

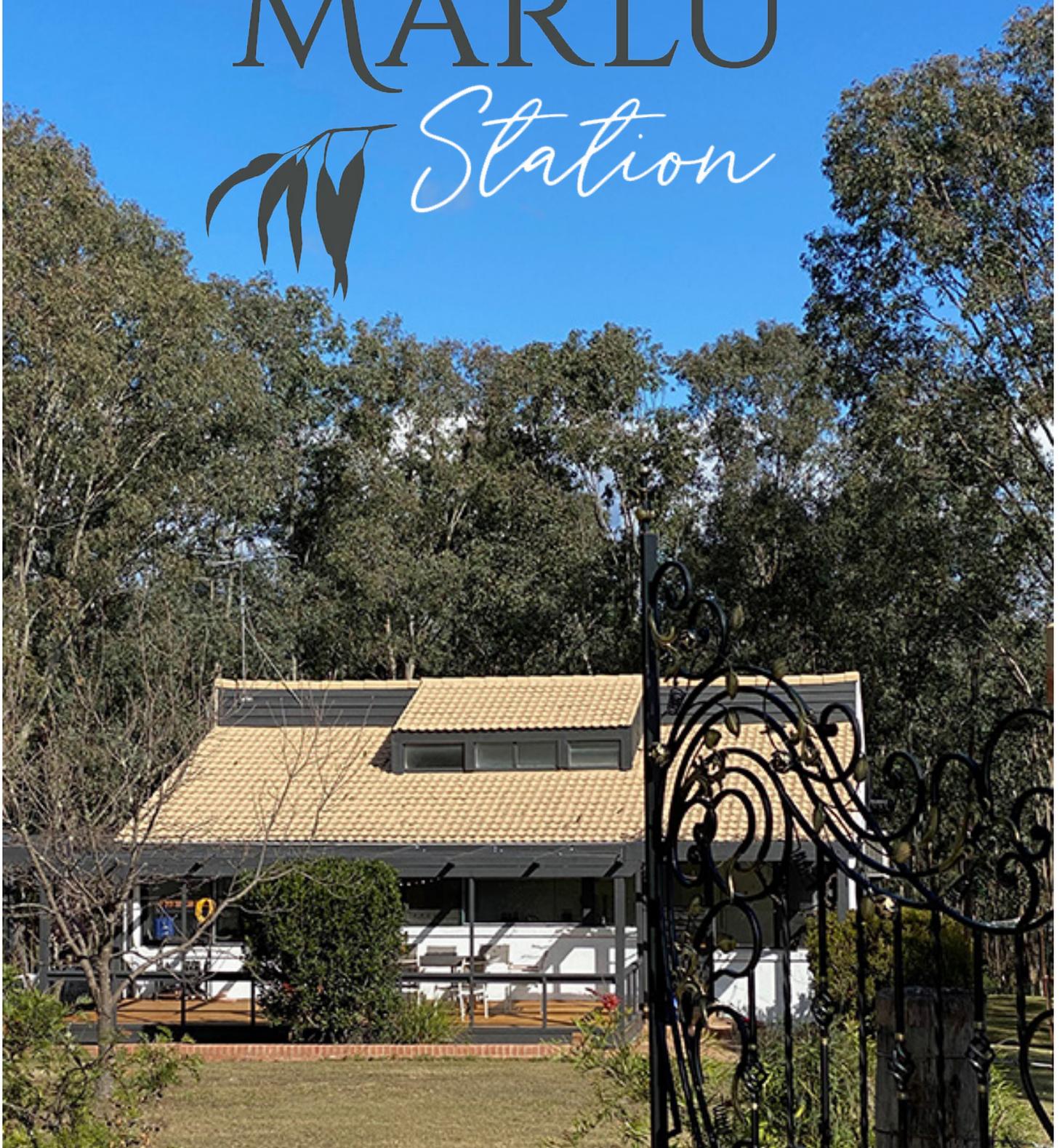
The Cockfighter

Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale

MARLU

August 2020

 Station



THIS ISSUE:

MARLU STATION
READY NOW AND
MUCH MORE TO
COME



**AUSTRALIAN
SHIRAZ – THE
LATEST DATA
AND TRENDS**



**BULGA -
PAYING A HIGH
PRICE FOR
PROSPERITY**



**ALCOHOL BOTTLES
TO DISPLAY
'DANGERS OF
DRINKING WHILE
PREGNANT' LABEL**



**VALE -
JOAN
MCNAMARA**



**THE VALUE OF
ENVIRONMENT
AND COMMUNITY
MANAGERS IN THE
MINING INDUSTRY**



**BUSTING THE
MYTHS ABOUT
EXTRA VIRGIN
OLIVE OIL**



**SYDNEY
INTERNATIONAL
WINE
COMPETITION
TO CANCEL
2020 EVENT**



**LOCAL
IRRIGATION
SUPPLY
SCHEME TO
MEET FINAL
PAYMENTS**



OUR WILDLIFE



**'MYSTIFYING':
MINISTER
BACKS COAL AS
SUPER FUND
VOWS TO EXIT**



**ENSURING
THE
CONTINUED
SUCCESS
OF ORGANIC
EXPORTS**



**BRIGHT
FUTURE FOR
PLANT HEALTH
RESEARCH**



FROM THE EDITOR

SAD LOSS TO CHURCH AND COMMUNITY ON TWO FRONTS

Despite some years of understandably harrowing self-examination and doubt because of the misdeeds of certain betrayers of Catholic standards of compassion and the public good, the Church retains its position as one of the bulwarks of modern Australian society; nowhere was this more evident in the public reaction to the grievous loss we—whether Catholic or Anglican, Jew or Gentile, et al—were subjected to in the past few weeks with the passing of **Joan McNamara OAM** and the demise of the Sacred Spaces cultural experience.

To link the name McNamara with the Hunter Valley is like reminding people that Don Bradman was Australian; Joan was an integral part of that association, as personified by loving husband Neil and his (and their children's) unstinting public service which continues to this day. COCKFIGHTER has reserved a special tribute to Joan in this issue and we hope it conveys something of the admiration and affection our region held for this peerless worker for Church and community. Vale Joan, you will be sorely missed.

Over the years, our association with **Sacred Spaces** reflected the great warmth COCKFIGHTER harboured for one of the few significantly artistic and intellectual outlets available to Hunter Valley residents. That is why it is hard to fully express our great regret that the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy have been forced to ring down the curtain on the venue, silencing a voice of musical excellence which attracted so much public acclaim. In short, there will be no more of the concerts and performances we delighted in at this site.

As said, this is a cultural 'hole' we must now accept, but with great sympathy for the Sisters of Mercy and their tireless devotees; ladies, you have enriched our lives with the multi-faceted shows we will miss so much. Like so many of their congregation and community, the Institute has been severely affected by the COVID-19 emergency and has closed down Sacred Spaces. Officially, the doors will be shut September 1 this year.

This marks 25 years of Sacred Spaces' ministry, beginning with the 1995 nomination of the mission as a place for hospitality, heritage and culture. So many Hunter residents and Valley visitors enjoyed this experience, now shuttered by the same circumstance that, as the Government has warned, will hit our national economy for decades to come. There is some light at the end of this seemingly endless tunnel—the Institute is weighing up options for the future, and COCKFIGHTER hopes some of the money pledged in different Governmental grant schedules could be of some benefit. The unavoidable reality of this development is the level of spending required to enable the Ministry to continue operations, apart from the persistent demands of maintenance costs and upkeep. As things stand, these charges are unsustainable. The Sisters of Mercy have asked COCKFIGHTER to convey their thanks to the many of their flock, staff and volunteers who have been part of the Sacred Spaces story for a quarter of a century. We're glad to do this—but the thanks of the Valley ought to go to the Sisters and all behind them.

(Tom Jackson)

MARLU STATION -

READY NOW AND MUCH MORE TO COME

Broke Fordwich continues to attract vital and adventurous people eager to build and present beautiful tourism options including cellar doors, catering services, activities and holiday accommodation.

Andrew and Belinda Riordan fit the profile perfectly with the region's latest offering
- Marlu Station.



The view from Marlu Station - Lizard Rock or Yellow Rock is the iconic landmark identifying the Broke Fordwich region.



On three levels the accommodation is equipped with all mod cons, three bathrooms three bedrooms and inside and outside living areas

Continued next page

Originally the manager's accommodation on the 2000 acre **Yellow Rock Station**, the larger property has been subdivided and Andrew and Belinda purchased their 112 acre subdivision after many years of visiting the Hunter and then an additional Three and a half years looking for the right property.



The couple had a set idea of what they were looking for and this beautiful property offered a nearly ready-to-go homestead, 5 dams, 3 sheds and most importantly for Andrew and Belinda, plenty of potential!

The couple have already applied a lot of energy and skill to the task of converting the homestead into a stylish and comfortable accommodation with two queen rooms with en-suites, a queen room and a queen with a king single bunk and a third bathroom as well as all mod cons required for a relaxed stay near many local cellar doors. And with all of that, and the addition of an Olive Grove & bee hives, Andrew and Belinda are actively planning to install more accommodation on



the property as well as a function venue catering for large groups including weddings. Because of the size of the property and its topography all activities will be well isolated to ensure a pleasant stay in the 'Tranquil Side of the Valley'

The couple plan to follow the dictates of eco tourism design in their forthcoming developments utilising eco friendly building methods and engaging as much green energy solutions where possible.

Equipped with two queen rooms with en-suites, a queen room and a queen with a king single bunk and a third bathroom Marlu Station is ideal for small or large groups.

One of the 5 dams on the property, at 300 mega litres (300 Olympic-sized pools), is one of the largest man-made bodies of water in the region. With the current drought conditions, the couple have made an offer to the community to give access to the dam to allow storage of water enabling distribution to local farmers and vineyards at no charge.

Continued next page

The Broke Fordwich Private Irrigation District (BFPID) spokesperson, Geoff Sharrock said of the arrangement, “We are grateful for the generosity that Andrew and Belinda have shown. We have already constructed a pipeline into the dam and commenced pumping water at the end of May.



The BFPID will proceed to construct a pump station at Marlu Station Dam in Spring and use the dam as a peaking facility to pump water back into the BFPID system during the periods of extremely high water demand in Summer. This will increase our peak flow capacity from 100 litres per second to 125 litres per second.”

Commenting on this, Belinda said, “I was brought up on a farm in the Bega Valley and from that I learned that community is everything, helping out in this way is part of living in the country.”



With Winmark Wines next door (in rural areas ‘next door’ can mean a long way and in this case Winmark is a 800 m walk or 1 minute drive) enjoying fine wines is a no-fuss operation. A five minute drive will bring the discerning wine buff to several other cellar doors. Catering services in the area will come to the accommodation and prepare, serve and clean up afterwards.

Broke Fordwich wine region is one of the first internationally registered sub-regions in Australia and has been producing wine since early last century. Marlu Station is close to local cellar door outlets and the region is only 10 mins from the central wine region.

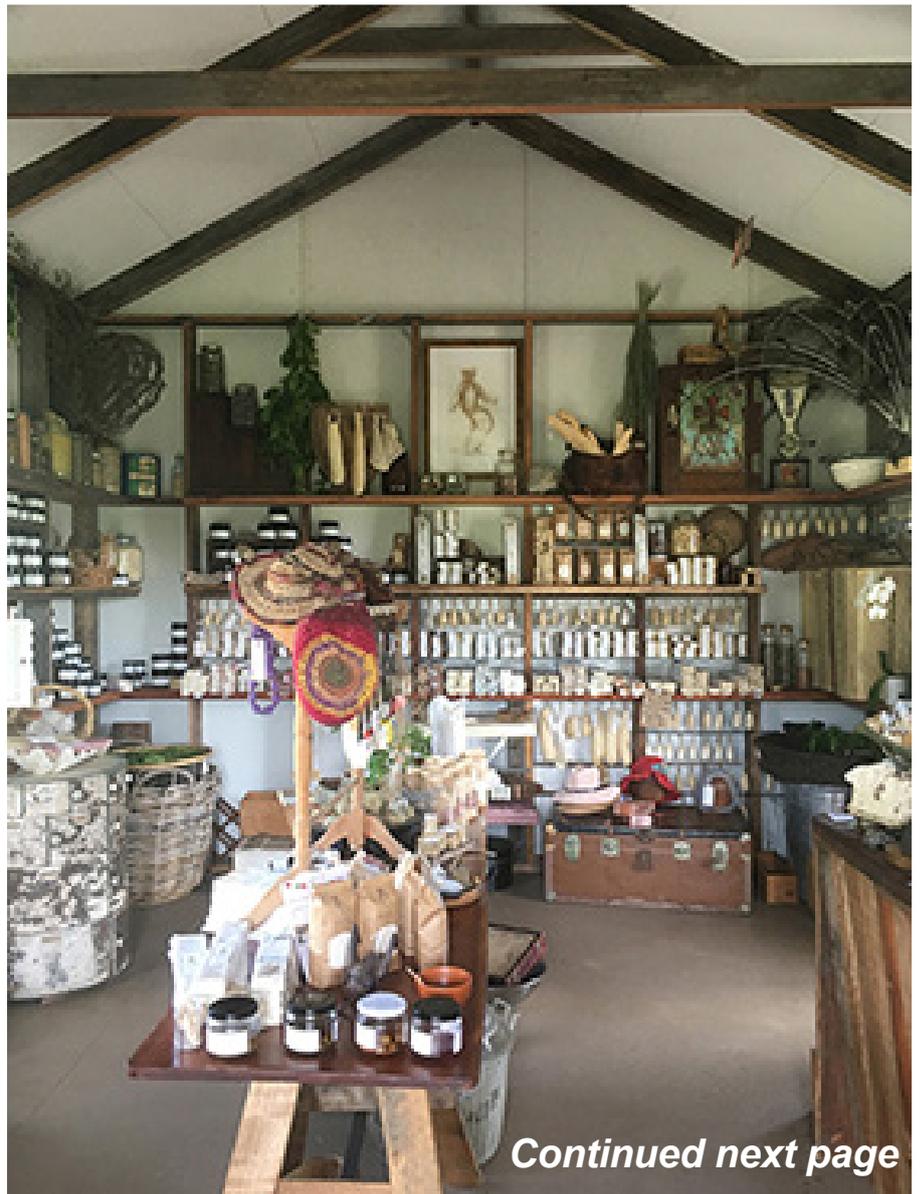
A local market operates on the first Sunday of each month and several local events provide fun and entertainment for the whole family - The Broke Village Fair and Vintage Car Display in February and the Little Bit of Italy in Broke in April being two of the most popular.

Continued next page



Close to many cellar door outlets, Marlu Station is next door to Winmark wines (above) and only a few minutes drive to many more.

A two minute drive to Pickled and Pitted (right) provides the perfect place for olives, olive oils, handmade soaps and specialty gifts



Continued next page



Blending the traditional with the new reflects on the history of the property whilst providing comfort and style.



Continued next page



*Summer or winter ...
The Broke Fordwich
Region is the first choice for
escaping the city and Marlu
Station is one of the prime
options for doing just that.*



Continued next page



For more information and to book the accommodation:

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A WINE TOUR IN BROKE

Saturday Tours - \$95pp

Pick up around 10am returning 4-4.30pm

(Subject to availability and variations based on pick up locations and cellar doors)

Full Day tours in the picturesque Broke Fordwich boutique wine region where we would visit up to 5 stops (Depending on the pace of the group)

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

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Half Day Tours - from \$80pp

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

0417 968 440 or 0428 180 802
www.awinetourinbroke.com.au



BULGA - PAYING A HIGH PRICE FOR PROSPERITY: WASTELANDS

Singleton Argus journalist, *Elise Pfeiffer*, has been uncovering the unrestrained expansion of the open-cut coal mining industry that has impacted the once thriving, vibrant and historic villages of the Hunter Valley. The advancement of mining operations has undoubtedly brought significant benefits to our region through employment, economic success, the development of regional centres and prosperity for the industry. However, perhaps the cost of this prosperity was never fully considered, especially for the villages and residents who have been all but engulfed as a result. These wastelands produce what University of Newcastle Senior lecturer in Anthropology, Dr Hedda Askland describes as 'voids', communities left hanging in limbo – unable to leave, yet undesirable to stay.



For seven generations, the Roser family have called the historic village of Bulga home. Nestled in the foothills of Wollemi National Park, the vibrant village provided a wealth of opportunity.

Bulga was an agricultural hub and a food bowl for stone fruits and grapes. When the queen arrived in Sydney many years ago, it was the Roser family's grapes that hit her table – grapes that were worthy of royalty. Bulga was a peaceful, thriving and happy place to live.

Though today, Bulga tells a different story.

Continued next page

According to 21-year-old Vahid Roser, the vitality of the village has been stilted by the continual expansion of open-cut coal mining. Being a seventh generation Bulga local, Vahid has a strong connection to the local community but he fears that in the not so distant future his home may no longer be here.

“Bulga is the gateway to the Hunter Valley and I think that has been lost,” Vahid says.

“Hardly anyone knows what or where Bulga is anymore, even though it was one of the first villages settled in the Hunter Valley.

“The township of Bulga - I don’t think it will be here anymore if the mines come any closer because it won’t be safe to live here, or enjoyable to live here.”

It’s clear that for the Hunter’s most predominant industry and our most historic communities to live in harmony, better planning, regulation and collaboration needs to be implemented

Mining operations have been expanding over the past few decades, edging closer to the village and it’s community. The coal industry has undoubtedly provided local townships like Singleton with enormous wealth and economic success, and as a young adult Vahid understands the appeal of working in the mines and the wider public support for it. But he often questions at what price does the industry come at and at whose expense.

“I can definitely see the money in mining, and that as a draw card for the wider community but for me money isn’t everything,” he says.

“I’ve grown up here in Bulga and we’ve been off the grid for 18 years, so mining and money aren’t really of interest to me. It’s more about bringing positive connections back into communities and enjoying life.”

And Vahid is working on doing just that, having started a music festival called ‘Bulga Beats’ a few years back and now setting his sights on another business venture.

“We had a few main visions when we were creating [Bulga Beats] and one was to get people to Bulga to see it for what it is and what it could be, and the other reason was just to bring back the community spirit.

“I actually started my own events management company last year too. We will be running community workshops and small-scale music events in hopefully a year or so to come.”

This is Vahid's way of bringing the place back to life while providing young people with opportunities to experience the Bulga he believes may soon be forgotten.

“One of the sides of the company will hopefully be a bushwalking tour which will bring more people to see the national park and enjoy it for its beauty,” Vahid said. “If we want people to visit the area for tourism, its things like this - entertainment and activities - that we will need. And if we want young people to come and live here, it will be other industries that will have to provide like farming or sustainable energy.”

In the current climate, Vahid believes mining isn't a sustainable source of employment which has only exacerbated the issues surrounding mining expansions and created stress for the miners who want to have secure jobs.

“Mining does provide employment, though I think there is a lot of up playing the percentage of just how many jobs,” he says.

“At the moment, it isn't a very sustainable working environment. Miners don't know whether they are going to keep their jobs and that puts a lot of stress on those workers to force the mine expansion to go ahead so they can hold their jobs.”

So how can both mining and the Hunter's historic villages co-exist and is there a way to move forward?

“I think it can be achieved if we are only mining for our needs, and not selling mining companies or mines to overseas companies who are taking super profits out,” Vahid says.

“There is already another 20 years' worth of coal in the current pits and I don't think there is any need to expand.”

Whether this is the case or not, it's clear that for the Hunter's most predominant industry and our most historic communities to live in harmony, better planning, regulation and collaboration needs to be implemented. Perhaps the region cannot simply have one or the other, but rather needs diversification to ensure that the Valley continues to be a thriving, safe and pleasant place to live and work.



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Car transport (max 4 pax per car) Price \$250

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

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VALE - JOAN MCNAMARA - 18 JULY 2020



A thriving community is one that grows and changes. For Broke Fordwich the force behind that growth and change for many years was Joan McNamara. She took the area from its reliance on a nineteenth century technology transport system of a cage on wires that spanned the river at Broke, to a bridge transforming the region's agricultural enterprises and societal needs.

She saw the importance of community activities and the need to build pride in the region and as one of her contributions, she built and nurtured from a small get-together of car enthusiasts, the remarkably successful Broke Village Fair and Car Display, which she directed for over 20 years.

She is remembered by locals for a wide range of other community activities from teaching young people to dance to helping maintain an archive of images of the region and her role in the local Catholic church.

"When Mum & Dad moved to Broke in the mid 50s I was only 5 and an only child at that time, I spent a lot of time on McNamara's verandah playing with the McNamara family.

At that time there was no power, the roads to Singleton Cessnock & Sydney were gravel & a flying fox took you over Wollombi Brook when there was too much water.

Continued next page

Over the years Joan has had a great involvement in the Broke Hall, Broke School, teaching scripture & playing the piano for the school choir. Joan played the organ at the monthly church services & weddings. As well as the Village Fair & more so supporting her husband Neil with his many years on Singleton Council & Mayor of Singleton

She always maintained a very close relationship with her children & a very proud grandmother.

You could say she was the glue that kept the community together.”

Ellen Wade- Prescott

Joan was a huge part of Broke life in my younger years.

Joan was the voice of the Broke Village Fair for many years. She taught many of us to dance for our Deb Ball & was very involved with the Catholic Church & many aspects of Broke Life.

There are many others in the community that would have fond memories & stories of Joan.

Jody Derrick

Joan was involved in many of the Broke committees, from the Hall to scripture in the school as well as charitable works.

She was a huge support to Neil on the farm & as a council member.

She has touched many of the lives of the Broke community in many ways.

Maxine Alexander



Joan built and nurtured from a small get-together of car enthusiasts, the remarkably successful Broke Village Fair and Car Display, which she directed for over 20 years.

**BACK TO
CONTENTS
PAGE**

BUSTING THE MYTHS ABOUT EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL (EVOO)

To find out what's cooking when it comes to using Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO) we thought we'd get into the pots, pans and heads of some of our Aussie master chefs, dietitians and nutritionists.

There are a lot of myths out there created by TV 'foodies' and on-line 'experts' that are just plain 'bunkum'.

We are what we eat, so its a good thing we have the healthiest edible oil in the world, our own certified Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil. And that's fair dinkum.



COOKING WITH EVOO REQUIRES MORE OIL

Bunkum: You actually use less oil, because when you heat certified Australian EVOO it increases in volume, so you can cook or fry to your heart's content!

AUSSIE OLIVE FARMERS DON'T USE CHEMICAL SOLVENTS WHEN PROCESSING

Fair Dinkum: It's what makes our highly awarded Australian Olive Oil fresher and tastier. It's naturally rich in goodness and better for you, just ask Dr. Joanna.

Continued next page

COOKING WITH EVOO CAN BE HARMFUL

Bunkum: Certified Australian EVOO has naturally in-built protective compounds that help protect your oil and food during heating. Although some antioxidants are naturally lost during the heating process, a significant amount of Australian EVOO's antioxidants and powerful health properties remain when heated, even at high temperatures and over longer cooking times.

THE ONLY REAL UNPROCESSED OIL IS CERTIFIED AUSTRALIAN EXTRA VIRGIN

Fair Dinkum: Unlike other edible oils such as Vegetable, Sunflower, Canola, Flaxseed, Peanut, and Rice Bran, certified Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil isn't processed and doesn't include artificial preservatives. It's quite simply just the juice from the olive.



To make sure your Australian EVOO is certified, check the bottle for the triangle certification symbol.

YOU CAN'T USE AEVOO IN SOME POTS AND PANS

Bunkum: What a lot of bull. Whether you're searing a nice big fat steak or cooking a big serve of pasta, you can use Australian EVOO in any type of pot or pan and even on the hotplate.



AUSTRALIAN EVOO'S SMOKE POINT MAKES IT AN EXCELLENT CHOICE

Fair Dinkum: The cooking "smoke point" refers to the temperature at which fat or oil begins to break down, causing a bluish smoke to become clearly visible. High quality, certified Australian EVOO has low free fatty acid content and a high smoke point, which makes it a great choice for most cooking methods, including frying, baking and roasting!

YOU CAN'T USE EVOO WHEN YOU BAKE

Bunkum: Who came up with that? You can whip up everything from a great sponge to a tray of cookies using EVOO instead of butter or margarine. Put it to the test with this helpful butter conversion chart.

There you have it. Everything, every aussie needs to know everyday about healthy cooking with the best Olive Oil on the market – certified Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil.



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LOCAL IRRIGATION SUPPLY SCHEME TO



MEET FINAL PAYMENTS AND REDUCE COST TO USERS

The Broke Fordwich Private Irrigation District (BFPID) pipeline is a community initiated, funded and constructed irrigation water distribution system serving 242 vineyards, olive groves, dairy & grazing properties and tourism facilities in the Broke Fordwich, Bulga & Milbrodale districts of the Lower Hunter Valley. As a result of enormous community resolve the Broke Fordwich PID was established to deliver water from the Hunter River to members of the Private Irrigation District. The members own the pipeline. Each member committed funds to conduct an initial feasibility study. The project was then financed through a loan from the Commonwealth Bank. This loan is repaid from the annual Water Charges charged to the user.

The project has had a very positive effect in the region influencing the quality and quantity of grapes grown, the carrying capacity of grazing land and the production of crops such as olives and fodder. It has also had a positive effect on employment in the region and has also been a great boost for the tourism industry.

The PID was proclaimed by the Governor of NSW on 16th August and published in the NSW Government Gazette of 18th August 2000.

This underground pipeline, completed in 2001, was designed, constructed and operational in 30 weeks. It is 86km of polyethylene and modified PVC pressure pipe ranging in size from 50mm to 450mm. There are 3 pumping stations and a river

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off-take housing a total of 17 pumps. The pumps and service meters are controlled by a remote SCADA/telemetry system. Annual water delivery is 3,000 mega litres to an area of 200km².



The project is the second largest privately owned and operated scheme under this legislation. The pipeline effectively drought proofs the vineyards of the Broke Fordwich district.

This year the BFPID makes the final repayments of the Bank Loan that was used to build the system. These payments are \$300,000 in July 2020 and \$300,000 in December 2020. After the payments are made the BFPID will be free of any debt. The BFPID Board has looked at various options on how to reduce the overall annual rate and provide some additional relief to members in the difficult times we face. The BFPID Board has decided to utilise some of our cash reserves to immediately reduce the annual rate in conjunction with a strategy of later rebuilding the cash reserves after the bank payments are completed.

This use of cash reserves means that the Annual Rate will be reduced from \$400 to \$355 per Share. Members will also benefit from a further rebate of \$75 per Share for on time payment. This means that the annual rate will be \$280 per Share if Invoices are paid on time.



ENSURING THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF ORGANIC EXPORTS

The Australian Government is proposing new rules to continue to provide a basis for the regulation of organic exports, and as a first step in strengthening and simplifying the current framework.

Head of exports division Fran Freeman said Australia's organic products are meeting the growing demand for high-quality organic agricultural produce around the world. A fit-for-purpose regulatory system would enable organic operators to harness these opportunities.

“We're aiming to simplify these regulations and maximise market access opportunities for Australian producers and manufacturers, through efficient regulation,” Freeman said.

“Organic operators—be they producers, processors or manufacturers—can consider and provide feedback on how to make our regulatory system work for them when it comes to exporting their goods. Ongoing industry consultation will be an important part of this reform process.

“Instead of treating the export of organic products separately from the rest of our agricultural exporters, we are looking to explore ways to better align organic exports rules with the regulations that apply to other export commodities.

“Organic exporters will benefit from a more streamlined regulatory system and improved access to the department's services and systems, which is currently very limited.

“With a considered approach to organic exports regulation reform, we can uphold our reputation as a reliable trading partner with internationally recognised high standards.”

The current export regulations—Export Control (Organic Produce Certification) Orders—will no longer apply from 1 April 2021.

The draft Organic Export regulation is open for comment via the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's [‘Have Your Say’](#) portal.



AUSTRALIAN SHIRAZ – THE LATEST DATA AND TRENDS

Shiraz is one of Australia's most established and loved varieties. It is grown by 4 out of 5 wineries and represents nearly half of red winegrape plantings. This variety is called Syrah almost everywhere else in the world. However, due to its commercial success internationally, many Australian producers have chosen to label their own wine 'Shiraz'.

In the 2020 vintage, Shiraz was Australia's most crushed variety. Shiraz, which declined by 10 per cent to 376,000 tonnes (see Figure 1), fared relatively well compared with other varieties and increased its share by one percentage point to 45 per cent of all red varieties and 25 per cent of the total crush.

The average price paid for Shiraz grapes increased by 2 per cent to \$921 per tonne, the sixth consecutive vintage in which the price has increased. Prices increased in most of the major Shiraz producing regions: Riverland – up 13 per cent to \$697 per tonne

Murray Darling – Swan Hill – up 11 per cent to \$664 per tonne

Riverina – up 5 per cent to \$633 per tonne

Barossa Valley – up 13 per cent to \$2612 per tonne, and

McLaren Vale – up 8 per cent to \$2107 per tonne.

The upward trend in the purchase price for Shiraz reflects the demand for Australian Shiraz wines, especially in the domestic market.

The big increase in the Shiraz crush in 2017 saw a corresponding increase in volume exported in the 12 months ended May 2018. Smaller vintages in 2018 and 2019 saw the volumes exported drop in 2019 and 2020. A lower vintage again in 2020 will likely see the volumes of Shiraz exported fall in the next 12 months.

While the volume of Shiraz exports has dropped, the demand for Shiraz has not. This is illustrated by the upward trend in the price paid for bottled exports of Australian Shiraz. For the 12 months ended May, the average value has grown from \$6.10 per litre in 2015 to \$8.57 per litre in 2020. This indicates that while volumes are tight, importers continue to pay higher prices to secure Australian Shiraz.



ALCOHOL BOTTLES TO DISPLAY A PROMINENT 'DANGERS OF DRINKING WHILE PREGNANT' LABEL

State, territory, federal and New Zealand food ministers approved the label recommended by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) recently in a vote that was split 6-4. It has black, white and red text stating "PREGNANCY WARNING: Alcohol can cause lifelong harm to your baby."

The label, approved despite lobbying from alcohol industry representatives who argued it would cost manufacturers too much to use red ink, will replace the current voluntary DrinkWise label, which FSANZ found was ineffective.

Manufacturers will have three years to implement the new label across all alcoholic beverages. The label will be on alcohol bottles of 200ml or more, with smaller bottles to display the pictogram, which will now have to be black, white and red.



Food Standards Australia New Zealand's pregnancy warning label will be mandatory.

Senator Colbeck said the federal government was "strongly committed to mandatory pregnancy warning labels on alcoholic beverages to inform pregnant women and the broader community of the advice for pregnant women to not consume alcohol in order to prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder" [FASD].

The label reflects changes made by FSANZ after the ministerial forum ordered it to reconsider an earlier version that carried the words "HEALTH WARNING" instead of "PREGNANCY WARNING", and which would have required implementation within two years.

Public Health Association of Australia chief executive Terry Slevin welcomed the decision to put "stronger and more visible pregnancy health warnings on alcohol," which he said would "protect the health and future of thousands of Australian children."

Continued next page

dren”.

“It’s been a long road to this decision, with mandatory labels having been discussed for more than a decade,” Mr Slevin said.

“Finally, this label will provide clear, visible information to help increase awareness of the harms.”

Alcohol Beverages Australia chief executive Andrew Wilsmore said the industry was “deeply disappointed” with the decision, saying the new label would “impose substantial unnecessary costs on producers.”

NOFASD Australia chief operating officer Sophie Harrington said tens of thousands of Australian families impacted by FASD would be celebrating the decision, “because they know how significantly this lifelong disability affects the health and well-being of our loved ones”.

“This new mandatory label will go a long way to improve community awareness of the risks of drinking alcohol throughout pregnancy, and will result in fewer babies born with FASD in years to come,” she said.

Dana McCauley

Health and industrial relations reporter-The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age.

The director of the Lark Hill Winery in Bungendore, NSW Chris Carpenter believes winemakers have a “social responsibility” to help reach the tens of thousands of Australian women who continue to drink after finding out they are pregnant.

“Wine is a vintage product - we print our labels yearly, so there isn’t an issue in terms of updating that label [with the new pregnancy warning].”



**BACK TO
CONTENTS
PAGE**

RUNNING HORSE WINES



Join the vigneron for tastings
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Vigneron: Dave Fromberg
0474156786

BULGA'S WINTER BURST



Our Editor whose only claim to having a green thumb was when he was dyeing his beer on St Patricks Day, now wants to take credit for this beautiful display of Trumpet Vine in his backyard - which managed to bloom despite drought, bush fires, winter weather and his 'neglect it and it will grow' gardening technique.

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
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You can also view our approvals, management plans and environmental monitoring data on the website. Go to www.bulgacoal.com.au and click on the Publications tab on the menu.



Singleton Evangelical Church

is a genuine community of people from all cultures, ages and walks of life. Not just for Singleton residents, but for all those who want to hear God's word and share the amazing impacts of His love. You are most welcome to come along to Sunday Church 9:30am at Singleton Public School, Elizabeth St, or even try one of our smaller groups or Youth Groups.

For more information 6573-4198
or www.singletonchurch.org

THE VALUE OF ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY MANAGERS IN THE MINING INDUSTRY

Last month, to make way for an expanded mine, Rio Tinto destroyed two sacred sites in the Juukan Gorge which showed evidence of 46,000 years of continuous human habitation. Rio, the world's largest iron ore miner, won legal approval for this desecration in 2013 from Western Australian authorities under the state's 1972 Aboriginal Heritage act — despite objections from the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura peoples.



The destruction of Juukan Gorge sacred rock shelters in Western Australia by Rio Tinto has turned the spotlight on mining's social reporting industry © HANDOUT/PKKP Aboriginal Corporation/AFP/Getty

The contrast with how Rio once approached community relations is stark. In 1995, Rio moved to make community relations a core company discipline, alongside geology and engineering, after its disastrous experience with the Bougainville island copper mine in Papua New Guinea. The in-house team, of which I was a member, produced a series of guidelines that set out Rio's aspirations for work in the community.

Around the world — from Zimbabwe to Brazil or Canada — operating sites devel-

Continued next page

oped an ethnographic baseline of the social terrain, which they used to build good relationships with neighbours. Non-governmental organisations such as Cultural Survival, fierce critics in the 1990s, welcomed Rio's deployment of a team of anthropologists, environmentalists and wildlife researchers to help the Penan people in Sarawak.

This approach was good for business too. Professionalised community engagement helped to secure local tenure and good labour relations; facilitated mine expansion; generated new opportunities; earned the support of employees; and helped lead to favourable permitting, regulatory and taxation decisions.

But then, at around the start of the century, and as part of efforts to cut costs, it seemed to me that big mining companies, such as Rio, saw they could earn higher marks for their corporate social performance by responding enthusiastically to questionnaires from organisations such as GRI and the UN's Global Compact.

If these forms could be filled out in a central office, by people with little field knowledge, why maintain social science specialists in the communities? As a professional social scientist, my view — shared by many peers — is that the social reporting industry, while originally well-intentioned, has become a garbage-in-garbage-out industry.

By 2012, the dozen or so PhD and MA-qualified anthropologists that Rio had recruited and I helped train, had left the company. In recent years, a number of other senior archaeologists and cultural heritage management practitioners in Australia also left. I left full-time employment at the company in 2002 but remained a full-time consultant based in London until 2015.

As for Juukan, Rio failed in its duty to protect a part of the world's archaeological heritage that is so ancient it has links to the Ice Age. Central to the investigation that Rio is now undertaking, there should be a thorough review of the company's hallmark community relations and cultural heritage management expertise. Crucially, did Rio have the right staff with the right skills in place? Also: to what extent was community relations expertise subordinated to corporate relations instead? What the investigation cannot be confined to is matters such as misunderstood messages, faulty procedures, a lack of inter-governmental co-ordination, regulatory and legislative inadequacies, or that old standby — human error.

Glynn Cochrane

*Glynn is a former Rio Tinto senior adviser, is author of *Anthropology in the Mining Industry: Community Relations after the Bougainville Civil War*.*

Full article first appeared in the Financial Times Jul 14, 2020

CONTINUED CLOSED BORDERS LEADS SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL WINE COMPETITION TO CANCEL 2020 EVENT

The closure of the Victorian border and the impact that will have on access to other states, as well as continued closure of international borders, has persuaded the Sydney International Wine Competition (SIWC) to cancel the annual event for the first time in its 40 year history.

The likelihood that travel and freight will be severely disrupted for much of the rest of the year means that it will be impossible to guarantee arrival of both wines and judges, says co-convenor of the competition, Brett Ling.



“We were on track to accept entries from later this month, but the worsening situation in Victoria is likely to see access between states and internationally to New Zealand and beyond severely disrupted,” said Ling.

“We discussed the issue with freight forwarders and because of the fluidity of the situation, no guarantees could be made. Even worse, there was no way we could be certain that we could bring in our elite judging panel from interstate and overseas.

“It’s very disappointing to postpone this year’s Competition because it has carried on throughout many tumultuous world and local events over the past 40 years, but the nature of the current pandemic means it is almost impossible to plan ahead. The case of Victoria highlights just how dramatic and changeable the situation can be.

“But we will be back in 2021 with the 41st Sydney International Competition. Hopefully with recent widespread rains across the various growing districts in Australia, and with the hospitality world gradually returning to ‘near normal’, the wine industry will be better placed in 2021 to ensure we have an outstanding level of entries.”

Broke Village Recreation Grounds

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Netball court
Basketball court
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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.



OUR WILDLIFE



WELCOME SWALLOW (*Hirundo neoxena*)

Our familiar house swallow is metallic blue-black above with dusky wings and rufous-red throat and forehead and a forked tail. It is dull white below. They breed in single pairs or small groups, often returning to the same nest site with the same partner in spring. After breeding they gather in flocks of 100 or more. Flocks roost together at night and forage from perches to catch small flying insects, often over water. They breed from August to December and often raise 2-3 broods per season. The female lays 4-6 eggs in a cup-shaped nest of mud and vegetation plastered to a wall or tree hollow. Both parents share the incubation of about 15 days and both feed the young who fledge in about 28 days. Their call is a sweet twitter and warbling. Diet of insects and live in open area usually near water.

Elizabeth

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‘MYSTIFYING’: MINISTER BACKS COAL AS SUPER FUND VOWS TO EXIT

Federal Resources Minister Keith Pitt has spoken out against the superannuation sector’s latest move to divest coal miners because of climate risks, saying Australian coal would remain highly sought after by power generators and an attractive investment for decades.

The nation’s second-largest superannuation fund, First State Super, on Wednesday pledged to divest its holdings in miners that earn more than 10 per cent of their revenue from thermal coal – the heaviest-polluting energy source – as part of a push to shield its members’ retirement savings from the threat of global warming.

In response, the Morrison government cited International Energy Agency forecasts that coal would remain a key player in global energy generation for at least another 20



“First State’s new climate plana “solid commitment” and “another sign that everybody is seeing the end of coal”.

years, with Mr Pitt questioning the rationale behind First State’s decision.

“It is mystifying that a superannuation fund would deny its members a solid and attractive investment opportunity on the basis of misguided ideology,” he said. “I would recommend superannuation members shop around to make sure that investment decisions are being made in their best interests, not to support the ideological cause of their fund’s executive.”

First State’s move to divest thermal coal miners, which has won widespread praise from climate-conscious investor groups and environmentalists, is the latest setback for the coal sector following pledges by a growing number of institutional shareholders to reduce their exposure to the fossil fuel.

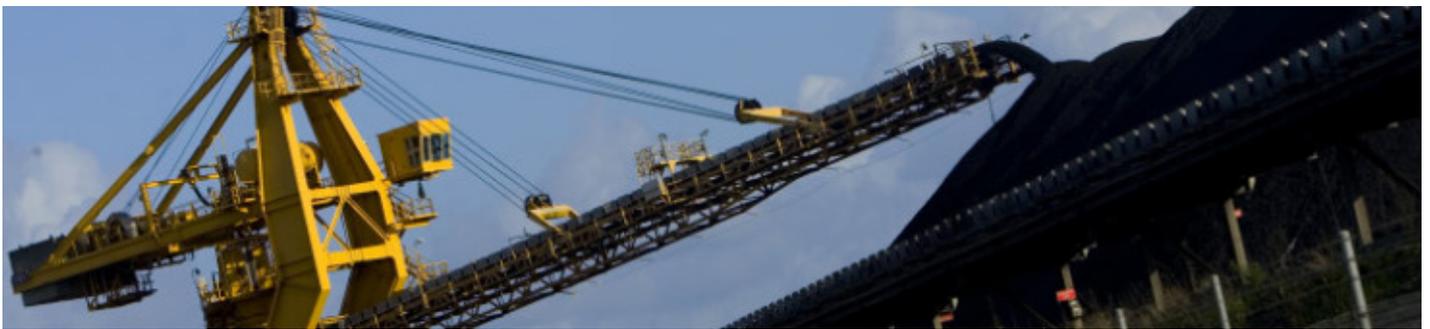
The world’s largest asset manager, BlackRock, this year announced a partial retreat from thermal coal investment citing climate change concerns. HESTA, the Australian super fund for healthcare workers, has also divested its thermal coal holdings as part of its plan to be a “net-zero” emitter by 2050.

Continued next page

First State, which is targeting emissions cuts of 30 per cent by 2023 and 45 per cent by 2030, said divesting from thermal coal was an “important first step”. “But we recognise there is more to do, which is why we have committed to bold actions and real targets to shift the dial on climate change which will assist us to continue to deliver strong sustainable long-term returns to our members,” First State chief Deanne Stewart said.

While the \$130 billion fund did not specify which stocks will be dumped in October, its portfolio includes ASX-listed coal miners such as Whitehaven, New Hope and Washington H. Soul Pattinson.

“We have seen over the past 10 years significant volatility in value of thermal coal



mines,” Ms Stewart said. “Increasingly, insurance companies are signalling their intent to exit this sector in response to medium-term climate-related risks.”

Dan Gocher, head of climate at the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility, a shareholder activist group, said First State’s new climate plan was a “solid commitment” and “another sign that everybody is seeing the end of coal”.

While consumption of thermal coal has been falling, the International Energy Agency said it expected it to increase in the coming years as demand for electricity in developing countries outpaced the shift to renewable energy in industrialised nations.

Australia is the second-largest producer of thermal coal after Indonesia. Last year, thermal coal exports accounted for \$26 billion in export income. However, the federal government forecasts earnings will shrink to \$19 billion by 2020-21 as lower prices offset higher export volumes.

Nick Toscano

SMH



A great night out Bingo



1st Monday of the month

*@ 6:30 Bulga Community
Centre*

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Contact

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BRIGHT FUTURE FOR PLANT HEALTH RESEARCH

The future of plant health research in Australia is alive and well with funding for the Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative (PBRI) being renewed in 2020, the International Year of Plant Health.

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, David Littleproud, said continued investment in plant biosecurity research is vital to the sustainability of Australian agriculture and the environment.

“The re-signing of the PBRI Agreement will strengthen collaboration and coordination across the Australian Plant industry sector on biosecurity research,” Minister Littleproud said.

Under the initiative, ten collaborative projects have previously been funded with a total value of \$50 million to support plant biosecurity research.

“These projects are improving RD&E for risks such as Xylella, brown marmorated stink bug and fall armyworm, all of which are high priority threats for Australian agriculture and the environment.



“The PBRI agreement renewal emphasises the importance placed on coordinating biosecurity RD&E and building and maintaining critical plant biosecurity expertise for Australia.

“We’re committed to ensuring this initiative continues to deliver for our industries and environment.

“Detections of fall armyworm in northern Australia and repeated detections of brown marmorated stink bug at our borders are a reminder of the importance of biosecurity for our plant health.

“Our biosecurity system relies on partnerships between the Australian and state, territory and local governments, industry, environmental bodies, land managers and the broader community.”

PBRI is a crosscutting research initiative across a number of groups including the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Plant Health Australia and the seven plant Research and Development Corporations.





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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,
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