



Eltham & District Winemakers Guild Inc.

Press Cuttings
September 2007

President	George Wright	9712 0318	Treasurer	David Pryor	9439 4933
Past President	Mario Fantin	9846 7092	Communications	Marcel Theunissen	5962 5153
Secretary	Zenon Kolacz	9879 0379	Newsletter	Sue King	9712 0316

The Guild encourages the responsible consumption of alcohol

The Guild meets on the last Friday of each month
at the Eltham Living & Learning Centre at 8 pm
Next meeting: 28th September 2007

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Next Meeting

Where else but in Eltham would you hold the Oktoberfest in September? We have had difficulties in scheduling topics for meetings and our annual beer-tasting night has been brought forward a month.

We need those members who brew their own beer to bring along some samples. Leading us in the mysteries in tasting beer will be the guru of brewing, Dave from Greensborough Home Brewing. Dave will also tell us about some different approaches to making home-brews.

Presidents Press

George Wright

Vine buds are bursting and those with vines are thinking about spray regimes and praying that the spring weather will not be frosty.

I am always reminded as the Grand Final weekend approaches that this is probably a good time to bottle my white wines. I'm ahead of myself this year because I didn't make much wine but the trouble with bottling early is that I start drinking early so that my supply of Sauv. Blanc is already severely depleted. I must remember to keep one for the wine show. No, I must be positive, I'll keep two because if you win a gold medal they always ask for another bottle to cater for the demands of tasters. Three actually, because at the BBQ in January the Guild asks that medal winners provide a bottle of medal winning wine to share over a sausage. Damn. There goes vintage 2007.

Red Vintage of 2002

George Wright

Ken King has bought a new old car. As he told me about it, he cleared his throat to give me a demonstration of his vocal technique because he claims he bought it for a song. Anyway, as he started to clear a space in the garage for the latest thing that brings a sparkle to his eye, he unearthed some cartons of Rockwood wines he made for the Guild in 2002. As he needed the space for the car, I offered to take them and distribute them to their rightful owners.

It was a poor production year and all the reds were crushed together and fermented as one batch. Ken suggested we test the vintage and it has matured well. It has a predominance of Cabernet Franc on the nose and the palate is rich and long. Ken ranks it a bronze medal.

New members may not know that the Guild used to manage a small vineyard, Rockwood in Kangaroo Ground for many years. In 2001, Neil Johannesen was the co-coordinator/manager and he and Myrna put many hours into the exercise and trained many of us into the complex ways of managing vines for production of good fruit for winemaking.

Neil, as we all know is a stickler for detail and he kept records of hours worked by each member who attended the working bees. The wines that were produced will now be allocated according to the hours each member spent in the vineyard. The following is the

allocation of the seven dozen wines remaining after I gave Ken some bottles for his winemaking efforts:

Myrna & Neil: 30	Spencer: 5	Johnno: 4	Frank & Janet: 1	Angelo: 4
Mario: 3	George: 5	Tim: 5	Con: 1	Alan: 1
Stan: 8	Andrew: 5	Chris: 2	Axel: 1	Geoff: 1
Lorenzo: 1	Kevin: 2			

I will have the wine at the September meeting for distribution. I've retained a bottle for all of us to taste

EDWG Wine Show – 8th & 9th December 2007

Roma O'Callaghan

Members of the Show Committee have been beavering away with arrangements for another great Show - especially our Marketing guru, Spencer Field, who has lined up 35 Gift Vouchers for awards, and cash support for the costs of running the show. Not only that, but over \$1000 value in door prizes (so bring winemaker friends and potential Guild members). Your friends may be interested in another first for the 2007 show - 3 free workshops (wine appreciation, grape winemaking and country winemaking). Yet another benefit from Spencer's work is the likelihood of some very interesting and practical tutorials from sponsors at future meetings.

We hear that this year's Jo Ilian for the Best Sauvignon Blanc is being tightly contested, and that there are some special entries being lined up (watch out for some fortified's to knock your socks off!).

More good news is that there will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the *Best Grape Winemaker* and *Best Country Winemakers* this year. To be eligible, you must enter wines in at least 3 Grape or Country classes respectively. And for white wine aficionados here's a scoop – sponsor Vinvicta are awarding 500 Diem corks for the *Best Previous Chardonnay, Pinot Gris Wine* (value \$130)!

Once again the WOTY (*Wine Maker Of The Year*) is the Guild Member with the highest score by totalling their three top scoring wines, at least one wine of which must be a country wine, one a grape wine, and at least one of the three wines must be current vintage. Clearly a consummate winemaker!

Because some of our regular winemakers are becoming so good they are moving towards commercial winemaking status, the Committee is reminding everyone of the Wine Show rule which defines an "amateur wine" as "wine produced on a non-commercial basis and not vintaged on commercial premises." The Committee has used this rule to clarify one query already, and if anyone is unsure, please contact Show Director John O'Callaghan on 9437 0053 or john@buckleysbeer.com.au.

Entries close on 31st October. The Entry Kit is to be e-mailed (and snail-mailed) out shortly. If you have changed your address since last year, please advise the Treasurer asap (contact details at front of this newsletter).

Rob Aitken's dribbles

Rob Aitken

Who loves not women, wine and song remains a fool his whole life long.
(Martin Luther)

Proposed Motto for the EDWG

Graham Scott

Great people talk about ideas.

Average people talk about things.

Small people talk about other people.

And legends, like us, never talk...we just drink!

Memories of Bill Christopherson Esq.

Graham Scott

[Note: Bill Christopherson has been associated with the Guild (and the wider wine industry) for many years. During this time which time he made and judged many vintages with many varieties, both country and grape and has provided valuable feedback to members of the Guild. He has recently been diagnosed with a serious illness and has found it necessary to sell his vineyard and will be unable to judge at our annual wine show.]

His 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon has just won a bronze medal at the Los Angeles International Wine Show.

In his own self deprecating way Bill of course doesn't think it was that good a wine: he reckons it was 14.5 at the most. But it was a big powerful wine and that's what they like over there, and hey, who knocks back a medal?

Did I tell you, you liquor loving laggards, that Bill makes bloody good wine?

Daylesford Wine Show - 2007

Rob Aitken / George Wright

Entries are invited for the sixth annual Daylesford Wine Show.

As has been the case in previous years, entry will be restricted to wine made from fruit grown (85%) in the Macedon Ranges and surrounding Wine Regions, i.e. Bendigo, Heathcote, Sunbury and Ballarat. The number of classes has been expanded this year, and are detailed on the entry form.

The wine must be bottled. Three bottles of wine will be required for each entry, with only labels supplied by Daylesford Wine Show to be used. (If your bottles already have commercial labels then please either scrape them off or mask them.) Trophy winners

undertake to supply one or two cases at half wholesale price if required for the awards dinner on Friday 9th November.

Judges: Steve Goodwin (consultant winemaker) - Chairman
Ralph Kyte-Powell (wine writer)
Gilles Lapalus (winemaker, Sutton Grange Wines)
Joel Tilbrook (winemaker, Brown Brothers)
Andrew Koerner (winemaker, Blue Pyrenees)
Sally Gudgeon (wine writer)

Associate judges: James Bone (Food and Beverage Manager and Sommelier, Lake House);
David Cowburn (Winemaker, Kilchurn Wines)

Trophies: Best sparkling wine: Lake House, Daylesford
Best chardonnay: Peppers Springs Retreat, Hepburn Springs
Best other white wine:
Best shiraz or shiraz blend: The Farmers Arms Hotel, Daylesford
Best cabernet or cabernet blend: Frangos & Frangos, Daylesford
Best Pinot Noir: Mercato, Daylesford
Best sweet wine: The Grande, Hepburn Springs
Best wine in show:
Peoples' Choice: by popular vote at the public tasting; sponsored by the Lake House.
Julian West Memorial Trophy: awarded to a small winery (<50 tonnes) which makes its own wine, on the basis of scores for the top three wines.

Trophies will only be awarded to wines achieving gold medals.

Closing date: Friday 12th October.

Entry fees: \$15 per entry. Cheques (payable to Daylesford Wine Show) must accompany entry form. Send to Daylesford Wine Show, PO Box 952 Kyneton 3444.

Awards Dinner: Friday 9th November at the Lake House Terrace Room.

Exhibitor/Public Tasting: Saturday 10th November at Daylesford Neighbourhood House, Camp Street Daylesford

Exhibitors agree to adhere to the ASVO Code of Practice for the Display of Awards. Any exhibitor breaking this or any regulation may be disqualified from this and future shows.

All entries become the property of the Daylesford Wine Show.

Information on where to send entries will be sent out with the show labels. Please do not send any wine without official labels; and please remove capsules from bottles with corks.

For more information, call Miranda Jones at Big Shed Wines on 5348 7825

Trading Barrel

BUY / SELL SERVICE FOR MEMBERS - Ads need to be lodged with the editor by the 15th of the month to be included in the next Newsletter.

38th ANNUAL ELTHAM AMATEUR WINE SHOW

*N.B. Wine entries close Wednesday 31st October
2007!*

Check your winemaking and tastings against the judges' comments
at the show on

Sunday December 9th, 2007

11 am - 3 pm *Eltham Community Centre*

Award Presentations at 12.30 pm

801 Main Rd (opposite the Eltham Hotel)

Nearly 700 entries last year!!!



Door Prizes
Value
\$1000+
To Be Won!

*NEW IN 2007! Wine making / appreciation short
classes:*

Midday: Wine appreciation

1 pm: Berry wine making

1.30 pm: Grape wine making

GOURMET DELIGHTS AVAILABLE OR BYO PICNIC

The Guild would like to thank the following for their support of our noble craft!

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For Further Information: 03 9437 0053 or Email: cheers@amateurwine.org

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- Oak Barrels
- Glassware
- Corks
- Acids
- Yeasts

Winemaking equipment hire - including motorised crusher / destemmer (750kg / hr), basket press, corker and more.

Call Dave for all your needs ...

Greensborough Home Brewing
22 Louis Street, Greensborough (Melways Map 20/J4)
Tel: 9432 0283

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Neil on 9438 1790 or 0402 015 138

Enquiries welcome

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