



Fellowship through home winemaking
Share, Learn, Enjoy!

**Press Cuttings
 January 2014**

President	Bill Loughlin	5786 5047	Treasurer	Mario Anders	0418 564 852
Past President	Spencer Field	0408 300 523	Committee	Trevor Sleep	94392352
Secretary	Mario Fantin	9846 7092	Committee	Darko Postruzin	94342617
Show Director	Gary Campanella		Committee	Danny Cappellani	
Newsletter	Bill Bussau (acting)	0411372464	Communications	Marcel Theunissen	5962 5153



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 at 7.45 pm
 Next meeting: 31 January 2014

Guests checking out joining the Guild are welcome to our regular meetings, as always.

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President's Press

2013 WINE SHOW

The Wine Show was held again in the Eltham Community Centre at considerable cost to the Guild. Alternative venues are being reviewed in the District. Any member who has first-hand knowledge of a venue in the district that would suit the Show, please let me or any member of the Executive know of your experience.

Entry numbers were marginally reduced compared to 2012, but our sponsorship increased significantly over the same period. We have two new sponsors Bendigo Bank, Eltham and District Community Branch and Ezi Post. Our existing sponsors donated wine making equipment which was successfully auctioned at the Show. This together with higher participation by the public meant we broke even despite higher operating costs. My thanks to Gary Campanella and his IT team, Mario and Jeanne Anders for financial control and catering and Mario Fantin for Chief Steward duties.

Thanks also to members some of whom performed as Judges and Associate Judges and assisted with a multitude of operational duties for the duration of the Show.

Congratulations to members who had success at the Show.

Major award winners were:

Nan Oates: Best Female Winemaker

Best Mead: Henri Styzinski

Eltham Guild Member Winemaker of the Year: David Hart

Eltham/Frankston Guild Country Wine Challenge Trophy: Henri Styzinski

Best Country Wine Maker: Henri Styzinski

Best Grape Winemaker: Danny Cappellani

Best Previous Shiraz Wine, Bill Christophersen Trophy: Darko Postruzin

Best Previous Vintage Blended Red Wine, Jo Illian Trophy: Danny Cappellani

A review of the Show was facilitated by Roma O' Callaghan at the November meeting.

The results from this meeting have been incorporated into a Plan for the 2014 Show by our new Show Director, Gary Campanella which will be ongoing into 2014.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held as a normal meeting with some food provided by the Guild and members.

That date is Friday 31 January 2014.

Karen Coulston will be our guest speaker and she will provide us with a refresher on the techniques of dry white wine making. This supports the decision to make the Jo Illian Trophy in 2014 for:

The Best Dry White Wine any Variety, non-sparkling, Current Vintage. Please bring a bottle of your wine, country, red or white for assessment. We plan to split up into pairs and evaluate members wines using the 20 point system, comparing your results with member judges. Judging sheets will be provided. This is designed to improve members knowledge in evaluating wines.

CHRISTMAS NEW YEAR

To all members have an enjoyable safe and happy Christmas with responsible alcohol consumption.

Bill Loughlin
President

Forward Program for Future Guild Meetings

DATE	THEME	PRESENTER
Friday 31st January	Techniques of dry white wine making.	Karen Coulston
Friday 28 th February	The Pinot Show	David H, Neil J

Wine Show

As discussed above in the President's Press the Jo Ilian trophy for 2014 is to be "The best current vintage ie 2014, dry white wine any non-sparkling style, any variety"

Thus, the focus of our upcoming meeting, which will have expert comments from our Life Member, Karen Coulston, offering all sorts of advice on how to make a good white wine.

Also please find attached and on website a list of grapes likely to be available this year that is hoping for no more agricultural disasters that beset some growers in the late spring.

[EDWG Fruit Report](#)

Our Wine show committee has already started planning next year's meeting, building on the success of this year's meeting and taking on the feedback, we got from you, the members, about how to improve it.

So please keep the dates of 14, 15 & 16th November free and start doing your homework to get your white wine started for this year's Jo Ilian.

Wine Quotes and News



A story from the phoenix team

The Pea Pod Wine Saga

In 2008, Spencer made some wine from a few kilos of pea pods and gave a bottle to George Wright for safe keeping and which, with George, subsequently ended up in Riddles Creek. Cut to a few months ago and a very anxious Spencer contacted George about the pea pod, as Spencer wanted to enter it into this year's Wine Show.

George searched high and low and everywhere to no avail. He asked if he had given it to me to try, and no, he hadn't. So by early November Spencer was getting really uptight about this as he had no other country wine to enter on behalf of Phoenix Rising, so was asking Trevor or Michael if they had a country wine to enter which fortunately they did.

Three days before the closing date for entries in the Wine Show George unearthed the pea pod, stacked away in some remote corner with some other wines he didn't want to lose.

So after several urgent phone calls George agreed to deliver the pea pod wine to Greg Martin at Tullarmarine.

What follows are the subsequent emails between George and Spencer. Given that they are both former Presidents of the Guild, their conversations are interesting to say the least!!

Nan Oates

Thursday 7 November 9.00 pm

Spencer,

After years of misadventure your wine has arrived at its destination to our mutual satisfaction. Me, with it undrunk by misadventure, and you, with it undrunk in anticipation of adventure.

I delivered the bottle of 'Canine Urine' to Greg Martin's office earlier today. Sorry, 'Dog's Pee' Wine. It's just as well I don't have to provide the label. That's your job as marketer. By the time the wine show opens, I'm sure it will be called "Pea Pod" wine or something equally improbable. Greg says he remembers the wine but he didn't clarify how he savoured the delicacy.

It's now up to you to provide Greg with an official label. His reception man at his office almost refused to accept it because it didn't have the obligatory 'Eltham & District...' signage. I'm so pleased we have a Wine Show Director with such attention to processes and training that such an aberrant entry would gain automatic refusal. It augers well for a good show, despite some of the salad dressings some judges may be forced to consume to award the relevant awards.

Anyway Spencer, I wish you well with your entry. 'Pea Pod' ... one could at least have gone to the trouble of shelling the bloody things.

George

Thursday 7 November 10.28 pm

Thank you George. I shall ring Greg tomorrow to be sure he appreciates the very, very important task he has in the care of the prestigious well crafted pea pod wine; and to help him ease his mind by ignoring your obvious confusion in your treating it as the notable but common other golden liquid that is discharged with great relief & enjoyment, as one consequence of the rare quaffing of a very fine aged and very rare vintage pea pod wine.

Spencer

Crafter of pods into golden fine wines

Trading Barrel

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1 X 15 litres. \$25

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(I am finding 25 litres demijohns are too heavy for my back, so I am replacing them all with 10 litre demijohns, and switching to screw top bottles.)

Sponsors Corner

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