

Frankston Amateur Wine Guild

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May 2018

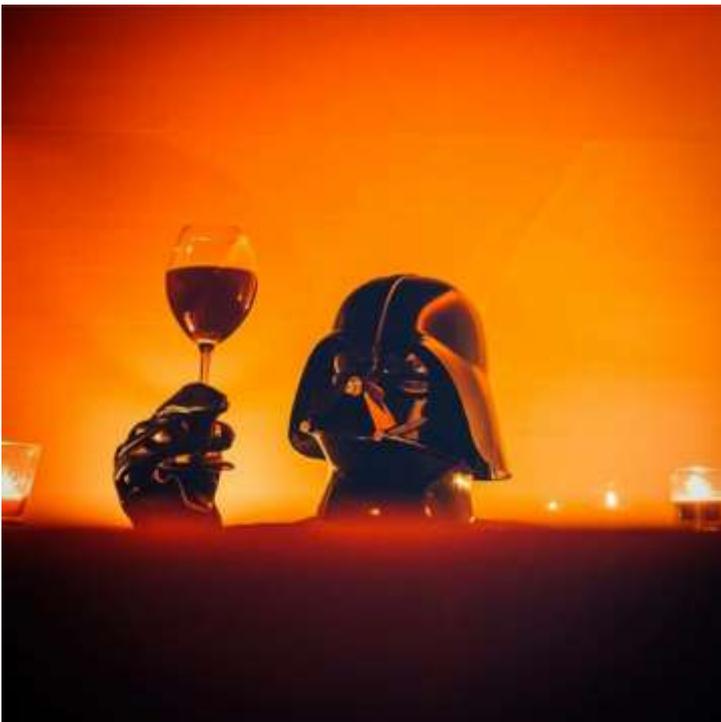
Next Meeting: 8 May 2018

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1 May 2018

This month:

As usual we will be meeting at the B'Darra Estate. The discussion will be on wine. A subject that is dear to the hearts of all of the members. There may however be areas for discussion that members believe will be of interest to all that don't get enough of a mention. The committee including myself would be grateful for your input. If you have any thoughts about a subject for discussion, then perhaps you can let us know.



May the fourth be with you!

Wodonga Wine Show

It might be a little too late for entries, but the Wodonga wine show is being held on the 5th and 6th of May. The open day is the 6th of May. A number of members have entered including Libby, Terry, John, Reno, David H, Peter, Pepe and the Chardonnay focus group. I am sure that everyone wishes them all the success they deserve with their entries.

I am sure the Wodonga Show organisers would welcome anyone who would like to go up there for the open day. What are you doing on Sunday?

FAWG Web Page

Don't forget the FAWG website:

<http://www.fawg.org.au>

Or the "Facebook" page:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheFAWG>

Parking at the new Clubrooms

Do not drive on the grass. You will be stuck in the mud and there are no facilities to get you out. You will also upset our new landlord. Please drive slowly.

Focus Groups— Sparkling Shiraz

A little hiccup with a sulphide smell, so we purchased a sulphide remover, the wine is smelling a lot better and we will need to add more nutrients. Thanks to all that offered advice and resolutions.

Focus Groups— White Sparkling

Over the past month, the pinot and chardonnay have both had time to drop their lees. At that point there was a need to rack both off the lees allowing for the wines to be blended together. Again there is now a need to allow the blended wines to settle before the next step in the process. All is going well at this time.

May Outing

A excellent response to this outing, with 35 people putting their names down. We still have a spot left on the Bittern bus. Please let me know if you would like to attend. I will send an email as we get closer to the date to inform you further regarding times. The buses were very popular, being booked out within two days. Looking forward to the day out and sampling wines from a different wine area.

Whether wine is a nourishment, medicine or poison is a matter of dosage.

By Paracelsus (Phillip von Hohenheim), Swiss alchemist, physician and astrologer (1493–1541)

'The Briars Volunteers'

Some FAWG members may have sampled a wine at the last couple of meetings labeled 'The Briars Cabernet Sauvignon 2017'. This wine has been produced by one of our guild members who is part of The Briars Vineyard volunteers group. There are four other guild members who are part of this group. They are required to help maintain the vineyard, on this Council owned property throughout the year, and are then able to take home the grapes to make their own wine. A lot of labour is involved, however a spirit of camaraderie amongst the volunteers has evolved and, in the end, the grapes/wines are almost a 'bonus' at the end of the season.

This year our harvest volume was reduced by an attack of downy mildew, not long after bud burst, which significantly reduced fruit set. This is the risk that we take each year. See below, last year's crop (263 boxes). This year we picked less than half of that amount.



We could certainly buy grapes through the guild, at a total cost less than the labour that we put in (twelve months labour required to get to harvest time), but there is a great sense of achievement at the end of the year, once the grapes have been harvested. We nurture the crop through from start to finish (from pruning, initial bud-burst, spraying fungicide, thinning, netting and harvest).

Along the way we got drenched, cold, sunburnt, frustrated, had a few BBQs and coffees, met lots of people and generally just had heaps of fun and exercise!

If you want to know more about the Volunteers please feel free to contact David Wood.

Cordon Corner

May is a great time to get out in to the vineyard and get everything in order before winter pruning begins and assuming the plants have received a good feed and water, the inter-row area will probably be next for a little attention. If you are spraying weeds around the base of the vines be mindful of the fact that post-harvest root growth may be still be active so care should be taken with herbicide selection. If the area around the base of the plants is mostly bare, a pre-emergence herbicide can be incorporated to maintain surface soil sterility.

If you are planning on taking shoot cuttings for future planting or grafting, the ideal time is towards the end of leaf fall before the nutrients have translocated from the shoots to the permanent parts of the vine. This is often in May also in a lot of areas.

Mike Payne

FAWG Wine show

August is rapidly approaching, it is time to start thinking about those wines you will be entering in this years show.

Entry forms are now available online: http://www.fawg.org.au/documents/FAWG%20Winseshow%20entry%20information_2018_FINAL.pdf

The success of the guild depends greatly on your participation. You may even learn a bit more about the wines you are making. The judges are experts that at any other time you would not be able to gain information from. This is your chance. Get your entries in.



Monthly Activity Calendar

Meeting Date	Proposed Activity	Competitions/ Other
8 May 2018	Bus Trip Wineries Tour—wine tasting and lunch	Wodonga Wine Show
12 June 2018		Sheila Lee Liqueur & Fortified wine mini comp.
10 July 2018	AGM No. 47	Homemade Night
14 August 2018	Old, Unusual and Mulled wine Night Wine Option	Frankston & South Eastern Wineshow. Open day Sunday 26 August
13 September 2018	Talk regarding the specific wine for the John Lee Trophy	Wineshow debrief demonstration & discussion on wine faults from the show
9 October 2018		Chris Myers Red Wine Mini Comp.
13 November 2018		Eltham Wineshow Mansfield Wineshow

Social Events and links

[1 October: Australian National Wine and Beer Show](#)

[11– 14 October: National Cool Climate Wine Show](#)

[11 November: Eltham District Wine Guild Show](#)

[November: Mansfield Wine Show](#)

[May: Wodonga Wine Show](#)

[March: Red Hill Cider Show](#)

Control click on the above links to go to the associated website.....

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