

March 2008

Dear Friend of Hummocks Station

This year is going so quickly, I think Roger and I had hoped that life would slow down a little in "retirement"!! Since our last eNewsletter we have attended a wine conference in Italy, hosted dinners and get togethers for the Festive Season, had guests from France, UK, as well as locals from Kadina and Port Broughton ...seems that sometimes it's just good to get away, even for just one night (especially Valentine's). And saving the best news to last; Hummocks Station has just won its 1st Award!! Read on for more details.....

The images in this issue start with the exciting developments at the nearby Barunga Ranges. We flew past the first turbine with the door of the plane OFF (my side). Roger said we would get a clearer shot this way, and we did. We took off thinking we needed to fasten anything inside the plane that may move or get blown away, but in fact the one door off made little difference to the wind inside. As I got used to not having a window next to me I relaxed and managed to get some good shots that are clearer without any reflection of the Perspex window. On repeat flights without a window we have built up quite a library of images of the Snowtown Wind Farm. If anyone would like an image of the wind farm taken at the same height as the turbine, please contact us at info@hummocks-station.com.au. The next photo of Bella and Spice Girl is taken with our complete 2008 harvest of Shiraz grapes in the trolley.....the birds took the remaining 99.99%. We were unprepared for the early harvest probably due to the drought and heat waves we have been having, and did not have any bird scaring devices or nets in place to protect the crop. Not to be perturbed, we have now prepared our own 1st Vintage Shiraz Jam. Estimated cost greater than \$450 ounce, we can now offer a unique souvenir to our guests at only \$10 jar! The third photo of Bob Turner and Ted Clifford after a Xmas lunch we sponsored for Lumeah Homes. They are standing next to an original dray, which stands near the dry Red River Gum creek at Hummocks Station. (story below). The photo on the right is of Stacey and Roger, after a flight in Foxy Lady



Special Highlights

Hummocks Station has won its first award!

On Friday 29th February, Roger and I collected the winning award to Hummocks Station in the Business category of the Adelaide Plains Cup Festival. The award was presented by Peter Goers, ABC radio personality and patron of the Emu Awards, at the Dublin Institute. This award is to recognise those who have "stuck their neck out and had a go", and is promoted by the Plains Producer and Churches of Christ Life Care. Marketing Manager for Clare Valley Tourism, Christine van der Jeugd officially opened the Adelaide Plains Cup Festival. The Emu Award is now taking pride of place in the Function rooms at Hummocks Station. Merry and Roger would like to thank everyone who has assisted in transforming the former derelict building into the unique rural retreat Hummocks Station is today. We are putting together an album of photos that show the pre and post photos. Sometimes Roger and I can't believe the changes we have made.

Adelaide Plains Cup Festival Art Wine & Gourmet dinner & Art Exhibition was held on Friday 29 February, as an official part of the Festival. The theme "Friends of Last Super" revolved around Marek Herbert's stunning "Friends of Last Supper" painting which hangs magnificently on the western wall of the Matheson dining hall. Guests were wined and dined, with catering by Carol's Homestead Café and local wines, including Crabtree Wines from Watervale. Thanks to Rasa & Richard of Crabtree Wines for their generous support. Over 50 art works from the Germein Art Focus group, and pottery from Chris Guthleben, of The Fig Tree, Kangaroo Island made up the Art Exhibition. The following 2 days drew a steady crowd, with an official opening by Kirstie Jamieson, Director of the Port Pirie Art Gallery on the Saturday. Hummocks Station hopes to have artwork and pottery for viewing and sale, in the function rooms permanently. Thanks to everyone who came during the Adelaide Plains Cup Festival, and especially Bridget Sara of the Wakefield Regional Council and James Maitland, Mayor, for their support. If you missed out on coming to events at Hummocks Station for this year's Festival, WATCH OUT for our plans for 2008/9.

Attended the Merano International Wine Festival & Culinaria, to see European trends in grape growing and wine making. There was ample time for us to conduct some serious wine sampling with different wine styles from each region of Italy. We noticed the complete lack of screw caps there! It was also fascinating to look out the window from our guest house and observe how the grapes were trellised up the sides of the mountains in this cool climate. Especially as the view from the other window looked straight towards the Alps, which were topped with beautiful white snow. Needless to say white wine varieties predominate in this cool climate region. My souvenir of Merano was a much warmer jacket and scarf, which was a blessing when we left Merano at 1 degree. Still needed it on return to London at 7 degrees but the 37 degree temperatures 48 hours later on arrival in Adelaide was surreal! While we were away, Rosalie our offsite Manager looked after Hummocks Station and many guests, so THANK YOU Rosalie.

WE have also-

- Had some great new photos taken on the property taken by a guest who just happened to be a professional photographer. We wined and dined the couple, just arrived from the UK, with great Aussie delights including prawns on the barbie, Kangaroo steaks and some great Clare Valley red wine. He sent us some magnificent photos of our rooms and property. Thanks Clare & Dan! Watch out for our new look website soon
- Had full page features on Hummocks Station in both the Northern Argus and Plains Producer, were promoted on the SA Tourism event promotions, Year of the Outback Calendar of events and totaltravel.com.au
- Sponsored accommodation prizes in 4th Annual Yorke Peninsula "Boat Load of Fun", Snowtown Hotel Darts Club and the Snowtown Red Cross Raffle
- Passed the annual Wakefield Regional Council Hygiene Inspection
- Welcomed Phil Barry, CEO Wakefield Regional Council, and the Mayor James Maitland, with councillors and staff to Hummocks Station while they were on the way to visit the Snowtown Wind Farm. They were all pleased to escape the soaring heat outside and eat their lunch in the coolness of the function rooms. Later Roger took them on a mini tour of the rooms, which were surprisingly cool despite the outside temperatures. We are thankful that we have installed air conditioning in this hot weather!
- Almost completed restoration of the veranda on the eastern side of the building. The cement has been removed to show the beautiful and original cobblestones. The present challenge is cementing between the small stones to make a walkable surface, yet retain the old look. Thank you Josh & Stacey for your hard work

Favourite new quotes from guests at Hummocks Station

- **"Once you have seen the place you will fall in love with it!"**, Kylie and Bradley, Clare SA after having their wedding photos taken at Hummocks Station, Oct 07
- **"You have turned a working place into a palace"** Bob, Kingston SA Dec 07
- **"Hummocks Station is a special place with a lot of history: we will be back to learn more"** Tak, SA Feb '08
- **"Lovely weekend, we felt at home. A truly relaxing experience"** Melanie & Raphael, France Nov 2007
- **"Great place to unwind. Good advice on day trips"** Clare & Dan, UK Jan 2008

Functions

- Sponsored and enjoyed the company of the Snowtown Lumeah Homes and LAG Group for a Xmas lunch. We were delighted with the large group who came for lunch and we were entertained by stories of Bob Turner, 92 who recalled stores of his childhood outings to Hummocks Station for Sunday School picnics. Thanks also to Ted Clifford, another local who shared both some memories of Hummocks Station as well as reciting poetry. It was an honour for Roger and I to be part of this group and share their memories. We thank the dedicated staff at Lumeah Homes for bringing the group out to us
- Catered for the Snowtown ladies WISE Xmas dinner with 36 ladies keeping the decibel levels high with a great networking and fun night

Flying

Roger has done a lot of flying, especially over the past couple of months. As we are the SA agent for the Aeroprakt Foxbat aircraft, he has ferried two planes down from Brisbane to SA with their new owners. Not being in a hurry, and waiting for the right weather conditions they have flown Brisbane to Narromine for a night stop, then home. First plane went to Aldinga with John, then next to Weekeroo Station near Broken Hill, home to Pauline. Congratulations to you both on your new "toys" & happy & safe flying! Hummocks Station is having a Foxbat Fly-in on June 14th and 15th. There are 2 airstrips available, a short one at Hummocks Station for Foxbats (4 have already booked), and one on Stew Michael's nearby airstrip for the Jabiru's etc who need a longer strip. We are nearly booked out with accommodation, but come and have a look around and share some serious "plane speak" and join the group to the Clare Valley in the afternoon. A dinner in our function rooms that night with special entertainment is planned. Special discounts for Foxbat owners!

The Vineyard is struggling with the drought conditions. The canes are quite small and we are hoping for new season rains to refresh and invigorate the newer plantings of Petit Verdot and Chenin Blanc. Even the roses are looking stressed, but as you sit under the shade of the glory vines on the western verandah and look out over the nearby Barunga Ranges; the colours of the vineyard seem quite green compared to the natural red and dry terrain. The sunsets and night stars are still magic!

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 will later in 2008. If you do not want to receive any more eNewsletters please send a return email with Unsubscribe in the subject line.

Warm Regards
Merry Canavan and Roger Duance

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