



## Twisted Gum

### ***NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2018***

After chatting with a recent visitor to our cellar door about how much the locals here cooperate and work together, I have been motivated to write about the fabulous community of volunteers that we have here in the Granite Belt! When Michelle and I moved here in 2007 we were struck by how willing people were to pitch in and get involved in the community and also to share their knowledge with newcomers. A lot of work is done by the volunteer group *Granite Belt Wine and Tourism (GBWT)*, where we work together on lots of projects, from grape growing and winemaking through to organizing events and tourist promotions. We are all small businesses, so by pitching in together we can get so much more done – as you can see by how much the general quality of wine and wine tourism has improved in the Granite Belt over recent times!

Almost everyone we know has volunteered in one form or another for GBWT – including us. I was a Committee Member and Treasurer for a few years, while Michelle (along with Sue Smith from Pyramids Road Wines) is currently involved in organizing a series of six *Vineyard Walks* each year. These walks are held on different vineyards, with 20+ local growers usually attending each walk to discuss grape growing methods and exchange ideas. The walks cover different topics each time, such as fertilizer, irrigation, mulch, canopy management, varietal selection, planting, grafting and pruning (see photo below of a pruning demonstration at a vineyard walk at Robert Channon Wines).



The local wine industry also gets together every few months for a *Dinner Meeting* at a restaurant in one of the local wineries. These are organized by Sam Costanzo from Golden Grove Estate, who has done an excellent job with these dinner meetings. Attendees bring a bottle of their wine to share with dinner and representatives from various groups speak during the dinner – including Leeanne Gangemi (our local *Wine Federation of Australia* rep), Steve Messiter (one of our local *Queensland Wine Industry Association* reps) and various other speakers. With 40+ people attending each dinner meeting, they are a great opportunity to exchange ideas and keep up to date with happenings in the wine industry. In addition to these things, we also organize technical wine tastings, research projects (such as trials of new varieties and different clones), wine and food events (such as *Grazing the Granite Belt*) and much more. All done by volunteers with funding provided by the GBWT members themselves. What a great bunch of people we have in this community!

## Accommodation, Tours, Events, Wine & Food!

As well as wineries, the GBWT also has many active members from the accommodation, food and tour sectors in the Granite Belt. Many of these are also hard-working volunteers, out there promoting all aspects of the Granite Belt through various types of regional advertising, along with the production of tourist maps, visitor guides and websites. When planning your next trip be sure to check out the *Granite Belt Wine Country* website (<https://granitebeltwinecountry.com.au/>) where you will find lots of great suggestions. There is so much to choose from! For example, you could treat yourself to a stay in *Grovely House B&B* or grab a cozy cottage at *31 The Rocks*; enjoy a café lunch overlooking the lake at *Hidden Creek Winery* or explore the a-la-carte menu at the *Barrel Room Restaurant*; attend an event such as jazz in the winery at *Robert Channon Wines* or a degustation dinner at *Jamworks*; climb the Pyramid at Girraween National Park or get a bunch of friends together and tour some wineries with *Filippos Tours* (see photo below). This is just a fraction of what is waiting for you in *Granite Belt Wine Country*!

## Gourmet Traveler Wine Magazine Award

We were very thrilled to receive another award from *Gourmet Traveler Wine Magazine* this year. After receiving the Award for the *Best Small Cellar Door in the Granite Belt* a few years ago we have now added the Award for the *Best Cellar Door with Food in the Granite Belt* in 2018. This is a pretty impressive award given that we have no commercial kitchen on site! So hats off to local Chef Jason Costanzo who has been such an integral part of wine and food matching events here at Twisted Gum Wines over recent years.



## Dinner Under the Stars

And speaking of great food, if you have not yet had a chance to enjoy the outstanding skills of Chef Jason Costanzo there are still a few tickets remaining at our exciting *Dinner Under the Stars* event later this year in November. A wine and food degustation event not to be missed! For further information and a link to the online booking page please see our events webpage: <https://www.twistedgum.com.au/events.php>

## Toowoomba Carnival of the Flowers

Yes the *Heritage Bank Festival of Food & Wine* at the *Toowoomba Carnival of the Flowers* is on again this year (21-23 Sept 2018). It is always an excellent event, involving dozens of local wineries and foodies and some amazing music – this year including Ali Barter, The Church, Cloud Control and much more. We will be at our Twisted Gum Wine stand in the park again this year, so be sure to drop in and say hi before grabbing a meal and a glass of wine and enjoying the fabulous entertainment. For more info see:

<https://www.tcof.com.au/heritage-bank-festival-of-food-wine/>

Cheers!

*Tim and Michelle Coelli*

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