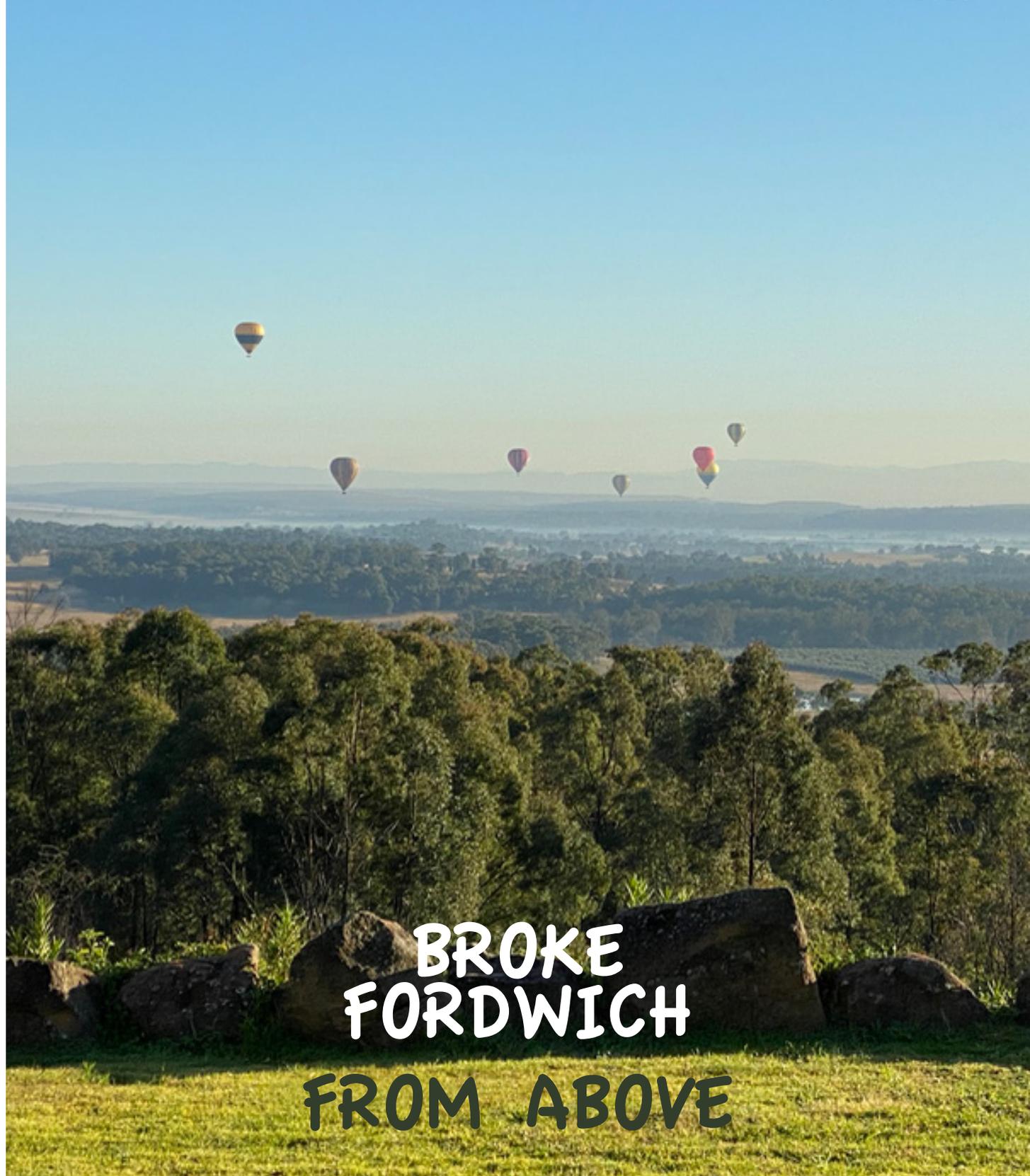


The *Cockfighter*

Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale

October 2020



**BROKE
FORDWICH
FROM ABOVE**

THIS ISSUE:

**GETTING
HIGH IN
BROKE
FORDWICH**



**WHICH
WINEGRAPE
VARIETIES ARE
GROWN WHERE?**



**THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE**

UNIVERSITY OF
ADELAIDE PRESS

**200-YEARS OF
AUSTRALIAN-
FRENCH
WINEMAKING
COOPERATION**



**IMPROVED
VISITOR
EXPERIENCE
AT LAKE ST
CLAIR**



**OUR
WILDLIFE**



**MAYOR DEMANDS
BETTER THAN
“SECOND-BEST”
SINGLETON
BYPASS OPTION**



FROM THE EDITOR



200 NOT OUT FOR BULGA—HOWEZAT!!

All roads may lead to Rome, but please do not forget that on Saturday, October 17, when the good people of Bulga invite you to visit their own part of our national thoroughfare system (Inlet Road, to be exact) for not one, but two momentous walks down memory lane. To begin with, it's about 200 years since that remarkable figure of colonial exploration, John Howe, capped his opening of the Patrick Plains with the first (white) sighting of the idyllic paradise our First Peoples knew as Bulga. And never let us forget that, without the unique bushcraft and calm perseverance of the native Australians John Howe recruited for his squad, our beautiful patch may have waited much longer to become recognised on the map of pre-Federation New South Wales.

The second stanza on the playlist for October is meant to be an equally whole-hearted tribute to our forebears—but perhaps a little more restrained and introspective than our Bulga commemoration: we're remembering the dedication of that consecrated gateway to the fallen, the War Memorial Gates at the Recreation Ground. One hundred years have drifted down the canyons of time since our civic predecessors reverently marked the end of that cataclysmic bloodbath we know as the Great War by... well, closing the gates on it.

And the Bulga planners of today have added a living, blossoming touch of natural nostalgia to this part of the October ceremonies by replacing the Kurrajong tree which was planted by the class of 1920 to register the feelings of a little outpost in the bush—an outpost, as the Memorial Gates tell us, which knew all about some of the 60,000 lives lost between 1914 and 1918. As the RSL reminds us: Lest We Forget.

By the same token, and with due respect, organisers would like this great occasion to be more like a family fiesta (or even a Bulgarian bunfight!). You're asked to bring your own picnic table and chairs and observe the current physical distancing requirements; bring your own food and drink, although there'll be tea and coffee available. This will be an outstanding community-driven occasion—and there could even be a game of cricket on the programme. Maybe we can pause and reflect on the memory of Diggers, in radically more perilous circumstances, opening the bowling on the beaches of Gallipoli—or playing a straight bat before storming Mt St Quentin in 1918.

Continued next page

Far from our Bulga-Broke-Fordwich-Milbrodale oasis....well, about 130 kilometres as the crow flies if he is driving a Mazda ute, lies the Port Stephens whale-watching premises of Moonshadow Cruises. I'm here to unashamedly plug this concern, because in mid-September, friends and I took to the Tasman Sea with them to hopefully catch a cetacean.

Hey—we saw at least two in an unforgettable variety of vaudevillian twists and turns. And we enjoyed this, the best whale-watching he'd experienced for weeks, so our skipper told us, because of the part his crew played in looking out for the ocean's biggest show-offs. You just can't tell where they are going to surface after crashing through for Act One, so the crew man and woman different points to alert the skipper who can turn this very big cruise boat on a five-cent coin to get the picture we all want. And what a picture: our performers didn't get near the 18-metre length and 40 tonnes of their mature kind, but they were big enough and happy enough to dazzle us with every trick in the Whale Women's Weekly: percussive pectoral slaps, body rolls of jaw-dropping strength, and even the show-stopping breach. And the show doesn't end with this, because the coast in these parts is dotted with human-uninhabited islands teeming with seals, different seabirds and Port Stephens own local dolphins, the Bottlenose. Well worth a trip, but remember the annual migration to the Antarctic ends about mid-November. If you do make the trip with Moonshadow, remember the punchline: Thar she blows!!

(Tom Ahab Jackson)



Picnic in the Park

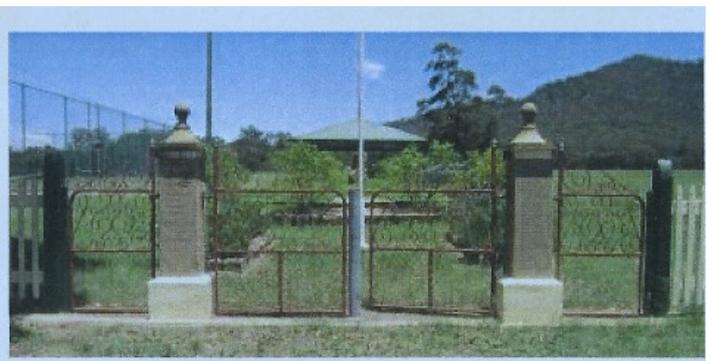
11am Saturday 17 October 2020

Picnic in the Park to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Dedication of the War Memorial Gates in the Bulga Recreation Ground and the 200th Birthday of the discovery of Bulga by John Howe and his team.

Part of the celebration will be the planting of a Kurrajong tree to replace the one planted 100 years ago on 16th October 1920 at the Dedication of the War Memorial Gates in memory of the local residents who lost their lives in the Great War. Come along and enjoy fun and friendship while honouring our Pioneering Forefathers.

Bring a picnic table and a chair (for social distancing), a plate or picnic lunch and your favourite drinks.

Some food, tea and coffee will be available. Children's activities, music from the wartime era and maybe a game of cricket will be the order of the day.



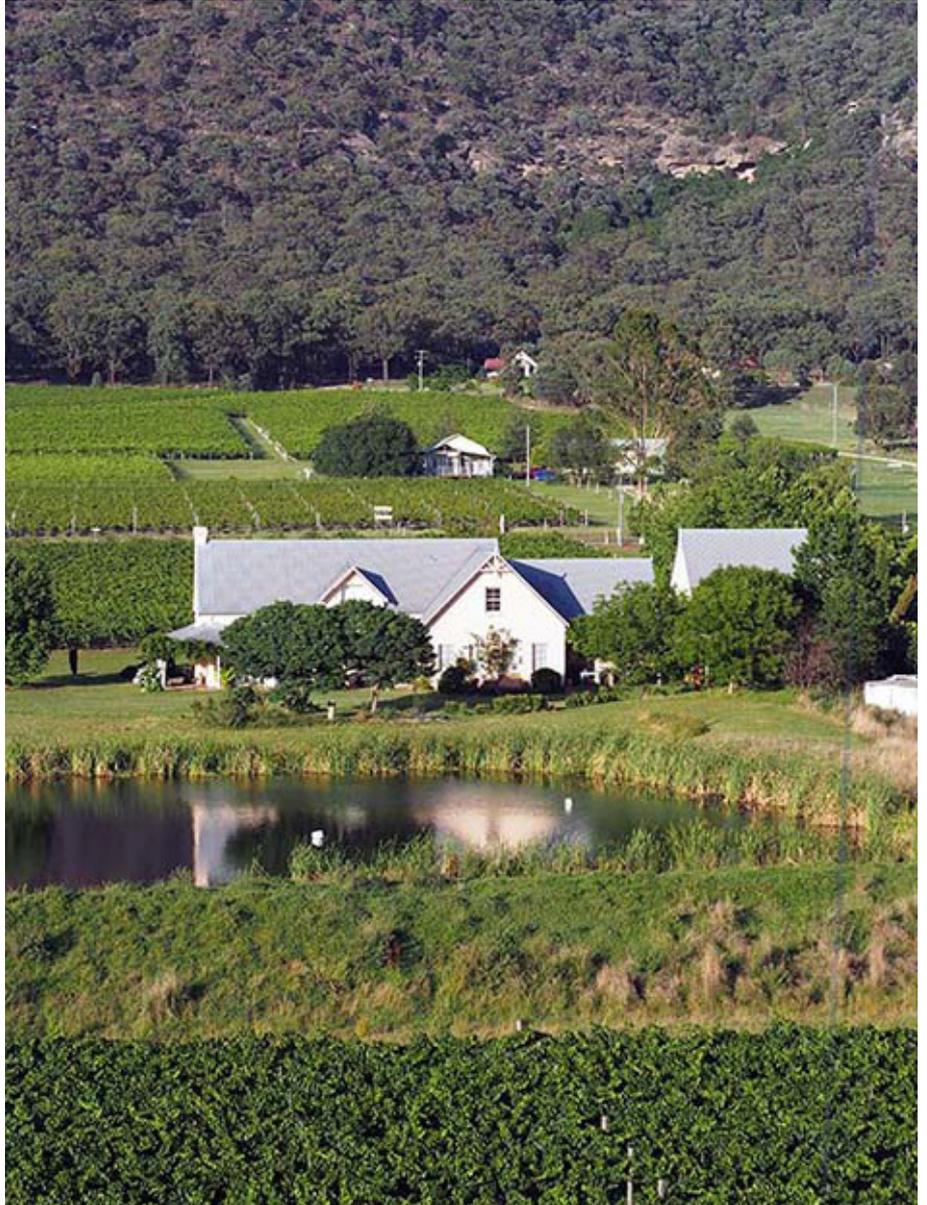
GETTING HIGH IN BROKE FORDWICH

Originally posted on *Belly Rumbles* - a Sydney based culinary travel blog,
by Sara McCleary

[Click here to visit Belly Rumbles](#)

I have visited the Hunter many times, but never travelled the short 10 minutes from the busy epicentre of Pokolbin to pay Broke Fordwich a visit. Actually most people I spoke to before and after visiting had little knowledge of the area whatsoever.

A sleepy and tranquil area, which makes the tour buses and cars of Pokolbin feel a million miles away. This is what the Hunter Valley used to be like: the Hunter Valley I fell in love with in the 80's. Broke Fordwich's vineyards and farms are nestled in the foothills of the picturesque Brokenback Mountain Range. Throughout the day, as you travel around some of the region's oldest vineyards, the scenery alters as the sunlight plays on the mountain range. Sunrise is particularly stunning, sunset with a glass of local wine in hand, even more so.



Do I want to tell you about Broke Fordwich? No, not really. I would rather keep this area out of the media, not promote it and make sure it retains its current Zen like quality.

As one jovial vigneron said to me, "We want people to come, just not too many of them". I totally understand and respect his comment. Broke Fordwich is a special slice of the Hunter Valley. But if you do visit, you will be warmly welcomed with open arms.

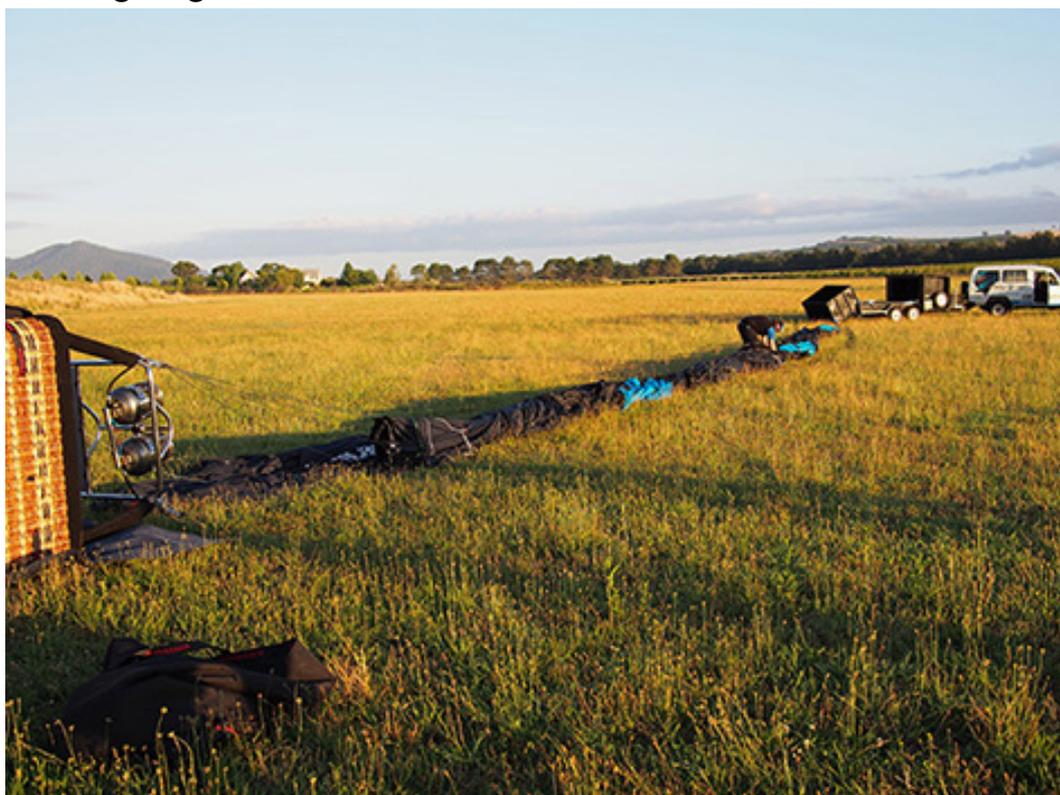
My ballooning experience is how I know sunrise is particu- **Continued next page**

larly stunning. Sunrise really isn't an event I drag myself out of bed for, but when a balloon flight has been arranged, I will make an effort to get up at 4.30am.

My travel tales of Broke Fordwich will appear slightly in reverse on Belly Rumbles. The balloon flight took place on the last morning of our Broke Fordwich adventure, but I feel it is the perfect place to start.

The night before the flight we attended our second wine dinner of the visit at Nightingale Wines (also where we were staying). It had been a late night with lots of wine sampled from various vineyards. Let's just say I wasn't too thrilled when the alarm went off 4 hours after going to bed.

Rubbing sleep from our eyes, sans makeup, clothes thrown on and not actually as grumpy as expected, my partner in crime, Amanda and I make it to the meet up area in Broke on time. It's pitch black and we walk up to the guys from Beyond Ballooning staring off into the



pre-dawn heavens. We look, we squint, we look again to where they are pointing, but we can't spot the helium-filled balloon, which was let go to check wind directions.

The rest of our group turn up, and into the back of Beyond Ballooning's truck we pile and head to the paddock where it was planned to lift off. Another balloon is released. It is quite surprising how far you can watch a black balloon float off into the distance if you keep your eye on it. At one stage it looked like we may have not made liftoff due to wind directions, but after moving to another paddock, the wind gods smiled on us and we were off.

With the balloon filled with hot air, it was time to discover from the air what we had spent the rest of the weekend driving around.

Continued next page



This picture is solely to prove that we were actually in the balloon. It was a fantastic experience, my first time hot air ballooning. Plus I will let you in on a little secret, I'm afraid of heights and was initially nervous on how I would react in the balloon. Surprisingly I felt rather safe in the basket. Plus the gorgeous scenery of Broke Fordwich quickly took my mind away from the fact I was in a basket dangling from a balloon that was at the mercy of the elements. It was

Continued next page

really an amazing experience and the perfect way to see the area.

Sadly all good things must come to an end. The bonus of the flight ending is that we stood inside the balloon while it was deflating. A major inner six-year-old moment. Was so much fun!

Beyond Ballooning is a family owned business operating out of the Hunter Valley and is the area's premier hot air balloon flight company. They cater for flights for two to 10 people.

[Click here for more information on the Broke Fordwich Region](#)



Originally posted on [Belly Rumbles](#) - a Sydney based culinary travel blog, by Sara McCleary

[Click here to visit Belly Rumbles](#)

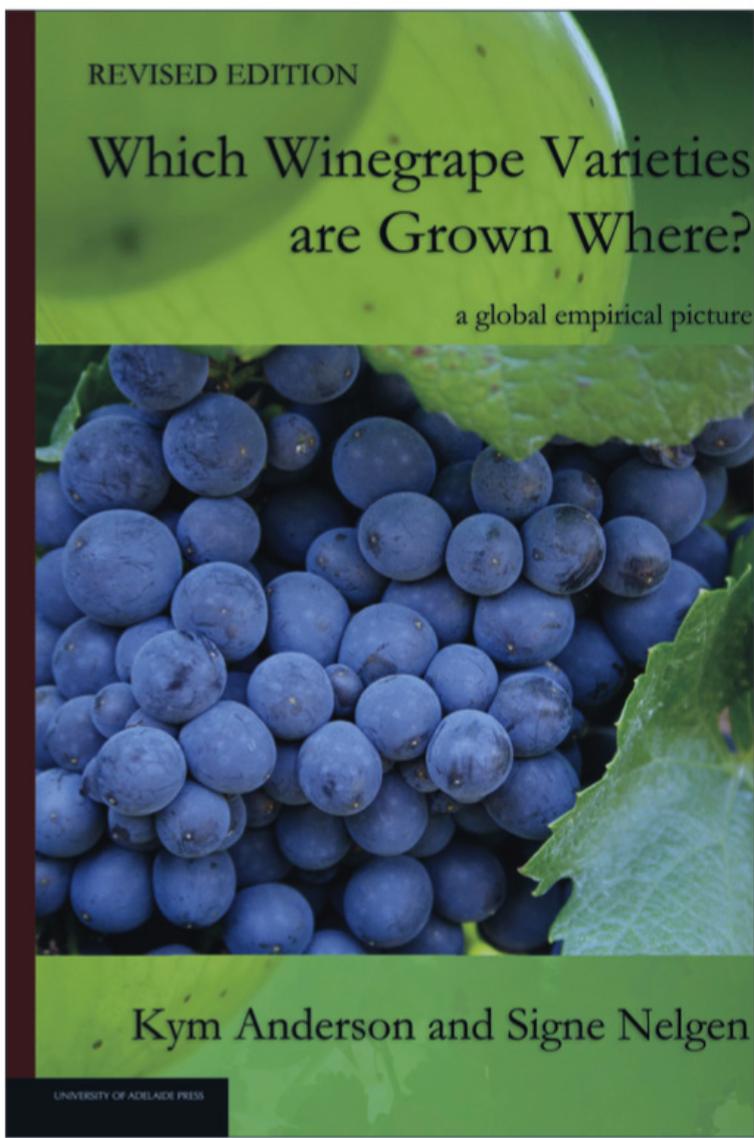
BELLY RUMBLES
a culinary adventure



WHICH WINEGRAPE VARIETIES ARE GROWN WHERE?

University of Adelaide releases new edition of their free E-Book ... A must for serious wine buffs, interested consumers and growers.

Wine producers and enthusiasts around the world will be better able to navigate future global markets and the impacts of climate change with a new book available free online.



Which Winegrape Varieties are Grown Where? A Global Empirical Picture provides snapshots from 1990 to 2016 of the world's vineyard bearing areas of more than 1700 prime grape varieties in over 700 wine regions.

The book is an update and expansion of a 2013 edition. Presented for the first time are data on the climatic conditions of each region.

“This book will help growers and winemakers to identify varieties that have been successful elsewhere in similar climatic conditions, and thus help them plan with more certainty,” said co-author Professor Emeritus Kym Anderson, executive director of the University of Adelaide’s Wine Economics Research Centre.

“Understanding the predicted climatic changes in your region, and then being able to identify grape varieties that do well under those conditions, can be a game changer.”

Wine Australia general manager – research, development and adoption Dr Liz Waters said the expanded book provides critical information and analysis to support future planning for the Australian wine sector.

“Applicable and accurate data are enormously important for the wine sector to understand patterns of change so that we can plan effectively for a profitable future,” Dr Waters said.

Continued next page

“This updated edition is an invaluable resource that not only assists our sector to see the developments in production on a local and global scale, but also to analyse the changes in comparable regions.”

Professor Anderson says, “When planning or re-planting a vineyard, a wine grower’s choice of winegrape variety depends on expectations about production costs and marketability in 10–30 years’ time”.

“Costs can depend on how their region’s climate will change, and marketability depends on the variety’s popularity – or perhaps its market novelty.

“Climate change brings unpredictability. A region’s growing conditions – access to water and regional temperatures – are likely to change as the globe’s climate systems alter. Selecting grapes that will be able to withstand these challenges, and still thrive in the market many years’ from vineyard replanting is difficult.”

The book also reveals how exotic each country’s vineyards are, and how widespread each country’s native varieties are abroad.

The data show that while plantings have become much more international over the past three decades, the extent of varietal diversity both nationally and globally has shrunk. That is, notwithstanding the hype about ‘alternative’ varieties, half the world’s plantings were accounted for by 21 prime varieties in 2000 but, by 2016, it required only 16 varieties.

Which Winegrape Varieties are Grown Where? A Global Empirical Picture (2nd Ed) by Kym Anderson and Signe Nelgen is freely available from the University of Adelaide Press website. [Click here to download a copy](#)



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The database is online via the University of Adelaide’s Wine Economics Research Centre. Physical copies of the book will be available via Amazon’s print-on-demand services and other online bookshops from late-September 2020.



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THE DAY OF THE BULGA TRIFFIDS

More gems from the man who put 'culture' into horticulture!

The succulent beauties pictured, were originally part of poolside vegetation but were transplanted to pots near to house .

With the welcome rain of recent weeks, one has developed the striking bloom the likes of which we never saw by the pool. So have i got Mrs Succulent and the other Mr. Succulent?

I would ask all readers if anyone can identify the plants for me?

(Tom Jackson)





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Tasting in style - Vintage 1953 Bentley (max 4) Price \$450

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Experience 5 cellar doors and a lunch break, in the Broke Fordwich region

Lunch is at guests expense (2 options: The local Tavern or one of two Winery restaurants)

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Groups can be accommodated with 11 seater or 24 seater buses (costs vary depending on bus sizes)

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200-YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN-FRENCH WINEMAKING COOPERATION

*Today, French consumers may be indifferent to Australian wine but there is a 200-year history of winemaking cooperation between the two countries, as Michael Delahaye from **The Connexion** explains.*

In 1800, colonial settlers in Sydney, Britain's first foothold in Australia, needed help. They brought vines with them but had spent more than a decade in a fruitless attempt to turn the grapes into wine. London's response was worthy of Blackadder – send a couple of French prisoners-of-war who, as natives of the Loire, would know a thing or two about making wine.



Workers in the Concongella Vineyard circa 1900 / Photo courtesy of Best's Great Western

Sadly, the cunning plan failed. After three years, all the pair had produced was vinegar. To make things worse, a French manual on vine-growing was translated and published around the same time – but without making clear that the seasons were reversed in the Southern Hemisphere. As a result, vines ***Continued next page***

were pruned at the height of the growing season.

Despite these early setbacks, later generations of Australians would succeed, even overcoming such labelling infelicities of the 1970s as Kanga Rouge. Although Australia is now one of their country's biggest winemaking rivals, the French have always been sniffy about Australian wine. In 1873, Vienna hosted a World Fair and the colony of Victoria cheekily offered some of its wines for tasting. To the surprise of many, its Hermitage swept the board – but the French judges smelled an Anglo-Saxon rat.

As the Melbourne Argus reported at the time: “So excellent were the samples of Hermitage that when a third specimen showed the same striking affinity with the famous wine of the Drôme... the French experts insisted it was French wine, matured by a voyage to Australia and back to Europe.”

Even today, try to find Australian wine in a French supermarket and chances are it will be relegated to a row of vin quelconque (odds-and-sods) or given honorary French regional status to make up a shelf. Whenever I have asked the staff why they don't stock more Australian wine, I've always got the same response: *Aucune demande, monsieur!* (No demand, Sir!)

Here's the paradox: while the French consumer may be resistant, there is a long history of cooperation between winemakers of the two nations. In the late 1800s, French migrants played a key role in the commercial development of Australian wine. Among them was Edmond Mazure, born in Coulommiers, Seine-et-Marne. Both his father and uncle were winemakers but young Edmond headed east and ended up making wine near Adelaide.

A pioneer of the *méthode champenoise* in Australia, Mazure is probably best remembered for his sparkling Shiraz – yes, fizzy red. It is still popular Down Under, particularly at Christmas. Think Italian Lambrusco but darker and punchier. A century later, the traffic was reversed when in the 1980s a new breed of Antipodean viniculturist emerged – the Flying Winemaker.

Tony Laithwaite, the English wine merchant who ran the Sunday Times Wine Club, had a problem: the quality of the wine imported from France varied from year to year. To improve consistency, he hit on the idea of recruiting some Australian winemakers. With their vigorously sci-

Continued next page

entific approach, why not get them to help the French? It is not hard to imagine the likely reaction – upstart Aussies telling French vigneronns how to do a job that had been passed down the generations: a version of “I’ve been sent from head office to help you out”.

However, a number of French winemakers bottled their pride and signed up. It worked: quality and consistency improved. Martin Shaw, now joint owner of the



Tony Laithwaite

Shaw+Smith winery in the Adelaide Hills, was chosen to lead the project. Based in Bordeaux during the harvest season, he was simultaneously supervising vineyards in the Dordogne, the south of France and even Spain.

More than 30 years on, he recalls racking up 1,200 kilometres a day, leaving the house at 03.00 and not getting back until midnight: “I had an agreement with BMW: they’d give me a new car when I arrived, which I would hand back 10 weeks later. The first year, I returned it with 45,000 kilometres on the clock. They were a little taken aback.” Shaw and his fellow Antipodeans oversaw the entire process: the choice and handling of the grapes, tackling disease, protecting against oxidation, selecting yeast, cooling the juice, balancing the acidity/sugar.

[For the full article click here](#)



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Lunch Options for Saturday Tours can vary from week to week but could include one of the these listed at an extra cost.

3 course cellar door restaurant luncheons where starters are shared for \$40pp

Chef prepared share platters for lunch at a picturesque cellar door café for \$22pp

Cheese platters for \$15pp

Half Day Tours - from \$80pp

Tour times 10am to 1.00pm or 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

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www.catherinevalewines.com.au



FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Jazz at Catherine Vale Sunday October 4th 2020

This yearly event held on the first Sunday in October features a selected Jazz Band. Half Nelson will again be the featured band on October 4th, 2020. They play traditional jazz from the 1920's to 1940's . They are trying to preserve the traditional Jazz as played in street parades, churches and funerals during that period.

The band enjoys performing at Catherine Vale and this free community event provides a relaxed atmosphere where everyone can sit and enjoy this great music.

Food will be available

Join us from noon to three on the lawns at Catherine Vale soaking up the music, the view and food.

[BOOK NOW HERE](#) or call 02 6579 1334

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Callail Rowley, Zach Choi (violins), David Banney (viola) and Matthew Banney (cello)

An outdoor, totally acoustic concert on our mountainside, accompanied by the sounds of the forest and sunset

Saturday 24 October 2020 from 4pm

(with a reserve date of Sat 31st Oct in case the concert needs to be postponed because of unsuitable weather)

[For more information click here](#)

Be immersed in the late afternoon hues and sounds of the forest and the sunset over our spectacular 80km view of the Hunter Valley. BYO seats/ rug, picnic and drinks to enjoy pre-concert.

You can come for the concert only, or stay overnight, including gorgeous glamping tents from GlampInn that we are offering for the first time.

TICKETS:

Concert tickets: \$47 each at trybooking.com/BLNDA

Only 50 concert tickets are available and will sell quickly. They will NOT be available at the gate.

Because of the very quiet acoustic environment, and out of respect to the musicians, we ask that children be of high school age.

This concert will be held in accordance with applicable COVID public health restrictions and social distancing requirements.





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IMPROVED VISITOR EXPERIENCE AT LAKE ST CLAIR AS BELGRAVIA PRO CELEBRATES ONE-YEAR MILESTONE



From a new on-site Park Manager, a cashless office, EFTPOS facilities, infrastructure upgrades, a park defibrillator, installation of a boom gate, and an online booking system, there's been plenty of progress at Singleton's Lake St Clair recreational park in the past 12 months.

But Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Singleton Council's Director Planning and Infrastructure Services, said the focus was still all about preserving the unique natural recreational and tourist experience.

A year after Council partnered with BelgraviaPRO to manage the site, there's been a host of improvements – not to mention a successful response to the COVID-19 to provide for people yearning for opportunities to escape.

“Council awarded the tender to BelgraviaPRO in July last year, and we're already seeing dividends with ongoing positive feedback from visitors,” Justin said.

“There has been significant improvements in the administration and management of the site, particularly through a cashless system and online booking system that has been enormously important in COVID-19.

“Council has also completed works on Carrowbrook Road to make the experience of getting to Lake St Clair safer and more enjoyable for people visiting from other areas, or locals heading out onto their back doorsteps.

“And it won't end there. Council has allocated a further \$70,000 to upgrade picnic tables and shelters this financial year, and with bookings *Continued next page*

already at maximum levels for the October long weekend and filling fast for the school holidays, we already know it's a worthwhile investment.

“Council is really excited to continue our successful partnership with BelgraviaPRO to continue to improve the park's presentation and levels of service within the current parameters as a primitive camp site.”

Nicole Dunn, Belgravia Northern NSW Regional Manager, said while COVID-19 had presented some new challenges, it had also provided a creative opportunity to plan for the next 12 months – and from our discussions with regular visitors there is “a whole bunch of exciting ideas we want to introduce when the timing is right”.

“What's really positive is almost 80 per cent of the people who come here are local people and they're regulars – they love the unique experience the Park offers and why wouldn't they, when they are lucky enough to have the Park in their own backyard. The fact our long weekends and school holidays are now booked out months in advance tells us people just love this place. We are extremely proud to manage the Park in partnership with Council and acknowledge the great work our team is doing on the ground,” she said.

“Lake St Clair Park is a COVID-safe registered business and visitors have been great in complying with social distancing measures. We cap numbers when necessary during peak times to ensure everyone has an enjoyable experience, which we can now keep on top of with the boom gate, hand-sanitiser and plenty of signage.

“But the lake isn't just a place that people come to fish.

We want to provide activities and entertainment experiences for families, young children, and activities that aren't just water-based, including outdoor movie nights, and hosting events with live music and food trucks once restrictions ease. This is what visitors are telling us they would love to see.”

Lake St Clair Park is now booked out for the October long weekend, but day visits and overnights stays are available during the remainder of the NSW school holiday period. Book your visit online today at singleton.nsw.gov.au/lakestclair

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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.



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.

BROKE VILLAGE MARKET

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

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY MARKET



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



MASKED WOODSWALLOW (Artamus personatus)

Males have a black face and throat edged white, pale grey underparts, bluish-grey back and pale-blue bill tipped black. Females have a dusky face and throat. They gather in large flocks, often with white-browed swallows, fluttering and circling high in the sky for long periods, catching insects, calling constantly to keep in contact. They suddenly swoop into trees to rest or glean insects and nectar. Flocks make long, nomadic flights north in autumn and move south in spring to breed. They often cram their nests together and sometimes depart before all the young are raised, leaving them to starve. They breed from August to December and lay 2-3 eggs in a shallow bowl-shaped nest placed in a shrub or a stump or fence post, 1-2 m high. Both parents share incubation of about 12 days and both feed the young. They have a descending “chirrup” chattering and soft twittering call. Diet is of insects, nectar. Their habitat is open woodlands.

***Elizabeth,
Joeys Retreat***

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

MAYOR DEMANDS BETTER THAN “SECOND-BEST” SINGLETON BYPASS OPTION



Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore says she will refuse to settle for a second-best bypass of the New England Highway for Singleton, citing critical issues including the single lane design and access to the Town Centre.

After a thorough review of the Submissions Report by Transport for NSW in relation to the bypass, issued on 10 August, Cr Moore said she was disappointed with the responses to the two biggest concerns raised by Council and the community.

They were:

- that Putty Road should be a full interchange to allow all motorists, but particularly service vehicles, access to and from the Town Centre from the bypass; and
- the need for two lanes in both directions along the length of the bypass to ensure the road operates at satisfactory levels of service now and into the future.

The route also has implications for Council’s historical Water Works Lane depot, which houses critical assets as the main connection for the supply of water to downtown Singleton as well as Mt Thorley, Broke and Whittingham.

Council’s position for a full interchange would also better serve a relocated standpipe that would be required to make way for the road.

“I am whole-heartedly supportive of the concept of the Singleton bypass and the importance of this vital piece of infrastructure to our community, but we only get one chance to get it right,” Cr Moore said.

“It is vital that any bypass of Singleton includes ease of access for all traffic to quickly, easily and safely turn off into the Singleton Town Centre.

“Transport for NSW maintains that motorists can access the Town Centre from Newcastle by the existing New England Highway route, and those coming from the north can use the proposed Putty Road half interchange. However, Council’s position is that travelers in both directions should have the *Continued next page*

option to pull into the Town Centre while they are on the bypass.

“We should also be planning for the long-term now with two lanes in both directions to cope with anticipated traffic volumes and to provide adequate space for vehicles to negotiate obstructions such as a broken down vehicle.

“I do not want to see the people of Singleton ripped off with a second-rate option that threatens economic opportunities for the Singleton Town Centre and will require a new advocacy campaign later on to expand the road to double lanes.

“I will be taking this matter to the Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnsen MP, and as far as I need to in order to ensure our community gets the bypass they deserve.”

Transport for NSW indicated they would progress with other matters raised in Council’s submission, including further consideration of a less confusing layout of the Gowrie Gates interchange and intended operation of the Putty Road and Waterworks Lane intersection.

In addition, Transport for NSW would undertake additional analysis considering socio economic impacts, including, but not limited to, emergency access, community connectedness, the Singleton CBD and tourism.

Council also requested to be fully involved in the traffic management planning for construction, with appropriate conditions in place to minimise the impact on the community.

General Manager Jason Linnane said Council staff are preparing a response to the Submissions Report to raise their concerns with Transport for NSW’s position on the Putty Road interchange and single lane design.

“Council’s focus is to represent the interests of our community, and these were significant issues that were raised in Council’s submission and by the people of Singleton,” he said.

“We are also concerned about the impacts on the Water Works Lane depot, and the implications not only to relocate vital infrastructure for the supply of water, but to ensure ease of access for our crews and customers, and continuity of supply.

“We maintain the view that as the project stands, it will result in a deficient outcome for our community in terms of economic and safety impacts that have been reinforced by the Police.

“We will be making our case again in writing to Transport for NSW in hope there will be a reconsideration of those factors that make this a poor result for everyone who currently uses the New England Highway and will use the bypass.”

[Visit RMS for more detail on the project](#)

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