

Winter 2009

Vintage 2010 Issue 1



TOPPER'S MOUNTAIN WINES

Vintage 2009 Update

After all the rain in late January, it looked like we would have big botrytis problems. However the gods



Our persimmon tree in early winter (photo—Mark Kirkby)

smiled and we managed to get through unscathed, except for some additional bunch thinning.

So, other than a tense couple of weeks while the wet weather was around, the vintage was pretty much perfect.

The white grapes came in very well with the Gewurz & Chardonnay being the stand-outs showing exceptional quality.

In the case of the reds, probably our best vintage yet with nice warm days & cool nights giving near perfect fruit with elevated acids & low to moderate pH levels; just what the winemaker ordered for making cool climate wines of character & finesse!



Morning after another -5degC frost (photo—Mark Kirkby)

Wines now ageing prior to bottling are;

- 2009 Chardonnay
- 2009 sparkling Chardonnay/Pinot Noir
- 2009 Tempranillo
- 2009 Pinot Noir
- 2009 Vintage Fortified
- 2009 Nebbiolo
- 2009 Tannat
- 2009 Dry Red
- 2009 Wild Ferment Pinotage.

And those bottled & soon to be released for your drinking pleasure are;

- 2008 Nebbiolo
- 2008 Barbera
- 2008 Shiraz
- 2008 Dry Red
- 2009 Gewurztraminer
- 2009 Sauv Blanc.

I'll keep you posted 🗨️

7th quarterly draw of a mixed 1/3 doz for Wine Club members!

Our lucky winners this time around are

Jo & Peter Lane

of Scotts Head, formerly of Guyra. Jo is a secondary teacher & tireless worker for her community & Peter works for an excavations company in Macks-

ville.

I met Jo & Peter at the Guyra Lamb & Potato Festival quite a few years ago. Unfortunately for us, they abandoned us on the New England Tablelands earlier in the year to become

"seachange surfies" at Scotts Head.

Next draw will be in the Spring Newsletter at the end of November 2009.



2008 Topper's Mountain Tempranillo

has been selected by Winsor Dobbin & his panel from the **Mercure Hotel** group in NSW to be one of twelve wines on their Regional Wine List under their Grands Vins programme.

toppers mountain
new england



TOPPER'S MOUNTAIN (near TROBRUCK in
Probably named after brother of George
and W. Topper, employees of Broken Valley
Winegrowers (Edward Topper of Wyalaham
died in 1892. Also from the Wyalaham
area. Another name for the region is Waidi
or Waidi Valley).

An Edward Topper's grave

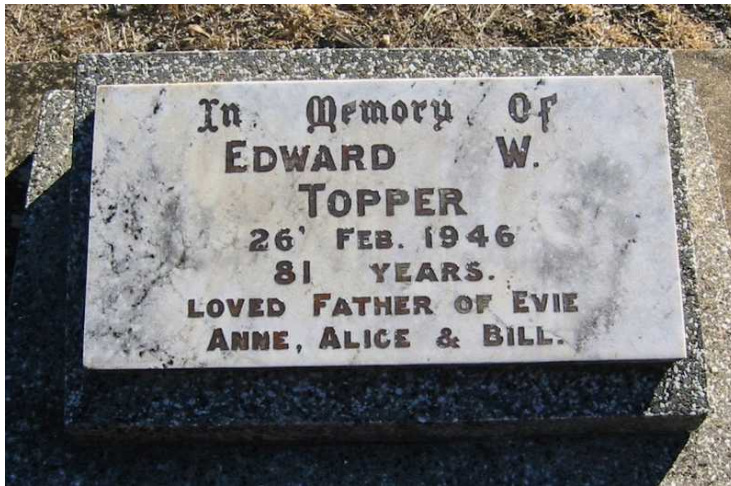
TOPPER'S MOUNTAIN WINES

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Single Estate wines from
close to Heaven

The Topper brothers, Edward & William we think, continue to lead us a merry chase!



The headstone of Edward Topper's grave at Warialda General Cemetery (thanks to the research efforts of Susan Moore—Thunder Ridge Wines)

These are the blokes we think a mountain nearby, our property and our vineyard are named after.

This gravestone, found in the Warialda Cemetery, appears to be the son of one of the two brothers after which Topper's Mountain is named; to be grammatically correct I guess the name should be Toppers' Mountain! The prob-

lem we are having is that both Edward & William seem to be popular family names, with these names showing up in three consecutive generations plus there being William Edwards & Edward Williams! If anyone has any info that may help us rebuild this family tree, please contact us—we will be most appreciative.

We're on the web;
www.toppers.com.au

Upcoming Events & Sponsorships

1. **Restaurant 09 Exhibition**—Monday 10th & Tuesday 11th August 2009, Royal Hall of Industries, Moore Park, Sydney. Anyone in the industry who would like a ticket, pls give me a call.
2. **Inverell Regional Art Gallery Open Exhibition Opening Night**—Saturday 17th October 2009 at 7:30pm. We are again sponsoring the Opening Night & will be pouring the wine, so please drop in.
3. **New England Wine Show** is on again. Public day is Friday 23rd October 2009 at the Glen Innes Showground. See www.newenglandwineshow.com.au for details.

3. **Sustainable Living Expo**—25th, 26th & 27th September 2009 at Armidale Showground.

Keep safe & I hope to see you soon at one of these excellent events, or elsewhere. ☺

*Another frosty morning,
before pruning starts!
(photo—Mark Kirkby)*



The Perfect Christmas or Birthday Gift—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

STOP PRESS
2007 Thunderbolt's "Combo" Dry Red
rated 89 points by James Halliday