

March 2007

## Dear Friend of Hummocks Station

This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> eNewsletter..... the editorial staff (me) have been very busy over the past few months so this is a little later being sent out than planned. However that means we have even more news, so we hope you find our activities of interest and that you visit us again soon.

This issue is dedicated to canines, especially Penny our 19 year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, who passed away recently. She is now resting in "Penny's Paddock", amongst the Chenin Blanc vines planted last year. I am sure we will have a special commemorative label for that vintage in a few years! Bella, our now 3 year old tricolour cavalier featured on our web site, and whom you probably met when you stayed at Hummocks Station, has a new sister "Spice Girl", apparently so named because of her beauty and affectionate good nature. "Spice" as she has become known, is also a Cavalier, is just 9 months old and an absolute delight, and will jump onto any welcoming lap with little persuasion. Apparently she has a few crooked teeth, causing her withdrawal from the show ring, but the breeder Kim Brooksby at Angle Vale, wants to breed from her when she is older. Likewise Bella, who had 3 appealing pups last July, may have 1 more litter later this year.

Below our favourite photo of Penny & Bella welcoming guests at Hummocks Station (you will see Spice Girl next issue), and recent photos of Hummocks Station



On to more business activities, Hummocks Station has

- Registered on the SA Tourism data warehouse ([www.southaustralia.com](http://www.southaustralia.com)) and already we find more than 90% of our bookings come from the internet
- Featured in the Advertiser "Affordable Holidays"
- Sponsored accommodation prizes in the Yorke Peninsula "Boat Load of Fun", which resulted in us having free advertising on SA FM. This particular radio advertising was heard by our Bank Manager.....so THANK YOU Yorke Peninsula Tourism!!!
- Advertised in the Northern Argus Wedding Feature in March this year (we now have a Honeymoon Suite available as well as full wedding service/function facilities for that special occasion)
- Donated accommodation for a silent auction for the Cancer Council Gala Charity Dinner last month
- Attended Small Business Workshops on record keeping and internet marketing, both sponsored by Yorke Peninsula Development Region

### **We Welcome**

- **Rosalie**, our off-site Manager who will look after you in Merry and Roger's absence. Married to local farmer Allan, Rosalie has been an enrolled nurse, and had hospitality experience. She has 7 (yes, seven) children and is licensed to drive semi trailers. Certainly a "Jill of all trades". Rosalie has already been commended highly by guests on her fastidious approach to cleaning. Thank you Rosalie
- **Katrina**, who helps Rosalie when required, is also married to a local farmer, Jarrod. Katrina is about to have another baby, and we look forward to her rejoining the team later in the year

### **Functions**

Hummocks Station has had numerous functions since opening just 9 months ago. Our facilities seem just perfect for groups, which have included formal dinners, a small seminar, family birthday parties, and group get togethers. We had a group who enjoyed the magical production of Romeo and Juliet on the lawns of Sevenhill Winery recently, then came back to Hummocks Station for more merriment. Next time we hope to hire a bus, so all the group can enjoy the food, theatre and wine of the evening. Another recent group had a dress up happy hour (we have a large array of silly and dress up clothes) that set the mood for the large group BBQ dinner, for which Hummocks Station organised all the BBQ meat. Guests then only had to bring the salads etc.

All of these have been immensely successful with guest comments including:

- “quiet space, central meeting room, unobtrusive surroundings” New Horizon Seminars
- “best venue for a party...the flight next morning was the icing on the cake” Lloyd, Snowtown
- “brilliant chill out time, excellent facilities, topped off with a morning flight over the salt lake” Lesley, Scotland

As well we have had many couples, who were often the only guests, and able to enjoy the serenity Hummocks Station provides. Guest comments include

- “booked for 2 nights, stayed for 4....that should say it all” Margaret, Mt Isa
- “a haven set in historic setting” Rosie, New Zealand
- “Loved the ambience, peace and quiet. Extremely clean, well equipped and comfortable”, Andrew & Beck, Tasmania

### ***Flying***

We have now had quite a few guests enjoy a morning flight with Roger, a pilot with nearly 40 years flying experience. The local Lochiel Lake is proving to be the most popular flight destination with the visually amazing and ever-changing combinations of colour and light on the salt lake. Other admired scenes include the Barunga Ranges although it is rather brown at the moment. Everyone who takes a flight is given a “Certificate of Flight”, which includes a photo of them in the plane.

Roger and I have also had some great Flyaways, including to Weekeroo Station in the far North of SA. This was a great experience and we enjoyed some real outback hospitality just after Xmas. Thankyou Pauline and family! The terrain seen from above is amazing; and we saw lots of kangaroos, goats and sheep. The pilot is also most obliging...if I don't get the photo I want, he turns back and goes past again, so I can capture that special photo! Try that request on a commercial flight! The visibility from our plane, Foxy Lady, is attracting a lot of interest from Stations where sheep and goat spotting times can be significantly reduced with a plane like ours, which can also land in a short distance on a paddock when necessary. Roger gave a demonstration of this STOL (short take off and landing) at the Goolwa Classic Air show last month. This certainly attracted a lot of interest, and especially from pilots, who were amazed at the performance. Flying from Snowtown to Goolwa is also interesting, seeing the lower Clare Valley, then over the Barossa, Adelaide Hills then above Strathalbyn and onto Goolwa. Perhaps the best flying experience I have had was last weekend when Roger & I had a couple of days off and we flew to Robe. I had always admired the beauty of the Coorong, but flying over it for the first time, over the pristine white sand dunes, stunningly blue ocean and rugged coastline was utterly amazing. On the way home we saw the mouth of the river so clearly, and numerous birds, especially pelicans along the waterways. Sadly, we also saw too vividly the decline of the water levels, as we actually landed on normally non existent beaches, within the Coorong. A must do again flight!!

***The Vineyard*** keeps changing with the Shiraz, Petit Verdot and Chenin Blanc planted last year reaching the first wire and giving a lovely vista of greenery amongst the very brown paddocks. Our Shiraz suffered some frost damage which robbed us of the few grapes we expected this year. However there is no stopping our glory vines which are giving superb shade to guest's rooms in the afternoon sun and still provide a perfect setting for happy hour with our guests of an evening. This has become a tradition enjoyed by all!

***The Windfarm***, about to start construction on the nearby Barunga Ranges is considered by locals to be a great bonus for the town. There will be Wind Farm Tours to the sites in the future. Snowtown has also gained a new shop “Scoopys”, an icecreamery and café, serving eat in and take away meals. Our guests have given it a good rating already.

Roger & I hope to see you back, maybe with some friends, to enjoy Hummocks Station hospitality again soon. If you have a special event or just want to getaway, please contact us. Our next enewsletter is due in July 2007. If you do not want to receive any more eNewsletter please send a return email with Unsubscribe in the subject line.

**Warm Regards**  
**Merry Canavan and Roger Duance**

**Hummocks Station, Barunga Homestead Road, Snowtown, SA 5520 Australia**  
**PH: 8865 2520      MOBILE: 0417 084 377**

**Web: [www.hummocks-station.com.au](http://www.hummocks-station.com.au) Email: [info@hummocks-station.com.au](mailto:info@hummocks-station.com.au)**