

Grampians Estate News

Issue 19

May 2013 Edition



Grampians Estate is a major sponsor of the Stawell Gift

Poh welcomes you to the Grampians Grape Escape



Cellar Door

Opening Times

New trading hours
10—5pm EVERY Day
(Except Xmas Day)

The 22nd Grampians Grape Escape held at Halls Gap in the heart of the Grampians on 4th and 5th May promises to be bigger and better than ever. TV celebrity chef Poh Ling Yeow (any relation to Cameron?) headlines a great line-up of events and activities.

Central to the festival are the one hundred food and wine stalls, which include thirty wineries from western Victoria. The weekend's events include the Grampians Winemakers' 150 year dinner on the oval on Saturday night, Grampians Produce's "Pope Joan in the Grampians" dinner on Friday night, the annual barrique auction, music performances led by 'Shielas of the 70s', kids activities and even some grape stomping.

The Winemakers dinner will celebrate 150 years of continuous winemaking in the Grampians region, the first vineyard having been planted at Great Western in 1863. The guest speaker is Viv Thompson from Bests, a local legend who last year capped a long and illustrious career by winning the country's most famous wine award, the Jimmy Watson Trophy. The trophy winning wine will be served alongside other regional jewels which include Seppelts 1985 Hermitage, Mt Langi Ghiran's 2010 Cliff Edge, the Sydney Show 'Wine of the Show', Mt Cole's latest trophy shiraz and naturally some quality Rutherford Sparkling Shiraz.

Matt Wilkinson is sure to cook up a storm for the Pope Joan dinner on Friday night.

New Releases

A recent batch of new releases—see inside for more details:

2012 Mafeking Gold Chardonnay

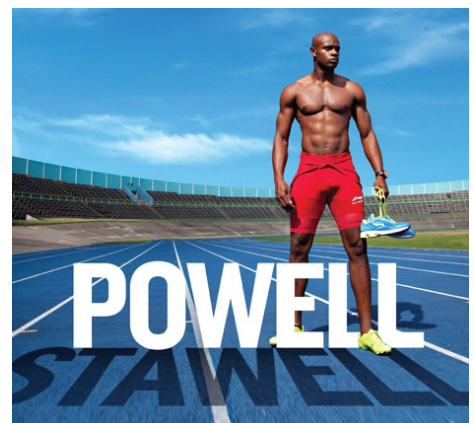
2010 Mafeking Shiraz

2010 The National Game Grampians Shiraz

2011 Garden Gully Vineyard St Ethel's Shiraz

2012 Grampians GST

The Stawell Gift was headlined by Asafa Powell...



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WINE NEWS—New Releases

2012 Mafeking Gold Chardonnay

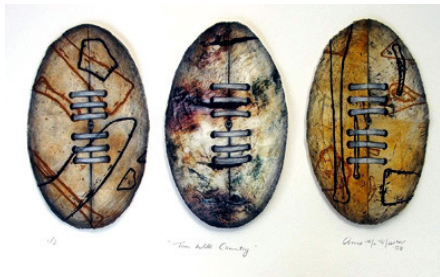
Chief winemaker Hamish Seabrook claims it to be the best ever chardonnay produced from the Mafeking vineyard. The wine was barrel fermented in 60% new French oak, producing a wine consistent with the new style of chardonnay: flinty, stone fruit, good texture and flavour. The message here is to ditch that Kiwi Sav "Bland" and rediscover the modern Aussie chardonnays. RRP \$22

2010 Mafeking Shiraz

It's finally back after a five year lapse. Gold medal at the 2011 Ballarat Wine Show, it has rich fruit and concentrated flavours. Winesate Jan 2013: "Four stars. Fresh, ripe and complex on the nose. Great flavour depth and persistence with lovely briary/ mocha elements." RRP \$25.

2010 The National Game Grampians Shiraz

The 2010 National Game Shiraz follows the popular 2008 vintage (Trophy Ballarat Wine Show). A medium bodied shiraz with good pepper and spice from the brilliant 2010 vintage, it's a great value wine. RRP \$20.



The National Game Shiraz has a new painting on the label—Anne McMaster's *Tom Wills Country*. Anne grew up in Lake Bolac, not far from where Tom Wills spent his early childhood near Moyston.

Anne's father Bill McMaster played for and coached Geelong, just as Tom Wills had done years before. Integrated within the artwork are depictions of kangaroos and broken pieces of china, symbolising both the Aboriginal and European cultures. These are brought together through football, the lacing representing the unison of the two cultures.

Tom Wills early years were spent on Lexington near Moyston. Memories of his time playing marn-grook with the local aboriginal children were the beginnings of what is now known as 'The National Game'.

2011 Garden Gully Vineyard St Ethels Shiraz



A single vineyard shiraz from the 130 year old Garden Gully vineyard at Great Western. The cool and wet 2011 vintage produced amazing wines and this is no exception. The Jimmy Watson wine was grown just a couple of kilometres down the road, the St Ethels is similar in many ways: floral, elegant, spicy and peppery. RRP \$35.

2012 Grampians GST

And now for something completely different. This is a Grenache Shiraz Tempranillo blend, the Grenache and the Tempranillo grown on Paul Dakis's Arawatta Vineyard at Great Western and the shiraz coming from Don and Goldie Rowe's Sidlaw vineyard.

As the label says: The 2012 Grampians GST gives you 10% extra value with every glass. No need to fill out a BAS form or send off money to Canberra, this wine is the only GST that makes you feel better!

This is a big rich wine (15% alc) and if you like a big wine with a big steak, this is the one. Only 30 dozen made. RRP \$28.

New Wine Bar in Ballarat

Mitchell Harris Wines have opened up a new wine bar in Doveton Street Ballarat serving local wines and tapas. It is already proving a big hit in town, especially with the Rutherford Sparkling Shiraz which is available by the glass.

2013 Vintage

The hot summer of 2013 has delivered some great wines. It is early days but early indicators point to an exceptional vintage. The hot March brought harvest forward with all the shiraz picked before April.

Grampians Estate hand picks all its fruit using a contract team (Garden Gully vineyard) or the Willaura Moyston Football Netball Club (Mafeking vineyard) ensuring the highest quality fruit for wine making.

It is a time-consuming and more expensive alternative to machine picking but the result is a better product for all to enjoy.

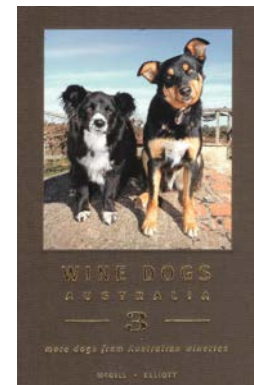


Cellar Door

Some staff changes have occurred during the past 6 months with Martie and Mikki sadly making way for Megan. Martie and Mike now run the Spec-saver businesses in Stawell and Horsham., whilst Mikki is keeping the local Ararat Business Association on their toes. The cellar door continues to increase its visitation numbers, a credit to Sarah, Doug, Paul, Jane and Suellen.

Tastings at cellar door are now conducted using Riedel glasses, a bigger glass which enhances the tasting experience.

The latest edition of 'Wine Dogs' featuring Tom and Sarah's two sheep dogs (Scarlett and Selwood) on the front cover is still available. \$30 plus postage, go to the website shopping cart. Cellar Door: 10am to 5pm daily.



Words of Wisdom

Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.

Some cause happiness wherever they go. Others whenever they go.

If you are supposed to learn from your mistakes, why do some people have more than one child?

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

Stawell Gift

Asafa Powell headlined this year's Stawell Gift generating huge press and much excitement on semi-final day. The large crowd came to Central Park to see if the world's second fastest man with a fastest time for the 100m of 9.72 seconds, could progress through to the finals.



Running off scratch, he gave the front marker some 8m start over the 120 metre journey and whilst he ran a pretty quick 12.26, he narrowly failed to win his heat. As one of the quickest 'losers' he did however qualify for Monday's semi-finals. Drama followed when he announced in the after-race interview that he nearly didn't run at all, tweaking a hamstring in the warm-up.

On Monday Asafa Powell withdrew from the semi-finals, leaving Olympian and twice Stawell Gift winner Joshua Ross as one of the favourites for the Gift. In somewhat of a bolover in the final, Tasmanian Andrew Robinson at 13/1 won the Gift final by a whisker, It was a great story.



Andrew's trainer had lost everything in Tasmania's January bushfires.



Other big names to compete at Stawell this year were former Olympians Craig Mottram, and Tamsyn Manou (nee Lewis)



There was a whole range of events over the weekend for men and women and from 60m to 3000m. A hotly contested dash was the Grampians Estate Veteran's Handicap over 300 meters. Fortunately the sponsors were ineligible to run.



Ladies Day Saturday again featured the 'Fashions on the Field' with Kelly's Welcome Cuvee the order of the day. A record 57 women and 4 men strutted their stuff in front of the judges.



The Stawell Gift is one of the most prestigious foot races in Australia and indeed the world. The Gift winner took home \$40,000 but it's the prestige of being a "Gift winner" that will remain with Andrew for all time. As he said "my life has changed forever." The Stawell Gift was first run in 1878, the very same year the Salingers first planted vines on the Garden Gully vineyard just outside Great Western. Like the Stawell Gift, that vineyard has stood the test of time.

Grampians Estate has now been a major sponsor of the Stawell Gift for four years. A major part of the sponsorship is the sale of the Stawell Gift wines, a portion of which is returned to the Stawell Gift to ensure its place as one of the icon sporting events on Australia's sporting calendar.

Buy some soon!



OTHER NEWS

Congratulations

Sophie Guthrie married Benji Pissasale on Derby Day last November in Ararat. The large crowd of guests enjoyed a brilliant reception at Ted and Jana's Barton homestead in the foothills of the Grampians and celebrated with fine local wines from just down the road.



In March this year Andrew McLoughlin married Wendy at Yering Station in the Yarra Valley. Wow, what a beautiful setting both for the wedding in the garden and in the function centre. They make some handy wine too.



Photo: Suzanne, Richard, Wendy, Andrew and Margaret McLoughlin

Kate Delley announced her engagement to Kevin, they are getting married in Halls Gap in October, whilst Steve Unkles announced his engagement to Jana. Its all happening.

And the Demons won a game. It's the day after the Dees kicked 12 goals in a quarter and Neil Henry is spreading fertiliser. As an avid fan he declared it sufficiently newsworthy for an honourable mention.

The township of Donald has just celebrated its 150 years of existence. Amongst the many reunions was that of the Rich Avon Cricket Club, which celebrated 75 years of cricket. Fortunately there was no mention made of the author when he dropped a catch off a leading opposition player when he was in single figures. That player made 192 not out. And we shouldn't forget Pam and Oliver Guthrie who recently celebrated 60 years of marriage.



Grampians Winemakers Barrique Auction

Each year, Grampians wineries submit some shiraz wine for inclusion in the special 'barrique shiraz'. This year the blend is the notorious 2011 vintage. It was put together by a team of the region's finest winemakers: Leigh Clarnette (Montara), Justin Purser (Bests) and Kate Petering (Mt Langi). 2011 was one of the wettest, coolest and most difficult vintages in memory, but the resultant wines from the region have produced amazing results.

Bests Wines won the Jimmy Watson Trophy with their 2011 Bin 1 Shiraz. Some of that wine is included in the barrique wine. The resultant blend is a wine with great spice and pepper, medium-bodied with a floral nose. It's a real cracker.

Well-known local auctioneer Ferg Anderson, himself a wine-grower, will auction the barrique in a variety of lots. On offer are 5 dozen lots, together with half dozen, twin bottle and magnum lots. The auction is always a highlight of Saturday's program and this year will be no exception.

Asafa Powell Meets Tom Guthrie at the Stawell Gift

Asafa and Tom had a brief chat about life at the Stawell Gift President's Lunch. The Minister for Sport, the Hon Hugh Delahunty had been trying to explain the intricacies of Australian Rules football, telling Asafa he had once played for Essendon. Surely as a Jamaican, Asafa knew more about cricket, so Tom asked the great man if he played cricket? "Yes, man, love the game". Tom asked Asafa if he was a bowler or a batsman. Asafa replied as if the answer was obvious "hey man, I love speed!"



grampians grape escape the wine and food festival

Other attractions

Visitors to the festival are encouraged to make a long weekend of their time in the Grampians. There are two functions on the Friday night; Grampians Produce's "Pope Joan in the Grampians" follows the brilliant "Mo Vida in the Mountains" from 2012, and the "Vines to Wines" dinner is being held at The Gap.

What a start to have every-one in the right frame of mind to enjoy the two days of fun, food, wine and music in the picturesque surrounds of the Grampians National Park. Poh is without doubt the star attraction in the culinary stakes, however be sure not to miss Patrick Aldred who will be presenting "Perfect Match", an interactive session where he will be matching food and spices with premium Grampians wines.



Upcoming Events

Grampians Grape Escape

Halls Gap Oval

Saturday 4th May: 10—4.30pm

Sunday 5th May: 10-4pm

Sheepvention

Wine & Food Pavillion

Hamilton Showgrounds

Monday 6th Aug: 8—5pm

Tuesday 5th May: 8 - 5pm

Fed Square 'Best of the Best' Wine Showcase

Wed & Thur Aug 7th & 8th.

4.30—8.30pm



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Wine Tasting, Cheese Platters, Espresso
Coffee, local produce, Wine Tutorials, and
very friendly staff.