



LET'S MAKE A STAND



When I said in our previous newsletter that “...an awful lot has happened – bad at the global geopolitical level but generally good at the more mundane level of our favourite drink”, I didn’t expect global geopolitics in the meantime to deteriorate so fast and so far as they have with the unconscionable behaviour of Russia with its invasion of Ukraine, the continuing expansion of a belligerent China into the South Pacific whilst pressing ever harder on the free and democratic Taiwan, and the criminally insane Kim Jung-il threatening world peace by showing off his arsenal of deadly weapons. Don’t tell me this trio of the “neighbours from hell” are not in some way coordinating their bad behaviour, all of which has taken place within the space of a few weeks!

Accordingly, MyWhiskyJourneys has decided to take a stand, no matter how minuscule, against these despicable powers of

oppression which are inflicting pain and the threat of conquest on the citizens of the democratic countries of Ukraine and Taiwan. Accordingly, we will not send any of our whiskies – rare Scotch or fine Tasmanian – to Russia, China or North Korea but, as of 1 July 2022 we will give customers in Ukraine and Taiwan a discount of 15% on all whiskies ordered by the citizens of those countries for delivery there. We already have customers in Taiwan, and we will welcome customers in Ukraine once normal means of postal delivery there are reinstated. We appeal to other SMEs to take a similar stand against the authoritarian regimes in China and Russia and in support of the brave people of Taiwan and Ukraine and against the hateful North Korean dictatorship.

LARK

We previously touched on the controversy at Lark regarding labelling and product origin and the general confusion this might be visiting on an unsuspecting public, since when the woes at Lark have only increased but in a totally unexpected manner. There's no point in dwelling on the unsavoury antics of the former CEO of Lark and how that might reflect on the general reputation of the company but, as we've said previously, the whisky industry, no matter where it is, has, by its very nature, to uphold high standards otherwise it will find standards imposed upon it by people or institutions whose sympathies may not necessarily be in the industry's best interests. Distilling in Tasmania, and I suppose elsewhere in Australia, is largely self-regulated and that has allowed some interesting innovation to appear which you may not find in the traditional whisky producing countries. That is to be welcomed, but the other side of the coin is that if something goes horribly wrong the resultant public reaction is such and the regulatory restrictions so onerous that many industry players might fail to survive.

When it comes to whisky, Lark is synonymous with the Tasmanian product and hopefully will remain so. No one has done more than Bill Lark to encourage Tasmania's development as a whisky category of the first order. Hopefully, those who are the current and future keepers of the Lark reputation will follow in his hallowed footsteps with the care they deserve. Imposing a more rigorous selection

process for the next CEO of Lark would be a good first step. Quite undeterred by all this distracting noise, Bill Lark is celebrating 30 years of success by recalling his long-standing association with my old friend, John Grant of Glenfarclas, through the release of a Lark Rare Cask edition “finished to perfection” in casks which once held Glenfarclas 15 years old whisky from Speyside. And there is a matching Glenfarclas 28 years old release distilled in 1992, the year of Lark’s inception. Read more about these remarkable whiskies and this enduring relationship between two of the stalwarts of whisky distilling in Scotland and Tasmania at www.larkdistillery.com/glenfarclas.

CRADLE MOUNTAIN

Let’s clear up any uncertainty as to which was the very first commercial whisky distillery in Tasmania. The general assumption is that it was Lark, since it was in 1992 that Bill Lark received the first Tasmanian distiller’s license to be granted in 154 years, but it was not until 1998 that the first Lark Distillery Single Malt Whisky was released commercially.

Cradle Mountain, however, claims this honour as having commenced distilling by the late Brian Poke on 28 April 1989 in northern Tasmania under the name Darwin Distillery before moving to a new location near Ulverstone in 1991. It became the Franklin Distillery, taking its name from the Franklin barley style, in 1992, at new, but temporary premises at Preston. A further name change came in 1994 to The Small Concern Whisky Distillery and it was under that distinctive title that one of the original investors visited Scotland with a sample bottle of Cradle Mountain whisky at 15 months of age. He delivered it to Cadenhead’s, the whisky merchant enterprise associated with Springbank distillery in Campbeltown. The story goes that they were so impressed by this young spirit that they immediately ordered seven barrels which took some time to deliver such was the modest scale of production at The Small Concern. Cadenhead’s held the whisky for a judicious period and then released it gradually at varying ages under their World Whiskies Individual Cask label, some of which we have on our [Cradle Mountain page](#), along with a few excellent old releases under The Small Concern label. Our thanks to David Cox of Wee Whisky Wookie for the image on the first page of this newsletter.

The Small Whisky Concern was wound up in 2015, although distilling had ceased some years prior, and the entire operation sold to the Lahra family. The Cradle Mountain Distillery has since been reborn at a totally different location at Legana, north of Launceston and is the initiative of Joe Lahra who is to be congratulated on the end result which is a fine traditional pot still distillery in a pleasing location with some fine early products which will hopefully enhance Tasmania's whisky credentials.

The Cradle Mountain story is of great interest and involved the colourful, sadly departed Brian Poke, who was another pioneer of whisky distilling on the island, although his role was more one of consultant than entrepreneur. He had involvement with a number of distilleries including Hellyers Road and Corra Linn and would've enjoyed helping to get Cradle Mountain relaunched in its new guise.

NONESUCH DISTILLERY

We greatly value our relationships with the various smaller distilleries on Tasmania and their highly motivated, nay devoted, owners and staff – who are often one and the same people! We buy from them on a regular basis but do not sell in competition with the distillery or their established retail outlets. Rather we hold these early releases and then once they are out of general circulation offer them to our customers as “historic expressions” at a modest premium.

We have a fine collection from [Nonesuch Distillery](#) which would be worthy of consideration by anyone who has a love of the Tasmanian product and is seeking something distinctive or even curious. The distillery is an easy 35 minutes north-east of Hobart near the historic town of Sorell overlooking Tiger Head Bay. On a farm sits Nonesuch Distillery where Rex Burdon and his son Chris produce several different styles of spirits including small batches of exquisite whisky, although their reputation rests just as much on their sloe gin and sloe malt.

TASMANIAN WHISKY OFFER

We are delighted to be able to repeat the offer we made in our previous newsletter of a collection of out-of-circulation Tasmanian whiskies which make a great introduction to the category as well as an interesting investment opportunity in these days of financial meltdown.

A long-term customer and investor approached us to sell part of his private collection of rare Tasmanian whisky. We have valued the 12 bottles on offer at \$7,580.

However, we received instructions to sell the collection for \$6,000 (freight free within Australia), a discount of over \$1,500. The collection includes exceptional expressions from the original Lark distillery, Sullivans Cove, Trapper's Hut, Heartwood and more. These delicious whiskies are no longer in general circulation, making this a rare opportunity to invest or experience the utmost Tasmanian whisky pleasure.

Click [Tasmanian Whisky Offer](#) to view details of this interesting opportunity.

TASMANIAN WHISKY WEEK 2022 (8-14 AUGUST 2022)

Three cheers to the good folk who are organising the 2022 TWW. We look forward to participating, if only as observers.

Further details can be found at www.taswhiskyweek.com.

“WHISKY GALORE”

In our previous newsletter, we explored the relationship between whisky and the world of movies. One reader has gently pointed out our failure to make any mention of the famous novel by Compton

McKenzie “Whisky Galore” which was made into a film and released in 1949 with a remake appearing in 2016. I must confess to a preference for the original 1949 black and white version with a very youthful Gordon Jackson. The “Whisky Galore” story went on with the appearance of whiskies commemorating the original plundered stock from the wrecked ship and it is a good story to be found at <https://scotchwhisky.com/whiskypedia/2891/the-ss-politician/>.

FEEDBACK

We enjoy getting feedback from readers – positive or otherwise – but particularly if it is adding to our store of whisky knowledge. And so please feel free to comment or ask questions at info@mywhiskyjourneys.com which we shall gladly share with the rest of the readership.

MyWhiskyJourneys Newsletter

+61 408 664 021
info@mywhiskyjourneys.com

Find us on the Web:
www.mywhiskyjourneys.com

