

# *The* Cockfighter

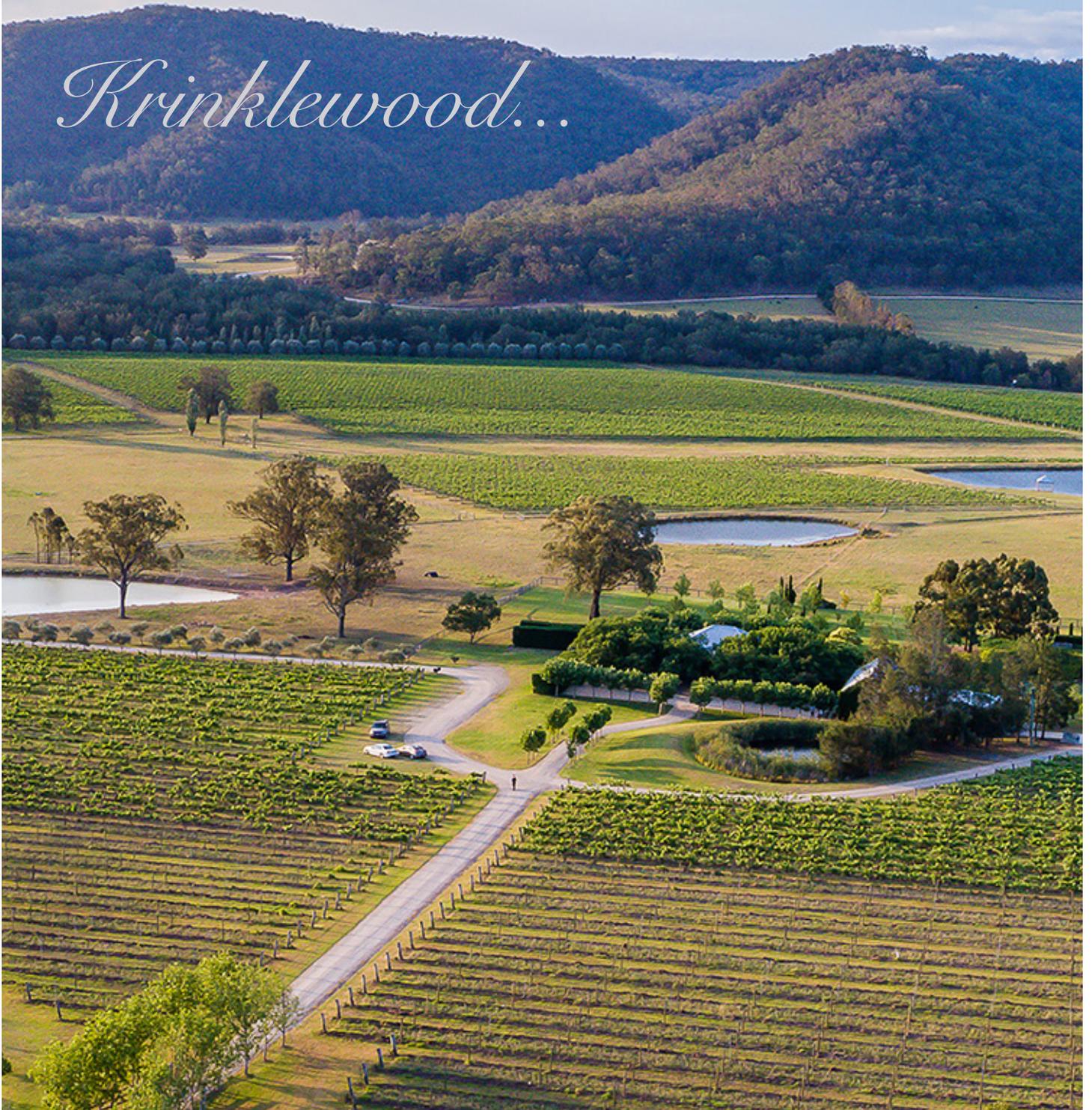


Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Murrumbidgee

December 2020

**Season's Greetings**

*Krinklewood...*





*Season's Greetings to all*

**FROM THE EDITOR**

**HORSES FOR (GOOD) CAUSES**

*Krinklewood...*

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT ... **THE TRADITION LIVES ON**

**TENNIS ANYONE?  
OR BASKETBALL OR NETBALL OR A BBQ!**

Our Wildlife

**\$4,571,283 IN PROJECTS UNDER  
'RESOURCES FOR REGIONS' PROGRAM**



# FROM THE EDITOR

## HORSES FOR (GOOD) CAUSES

*COCKFIGHTER* has always been right behind (or even astride) any effort to promote the benefits of horse riding for young and old—and especially for those with disabilities or impairments. We can thank the English aristocracy for the reminder that “there’s nothing like the outside of a horse for the inside of a human”, but the writer of that prose could have extended the sentiment to mental well-being and even psychological advancement as well. That’s why this editorial is devoted so



to the **Star Club Equestrian Program (SCEP)** and its upcoming addition to its—shall we say—stable of horsey health-giving. These facilities target a very special customer base, including those with intellectual disability, Acquired Brain Injury, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and various cognitive (understanding) or behavioural impairments.

The **SCEP** is launching its new host centre in Milbrodale this month. I doubt whether our little neck of the woods has welcomed an event like this for years—certainly not since Bulga became the epicentre of bushfire operations in the Hunter with the opening of the RFS headquarters. Heralded as a ‘Night with the Stars’, the **SCEP Milbrodale** launch will be held on **Friday, December 11**—seeing Milbrodale join the other ‘M’s’ (Mandalong and Moonbi) in the Star Club constellation of equestrian programs (stars indeed).

For *COCKFIGHTER*, this is a particularly emotional and rewarding milestone along the road we have attempted to share with people who may not have had a fair shake of the dice when it comes to complete physical or mental health. And in the

case of potential SCEP followers, this highly successful program reminds us that in the midst of the difficulties that COVID-19 has inflicted on

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Kyle Chapman on the ever-elegant horse;  
Let's Jazz It Up (alias Andy)

communities here and abroad, there are also pre-pandemic quarters of our society with additional needs who have continued to shine and grow when given the right assistance and support. It is six years since COCKFIGHTER ran the inspiring story of Kyle Chapman, from Paynes Crossing who was but three days old when diagnosed with a mild-to-moderate intellectual condition. Now in his mid-twenties, his remarkable transition from regular rider on the family farm to recognised dressage performer has been documented by COCKFIGHTER. As Editor, I feel that the 'Night of the Stars' is further evidence of the importance of our horsey connections in human recuperation and even recovery.

Riding is indeed remarkable; a unique form of exercise and rehabilitation.

Kyle could testify to the complex 'mechanics' of his steed—how it coordinates, balances and tackles muscular buildup and fitness. So, for prospective Star Clubbers, and particularly those with behavioural issues, remember that this very special animal underneath you can lead to a new world of confidence and self-control. Not only for you but for your family, friends and schoolmates.

**(Tom Jackson)**

*In September Star Club Equestrian Program Inc's day was made when Equestrian NSW awarded a grant for the "A Star Is Born" project under their COVID-19 Club Grants. This grant allows the establishment of 2-3 new "Host Centres" within NSW, providing equestrian opportunities and pathways to Riders with an Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Acquired Brain Injury and/or Cognitive/Behavioural Impairment. It not only represents recognition of the program but that of Riders with these types of disabilities in equestrian sport.*

**Star Club Equestrian Program:** Sharon K Bassett,

Facebook; <https://www.facebook.com/StarClubEquestrian>

Website; <http://www.starclubequestrian.com.au/>



# Krinklewood...

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT ... **THE TRADITION LIVES ON**

*A creative retreat, a demonstration of sustainable living and a home for renowned biodynamic and organic wine.*



*Broke Fordwich was a quiet small-farm community in the late 1970's with a history of grape growing going back to the 1800's. However the principal rural endeavour was based around dairy, grazing and agriculture. With the growth in the demand for Australian wine in the 1980's, the Hunter experienced a boom which led to an increase of investors looking for land in the Hunter. Out of this came the Broke Fordwich Wine Association, later to be amalgamated into the **Broke Fordwich Wine and Tourism Association** and a large number of rural properties were transformed into thriving vineyards.*

For most of the vineyards in the Broke Fordwich region, tradition is a word that cannot be logically applied given the relative newness of the vineyards but somehow the traditional look and feel to the place has been maintained in spite of the increase in new owners and businesses. Most of the vineyards are run directly by the owners, similar to the family farms that were established before the convict-built road brought more settlers in the mid-1800's.

An example of this melding process is the beautiful **Krinklewood Biodynamic Vineyard**. The love and passion of Rod Windrum saw the property transformed from a collection of grazing paddocks into a Tuscan style haven.

The vineyard was certified organic and biodynamic in 2007, soon after it was established. Since then it has been growing as a major example of Broke Fordwich's premium wine profile.

Rod put the vineyard up for sale recently and the new

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owner, Oscar Martin, immediately acknowledged the regional feel of the property and has embraced the Broke Fordwich ethos, declaring his enthusiasm in developing the property further to fit in with the regional style.



Oscar is the co-founder of millennial news website Pedestrian TV (now owned by Nine Entertainment Co, publisher of The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age and The Australian Financial Review).

The move to Broke Fordwich enabled Oscar to re-establish connections with the Hunter when his family used to own a property in Wollombi.

As an enthusiastic visitor to Krinklewood's cellar door over the years, it did not take much persuasion for Oscar agree to buy the property.

Although on a steep learning curve of biodynamic grape growing, and wine production, Oscar is revelling in the new lifestyle.

Oscar's plans for Krinklewood include adding a mineral bathhouse, an organic food offering, multiple dimX cabins (a prefabricated sustainable home design concept he is pioneering with architect Peter Stutchbury), a performance stage for the arts, and an education centre for biodynamic/organic farming and wine-making.

"Peter Stutchbury has designed a master plan for Krinkle- *Continued next page*

wood, which has been well received by Singleton Council and is currently going through the DA process,” Oscar said.

“Once these plans are completed, Krinklewood will be an internationally acclaimed destination,” He said.

“We’re currently going through the process for Krinklewood being certified climate



positive - carbon negative and since purchase, we’ve already planted thousands of trees and installing 190 more solar panels.

Some of the ideas I am embracing at the moment are things like asking cabin guests to plant a tree as part of their accommodation requirements and we’re currently changing things around the property to recyclable and solar. Which means we will be joining what is already a big push in a lot of countries to start the process of healing the planet.”

“I have been involved in a few steep-curve learning situations in my time but what this new enterprise has thrown up is huge. Don’t get me wrong, it’s a great ride, involving so many differing disciplines all culminating in the final outcome - a quality product in a quality environment.

One day I am walking among state of the art equipment in our winery learning the complex and subtle art of producing top wines and then the next I am conducting wine tasting in a provencal-inspired building.

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In addition, I am spending time on the ground learning about root systems, terroir, spur pruning, cane pruning, irrigation and most importantly, bio-dynamic farming.”

*Biodynamic agriculture is a form of alternative agriculture very similar to organic farming, but it includes various esoteric concepts drawn from the ideas of Rudolf Steiner (1861–1925). Initially developed in 1924, it was the first of the organic agriculture movements. It treats soil fertility, plant growth, and livestock care as ecologically interrelated tasks, emphasising spiritual and traditional perspectives. It emphasizes the use of manures and composts and excludes the use of synthetic (artificial) fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides on soil and plants. Methods unique to the biodynamic approach include its treatment of animals, crops, and soil as a single system.*

The vineyard is open 7 days, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays 10-5 and Monday-Thursday 12-4

Due to the current regulations, bookings for wine tastings are required.

Wines available for tasting include Hunter Valley classics such as Semillon, Verdelho, Chardonnay and Shiraz, plus a dry French-style Rosé, Spider Run Reserve Wines, a dessert wine, Sparkling Blanc de Blanc, Sparkling Shiraz and the always popular **Wild** range.



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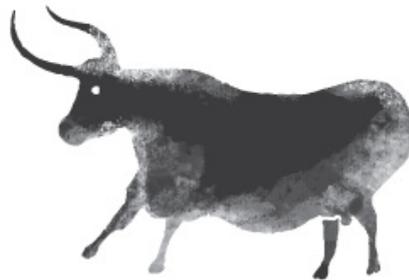


*Top: Winery on left of pic with main house and cellar door in centre - showing the extent of this magnificent property*

*Polare, the Maremma pup who insists on getting into as many pics as possible seen here with Krinklewood customer (left pic) and Cellar Door Manager Peta Kotz (above)*

*Left: Not just a vineyard but beautiful formal gardens as well which require the expert care of resident gardener Lorenzo seen here with family, Anna & Wren*

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KRINKLEWOOD

*Biodynamic Vineyard*

[Wine tasting: BOOK HERE](#)

[Gift Vouchers](#) also available

Krinklewood Biodynamic Vineyard  
712 Wollombi Road  
Broke NSW 2330  
Ph+61 265 791322



# Broke Village Recreation Grounds

## Under New Management

### Community Access Information:



Free BBQ with sheltered picnic tables.



Tennis courts (with lights for night use).



Netball court for use.

Basketball court for use.



Children's play equipment.

The Grounds are located at the corner of  
Cochrane Street and Rogers Street.

**If you wish to use the any of the facilities please  
make a booking (at least 48hrs notice) with  
Bethany on 0409 810 648, or Mick on 0423 207 755**

The hut at the grounds is available for the  
community's use for no charge.



*Proudly Supporting Broke*



**BroKE RESIDENTS**  
Community Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 109  
Broke, NSW, 2330

# TENNIS ANYONE? - OR BASKETBALL OR NETBALL OR A BBQ!



*Sometimes going away on holiday means nothing more than a gentle stroll around the viewing the sights or even laying back and catching up on your favourite read. But there are those travellers who need to keep their fitness level at a peak and in the process, have some fun as well. The Recreation Grounds in Broke Village are available to locals and guest to the area. With a basketball court, netball court and tennis courts (with lights) all that's needed is a kids play area and a BBQ - guess what? - There is!.*

The Broke Residents Community Association (BRCA) has recently taken over the supervision of the Broke Village Recreation Grounds and is encouraging locals and visitors to the region to take advantage of the facility.

BRCA president Mick McCardle says, "As locals, we are aware of the important role wine-tourism plays in our community and we want to see that not only the locals make the most out of this facility but we ask the local B&B's to let their guests know that they are available free of charge."

"The community of Broke Village has built a reputation welcoming guests to the area and the grounds are another way that the community **Continued next page**



can share with guests to the region.” He added  
With a children’s play area and a sheltered BBQ, the grounds add an extra dimension to a holiday or weekend

Bookings can be made by contacting  
Bethany on 0409 810 648, or Mick on 0423 207 755





### ***RED-RUMPED PARROT (Psephotus haematonotus)***

Other name - Grass Parrot.

Male head/neck is brilliant emerald-green; lower back brick-red; underparts yellow. Females are grey-olive green with dull white below; rump green.

They are sedentary and pair for life and congregate in family groups to form foraging flocks of up to 100 birds outside the breeding season. They leave the roost soon after sunrise, fly off to drink and move to feeding sites where they forage mostly on the ground and rest at midday in shrubs and trees. Mated birds preen each other. Breeding from August to January and lay 2-7 eggs in a tree hollow 2-12 m high. The female incubates the eggs for about 3 weeks, the young fledge in about 5 weeks.

They have a pleasant high-pitched two syllable whistle.

Diet consists of seeds, flowers, shoots and leaves and they live in sparsely timbered grasslands, open plains, mallee, farmlands.

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, from us and our wonderful wildlife***

**Elizabeth**

**Joeys Retreat**



# SINGLETON SHOVELS AT THE READY TO DELIVER \$4,571,283 IN PROJECTS UNDER RESOURCES FOR REGIONS PROGRAM

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said she was ecstatic with today's announcement by the NSW Government that a total of \$4,571,283 is coming to the community from the revamped Resources for Region program.

Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnsen MP delivered the news this morning, paving the way for a host of community projects and programs including \$500,000 for a new grandstand for Singleton Rugby Club, \$560,000 to deliver the Broke Village Shared Footpath, \$299,000 for the Wonnarua Healing Centre and \$600,000 for upgrades to Hamiltons Crossing Road Causeway.



“Many of these projects are driven by community organisations that would otherwise take years of fundraising before they could happen, and now we’re going to see work underway sooner rather than later,” Cr Moore said.

“Council has worked long and hard on advocating for reforms to the Resources for Regions program and it’s wonderful to see that the people of Singleton are finally reaping the rewards.

“I pay tribute to the Deputy Premier John Barilaro and the Member for Upper Hunter Michael MP for listening to our community, to committing to a review of the program and now for delivering on their promises.”

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Cr Moore said reforms to the Resources for Regions program were a high priority on Singleton Council's Advocacy Agenda to secure a better return on the mining royalties that Singleton delivered to the State Government each year.

She said it was particularly important that the reforms included provision of funding for community programs as well as infrastructure.



*\$560,000 has been allocated to deliver the Broke Village Shared Footpath*

“Under the first round of this new wave of the Resources for Regions funding, the people of Singleton are going to see plenty of building projects spring up across the LGA, but also benefit from a host of programs targeting employment growth, mental health services, arts and culture, and small business development,” she said.

“That goes a long way to supporting the wellbeing needs of the people of Singleton, creating a community that is proud of where they live and optimistic about the future.

“It’s amazing to me that we’ll now see these 15 projects come to fruition, and it’s all thanks to the NSW Government delivering on its commitments under the Resources for Regions program.

“I warmly invite the Deputy Premier John Barilaro to come back to Singleton when these projects are complete, so he can see personally the benefits he has delivered to our community.”



## 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  
Phone 6575 1200,  
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:- Barry Anderson  
0417403153  
Permit officers:  
Barry Anderson  
0417403153,  
Jason Bellamy  
0427235362 Warren  
Welsh 0419211130

### **Broke Community Hall**

Kathleen Everett (02)  
6579 1470

### **Broke Public School**

18-26 Cochrane Street  
Broke NSW 2330  
Telephone 02 6579 1040  
[emailbroke-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:emailbroke-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

### **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

# TRADES SERVICES DIRECTORY

## **CARRIER - General**

John Lamb  
6574 5205  
Mob 0427 695 468

## **CATTERY**

Jan Pennell  
6579 1450

## **CLEANERS**

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huntervalleycgc@gmail.  
com

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Mob 0409 791 063  
marian@riverflatsestate.  
com.au

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beyondbrokemechanical.  
com.au

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6579 1450

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Drainer, Gasfitter &  
Roofer  
Putty Rd Milbrodale  
0404 488 462

## **POOL & YARD MAINTAINANCE**

Anthony Smolenaers  
65791228 or 0400  
367025

## **VINEYARD SERVICES**

Bright Vine Services  
Vineyard consulting  
0410625540  
jennybright@bigpond.  
com  
www.brightvineservic-  
es.com.au

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Michael McManus  
6579 1400  
Mob 0403 014 787