



Smoke Signals

Dilston Windermere Swan Bay Newsletter

Issue 162
February 2010

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A Decade In The Making ... Native Point Wines



Sheena and Tim High purchased the 33 hectare property at 718 Windermere Rd in 1995 with the intention of setting up a vineyard to grow cool climate grapes for the production of super premium Tasmanian wines. Before settling in Swan Bay, they visited many of the wine growing regions throughout Australia, but decided on Tasmania for its young, but growing, vibrant wine industry as the place they felt had the ideal climate to grow the grape varieties they both loved.

Sheena spent four years at Charles Sturt University studying viticulture and wine science, before taking the plunge in 1999 to put the theory into practice with the first planting of vines on the property now known as Swan Bay Vineyard.

After selling grapes to other wine mak-

ers for several vintages, 2010 marks the year when they are commercially launching a range of wines under the Native Point label, named after the Native Point Reserve that borders their property. The years in between have been spent clearing much of the property of dead trees, revegetation planting over 3800 native trees, installing new fences, an irrigation system for the vines, including a 15 megalitre dam, and planting 16,000 vines with associated trellising and wire supports.

The grape varieties of Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling they planted are no accident. Sheena and Tim travelled to several overseas wine growing regions as well as attending many Australian Industry seminars to select the best varieties for their site. Sheena remarks that the location of the vineyard on the East Tamar provides almost continual sun throughout the day, which together with the cooling winds and low vigour soils combine to produce an ideal 'terroir' for Pinot Noir and the aromatic white wine varieties selected.

"The reflected light and warmth from the Tamar estuary along with the windbreaks planted shield us from frosts. Our vines are very happy in this environment, the grapes ripen slowly allowing us to harvest them at optimum sugar/acid/flavour balance. We are very fortunate to have chosen what has proven to be a wonderful site."

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Windermere Corner Store

6328 1335

Hearty breakfasts, great lunches, a selection of cakes and slices, prepared take-home meals. Takeaway pizzas, gourmet food lines, catering, wrapping and cards, groceries, gas, bait

TRADING HOURS

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Sat 8am-6pm

Sun 8am-5pm

* **Jacket Potato night**

Sat. Feb 20th at 7pm

**Special fillings + glass of wine
/beer \$20 per person**

Bookings at the Cafe

Garden Club News by Ros Ryan

A beautiful day in December attracted 30 members to share a scrumptious lunch at the home of Anna & Jonathan Waterhouse. Thanks to Jonathan and Brian Ralph who did a great job on the barbie.

After lunch, on a walk around the garden, we saw a nice crop of Raspberries, salad vegies and a well laden Pear and Grapefruit tree. The garden is well edged with lots of potted colour and lawns that are weed free and beautifully maintained. Thank you Jonathan and Anna for a great Christmas gathering.

January:

Our first get together for 2010 was at Jackie and Brian Ralph's home. The day was warm and 20 members attended. We had a good trade table with lots of salad vegies and new season fruit, with an assortment of plants. There was plenty of colour in this waterwise garden. A Golden Elm is growing into a lovely shade tree. The two fish ponds support a population of goldfish which are healthy

and multiplying. They share the pond with some very healthy Green & Gold frogs. Thank you Jackie and Brian for a great summer luncheon venue.

The members of Garden Club offer our sympathy to Sue Speed, whose husband John passed away on January 9th.

New members are welcome to join us on the 2nd Friday of each month. Bring a lunch platter or a sweet to share.

Phone Ros Ryan -6328 1566

February: Friday 12th

Wendy & Dennis Butler,

March: Friday 12th

Lalla Smethurst

April: Friday 16th

Lou & John Bailey

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6394 8364



Slaving over a hot BBQ at the Christmas Lunch.

**Copy For NEXT
ISSUE**

Due

Friday March 19th

For publication first
week in April

Email address:
smokesignals@bigpond.com

Or mail to:

454 Windermere Rd. Windermere
7252

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN SMOKE SIGNALS?

1/6 Page	\$17.00
1/12 Page	\$9.00

book an ad in four issues and save:

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Small Classifieds, Wanted to sell, etc
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Community Notices and Fund Raising
Notices are Free !!

Advertisements must be
accompanied by full name, address
and should state the number of
editions that it is to appear in.

Leave advertising copy at the Windermere Store or email to:

smokesignals@bigpond.com

Smokesignals on the web

<http://www.winderdoon.com/community/smokesignals.htm>

Signal Station Tavern

Bar, Lounge & Bottle-O

Bottleshop competitive prices

\$8 meals Thursday evenings

6PM TO 8PM

Friday & Saturday nights- full counter meals 6pm to 8pm

Sundays- 5pm to 8pm

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63281390

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FIRE BRIGADE NEWS by Rob Montague



Roadside slashing has taken place recently on some roads throughout the area however residents have expressed concerns over several areas, land between front fence and road, that remain a fire hazard. Council regulations require that declared weeds such as GORSE and BLACKBERRY should not be allowed to grow along mutual boundary fences and should be removed if they are considered to be a threat to other properties. So who is responsible for overgrown "nature strips"? Predominantly, people maintain this area as their own, either mowing or brushcutting regularly enhancing their properties and therefore reducing any such hazard. Council or contractors only slash what they can and spray annually and leave the rest. A part of the Fire Bri-

gade's responsibilities is hazard assessment of our area, noting hazards and talking to relevant land owners (either private land owners, Council, Parks and Wildlife Service and Government, e.g. East Tamar Hwy.) Road verges are an annual topic for discussion with an answer of 'we will get around to it when we can'.

Let us see if a meeting with the council road superintendant in the near future can resolve any roadside issues.

A reminder of the council smoke pollution bylaw-9 prohibiting back yard burning. A person can apply for an exemption by contacting Council Environmental Services. If application for exemption is made during the fire permit period a permit from the Tasmania Fire Service will be required.

Council Consults on vegetation issues

Launceston City Council Roads Superintendant, James Burbury, met with a local resident recently to discuss the concerns of fire risk to properties along Windermere Road. Sections of the road were walked and the problem, as perceived by residents was acknowledged. James has committed to having dead and dying trees

removed from the roadside and has advised that the spraying of blackberries on roadside verges will recommence this year. This will take place after rain so that the chemical used is most effective. The spray used contains a colour dye that makes it evident which bushes have been sprayed.

It is the responsibility of landowners to control vegetation on the boundary of their property adjoining other properties. In the interests of fire safety and community harmony, it would be prudent for all residents to share the load in this annual maintenance task.

Brigade Contacts:

Rob Montague
6394 8377 (w)

6328 1336 (h)

Jason Hingston

Mob 0407392457

Neville Jolly

6326 5860 (h)

Mob 0417 540230

David Lake

Mob 0438 075 534

* Festivalé Community BusFriday February 12th from 6pm. Book your seat at the Windermere Store

Dr Don Hempton
The Windermere GP
Is available for consults,
Strictly by appointment
Ring 6328 1560



Sharon Fahey
0409 188 249



Wayne Riethoff
0418 504 742

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A Decade In The Making..... Continued from Page 1.

Many residents of Windermere and Swan Bay have been instrumental at various stages during the establishment of the vineyard and at times throughout each season providing help for pruning and picking. Sheena and Tim are particularly supportive and appreciative of involving the local community as much as possible.

While most of the 700 cases of wine available for sale this year are destined for the US market, wines are now available for sale by appointment at the vineyard, and at the Windermere Café. Prospective buyers should call Sheena or Tim at

63 281618 or e-mail nativepoint@bigpond.com.

They would be happy to give an informed tour of the vineyard and provide wines for tasting. Otherwise visit them at Festivale in February (stall 18) where they will be exhibiting this year.

A Chance to get involved

Native Point wines have generously agreed to hold a further Charity Pick in support of the maintenance of St. Matthias Church. Any resident interested in contributing their labour on a voluntary basis for a day in late March or April after Easter should contact the

Editor, on 6328 1163. We will coordinate the labour for this day and all wages earned will go to the continued maintenance of our Community Church.

Nature Notes



White-faced heron

(*Ardea novaehollandiae*)

The heron most commonly seen in the shallows of The Tamar or on farm dams is the White-faced heron. Aptly named and a most stealthy hunter, this bird has several adaptations which give it an advantage over others when finding

food.

Hérons have a special hinge at the sixth vertebra that allows them to strike with the neck. They also have tufts of 'powder down' under their plumage on breast and rump. These feathers disintegrate to produce a protective powder which the birds pick up with their bills to groom their plumage.

Amongst herons, the white-faced heron is a generalist feeder. It will feed on small fish, crabs and freshwater insects. It LOVES frogs. I have one heron that visits my dam every morning and evening for dinner. Thankfully many of the tadpoles survive and I have a healthy population of 5 species of frogs.

Their nest is an untidy cluster of thin sticks formed usually in the fork of a sturdy tree about 20 metres from the ground. They do not necessarily nest near water.

Usually four pale blue eggs are laid, but sometimes up to 7. Both parents brood and share and feed the young.

The chicks hatch in 20-26 days and fledge in 40 days.

They share habitat with the parent birds until, like many other species, they are forced

away to establish a new territory of their own by the parents.

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Jon & Margaret Hosford 63281163

Community Contacts - FIRE: 000

Dilston Hall:	6328 1348
St. Matthias Church:	
	6328 1209
Playgroup:	6328 1196
Garden Club:	63281566
CWA:	6328 1257
Book Discussion Group:	6328 1231
Bird Watching:	6328 1163
Native Animal Rescue	
Lorraine De Weys	63263502
FIRE BRIGADE OFFICERS	
Rob Montague	6394 8377 (w)
	6328 1336 (h)
Jason Hingston	Mob 0407392457
Neville Jolly	6326 5860 (h)
	Mob 0417 540230
David Lake	Mob 0438 075 534

WANTED TO EITHER BORROW/BUY GOOD CD's of

Andrew Lloyd Webber's "CATS",
"PHANTOM", JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR"
Eartha Kitt; Winfred Atwell
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Alpacas by Cynthia Groves

With more and more people in the district keeping Alpacas, people are often curious and ask questions, so I thought it might be an idea to share some insight into owning them.

Alpacas are originally from the high altitude regions of Southern Peru and Bolivia. They were highly valued animals of the ancient Incan civilization.

There are two breeds, Suri and Huacaya. The Huacaya is the most common type and has a soft fleece (sheep like) while the Suri is covered in long locks not unlike dreadlocks and has a high luster silky feel. Alpacas require shearing once a year and the fleece is prized for its soft feel and high thermal properties, yet it is amazingly light to wear.

As pets., they are ideal. They are intelligent and inquisitive animals and if treated well are easy to handle. Alpacas do not suffer from fly strike or foot rot and have soft padded feet, so degradation of the land is minimal. They are highly adapted to eat small amounts of a variety of plants and grasses, and are easily moved around a farm. They tend not to jump fences.

Another great thing about Alpacas is that they share a communal dung pile and return to this same spot daily. The habit of not grazing too close to the pile reduces the level of internal parasites and means the rest of the paddock is not contaminated for grazing.

Alpacas live for about 20 years and have a strong herd instinct, therefore it is recommended that you

have at least two or more. In a nutshell Alpacas are a great family pet to own for many reasons and require very little maintenance and are one of the least aggressive animals on the planet.



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Do you have an association with St Matthias Windermere Anglican Church?

Maybe you were married there or baptized at the historic church in the centre of our community. If you would like to keep in touch with news of the Church community,

become a friend of St Matthias by returning an expression of interest below to : Friends of St. Matthias c/- Mr. J Hosford 454 Windermere Rod., Windermere 7252

\$45.00 will entitle you to a nail cross constructed from the original nails and timber from the roof of the church.

I wish to become a Friend of St. Matthias. I attach my cheque for \$45 as a donation to the Church and detail my contact below.

I understand I shall receive a regular newsletter by email, or a posted newsletter for an annual contribution of an extra \$15.

Name.....

Postal Address.....

Telephone:.....

Email Address.....

ST MATTHIAS WINDERMERE



HOLY TRINITY LAUNCESTON



Windermere Church

- a special building at the heart of our community

In recent weeks we have come together to support the families and celebrate the lives of Dudley Williams and John Speed.

On another day we came together as the newly repaired bell rang out to celebrate the wedding of Kate Grainger and Michael Laming. Kate is the daughter of Mrs Paddy Grainger and the late Reg. Grainger. Paddy and Reg built their house at Windermere over 50 years ago and Reg's ashes are interred in the church wall.

Windermere Church continues to be a very special part of our community.



Kate Grainger with her mother Paddy

February/March Services

St Matthias Windermere

Please welcome with us our new Rector, The Rev. Warwick Cuthbertson and his wife Nerrilie at the 2pm service on Sunday February 14th.

Feb 14th 2pm Eucharist

Feb 28th 2pm Eucharist

March 14th 2pm Eucharist

March 28th 2pm Eucharist

Holy Trinity/ St Matthias Contacts

Rector: The Rev. Warwick Cuthbertson

Telephone: Home 63310041

Mobile: 0408023578

Associate Priest: The Rev. Ken Box

Telephone: Home 63264226

Mobile: 0408023578

Cemetery Trust Representative: Edie Williams

Phone: 6326 2486

Parish Council Representative: Sue Speed

Phone: 6328 1209

Valé John Speed

An obituary from his fellow members of St Matthias Anglican Church....

Our condolences to his widow Sue, his sons Will and Danny and daughter Alex, are offered at this sad time.

John will be remembered not only as a friend but also for his generosity of time and ideas, to help the betterment and survival of the Church.

A particular contribution of John's was the Dusk Candlelight Service held successfully a few years ago. John designed the candle lighting on the pews, the beauty enjoyed by all of the packed congregation.

Thank you, and farewell from your old friends.

Become a "Friend of St. Matthias" and support our Church— details p. 5

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