

Keith Brien Wines Newsletter No. 16

Autumn 2017

Recent blasts of winter with grey skies and welcome rain ending a long, dry summer have heralded another newsletter!

You will see from the photographs, we have been busy little beavers since moving to Castlemaine, suffice to say there has been a lot accomplished yet more remains to be done and we're loving the challenge. Plans are processing through the local Shire (slowly, slowly) to move a small cottage to the vacant site at the base of our block of land, more or less a gate house to the old mansion. Once completed it will be available for holiday rental like our Newstead chapel.

There are several firsts for me at 'Airlie' and to begin, this is the first home without an underground cellar since my move to Victoria forty two years ago and the first season I haven't done a vintage in over thirty years—yes I've hung up the spurs! No more working twenty hour days and I'm not missing the impossible hours at all, but I am missing the comradie and fun of working with other passionate wine people crafting wonderful produce, although not totally. I still chat regularly with a very good friend and winemaker in Burgundy France and despite being so far away, delight in being able to assist his vintage decisions any way I can.

So please read on and mark my open days in your diary as I'd love to catch up over a glass of wine.

Cheers, Keith

Cellar Door Open Week-end at 'Airlie'

70 Fletcher St. Castlemaine.

Sat. 6th and Sun. 7th May 2017

10 a.m til 4:30 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, bread & lunch time sausage sizzle will be available with
tastings and please, bring your friends as all are welcome.**

Ph: 5470 5116— M: 0407 291 449

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

GPS: 37.0529053 S 144.2385792 E

Preserving Keith

Well, not exactly but I'm open to suggestions! One of the great advantages of buying an old home is the garden and 'Airlie' is wonderful. Amongst so many wonders we have a small orchard and this year an abundant crop of apples and pears—what ever the parrots and cockatoos have left us! But still more than we can eat, so out with the Fowler's preserving kit and over Easter we will be making as many preserved fruit options as we can. Can't wait to finish the cellar I'm building and have our home grown produce lining the walls.



Just add a 'sh...load' of garlic!

It's wonderful living out of our own garden beds for the first time in years!.





Above:
Building the
stairway from the
new car park.



Right:
Glass in hand on
top of the
'stairway to
heaven'

HUGE DISCOUNTS!

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

Yes, that's 20% off all listed wines sold over the weekend 6th & 7th May.



View from the hole in the wall!

Hard at work creating my new cellar.

Stay Over night in the heart of Castlemaine

There are two recommended accommodation properties only a 10—15 minute walk to Airlie (just enough to make you thirsty!)

1/ Castlemaine Property Group M: 0419 833510 (Brett)

2/ Castlemaine Boutique Accommodation M: 0427 721196

Both have appealing options for 2 or more guests.

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

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)	/...../.....
2009 <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: **(Free for Vic orders over our open weekend)**

.....
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 \$50.00 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)



Never ever thought I'd be doing this again !!

Making way for our new cottage site.

Just a few landscaping pebbles.



More on the Bonking Frog

After my previous newsletter the bonking frog moved even closer to the house, (I think just to annoy me at night) as he never stopped bonking—his constant ‘bonk, bonk, bonk’ was getting on my nerves when we realised the noise was coming from our once water feature, now dry muddy trench. I also noticed that he ‘bonked’ reliably every time Cheryl spoke. Not being the jealous kind it didn’t worry me—other than warning her against kissing it to see if it turned into a handsome Prince! Then, one day sitting nearby the trench he didn’t respond to our coaxing and we assumed he had moved on. The following week I began to demolish that area to build a new staircase and carefully shovelling out the mud I found him, buried quite deeply preparing to hibernate.

So, I moved him across to our fish pond and placed him safely on the edge, to which he promptly leaped in and disappeared. In fresh water and sunlight he immediately began ‘bonking’ again much to my annoyance. He is now quiet again with winter coming on, but I’m sure he and all his relatives will return with a vengeance as the next spring season begins.



VALE

Sadly we have to report the violent passing of a rare ‘squatter’ pigeon on the lawn several days ago. It’s mate sits around us still mourning the pile of feathers.

Killed by either a stray cat or fox it’s a great pity as they kept us company over the last year, never far away from our sides.

Thoughts for the week

Dyslexics Untie!

And from Dorothy Parker

*I'm not a drinking girl, sir
One or two at the most
After three I'm under the table
After four I'm under the host*



Ok, we were driving near Launceston when we spotted these microwave letter boxes— but why were they plugged in to power??

Please help improve my e-Newsletter List

Please register... update or remove
your name from the K.B.W. Newsletter list:

Name:.....
.....

Address:.....
.....

..... Ph.....
.....

Email: