

Bruce Thiele Red Wine Club

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JUNE 2025

Ben Murray Wines

Coming Up

- **July 22nd:**
45th Birthday Gomer-sal Wines (Away)
- **August 26th:**
The Willows (home)
- **Sept 23rd**
Gibson Wines (Home)
- **Oct 28th:**
Founders Dinner Kies Wines (Away)
- **Nov 18th:**
Blind Tasting (Home)
- **Dec 3rd**
Xmas Dinner Esilio Wines (Away)

Members started arriving at 6.00pm in preparation for the AGM. Only 28 this month enjoyed the hot and cold nibbles from Crafty Cooks and the welcome wine a delicious 2024 Barossa Bianco Vermentino Verdicchio from Ben Murray Wines. The AGM commenced at 6.30 pm.

AGM

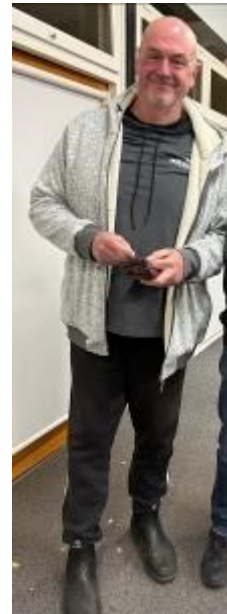
In Ian Coopers absence Peter Frick led the AGM. He read out Ian's report which thanked retiring committee members Viv and Ron Tomlinson, Sue and Tony Connelly and Bob Heinicke for their services. He also thanked Simon Granfield, Peter Boehm and Laurie Rundle for the work outside of the committee

Elections were then held with Peter Frick, Graeme Worsley and Ian Cooper nominating to stand again. Written nominations were received from Dagmar Bevan and John Ruby. John Ellis was nominated from the floor. All nominations were ratified by a show of hands, and we welcomed the three newcomers to the committee. Ian Roark agreed to be our auditor again and was presented with a bottle in thanks.



Ben Murray Wines (cont.)

With the formal part of the evening over, MC Graeme opened the evening and welcomed new members Gail and Wayne Fleming and Peter Klammet.



GUEST INVITATION

You are invited to join a group of like minded people at a Bruce Thiele Red Wine Club dinner meeting to taste, talk about, learn and enjoy wine. Inquiries btred-wineclub@gmail.com

Ben Murray Wines

Graeme then introduced our presenter Dan Eggleton co-owner Ben Murray Wines.

Who is Ben Murray? Ben Murray is not one person, but two very passionate wine-lovers. Like all great partnerships, it started with a common interest. For Daniel Benjamin Eggleton (middle name Ben) and Craig Murray Thompson, (middle name Murray) that interest happened to be a good drop of wine. They dreamed of one day crafting premium small-batch wines made with elegance and texture, and with layers of stories and experience encased within the bottle.



Daniel "Ben" Eggleton is the winemaker, the one pair of hands that nurtures the wine from start to finish. There is no cellar door, Dan opens his winery twice a year for tastings and from experience it's an event not to be missed!

Dan is a larger-than-life character and a what you see is what you get roll his sleeves up kind of bloke. To those who couldn't attend this event, you missed a lively, honest, amusing, and interesting evening. It's hard to put into words, you just had to be there!



Ben Murray Wines (cont'd)



Dan is an advocate for small winemakers and a leading voice in generating important conversations and asking hard questions at a grass root level. Dan acutely feels the plight of small producers of premium wines across Australia. He felt the need to become vocal after witnessing the difficulties of the last two vintages, given the urgency of what is at stake if no change is made. Listen to Dan speaking about this topic

on this podcast link by [clicking here](#).

Dan comes from a grape growing family in Robin Vale Victoria and had no intention of being in the wine industry. However, he kicked off his colourful career, working and learning alongside his wine industry heroes during a long tenure at Orlando Wines in the Barossa, working hands on in production in the early 1990's. He worked closely with Bruce Thiele.

Dan said he spent the first 12 months being constantly 'abused' by Bruce! Dan referred to Bruce as a father figure and he describes him as one of the best mentors you could have.

'I think you'll be all right Mate" was the best endorsement Dan could have had from Bruce. Dan laments on the sad day Bruce passed on and the feeling of loss in the Barossa Valley.



Quickly progressing his wine industry career saw Dan work through areas of Winemaking, Laboratory and Marketing within Public Relations prior to taking roles in Operations Management and General Management for different companies. Dan continues to make award winning wine under his brand Ben Murray Wines, has completed the AWAC Wine Judging course and has associate judged the Cowra Australian Wine Show twice. Dan is well networked in the industry and brings with him a wealth of knowledge, organisational ability and determination, forming consultancy Vinous Consulting in 2018

offering his experience across many facets of industry to established and start-up businesses alike. Dan has a focus through engagement on renewable resourcing, engaging business and sustainable supply across products and services for winemakers and associated industries. Dan also has extensive experience with governance roles with board positions as Vice Chair of Wine Industry Suppliers Australia, Member of the National Packaging Committee under Australian Grape & Wine Association, Barossa & Light Regional Development Board for 7 years, (Now RDA Barossa), Chaired Tanunda Primary School Governing Council for 7years, Senior President of Tanunda Football Club for four years, Chaired Barossa Gourmet Weekend and many more roles. Dan is a Barossa resident, married and has three adult children.

Ben Murray Wines (cont'd)

Onto the tastings from the Premium Selection

As much as possible, Dan embraces a philosophy of minimal intervention in his wine-making process. This means avoiding chemicals and non-natural solutions wherever possible. In almost all instances, the only additions made to the wines are minimal sulphur, and fully natural products. What it truly means is that just one pair of hands touches the wine, from start to finish.

1. **2024 Eden Valley Riesling** pays homage to the classical regional wine style of (high) Eden Valley Riesling, not an in-your-face expression, but a quieter, subtler, more age-worthy, restrained expression. At an old school 11% alc, this pristine Riesling implores you to dig deeper, revealing much complexity as it warms in the glass - lemon & lime, honeysuckle and a slatey-minerality.



2. **2024 Sapidita** (Skin Contact Italian style white) Sapidita by meaning is "having an appetising flavour" 2024 Sapidita is a 50/50 field blend of Vermentino and Verdicchio harvested together, with the Vermentino riper than the Verdicchio, the fruit was destemmed and then tipped into the open fermenter, chilled for 24 hours, then warmed up to initiate full skin contact wild yeast fermentation slowly. 8 days of twice daily pump overs (juice taken cold from below the fruit cap and distributed

over the berries to draw out phenolics and texture).

3. **2024 Rose** (Italian Blend) Field blend of Sagrantino, Graciano, Lagrein and Primitivo giving it a beautiful colour in the glass darker than most Rosés. An Italian fruit salad of sorts, the blend of four varieties together bring lift, energy and leave you wanting more. The bouquet shows raspberry, crunchy apple, olive and subtle spice notes, followed by a linear palate that's elegantly weighted and crisp.



Ben Murray Wines (cont'd)



4. **2022 Shiraz** is the product of a season dominated by the October 2021 hail storm that destroyed a lot of the forthcoming harvest across the Barossa. The reduced yield across the region ensured an intensity of flavour rarely seen in normal vintages. Fruit sourced from Marananga sub regional vineyards that are up to and over 100 years old. A savoury amalgam of spice, blue and dark fruits, with a subtle spine of French oak and natural tannins. Old world sensibility that enhances, rather than diminishes its Barossa Valley Shiraz credentials.

5. **2021 'Amina' Reserve Grenache** Dan has sourced the Grenache for many years from Marananga. Grenache is renowned in the Barossa region as a variety suited very well to the conditions. Silky tannins abound, aromas of forest floors, red berries and struck flint lift to a palate of richness and complexity eluding the bright colour and dense hues.



We then tasted wines from the **Oenophiliac Society** range. (Oenophiliac oe'no phil'i ac – meaning a lover, a devotee of wine



2024 Barossa Rosso Sangiovese Barbera

2022 Barossa Portuguese Blend, Tinta Cao, Tinta, Berracca, Touriga Nazionale

2021 Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon

Ben Murray Wines (cont'd)

At 8.00 pm we enjoyed a delicious meal from Crafty Cooks,

Lamb shanks and more red wine from Ben Murray wines, a perfect match for a cold winter's evening.

After dinner was raffle time, mystery wines from our cellar.

Lucky winners were:

John Ellis, Gail Fleming, Bob Greening, Mark Kerrigan & Tony Impett.

There was one last raffle prize donated by Dan, a bottle of 2020 Old Vine Reserve Shiraz. The very lucky winner was Ron Tomlinson



Ben Murray Wines (cont'd)

Vivienne then presented Dan with the Club's Certificate of Appreciation and thanked him for his excellent presentation.



Graeme then brought the evening to a close, thanking Kerry from Crafty Cooks.

Thanks to everyone who stayed to help clear up.

Next month we will be Celebrating the clubs 45th Birthday at Gomersal Wines and yes there will be cake!

Ron and Viv Tomlinson resigned at the AGM, but will continue for the rest of 2025 to liaise with the winemakers they have organised to present this year and will be there on the evening to set up and meet and greet them.

This will be Viv's last newsletter. Would anyone like to volunteer or maybe a couple of volunteers to take it in turns to write up the report of the monthly meeting and presentation to contribute to the newsletter?

Ben Murray Wines (cont'd)



Ben Murray Wines (cont'd)

