

# CHAMBERS

Chambers Rosewood Vineyard, Barkly Street, Rutherglen VIC 3685.

Tel: 02 6032 8641. Facsimile: 02 6032 8101

email:wchambers@netc.net.au

## A PROMISING 2001

Our best wishes to all our readers for a happy, healthy and interesting year ahead.

It's hard to believe that over a month has already whipped past without any let up in pace. Just as well we enjoy it!!!!

We have been delighted by the many old friends who have made their pilgrimage to Rutherglen. There has also been a marvellous increase in the numbers of first-time visitors to our cellar door. We are particularly happy to welcome the younger people, who show such keen interest in not only the fruits of the vine, but also the technical aspects of winemaking.

At present the cellar appears as though we are settling in for a siege. New oak barrels, bottles and corks are arriving daily. The press, crusher and tanks stand in readiness. It's like waiting for the starter's gun as Bill and Stephen continually check the grapes looking for the right sugar and acid levels. The excitement is further heightened as this vintage promises to be very good, but we all know this cannot be judged until the wine is in the bottle.

This year our trusty vineyard workers and their army of pickers swung into action on the first day of February, when Bill gave the word to start picking. It was all very exciting, especially when local media featured Rosewood as we were the first in the area to start the vintage.

This initial picking of Muscat grapes is made into the ever popular Light Muscat, whereas the fruit for the fortified Muscat and Tokay is left on the vine, sometimes as late as May, to intensify the sugar levels.

The fascinating science of fermentation is based on the very simple interaction of yeast and sugar.

Every step must be closely monitored, each vat carefully managed, and each wine coaxed and cajoled to give of its best.

While we are all snugly tucked up in our beds Bill and Stephen will often be in the cellar tending the precious brews we hope to enjoy over the coming weeks, months and years. What a task! What a responsibility! The mental and physical resources needed to survive let alone succeed are truly herculian.

We salute our guardians of the vats!

### Bill greets Polly



We recently enjoyed a visit to the cellar by a lovely young American woman Polly Letowssky. She was passing through Rutherglen on her walk around the world to raise awareness of and money for Breast Cancer research.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this very worthwhile cause can contact Polly via email on [Pollyswalking@yahoo.com](mailto:Pollyswalking@yahoo.com) or at Globalwalk, 857 South Curson Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90036 U.S.A.

*“There are more old drunks than old doctors.”— Old French proverb*

## TASTY TREATS

It is almost impossible, at the moment, to remember what it's like to be cold but the days are definitely starting to get shorter. Soon the glorious Autumn weather will be with us again! Why not help celebrate this wonderful time of the year and join us for our annual Tastes of Rutherglen festival? This year it runs over the two weekends of March 10th-11th and 17th-18th.

Lazy Harry will entertain us with his bush ballads and songs at our special dinner on Sunday the 11th. This is always a fabulous night –the food and wine are great and there's plenty of good old Aussie pride.

Serious connoisseurs, interested beginners and lovers of fine food and wine mingle in a happy throng of live music and country hospitality, while enjoying the best the district has to offer.

The area comes alive and it is a great time for the whole family. It is less exuberant than the Winery Walkabout weekend, so we are able to spend more time with our visitors.

## A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

We have been quite underwhelmed at your response to our call for new names for our wines! Now that the silly season has passed we expect all our communication links to be clogged with wonderfully creative ideas!!? Speaking of creativity...how is your entry for our inaugural Art Exhibition going? The theme 'Tones of Autumn' will celebrate all that is mellow in life. We have had responses from a couple of avid photographers, a ceramist and some budding artists.

The actual work only needs to be 10cm x 24cm which is not very big at all and we are accepting pieces in any medium – wood, paper, wool, whatever. You could make a collage, create a soldered piece or mount a dried arrangement. Come on, don't be shy – get your hands busy – it's fun to participate!

The turn of the century heralded the Age of Aquarius – the time of communications and creativity, so "get amongst it" and show your hidden talents! When the Rosewood Art Exhibition becomes the highlight of the national artistic calendar you will be able to say you had an entry in the first exhibition!

There are 3 categories:- Most Original Exhibit, Best Junior Exhibit (Under 16 years) and Best Senior Exhibit. Please register your interest by ringing 02 6032 8641 and we will send you an entry form.

## People Profile – Joan Smith

Joan, affectionately known as Granny Smith, is our longest serving staff member. In 1980 a friend asked her if she would come and help out at Chambers for a few hours and she's been here ever since!

Whilst production control has been Joan's main focus she has also been heavily involved with cellar door sales and keeping the books. Many of you will be familiar with Joan's happy face and friendly service.

Having been here for such a long time Joan has seen many changes. In the early days the wines were tasted outside under the verandah, at a time when much of the cellar still had earth floors. Now concrete and steel have taken over in the vintage cellar, and in the tasting room clever technology helps to dispense the wine.

Joan always remembers our birthdays and often treats us with delicious sandwiches and other baked goodies. She sometimes even entertains us with her line dancing!!



Joan busy at work

## EGGSACTLY

Looking for an alternative to traditional Easter eggs? The following recipe makes 4 pretty Jelly Eggs with no fat and plenty of personality!

You need 4 fresh eggs and a packet of Jelly. Using a pin, make several small holes close together in the broad end of each egg; then break away the shell to make a hole 1cm ( $\frac{1}{2}$ " ) across. Shake out the egg, using a skewer to break the yolk and help pull out the egg. Rinse thoroughly with warm water then cold and stand eggs in an egg carton with the holes pointing upwards.

Make up the jelly to 300ml with boiling water and stir to dissolve. Pour into the eggshells. Place eggs in the fridge overnight to set; dip briefly in hot water before cracking then peel away the shell to reveal a beautiful wobbly egg.

For those not watching their waistlines, substitute some of Bill's Light Muscat or Botrytis Tokay (which also go well with traditional Easter eggs) for some of the water – and drink the rest!!

To create stripy eggs make up some of the jelly using milk instead of water. Pour alternate layers of colour into the eggshells, allowing each layer to set before adding the next.

Those preferring something savoury might enjoy a selection of the following tasty treats. Slice the tops off small bread rolls, scoop out the bread then fill with some of the following fillings.

- Line a roll with English spinach then pour in lightly beaten egg and top with prosciutto.
- Carefully crack an egg into the roll then top with diced ham, chives, salt and pepper.
- Creamed corn with finely diced capsicum.
- Baked beans topped with Sweet Chilli sauce and cheese.
- Lightly beat eggs, season with salt and pepper then stir in a little salmon and a dollop of sour cream.

Put on an oven tray and bake at 180°C for 15-20 minutes or until cooked then serve with lightly chilled Chardonnay or Riesling.

## Upcoming Events & places to catch up with us

### Tastes of Rutherglen 2001

**Wine and food Festival, Rutherglen**  
March 10th & 11th and the 17th & 18th

16 participating wineries featuring specially selected wines matched to entrée-size dishes.

### Things to enjoy at Rosewood:-

TONES OF AUTUMN ART COMPETITION & EXHIBITION

LIVE MUSIC & DANCING

AUSSIE DINNER 7pm Sunday March 11th

Great wine and food plus bush ballads and songs by Lazy Harry (Booking necessary)

### Melbourne Food & Wine Festival

March 24th & 25th 'Cellar Door at Southgate'

Please call in and say 'hello' if you are passing!

### The Man from Snowy River Bush Festival 6th-8th April, 2001

Corryong hosts this celebration of Australian bush culture with a range of activities such as horse races, bush poetry readings and craft markets. We will join other exhibitors at the Trade Expo on the Saturday and Sunday and would be very pleased to see anyone who is in the area.

### Rutherglen & District Garden Show

Exhibition, Stalls and light refreshments at Chambers Rosewood Winery, Barkly Street, Rutherglen 12 noon 'til 4pm Sunday April 8th,

### Don't forget Winery Walkabout

Held as usual on the Queen's Birthday weekend this year, June 9th-12th. Put it in your diary!

No names, but apparently one of our best clients spent ages trying to ring through his order to us ... on our ABN!!

## Wine Profile: Ol~Vol

We have a new fortified wine, a Muscadelle called Ol~Vol which we think almost personifies Bill.

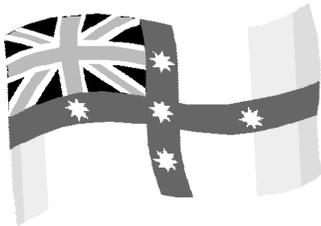
It has a certain sharpness on the palate which, because of its considerable age, is tempered by a lingering impression of sweetness.

Look out for it and tell us what you think!

*From Winenews,  
a Wine Australia publication.*

"On the final day of the show a State of Origin spitting competition was held with the winner "by a mile" being declared as the home state of Victoria. Little wonder really given they were captained by the industry's acknowledged King Spitter, Melbourne Wine Show Chairman Bill Chambers (see page 2 vol. 6) who was ably assisted by VWIA President Chris Pfeiffer."

## FEDERATION AND BEYOND



With Corowa, the home of Federation, just 10 minutes away over the river, we have been caught up with the Centenary celebra-

tions. Our Australia Day weekend was great fun - abuzz with parades, markets, ceremonies and brass bands etc.

Next time you plan a trip up this way schedule a visit to this historical town where The Commonwealth of Australia has some of its earliest beginnings.

There are some fantastic old residential and civic buildings and the Federation Museum offers a detailed look at our colonial history.

## SPECIAL OFFERS

You will find some old favourites plus a few less well known suggestions in our Special Offers this time. Indulge yourself with our Mellow Moments Pack or top up your decanters with our State Secrets pack.

### • MELLOW MOMENTS

- 1 x 1996 Botrytis Tokay (375ml)**
- 2 x 1991 Neilsons Dry White**
- 3 x 1997 Cab Sav (Pre Release)**
- 3 x 1996 Shiraz (French oak)**
- 1 x Oloroso Sherry**
- 1 x Ol~Vol (375ml)**
- 1 x Rutherglen Muscat**
- 1 x Rutherglen T okay**

**\$140 plus freight**

### • FEDERATION PACK

- 10 x Rutherglen White**
- 1 x Rutherglen T okay**
- 1 x Rutherglen Muscat**

**\$75 plus freight**

### • BORDER BOX

- 10 x Rutherglen Red**
- 1 x 1998 Vintage Ruby**
- 1 x Tawny (Por t)**

**\$85 plus freight**

### • STATE SECRETS

- 1 X 2 litres Rutherglen Muscat**
- 1 x 2 litres Rutherglen T okay**
- 1 X 2 litres Mt Carmel (Liqueur Por t)**
- 1 x 2 litres Dry Flor Sherry**

**\$91 plus freight**