

News from the Hen

No. 15 Spring 2013



Pressure Drop



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Cup Weekend Music Picnic – Saturday 2nd November

Music on the lawns from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.

This year we have something of a difference, Melbourne's original reggae band - Pressure Drop.

Starting life in Melbourne in 1978, Pressure Drop, was one of Australia's early pioneers of rock steady, reggae and dub. The band was very popular around the pubs and clubs for the next several years and offered a new sound to the dance and soul crowd in Melbourne and down the surf coast.

The core of the original band is back and play an exciting mix of dance, rock-steady, dub and riff-ridden reggae that spans the decades.

Food – Bring Your Own or buy something from the Purple Hen offering

Beer – a selection of Rusty Waters beers will be available

Cover Charge – \$5 for adults (children free)

Glasses – If you are using our glasses they can be 'rented' for \$5, take them home or return them intact for refund of the \$5.

What if the weather is rubbish? This event is on – if the weather is OK. If it is in doubt we will put an update on the web site and on Facebook and you can phone us on the day (5956 9244)

Brian Dawe

Humorist reads humour

Acclaimed political satirist Bryan Dawe (ABC TV's Clarke & Dawe) reads his favourite humorists:

- Spike Milligan, Peter Cook, Alan Bennett, Bailey White, John Clarke
- The unintentional genius of Donald Rumsfeld
- Along with readings from Bryan's own much loved satirical characters, Roly Parks from Kalangadoo and doyen of the Establishment, Sir Murray Rivers QC.

When:- Saturday 16th November 2013, 6:30pm for 7pm

Where:- Purple Hen Cellar Door - Seating at tables - this limits us to approximately 40 people

How long:- Bryan's performance will be about three quarters of an hour in duration

Price:- \$25 per person

How:- Purchase your ticket by contacting the Purple Hen Cellar Door 5956 9244

2013 Wine Shows

We have reduced the number of shows we enter – there is a real proliferation and the value of some is a bit uncertain. So we support our local regional show, The Gippsland Wine Show, our State show, The Victorian Wines Show and the Royal Melbourne Wine Awards. And then for a bit of fun we enter the Concours de Vins du Victoria – the wine show with unquestionably the most enjoyable awards event (beautiful French cheeses and some lovely charcuterie).

The 2013 Gippsland Wine Show and the Royal Melbourne Wine Awards are now over and a great set of results for Purple Hen.

This year saw a Museum Class included at the Gippsland Show and we entered our 2004 Pinot Noir, 2006 Chardonnay and 2006 Shiraz. We were thrilled that all three won medals. We are often asked, 'how will your wines age?' - quite well it would seem.

In all we entered 14 wines in the Gippsland Wine Show, with 10 of the 14 winning medals (85 points out of 100 or better) and the other 4 within a hair's breadth. A terrific result. Stand out wins were the Award for Best Shiraz in Show for our 2012 Shiraz and the Trophy for White Wine of Show for our 2012 OD Riesling.

This is the first time we have won the Best White Trophy and to do it with the Riesling was quite unexpected. The win for the Shiraz makes it four years running that we have taken out Best Shiraz.

The Shiraz also performed well at the Royal Melbourne Wine Awards - taking out a Gold Medal.

Another pleasing result from the Gippsland Show was the Silver Medal (90 points out of 100) for our 2011 Blanc de Blanc. Since the first vintage, the 2009, every vintage has medalled at this Show.

Been a bit wet

Although we have had less rain than last (calendar) year, it has been wetter than average and September was very wet. Getting into the vineyard with machinery has been a real issue, particularly for the new vineyard.

With budburst starting in mid August, we needed to get into the vineyard to begin spraying in the second half of September. We just could not get into the new vineyard, so we had to cross our fingers and hope the Downy Mildew didn't become an issue. Our luck held and we got our first spray on that vineyard last week. Thanks to the old Antonio Carrero tractor with its oversized floatation tyres we were able to slosh our way through.

So we like rain and it's good to see the dam full (its been over-flowing since May) but some dry (and calm) days would be nice.

Wine comings & goings

The goings:

- **2011 Sparkling Shiraz** – it looks like we will be out of Sparkling Shiraz this Christmas. Not much 2011 left and we are holding off on disgorging the 2012. So if you want some for Xmas – be quick.
- **2011 Viognier** – this was our favourite Viognier to that vintage.
- **2012 OD Riesling** – The last stocks of this have gone very quickly.

The comings:

- **2013 Pinot Gris** – Since the last newsletter the new Pinot Gris has been released – see the [website](#) for details.
- **2013 OD Riesling** – a worthy successor to the award winning 2012.
- **2013 Viognier** – another cracking good example of this variety. Not everyone loves our viognier, but we do.
- **2011 Blanc de Blanc** – this has replaced the 2010 and continues the style of our Blanc de Blanc – see the [website](#) for details.

In the vineyard

Despite the claim that Rick would be back in harness for the pruning this year, he could only manage a few rows. Pip and Adam were out there come rain or shine – Rick seemed to have a lot of other things on.

We are now in that beautiful time when the vines really start to kick into gear. For about 6 weeks after budburst the vines just sort of struggle along – running off reserves. About now they have enough leaf developed to be producing their own energy and growth really starts to accelerate.

Museum musings

The museum offerings at cellar door have been well received, but there is only one of the foundlings to go. We will soon put our little found stock of 2006 Shiraz on for sale.

This is only available through cellar door. Contact us if you are interested and unlikely to be down in the next little while - it will not last long.

On-line sales update

On-line sales continue to tick away and we remain very interested in your feedback on the system. If you have any issues/problems please let us know.

Cheers from Purple Hen