



# The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Wine Guild of SA (Inc)

Volume 154 September 2016

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I trust everyone enjoyed our AGM and lunch! Our speaker, Robert Crabtree, certainly challenged us as he presented his brief thesis on the parallels between the hotel industry and the wine industry. The views through the massive glass walls were impressive, with at various stages, a container ship and a submarine passing nearby! A full report is on page 2.

My thanks go to our members who have given me the privilege to take on the role of President for another year. The other Committee members are Pete Rawlins (Vice-President) Carol Seely (Secretary) Brian Longford (Treasurer) and Phil Harris, Jeremy Begg and Geoff Lawrie (Committee members). I look forward to working with the Committee to put together an interesting program of functions for the coming twelve months.

It was great to have guests Dean & Wendy Huggins attend for the second time. I'm pleased to say that applications for membership from Dean & Wendy, as well as Mark & Robyn Daniel (who attended our June function at Tschärke's) were approved at our August Committee meeting. We trust you will enjoy your time with the Guild and I look forward to presenting member badges, hopefully at our Christmas lunch.

Our next function is our visit to the Yarra Valley. This is the culmination of many months of planning and liaising with the host wineries by the organising team led by Geoff Lawrie, along with Pete Rawlins and myself. With 31 members attending I am sure it will be a great few days. If you haven't already received them, those members attending will be provided with full details well before we leave.

Our final function for the Calendar year is our Christmas Lunch on 11 December at the Fox Restaurant, North Adelaide (previously the Snooty Fox). Full details will be in the next newsletter.

Dates for all our functions until the end of next year can be found on page 6. Please make a note of them.

I am looking forward to seeing what the Yarra Valley has to offer.

**Roger King**

### \*\*\*\*\* APOLOGY \*\*\*\*\*

At the AGM I mentioned those members who have been with the Guild for five years or more. Unfortunately I omitted to mention Jim and Wendy Szpunar, who have been members for seven years.

I also indicated that Andrew Yap has been a member for 41 years. In fact Andrew has been a member for 39 years. This means Brian Longford with 40 years is our longest-serving member. My sincere apologies to Jim and Wendy, and to Andrew and Brian. Our records have now been corrected.

ROGER KING, President



## LAST FUNCTION – AGM AND LUNCH



travelled to/from New Zealand on container ships!)

Well, what can I say? I mean, it's just an AGM! Hardly worthy of a report. Just another gabfest. Still, I'll have to try to scratch out something – it's kind of expected.

So, it was kind of a nice day. Come to think of it, it was kind of a nice spot, too – overlooking, as it were, several millions of dollars worth of yachts. Beyond that, it was also overlooking a container terminal – perhaps not the first thing on the average person's list of things to look over but, for me, container terminals have a huge fascination. (Both last year and this year I



So, I was happy enough with the outlook. I was also happy enough with the fact that I was about to be offered a glass of sparkling wine – a choice, indeed, of either Pinot Noir Chardonnay or Shiraz; which is to say, to me at least, no choice at all really (I think that I have made my views quite clear by now on the subject of inserting bubbles into Shiraz). I was also quite soon expecting to be served a hopefully sumptuous two-course meal. I was even expecting to get stuck into some hearty red wines. With all that going on, I'm struggling to recollect why I was feeling slightly negative.

Ah yes, now I remember. I was also expecting to be elected Secretary of the Guild for a further year! Admittedly, I had gone to extraordinary lengths to avoid this happening –



travelling to Queensland and getting the flu for starters – but it still looked like it was going to occur. This despite my encouragement for alternative candidates to form a neat and orderly double-queue in their eagerness to seek out a form upon which to have themselves nominated. As it turned out, there were no other candidates and I was once again ~~stuck with the job for another year~~ happily elected unopposed.



I suppose I might also mention, at this point, that all of the rest of last year's Committee were, likewise, elected unopposed to their same positions. There's a certain amount of stability in that, don't you think?

Anyway, with the AGM part of things out of the road, it was time to get down to a bit of socializing and to enjoy that aforementioned fizz. And it was enjoyable, too – both the wine and the conversation. After this, we sat at our tables and placed our orders for that also aforementioned two-course lunch and, at the same time, started the task of emptying those equally aforementioned hearty reds (hard work, but someone has to do it). Post AGM, things now seemed to be really looking up.

In fact, things settled into a really rather pleasant afternoon of talk and entertainment. The meal was nice, the wines were good (I'd chosen my table companions carefully – based solely on their wine) and the outlook of million dollar yachts and container ship loading provided a lovely backdrop.



After the meal, our guest speaker – local wine identity Robert Crabtree – made a valiant attempt to compare the wine industry with the hotel industry (hotel, in this case, meaning a place to sleep whilst away from home; as opposed to a place to get hammered on Friday evening or to play poker machines almost anytime). I'm not sure that Robert's thesis was proven, indeed I'm not even sure that he managed to convince himself, but it filled in a pleasant half-hour and rounded out the day quite nicely.

All that remained was to help myself to freshly brewed coffee and to think about journeying home for the undeniably thrilling pleasure of writing up the AGM Minutes. A Secretary's life is full of excitement like that. I kid you not; it's the absolute bee's knees. Any takers for next year?

Wines: NV Bleasdale Langhorne Creek Sparkling Shiraz or 2014 Wolf Blass Gold Label Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir Chardonnay

**Carol Seely**

**HAVE YOU MOVED HOUSE, DISCONNECTED YOUR LANDLINE OR CHANGED YOUR MOBILE NUMBER IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?**



Moved address?  
New email address?  
Have a new mobile phone?

**If you have and you haven't already told us,  
please advise Phil Harris (email: [sunnyjim01@bigpond.com](mailto:sunnyjim01@bigpond.com))**

**NEXT FUNCTION – VISIT TO THE YARRA VALLEY**



By the time you read this our Yarra Valley Tour will be almost upon us!! We are looking forward to an interesting and enjoyable few days with the 31 members who are attending. We wish everyone a safe journey and we look forward to catching up at the Welcome BBQ.

**Geoff Lawrie, Pete Rawlins and Roger King**

**“Age is just a number. It’s totally irrelevant unless, of course, you happen to be a bottle of wine.”**

– Joan Collins

**“Men are like wine – some turn to vinegar, but the best improve with age.”**

– Pope John XXIII

**“Penicillin cures, but wine makes people happy.”**

– Alexander Fleming



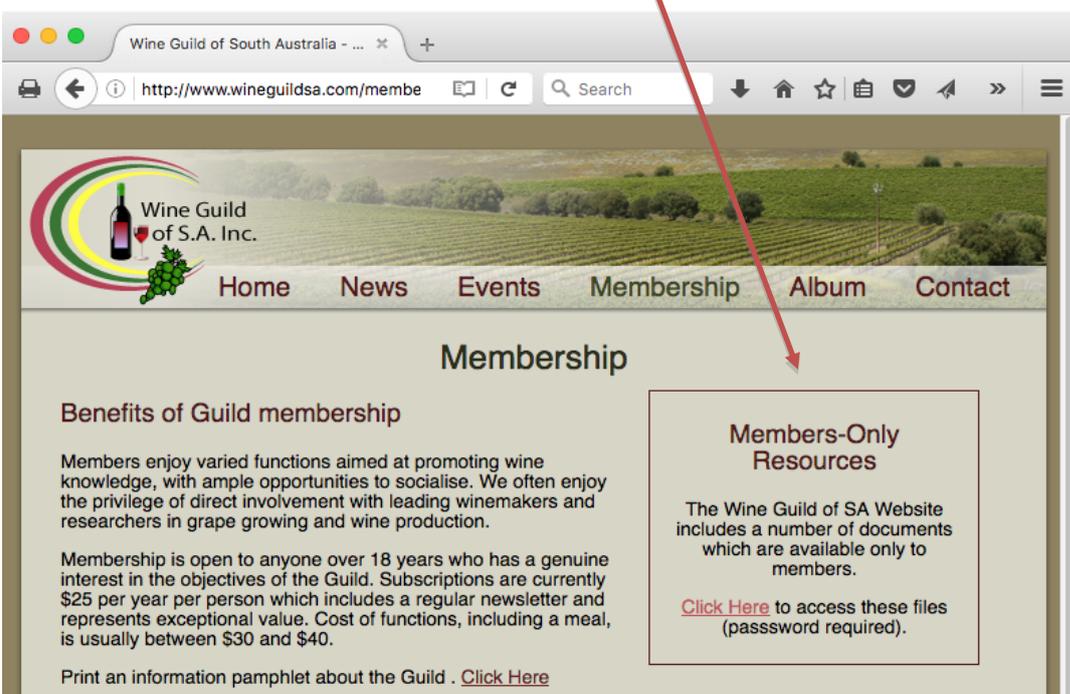
## MEMBERS-ONLY RESOURCES – a new addition to the website

Most of you will be aware the Wine Guild maintains a web site, which you can visit at <http://www.wineguildsa.com/>. In addition to basic information about the Guild and its activities, the web site also holds many back issues of *The Grapevine* and photographs from our events.

Some time back your Committee was asked if it would be possible to distribute additional information to Members, subject to the condition that only Members would have access. After some internal discussion and experimentation we are ready to announce that this new facility is up and running.

To find the Members-Only Resources area of the web site, please click on the **Membership** link at the top of any page. Doing so will take you to the Membership page (see below). Note the bordered area at the right of the page.

To access the protected files, click on the [Click Here](#) link and you will be prompted to enter a username and password.



Currently the page lists a small collection of files:

- Sue Bastian’s report on Wine and Chocolate Pairing from April 2015
- The Summary of our 2015 Members Survey
- A Glossary of Wine Sensory Evaluation Terms, submitted by Andrew Yap.

Please note, these articles have been submitted by their respective authors on the understanding that only Members of the Wine Guild of SA will be able to access them. Therefore we ask that you please

- do NOT redistribute these articles;
- do NOT access the Members-Only Resources web page from a public

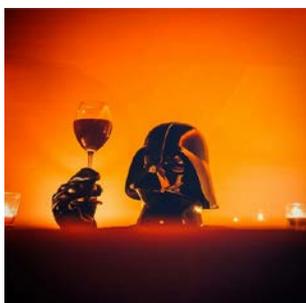
PC (e.g. a Library or Internet Café); and

- do NOT publish the username and password used to access these files.

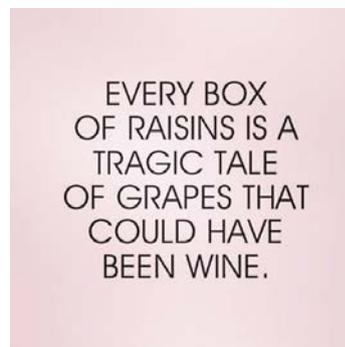
No doubt at this point you are wondering, “So what are the username and password?” These will be sent to members in an email, separate to this issue of *The Grapevine*. (We can’t include them here because *The Grapevine* is itself published on the web site for all the world to read and enjoy.)

### Jeremy Begg

(Webmaster)



May the fourth be with you



I’ve trained my dog to bring me red wine. It’s a Bordeaux collie.

If you drink, don’t drive. Don’t even putt.

I decide which wine to drink on a case by case basis.



## IN THE BEGINNING!

In this feature to "The Grapevine", we share with you the "Beginnings" of the Wine Guild S.A. (which started as the Wine Service Guild of S.A.). In each issue we bring to you some snippets from the Archives!

*Philip & Lynette Harris*

### May, 1969 – THE HOTEL GAZETTE OF S.A.

A burst of early winter weather did not deter a "goodly roundup" of Wine Service Guild members and their families from turning out in force for their sixth birthday celebration on April 20.

Venue was the new storage cellar of Thos. Hardy & Sons Pty. Ltd. at McLaren Vale.

An excellent barbecue chicken luncheon was organised by member Mr Gordon James, and there was plenty of Tintinara sherry, whites and reds.

The highlight of the day was a wine-pouring competition for guild members.

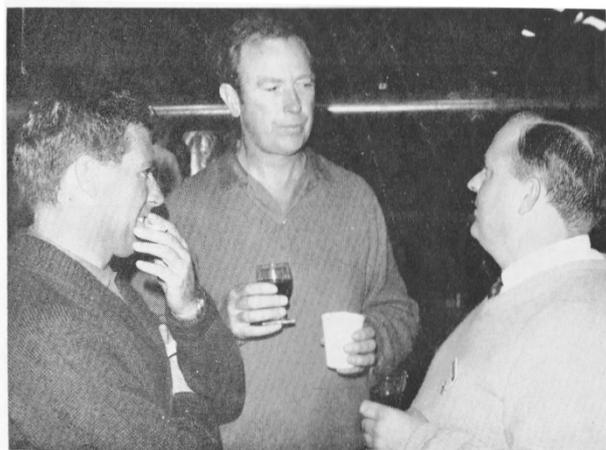
Points were awarded for correctly cutting the bottle capsule, wiping the bottle neck, drawing the cork, again wiping the pouring edge, and pouring a glass of red wine without spilling any, all within a given space of time.

Winner was Mr. Val Klishans, from the St Vincent Hotel at Glenelg, with 73 points. Runners-up were Messrs. S. Davies and C. Roberts, each with 72 points.

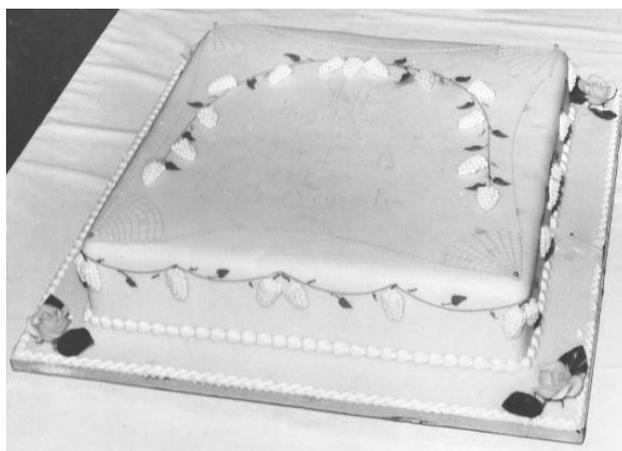
Mr Tom Hardy and his wife Barbara were hosts, with assistance from Mr. Dick Clark.

The Guild presented a silver entree dish to the competition winner, while Mrs. Garret cut the huge brandy-injected birthday cake.

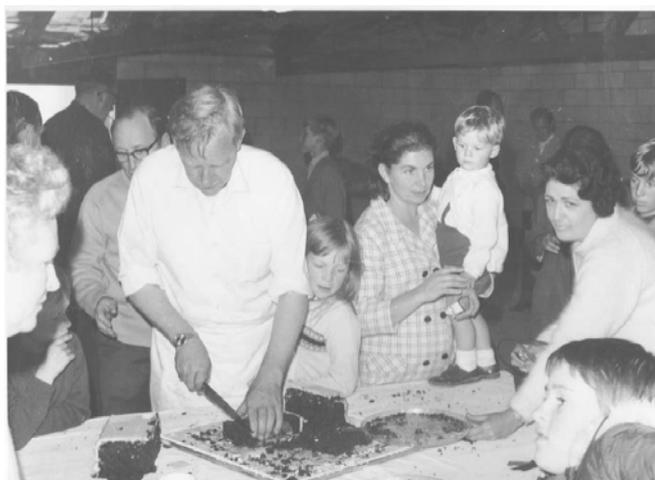
Guest included the Guild's past president, Mr. John Nelson, and his wife, and Australian Hotels Association (S.A. Branch) General Secretary, Mr. Bill Connelly, and his wife.



*Above: In casual mood, Mr. Tom Hardy (centre) talks with a thoughtful Kevin Murphy (left), of Yalumba, and David Macrow, of Kaiser-Stuhl*



*Celebration cake, brandy injected*



*Cake enjoyed by Guild members and their families and guests*

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WINE-RELATED EVENTS 2016-17

If you are looking for something to do related to wine, the list below may help you. If you know of any others please let Roger King know.

1-31 October 2016	Coonawarra Cabernet Celebrations. Various locations
2 October 2016	Australian National Wine & Beer Show Public Tasting, Waite Campus
15 October 2016	Riverland Food and Wine Festival
21 October 2016	Langhorne Creek in Leigh Street
30 October 2016	Lake Breeze Picnic, Langhorne Creek
2-5 November 2016	Australian Alternative Varieties Wine Show, Mildura
12 November 2016	Lake Breeze Picnic, Handpicked Festival
27-19 January 2017	Adelaide Hills Crush Festival
24-26 February 2017	Cellar Door Festival, Adelaide
April 2017	Coonawarra After Dark Festival. Date to be set
19-23 April	Barossa Vintage Festival
30 April-7 May 2017	Tasting Australia
19-22 May 2017	Clare Valley Gourmet Weekend
21 May 2017	Langhorne Creek Wine Show Public Tasting, Langhorne Creek
9-12 June 2017	McLaren Vale Sea & Vines Festival
12 & 13 August 2017	Langhorne Creek Cellar Treasures Weekend

## WINE GUILD FUNCTIONS FOR 2016-17

Date	Function
3-7 October 2016	Yarra Valley Wineries Tour
11 December 2016	Christmas lunch; Fox Restaurant, North Adelaide
12 February 2017	TBA
9 April 2017	Winery visit
18 June 2017	Winery visit
20 August 2017	AGM – Venue TBA
15 October 2017	Winery visit
10 December 2017	Christmas lunch – venue TBA

## WINE GUILD OF SA COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2016-17

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