



# MARGARET RIVER Wine News

MARGARET RIVER WINE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

89

APRIL 2005

## Margaret River Vintage Stomp 2005

Margaret River to have its first ever end of harvest Vintage Festival at Voyager Estate.



The Margaret River wine region in Western Australia will have its inaugural Vintage Festival on Sunday, 1 May 2005, in the grounds of Voyager Estate winery. To coincide with the Festival, Voyager Estate will also be hosting the debut of Noble Rot Theatre Company, who will be performing the great French dramatist Molière's play, "Don Juan", in a season of dinner shows from 29 April to 14 May 2005.

### Vintage Stomp Festival

The Vintage Stomp will celebrate the most important time of the year in Margaret River – harvest. Supported by the Margaret River community, the Festival will be a chance for locals from all vineyards and wineries in the region to kick up their heels and relax in the knowledge that the grapes are in for another year. Starting at noon, Voyager Estate's splendid grounds will be transformed into a magical fairground: a feast of food and wine, wandering minstrels, roaming circus artists, "living" sculptures haunting the Estate's famous traditional gardens, a parade of scarecrows (those hardworking protectors of the vines!), local crafts, dancing, wine-stomping competitions, and barrel races, all culminating in "The Blessing of the Harvest" by the god of wine himself, Bacchus.

"One of Margaret River's best kept secrets is that May is a glorious – some say the best – time of the year. The summer crowds have



Painting by Paul Rigby

gone, the skies are blue, and the golden-red hues of the autumn vines are breathtaking," says Cellar Door Manager, Sean Blocksidge. "The locals in the wine industry also love this time, because it heralds the end of their working year. The last of those tenderly nurtured grapes have been picked and the process of wine-making has begun. It's a time to celebrate!"

## Croser returns to Margaret River Wine Show

Margaret River Wine Industry Association is delighted to announce that Brian Croser, winemaker and Executive Chairman of Petaluma will be returning to Margaret River to take the role of Chairperson at this year's Margaret River Wine Show. The event is to be staged 29th November to 2nd December 2005.

The Margaret River wine show is the best opportunity for the region's producers to showcase their wines alongside their peers. Brian's involvement, with his national and international experience will be of enormous benefit to all involved.

Brian Croser has been closely involved in the administration and evolution of the modern Australian wine industry and is pleased to return to Margaret River in 2005.

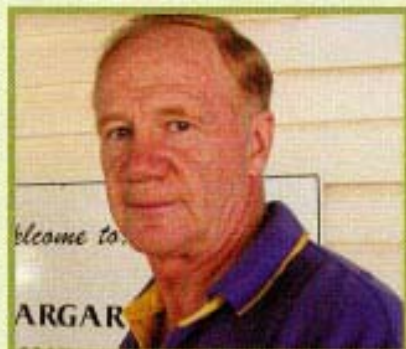
"It was a pleasure to Chair and judge the Margaret River Wine Show in 2004 and I look forward to contributing to the 2005 Show. The judging panel looks great; some of the very best palates and most considered and independent wine opinions in the country.

"The real pleasure is to see the evolution in the diversity, quality and style of Margaret River wines as each of the subregions begins to exert climatic and soil influence as a synergy between variety and region.

"The greatest contribution the show can make is to provide leads for producers to understand the very best choice of variety and viticultural technique for their specific sites. Secondly it can help create a

regional will to make wine better such as the concerted and determined effort that has seen the almost complete elimination of *Bretannomyces* as a wine fault. Thirdly it helps to remind a fashion influenced fine wine audience of the long term commitment that has been made in Margaret River to the very highest standards of wine quality and consistency of approach, particularly with Cabernet, Merlot, Semillon/ Sauvignon Blanc blends and of course Chardonnay", he said.

The judges for the 2005 show are: Brian Croser (Chairman & Panel Leader), Iain Riggs (Panel Leader), Vanya Cullen, Steve Pannell, Tim White, David O'Leary.



## From the President

Normally this time of the year this column would be about harvest but with the current happenings at the Association I thought it appropriate to bring you up to date on where we are at.

Most of you would be aware that Caroline Ing your Executive Officer has resigned and finished up on the 1st April. Caroline is off to do other things and we wish her all the best.

With the resignation earlier this year of Raelene Pethica this leaves us with two vacancies to fill. Your executive committee has been working on this matter and has decided on a course of action. The Executive Officer position will become a Chief Executive Officer position and this is the first position we will fill. Advertisements will be appearing in the papers over the next week. The next position will be a membership and events officer position and the first job of the CEO will be to fill that position.

The long term aim is to also have an Environmental Manager/OH&S officer position.

This will only come about when we have secured funding for that position.

Your Executive Committee has taken this path because we believe that it is the way to set the Association up for the future challenges which we face as region and also to capitalise on the Margaret River name for all of our benefit.

Sally Scott has kindly committed to helping out in the office for the month of April as there will be a gap between Caroline leaving and the new CEO taking over.

We will be announcing more initiatives as they are developed up, as this is just a part of the long term plan to make your association a professional and effective body that will give value back to its members and help to secure our long term future as a premium wine region.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter or if you just wish to discuss it with me.

*Ron Fraser*

Ron Fraser, President

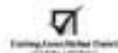


## CHEMCERT WA CHEMICAL USE COURSES

Meeting all your training requirements

- Basic Course – 2 day course, nationally endorsed at Level 3
- Reaccreditation with "Spray in Vineyards" – 1 day, to update vineyard spraying skills and maintain ChemCert 5-year accreditation
- **New** entry level "Using Chemicals Safely" – at Level 2 designed for workers who spray under supervision or those new to the industry

Phone/fax: 9341 5325; email: farmcarewa@bigpond.com.au



## Thinksafe Small Business Assistance Program

WorkSafe is providing up to three hours of free safety and health advice to small businesses (less than 20 employees) in the following high-risk industry areas:

- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing;
- Construction;
- Health and Community Services;
- Manufacturing;
- Retail and Wholesale; and
- Transport and Storage

WorkSafe will arrange for an independent occupational safety and health consultant

to visit your workplace and prepare a simple safety action plan.

To access this service obtain download the application form from the web.

[http://www.safetyline.wa.gov.au/page/in/edcngenID110\\_form.pdf](http://www.safetyline.wa.gov.au/page/in/edcngenID110_form.pdf)

(WorkSafe will ensure that information provided by employers under the ThinkSafe Small Business Assistance Program is not provided to WorkSafe Inspectors. This is NOT an enforcement program.)

## AMCOR FIBRE PACKAGING

Perfect Packaging Solutions  
for the Margaret River  
Wine Industry



Show your customers you care  
Use WA-made packaging from Amcor

Phone Customer Service  
08 9434 0434 or Fax: 08 9434 3481

Offset &  
Digital Offset  
label printing  
is now available in  
Western Australia

**Supa Stik**  
Labels & Packaging Solutions

Now Offer Premium quality  
Offset label printing  
for small or large runs

- With
- In-line embellishing - rotary screen printing, hot foiling & embossing
  - Outstanding reproduction on all paper stocks
  - Efficiency of wide web manufacture

Tel: 08 9441 5001 p. 08 9441 5000  
[www.supastik.com.au](http://www.supastik.com.au) [sales@supastik.com.au](mailto:sales@supastik.com.au)

Proudly West Australian owned & operated



It's a fine day to refinance.

Take a fresh look. Consider ANZ.

Chris Burke  
Agribusiness Manager  
149 Bussell Highway,  
Margaret River  
Tel: 08 9757 9939

[www.anz.com/rural](http://www.anz.com/rural)



An Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited ABN 11 000 157 322  
01 2805 1000

*In water one sees one's own face*



# Vintage report

## - Margaret River Region

Yields are average or slightly below average due to smaller bunch weights than anticipated rather than lower bunch numbers. Weather conditions since veraison have been very favourable for even ripening with the result that some white varieties (Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon in particular) were harvested 7-10 days earlier than normal. Some excellent flavours with high acid retention are being reported by wineries, especially for Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon.

Yields for Merlot are average whereas yields for Shiraz appear to be slightly below average. Compared with last year, acid levels are higher for the same level of sugar maturity which is probably a reflection of the cooler night time temperatures. Colour extraction during ferment for both these varieties also appears to be greater than last year. This combination of high acids, and good colour and flavour suggests that quality will be excellent.

Abundant Marri blossom whilst harvesting the white varieties meant that damage from birds was kept at a minimum during the early stages of vintage. Most of the blossom has since gone resulting in an increase in bird pressure. However, this pressure is still relatively low compared to previous years.

In summary, average to below average yields in both white and red varieties are expected with high quality expected from most varieties. Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon look particularly good for the white varieties. Ripening has been easy so far due to favourable weather conditions which has meant that harvesting dates have generally been slightly earlier than average for the white varieties and about average for the red varieties. Once again, the region is experiencing a 'compressed' vintage which is causing some logistical problems for wineries and contract harvester operators. It continues to be a low pressure season with respect to pest and disease.

## Merchandise

**Labels poster** - The 'Labels Poster' depicts the labels of 68 producing members and looks simply fantastic. The poster comes in an original state for \$15 or block mounted for \$35.



**Tasting glasses** - Tasting glasses etched with the exclusive Margaret River Wine Brand are available for \$33 for a set of 6. These XLS glasses are recommended by experts as the optimum tasting glass. Discounts for members.

**Personalised number plates** - The number plates can really make your vehicle stand out. With plates starting from \$330 call MRWIA to see which numbers are still available.

Good quality food, cooked and served simply.  
No fuss, just great taste and great value.

GNARABAR  
BISTRO

Breakfast from 8am  
Bar open from 4pm  
Happy Hour on Thur & Fri 4.30 - 5.30pm  
Dinner from 6pm

p: 9757 1583 e: sunnys@assured.net.au

Margarets Beach Resort - Cnr Resort Place & Wallcliffe Rd, Gnarabup Western Australia



## New printing technology available in WA

This month Labelworld, kind sponsors of MRWIA's membership book, released the first Gallus TCS 250 offset press in Western Australia.

Since April 2004 Labelworld has belonged to a group of leading label printing companies across 5 states. Being innovators in the marketing and production of a wide variety of labels and packaging products Labelworld invested substantially in new machinery and the refurbishment of the factory in Perth.

The brand-new offset press enlarges the varieties of substrates with value added aspects such as offset foil, screen and embossing. By focusing on customer needs the TCS 250 is a premium quality label printing machine with state-of-the-art technology and extremely economical for small, medium and large sized runs.



A PROUD SPONSOR OF THE  
MARGARET RIVER WINE SHOW

Offset Press Launch  
April 2005

Labelworld is now releasing the first  
Gallus TCS 250 offset press in WA.

Please take the opportunity to contact  
our dedicated sales team for  
information or visit us in our newly  
refurbished premises.

... with you throughout the seasons

71 Paramount Drive, Wangara, W.A. 6065 Australia  
Tel: 61-8-9302 4155 Fax: 61-8-9302 4574  
www.labelworld.com.au

# Vintage Stomp's Barrel Roll and Waiters' Race

## – an invitation to participate!

On May 1st Vintage Stomp 2005 – Margaret River's inaugural end-of-vintage festival - will be hosted at Voyager Estate: a community event to celebrate the harvest of the grapes. Voyager Estate's splendid grounds will be transformed by Margaret River's own Noble Rot Theatre Company into a magical fairground: wandering minstrels, roaming circus artists, 'living' sculptures haunting the Estate's famous classical gardens, a parade of scarecrows, local crafts and of course all of the frivolities that come with a vintage festival – grape stomping, wine spitting, barrel rolling, music, dance, food and wine, all culminating in The Blessing of the Harvest by the god of wine himself – Bacchus.

If you're keen to be a part of the celebrations and take home one of the inaugural Stomp trophies please read on...

### The Vintage Stomp Barrel Roll

Calling all cellar hands and winemakers...

**Q.** How long does it take to roll a half- full barrique in a southerly direction for 30m on a grassed slope at a 27° incline if the wind is blowing at 20 knots in a north westerly direction?

**A.** Depends who's rolling it.

**O.K.** How about along the Avenue at Voyager Estate for 30 metres?



Think you're the fastest, slickest, fanciest darned barrel roller in the South West? Here's your chance to prove it. Enter yourself into the Vintage Stomp Barrel Roll by emailing Shae at [cellardoor@voyagerestate.com.au](mailto:cellardoor@voyagerestate.com.au) or phoning 9757 6354.

**Prize up for grabs: Trophy plus lunch for two at Voyager Estate to the value of \$200.**

#### Conditions:

- all competitors must supply their own barrels
- barrels must be barriques, not modified in any way, although painting or decorating is encouraged
- barrels may be delivered to Voyager Estate for safe keeping for one week prior to the event
- protective footwear must be worn during the race
- event organisers will not be held responsible for any damage you do to yourself whilst displaying your (hopefully) well- honed skills

of Margaret River's own inky Cabernet Sauvignon on a white - clothed tray while navigating a serious obstacle course of chairs and tables without spilling a drop? Put your talents to the test and pit yourself against the wealth of service experience in the region. Join in Vintage Stomp's Waiter's Race by emailing Shae at [cellardoor@voyagerestate.com.au](mailto:cellardoor@voyagerestate.com.au) or phoning 9757 6354.

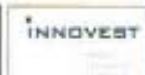
**Prize up for grabs: Trophy plus lunch for two at Voyager Estate to the value of \$200.**

#### Conditions:

- formal waiter's uniform must be worn
- table and chair barriers must not be moved in any way
- any spillage on the white cloth will require competitors to return to the start and begin the obstacle course again
- glasses to be filled by the Official Pourer only
- first competitor to the finish line without spillage declared the winner

### The Vintage Stomp Waiters' Race

Spent years in the hospitality industry? Got a steady hand? Confident carrying a glass



**MARGARET RIVER NURSERY & IRRIGATION**

**SUSTAINABLE / ORGANIC FARMING SEMINAR**  
MRNI invite you to attend a *Nutri-Tech Solutions* (NTS) 3-day SEMINAR in Margaret River at the Watershed Winery, 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> May. Come and learn about your soils and plants, plus examine the latest biological techniques enabling vigneron to grow premium fruit with intense flavours.

Graeme Sait and Joel Williams will be presenting a regional specific seminar, covering hot topics like *Vineyard management, Pasture/Crop-Cover management and Soil Management in the South-West of Western Australia.*

**TOPICS: Mineral, Microbe, Plant and Pest Management.**

**Human Health Management** (Free for participants): \$20 for public  
Tues 10<sup>th</sup> May 7-9:30pm.

**ENQUIRIES: SUZIE MUNTZ**  
JM & YVONNE ROSS  
PH: 089 757 2891



**SOUTH WEST FORKLIFT SPECIALISTS!**

**HIRE**  
from \$20 per day  
Over 700 hrs also available in the South West

**HIRE**  
Casual, Long & Short Term

**SALES**  
New and Used

**SERVICE**  
Fixed Rates on Site



**OPERATOR TRAINING**  
Refresher Courses



**47 McCombe Street, Bunbury, Halifax Lia. Phone: 9726 2111 or 131 607**

Margaret River Wine Industry Association Incorp.  
PO Box 204 Margaret River WA 6285  
Ph 08 9757 9330 Fax 08 9757 9331  
[mrwia@margaretriverwine.org.au](mailto:mrwia@margaretriverwine.org.au)

**Office Bearers**  
President Ron Fraser (Chapman Grove Vineyard)  
Vice President Darren Haunold (Wills Domain)  
Treasurer Brett Robins (Swings & Roundabouts)

**Executive Committee**  
Geoff Barrett (Watershed Premium Wines)  
Stephen Jarrett (Howard Park Wines)  
Cliff Royle (Voyager Estate)  
Richard Rowe (Evans & Tate)  
Virginia Willcock (Australian Wine Holdings)  
Peter Wood (Stella Beita Wines)