



Eltham & District Winemakers Guild Inc.

Press Cuttings
August 2006

President	George Wright	9712 0318	Treasurer	David Pryor	9439 4933
Past President	Mario Fantin	9846 7092	Communications	Chris Ramsay	9846 2713
Secretary	Zenon Kolacz	9879 0379	Newsletter	Vacant - This newsletter is being temporarily produced by Mario Fantin & Spencer Field refer article below	

The Guild encourages the responsible consumption of alcohol

The Guild usually meets on the last Friday of the month
at the Eltham Living & Learning Centre at 8 pm
Next meeting: 25 August 2006

Next Meeting – Friday 25 August 2006

Mario Fantin

Zenon has arranged a special guest speaker to attend our next meeting. Roger Morgan of Morgan Vineyards is a small winemaker of high quality wines and will discuss his winemaking techniques. He is very interested in what we are doing and this forum will be a great opportunity to exchange ideas and have a frank discussion on our favourite topic. He will bring along his own Pinot, Merlot and Chardonnay, and possibly a Cabernet for tasting and comparison with members wines. Members are encouraged to bring along a bottle of their own wine for discussion. We may not get to taste everybody's wine but let's see how we go.

Our new president is keen on starting meetings on time and not finishing too late. Please be on time for an 8pm start and the aim is to finish meetings around 10:30pm.

President's Press

George Wright

In my first president's report I'd like to look over my shoulder for a moment and then to share my thoughts on what I hope to achieve over the next two years

There has been a change in the executive. On completing his many years as Treasurer followed by two years as president and the following two years as Deputy President, Ken King is taking a holiday from the executive. For the next two years you will have the same Treasurer (David Pryor) and Secretary (Zenon Kolacz) while Mario Fantin has done a baton pass with the gavel and assumed his role as Past President. All of which means it's steady-as-she-goes. The big change is that I have joined the executive as the new President and I

am currently undergoing a sea-change while learning the ropes. I will need the support and assistance from everyone and just a modicum of patience from you as I slop around in the big shoes left by Mario.

Can I express my thanks to the past executive for a great job over the past two years? The Guild is in an excellent position socially and financially, we have a couple of exciting events coming up with the winery tour to the Pyrenees and the wine show and the possibility of another that we will discuss at the next meeting. In addition, Zenon has worked hard to arrange for an interesting August meeting and will be seeking your input for future plans. Of most importance, I have tasted some excellent amateur wines over the past few months so that I know there is a broad base of expertise available for us to assist each other when we strike problems. We must find some more structured ways to make this help more accessible without making it a chore for anyone.

A number of people who are not on the executive continue to make the Guild function smoothly and provide specialist advice and services. These people provide special events and tours, look after equipment, work in the background on computer programs, set-up frameworks for the newsletter, manage the web-site and so on. Some of them do massive amounts of drudge work without complaint. Their contribution is also recognised and we will need further assistance from them and others in the future as well.

My most important personal objective while president is to have a good time. While achieving my objective I will strive to create an environment where you can also. My ideal for the Guild is to make it fun in a bottle. I want all of us to make our wines good, better, best and I'd like to think that we can all improve and be stimulated to try new winemaking techniques or to tackle grape varieties, fruits or vegetables we haven't used before. I want to learn. I want to promote country winemaking because I think we have a responsibility to hand on this heritage to the next generation. As an aside, I'd like to ensure that we remain a winemaking guild and not a wine appreciation society. We should look for opportunities to make wine together and swap bottles. I'd also like to find ways of supporting the growing number of members who live outside metropolitan Melbourne. If at any time during my reign you see me doing things that stray from these ideals, please don't hesitate to remind me. (Are we having fun yet, George?)

In summary, I look forward to sampling the wines you make over the next two years and I trust they will be fruitful in the complete sense of the word.

Minutes for the Eltham District Winemakers Guild Inc Annual General Meeting - July 2006

Zenon Kolacz

EDWG AGM July 28, 2006

Members in Attendance: 29

Apologies

Danny Cappellani, Bill Bussau, John Gaffney, Chris Ramsay, Neil & Myrna Johanneson, Liz Pryor, Darko Postruzin, Richard Bortko, Jeff Neagle, Tim Ross

- Minutes of 2005 meeting were taken as read. Moved to be accepted by Helmut Doerner, Seconded by Spencer Field. Motion: Carried.
- President's report read out by Mario Fantin. Moved to be accepted by Con Proussalis, Seconded by Rob Aitken. Motion: Carried.
- Spencer Field provided some personal comments on behalf of the guild, thanking Mario for his leadership and efforts over the last two years.

Treasurer's Report (David Pryor)

- Moved to accept by John O'Callahan
- Seconded by Joe Cucuzza
- Motion: Carried

Elections

Office of President

Nominee: George Wright
 Nominated by: Zenon Kolacz
 Seconded: Con Proussalis
 Motion: Carried

Office of Treasurer

Nominee: David Pryor
 Nominated by: Spencer Field
 Seconded: Joe Cucuzza
 Motion: Carried

Office of Secretary

Nominee: Zenon Kolacz
 Nominated by: Mario Fantin
 Seconded: Harry Gilham
 Motion: Carried

Immediate Past Present

Mario Fantin

Election of Non-Executive Positions

Website

Nominee: Chris Ramsay (in-absentia)
 Nominated by: Mario Fantin
 Seconded by: John O'Callaghan
 Motion carried

Social Coordinator

Nominee: Spencer Field
 Nominated by Joe Cucuzza
 Seconded: Helmut Doerner
 Motion: Carried

Newsletter Editor

Nominee: Mario Fantin
 Nominated by: Zenon Kolacz
 Seconded: Joe Cucuzza
 Motion: Carried

NB: Mario accepted the nomination and the position on a temporary basis only until someone else could be found to fill the position permanently. Mario will prepare a smaller 'Bulletin' in the interim. Spencer Field volunteered to assist Mario.

Asset Manager

New position created.

Nominee: Rob Aitken (accepted in-absentia)

Nominated by : Spencer Field

Seconded: Harry Gilham

Motion: Carried

*Asset Register to be sent to Rob Aitken by Mario.

Other Business

- Issue raised that the position of Public Officer (currently held by Ken King), should be held by a member of the Executive.
- As Ken King is no longer a member of the Executive, it was resolved to request Ken to formally resign. George Wright to follow up.
- Subject to Ken's resignation, members accepted that Treasurer should hold the position of Public Officer. Treasurer accepted.

General Business

- John O'Callahan to see if Millo can come and give a talk on meads.
- Harry to bring around some items of winemaking interest next month for sale to members.
- Lorenzo to liaise with Treasurer to obtain biscuits and cheese for each meeting. Members concurred with the idea.
- Mario volunteered to contact Neil re Frankston show drop-off point for wines.

Guild Forward Planner

Zenon Kolacz

The Executive has already given some thought to themes for future meetings, however we are keen to get your input. Please come along to the next meeting with suggestions on themes, guest speakers etc for future meetings.

Pyrenees Wine Region Weekender (7 & 8 October 06)

Spencer Field

Still places remaining!

36 Guild members and their guests are booked in what will be our best winery weekender! We now have hired a bigger, cheaper bus that can seat 47 passengers, and so we are looking for another 10 or so to come aboard. The more of us that hop on, the cheaper the rate per person. Guild members, partners **and** their guests are all most welcome. The Guild is again generously subsidising the costs of the bus – cheaper than driving yourself!

The Pyrenees Ranges are home to some of Victoria's most beautiful, and lofty, vineyards. The vines here have a long and distinguished history: French diggers first planted grapes in the region in the 1840s. A temperate climate, alluvial soils and low rainfall help produce classic shiraz and cabernet sauvignon styles, along with chardonnay and sauvignon blanc.

This will be a great fun, social and memorable weekend with beautiful food, wine, sharing and song. Note that we will be entertained on the bus by John & Roma Halleluiahs of the Irish Halleluiahs Chorus. George Rightinstein will conduct; Mario Pavarotti will be lead Tenor with Richard Bortko and David Pryor doing a Soprano duet!! (*Editor's note - Everyone should bring ear plugs!!!*).

You can book by telephoning Spencer on 0408 300 523, or emailing him at spencerf@bigpond.com. Be sure to include your name and contact details including telephone, and the number in your party.

All outstanding deposits should be paid by the August Guild meeting. Contact Treasurer, David Pryor at pryor@gotalk.net.au, or tel him 94394933, to arrange funds transfer, or send a cheque to him at 58 Kent Hughes Rd, Eltham 3095.

Accommodation: 3 ½ star Avoca Motel is booked to provide 12 double suites @\$85 – 100 each including light breakfast. Other accommodation is being sought.

Cost estimate: About \$165 per two persons for transport and accommodation, with the Guild again funding bus driver costs. Wine and food extra.

The Beautiful Marlborough Region

Rob Aitken

The pleasures of visiting the wineries and vineyards of New Zealand's fine Marlborough Region make the trip across the Tasman well worth the effort.

In May 2006 Rosemary and I spent several enjoyable weeks touring New Zealand's North and South Islands. Without doubt one of the great things to do is to spend some leisurely time exploring a closely spaced group of wineries that occupy the famous Marlborough Region of "NZ".

Centred around the township of Blenheim, the Marlborough Region is located near the top of the south island in one of the sunnier areas of NZ. The region is located in a wide / open valley with relatively long sunlight hours and free draining river shingle soils. It has an area of approximately 15 kilometres by about 5 kilometres containing about 50 wineries including famous names like Cloudy Bay and Montana plus many less well known but great wineries.

The Sauvignon Blancs and Rieslings of this region are hard to beat - in fact the best I have tasted and certainly better than any whites I have had a hand in producing! I even brought several bottles for Guild members to taste but unfortunately only one has made it to a guild meeting.

The most enjoyable Winery visit for me was the *Te Whare Ra* winery which means "House in the Sun". The young Vigneron, Jason Flowerday and his wife Anna, who hail from South

Australia, have a boutique operation (a mere 60 tonnes per year). I was particularly impressed at Jason's willingness to show me over his operation and explain his winemaking techniques. He likes to specialise in estate grown, hand crafted wines displaying the characters of the immediate location.

While the Marlborough Region wines are great, I must say that prices are often above our local bottle shop prices for the same wine.

All in all, a great place to educate your palette in fine white wines and enjoy some great scenery. I could tell you more but its best you find out for yourselves. With air travel to NZ being extremely good value at present it's a great time to travel.



The Highfield Estate Winery - shades of Tuscany



The Montana Winery

Wine Into Water

Stan Gower

Some extracts from the Australian on the theme of ‘turning wine into water’:

“One of the more pleasurable ways of turning wine into water is by drinking it”.

“The twin problems of the wine glut and the water shortage might be solved if only we could identify someone who could turn wine into water”.

Newsletter Editor Wanted

Mario Fantin

As you will have noted in the AGM Minutes, the position of Newsletter Editor has not been filled on a permanent basis. Spencer Field and I have agreed to produce a ‘Bulletin’ until somebody volunteers to take up the position.

I would encourage you to consider taking on the task. You can set your own standard for the Newsletter. There is no expectation that you maintain the brilliant standard set by George in the past. George admits it himself, that he just enjoys writing. The main objectives of the Newsletter is to inform members of future meetings / events and exchange information on winemaking. The role of the editor is to circulate a newsletter every month and publish articles submitted by members. If you are interested in the position, please discuss with George Wright.

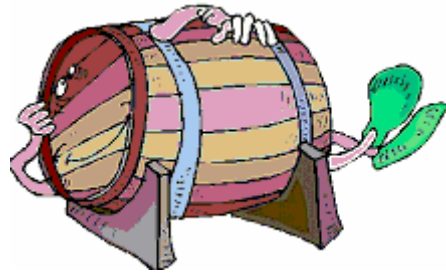
In the meantime, if you would like to have something published in future newsletters, please contact Spencer or myself via the following email addresses:
mifantin@bigpond.net.au & spencerf@bigpond.com

The Dribbles of Rob Aitkin

Drinking wine removes warts and pimples - not from the person drinking - but from those they have to look at.

To avoid a hangover - keep drinking.

Trading Barrel



BUY / SELL SERVICE FOR MEMBERS

Ads need to reach the Editor (Mario Fantin) by 15th of the month to be included in the next Newsletter.

If you want to swap, buy or sell equipment let me know. You have a captive audience and it's cheap...free for items of interest to members.

David Hart has various items for sale:

Vines -24 No. 5 year old (MU6) Pinot Noir vines - bare rooted.

Vine Guards - approx 150 - make an offer

Destemmer / crusher (hand operated) good condition - \$350.00

Metal cupsules - large box - make an offer.

David can be contacted on 5983 9082 or 0419 981 927 to arrange an inspection or to discuss the goods for sale at Bittern on the Mornington Peninsula.

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