

Taupo Winetasters Club

R18

The Official Newsletter of
The Taupo Winetasters' Club
Warning: Contains scenes of serious wine tasting!

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Taupo Winetasters' Club, PO Box 690, Taupo

February 2006 Issue

R18 Editor: Colin Cockburn: colin@reap.org.nz

WOULD YOU TRUST THIS MAN?

Personally I trust him one hundred percent.

Why? Because I know from past experience, he will pick some very interesting wines for the Taupo Winetasters' Club Annual Wine Options Game and Barbecue on Sunday 26th February.

Who is he? He is Taupo Winetaster's Club member Ray Toms and not only does he get to pick the Options Game wine, he also gets to ask the questions that will identify them. ©



Options Game Quizmaster Ray Toms

WHAT IS A WINE OPTIONS GAME?

A wine Options Game is an educational quiz that tests your knowledge of the colour, nose, and taste of wine.

You are not alone as teams of four people are formed and the answer is a collaborative effort.

Teams are tested on eight wines consisting of 4 whites and 4 reds.

The identity of each wine is hidden from participants.

Five questions are asked about each wine.

If you're not very confident, here's the helpful bit, each question is accompanied by three optional answers.

If the correct answers are selected, the identity of the mystery wine in your glass is revealed.

So all you have to do is look, sniff and taste and the answers will leap out of your glass! ©

MEET THE EXECUTIVE

A meeting of the Federation of Wine and Food Societies of New Zealand Inc. is to be held at Maureen Sando's Home on Saturday 18th February and you are invited to meet the executive committee members at a Barbeque following the meeting at 1.30 pm.

You are requested to bring a bottle of wine to share and a contribution to the potluck barbeque meal.

If you would like to attend, please phone Maureen on 378 6402 by Friday evening.

The Federation meeting commences at 11.30am and will be chaired by the Federation President, Trevor Steiner from Auckland with Taupo's own Maureen Sando in attendance in her role as Federation Secretary. Maureen is also the Society Representative for

Rotorua.

Other executive members expected to attend are the first Vice President, Taupo's Ray Toms, the second Vice President, Stuart Brooker from Wellington, and the Immediate Past President Ann McGregor from Auckland.

Society representatives, Don McEwan from Christchurch, Kenneth Sheldrick from Hamilton, Phillipa Harrison from Hawkes Bay, and Robyn Anderson from Palmerston North may also be present.

There are currently 14 member societies in New Zealand including the Taupo Winetasters' Club. Other affiliated societies are Auckland, Christchurch, Gisborne, Hamilton, Hawkes Bay, Martinborough, Nelson, Palmerston North, Rotoura, Tauranga, Wairarapa, Wellington and Whakatane. ©

NEXT MEETING

Annual Options
Game
& Barbeque
Sunday 26th February
2006
Gather from 3.30 pm

At the home of
Tom & Maureen Sando

163 Tamamutu Street Taupo
Options Game starts at 4 pm

\$10 Per Person

Plus B. Y. O.

Barbeque Meat, Salad, & Wine
Swimwear is an option for afterwards
as it will surely be a long hot evening
on the deck overlooking the cool pool
in the garden below.

*Teams from other clubs are
welcome to participate but don't
think you'll beat the Best Wine
Tasters in Taupo though!*

RSVP by Friday 24th February
To: Maureen Sando: Phone 378 6402

CONVENTION DEADLINES

Friday 10th February 2006 saw the passing of the first deadline of the Federation of Wine and Food Societies of New Zealand's 27th Annual Convention which is being held in Taupo this year over the first weekend of May.

Either payment in full, which is \$696 per person or a \$100 per person deposit, was due on that date.

The next deadline is Friday 14th April when the balance must be paid.

If you required accommodation a deposit of \$100 per room should have been added to the initial registration payment.

The recommended accommodation for out of town convention goers, or locals who want the total hedonistic experience, is the convention headquarters, the Millennium Hotel and Resort Manuals Taupo.

This is a boutique Mediterranean style hotel with magnificent views of the lake and mountains. It is only minutes away from many local activities, the shopping centre and the airport.

You can relax in style and comfort in luxurious lakefront rooms that open onto the beach or your own private balcony above the beach. The rooms feature Californian King size beds, spa baths, and individual air conditioning. The shared facilities include a tennis court, heated pool and the unique hot grotto plunge pool.

The pricing is on a share twin basis and the rooms range from the Superior Studio at \$150 plus GST per night, up to the Deluxe studio at \$180 plus GST per night. Breakfast is available at \$25 per person.

If the Millennium Hotel and resort Manuals Taupo is beyond your budget, cheaper hotel and motel accommodation is available close by.

If you are a Taupo resident, this convention will be an unforgettable wine and food experience right on

your own doorstep. Any closer and you would trip over it.

This is your chance to attend a fantastic celebration of food and wine without any of the accommodation and travel costs normally associated with this annual convention when it is hosted in other parts of the country. Reservations for individual functions may be allowed for locals at the discretion of the organising committee dependant upon seating being available.

To register your interest for individual functions, or the lot, contact either of the organising committee members listed in the panel on the right of this page to discuss costs and preferences.

They would love to see Taupo Winetasters' Club members enjoying the convention. ©



A Superior Studio room right on the lakefront at Convention headquarters, the Millennium Hotel & Resort Manuals Taupo

For more Convention Information:

EMAIL:
taupoconvention@nzwineandfood.org.nz

POST:
Convention, PO Box 690, Taupo.

PHONE:
Maureen Sando:
07 378 6402 or 0274 279 4173

Ray Toms:
07 378 8197 or 027 281 0837

Final Payments Due 14th April 2006

Committee Reduced in Size for 2006

Members of the Taupo Winetasters' club had their chance to have a say when the Annual General Meeting was convened at the Acacia Bay home of Ley Lewis on Sunday 4th December 2005.

The meeting was followed by a hearty Christmas lunch catered by Partyline during an afternoon of fellowship and relaxation.

The Annual General Meeting commenced at 12.51 pm and the main change effected was a reduction in the number of people serving on the committee. This was bought about because four long serving committee members, **Robert Johnston, Rosalea Sullivan, Ley Lewis** and **Colleen Watkins**, retired from office and only one vacancy was refilled.

Alex Harré was returned to office unopposed as President, and he thanked the retiring committee members for their great contributions to the club during the years they held office.

Betty Sowersby was returned as Secretary, along with **Peter Potter** as Treasurer. **Maureen Sando, Janet Shrive** and myself, **Colin Cockburn**, were returned to the committee benches along with newcomer, **Andrew Martin**. **Maureen Sando** has been reappointed

in the job of Cellar Mistress, and I have been appointed for another term as your newsletter Editor and Publicity officer with **Janet Shrive** continuing her assistance with printing and distributing postal and hand delivered newsletters around town.

Ray Toms has been seconded again to represent the **Federation of Wine & Food Societies of New Zealand Inc.** executive, and accountant **Oliver Nees** has been seconded as Club Auditor for another term. The Convention Cellar Master, **Paul Sanderson** has also been seconded to liase with the committee on convention matters.

Cassie Blair, our senior honorary member is automatically on the committee by right of her long service to the club.

Upon recommendation by Club auditor Oliver, the members willingly voted to keep the Annual Subscription pricing the same as last year, \$30 for a single and \$50 for a double.

President **Alex Harré's** report for 2005 was well received and Auditor **Oliver Nees** was thanked for his rigorous scrutiny of the clubs account books over the year. The meeting closed after a lengthy 20 minutes at 1.11pm.

With the serious part of the day out of the way members made their way to the Ley's dinning room servery and loaded

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their plates with hearty Christmas themed fare consisting of Partyline's superb hot carved citrus and sugar glazed ham on the bone and rare roast beef rump with Horseradish Cream accompanied by a selection of baby potatoes, roast vegetables, and salads. Those who had an appetite for sweets returned for lashings of fresh fruit salad, pistachio meringues with mascarpone cream, and Rich Plum Pudding with Rum Custard, all washed down with fine aged wine from the club cellar.

As the current holder of the **Grand Champion Trophy**, **Ray Toms** had the pleasure of handing it on to a new recipient.

He decided it was an appropriate time to be a little bit serious and award it on the grounds of meritorious service to the club during the year.

He named several contenders including President **Alex Harré**, Secretary **Betty Sowersby**, and Cellar mistress **Maureen Sando**, but it was I who landed the award for producing this newsletter.

Thanks Ray, It looked really good on sitting on top of my Television in the lounge over Christmas. ©

MOTORBIKE ACCIDENT

New members, Michael and Carol Johnson's 16 year old son, Alistair, suffered a serious trail bike accident on the recent New Year holiday weekend and is now being treated in the Burwood Spinal unit at Christchurch for spinal injuries.

Michael and Carol are currently taking it in turn to be with Alistair to help him recover sufficiently to come home.

Please take time to give the Johnson's your support and encouragement through this very difficult time. ©

Taupo Winetasters' Club

COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

President: **Alex Harre**

Phone: 07 377 0287

Email: taupo.harre@xtra.co.nz

Secretary: **Betty Sowersby**

Phone: 376 7506

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Cellar Mistress: **Maureen Sando**

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Treasurer: **Peter Potter**

Phone: 378 0016

Committee: Cassie Blair, Andrew Martin, Oliver Nees, Janet Shrive, Ray Toms.

YEAR 2005 AS THE PRESIDENT SAW IT

President Alex Harré's Annual Report to the A.G.M.



Taupo Winetasters' Club President, Alex Harré, blurred by success.

Taupo Winetasters' Club president Alex Harré was pleased to report on another successful year of interesting activities that saw the club gain some new members. This is his report to the Annual General Meeting that was held in December.

"There was an interesting range of visiting winemakers including Auckland's **Tony Ivicovich** from the West Brook Winery and Gisborne's **Denis Irwin** from Matawhero Wines.

From Hawke's Bay we hosted Esk Valley Estate's **Gordon Russell** and Ngatarawa Wine's **Alwyn Corban**.

The mid-winter highlight was the Luncheon at Manuels Edgewater Restaurant featuring winemaker **Peter Robertson** from Brookfields Vineyard. Another visitor was the King of Spain, **José Hernandez**, who is an Auckland based wine merchant representing Eurowines.

Other excellent club activities included the **Annual Options Game and Barbecue**, the **Cellar Night**, **The Presidents Big Night Out**, **The Waiheke Lunch** featuring the wines of **Saratoga Estate**, the popular **Knees Up At The Nees** garden party, and the now official summer kick start at Kinlock, **Mrs Sowersbys Sizzling Summer Soirée**.

The new venue at the **Indulgence** café is working well although some people complained that the seats took a bit of getting used to. However the supper supplied is very good and it is a convenient location for all club members.

Thanks to **Ley Lewis**, **Robert and Betty Sowersby**, **Diana and Oliver Nees**, and **Maureen and Tom Sando** for allowing their homes to be used for functions.

The club cellar has benefited from the larger than usual number of visiting winemakers and club cellar mistress, **Maureen Sando**, has done a great job in gradually reducing the quantity of wine stored while raising the quality of stock held. Cellar wines have been used more extensively this year by adding aged wines to the winemaker's presentations and making use of the wine at other club functions, including the special vertical tastings.

A big thank you must also go to the committee for their work in planning and organising activities this year with special thanks to **Oliver Nees** for his forward thinking financial planning which allowed us to allocate expenditure more easily.

Secretary, **Betty Sowersby** has done well in mastering her computer and the minutes. This, and her many other communications, proves she is a great communicator!

We are sorry to lose **Rob Johnson**, **Ley Lewis**, **Rosalea Sullivan** and **Colleen Watkins** from the committee. We offer a big thank you for their contributions and assure them that they will be missed.

The **Federation of Wine and Food Societies of New Zealand's 27th Annual Convention in Taupo** is looming in May 2006. All the organisational work is done and registrations are starting already.

Thanks to **Ray Toms**, **Maureen Sando**, **Oliver Nees** and **Paul Sanderson** for their efforts. We hope Taupo Winetasters' Club members will be able to come to at least one of the convention functions, as this will be the best wine and food convention ever! It has become obvious that there needs to be a change in the way the Annual General Meeting is planned and your thoughts for the future are welcome. For example is December the right time? Would more people come to a cheaper, less formal occasion? I urge you to give it some thought ready for when the subject is raised next year for discussion.

In conclusion, as **Peter Potter** would say, there's wine in the cellar and

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Single Subscription \$30; Double \$50

Cheques Payable to:
"Taupo Winetasters' Club"
At the next Meeting

A Round Up Of Other Recent Functions...

MRS SOWERSBY WEATHERED THE DAY WELL



Mrs Betty Sowersby was not quite as formally attired as this on the day of her Soirée. Look for photos next month.

The day of Mrs Sowersby's Sizzling Summer Soirée dawned quietly.

The date was Sunday 21st January 2006 and as usual, the sun rose in the east and traversed relentlessly westward. On its route this day some ominous dark clouds drifted across its path and threatened to burst with rain. But they didn't. Instead they proved very useful in shielding those on the earth below from the full heat and glare of the sun. So it was a warm but pleasant day as thirty Taupo Winetasters' Club members and visitors gathered during the late afternoon in *Mrs Betty Sowersby's Rosby Retreat* garden at Kinloch.

Even *Mrs Hyacinth Bucket*, the infamous television organiser of grand soiree's who strives to keep ahead of the Jones in the polite English middle class social circles she struggles to compete in, could not have commanded better weather from the man in charge above.

The partial cloud cover and lack of wind made sampling the great variety of wines everyone supplied a very pleasurable experience.

There was everything from crisp Sauvignon Blancs through to mellow reds for all to try as a prime hogget slowly roasted on a spit.

The club's resident chef departe, *Ray Toms*, expertly basted the hogget to

perfection with his secret marinade over a steady flame for 6 hours before serving the tender cuts in the early evening.

Only a few days before the unsuspecting animal was grazing peacefully on the grassy slopes of *Len Clarry's* Tutira hill farm in Northern Hawkes Bay.

But at least the lamb, and most guests arrived through the front gate of Rosby Retreat, unlike *Sue Toms* who mysteriously emerged from the depths of the gully along the western flanks of the lawn. We suspect this could have been a knowing ploy to avoid the ever-vigilant treasurer, *Peter Potter*, and his honesty box, which had to be filled with ten-dollar notes from everyone who attended to cover the cost of the hogget, spit hire and gas.

Her excuse was that she had elected to take a healthy invigorating walk on the shortest route from her home across the other side of the gully.

Unfortunately her enthusiasm for keeping fit by walking did not rubbed off on her son, *Nick Toms*, who merely walked to the garage attached to the family home and drove the long way around in his car. But at least he came in past the honesty box.

Some time later, *Paul Sanderson* and *Rosalea Sullivan* also tried to out flank the treasurer with the same approach, but being the old soldier he is and survivor of many a money collecting campaigns, our treasured treasurer *Peter Potter*, soon had their money safely tucked away in his money box too.

In fact if an award for collecting fees without fear or favour were invented, Peter would win it hands down!

This was a point I did not overlook when it came time to handing on the *Grand Champion Trophy* I had been awarded at last year's AGM luncheon! Apart from those already mentioned there were many other contenders for the trophy, including some of the visitors, but I decided to spare them from embarrassment.

Although I did note for future reference, the keen competition between the Hawkes Bay Kinloch holiday contingent of *Carol and Mike Pryce*, and *Lyn and Bob Craig* on the various games set up for amusement on the lawn.

Also the *Reverend Derm Buchanan* was observed being very unchristian towards his opponents on the Croquet court as he bashed their croquet balls

right off the lawn.

Massage therapist *Alan Jones* was seen swinging his golf club in a very therapeutic manner on the golf green while *Janine Kasik* revealed a hidden talent at hitting the bullseye on the dartboard.

Club member, *Jo Bergman*, was a top contender for the trophy as she managed to leave her handbag on the back door step of her home when the taxi arrived to pick her up. Her vulnerable handbag was safely secured after a quick phone call to a trustworthy neighbour.

Our able auditor and taxi organiser, *Oliver Nees*, would never ignore a damsel in distress and came gallantly to her rescue when it came time to pay the fare.

To relax after her fraught arrival, Jo retreated upstairs to Mrs Sowersby's kitchen to prepare her offering for the evening meal. After about an hour she emerged carrying one very small dessert bowl. We are not sure what was in it but by the length of time it took to prepare, it must have been very good! Driving on the putting green proved to be a problem this year much to the consternation of the resident green keeper, *Mr Robert Sowersby*, who had spent many hours grooming a perfect green around the Retreat's one and only hole.

However the problem was not due to the use of the wrong choice of golf club, it was caused by a couple of cars that were seen to drive over the green without knowing what it was.

Greenkeeper Robert was heartbroken as he watched hours of work creating a level playing field being destroyed under the wheels of these vehicles that included a big dark green SUV with "*Wally 1*" on the number plate. The offending driver, *Wally Gross*, even wanted to park on the green until he got told in no uncertain terms by Robert to back off!

If the trophy were awarded for the most pretentious T-Shirt, our chef departe, *Ray Toms* would have won it. Boldly emblazoned across his chest, where no one except Sue would dare to go, was the pretentious label "Wine Connoisseur". However the back of his unique red wine dyed cotton fashion statement from Hawaii, revealed all with the words "Cleverly Disguised as a Responsible Adult".

The trophy could have gone to Mrs Sowersby's ever-dutiful husband Robert for ingenuity thanks to his novel sun umbrella which consisted of an exquisite antique blue plastic sheet

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draped over the strategically placed clothes line. This is the second year Robert has aired this novel sun shade and it maybe the last as the aging process seemed to be taking it's toll on this wonderful object de arte.

If the trophy were awarded for being late it would have been given to **Ironman Peter Taylor** .

Imagine, freshly dug, piping hot, minted new potatoes with a little chopped parsley and butter sliding off them, salted to taste, sitting as an accompaniment on your plate with the spit roasted hoggert.

Well imagine is what we all did as **Ironman Peter Taylor** and his keenly anticipated new potatoes arrived, albeit freshly dug from his garden, but long after the lamb had been devoured, in fact most were onto dessert by the time Peter and Colleen rolled in exhausted from an arduous run/walk race across the tussock covered slopes of the Tongariro National Park. The 27 kilometre **Tussock Traverse** took them from the Rangipo Desert to the Whakapa Village the long hard way on foot.

All in a day's work for Ironman Peter, but we're not so sure about **Ironman Widow Colleen!**

If the trophy had been awarded to whoever devoured the biggest lamb shank it would have been residing in the lounge of cellar mistress **Maureen Sando** by now. All the practice she gets in the cellar warding off cellar rats must have finally paid off as she managed to whisk away the biggest shank from under the noses of some pretty big competitors. **Ray Toms, Ley Lewis** and **Andrew Martin** had to be content with the left overs.

President **Alex Harre** proudly sported a new nose, as if he needed too. Like everyone else he needed something to rest his glass on and his genuine kiwi designed glass holder made out of a piece of number 8 fencing wire staked in the ground did an excellent job. Sure beat having to sit within arms distance of a table, but why it was called a nose I don't know.

Andrew Martin, stood out in the crowd. He could have had the trophy for being our most loyal Australian for not only did he arrive in a classic Australian car, a mint condition 1968 Chrysler Valiant previously owned and lovingly garaged daily from new by one little old man owner, he also sported the loudest shirt. Featuring lurid coloured electric guitars on a jet black background, it was supposedly a one off original that he bought in a clearing sale in London a

few years ago. Even though it was specialised to clear it seems young Andrew still paid a pretty hefty premium for the shirt due to its promised uniqueness.

However his illusion was shattered recently while watching a music video in which he noticed the sizeable and aging drummer for ZZ Top wearing an identical shirt.

With his illusion shattered, he consoles himself with the thought that perhaps it was the only shirt of this design made in his size.

However despite all the above mentioned people offering themselves for contention as Grand Champion Trophy winners I decided to award the trophy to **Mrs Betty Sowersby** as a mark of appreciation for all the work she and Robert have done yet again to successfully launch the Taupo Winetaster's Club on its way into another busy New Year.

Mrs Sowersby's Sizzling Summer Soiree would never sizzle with out her drive and determination to get all the details right and round up, cajole, coordinate and even bribe all the various talents needed to make the function a success once again. This year she was under particular duress as she is waiting to be called into hospital to have a hip replacement operation. We wish her well with the operation when it finally happens and a very speedy recovery. ©

Another Jolly Good Knees Up



Hello, Hello, Hello, what's going on here? Its ok, it's just a measure up on the petanque court between Knees Up hosts, Diana and Oliver Nees on the left, and guests Merle and Alan Hamilton.

Despite the unseasonably cold and blustery weather nearly thirty people turned out at 6.30pm on the evening of Wednesday 23rd November for another jolly good Knees Up At The Nees.

The frivolous name of this annual fixture on the calendar of the Taupo Winetasters' Club translates into playing games while tasting interesting wine from the Club Cellar in the garden of club stalwarts, **Diana and Oliver Nees**.

Although I wasn't there myself, all accounts agreed that Club cellar mistress, **Maureen Sando**, selected some excellent wines from the club cellar for all to enjoy as they teamed up to play a variety of garden games such as Petanque, Hole in One Golf, Darts, and Quoits.

The hostess, Diana, kindly provided nibbles with the games, and then when the sun set, the café venue, **Indulgence**, supplied a take away supper consisting of all their usual goodies while coffee was served in the warmth of Diana and Oliver's spacious lounge.

Evidently some either hadn't heeded the advice to have an early tea beforehand or the cold weather made everyone overly hungry because emergency pizzas had to be bought in. Visitors included well known local cleaning franchise owner, **Tom Clelland** who called in to get a few tips off the club's golfers for his daughter, Tammy, who has achieved success on the national women's golf circuit and is now in America pursuing a her career. Past member **Vince Udy** popped in to renew his acquaintance with everyone between his busy work schedule in various forests around New Zealand.

Ray Toms was awarded **The Grand Champion Trophy** on two counts. First, for confusing everyone by arriving in a brand new **Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge Nissan Navara**. He had everyone wondering which cycling celebratory was parking in the driveway. Was it **Bevan Docherty, Mark Inglis, Aaron Slight, Steve Gurney** or maybe even The Minister for Sport and Recreation, **Trevor Mallard**? No it was only Ray! To add insult to injury, Ray was giving his shorts an airing for the first time this summer and the sun's fading rays dazzled as they reflected off his lily white legs.

Sorry Ray but I'm only reporting what I was told by several reliable witnesses including the orange.

They said **Robert Sowersby** acted like an unobtrusive orange all night in order to discretely report to President Alex Harré whose misdeeds qualified them for the trophy. But some said Robert acted in such an acidic manner when playing some of the games that he was more akin to a lemon. ©

THE PRESIDENT DRESSED WELL FOR HIS BIG NIGHT OUT

Taupo Winetasters' Club President, Alex Harré, presented a vertical tasting with a Dalmatian theme using wine from the club cellar on the evening of Wednesday 2nd November.

It was the *President's Big Night Out* and he showcased the excellent work our Club Cellar Mistress, **Maureen Sando**, is doing to maintain and enhance the value of our Club Cellar. Alex chose a vertical tasting of two very different flights of wine. He pursued the Dalmatian winemaker theme with his choice of six *Villa Maria Private Bin Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc* wines from 1996 to 2004, and four *Delegat's Reserve Hawke's Bay Cabernet Sauvignon* reds from the 1997 to 2001 vintages. The venue was the Indulgence café on the corner of Horomatangi and Ruapehu Streets and thirty members attended including Peter Taylor's guest, **Ken Parker**, who is a registered valuer and

property consultant based in Rotorua. Despite his protestations and claims of artistic licence, Alex lived up to the pre-publicity printed in this newsletter and the local *Taupo Times* which assured readers that Alex was well qualified to present a good tasting because he was raised amongst the Dalmatian winemaking community of West Auckland.

In keeping with this theme, he dressed much like a good Dalmatian winemaker would for Sunday Lunch with the family.

He was very dapper in black trousers, shiny black shoes and black casual dress shirt with understated grey pin stripes.

Although not all of the pioneering West Auckland winemakers came from Dalmatia, it was near enough for our early British ancestors to dub them collectively Dalmatians because they were so different from the Anglo Saxon model of how people should be. Funny how we don't change when it comes to labelling anyone who is different?

However, I doubt we will be toasting Muslim winemakers 100 years on from now unless they invent wine with out alcohol!

Alex summoned up a tale or two of his early days out in the wild west of Auckland.

One such story involved a Dalmatian member of the Kumeu branch of the ancient order of *Free Masons*.

This winemaker had a few tricks up his sleeve to make a profit during the war years. One such trick was to add beetroot juice to his red wine because the American servicemen stationed in the region loved their wine to be dark red in colour.

However his down fall came when he got caught syphoning off brandy he had distilled for resale to the servicemen instead of using it to fortify his port wine as required by Her Majesties New Zealand Customs department. He made a killing selling his illegal brandy until someone dobbed him in and he was jailed for "Adulterating Food"!

With so many cellared wines it was not surprising that we discovered a corked or oxidised wine amongst them. However it was also surprising that we only struck one faulty stopper and it taught us a good lesson in the difference between a corked wine and an oxidised wine.

Of the two 2002 vintage Villa Maria Private Bin Marlborough Sauvignon Blancs we opened, one was corked. This means that the stopper was damaged right from the day it was inserted in the bottle leaving the wine

with a musty odour akin to damp socks. Alex pointed out that a corked wine is entirely different from an oxidised wine.

Oxidisation occurs when air has leaked into the bottle through the stopper over a long period of time and the wine turns to a flat vinegary brown sludge. Members used the opportunity to educate themselves with the taste and smell of the corked wine for future reference.

The two vertical flights Alex assembled taught us how wines progressively change in taste as they mature from the green and grassy young product we normally buy and consume straight away.

We learnt that careful cellaring will transform most wines into a well rounded and mellow product. There was not a wine in Alex's selection that was not enjoyable (the corked bottle excluded of course) and all credit for the careful cellaring must go to our club cellar mistress Maureen Sando.

Now the cellar is at the size it is, Maureen's main goal is to carefully maintain stocks of good quality wine for club functions and to make sure that all vertical flights built up over the years are added to and expanded appropriately.

The club also maintains the cellar to have older wines on hand to supplement the current vintages guest winemakers supply. Over the years our guest winemakers have been delighted and surprised with the quality of some of their vintages that are no longer available. ©

A BIRTHDAY QUIZ

Complete this Sentence:

"There's no F _____ like an old F _____."

AND WIN A PAT ON THE BACK!

Turn this page upside to read the answer printed below.



Yesiree, Taupo Winetaster's Club member, Robert Sowersby, is no fool, he knows it's his birthday on 5th March.

Answer to the above Question: "There's no Friend like an old Friend"

DIARY DATES

Saturday 18th February

Meet The Executive

Sunday 26th February

Annual Options Game and Barbecue

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday 5th March 2006

5.30pm at the home of Ray and Sue Toms

8 Antonia Place, Kinloch.

Bring pot luck BBQ food and a bottle of wine.

Contributions Welcome

Contact Colin Cockburn:

colin@reap.org.nz

Deadline for next issue:

Sunday 5th March