

Keith Brien Wines Newsletter No. 14 Oct. 2016

As it's been some time since my last newsletter I will explain briefly what has taken place. The auction of our North Melbourne warehouse was successful and we then faced the task of finding a suitable rural replacement for what had been a wonderful home and business for nearly ten years.

Setting a strict criteria of our needs, we eventually narrowed our search to Castlemaine, central Victoria for a number of reasons and finally, we found 'Airlie'. A grand old Federation homestead, a little neglected but inspiring and welcoming us into her life. We love the old place and all it's idiosyncrasies make us enjoy her even more. As usual the move of house and businesses was a monumental affair that still needs tidying up, but vintage intervened and finding a nearby winery to work from, meant there has been little time to relax and enjoy our new life. But, Spring is in the air and it's time to plan an open weekend and I hope you can join us for a day over the weekend 3rd & 4th Dec. in the clean country air and a tour around the garden of 'Airlie' whilst you taste my wines, play a game of petanque or simply soak up some sunshine that I have arranged for the day! .. I hope.

Cheers, Keith





Now that's a truck

& I've got to fill it!



**The First Open Week-end at 'Airlie'
70 Fletcher St. Castlemaine.
Sat. 3rd and Sun. 4th Dec 2016
10 a.m til 5 p.m.**

**Taste samples of my wines all aged to perfection in my cellar,
plus clearance sale wines make a weekend not to miss!
Cheese and bread will be available with tastings and your
friends are welcome.**

Ph: 54 270166— M: 0407 291 449

Melways Map 509 ref: D7 (where the red star is!)

GPS: 37.0529053 S 144.2385792 E

If you can't make the weekend, order & use our free delivery offer!

'Airlie' as a place or house name is not that uncommon in Australia, which became intriguing once we purchased our property. Researching the origins of the name Airlie we discovered it's Scottish heritage meaning on the verge of an escarpment or rise before a ridge.

Fits our house perfectly and is was built by a Scottish migrant, a Mr. Cameron, the Engineer of Mines in Castlemaine 1901.

There's Gold in those hills!

A fairly hackneyed expression too often used, it's ringing in my ears at the moment. We discovered our own gold mine! Sounds better than it is really but it was quite a surprise when doing excavations for our front driveway when in the fresh cutting was a clear display of an old lead coming out of the creek that had been back filled with large quartz chunks.

After some local enquiries I found that apparently during the 1850's a gold crushing plant had been set up on the hill where 'Airlie' now stands. Out with my metal detector as soon as the rain stops to see what lies beneath, so I'll keep you informed as to my discoveries—you'll hear the yell from Melbourne if I find anything!

Cheers, Keith

HUGE DISCOUNTS!

You'll have already noticed my prices have been reduced, but for my direct cellar door customers this Spring I will be offering a 20% discount on all whole dozen lots purchased before Xmas! No catches. So if you can't make the weekend—take advantage and order for Xmas using our free delivery offer.

Yes, that's 20% off all listed wines.



Just where did you
say our furniture
was??

BIG BOTTLES

Many vintages starting from 1990 will be available in magnum and jeroboam formats with smaller bottle samples. Too many to list separately so please attend this great weekend opportunity 3rd & 4th December.

Keith Brien Premium Wines

Order Form: min. 1 Dozen (mixed or straight) lots only delivered

Price: (single bottle/dozen) Bottles Dozens Total

2015 <i>Whitlands Riesling</i> 'Croucher' v'yard (\$22/*\$240)	/...../.....
2005 <i>Vincenzo's Old Vines Mataro/ Shiraz</i> (\$25/*\$265)	/...../.....
2006 <i>Vincenzo's Old Vines Mataro/ Shiraz</i> (\$25/*\$265)	/...../.....
2008 <i>Old Vines Mataro</i> (\$22/*\$240)	/...../.....
2009 <i>Old Vines Shiraz</i> (\$22/*\$240)	/...../.....
1999 Pinot Noir <i>The Winemakers Alms</i> (\$30/*\$300)	/...../.....

Less 20% \$.....

Plus delivery cost (see window) \$.....

Optional insurance (see window) \$.....

Total \$.....

PAYMENT ENCLOSED: CHQ/MC/VISA

Credit Card No exp.date...../.....

NAME.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Phone (BH)..... (AH).....

Email:.....

Special Delivery Instructions:

.....

.....

Mail to: Keith Brien Wines 70 Fletcher St. Castlemaine 3450

Tel: (03) 54 705116 or M: 040729 1449 e-mail : keith@keithbrienwines.com.au

FREIGHT RATES (Free for 2+ cases to same address Victoria)

MELBOURNE \$7.00 per case VIC COUNTRY \$14.00 per case

INTERSTATE \$17.00 per case PERTH, WA \$30.00 per case

***INSURANCE:** Victoria \$7.00 All other States \$10.00

(Covers any breakages during transit. KBW takes no responsibility for breakages during transit of uninsured wine)

“It Never Rains in Castlemaine!”

Shortly after arriving in Castlemaine we were lamentably told ‘It never rains in Castlemaine’ – well, it has. In fact since Autumn it hasn’t stopped! Particularly since I began earthworks on a new driveway, we have had approx.. 350mm of it. Don’t misunderstand me, I’m not complaining, just surprised and a bit frustrated that we haven’t had time to extend the water tank catchment before it came. The wettest winter in over 40 years in these parts has been welcomed by our garden (and most others) and the plants and trees are showing it. You can almost hear the earth sighing in relief after so many years of drought, let’s hope it’s a sign of return to normal seasons and of course I’m claiming to have organised it! Cheers,
Keith

‘Susso’ and the Non-destructive Hole.

Ever wondered how creative interpretations (Spin) became the constant mantra of all those in Public office? .. I do. I regularly stare in disbelief at Television and Newspaper releases as they pass over unjustifiable statements and acts and market them as normal or acceptable behaviour. I can actually recall times when occasionally a politician would tell the truth when asked a question, and it seems a very long while ago. Sadly today, this applies to all levels of government, confirmed recently in a Melbourne City flyer distributed locally in North Melbourne before our departure.

Since Robert Doyle gained public office I have become increasing aware of his developing media profile and unfortunately it resembles that of Mussolini, Italy’s 1930’s dictator. His strutting figure and skyward glances, jaw protruding have begun to give me the shivers. So much so I began to refer to Doyle as ‘Musso’ his wartime nickname. Under ‘Musso’, Melbourne Councils propaganda has reached comparative levels to that era, with everything from brick walls and concrete paths and multi storey Tower developments being called “Sustainable” and this has caused me to alter my references to him as ‘sustainable Musso’ and the combination ‘Susso’.

Recently Susso sent us a glossy brochure advising residents on the new metro rail tunnel with exploratory work about to commence. They advised that excavation and earth tunneling would entail **“sustainable and non-destructive digging”!**

This I believe would be a ‘first in World’ operation, firmly placing Melbourne as the technological centre-piece of earth tunneling – actually digging a hole without disturbing the soil!! It’s masterful how far we have come in this age!

Sadly SUSSO is back for another term!



Do they know something I don't?

The Bonking Frog

I should say it's the frog that goes 'BONK' because that is exactly the sound it makes, not a squeak or a croak at all, just a sort of hollow BONK!! With the steady rains since Winter set in, we have had a resurgence of activity in our ponds, it's lovely to hear the sounds of the bush coming alive again however there is nothing quite so annoying when trying to get to sleep at night, than the sound of bonking nearby. I know what you're thinking and yes that too, but the sound it makes is quite loud and just so repetitive we began to curse the bonking frog until one night – two bonks were heard! Yes, he finally had found a mate so the noise increased to 'Bonk. Bonk!' a double bonk. And bonk seems to be the word as the pond is now full of tadpoles, so full in fact he has moved to our biggest pond. Sadly his mate seems no longer to be with him – drats! He's bonking alone again and even closer to our window, although this time I have found sympathy with him, just another bloke cast out of the family home and temporarily lonely- so we wait to hear the sounds of double bonking to reassure us with world order. So go Froggy!

Thought for the week

The Answer to life may not lie in the
bottom of a bottle of wine.

But at least you should check!



Headline you won't see from the U.S.

'Nation baffled why Trump fails to promote
Charles Manson to Cabinet post'

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Address:.....

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Return this form to: **keith@keithbrienwines.com.au** OR

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