



LAKE BREEZE  
LANGHORNE CREEK

off the duck's back



## 2020 - STRANGER THAN FICTION

It would be an understatement to say a fair bit has happened since our last summer newsletter. Drought, bushfires, thunderstorms, record low crops and a little global pandemic thrown in for good measure.

If I wrote six months ago that Mum and Dad were 'self-isolating', whilst Robyn and I were 'social distancing' to help the country 'flatten the curve', you would have thought I was madder than a cut snake.

Yet, here we are, vintage has come and gone with winter now well and truly upon us.

There has been plenty of activity at the winery during our forced cellar door closure, with construction of our new function centre beginning in February.

More people working from home has fortunately given us a spike in online and mail orders sales which has kept Robyn super busy. However, we are thrilled to be finally re-opening cellar door and the restaurant in time for the June long weekend.

Cover photo by John Kruger Photography.

In other exciting news, we are unveiling a newly updated label for our Bernoota and Cabernet, with the Lake Breeze duck getting a long overdue make-over. We love the beautiful clean look and textured paper and hope you do as well.

Unfortunately, the Langhorne Creek Wine Show could not be held earlier this year, so we can still proudly claim to be the reigning Champion Trophy winner. I can't help but chuckle at the comparison with Tom Gleeson who will reign as the gold Logie winner for another year. (I may not be bald, but I am very funny!)

We hope you and your family have not been dramatically affected during this unprecedented time and have still found the need for the odd bottle of good Aussie wine.

Cheers,  
Greg Follett  
Novice fire fighter





## Kangraoo Island

**BUSHFIRE REPORT** by Greg

It seems almost a lifetime ago, but the bushfires that hit Australia have obviously been devastating.

My sister and brother-in-law's vineyard, False Cape, on Kangaroo Island is fortunately on the east of the island and was over 50 km from the fire front.

Our holiday house at Vivonne Bay however was right in the 'firing line' on more than one occasion. The first fire which devastated the Flinders Chase National Park fortunately stopped about 5km west of us, but the next flare-up a week later was headed straight towards us.

The rest of the family and some friends evacuated early, while Ken and I stayed to fight the fire, and let's just say it was one of the longest days and nights of my life.

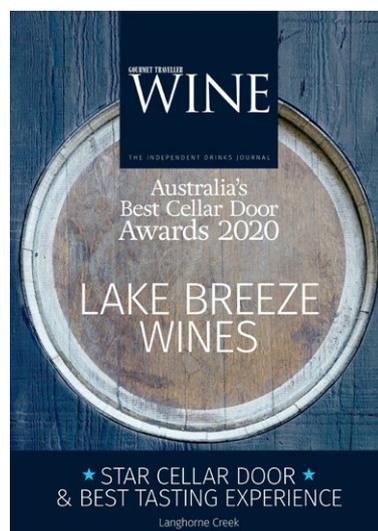
The local farmer fire units along with a fair slice of luck saw the fire going all around us but leaving our place untouched.

Ken and Marlene (Mum and Dad) are happy the house still stands, as they have been self-isolating there for these last two months. This is probably one of the safest places in the country right now. A far cry from January 9, when it was perhaps the most dangerous place to be!

## Langhorne Creek's Star Cellar Door & Best Tasting Experience Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine

"It's a welcoming place with friendly, knowledgeable staff and a lovely view out over the vineyards. The wines are cracking: superb cabernet and shiraz blends, pure with deep, resonant fruit and a wonderful pair of fortifieds, a rare tawny and rare frontignac, that hark back to an undisputed historical lineage that continues to burn brightly. The kitchen offers a number of delicious dishes and if you are in need of a bed, look no further than Lake Breeze's bed and breakfast, The Creek Cottage."

*David Brookes - Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine*



## new releases

The first of this vintage's wines have been bottled and are now in the fridge ready to go!

Our **2020 Moscato** and much awaited **2020 Rosato** are now available and the **2020 Vermentino** won't be far away.

Grenache is experiencing a renaissance of sorts at the moment and we like to think the bright, juicy **2019 Old Vine Grenache**, hand harvested off our 88 year old vines punches well above it's weight.

The **2018 Section 54 Shiraz** was released soon after our last newsletter was mailed. It is almost becoming as popular as our beloved Bernoota, which has certainly become the benchmark for the quintessential Aussie blend of shiraz and cabernet over the last 20 years. The **2018 Bernoota** is no exception, smooth with some restrained power at present, which will see it age well for the next 15 years at least.

## reviews

### 2018 Bernoota

DEEP, DARK PURPLE COLOUR. OAK-DERIVED TOAST AND VANILLA LEADS AN OTHERWISE RICHLY-FRUITED NOSE OF PLUMS AND BLACKCURRANTS. SOME CHARMING COMPLEXITY; CURED MEATS AND DRIED HERBS. THE PALATE SHOWS MORE RED BERRIES THAN BLUE OR BLACK - OAK IS FIRM ... A TERRIFIC WINE AT THIS PRICE.

DRINK 2020-2028

**NICK BUTLER**

THE REAL REVIEW





## duck club

Keep your cellar stocked with our Lake Breeze wines. Join our Duck Club to have a case delivered to your door each March and September.

Our Duck Club selections represent a 20% saving and you'll also receive 10% discount on any other wine purchases and on your stay at The Creek Cottage bed and breakfast.

Call us or visit the website to find out more.

# lock-down life at Lake Breeze

As with the entire country, we've had a very interesting beginning to the year.

We closed our cellar door in late March, but swiftly handed the phone to Kate and Courtney, who would normally be in cellar door. They've been busy contacting our mailing list customers to make sure our records are accurate.

It has been a really rewarding process to re-connect with some of you and we're only half way through, so you may receive a call from us soon!

We've been re-configuring the kitchen while everyone's been in lock-down, with Brad (our chef) even on the end of a paint brush.

Developments with our new functions space has kept Ashleigh busy chatting with brides and planning ahead, so there has really been little change to our workload in the office.



Chad raking skins into the press.



## VINTAGE REPORT

The 2020 vintage will perhaps be remembered for all the wrong reasons.

Crop levels were at historic lows due to frost and poor flowering, which was compounded by a super dry year. We were between 50% and 60% down on average, making this the lowest crops I can remember.

On the positive side of the ledger, it was a trouble free harvest and the quality of the wine looks outstanding at this point. Also we were free of fires and smoke taint which affected many around the country.

The weather, as we all know, has thrown a few curve balls at us and it seemed this year was no exception. Summer really began in October and finished in January this year.

We actually had 65mm of rain in about 2 hours on January 31, which heralded the start of autumn with February being one of the coolest on record.

We were concerned the rain would cause problems, but it turned out to be a godsend and gave our vineyards a refresh leading in to harvest.

Vintage was quite compressed with a later start than last year but an earlier finish, partly due to the extremely low crops.

There were plenty of long days in the vineyard for the boys picking fruit which unfortunately wasn't filling the fermenters very full!

The bunches this year had quite small berries and intense flavours with high natural acidity, which has led to some beautifully defined wines with a generosity of fruit. Cabernet is once again the hero-variety with the shiraz and small volumes of grenache and malbec not far behind.

We have had some of the best opening rains in years since Anzac Day, which hopefully heralds a more normal year weather-wise.

The COVID-19 outbreak mid-vintage really did not affect our small crew at all. At vintage we are basically isolated for two months anyway and with a team of three in the winery and three in the vineyard, life continued as normal. Obviously, it was a different story for our cellar door.



## our next chapter

Back in February work commenced on our new function space and has fortunately continued uninterrupted since then. Lake Breeze has become a popular wedding venue, so by developing a designated event space we will be able to hold weddings and functions more often and minimise the interruptions to the boys in the winery.

We're transforming the façade on the warehouses alongside cellar door with large windows to take in the stunning views across the vineyard.

Our talented cousin Trish has thoughtfully designed this new space, featuring local limestone and some very rural galvanised iron to complement our cellar door eating area, which she also designed for us.

The building will be completed in late October and it's business as usual at cellar door in the meantime.

We are looking forward to seeing you back for lunch and tastings very soon!

Cheers,  
Robyn.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Hopefully we will be able to advise you of more events as restrictions ease.

At this stage, we hope to hold our Cellar Treasures Weekend in August in some form, so stay tuned to our social media and watch out for our 'The Duck's Guts' email newsletters for more information.



**Above: 1** Josh hand picking our old vine grenache. **2** Tony and Tanya at Amber Fort, Jaipur, Rajasthan with their Bernoota. **3** Greg tucking barrels away. **4** Tess guarding the boots at morning tea.

Visit our website to keep up to date with our news and events.

[www.lakebreeze.com.au](http://www.lakebreeze.com.au)  
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