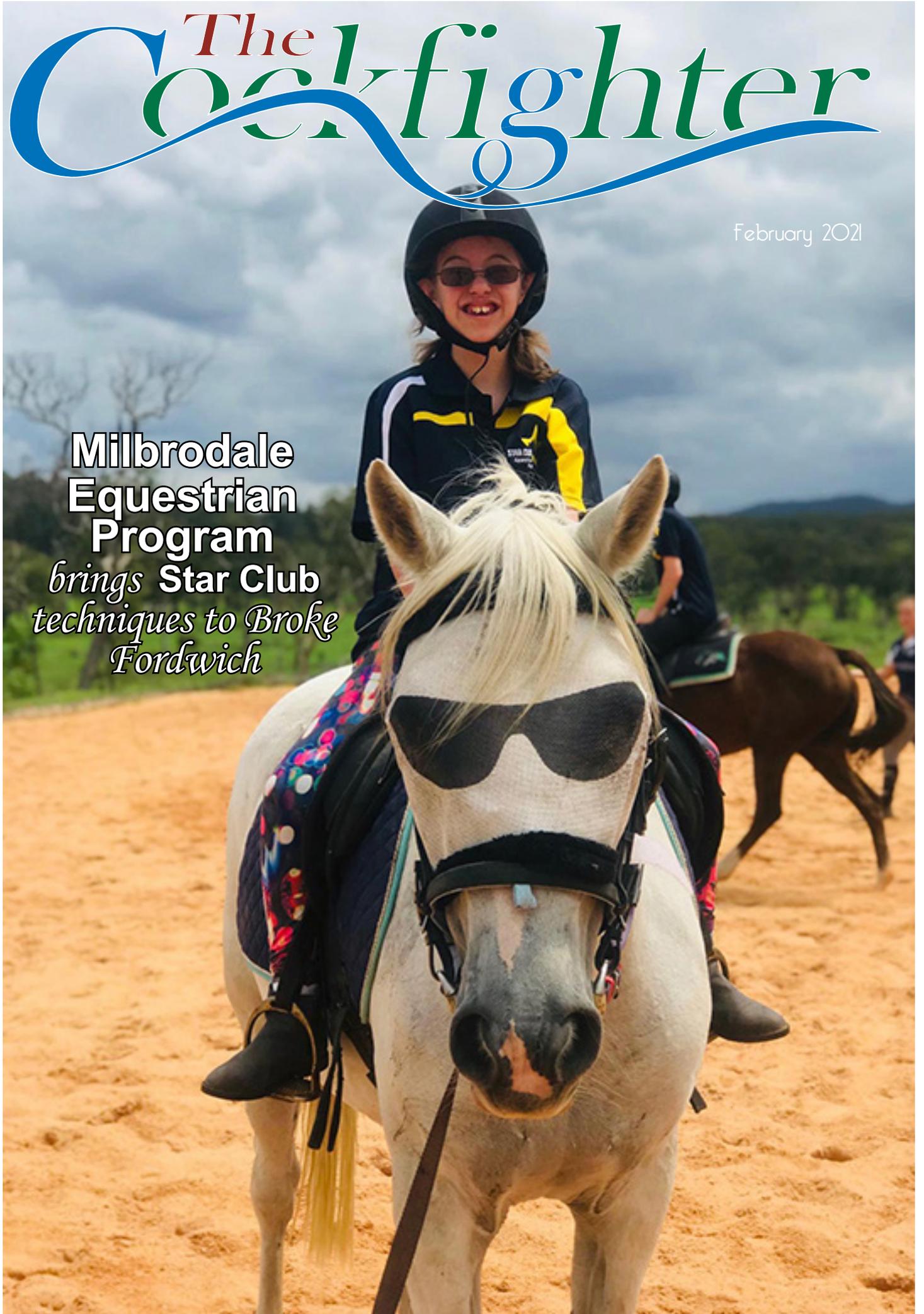


The Cockfighter

February 2021

**Milbrodale
Equestrian
Program**

*brings Star Club
techniques to Broke
Fordwich*

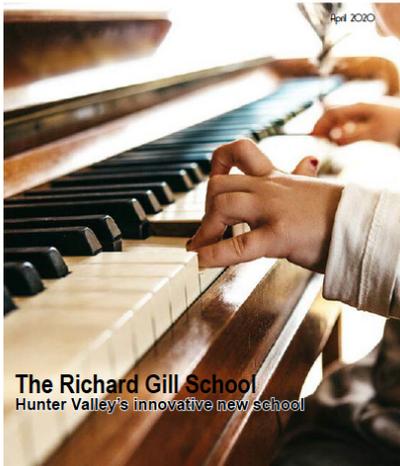


FROM THE EDITOR BACK TO THE FUTURE

STOP PRESS



Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale



The Richard Gill School
Hunter Valley's innovative new school

The April 2020 edition of The Cockfighter featured Hunter Valley school 'The Richard Gill School' building its campus in Muswellbrook to receive the first intake of students and we can now report that the school is up and running with its new students enrolled this week.

For more information see the ABC report by [clicking here](#)

MILBRODALE EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM



OUR WILDLIFE



MAYOR REPEATS CALLS FOR A BETTER SINGLETON BYPASS



A Little Bit of Italy in Broke back on the calendar



WINE AUSTRALIA PULLS PLUG ON CHINA ROADSHOW



WINE BITS



VICTORIA GETS TRILLION-DOLLAR BAD NEWS: SEA LEVEL RISES



LARGEST BATTERY TO BE BUILT IN HUNTER VALLEY



COAL-RICH HUNTER VALLEY PONDERES JOBS FUTURE



FROM THE EDITOR

BACK TO THE FUTURE

(with a No-Trump Call)

Glad to have you back, I hear you say—and the feelings mutual. It's hard to grasp the notion that a *annus horribilis* like 2020, with its terrible consequences for the UK, USA, Europe and so many other Covid-cursed communities, is behind us. And like our neighbours across the ditch, we must be pondering, "...what did we do so right?" To be fair, I resist the temptation to extol the virtues of Aussie and Kiwi preparation, persistence and practicality in the fight against C-19, because I think our insular remoteness was a big factor. What I do feel is a factor is the astonishing lack of action on the part of so many countries bigger, better resourced and with at least equally experienced health professionals. As for the USA, where my son and his partner maintain their constant vigil against this insidious scourge, it didn't help having a vehemently visible occupant of the White House who pooh-poohed the importance of a killer that was to take nearly as many lives as America lost in two World Wars. As for Britain, what can you say, with memories of our empty stands at NRL and AFL games gutting those seasons but safeguarding thousands of fans, in comparison with the untouchable Premier League of British football, spectators packed to the rafters with no discernible hint that they could be infecting millions of their countrymen and women?

Most of our reborn edition of COCKFIGHTER deals with the great story of Sharon Bassett's Star Club Equestrian Program—so read elsewhere to get the bigger picture. But I must add that the Club has two host centres which should be supported—at Mandalong and round the corner from me at Milbrodale.

A closing note..it's great to be starting yet another year of our little scandal sheet which owes so much to colleagues Eden Anthony, Sarah Purser (Star Club stalwart) and you, the reader. Some time near the end of 2020, we were acquainted with the news that a much more lavishly produced and financed district publication was to hit the newsstands throughout the Hunter, and already approaches had been made for support by local businesses and landholders. I mention this because a local businesswoman had expressed regret that the new paper (and it's a good one, with the illustrious Di Sneddon in charge) could make COCKFIGHTER redundant. Perish the thought! We're still around—have no intention of going, and, moreover, still hopeful we'll get back to print some time in 2021. Watch this space (and the interior of your upturned milk-can).

(Tom Jackson)

MILBRODALE EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM

BRINGS STAR CLUB TECHNIQUES TO BROKE FORDWICH

The Star Club Equestrian Program (“Star Club”) commenced in 2017/18 when a gap was identified in equestrian sports for those with an Intellectual Disability - ID (including Down’s Syndrome, Global Development Delay, mild-severe intellectual disabilities) and Autism Spectrum Disorder - ASD. Originally running out of a small riding school at Nulkaba NSW, the Program’s participation rate rapidly increased. With horsemanship skills developing and the desire to take our Riders (“Star Clubbers”) further, Emerald Park Equine, Mandalong was announced as the first official “Host Centre” for Star Club Equestrian Program Inc in February 2019. In March 2019 the Program was expanded to include those with Cognitive and Behavioural Impairments - CBIs (such as anxiety, ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder).

In 2019 Star Club Equestrian Program became a Not-For-Profit Incorporated Association in NSW making the Program the only incorporated equestrian association in NSW specifically for people with an Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Cognitive and Behavioural Impairments. The Inaugural Committee was formed, the Constitution developed and an honorary solicitor and accountant appointed. That same month a “Star Pledge” to Stop Bullying in Equestrian Sports (SBIES) was made.

On 1 July 2019, Star Club Equestrian Program was presented with a Certificate of Affiliation from Equestrian New South Wales and se-



Star Clubber Bella (far left), Singleton Council Mayor Sue Moore with Star Clubber Jodin and his horse Koda. Both Bella and Jodin gave riding demonstrations

Continued next page

cured insurance through Equestrian Australia. In September 2019 it was unanimously decided to expand the Program to include those with an Acquired Brain Injury - ABI (through stroke, motor vehicle accidents, etc). December 2019 saw our first Star Club Equestrian Program Gymkhana sponsored by Horse Barn Saddlery, BearView Warmbloods, Jamie's Swim School, Mr Alexander's Sweet Eats, Ms Lyn Smith and Horseland, Raymond Terrace.

Although COVID-19 restrictions interrupted our Program in March 2020, we opened our second "Host Centre" in the NSW New England Region - Star Club, Moonbi, on 18 July 2020.

In September 2020 we were thrilled to be awarded an Equestrian NSW grant for our "A Star Is Born Project" under the COVID-19 Club Grants as it was a show of confidence from our Affiliated Body (ENSW) in the Program and in our Star Clubbers. This Grant has given us the means to open three new "Host Centres" across NSW, one being Star Club Milbrodale, NSW that local, Sarah Purser, will facilitate within the Singleton LGA.

With a passion for horses from the age of 9, they have been a major part of Sarah's life. Sarah has undergone formal training in horse care / management, natural horsemanship, groundwork, dressage and jump. Sarah loves to work with horses the natural way by strongly focussing on understanding their language. Sarah enjoys trail riding and creating magical connections through the liberty work she does with her "personality plus" horse Oskar. Sarah often shares outside trainer's teachings by organising and hosting Horsemanship Clinics for the local equestrian community. Sarah's goal for Star Club, Milbrodale will be to bring happiness and a sense of achievement to the Star Clubbers in a supportive environment through her Training Programs. Sarah believes that everyone deserves to live their best life and enjoy it to its fullest, and will strive to ensure her programs



All the Star Clubbers, their horses and support people dressed up for a Christmas parade.

They then lined up for guests to go and meet them.

Continued next page

facilitate this primary goal.

Star Club has 60+ Members, with approximately 18-23 Riders (“Star Clubbers”) attending Star Club, Mandalong once a month and 8-12 Star Clubbers attending Star Club, Moonbi once a week. Our Star Clubbers are aged 5 - 55 and are beginners to competitive riders (competing in equestrian disciplines such as Dressage, Showjumping and Sporting). Activities our Star Clubbers participate in include, but are not limited to, learning to ride, equitation, trail and beach rides, tacking up, leading, pole work, jumping, dressage and even calf rustling! Our annual Gymkhana also provides opportunities for our Star Clubbers, no matter their level of riding, to participate in a level-appropriate Mounted Games, Dressage and Showjumping events, with Dressage NSW providing Star Club with a Judge for the Dressage component.

As well as providing equestrian activities for Riders with and ID, ASD, ABI and CBI, Star Club have worked very hard to establish partnerships with Dressage NSW Clubs including Tamworth Dressage Club, Manning Valley Dressage Taree, Upper Hunter Dressage Association Inc and, Quirindi & Districts Equitation Club. All four Clubs provide HC Para Tests and/or a “Star Section” (similar to Pony or Junior Sections) within their EA Tests at Training Days, Members’ Days and Official/Unofficial Events. We recently provided Volunteers to Hunter Valley Dressage Association which was an opportunity for our Star Clubbers to meet Competitors and their horses, Judges, Pencillers and Stewards, and, for those not familiar with a dressage environment, to see what it is all about.



Star Clubber Kyle did an independent jumping demonstration with his horse Dior.

Continued next page

Currently we are in negotiations with Tamworth International Eventing to open up

further opportunities for our Star Clubbers whether that be as Volunteers or participants. We have also had the opportunity to be invited as spectators to Willinga Park Dressage by the Sea, to tender for a spot at the Sydney Royal Easter Show by the RAS Horse Committee (unfortunately cancelled due to COVID), and will be attending Wallaby Hill's 3DE in December where we will be hosting a trade stand. BUT it is hard to put into words the culture and the atmosphere of any Star Club whether it be Mandalong or Moonbi, and now Milbrodale. The support for each other. The friendships. The achievements. And that is across the board – Coaches, Parents, Carers, Volunteers and Star Clubbers alike all feel part of something great!

For more information regarding Star Club Equestrian Program Inc, Star Club, Milbrodale, Mandalong or Moonbi, please contact Sharon K Bassett, Founder & Secretary, info@starclubequestrian.com.au or 0414 527 020.

STAR CLUB EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM INC

Equestrian NSW Affiliated | EA/GOW Gates Insured | Not-For-Profit |NDIS Friendly

Active Kids Provider | Stop Bullying in Equestrian Sport Pledged | COVID Safe Registered Organisation



*Left to right;
Kyle, Sarah, Sammy, Bella, Jodin, Rachel, Chanel*

OUR WILDLIFE



Little Corella. (*Cacatua sanguine*)

This Cockatoo is white with a strong yellow wash under the wings and tail. It has a white, erectable crest, bare bluish skin around the eyes and dull red feathers between the eye and bill. They feed on the ground and are often seen in noisy flocks, sometimes comprising hundreds of birds. They roost at midday and at night along water courses and often strip the leaves from the trees. Breeding pairs are silent and secretive with well established nest building and bonding rituals. They probably mate for life and return to the same tree hollow each year, chewing out the inside to line the nest. They breed from June to October. The female lay 2-3 eggs, incubated by both parents for about 25 days. Call is a raucous screech. Diet of seeds, Habitat is Semi and Monsoonal woodlands, shrublands, tree-lined water-courses, farmlands.

Elizabeth

Joeys Retreat

MAYOR REPEATS CALLS FOR A BETTER SINGLETON BYPASS



Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore has again called on the NSW Government to reconsider its plans for the Singleton bypass of the New England Highway and include a dual carriageway as well as a full interchange at Putty Road.

She had already written to the to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole this week to request a meeting as soon as possible, ahead of comments by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack, Federal Member for New England Barnaby Joyce and Mr Toole in a statement today that the project was pushing ahead.

With \$560 million committed by the Australian Government last year, Mr Joyce said the bypass would be designed to cater for a “later upgrade to a dual carriageway where required to meet future traffic demands”.

Cr Moore said she was committed to ensuring the best outcome for the people of Singleton and the people who drove through the local government area every day. “The Australian and NSW governments say they are now seeking industry feedback on the best way to deliver the bypass, and what we’re hearing from our community and from the motorists who’ll be using the road is to make it dual lanes with a full interchange,” she said.

“We also need to listen to the delivery truck drivers and the other motorists who service the Town Centre to understand what their needs are, and which way they need to get onto John Street.

“I’ve said repeatedly that 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.”

Continued next page

Cr Moore said she was thrilled with the commitment to start work on the project as soon as possible, but disappointed the design didn't go far enough to plan for the community's needs now and into the future.

"After years of lobbying, we don't want the Singleton bypass of the New England Highway to become a bittersweet project," she said.

"We should be learning from the Hunter Expressway and the fortitude that was shown for the Branxton interchange to accommodate the future development at Huntlee, as well as the work of the local community to entice people to stop in Branxton from both directions.

"We have the opportunity to plan for the long-term, to provide the best possible outcome for our community. I don't want the people of Singleton to come this far, only to be in the position of having to lobby for more money later on to address issues we're raising now."

KEY HUNTER EVENT TO GO AHEAD THIS YEAR

A Little Bit of Italy in Broke back on the calendar



Following recent discussions, the Broke Fordwich wine and Tourism Association (BFWTA) have agreed to go ahead with A Little Bit of Italy in Broke in 2021.

BFWTA Secretary, Mike Wilson said, "In order to comply with Covid-19 regulations we will have to make some modifications. The details will be thrashed out in committee in the coming weeks"

"The dates are set for Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd May 2021.

We plan to use the material developed for 2020 where possible: the map developed from the Broke Fordwich Wine Trail will form the basis for the 2021 event"

The event was not run last year due to Covid-19 restrictions.



WINE AUSTRALIA PULLS PLUG ON CHINA ROADSHOW AND CHINA'S BIGGEST WINE FAIR

With crushing tariffs on Australian wines and international travel restrictions, Australia is sobering up to a costly China fallout.



Wine Australia's 2019 China roadshow (pic: Wine Australia)

Australia's wine industry body, Wine Australia, has made the decision to cancel its annual China roadshow and pull out from the country's biggest wine and spirits trade fair in March, as more Australian wineries see no return for investing in a market that's now bent on stemming out Australian wines after slapping two rounds of punitive tariffs.

The decision was announced by the Australian government wine trade body today in its China newsletter. It also cited international travel restrictions as part of the reason for the withdrawal.

Continued next page

“The Australian wine sector has made a long-term commitment to building the market for Australian wine in China and fostered close ties with the Chinese wine trade and consumers,” says the trade org. “We are very disappointed to cancel this annual event but we hope you understand our decision.”

However, as relations between China and Australia worsen, in a shocking move China slapped up to 218.5% anti-dumping and anti-subsidy tariffs on Australian wine in late November and early December, potentially upending Australia’s AU\$1.2 billion wine exports to its biggest market.

It’s not immediately known the effects of the damaging tariffs but initial estimates by industry body Australian Grape and Wine says Australian wine exports to China plunged by 95%.

Wine Australia China roadshow is usually an important part of its marketing campaign in China. The 2020 edition was affected by the pandemic, and the cancellation this year signals that the blowback from tariffs has already discouraged Australian wineries for further engagement with the Chinese wine market under current political climate.

Furthermore, the wine industry body also withdrew from this year’s Chengdu Exhibitions in March 2021, including China Food & Drinks Fair (CFDF), arguably China’s most important wine and spirits show, as well as the hotel show – TWC Fine Wine Showcase.

Individual wineries wishing to participate the fair can still apply. Bulk wine suppliers are unaffected by the punitive tariff as it targets only wines in containers of 2 liters or below.

BY NATALIE WANG Vino-joy.com

Vino-joy.com is created with the goal to become the most authoritative and trustworthy news website on Asia and China’s wine market. It is the only English news media created to cover the wine market in China and the rest of Asia. Its English website vino-joy.com provides exclusive news and analysis on the region’s dynamic and often complicated wine market. Based in Hong Kong, the media company is run and managed by a group of Chinese wine journalists in Hong Kong and mainland China.

WINE BITS

Rosy future for Australian wine sector

The Australian wine sector is projected to grow from A\$11.3bn (US\$7.9bn) in 2019 to A\$12.7bn (US\$8.7bn) in 2024, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 2.4 per cent, says GlobalData, a data and analytics company

[Click here for more](#)



Outdated” ‘no glass, no class’ attitude hurting Australia’s wine industry

Australians don’t tend to be too fussy about what we drink our alcohol out of. Yet it seems that drinking wine out of a can – when that’s a perfectly respectable receptacle for beer, cocktails or hard seltzers – seems to be a step too far for most Aussies. Despite being an Australian invention, canned wine has yet to really catch on Down Under. While the market segment is experiencing record growth, there’s still a degree of hesitation from most consumers

[Click here for more](#)



Kylie strikes gold with Aussie Chardonnay

Pop star Kylie Minogue has gained a Gold medal for her first Australian wine – a Chardonnay from Margaret River. Made by Howard Park’s chief winemaker Janice McDonald, the Chardonnay is due to launch in March this year and represents the first Australian wine in the Kylie Minogue range, which comprises a French white, red and two rosés, including a Côte de Provence

[Click here for more](#)



VICTORIA GETS TRILLION-DOLLAR BAD NEWS: SEA LEVEL RISES WILL SWAMP PARTS OF THE STATE

The Andrews government has been provided two new scientific reports that show sea level rises well above those they are planning for, threatening its development-led recovery.

By Royce Millar - THE AGE



Farmer and golfer Rex Grady, who has been involved in protecting the golf course for years from sea level rises. CREDIT: JAMES MEPHAM

New scientific and economic research for the Andrews government warns of the grave risk of rising seas along the Victorian coast including trillions of dollars of damage to homes and other assets, if global warming is not slowed and planned for.

The research will add pressure on the government to further restrict development on the coast by lifting its current sea level rise planning benchmark of 0.8 metres by 2100, and to start planning for the “retreat” of some low-lying coastal towns. University of Melbourne professor of environmental economics Tom Kompas, is in the early stages of a risk analysis for the government and its advisory body, the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council.

Continued next page

He said sea level rise was the “biggest risk to the Australian economy from climate change” – bigger even than bushfires, heat stress and the damage to agriculture.

“This will certainly be bigger than an annual COVID-19 hit to the economy,” he said, with early findings pointing to damages in the trillions of dollars without adequate intervention and planning.

But the warning also presents a quandary for a government which sees construction as key to the state’s COVID-19 recovery, and as many Melburnians seek to relocate out of the city in the wake of COVID-19.

The current 0.8 metre projected rise is consistent with the now dated projections of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and, since 2008, has guided where development and construction can occur along Victoria’s 2500-kilometre coastline.

The 0.8 metre figure does not take into account the projected melting of the Greenland and Antarctic glaciers and ice sheets. Updated IPCC projections in 2019 did factor in ice melt and found that inaction on climate change would likely result in a sea level rise of 1.1 metres by 2100 and five metres by 2300.

The CSIRO has provided advice to the government on the IPCC projections translated locally across the Victorian coast. If the government accepts the IPCC’s upper-end projections, as it did in 2008, it would revise its own benchmark to about 1.1 metres by 2100.

Without intervention a 1.1-metre sea level rise would put at risk many areas around Port Phillip Bay but also many much-loved coastal towns such as Port Fairy, Apollo Bay, Inverloch and Lakes Entrance.

On the coast beyond Melbourne where wild seas are a daily reality, many need no more convincing of the reality and danger of climate change-affected sea level rise.

Rex Grady is life member of the Port Fairy golf club whose 18-hole course hugs the rugged coastline of south-western Victoria. “If you slice your ball you go into the water,” he told The Sunday Age with a chuckle. For years, Mr Grady has helped the club defend the famed 16th fairway, a local inundation weak spot on a dune that also protects the low-lying Port Fairy from an advancing ocean.

Over three decades about 17 metres of sand dune has been lost to the sea; the recession has sped up over the last 15 years.

For more on this story - ***CLICK HERE***



LARGEST BATTERY IN AUSTRALIA TO BE BUILT AT AGEING HUNTER VALLEY COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT

By business reporters Gareth Hutchens and Emilia Terzon ABC NEWS



The battery will allow Origin to use the Eraring plant's existing infrastructure and network connections. (AAP/Greenpeace, File)

An energy provider's plan to build Australia's largest battery is the latest development in a quickly transitioning energy market.

Key points:

- Origin Energy wants to build Australia's largest battery
- The 700MW battery will be installed in the NSW Hunter region
- It will be four times bigger than the Tesla battery in South Australia
- Origin Energy has unveiled plans to build a giant 700-megawatt capacity battery at its coal-fired power plant in Eraring, south of Newcastle, in the New South Wales Hunter region.

If built, Origin said it would have capacity to supply that power to the grid for four hours.

If the plan goes ahead, the battery would be more than four times larger than the 150-megawatt Tesla battery in South Australia.

Origin's executive general manager Greg Jarvis said the

Continued next page

battery would support Origin's transition away from coal-fired power generation by 2032.

Origin released an expression of interest to private companies this week to construct and install the battery at its Eraring plant and has begun talking with network company Transgrid about connecting the battery to the national grid via the Eraring substation.

The Eraring plant — which is Australia's largest power station — is Origin's only coal-fired power plant. It is scheduled to be decommissioned in 2032.

The mega-battery will allow Origin to use the plant's existing infrastructure and network connections long after the plant has stopped producing energy by burning coal.

The battery will also support the NSW energy grid's transition away from fossil fuels and the entry of new solar and wind projects in coming decades.

“We recognise we have an important role to play in positioning Origin's electricity generation portfolio to support Australia's rapid transition to renewables,” Mr Jarvis said.

“A large-scale battery at Eraring will help us better support renewable energy and maintain reliable supply for customers, by having long duration storage ready to dispatch into the grid at times when renewable sources are not available.

“The deployment of this battery at Eraring will support Origin's orderly transition away from coal-fired generation by 2032, while complementing the policy objectives of the NSW energy road map.”

The mega-battery will be built in three stages, with the first stage to be completed late next year.

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For more on this story - **[CLICK HERE](#)**



COAL-RICH HUNTER VALLEY PONDERES JOBS FUTURE AS ASIAN GIANTS COMMIT TO NET-ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS



Gerard Spinks and Carl Kirwin are not as worried about their own futures as those of their children and grandchildren. (ABC News: John Gunn)

By Stephen Long ABC NEWS

At the Lochinvar pub in the NSW Hunter Valley, a couple of power industry workers meet for a drink and ponder the future.

“Everybody’s a bit nervous because we are very reliant about coal, coal-fired power,” says Gerard Spinks, who has worked for 39 years in the power stations of the Upper Hunter.

“All of our other main industries are gone — our steel, shipbuilding, rail, and textiles — so all we’ve got left is mining and power. Once that goes, we’ve got no idea what the future holds.

“What about our kids! Exactly,” his mate, Carl Kirwin, chimes in.

“I’m fine, Carl’s fine,” Gerard observes. “We are getting near to retirement age, but it’s the generations after that.”

These men are anxious to know: how does the economy transition beyond coal? A 45-minute drive away, the Bayswater and Liddell power coal-fired stations tower over the landscape near the town of Muswellbrook.

The two ageing plants supply about 35 per cent of the state’s electricity.

Continued next page



Singleton Mayor Sue Moore says locals are concerned about jobs, not the politics of climate change. (ABC News: John Gunn)

Liddell is scheduled to close in 2023; Bayswater in 2035.

As Australia's biggest coal export markets — Japan, South Korea and China — commit to net-zero carbon emissions and shift towards clean energy, the mines of the Hunter appear to be heading for a slow decline.

Most of the Hunter Valley's mines produce thermal coal, which is burnt to create heat and steam to turn turbines in power stations; for decades the region's high-quality coal has been the basis of a huge export industry.

Yet the signs of retreat are already apparent; more mines are closing than expanding. Though the end of coal is decades away, now is the time to begin developing new industries that Australia's coal regions will need to replace the jobs set to disappear.

About 14,000 people work in the mines of the Hunter Valley.

Although that's a large number, it's still a small share of overall employment in the region, though there are many thousands more workers and businesses that rely indirectly on the coal industry to make a living.

In the Upper Hunter, it's an acute issue.

Continued next page

According to the region's local councils, 35 per cent of jobs in the Muswellbrook local government area and more than 50 per cent in the Singleton area flow from the coal industry.

One Nation has made big strides here, but the Mayor of Singleton, Sue Moore, bristles at what she sees as a big city assumption that her constituents are all red-necks captured by climate change denialism.

She relates a conversation she had at a conference with a councillor from Sydney. "I sat down at a lunch break ... and his words [to me] were, 'What do I have to do to convince Singleton people about climate change?'" she says.

"My reply was simple: 'Tell them where their jobs are going to be.' It's not a conversation about climate change, it's a conversation about jobs, jobs, jobs, and once jobs are solved then other things will flow."

The good news is, there's no shortage of groups working on ideas and planning ways that the economy can transition to a future beyond coal — and there are already businesses pointing the way.



Alex Post with one of MGA Thermal's heat storing alloy 'bricks'. (ABC News: John Gunn)

Continued next page

MGA Thermal, a start-up born at Newcastle University, is one of those businesses. It hopes to revolutionise the storage of energy and accelerate the shift to renewable power.

“This is our lab where our manufacturing currently happens at the University of Newcastle,” MGA Thermal’s Alex Post tells the ABC as he takes us into a workshop in the engineering faculty.

The young engineer has the dual titles of chief technology officer and chief disruption officer at the company.

He’s a protégé of Erich Kisi, a professor of materials science at Newcastle, who pioneered a technology for storing energy as heat in “bricks” made from an alloy of recycled metals.

Alex Post explains a process that’s remarkably simple.

“We stack the bricks up into large energy storage systems; we heat them with waste heat from industry or with electricity from the grid when we have too much solar, and these bricks store all of that energy as heat.

“Six to eight hours later we can use all that stored heat to drive an industrial process or create steam to run a power plant and put energy back onto the grid.”

It’s modular, scalable and carbon emissions free.

Port Augusta was built around coal-fired power, but it is now aiming to be the renewables capital of Australia. The main applications for the technology will be powering factories and providing storage for solar power plants that use concentrated solar thermal power, but it could also be used to turn the turbines in former coal-fired power stations — without burning coal.



Port Augusta was built around coal-fired power, but it is now aiming to be the renewables capital of Australia.

It’s the kind of clean technology that groups working on the transition from coal see as the future of this region.

“Our vision is that, by 2030, the Hunter is the electric motor of the Australian economy and possibly the global economy,” says Sam Mella, Hunter engagement lead for the think tank Beyond Zero Emissions.

For more of this story click here



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
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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
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Permit officers:
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Jason Bellamy
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Bulga Milbrodale

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Bulga Community Centre Inc.

President/bookings
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Secretary Belinda
Passlow 0427 305 519
Treasurer Phil Reid 0438
865 064

Justices of the Peace

Tom Jackson 6574 5266

Milbrodale Public School

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NSW 2330

National Parks and Wildlife Service- Upper Hunter Area Bulga and Scone

Peta Norris, Putty Road,
Bulga
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Palliative Care Volunteers for Singleton & Cessnock

Kath Watkinson (02)
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PID Admin

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office@saywells.com

St Andrews Anglican

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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
0429 850 089

TRADES SERVICES DIRECTORY

CARRIER - General

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Mob 0427 695 468

CATTERY

Jan Pennell
6579 1450

CLEANERS

Professional Hunter
Valley Cleaning Group
Hospitality and private
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