



TOPPERS' MOUNTAIN WINES

# '08 Vintage wrap-up - a tale of two halves!

Not long after I penned the last Newsletter, the rain stopped and it has yet to re-start! This led to a vintage



*Des picking the low-yielding Nebbiolo (photo—Mark Kirkby)*

of two halves for us; quite poor for whites (chardonnay, pinot gris, semillon & sauv blanc etc.) & early reds (pinot noir for us) which were in the final stages of ripening in the rain but an

excellent vintage for the rest of the later reds. As a result of the wet ripening period for the white varieties & pinot, botrytis was a serious problem necessitating the chardonnay being harvested early at very low baume (sugar content) for use in sparkling wine and the Gewurztraminer being a complete write-off as we didn't pick any unfortunately. Riesling didn't fare much better, it was picked but the quality is not as good as we expect.

The final result is that we are making wines from these varieties for our '08 vintage;

- ◆ Chardonnay (sparkling)

- ◆ Semillon/Sauv Blanc
- ◆ Tempranillo
- ◆ Shiraz
- ◆ Nebbiolo
- ◆ Barbera
- ◆ Touriga for a vintage fortified.

I will keep you posted as the wines develop.



*Almost everybody sitting down on the job (except yours truly!) (photo—Mark Kirkby)*

## 4th quarterly draw of 1/2 doz for Wine Club members!

Our lucky winner is .....

### Alethea Bell

of Rose Bay in Sydney. Alethea works for the Australian Institute of Management as a Business Development Exec.

We met Alethea at the Syd-

ney Cellar Door in March.

It's great to see the wide geographical distribution of the winners emerging.

Tell your friends of Wine Club and ask them to email me their details if they would like to join and be-

come eligible for the quarterly draw.

Next draw will be in the Pruning(Winter) Newsletter at the end August '08.



## WINTER SOLSTICE SAVINGS !

Order a case before the end of July for delivery in Australia & we'll pay the freight! So don't be shy, save yourself between 5% and 15% on our whole range!

toppers mountain  
new england



TOPPER'S MOUNTAIN (near T. DROBNER'S in  
Probably named after brother of George  
and W. Topper, employees of Union Valley  
Winery, (Edward James of Wyndham  
from 1892). Also from the Mt. Topper World  
War II Memorial.

## New England wineries sponsor Australia's premier photographic competition

### TOPPER'S MOUNTAIN WINES

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Single Estate wines from  
close to Heaven

We're on the web;  
[www.toppers.com.au](http://www.toppers.com.au)

A group of New England wineries including Topper's Mountain Wines, recently banded together to promote our region by sponsoring the premier photographic portraiture competition in Australia. Called "Head On 2008", the exhibition was held at the Australian Centre for Photography on Oxford Street in Paddington and the Opening Night was on Thursday 1st May 2008. The winning entry is called "Sweet Dreams" by Brendan Esposito. See [www.headon.com.au](http://www.headon.com.au)



The winning entry "Sweet Dreams" by Brendan Esposito (photo Head On 2008)



The winning entry flanked by the Director of The Aust. Centre for Photography Alasdair Foster & me (photo—Mark Kirkby)



One of the Runners Up, "Ginger Bob" by Tobias Titz (photo Head On 2008)



Monogrammed Topper's Mountain display boxes are available for special occasions & gifts for 1, 2 or 3 bottles with clear or timber lids.

Prices (all inc. GST);

with monogrammed ply lid;

1 bottle box— \$9

2 bottle box— \$16

3 bottle box— \$19

with monogrammed clear acrylic lid;

1 bottle box— \$16

2 bottle box— \$20

3 bottle box— \$25

## "New England Australia" wine region launched in Armidale

"New England Australia" was launched as Australia's newest wine region at the New England Regional Art Museum on Monday 26th May by The Honourable Richard Torbay, MP.

The opening included wine tasting from 14 of the new region's wineries, including us, and was attended by about 150 lucky trade foodies, chefs, wine outlet managers, local government members and interested locals.



Toasting the birth of Australia's newest wine region—Marcus Weber (President, Southern New England Vignerons Assoc. (SNEVA)), Richard Torbay (Member for New England), Don Tydd (Exec. Officer, Northern Inland Regional Development Board) and Norm Maher (Secretary, SNEVA) - (photo Danieli Studios)

James Halliday, as Chairman of Judges at the last New England Wine Show and Patriarch of Aussie wine critics, said "There is no other region which has come on-stream with so much to offer as New England".

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Mark Kirkby ☺

STOP PRESS  
2005 Topper's Mountain Traminer  
Rated 90 points by James Halliday  
(rated under Cassegrain Limited Release label)

90-93—Highly recommended. Wines of great quality, style and character, worthy of a place in any cellar.