

PENNY'S WORTH

Number 27 - March 2008

THROUGH TROTT'S GLASSES

Never the same as anyone else's, the views of the late **Greg Trott** (1934-2005) were many and varied; often grand visions, distractions, musings or downright daydreams.

As the new Millennium approached, Trott firmed up the idea of a coffee table publication of his view of his much beloved McLaren Vale (and slightly broader) region. With the input of a good many disciples, some nicely chosen words and quality, quirky images, the book came together, but it took almost eight years to bring the project to posthumous fruition.

Rave reviews have seen strong sales of what is a whimsical snapshot of the region through Trott's eyes – the characters he most loved, the "feminine folds" of the Willunga Hills and many an inspiring vista over water, vines or the valley.



Trott's window on the world.

On sale at our Cellars for \$80 a copy, this is a fine gift or collectable, and is perhaps the first true look at the entire McLaren Vale region from a genuine, heartfelt, everyday perspective.

STRIKE BOWLER

Our ball sports man, **Dale Wyman**, took top individual honours at the Galvanized Wine Group's Christmas thrash at Cross Road Bowl. It was suggested that the close proximity of Dale's and **John Croydon's** places of residence may have facilitated some small amount of pre-event practise, but they reckon it's what happened on the night that counted.



Dale pinned it!

LOVE TONY

As good as it gets when **Tony Love**, Food & Wine Editor of "The Advertiser" raved about **The Kitchen Door** eatery at the Cellars and rated it a 16.5 pointer – very high on his review table. Just published (March 19), the review asks, "Is this our best winery restaurant?"

Besides noting the excellent Penny's Hill and Mr Riggs wine offerings, Tony Love heaped praise on the food offering, noting especially the efforts of chef **Ben Sommariva** and our man at the front, **James Spreadbury**.

A terrific accolade for Ben, James and their entire team, and more so as Chef Ben was on holidays! Thanks **Brett** and **Lochie**! Good scouts, well prepared.

NEW HANDLE

Just as one door is a Cellar Door, so the restaurant has become **The Kitchen Door** – a self explanatory title for a door through which we hope many will continue to pass!

The naming process was aided by one **Tony Brooks**, the logic being a parallel to the oft used 'cellar door'.

THE KITCHEN DOOR

MID-WEST MOB

Predominantly from the Mid-West of the USA, a recent Epicurean Wines visitor group enjoyed a "show & tell" as viticulturist, **Toby Bekkers** pruned his way through the origins of all 1.9 acres of the Penny's Hill cross-over Grenache block where very old vine stocks were planted to modern trellis and for good measure, were crossed over each other to reduce natural vigour and aid the fight for quality. The group hosted by Aussie **Nicole Standish**, who manages Epicurean matters here and across the ocean, loved their taste of McLaren Vale be it the food, the wine or the hospitality.



Tiffany Wilson (Pinnacle Wines, Alabama), Toby Bekkers, John-Paul Berger (Republic, Kentucky), Nicole Standish, Gary Poirer and Jim Warren (Estate Wines, Michigan), and Jim Chanteloup (K&L Wine Mercants, San Francisco) posed against the vines in February.

SP-RING-FIELD TIDINGS

The visionary behind "Springfield House", one of Adelaide's most exceptional residences, and co-founder of the eponymous "Springfield Wine Club", **Marty Ewer** recently married **Emma Lardner**, the well-known face of Grahams Jewellers. Yes, it certainly has a "ring" to it! The happy

couple, along with **Daryl** and **Jane Stillwell**, headed up a Springfield Wine Club summer lunch at Penny's Hill recently which saw a number of prominent Adelaide wine lovers match their palates to the best of "The Kitchen Door".



Emma Lardner and Marty Ewer – all aglow at Penny's Hill prior to tying the knot.

VANCOUVERING

Mixing with not so dry Canadians, **Parky** and **Parky junior, David**, attended the recent Vancouver International Wine Festival. Highlights included Penny's Hill Shiraz 2005 being included in "Benchmark Basics" and a Top 100 score for Penny's Hill Vintage Fortified Shiraz 2004 – described as a "monstrous treacly, raisiny, fruit bomb" to be matched with aged British Columbia cheddar, stilton and walnuts and Belgian chocolate.



BC Distributor, Jennifer Delf, Parky and Sales maker Jana Maboney



Howie & Dowie... sounds like a new label?

STAFF RHYMINGS

We welcome newly appointed Functions Co-ordinator, **Sarah Howie**

and girl about the restaurant, **Lexie Dowie** (Parky's niece). Sarah will look after weddings and special events working closely with **Kym Pilkington** and **James Spreadbury**, and Lexie is with us at table until she pursues overseas exchange opportunities later in the year. Wowie!

ONCE A CAMERON

Our very capable Officer of Accounting and Outvoicing, **Chelsea Cameron** took up a husband, one **Paul Knight**, green-keeper at the Royal Golf Course of Willunga. Married at neighbouring winery, Tapestry, on February 16th, the happy young couple honeymooned their way round Malaysia, possibly playing around. Or two. Best wishes for a long time on the fairway Chels.



Chelsea and Paul teed off a new life together.

SEA & VINES

June 8-9: It will be BIG! New talent **Abbe May** from WA (a star of SBS "RockWiz" and the west's best new talent) with her backers, "Rockin' Pneumonia" will join with local crooner smoothy, **Greg Meyer** and the swingin' **Robert Johnson Band** for a sensational musical line-up. Long-time fave, **Dwight Adams** is having a break from live performing and will be missed after six straight PH appearances! Thanks heaps Dwight for the memories! And for the menu, chef Ben and Team are in fish, chips and abalone mode. Yum! For VIP bookings and other details call **Sarah, James** or **Kym** at Cellars.

TAKING STOCK

Around the time of Yule, wine and food scribe of magazines many, **Nick**

Stock was loaded aboard one of the resident sleighs of Penny's Hill, and complete with Biggles attire to his head, was thrashed against howling head winds of the Willunga escarpment. He's definitely coming back for more, but has asked that a passenger's windscreen be considered as his eyes have only just stopped watering!



Nick (with the mo) Stock on the grid at Penny's Hill with pilot Parky.

PALLETIVE CARE

Mr **Lino Cecon** of Goodwood SA is the lucky winner of our 2007 Carrot Competition for which he receives a full 64-case pallet of Penny's Hill, Mr Riggs, The Black Chook, Woop Woop, Timbuktu and a stay in the old house! Congrats Lino. Next time you're down, we must get you on the floor!



CELLAR CLUB

Since it kicked off late in 2007, the **Galvanized Cellar Club** continues to grow membership at a healthy rate. Look over the benefits, and the wine selection and take advantage of us! (SEE ATTACHED).



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CELLARS OPEN 10am-5pm - 7 DAYS.