

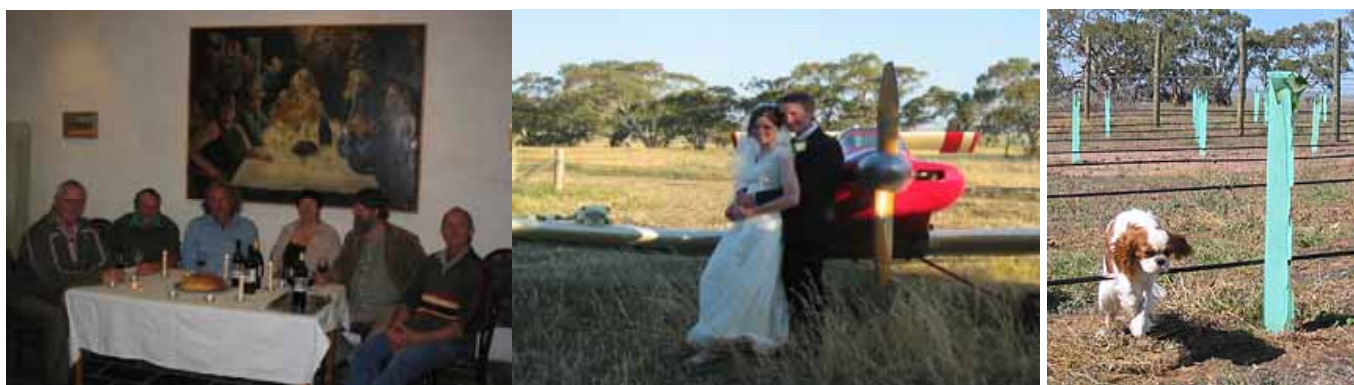
October 2007

## Dear Friend of Hummocks Station

Weddings, Wine and Wireless and WORK are keeping Roger and I busier than we ever thought we would be in retirement!! Yes, we both have retired from our "professional careers" and are delighted that life at Hummocks Station is keeping us busy, and enthusiastic about the many exciting changes happening. We hope that you enjoy reading our news from the past few months.

The images in this issue start with "Spice Girl", our new effervescent Cavalier King Charles Spaniel who is proving to be a terrific companion and sister for Bella and excelling in her new position of Chief Guest Greeter at Hummocks Station. Spice is proving to be so popular that we are designing a personalised business card for her. Her special skills are lap warming, allowing constant patting and hugging by small children (and some who are not quite so small), portable floor cleaner, who can consume her evening meal in approx 9 seconds. Please ask for her business card the next time you visit, or email for a copy [info@hummocks-station.com.au](mailto:info@hummocks-station.com.au)

Below L to R: The painting "Last Supper" with some of the cast and artists Anna and Marek Herbut; wedding photos of local couple Kylie and Bradley (and aviation enthusiasts) with Roger's Pazmany aircraft at Hummocks Station; Spice Girl checking the new vines



In the past few months Hummocks Station has

- Attended the tri annual Wine Tech Exhibition at the Adelaide Convention Centre, where we saw many of the latest developments in wine technologies. We are convinced that we will be using screw caps for our wine bottling next year
- Advertised in the Port Pirie Recorder, Blaze Media, SA Tourism event promotions, and interviewed by rural ABC radio regarding the recent Art, Wine and Food Function
- Welcomed a significant number of guests returning for their 2<sup>nd</sup> and even 4th visit. A BIG thank you: and we are so pleased you are enjoying what Hummocks Station can offer
- Enjoyed superb after dinner entertainment by guests....he brought the guitar and voice, she brought her magnificent voice of Convent Garden experience. We supplied the pot belly fire. What better way to end a weekend of flying and "plane speak" for many aviators who were attending a fly-in at a nearby neighbour's airstrip.... especially with a glass of red and onsite accommodation! Thank you Barbara and Paul.
- Sponsored accommodation prizes in the Yorke Peninsula "Boat Load of Fun"
- Attended the Jim Barry Clare Valley Tourism Awards night presentations
- Completed our 2 brand new Ensuite bedrooms. Both have King Size beds, bar fridges, tea and coffee making facilities, toaster, as well as access to the internet. Perfect for that special occasion, or just relaxing in at the end of a busy day

**Special Guests** Lawline and Ian Wheaton returned to spend their 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Wedding Anniversary at Hummocks Station in May. It was an honour for Roger and I to share this special evening with them and hear even more stories and history of Hummocks Station as we sat around the blazing log fire in the Barunga Homestead. Ian and Lawline were married in 1957 and lived on the property until moving to Streaky Bay in 1977. We have named the guest kitchen the "Wheaton Kitchen" in their honour. Lawline writes "in the Station Days, this room was the Shearer's Lounge. When shearing was not in progress, it was thought to be used by the Station hands." The following day as we walked around the property Ian pointed out a massive gum tree he had planted as a lad; the "bullock tree" still with chains intact, the derelict travellers hut adjacent to the runway.....and numerous yarns of how life was in rural SA 50 years ago. Thanks for the memories both of you and we look forward to you coming back to Hummocks Station for your 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary! We will reserve the ensuites for you!

**Groups** work so well at Hummocks Station. We have had quite a few girlie weekends, and met such delightful families. Recently Stephanie and 3 generations of her family booked the weekend, had perfect weather and sent us some great photos taken during their stay. Likewise Sarah and her group of 3 travelling families stayed after 3 weeks of camping. They all enjoyed the hot showers and comfortable beds and the ensuites were described as "luxury!" A couple of their group also enjoyed a scenic flight in Foxy Lady". They sent a CD of their photos taken at Hummocks Station.

We intend to start a "**Guest Photo Gallery**" on our website. If you would like to add your favourite photo(s) taken at Hummocks Station, please email to [info@hummocks-station.com.au](mailto:info@hummocks-station.com.au). We have also just had the first "hens" weekend. We supply a great room to relax, DVD and music.....they bring food and drinks. Roger and I couldn't believe how much food they brought. Then the group all contributed for a morning flight for the hen. Best Wishes for the upcoming wedding Caroline! We have another group of ladies booked for a hens weekend later this month, seems the right getaway for such an event. They have booked the local Snowtown bus to take them on a winery tour and lunch at Clare Valley, so if you are thinking of a similar getaway, Roger and I can assist you with bus, BBQ supplies and local information.

**Rosalie**, our off-site Manager will look after you in Merry and Roger's absence. Rosalie is frequently praised by guests for all her efforts to make guests welcome. She recently found a drill and repaired a banging roof sheet, certainly beyond our expectations. Thank you Rosalie. We congratulate **Katrina** and Jarrod on the birth of Ocea Louise, and we look forward to Katrina her rejoining the team soon.

### **Functions**

Hummocks Station has continued to have wonderful functions and as our facilities grow, our guests can have an even better experience. We have purchased more than 100 matching upmarket restaurant quality chairs for the dining room, and a colourful selection of casual chairs, sofas and tables. An antique chandelier adds ambience and interest to the décor, which also now includes art work for sale, a wool press, shearing apparatus and other colourful effects. Recent functions include

- "Xmas in June" party with a visit from Father Xmas, live entertainment by band "Little Black Dress" which had guests bopping until the early hours of the morning, and an incredible 16 course Chinese banquet prepared in the commercial kitchen by "local chef extraordinaire Rob" for the 60 guests
- Hosted the Regional Meeting of the Bed & Breakfast and Farmstay Association. Catering by local Carols Homestead Café included gourmet treats of "Selection of cold meats served on mini damper rolls (meats including emu, beef & ham), SA prawn kebabs served with lemon myrtle sauce, marinated chicken drumettes served with a spicy bush salsa". A tantalising snapshot of menus we can provide for your next function!
- Food, wine and art show featuring the unique painting "Last Supper" by local artist Marek Herbut. The photo above gives a glimpse of the painting, and some of the featured cast as they appeared on the day, below the art work. Local artists praised the venue for the art show, and are likely to add Hummocks Station to the agenda of future art exhibitions in rural SA. A weekend starting with a sumptuous gourmet food, wines and a "Last Supper" art theme, followed by a 2 day art exhibition and art focus workshop, is planned for Feb29 -March 2nd 2008. Contact [info@hummocks-station.com.au](mailto:info@hummocks-station.com.au) for bookings and/or more information.

### **Flying**

We have still had a little time for flying in the Foxbat, or Foxy Lady as we call our magnificent yellow bird. Sometimes it is just a short flight in the late afternoon when the wind drops, and flying is at its best. We have flown over the nearby Barunga Ranges and got a bird's eye view of the latest developments with the Snowtown Wind Farm. We can observe the new roads between the bases for the pylons, and generally lots of activity and changes each time we fly over. We then follow the dry creek and try to spot kangaroos, sometimes successfully. Even when we aren't flying, we get an opportunity to see some great aircraft when Roger, a authorised Weight and Balance Authority, weighs an aircraft....its true, he actually places the aircraft wheels on a scale one at a time, does a lot of sums to calculate the centre of gravity, and can then determine the safe flying parameters for the plane. Recently we have seen a beautiful Tiger Moth at Hindmarsh Island, an awesome Chipmunk at Parafield. Foxy Lady has a new home, as in a new hangar, adjacent to the airstrip....bad news for the resident owl but good news for the plane.

**The Vineyard** is bursting with new season's growth at the moment, especially after a good rain last week. We hope to have our first vintage next year with the Shiraz. I never seem to have enough time to train my new babies...the Petit Verdot and the Chenin Blanc but those left by the rabbits are growing well. The rabbits have been a real problem this year as they dig around the vine guards looking for food and pull up anything they can. We have probably lost more than 40% of vines planted last year, to rabbits and drought. However the roses planted at the end of rows, particularly Mr Lincoln are gaining more buds each week. They should look very colourful in the next few weeks.

**Snowtown** Hotel has changed hands, and we wish our friends Annabel and Mark the best in their new endeavours in Snowtown. What a farewell party!!!! THANK YOU. We always enjoyed superb meals by Mark, and know our guests did too. We welcome Nicole and Nigel, who with their young family intend to make the hotel "family friendly" They offer our guests 10% off meals. **Carol's Homestead Café** has recently opened next to the Hotel, and offer a great menu over weekends AND wonderful expresso coffee!

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 newsletter will be 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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