

Through the Bottom of My Glass

Bellvale Wines eNewsletter February 2018

Celebrating 20 years at Berry's Creek

I may have been 12 years old when I helped plant my first vine on Long Island, but now I'm celebrating 20 years since I took the plunge here in South Gippsland. It's been frightfully hard work, but I've loved it and I've enjoyed incredible support, particularly from Athena, who's somehow managed to live an unusual double life for all those years, and my son Drew who is a brilliant winemaker in his own right. There's also been endless help from locals who have that typically Aussie way of doing so much, yet taking little thanks when it's offered.



Netting, netting and more netting

It's been a late season generally, but right now, just about my entire reason for existing this month is – you guessed it – protecting the vines. So it's all hands on deck and many hours in the tractor.

Accolades

Since I last wrote we've been thrilled by some flattering accolades from Huon Hooke and Campbell Mattinson, Jane Faulkner and James Halliday. It's always a really motivational boost that keeps you striving for improvement.

Also very excited to have been awarded a Silver medal at the Hong Kong Wine and Spirit Competition for the 2015 Athena's Vineyard Chardonnay.

Grafting

Spent part of January grafting some Chardonnay on to some unproductive vines. Fascinating to see how snugly the graft fits into the older trunks – and now it's fingers crossed that Mother Nature plays her part. It's three weeks til harvest and all hands on deck.

Opera in the Market 2018 – Tenor extravaganza

I think this'll be our 5th year sponsoring what I feel is one of Victoria's leading operatic events- in terms of getting back to grass roots, and inspiring those who may not have discovered the pure joy of opera, to experience it in this unique setting – with a glass or two of Bellvale Pinot Noir or Pinot Grigio. On March 5th this year – and it supports St Vincent's Hospital. Tickets are still available. www.operainthemarket.com.au

Stay tuned...

For Nebbiolo news - my first attempt.

Regards John