

*HAWKES BAY AMATEUR WINEMAKERS
AND BREWERS CLUB*



November 2022

WEBSITE: www.wine-and-beer-hb.org.nz

Hi everyone,

We hope to see you all at the next Club Meeting on Wed 16th November, at the Deaf Clubrooms 22 Lee Road Taradale at 7.30pm, for what should be a most interesting meeting.

This month we have the one and only Rod McDonald visiting to present to us a bit about himself and his wines.

Rod is widely regarded as one of the top winemakers in the region, if not the country, and produces his award winning wines at his Te Awanga Estate winery.

Hopefully the winemakers amongst us will pick up a few tips on how to win gold Medals.

Feel free to round up a few wine focused Friends and Family to make the most of this opportunity.

Check our website for more on this;

<https://www.wine-and-beer-hb.org.nz/coming-up-events-and-meetings/>

At last months meeting we ran through the club's results from the Regional competition. We had our own little rerun of the awards ceremony and talked about what a great time we all had thanks to the Manawatu club who did a great job hosting the event. It was noted that there were some data entry mistakes on judging day and

that some of the results could be incorrect. Once we get copies of the judging sheets for our entries we will be able to get a better idea of how well we all did. It sounds like there could be some more certificates coming our way as a result!

On Saturday 29th October we had a Club Lunch outing to De La Terre Winery in the foothills on Taihape Road.

It was a lovely day for a platter and a wine and we got to have a tour of the winery that Tony Prichard and family have built up from scratch.

It was great to see the innovative use of preloved equipment that made such a venture possible.

November Outing;

We are having a club outing to Abbey Winery and Brewery on Saturday 19th November. Meet at 12.00 O'Clock at 1769 Maraekakaho Road.

Dermot is the Brewer there and is involved in Winemaking as well, he has offered to give a short tour at 12.00 pm.

We will need to be prompt for this as Fraser Mack will be playing from 1.00pm till 4.00pm and they are expecting it to be a busy day.

It will help if we can get an idea of numbers on Wednesday night thanks.

Club Christmas Dinner;

This has again been booked at Thai Chef restaurant at 110 Taradale Road Onekawa. Saturday 10th December at 7.30 pm.

It is a BYO so we can bring some of our own wines, (Barley Wine perhaps?)

We will be asking for confirmed numbers in the near future.

Clubnight Raffle;

Still only \$2 a raffle or three for \$5.

The raffle last month was won by Graeme.

Local Events;

For those that don't have this on their radar already,



Brew Challenge;

A few local SOBA brewers are challenging themselves to see who can brew the best clone of Deep Creek's "Dusty Gringo" American Brown ale.

Complete All Grain kits will be supplied at a discounted price by HB Malt Station, premade up to whatever batch size you need.

(NB. Retail Price usually \$62.50, recipe here

https://www.hbmalt.co.nz/index.php?route=product/product&path=81_124&product_id=560)

Anyone who would like to similarly brew this and have a showdown at a clubnight early next year please let Jim know this week, to be added to the list for an all grain kit.

New Years BBQ;

Michael and Maree have once again offered to host us and the Central Hawkes Bay club for this on Sunday Jan 29th. The usual hotly contested Delores trophy will again be looking for a new home. Watch your inbox for a reminder closer to the time.

Upcoming events:

- 16th November is the last club night for the year, we meet at the Deaf Clubrooms 22 Lee Road Taradale at 7.30pm. We will have Rod McDonald talking to us about his TeAwanga Estate Wines.

The classes for our points cup judging are:

W6	Sweet White Grape.
W22	Desert.
L1	Essence based Liqueur
B2	Pilsner (1,2,3)
B11	Wheat (1,2,3)

- November 19th at 12.00pm we are meeting at Abbey Winery and Brewery in Bridge Pa. After a short tour of the place, Abbey have their wines and Beers available as well as food and Music.
- There will be no Wednesday Club meeting in December or January.
- December 10th at 7.30 is our Christmas Dinner outing at Thai Chef in Napier. Meet at 110 Taradale Road Onekawa. BYO.



“HOP, TOPIC”

This Month, we have an introduction to Rod McDonald who will be speaking at the Clubnight meeting. .. (shamelessly lifted from his website)

Rod McDonald, winemaker and general Te Awanga Estate overseer.

THE STORY: When I was a kid, I thought I'd be a farmer. All my family thought I'd be a farmer. When we sold our farm, I spent every school holiday I could on a farm. I loved getting up early, I loved the stock, the dark mornings and the sunrises. I loved the ritual and routine of farming life – early starts, back home for long breakfasts, feeding the dogs, feeding out hay from the back of a tractor...

My first memory of wine being on the radar was at my grandparents' place, Christmas dinner, when I was ten. Papa always fancied a drink, his martinis and G&Ts were the stuff of legend. He also loved entertaining, big dinners, a bottle or two of special wine on the table. There was always a story that went with it. Great wine is all about that.

So, in 1993 I arrived in Hawke's Bay with a love for making wine and everything I owned packed into the boot of a small car.

THE LOVE: In winemaking there are no absolutes. No two winemakers using the same grapes will ever make the same wine. I love that.

There's different kinds of winemaking; There's making a technically good wine that displays balance of acidity and sugar matching the wine's natural extract and fruit concentration.

Then there's making wine that shows the hand of the winemaker. It has a signature or fingerprint stamped all over it and running through it. It's a house-style.

There's also the kind of winemaking that reveals more about where the wine came from. It's difficult to grow grapes like that. And it's impossible to make wine if you haven't managed to find a site to grow grapes that's managed well for the purpose.

What I now know, having worked for a really successful well organised wine company like Villa Maria, is what it's like to have the perfect winemaking job. Perfect in that most of the hard work has been done. The business has been developing for 50 years to get to a point where success is almost guaranteed. All the pieces are there to be assembled.

Much of the joy of winemaking for me is in the build. The intuition. The assembling of the natural resources, the chase of the perfect site, the best people and winemaking, the best facilities you can muster and the leaps of risk and faith to create something unexpected.

THE GUFF: I spent nine years as winemaker at Vidal Estate in Hawke's Bay and was awarded New Zealand Winemaker of the year in 2006, glory days. I left later that year with a few ideas about what Hawke's Bay wines could be like, where the great ones would come from, and started Rod McDonald Wines, now Te Awanga Estate.

The plan was to consult to a few leading producers and launch a family of wines, which now sits with Trademark, Quarter Acre, Te Awanga Estate, Mister and One Off. Our winemaking happens at The Hawkes Bay Wine Company in Pandora on the edge of Napier, but our cellar door and spiritual home is on the coast at Te Awanga.

Recently our Quarter Acre 2015 Syrah was awarded the trophy for Champion Red Wine of Show at the prestigious International Wine Challenge (IWC) in London, along with trophies for the best International Syrah, New Zealand Syrah, New Zealand Red and Hawke's Bay Syrah.

I'm a Senior Judge at the New Zealand International Wineshow and spent six years as Chairman of the Hawke's Bay Winegrowers Association, helping establish us as one of the great winegrowing regions of the world. Way back in history I grabbed a Post Grad Diploma in Viticulture at Lincoln University.

CHEERS !

And see you all on Wednesday.

Jim