



Bruce Thiele Red Wine Club



Welcome to the June edition of the Bruce Thiele Red Wine Club newsletter.



Presenting.....Rick Burge

This month marked a historic event as the club had its first meeting at the new club's home in the Rowland Flat Community Hall. The Council, who has taken over administration of the former school principal's residence, makes the community hall available to community groups.

A short annual general meeting accepted the financial report and club constitution. The existing committee were re-elected and the club voted Russell Asser to become the fifth member of the team.

Guest winemaker Rick Burge took us through a short history of the Burge Family Winemakers and Wilsford Wines. It was a

fascinating story of the trials and success of Rick's Father and Grandfather,

struggling through the depression years and transitioning from the traditional fortified wines that were the mainstay of the Barossa to the table wines of today. Rick turned out to be an appropriate guest for the first meeting at our new "home", revealing that he had lived in the house during his early career.

Rick presented just three wines but we tasted a current release and a museum example of each. Rick's philosophy is that if you can show an aged example, your customers can buy the current vintage with confidence. The theory proved correct as we compared

a 05 "Garnacha" (the Spanish version of Grenache) with a 08. Rick explained that working with Grenache (like pinot) is not like painting with numbers but requires a certain flare for the unorthodox. We tasted the Olive Hill SMG (and later vintage SGM) followed by the famous Draycott. With Texas Bull Machine cooking the BBQ we were able to enjoy a 08 Clochemerle (a wonderful unique blend) with dinner and finished with a Wilsford old sweet white blended from 82,86 & 90 vintages all courtesy of the generous Rick Burge. Three lucky members took home a bottle of Rick Burge wines in our now regular door prize.



Graham Jeffery assesses the Rick Burge 05 Garnacha

Watch out for the Birthday Show at Paracombe.