

Back to Broke Will Capture the History

CAPTURING THE PAST AND CELEBRATING THE RESILIENCE OF THE VILLAGE OF BROKE WILL BE SHOWCASED AT THE BACK TO BROKE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS FROM OCTOBER 11 TO 13.

A committee has been hard at work planning the three days of celebrations that have brought stories of the past to life and uncovered many photographs that will be on display at Broke Hall.

The picturesque village of Broke is situated on the banks of the Wollombi Brook, just 20 minutes' drive from Singleton. Grapevines adorn the rich alluvial plains nestled beneath

the stunning Broken Back Ranges. Yellow Rock, named by locals probably because of the way the sharp, rocky escarpment captures the sun, casts a watchful eye over the happenings in the village and if only this rock could talk, what a tale it would tell.

Organisers acknowledge that the first custodians of the land were the people of the hills and plains, The Wonnarua people, who lived off the land, and travelled

through the mountains for trade and ceremonial purposes.

The first European explorers, looking for a passage between Sydney and the Hunter Valley, followed the Aboriginal pathways with the assistance of Aboriginal guides, reaching the Broke area in 1818.

It was not until 1924, that land grants were designated in the area with John Blaxland Snr establishing Fordwich Estate, and John Tremayne Rodd, establishing Harrowby.

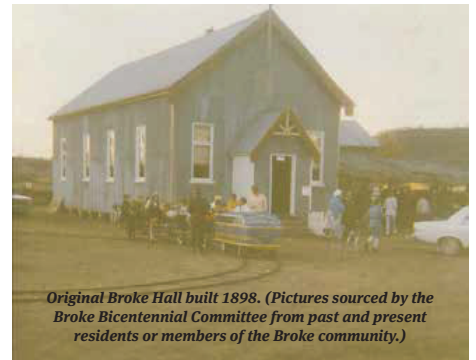
Broke received its name in 1830 from Surveyor General, Major Thomas Mitchell, who named the village after a military associate of his, Sir Charles Broke-Vere. Apparently his name Broke was pronounced Brook.

While the area was known as Fordwich for many years after the establishment of the village, the name Broke eventually took hold.

In the late 1800s, the main stock route from the Hunter to Sydney ran through Broke, and it is said that as many as 1000 head of stock passed through the



Emma Thorne owner of the first shop with her son Sylvannus.



Original Broke Hall built 1898. (Pictures sourced by the Broke Bicentennial Committee from past and present residents or members of the Broke community.)

village every week.

Broke was also prime dairy cattle country with as many as 60 dairy farms existing up until the deregulation of the industry last century.

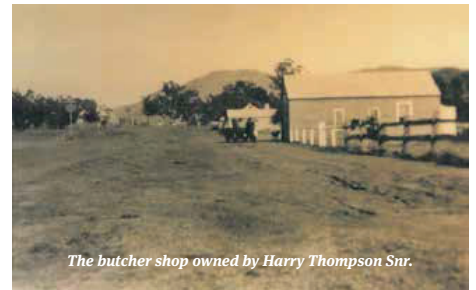
Citrus orchards have over time been taken over by extensive vineyards and these days Broke and its surrounds produce some of the best wines in the country. Tourism attractions including numerous cafes and restaurants add to Broke's visitation appeal.

Many of the historic buildings remain in place and a fascinating heritage

trail offering 13 amazing points of interest has been produced as part of the celebrations.

The celebrations will capture the history of

Broke and early European settlement generally and everyone is invited to come along and hear the stories and share in the district's 200 year celebrations.



The butcher shop owned by Harry Thompson Snr.



The Broke Ladies Committee pictured in 1974.

BACK TO BROKE

11-13 OCTOBER 2024

BROKE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

FRIDAY, 11TH OCTOBER

- Spirit of the Vines Dinner @ Margan Wines & Restaurant [Waiting List](#)

SATURDAY, 12TH OCTOBER 2024

AT THE BROKE RECREATION GROUND (FROM 9AM)

- Welcome to Country Ceremony
- The "Broke vs Bulga" Colonial Cricket Match
- Music to follow the cricket match
- Balloon twilight Launch by Beyond Ballooning
- Food, Coffee, Traditional Sports, Souvenirs, Family Marquees invited

AROUND BROKE VILLAGE (FROM 10AM)

- Free Stage Coach Rides around the village
- Springtime Floral Display at St Andrew Church (Sat&Sun)
- Wedding Gown Display at the Church of Immaculate Conception (Sat & Sun)
- "Story of Broke" Exhibition and banner signing at Broke Hall
- Historical Display at the Broke Public School
- Dinner Cabaret with RARE BIRD @Winmark Wines from 6.30pm



SUNDAY, 13TH OCTOBER

AT THE MCNAMARA PARK SUNDIAL (FROM 10AM)

- Bicentennial Plaque unveiling
- Time Capsule Opening
- McNamara Mile Fun Run/Walk for Everyone!

AT THE BROKE HALL (FROM 9AM)

- "Story of Broke" Exhibition, Souvenirs and Banner Signing

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Broke Bicentennial 2024

brokerca.com.au/bicentennial-2024



When Life Becomes the Learning



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Proudly celebrating 200 years.
Our location in Broke means more than just a place; it's our cherished community.

STUDENTS AT BROKE PUBLIC SCHOOL HAVE IMMERSSED THEMSELVES IN THEIR VILLAGE'S HISTORY AND CANNOT WAIT TO JOIN THE BACK TO BROKE CELEBRATIONS FROM OCTOBER 11 TO 13.

School principal Amy Ball said the school has incorporated the bicentenary into STEM and history based studies with members of the community coming into the school to share their stories.

"The students did interviews with Dain Simpson, Roy Palmer, Helen Sharrock and others and Helen took the students on the heritage walk which they were really engaged in," Amy said.

The heritage trail starts at the skate park opposite the fuel station and takes in the flying fox site, the Catholic and Anglican Churches, Broke rec grounds, the school, Broke Hall and the site of the post

office that operated from 1882 to 1992 and the original post office site among others.

Students from pre-school right through to Year 6 have been learning about the history for the past two terms from the traditional owners of the land through to European settlement and looking at the different industries over the years.

Art projects have taken in this historical aspect and the students have also looked at how school itself has changed over the years.

"We took the students to an excursion to the school-house museum in North Ryde and we are hoping to create a similar colonial classroom in our school library for the

birthday weekend," Amy said. "We have people bringing in old desks and we even have one of the parents making aprons for the girls and collars for the boys, the students are learning maypole dancing and other traditional games," Amy said.

It is the stories that the community is sharing with the students that is really capturing the imaginations of the students.

One of the students great grandfather's recalled that when he came to school with his siblings there was only one pair of shoes between them.

"Whoever got up first got to wear the shoes for the day, didn't matter the size," Amy laughed.

Amy said the beauty of the bicentenary celebrations is that it was enhancing the students knowledge of their own town.

The school will open on Saturday, October 12, from 10am for visitors to take in the 'colonial classroom' and to also see a display of school photographs over the years.



Broke Public School students Zaine Lowe, Christina Maclean and Callum Maloney are excited for the upcoming Back to Broke Bicentenary celebrations.

Listen to the Stories of Broke

ONE OF THE ATTRACTIONS AT THE UPCOMING BACK TO BROKE BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS IS CENTRED AROUND BROKE COMMUNITY HALL.

An incredible display of photographs and a timeline will be on exhibition but equally interesting are the oral histories that will be on a big screen. These oral histories feature 15 prominent Broke people and run for about 15 minutes each and it is these stories that will set the scene for a time in

Broke long ago.

From 10am on Saturday you can hitch a free ride on a stagecoach that will be operating around the Broke village.

One of the event organisers Mick McCauley is looking forward to the colonial cricket match between Broke and Bulga.

He is expecting a few to dress in colonial costume and there will be live music to follow the cricket match.

Families are invited to set up their own marquees and enjoy the cricket and other traditional sports and enjoy a wonderful day out celebrating all things Broke.

TWO YEARS AFTER ONE OF THE MOST DEVASTATING FLOOD EVENTS BROKE HAS EXPERIENCED THERE IS A DIFFERENT MOOD IN THE VILLAGE, ONE OF EXCITEMENT.

Come to Broke and Celebrate

Preparations to celebrate 200 years since the village was established are well in hand and expect a great experience when visiting Broke for their bicentenary weekend on October 11 to 13.

The highlight of the celebrations will be a community day on Saturday, October 12, at Broke Recreation Ground with a parade, a reenactment of the Broke and Bulga 1874 cricket match, music, food and coffee stalls. There will be people dressed in period

costumes and traditional children's games.

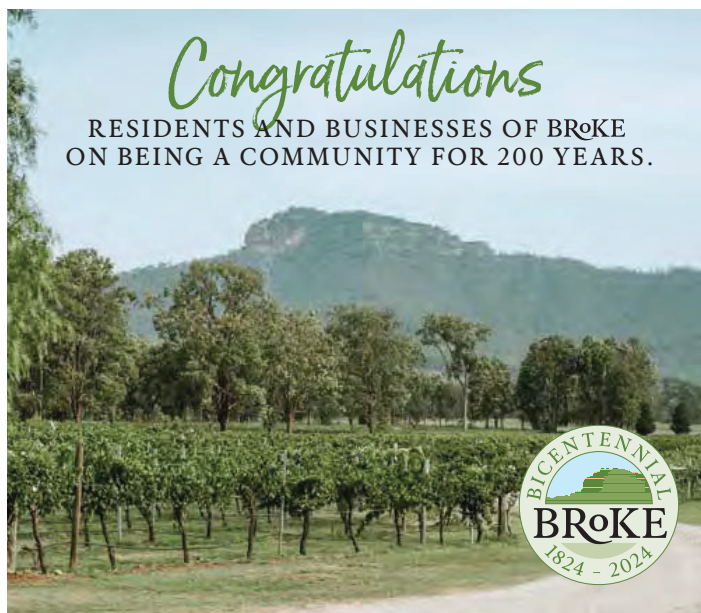
The Story of Broke, in Broke Hall, will revisit those stories from the First Fleeters to today with videos, film and photos.

Yellow Rock, Broke's landmark, will also be illuminated at night over the weekend.

A formal Spirit of the Vine dinner will be held at Margans restaurant on October 11 and on the Sunday a plaque will be unveiled marking the 200 years and a time capsule lodged, followed by the McNamara Mile, a walk for everyone along Broke's new shared pathway.



Residents, past and present, have signed the Broke banner that you will see hung inside the hall as part of the Broke Bicentenary Celebrations from October 11 to 13. Pictured signing the banner earlier this year are (l-r) Mick McCardle, Evelyn Hardy, Robyn Johnson, Judy Cooke, Loretta Bird and Dain Simpson.



Congratulations

RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES OF BROKE ON BEING A COMMUNITY FOR 200 YEARS.



*Something Old
Something New*

A collection of wedding gowns and memorabilia

10AM - 4PM • 12 - 13 OCTOBER 2024
BROKE CATHOLIC CHURCH



*Springtime
Floral Exhibition*

Tea, Cake and locally grown flowers for sale

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH BROKE
SATURDAY 12 - 13 OCTOBER 2024
10AM - 4PM

BROKE FORDWICH WINE REGION
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A WINE JOURNEY THROUGH BROKE FORDWICH

The Hunter River Times wishes everyone associated with the Broke Bicentenary Celebrations a huge congratulations. An incredible history captured so well to be showcased on the weekend of October 11 to 13.

Come and join the celebrations

Winmark a Wine and Art lovers Wonderland

IN CELEBRATION OF THE BROKE BICENTENARY WINMARK PROUDLY BRINGS AN EXTRAORDINARY OUT OF THEATRE EXPERIENCE TO BROKE THIS OCTOBER, SO IF YOU ARE ONE FOR A DINNER AND SHOW OR PURELY SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO DO IN THE REGION THEN YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY CHECK OUT LOVE & FORGETTING BY RARE BIRDS ENSEMBLE COMING TO WINMARK ON SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 12 AND 26, DIRECTLY FROM THE MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL.

Ticketing includes performance, a three-course dining experience by Sea Salt and Sage Catering, beverage-on-arrival and a complimentary glass of premium wine.

Cocktails and other wines available to purchase. Tickets for this not to be missed dinner and show are available online now at winmarkwines.com.au

Winmark is so much more than a winery, or a vineyard, or even a place to stay.

Winmark is a place of natural beauty, backed by the spectacular backdrop of Yellow Rock escarpment, and a wonderful valley that is Broke Fordwich wine region.

Set just 10 minutes from the heart of what many think is Hunter Valley wine country,

neighbours in Pokolbin really miss out on the spectacular scenery compared to that on the Broke side of the ridge.

Broke village celebrates its bicentenary this year, and for that reason alone, there is more than ever to do in Broke, but history aside, it's also just been named runner up in New South Wales Best Tiny Town, which speaks for itself.

From Broke, mosey in the direction of Wollombi and in just two short kilometres you'll discover Winmark.

Danish for 'Field of Vines', Winmark celebrates the remarkable revival of an historic 130-acre property by Danish entrepreneur turned vigneron, Karin Adcock whose name may ring a bell if you're into jewellery.

She is the one who brought Danish jewellery brand



Pandora to Australia some 20 years ago and made a name for it here in Australia. Karin's eye for detail and Danish flair for all things art and design have led her to create one

of the Hunter Valley (even Australia's) most incredible winery visitor experiences. Recently recognised by the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association as 2023 Cellar Door of the Year only confirms that what she has done in succession to founder and former Macquarie Bank Chair, David Clark's lasting legacy on the property formerly known as Pooles Rock.

The Estate comprising some of the regions oldest and most premium vineyards, now entirely dedicated to premium and highly awarded Chardonnay - is a wine lovers wonderland, and home to Winmark Wines Cellar Door, Art Gallery, Gift Boutique, Sculpture Park, Coffee Cart (open 7 days a week) Rosie's - a new event terrace as well as luxury accommodation. Sleeping up to 26 across three superb homes for parties of two to 14 apiece, Winmark really is a place for every kind of visitor.

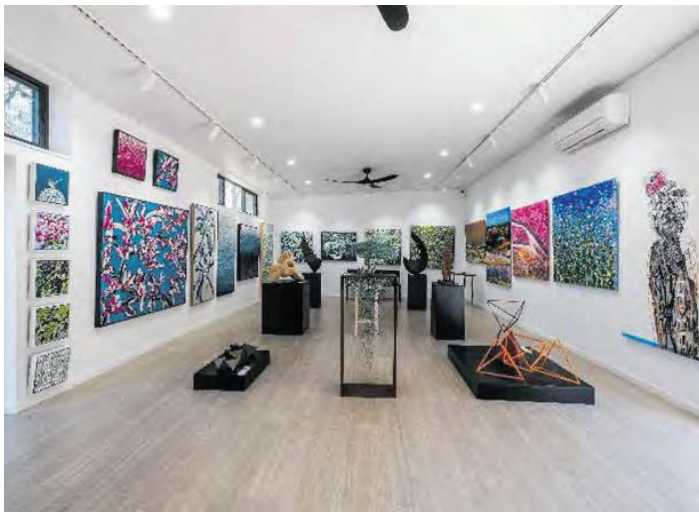
There is still some availability for stays during the spring school holiday that are almost upon us and certainly some fabulous event packages allowing you and your nearest and dearest to organise a fabulous end of year gathering or Christmas celebration on the new event terrace. Truly a stylish way to celebrate.

If it's a small wedding, group escape, corporate retreat, girls' weekend, family gathering, or romantic stay you're after, there is place at Winmark for every kind of stay. With large open spaces, big blue winter skies, roaring open fires, art and sculptures at every turn, vineyards, sunsets and so much more, Winmark provides the ultimate backdrop for your next getaway.

For the kids there are immersive self-guided art trails, taking in the vast outdoor sculpture park where kids can follow the

map and draw what they see. Armed with pencils and clipboard, they can set themselves free to draw and explore the outdoors. Treated to a popper and kids' cheese and crackers on their return, and parents to one of the best Chardonnay tasting experiences that money can buy, this experience available 7 days a week and can be booked at winmarkwines.com.au so why not make a beeline to Winmark these school holidays?

Mio Monte and Rock View are two stylish self-contained luxury homes that can easily accommodate families and would make the ideal school holiday destination. With fire pits, pizza ovens, open fireplaces, playgrounds and tennis courts, between these two incredible houses, there is something for everyone. That's not to mention the friendly kangaroos, gorgeous walks, and incredible vistas.



HUNTER VALLEY CELLAR DOOR OF THE YEAR 2023

2023 Hunter Valley Cellar Door of the Year – Winmark Wines – is not just a premium Chardonnay producer, but a destination. The Art Gallery alongside the Cellar Door overlooks grounds that are a wonderland of their own, scattered with extraordinary Sculpture installations. Come for a barista coffee, explore the arts, and stay for a Chardonnay tasting. For half a century this site spanning 130 acres has grown exceptional fruit with a history of producing highly acclaimed Chardonnay. Recently Shortlisted by Halliday Wine Companion for Best New Winery 2024, this 5-Star James Halliday rated winery was recognised as having one of Australia's Top 50 Vineyards in 2022 and is fast becoming renowned for producing exceptional Chardonnay.

WINMARK
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