

ELTHAM AND DISTRICT WINEMAKERS GUILD

ESTABLISHED 1969

NOVEMBER 2025

The Guild encourages the responsible consumption of alcohol.

The Guild meets on the last Friday of each month (except December)

**** * at the Eltham Living & Learning Centre * ****

8 pm start

Next meeting: Friday November 28th, 2025

***Guests who are interested in finding out more about the Guild are welcome
to attend any of our regular Guild meetings***



Contact info@amateurwine.org.au for meeting details

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President's Press | November

Angela Harridge

2025 Eltham Wine Show

A huge congratulations – and sincere thank you – goes out to everyone who made this year's Eltham Wine Show the success that it was.

To say that members of the Committee worked tirelessly would be an understatement – their dedication to the Guild is to be commended. Add to that the number of volunteers who stepped up this year to enable all aspects of the show – and it reflects the love and determination of our Membership. We 'done good' and deserve a pat on the back (or a glass of bubbly).

A special thank you also goes to the team of judges – led by Chief Judge Luca Barbon. When professional judges stand in the pre-show introductory chat and talk about their dedication to amateur winemaking and how much they enjoy being involved in our wine show, we know we have a team who have the mindset to both praise and encourage entrants.

The Judging Day rolled out smoothly (if a little challenged for space due to the number of entries), with judges mingling with stewards during their breaks to share stories and their love of all things wine and winemaking.

The Public Open Day was a great success – with more than expected visitors rolling through the doors. The space was filled with laughter, deep discussions about winemaking, praise for those who managed to get an award, and an overall feeling of camaraderie – a community that shares a love of wine and the art of winemaking.

A heartfelt congratulations goes to Diego (Danny) Cappellani on the presentation of his Life Membership to the Guild, in recognition of his dedication to the Guild over many years – sharing his knowledge, teaching, help, sourcing and gathering grapes, working on the Committee, organising functions, entertaining us at Guild functions ... the list could go on!

A thank you also goes to the Chairman of the Templestowe Bowling Club, who was astounded by the size of the show, how professionally and efficiently it was organised, set up, carried out by a team who knew what they were doing and did it well, and then cleaned up as if we hadn't even been there (apart from the very full recycling bins!). You know you've done something well when others use the word 'astounded'.

November Guild Night | 2025 Wine Show Review | Friday 28th November | 8:00pm

Traditionally, the November Guild Night is a Review of the Wine Show. Unfortunately, Luca can't be with us, but we will share his impressions of the judging process and the wines. We will also discuss issues raised in the Committee's Debrief – as well as what insights and suggestions YOU have to offer.

Being the last Guild Night of the year, we will celebrate with the usual pizza accompanied by members' medal winning wines (don't forget to bring them along!).

January Guild Night | Australia Day Welcome Back Gathering @ The Leenaerts'

Once again, we will welcome in a new Guild year with an informal get-together at the Leenaerts'. This is a fantastic opportunity to catch up with what we've all been doing over the break, and plans we have for the upcoming vintage, as we enjoy great food and wine.

The Wine Show Trophies will have been updated, so we will present them to the EDWG and FAWG members who won them.

What do you want from the Guild in 2026?

As we plan Guild Nights, the Committee are always looking for member input as to what they would like included. Please let us know as soon as possible – via Slack or email – any sessions you would like us to organise.

There has also been a request for a survey of members as to the preferred night for Guild Meetings. Our options will be restricted to nights the Living and Learning Centre will be available. Keep an eye on Slack and your email for updates.

Grape Harvest | Vintage 2026

Our Grape Purchase Group organisers have already started looking into available grapes for the 2026 Vintage. Keep an eye on updates in the [#fruit-purchase](#) channel on Slack and see if you're interested in ordering any.

Wishing you all a safe and very happy Christmas filled with family, friends and – of course – some good wines.

Cheers,

Angela

Committee & Committee Meeting Dates

President	Angela Harridge	General Committee	Adam Domicich
Vice President	Richard Martignetti		Trevor Sleep
Secretary	Mike Wilson		Mario Fantin
Treasurer	Trevor Roberts		John Leenaerts
Past President	Richard Martignetti		
Wine Show Chief Judge	Luca Barbon	Newsletter Editor	Glen van Neuren
Wine Show Director	Wayne Harridge	Fruit Purchase Co-ord	Trevor Roberts
Webmaster	Mike Wilson		

Members elected to positions on the Guild Management Committee meet at 8pm on the second Wednesday of each month, via ZOOM.

Guild Committee Meetings

Agenda items relate to General Guild Business and/or Eltham Wine Show Business, with the emphasis based on the requirements at the time. The Eltham Wine Show Chief Judge is invited to the meetings when the agenda requires their input.

Agenda items will normally relate to: Guild Night Program, Membership, Education Initiatives, Finance & Governance, Social Events, Promotion & Marketing and Sponsorship.
Additional agenda items relevant to the Eltham Wine Show: Judging, Logistics and IT.

Meeting Dates

December 10th

Member Participation

All members are encouraged to raise any issues, new initiatives, and suggestions with a committee member for discussion at meetings. Members are welcome to attend committee meetings as visitors and should contact the President or Secretary a few days prior to the meeting date.

Guild Contacts

President	president@amateurwine.org.au
Secretary	info@amateurwine.org.au
Wine Show	cheers@amateurwine.org.au
Newsletter	newsletter@amateurwine.org.au

Forward Program for Guild Events

We will keep you updated on the final details via SLACK and the [Website](#)

... so keep  ...

DATE	ACTIVITY
Friday, November 28 th	<u>Monthly Guild Night:</u> Eltham LLC + ZOOM* <i>Wine Show Review</i> The Final meeting of the year & Chief Judge's review of the 2025 Wine Show. <i>Tasting: EDWG Wine Show Medal Wines</i> Bring along your wines that won a <i>Medal</i> to share.
Monday, January 26 th 2026	<u>2026 Welcome Back Get-together:</u> <i>The Leenaerts' – Warrandyte South</i> A chance to get together and catch up over a relaxed meal and a glass (or two) with members and their families - on Australia Day. Keep an eye on Slack for all the details.
Friday, February 27 th 2026	<u>Monthly Guild Night:</u> Eltham LLC <i>Open That Bottle Night: Angela Harridge</i> The night we come together to taste wines and hear the stories behind them. <i>Tasting: Members' wines with a story</i> Bring along a wine from your cellar that has a story to go with it.



EDWG Welcome Back Lunch 2026

Australia Day @ Wilhelmina Estate Cellar Door

(replaces our January Guild Night)

Join us once again to welcome in the new Guild year with a relaxed afternoon with EDWG members and their families. A chance to socialise and have a chat.

Next year it's back at the Leenaerts' vineyard and cellar - *Wilhelmina Estate*.

Once again it will be BYO food and wine to share.
The Guild will provide some sausages and hamburgers – BYO anything else.

We will be inviting the 2025 Eltham Wine Show Trophy winners who are members of EDWG and FAWG – to receive their trophies with completed inscriptions.

- Who?** EDWG members and families
- When?** Monday January 26th (Australia Day)
- Time?** 12 Noon – 4pm
- Where?** Warrandyte South (address sent to those who RSVP)
- Supplied?** Tables & chairs BBQ Glasses Plates etc Some sausages & hamburgers
- BYO?** A plate to share (nibbles *or* main/salad *or* dessert) + wine + other meat to BBQ
- Extra!** A wander around the cellar and winemaking space + a vine walk for those interested

* RSVP by Friday January 23rd

To ensure we have enough seats and a range of food please let **Angela Harridge** know how many will be attending and what you plan to bring.

president@amateurwine.org.au or reply to the message on Slack

Wayne Harridge



The 56th Eltham Wine Show attracted an increased number of entrants: 89 who accounted for 427 entries, down a little on last year's numbers. After several years of parking problems on the Public Open Day, the move to the Templestowe Bowling Club proved to be a positive one. Unfortunately, the venue was not quite big enough for free movement of stewards and judges on Judging Day, so we will be looking into a different venue for the 2026 show.

The Public Open Day worked particularly well, with a good number of extra visitors. The great part of this day is getting to chat with fellow winemakers about winemaking and comparing results.

Our sincere thanks go to our panel of dedicated judges, ably led by Chief Judge Luca Barbon. Our judges are mostly wine industry professionals who spend considerable time assessing each wine and providing detailed, constructive comments.

I would also like to thank all the Guild members who contributed their time and skills to the efficient running of the show, putting in an amazing number of hours starting at 7pm on Friday and ending at 5pm on Sunday at the Bowling Club. Of course that was just the weekend of the show. Prior to the show was the planning, the processing of entries, receiving deliveries of bottles – and then after the show sorting out the financials and packing away all the gear ready for next year.

Along with the usual presentation of winemaking trophies we presented Diego (Danny) Cappellani with a Life Membership of the Guild for exceptional service over many years and in many different areas. We do not hand out Life Memberships lightly; Danny's was the first since before I joined the guild over 10 years ago.

Last, but not least, I would like to acknowledge those winemakers who have entered their wines in the show. I hope you have had useful feedback on your wines, enjoyed the Open Day and will continue to support the Eltham Wine Show in the future.

Cheers,

Wayne

Congratulations to the 2025 Award Winners...

Bill Christophersen Trophy for Best Previous Shiraz Wine

Keith Traeger Trophy for Best Grape Winemaker

Harry Gillham Trophy for Best Country Winemaker

The Mead Cup

Graham Scott Trophy for Eltham Guild Winemaker of the Year

Jo Ilian Trophy

Phil Kemm, Anthony Kemm,

Robin Hick

Richmoore Wines

David Hart

Amrita Park Meadery

Harridge Family

Fantin O'Callaghan

Best Shiraz Current Vintage

Best Cabernets Current Vintage

Best Cabernets Previous Vintage

Best Merlot Current Vintage

Best Merlot Previous Vintage

Best Pinot Noir Current Vintage

Best Pinot Noir Previous Vintage

Best Blended Reds Current Vintage

Best Blended Reds Previous Vintage

Best Other Variety Reds Previous Vintage

Best Other Variety Reds Current Vintage

Best Rosé Any Vintage Geoff McGowan

Pero / Peter Treneski

Harridge Family

Rino Ballerini

Kevin Murphy

Rino Ballerini

Henry O'Connor

Geoff McGowan

Trevor Roberts

Mario & Izabella Fantin

Rino Ballerini

Paul Alliston

Best Chardonnay Current Vintage

Best Chardonnay Previous Vintage

Best Other Variety Whites Any Vintage

Richmoore Wines

Terence Norwood

Fantin O'Callaghan

Best Grape Wine Sparkling

Best Grape Wine Fortified

Richard Webb

Diego Cappellani

Best Herb | Grain | Flower | Vegetable Wine

Best Other Country Wine

Best Liqueur

Best Kombucha Any Style

Diego Cappellani

David Hart

Domenico & Angela Grande

Harridge Family

Wine Show Photos



Setting up the hall



Judging the entries



Public Open Day



EDWG Life Membership - Diego (Danny) Cappellani

Wine Show Photos



Luca Barbon – Chief Judge



Jo Ilian Trophy



Graham Scott Trophy for Eltham Guild Winemaker of the Year



Harry Gillham Trophy for Best Country Winemaker



Bill Christophersen Trophy for Best Previous Shiraz

Did You Know ...?

Richard Webb: Richard's Recapitulations ...

Pesticide residues on grapes are more of a worry than copper fungicides according to new research.

<https://tinyurl.com/58z5fjx2>

Speaking about Copper fungicides ...

<https://tinyurl.com/2ndkyzb9>

Here is a wine tee shirt you don't want to buy!

<https://tinyurl.com/5n6dmjkn>

Lower alcohol wines are becoming popular. This article reviews some of the weird sounding yeasts responsible.

<https://tinyurl.com/3wzd5tr3>

Now 19 Crimes are offering a 20th Crime: Murdering Thirst.

<https://tinyurl.com/3m7dzpfa>

John Leenaerts

As stated during last month, FROST was the concern at this critical stage of the vine development.

Unfortunately, during November, we experienced some unseasonal cold and wet weather, certainly not our glorious spring weather experienced from past years.

There was a run of cold frosty mornings during the first week of November which has devastated some wine regions of Victoria. Areas such as the Yarra Valley, Bendigo, Heathcote and Rutherglen.

I have just returned from a weekend at Rutherglen and saw firsthand the devastation the frost can cause to the grape vines. De Bortoli kindly allowed me to take some photos from their vineyard which are attached. These photos show at least 2/3rds of the vineyard were affected by frost and the devastation this causes to the vine.

There were many vineyards around Rutherglen that were similar. Fortunately, my vines at Warrandyte South didn't experience frost, there were some mornings that came close (3-4 deg C) but thankfully I wasn't affected, hopefully we have seen the last of the frosts for this season.

My vines are certainly flourishing; within the next few weeks the top wires will be tensioned to lift the vine canopies to open the fruit zone to allow sunlight and air movement to minimise disease.

Flowering has finished and the fruit formation is commencing nicely as can be seen from the attached photos.

This is when I apply some fertiliser to enhance fruit growth. I use a Calcium Nitrate + Boron product which is in a pallet form. This is added to water to dissolve and then a cup full is applied around the circumference of the trunk of each vine, being careful not to wet the trunk of the vine as it will burn the vine trunk.

The wet weather through November has also mandated further spraying of the vines and a close inspection during the morning vines walks to ensure the leaves still have the powder residue from spraying.

The wet weather and humidity add significant threat of fungal disease to the vines and unfortunately, we have been experiencing both conditions currently. Unwanted shoots from the trunks of the vines also continues to be removed during each morning's vine walk.

So far so good for the season, some good warm sunny days are now on the wish list!

What's happening in the Vineyard? ... November 2025 Photos

Attached are the following photos:

1. Frost Damaged Vineyard – De Bortoli Rutherglen
2. Frost Damaged Vines – De Bortoli Rutherglen
3. My Shiraz Vines – 26th Nov
4. Shiraz Fruit Formation
5. Powder Residue on Leaves – Post Spraying
6. Unwanted Vine Shoots

1



2



3



4



5



6



Jo Ilian Awards – Forward Thinking

Keep an eye on the Jo Ilian Awards beyond this year and the next few years.

Show Year	Class	Winner
2026 (Grape)	Best Rosé	TBA
2025 (Grape)	Other Variety & Blended Whites, Any Vintage	Fantin O’Callaghan
2024 (Country)	Best Liqueur	Richard Martignetti
2023 (Grape)	Best Pinot Noir	Richard Martignetti
2022 (Grape)	Best Previous Vintage Less Common Variety Red	Steven Ney
2021 (Country)	Best Berry Wine	David Hart
2020 (Grape)	Best Previous Vintage Chardonnay	Danny Cappellani
2019 (Country)	Best Stone Fruit Wine	Noel Legg
2018 (Grape)	Best Previous Vintage Cabernet Sauvignon	Geoff Neagle
2017 (Country)	Best Mead Wine	Trevor Roberts
2016 (Grape)	Best Previous Vintage Pinot Noir	David Hart
2015 (Country)	Best Country Wine	Gary Campanella, Hamish Lucas
2014 (Grape)	Best Current Vintage Dry Grape White wine, Any non-sparkling style, Any Varietal	Danny Cappellani
2013 (Grape)	Best Previous Vintage Red Blend	Danny Cappellani
2012 (Grape)	Best Previous Vintage Shiraz	Gary Campanella, Jid Cosma
2011 (Country)	Best Hybrid	Neil Johannesen
2010 (Country)	Best Herb, Grain, Flower, Veg	Mario and Jean Anders
2009 (Grape)	Best Current Vintage Rose’	Peter Belec
2008 (Country)	Best Sparkling County Wine	David Wood
2007 (Grape)	Best Current Vintage Sauvignon Blanc	NHE Johannesen
2006 (Country)	Best Berry or Currant Wine	David Hart
2005 (Country)	Best Other Fruit Wine	Vinko Eterovic
2004 (Grape)	Best Shiraz	K. Furness, D. Markwell
2003 (Country)	Best Mead	Harry Gilham
2002 (Grape)	Best Riesling	Richard Skinner
2001 (Country)	Best Raspberry	Jacques Garnier
2000 (Grape)	Best Pinot Noir	Philip Hellard

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Plenty Valley FM 88.6

88.6 Plenty Valley FM is a community radio station that proudly services Melbourne's Outer North East (Whittlesea, Nillumbik and northern part of Banyule Councils) as a designated emergency broadcaster, with a wide range of music, local sport, information and multicultural programs.

288 Chids Rd
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(03) 9404 2111
<https://www.pvfm.org.au>

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Dingley Village, Victoria 3172
Call 03 9555 5500
<https://grapeworks.com.au>

Local Food Connect

Local Food Connect (LFC) is a not-for-profit, community group which connects local growers and eaters.

Operating across North East Melbourne, but mainly in the Nillumbik and Banyule areas, we encourage, support and promote events, actions and enterprises which help to put your food back into your control.

info@localfoodconnect.org
0416 203 067

<https://localfoodconnect.org.au>

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The Trading Barrel

Note: If you want a **FAST** response **Slack** is the best place to advertise ...
Slack is instant, whereas the newsletter is only published monthly!

The Trading Barrel is the place to list ...

- For Sale or Want to Buy items
 - Sponsor special deals
 - Member announcements – give-aways, winemaking Garage Sales etc
 - Availability of wine-related produce – grapes, honey, apples etc
-