

2007 New England Wine Show



Well, the 2007 New England Wine Show is over and we're into the next vintage (again)!

A big coup for the Show this year was securing guru judging, winemaking and wine critic James Halliday as Chairman of Judges. James commented that the judges tasted "...some quite lovely wines, ...obviously of cool-climate origin."

Results for Topper's Mountain Wines were;

- ◆ '06 Chardonnay— Bronze medal
- ◆ '05 Traminer— Bronze medal
- ◆ '07 Gewurztraminer—Bronze medal (entered under the Cas-segrain label)
- ◆ '07 Tempranillo - Best Unfinished Wine of Show

wines did very well in the Show receiving ;

- ◆ 6 Gold medals
- ◆ 5 Silver medals
- ◆ 31 Bronze medals and



James Halliday doing what he does best (photo—Doug Hume)

(entered under Cas-segrain label)

The '07 Tempranillo will be bottled under the Topper's Mountain label in mid-January.

All in all, New England

- ◆ 2 awards (for Unfinished Classes)

from a total of 114 New England entries.

Go to

www.newenglandwineshow.com.au for more details.



Judge Steve Doyle (L) of Bloodwood at Orange with Scott Wright of Wright Robertson of Glencoe. (photo—Susan Moore)

2nd quarterly draw of 1/2 doz for Wine Club members!

And the lucky winner this time is

Judy Bleechmore of Gillet's Ridge near Grafton.

Good on you Judy, we trust that you will thoroughly enjoy your win

with family & friends.

It seems that the Topper's Mountain Wine Club has become a sponsor of the **Grafton Wine Society** as both last quarter's winner Marian Johnson & Judy are members of this

group!

Tell your friends and ask them to email me their details if they would like to join our Wine Club and become eligible for the quarterly draw.

Next draw— end January

TOPPER'S MOUNTAIN WINES



toppers mountain
new england



Bilgola Plateau Primary School Fundraiser

We are doing a fundraiser for my kids' Primary School until 15th Jan '08.

Accompanying this Newsletter is the Order Form with discounted prices for the fundraiser. Additionally, \$30 per case goes to the school P&C. Any support you can give will be most appreciated.

toppers mountain
new england



Local History

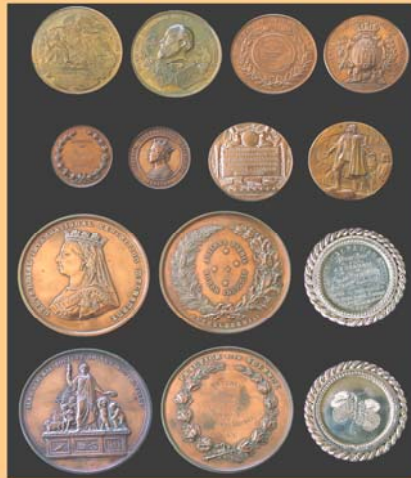
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A few of the numerous medals and prizes awarded to Thomas Mather - Roslyn Vineyard, Inverell during the 1880's

(Image courtesy of Susan Moore)

In about 1875, Thomas Mather (a Scottish migrant) established a vineyard & winery called "Roslyn" overlooking Inverell on the road to Glen Innes. The grand house still stands today. According to *The Armidale Express* of 11th October 1889;

"Since 1880, Mr. Mather has taken no less than 100 1st prizes in this colony for his wines..... He has also received bronze medals and Certificates of Merit from Bordeaux, Calcutta, Amsterdam, Indian & Colonial Exhibition (London) and at the last Inter-colonial Exhibition, at Melbourne, was awarded one 1st and two 2nd prizes with three Orders of Merit"

Some of these medals are shown here. They are still in the family, owned by a descendant of Thomas Mather who continues to live in Inverell.

The vineyard is thought to have been about 20 acres producing about 4,000 gallons (2,000 cases) at its peak. The wine fetched 2 shillings a bottle or from 3 & sixpence to 7 & sixpence a gallon.

'08 Vintage off to a flying start

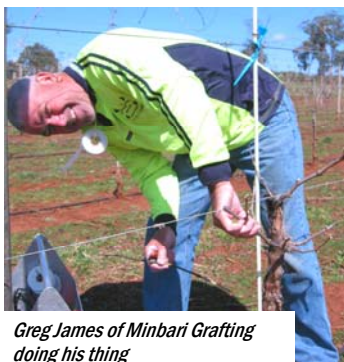
Well, here we go again! Vintage 2008 is well under way with budburst happening in the last two weeks of September for Chardonnay, the Pinots, Merlot & Nebbiolo through to the 2nd & 3rd week of October for Tempranillo & Touriga bringing up the tail!

This spring we grafted the "fruit salad" block row of Verdelho over to two clones of Sauvignon Blanc. Greg James of Minbari Grafting did the grafting for us again. He does this on his way to the Gold Coast for his annual holiday—luckily for us we are on the way otherwise we wouldn't be able



to get

On the 8th October we had a pretty good hailstorm, as you can see from the photo above. It certainly got the grafting support crew (the kids, Stephanie & myself) out of the vineyard quickly! Thankfully the hailstones were fairly small for all but the last couple of minutes of the storm and no significant damage was done.



Greg James of Minbari Grafting doing his thing

to get someone of his skills up to Tingha for the small numbers we

Happenings

☺ Our '07 topper's Mountain Tempranillo and '06 Fortified Touriga will be bottled in January '08 for release in February hopefully. The Fortified Touriga will be our first venture into fortified wine (we are no longer allowed to call it Port because of a Geographic Indicators naming agreement with the European Union).

☺ We supported a Young Foundation-Rotary fund-raiser in Tamworth on 6th December. The night was to raise money to establish a soup kitchen in Tamworth CBD. It was great to see so many young people taking an informed interest in local wines.

☺ Bilgola Plateau Public School Fundraiser. See the box at the bottom of page 1.

☺ I look forward to talking to you all soon. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Mark Kirkby

