

## Dandelion Vineyards

wish you were here...

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**A Primary Industries Minister, The Hon. David Basham MP announces Primary Industries & Regions South Australia (PIRSA) Regional Growth Fund grant at Dandelion Vineyards Firehawk Farm Vineyard 9<sup>th</sup> March 3 pm 2021 – 100 McLaren Vale guests representing the regions wine producers / restaurateurs and tourism / hospitality and suppliers are attending.**

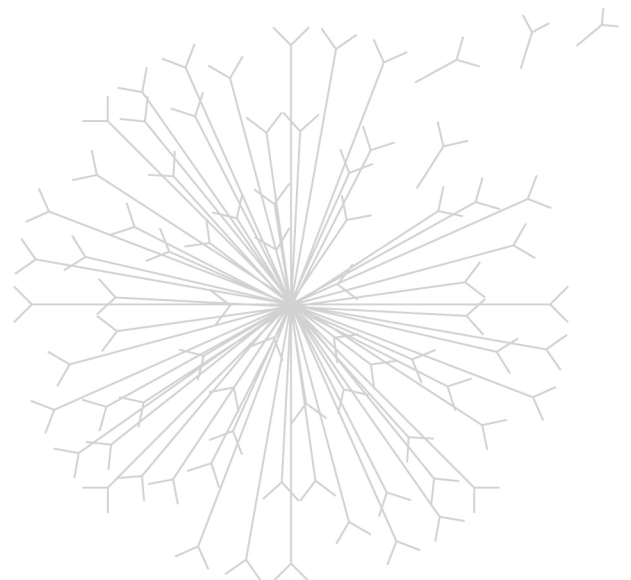
The good and the great of the district gather at Dandelion Vineyards Firehawk Farm on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March mid-harvest, not only for typical neighbourly support but also for gravitas as a region, to demonstrate a requirement for many more grants like the one Dandelion Vineyards has graciously received from PIRSA.

By gathering so, our district is suggesting with one regional voice for the ever-increasing requirement for infrastructure to create more employment and economic futures for all of our region.

For further details please contact **Elena & Zar Brooks** @ Dandelion Vineyards [winery@dandelionvineyards.com.au](mailto:winery@dandelionvineyards.com.au) or field phone on 0407983829 / 0419826963.

Or **Suzanne Roberts** | Executive Assistant to the Hon. David Basham, MP  
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Fifteen vintages ago acclaimed winemaker Elena Brooks and her family's wine company Dandelion Vineyards was created with the moniker "Wish you were here..."

For reasons that may well not stand up to any 'Pub Test' (even the wines-by-the-glass offer in the beer garden) in the world of fine wine it is traditionally not done to have a media statement / press release if possible.

In our district however it is assumed you take your wines very, but not yourselves, at all, seriously; the wine and bouquets speak for themselves. (Especially if a bouquet has a dollar value! le presumed / not us ; Aloof & cool - rare & expensive – serious & silent, and if forced to make it bland and corporate not colourful nor collaborative, unless like Dandelion Vineyards we really do -

*"wish you were here..."*

That has been Elena and Zar Brooks creed / motto / ethos, for their Dandelion Vineyards since their first release from 2008 – 13 lucky vintages ago, signing off on each and every label of every bottle – in more than 40 markets worldwide and more than a million bottles each year.

When Elena Brooks purchased Firehawk Farm Vineyard for her Dandelion Vineyards in the dress circle of McLaren Vale overlooking the district and the gulf it was always a plan after 14 years to open a cellar door and restaurant, a visitors centre for all the followers Elena's wines had created.

"Life is what happens to you do whilst when busy making other plans".

Finally our plans for a Visitors Centre for Dandelion Vineyards at her Firehawk Farm in McLaren Vale were completed and then all the challenges of 2020 hit.

Thanks to the PIRSA Regional dollar-for-dollar grant Dandelion Vineyard's wish is to become real.

We are as proud as punch the South Australian Government and PIRSA has granted Dandelion Vineyards some \$380 odd thousand dollar-for-dollar to give us a leg up to create our home for visitors.

Our deepest gratitude is not just to the department, the bureaucrats and the minister, but to all of their and our team and who made this grant possible, the professions, architect builders etc et. al., plus the Onkaparinga Council, but particularly also to all of our neighbours and colleagues.

McLaren Vale and the Fleurieu Peninsula is well down the runway of taking off as Australia's premier region to visit for wine and food. Led recently by Chester Osborn and his family's d'Arenberg Wines Cube, there are 40 odd wine and food producers here at Dandelion Vineyards Firehawk Farm for this announcement on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of March.

This much appreciated grant will create significant extra employment and activity at Dandelion Vineyards but we hope it will be the first of many more to assist the district in this extraordinary time when wine companies and hospitality venues are suffering from covid and export import issues. However there has never been a better opportunity to grow locally by advancing projects to shovel-ready status to capture such stimulus and recovery funding or incentives that may be available, as well as the advantages of the ultra-low interest environment.

The Dandelion Vineyards motto is the key: .....*wish you were here!* It would be a very lonely local who didn't consider it a privilege and the greatest good luck to be living in this wonderful region— McLaren Vale in the Fleurieu Peninsula. E&OA. END

