection also allowed her to set up shoots in the aquarium at James Cook University in Cairns where she shot blue ringed octopuses, box jellyfish, lion fish and many other marine creatures which she ultimately used on her ceramics.

After a lot of experimenting, failures and in time, wins, plus being awarded a 6 month artist residency by the Northern Beaches Council at The Creative Space, those images were used in large format tile murals and eventuated in a collective show. All of her tile murals sold out on the opening night!

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*Kreyfarer tile mural at The William Inglis Hotel. Photo: Damien Ford Photography*

Following on from this, Elisa was commissioned to design two commercial spaces for Girdlers Cafe in the Northern Beach suburb of Avalon using her botanical images. Elisa was also commissioned to do a large horse portrait tile mural for The Inglis Hotel and Stables in Warwick Farm. This was an image of the horse named 'Heroic' that had a special meaning for the Inglis family. The mural is huge at 4.2 metres in length by 2.1 metres high, and she had to use a cherry picker to put it up due to the weight and height above the floor.

The need to have her own studio became essential. Elisa needed the ability to fire her own work and get full control over the process. Luckily, her parents Leslie and John, provided the land to build a big barn encompassing a ceramic studio and liv-

*Continued next page*



*Photos: Part of the Avian and Botanic series of cups/mugs.  
Unique, environmentally friendly, keep cup for take away.*

ing space. Elisa's dad happens to be a very talented (supposedly retired) builder/project manager so they designed and built the studio together.

The build started whilst Elisa lived in Sydney, coming up on weekends to help her parents with the project.

**“It was an incredible opportunity to apprentice for a master builder and a man I admire very much. And it required a lot of physical work and expert skills- not bad for a couple of retirees.”**

It has been 3 years since she started the project and her studio has been working fully for 9 months now.

As well as continuing the large format tile murals, Elisa has just released 3 series of ceramic mugs, tumblers and wine coolers and she is now working on other homewares. Each series is a result of the combination of all of her passions: ceramics, photography, nature and sailing.

It's easy to see that Elisa loves ceramics.

*Continued next page*

**“The ability to constantly discover and explore new techniques will quite possibly keep me entertained for a lifetime and I could not be happier.”**

Elisa is excited about the prospect of working with locals, bringing her skills and creative abilities to home renovation projects, commercial spaces, custom design of dinnerware and cups for wineries and restaurants, and personalised mug set ideas.

**“It’s a ‘made to order’ business and I work well with people and enjoy working side by side with clients to achieve the outcomes they want.”**



*Hexagon Poppy splashback*



*Elisa outside her studio with Mittens, the chook.*

*Part of the fun of living on the Bulga property is the opportunity to be surrounded by very friendly farm animals - the ‘chooks’ in particular love to spend time with Elisa in and out of her studio.*

*Continued next page*



*Wine cooler  
and mug: An  
opportunity for  
cellar doors  
or private  
home owners  
to acquire  
beautiful  
custom made  
items*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

***Kreyfarer Ceramic studio***

***98 Wollemi Peak Road Bulga NSW 2330 Australia***

***By appointment only***

***<http://www.kreyfarer.com>***

***ahoy@kreyfarer.com Instagram @kreyfarer +61 (0)***

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# MORE ACCOUNTABLE APPROACH TO DISTRIBUTE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A unique and innovative approach to Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs) will help to set up Singleton for the future with the adoption of the Community and Economic Development Fund Policy.

Derived in partnership with The Bloomfield Group and Glencore, the fund was adopted at Singleton Council's ordinary meeting recently to support long-term pro-



*The community hall at Bulga received a face lift using VPA funds*

jects that deliver outcomes for the community as well as the economy.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said the fund was a shift from the “here and now” approach to VPA money to provide a proactive and strategic injection for all sectors across the local government area with a focus on people, and not just assets.

“The Community and Economic Development Fund Policy sets a new direction for the expenditure of funds from VPAs to work together with mining companies to address challenges and help build diversity in our local economy,” she said.

*Continued next page*

“It means we can deliver true socio-economic outcomes through services or programs that help to improve living standards and promote health and wellbeing for people in response to the impact of mining, as well as encouraging innovation, supporting and growing jobs and increasing business profitability.

“This policy will provide the strategic direction and financial backing to make sure resources are being used properly to drive prosperity for everyone.”

Cr Moore said she believed this was a completely new approach to VPAs.

“I don’t know of anywhere else where something like this in place, and I commend and thank Glencore and Bloomfield for their foresight and partnership with Council to deliver a groundbreaking outcome that will deliver results for our community now, and into the future,” she said.

Bloomfield Group Chief Development Officer Geoff Moore said the company was delighted to support the initiative because of its focus on local people.

“As local people ourselves, we welcome every opportunity to work together in a unified and coordinated fashion to support the social and economic future of Singleton,” he said.

“The significant benefit of the approach is that it allows the funding to be applied across a wide range of projects that provide benefit to the local community.”

Following the adoption of the policy, Cr Moore said the community could be even more confident about Singleton’s long-term prosperity and livability.

“With long-term vision, a robust strategy and carefully planned actions, the future is bright for Singleton and the Community and Economic Development Fund will help us make sure that every opportunity counts,” she said

# THANKS ....



*When the 'on the ground' teams couldn't reach the 'Owendale' fire outside Broke, aerial fire fighting using helicopters was augmented by airliners dropping retardant  
(Pic Mary Tolson)*

We see them at regular intervals, the Rural Fire Service volunteers, hustling around the fire shed, hard at work gaining skills in fire control, first response, equipment use and much more. It would be natural to think that giving up valuable free time to go through the rigours of this kind of intense training would be a deterrent to building the numbers of volunteers but in fact the Broke RFS has grown in numbers in recent years and still accepting applications.

Most of the time is spent in training and revision but the recent fires put the groups to the test. For those of us who watched and waited as fires and conditions grew worse it was a comfort to know that the RFS was in the field 24/7 on our behalf. And in all of it, individual members still had the patience and time to accept personal calls from friends and neighbours seeking information.

The summer is not over yet and it is wished that the rest of the hot weather passes without further fires, but the local RFS has demonstrated that they are able to cope with some pretty harsh conditions - hopefully they have all begun the job of resting and recuperating and making up for the family hours missed, the outings with friends foregone and christmas gatherings they lost.

There is not a single person in our community who has not been thankful for the bravery and sacrifice that our local RFS teams have shown.

# COMMUNITY GROUPS BENEFIT FROM MORE THAN \$41,000 FROM THE BRIDGMAN RIDGE COMMUNITY TRUST

A total of 15 community groups and not-for-profit organisations will share in more than \$41,000 for a range of projects from the Bridgman Ridge Community Trust. The grants have been awarded in the fourth round of the program, after the Trust was established to return a portion of the money generated by the sale of land at Bridgman Ridge to the community.

Members of the Trust include directors of Bridgman Ridge Holdings Pty Ltd, the Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore and the Singleton Council General Manager Jason Linnane.

The Trust invites applications from not-for-profit organisations based in or delivering a project in the Singleton local government area.

Funding can be used for the purchase of equipment, minor repair work and upgrades, hosting cultural events, exhibitions or workshops or to assist with obtaining larger grants.

Applications are prioritised based on merit.

All Saints Bell Ringers	Replace bell ropes	\$4,000	Samaritans Foundation – Diocese of Newcastle	Funding to help host Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day in the Singleton Senior Citizens Centre	\$1,000
CWA Singleton	Upgrade and painting of meeting room	\$4,500	Singleton Branch of Australia Red Cross	Cover costs for hosting guest speaker for a dinner and cover fares/car hire, fuel and filming fee for a documentary as part of the dinner	\$2,250
Generate Church - Genplay (Playgroup)	Assorted playgroup items	\$3,000	Singleton Police Citizens Youth Club	Replacing old and damaged equipment	\$2,264
Girl Guides Association of NSW – Singleton District	Replace existing flag pole and install outdoor seating	\$1,500	Singleton Town Band Incorporated	Upgrade Drum Kit	\$2,000
Hunter Prelude	End of year celebration to thank family and friends who have supported Hunter Prelude over the year	\$500	The Rotary Club of Singleton on Hunter	Refurbishment of Art Show frames	\$5,000
Kirkton Public School	To set up a hydroponic garden with aquaculture attachment	\$2,500	Witmore Enterprises Incorporated	Replacing of 72 lights with LED lighting	\$3,000
Mercy Services	Purchase "The Virtual Forest" program from Dementia Australia	\$3,000		Total Allocation	\$41,467
Mt Olive Community Centre Inc.	Covered side entry to the hall	\$2,653			
Salvation Army Singleton	Funding for Annual Kids Christmas Party and purchase of presents	\$4,300			

*Above: The successful applicants  
Applications are prioritised  
based on merit.*

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# 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](http://www.bulgacoal.com.au) and click on  
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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](http://www.singletonchurch.org)

# NEW PASSENGER RAIL SERVICES PUT SINGLETON ON TRACK AS A PLAYTIME DESTINATION

With more passenger rail services now operating between Singleton and the Newcastle Interchange, Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore is encouraging commuters at both ends to get on board and take advantage of more options to travel from one end of the Lower Hunter to the other.



Families in Newcastle can leave the city behind and experience Singleton's reputation as a playtime destination, including the recently unveiled all-abilities playground at Rose Point Park and the award-winning Riverside Park.

Two new direct train services announced by Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole came into effect on Sunday 5 January, operating seven days a week for a 12-month trial period throughout 2020.

The result of a campaign by the Two More Trains for Singleton group and supported by Singleton Council, the services give Singleton and Branxton customers six

*Continued next page*

return options from Sydney and Newcastle on weekdays and four on weekends.

But Cr Moore said it was also an opportunity for people down the line to build on the success of the Newcastle light rail and climb aboard for a journey north to Singleton.

“Singleton is fast becoming a regional destination, offering boutique shopping, cos-



*Singleton mayor Sue Moore (centre), Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnsen and Two More Trains for Singleton representatives Jocelyn Graham and Andrea Winter.  
Singleton Argus*

mopolitan cafes and of course award-winning playgrounds for a fun and enjoyable day trip for all ages,” she said.

“And it’s even easier to get here and get home again with more options to leave the car in the garage, forget the stress of congestion and take in the beautiful scenery of our local government area.

“With the new services now in operation, it’s a great opportunity for people in Newcastle and Maitland to embark on a school holiday adventure and discover what’s great about Singleton.

*Continued next page*

But it is now up to the community to keep them operating.

“Our community has worked incredibly hard for the introduction of these services, and now it’s up to us to use them to make sure they remain a permanent fixture on the timetable between Newcastle and Singleton,” Cr Moore said.

“We see coal trains travelling between Singleton and Newcastle every day, and now we’re set to experience the same regularity with people.

## NSW TrainLink Service timetables

Singleton – Newcastle							
<b>Monday to Friday</b>							
Singleton	06:56	10:40	13:25r	15:34l	19:54	21:34l	21:40
Maitland	07:29	11:13	13:57r	16:15l	20:28	22:07l	22:13
Newcastle	08:01	11:46	14:21r	16:48l	20:59	22:39l	22:45
<b>Saturday &amp; Sunday</b>							
Singleton	07:27	13:25r	15:34l	21:20l		21:36	
Maitland	08:00	13:57r	16:17l	21:53l		22:10	
Newcastle	08:32	14:22r	16:47l	22:25l		22:47	
Newcastle – Singleton							
<b>Monday to Friday</b>							
Newcastle	03:18	08:14	11:48r	14:24l	16:29	17:59	20:24l
Maitland	03:59	08:46	12:12r	14:56l	17:02	18:32	20:56l
Singleton	04:31	09:19	12:42r	15:28l	17:34	19:04	21:28l
<b>Saturday &amp; Sunday</b>							
Newcastle	03:55	11:51r	14:24l	17:52		20:10l	
Maitland	04:35	12:14r	14:56l	18:25		20:42l	
Singleton	05:07	12:44r	15:28l	18:57		21:14l	

Not all stops shown

Key:  
 r NSW TrainLink Regional service. Newcastle time shown is for Broadmeadow Station.  
 l NSW TrainLink Intercity new services from 5 January 2020.

“Whether you’re going to Maitland, Newcastle or Sydney for leisure or work, heading back to the University of Newcastle after the summer break, or if you live in Newcastle or Maitland and travel regularly to Singleton, the train really is a good option for wherever you’re headed.”

# WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR COAL IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

Does coal mining still have a future? Well, yes it probably does for at least the next 30 to 50 years, perhaps longer. Currently 38.5% of the world's electrical power is generated by coal. It is also critical in steel making, aluminium, plastics, construction, manufacturing and many other industries. Coal brings in export dollars and pays royalties to governments. Miners pay tax (well, mine workers pay tax – not quite the same thing) and mining has strong support from certain political parties. Think of the population of Australia. Currently it stands at about 25 million people, which is quite a crowd. Now imagine each single person is actually 34 people. That makes the crowd 860 million people. That is an awful lot of people. That is the number of people in the world right now that do not have access to electricity. Unlike you and me, they can't just flick a switch and turn on a light. They can't build something using power tools because they don't have any power. No refrigerators. No TV. No air conditioning or heaters. No ability to pump water with a simple electric pump. Their children have difficulty learning because they have to rely on a battery lamp or a candle or an oil lamp. This is in the world of 2019, not the nineteenth century. Many of these people live in Africa south of the Sahara Desert in a region known as sub-Saharan Africa and in South East Asia.

*That makes the crowd 860 million people. That is an awful lot of people. That is the number of people in the world right now that do not have access to electricity.*

860 million people is a vast improvement – it was over 2 billion in 2000. But in 2000 the UN set goals to get affordable electricity to everybody and bearing in mind the growth in world population, they have done a pretty decent job in the last 20 years. More than 1.3 billion people lifted out of poverty by the provision of electricity, which is huge achievement. But how is this electricity generated? In many cases the electricity is generated by burning coal.

Many of those people lifted out of poverty live in India and China where electricity generation between 1971 and 2011 has jumped from around 55Gw to 874Gw in India and from 128Gw to 4521Gw in China over the same period. Much of this was and still is generated by coal; some mined domestically, some imported. For comparison: Australia generates about 10Gw. Bayswater generates 2.6Mw of that power, Eraring about 2.9Mw. 1Gw is 1000Mw, a Mw is 1000Kw, a Kw is 1000watts.

*Continued next page*

A modern light bulb uses about 8watts.

Where is this leading? The world will continue to mine and burn coal for the foreseeable future because it is cheap and available. It is the ideal fuel (if you ignore the carbon dioxide) for large scale generation of electricity to be distributed via a grid. All the Developed World has been doing this for the past 200 years. Europe, North America and Australia amongst others became affluent because we had easy access to coal to generate electricity.

We do not have the right to deny the Emerging World the same access. They have every right to continue to burn coal to generate electricity. So much of what we take for granted today is there because somebody dug some coal out of the ground to start the process. While the world still depends on coal to generate



*We do not have the right to deny the Emerging World the same access to power.*

electricity, it is no longer the 'only game in town' with a variety of technologies looking to supplant the role of coal in electricity generation.

Coal does have one major drawback – carbon dioxide. Coal is essentially carbon, which when it is burnt in air releases useful heat and a not so friendly bi-product, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). ***We have now reached the point where the level of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is starting to cause some significant problems.***

*Mike Wilson*

*Broke*

*[www.hunterweb.com.au](http://www.hunterweb.com.au)*

*[mike@belarnagrove.com.au](mailto:mike@belarnagrove.com.au)*



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT SACRED SPACES

Saturday 29 February 2020 AT 8:00 PM – Chamber Philharmonia Cologne:

Classics from Germany

Classical ensemble concert in the stunning Sisters' Chapel



Sunday 15 March 2020 AT 2:00 PM – New Empire Ballroom Ragtime Dance Orchestra

Ragtime & other music of 1920, to help celebrate Singleton's bicentenary!

Sunday 5 April 2020 AT 9:00 AM to 4:00 pm – Collectables in the Convent

Our version of 'Antiques Roadshow'! Have your items valued, browse local collections and learn about collectables.

Saturday 9 May 2020 AT 7:30 PM – Bach in the Dark

Optional canapes before the concert

Rachel Scott, cello and Raffaele and Janet Agostino, guitars

Sunday 26 July 2020 AT 2:00 PM – Hunter Wind Ensemble

Wind, brass and percussion ensemble music in our stunning Chapel

Sunday 30 August 1 September 2020 Times to advised – Friends in Stitches

Exhibition of the Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery Project

*Continued next page*

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT SACRED SPACES .....

Sunday 30 August 2020 AT 2:00 PM – String Loaded – Celtic fiddle band

A celebration of Irish music



Tuesday 1 September 2020 AT 10:00 AM – 1875 in Singleton – Let's Talk Over Tea!

A local history discussion

Sunday 27 September 2020 AT 2:00 PM – Plektra ensemble

Classical and world music for mandolin & guitar

Sunday 18 October 2020 AT 2:00 PM – Quintus – 5 male voices

A capella song in our stunning Chapel

Saturday 24 October and Sunday 25 October 2020 AT 9:00 AM – Fibrefest 2020 with the Knitters' Guild NSW. Saturday - workshops only - Sunday - Retail day - free entry

Weekend 24th and 25th October

[www.sacredspaces.org.au/events](http://www.sacredspaces.org.au/events)

(02) 6572 2398

[office@sacredspaces.org.au](mailto:office@sacredspaces.org.au)

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# Time for a change

The statesman teenager



***MADRID — A year ago, a little known 15-year-old Swedish girl in a checked shirt and pigtails stood before world leaders in a snowy Polish coal town and told them they were blowing their chance to aggressively combat climate change, and their inaction would no longer be tolerated.***

“Change is coming, whether you like it or not,” she vowed in a blistering three minute speech that lit a fire under the otherwise sleepy proceedings.

On Wednesday, Greta Thunberg — now 16, now a global celebrity and the most recognizable face of the climate movement — returned to the annual United Nations climate summit, this time on the outskirts of Spain’s capital.

Only this time, she was the main attraction.

Thunberg’s globe-trotting, headline-making, movement-forming journey to push for urgent climate action has transformed her from a solitary protester into an international icon. On Wednesday, not long after she spoke, she was named Time magazine’s Person of the Year, its youngest ever, for becoming “the biggest voice on the biggest issue facing the planet.”

So much has changed since that cold day in Poland when she emerged on the world stage. People flocked to the vast room where she spoke. A swarm of media documented her every move. A sea of young activists filled the conference halls. And yet, so much has not changed. The world has hardly budged when it comes to taking more collective action on climate change. The trajectory of global emis-

*Continued next page*

sions is still headed the wrong direction. And Thunberg has not lost her bluntness or indignation.

“The changes required are still nowhere in sight. The politics needed does not exist today, despite what you hear from world leaders,” she said, criticizing the lofty rhetoric and distant goals from countries here, which have yet to result in concrete promises. “I still believe the biggest danger is not inaction. The real danger is when politicians and CEOs make it look like real action is happening, when in fact, almost nothing is being done, apart from clever accounting and creative PR.”

The drumbeat of grim reports on the world’s pace of emissions, coupled with raging wildfires, devastating storms, rising seas and other unfolding catastrophes, suggest there is no time to waste. But as this and other climate gatherings have shown, change often comes at a glacial pace.

There is little doubt that Thunberg has made it more uncomfortable for world leaders to ignore the growing pressure to act.

**Extract from *The Washington Post***

**BY BRADY DENNIS**

## The Shocking Size of the Australian Wildfires

Acres burned in selected recent major wildfire events



Fires in the Amazon rainforest excluded due to lack of reliable figures  
Sources: CalFire/Russian Federal Forestry Agency via BBC, Associated Press



statista

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The  
Coefighter

# RUNNING HORSE WINES



Join the vigneron for tastings  
of Classic Aged wines with  
stunning views over  
Yellow Rock and the  
Broke Fordwich Valley  
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# RBA TOLD TO 'MOBILISE ALL FORCES' TO SAVE THE ECONOMY FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

By Shane Wright and Eryk Bagshaw

*The Age*

The Reserve Bank has been warned it may have to buy up coal mines and fossil fuel power stations as part of extraordinary actions to save the economy from climate change-induced financial disaster.

As Australian business leaders grow increasingly worried climate change will hit their bottom lines and the International Monetary Fund warns global warming is now a major financial risk, a new warning issued by the world's top central bank

*“They’re starting to understand that a new form of capitalism is emerging, one that considers a broader group of stakeholders ....”*

says the RBA could be forced into rescuing the economy and the environment. Three separate reports released on the same day, coinciding with Australia's worst bushfire season and ongoing political division over environmental policy, point to increasing fears among economic policy leaders that climate change could cause the next global financial breakdown.

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS), which acts as the central bank to the world's central banks, overnight told its members they had to start incorporating climate change into their thinking about the stability of the economy.

The global financial crisis was described by some experts as a “black swan” - an economic event that is extremely unexpected with wide-ranging effects. The BIS said central banks would now have to start thinking about “green swan” events, which would force them into saving the global financial system from the impact of climate change.

During the global financial crisis some central banks directly intervened to save private banks and insurance firms as part of a program to protect the economy. The BIS said this could be a template in the case of climate change with central banks buying up distressed assets.

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“In the worst-case scenario, central banks may have to confront a situation where they are called upon by their local constituencies to intervene as climate rescuers of last resort,” it said.

The BIS said climate change events that severely affected the financial health of the banking and insurance sectors could force central banks to intervene and “buy a large set of carbon-intensive assets”.



Many central banks including the RBA have raised concerns about the impact of climate change on the local economy, but the BIS said they will have to be more forceful.

It said “catastrophic and irreversible” impacts from climate change may make it impossible to determine the full extent of the damage caused to the global economy. Banks could not take a “wait and see” approach.

“If central banks are to preserve financial and price stability in the age of climate change, it is in their interest to help mobilise all the forces needed to win this battle,” the bank said.

The report was released as the International Monetary Fund downgraded its forecasts for the global economy through this year and into 2021.

The fund expects the economy to grow by 2.9 per cent in 2020, a 0.1 percentage point downgrade from its October forecast.

It noted that risks to the outlook had improved over recent months, in part due to the United States and China agreeing on a new trade deal, but warned climate change was a growing economic problem.

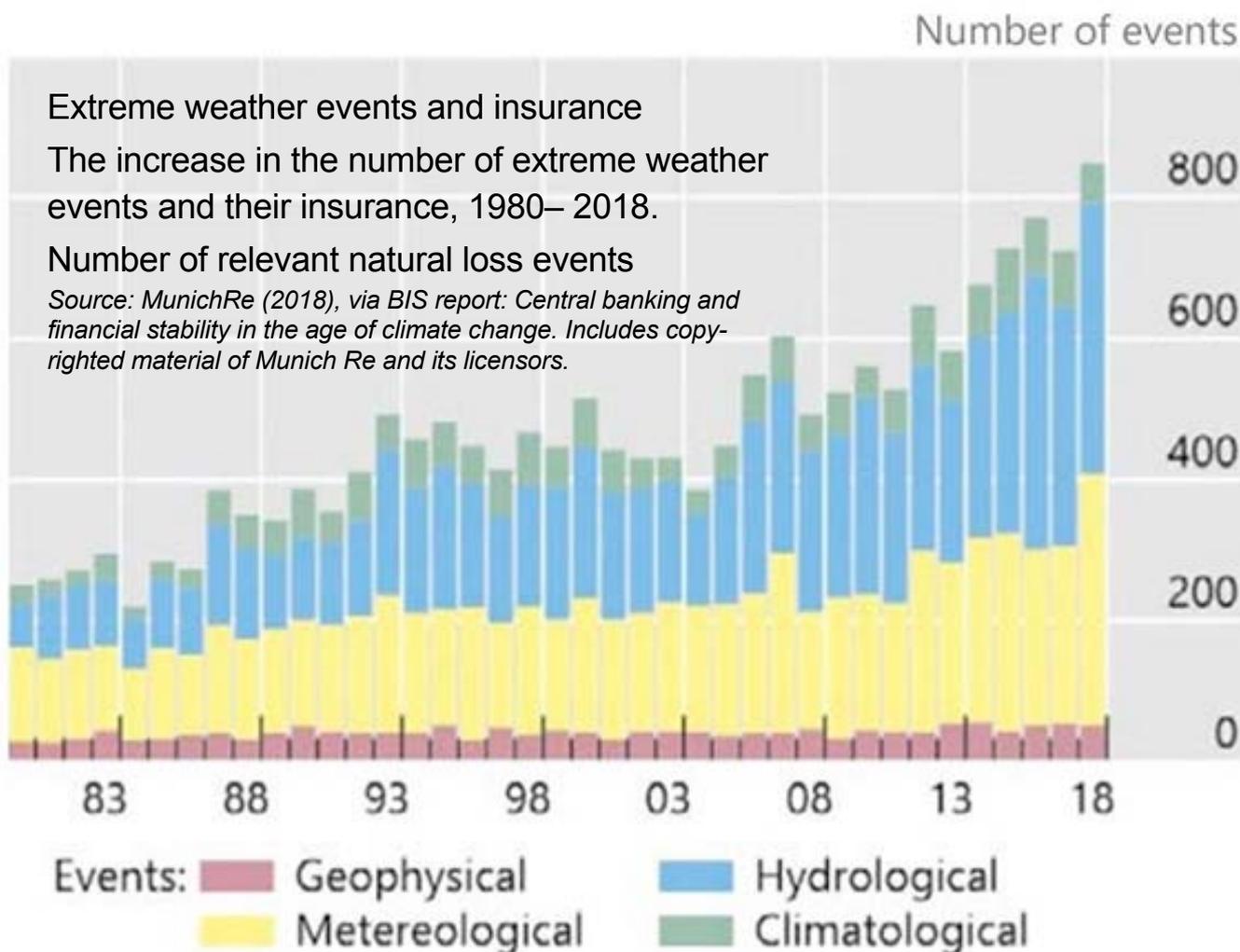
“Weather-related disasters such as tropical storms, floods, heatwaves, droughts and wildfires have imposed severe humanitarian costs and livelihood loss across multiple regions in recent years,” it said.

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The warning from global authorities comes as Australian business leaders become increasingly anxious about the threat of climate change.

New research shows nearly twice as many local executives view climate change as society’s biggest issue compared to their international peers.

The Deloitte survey of more than 2000 global executives found pressure from external stakeholders and employees has led to leaders shifting their views on the



risks of climate change.

“They’re starting to understand that a new form of capitalism is emerging, one that considers a broader group of stakeholders and measures societal impact alongside financial performance,” the report found.

Up to 89 per cent of the 150 Australian executives surveyed viewed climate change and environmental sustainability as the “societal issue of greatest focus,” compared to 54 per cent world-wide.

More than 80 per cent, half of whom were aged between 45 and 54, viewed it as their generation’s responsibility to solve. The same amount believed it would have a “negative impact on business operations”.





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# **SINGLETON'S OUTSTANDING CITIZENS HONOURED IN AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS**

A long-standing stalwart of the community who has raised more than \$60,000 for Singleton youth, and a teenager known as "Superfish" who is setting records and inspiring athletes of all abilities have been honoured at today's Australia Day celebrations in Singleton.

Gary Holland, the man behind the not-for-profit "Dolly's Charity Shop" and a volunteer with a range of community initiatives including the Anglican Church, Samaritans Christmas Day lunch, Apex Club and Red Cross Disaster disaster support team, was named the 2020 Singleton Citizen of the Year.

Darcy Gilson, who has continued to put Singleton on the map in the national multi-class swimming scene for swimmers with a disability and who holds State and Australian records in the Athletes with a Disability (AWD) class, was named the Young Achiever of the Year.

The announcements were made as part of the official ceremony this morning, where 38 new Australian citizens were also welcomed and Australia Day guest John Flannery delivered the address on the meaning of Australia Day in Singleton.

Mr Flannery is a former general manager of Singleton Council who led the construction of Council's Administration Building and Civic Centre during his tenure and, although born in Parkes and raised Sydney, has been an integral part of Singleton's most recent milestones including the Shire Clerk of the amalgamated Singleton Municipal and Patrick Plains Shire councils.

Now retired, he continues to serve the Singleton community through involvement in a range of organisations and championing the local government area across a range of industries.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said it was wonderful to see so many people come out to celebrate Australia Day in Singleton at last night's free family event, Twilight, as well as at today's official proceedings.

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“Australia Day is a great occasion to come together to celebrate what we all have in common as Australians, and to recognise the privileges and freedoms that come with Australian citizenship,” she said.

“It’s a very significant occasion for the 38 people who chose to become Australians in Singleton, and I was honoured to be part of it.”

She also paid tribute to the nominees for the Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year.

“Australia Day has become a tradition to recognise those Australians among us who go a little bit further to make our community great, and it’s one of the most humbling parts of my role as mayor to present the Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year awards,” Cr Moore said.

“I sincerely congratulate Gary Holland and Darcy Gilson on this prestigious honour, and thank everyone who was nominated for all you do for our community.”



*Singleton Citizen of the Year Gary Holland  
and Young Achiever of the Year Darcy Gilson.*

# 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.



**BROKE VILLAGE MARKET**

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

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY MARKET



# 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



### **GREATER GLIDER. (Petauroides volans)**

Largest gliding marsupial, size of a cat.

The Greater Glider's large size, big fuzzy ears and long woolly coat are distinctive. About half of its 1m total length tail consists of a fluffy, partly prehensile tail. Its colour ranges from black through brownish grey to nearly white. Eye-shine brilliant white-yellow. The greater Glider is capable of breathtaking glides between trees. Unlike other gliders, the gliding membrane extends only to the elbow, not to the wrist, and it tucks its forepaws under its chin as it glides. Greater Gliders are silent, mainly solitary and strictly nocturnal. They spend the day in cavities high in the tall trees of most kind of wooded areas, although they avoid rainforest. They are strict vegetarians and only eat eucalyptus leaves and buds. They have a single young that stays in pouch until around 4 months old then rides on the mothers back until independent at 9 months.

***Its been a horrendous start of year for all of us,especially for our wildlife.  
Some will never return.***

***It is a very sad time for all.***

Hope the remaining year has more to offer.

***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**

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 [hunintervalley.team@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunintervalley.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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@bfpid.com.au)  
Water On/Off 1300 767 118

### **PID Admin**

Saywells  
12 Vincent St  
CESSNOCK  
[office@saywells.com](mailto: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](http://www.wildlifeaid.org.au)  
0429 850 089

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