



# The Cellar Club Inc

[www.cellarclub.co.nz](http://www.cellarclub.co.nz)

Established in 1980

FEBRUARY 2014

## Glancing Forward to Future Events

**Wednesday 12  
March 2014**

Alpha Domus Wines,  
Hawkes Bay

**Wednesday 9 April  
2014.**

Penfold's Bin Release

**Wednesday 14 May  
2014**

AGM / Wooing Tree,  
Central Otago

**Wednesday 11  
June 2014.**

Moana Park, Hawkes  
Bay

**Wednesday 9 July  
2014.**

Mid Year Dinner

### In addition...

There's a members' prize draw at each meeting - you must be present to win, and it must be won each meeting.

**N.B.** Save your wine bottle screw caps and bring them to the monthly meetings. Anne will willingly take them off you.

## Next Event: Wrights Vineyard & Winery

**Wednesday 12 February 2014, 7.45 for 8 pm start.  
Johnsonville Community Centre Hall,  
3 Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville**

**Members: \$12, Guests: \$16**

**Presenter: Geoff Wright**



Wrights Vineyard and Winery came to fruition when Geoff Wright followed a dream which changed his life. At the beginning of 2000, Geoff packed up his bags from Auckland and enrolled in a Winemaking and Viticulture course in Gisborne. Fourteen years on - married, 3 boys aged 6, 4, 2 and a wife pregnant, 18 hectares of grapes, certified organic, our own winery and new cellar door opened in 2013.

They now manage 45 acres organically and biodynamically. The land is certified organic with Asure Quality. They own and operate three vineyards - The Terrace and Valley Vineyards are located in the renowned grape growing region of Ormond Valley, Gisborne, while the Coastal Vineyard is located in Manutuke, overlooking the iconic landmark - Young Nick's Head.

The wines Geoff will be showcasing include the Methode Traditionnelle, Chardonnay, Gewurztraminer (from vines over 30 years old), Pinot Gris, Syrah, and Verjuice.

Wrights have been featured in a recent item in the Gisborne Herald, see "In the News" later in this newsletter.

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## From the Editor

**2014** - And before you know where you are, it's February. Your committee would like to wish all members, and others with an association to the Cellar Club, all the best in health and happiness for 2014.

**Members' Discounts**

Show your Cellar Club membership card for discounts:

**Wineseeker**

86-96 Victoria St, Wellington  
10% discount

**SuperLiquor Johnsonville**

'Staff discount' on anything not already on special

**The Cellar Room - Johnsonville and Karori**

10-20% on items not already reduced

**Bladen Wines, Marlborough**

10% discount on cellar door sales

**Haythornthwaite Wines,**

**Martinborough**

10% discount on cellar door sales

**Electronic Newsletter Available**

If you prefer to be emailed this newsletter, send a quick email to:

[waynek@paradise.net.nz](mailto:waynek@paradise.net.nz)

If you thought 2013 was a great year then we are sure you are going to enjoy 2014. We have worked hard to get a cross section of tastings and events to please our members. We are starting the year with Wrights from Gisborne, with the promise of an intriguing evening from a recognised organic producer, who is also dabbling with low and no alcohol wines. Makes for an interesting conversation topic, is it a wine or just a fruit juice. Come along and discuss

Other offerings for the year are planned to include Alpha Domus (Hawkes Bay), Penfolds Bin Releases (Barossa), Wooing Tree (Central Otago), Moana Park (Hawkes Bay), Milton Estate (Gisborne), Rod McDonald Wines (HB again), and hopefully one from Martinborough later in the year. Working on the usual Festives Wines and two dinners as well.

So a full and interesting year in prospect and we trust you will fully enjoy the tastings and activities arranged.

Cheers

*Robin Semmens, Editor*

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Looking Forward

March 2014 – Alpha Domus



**ALPHA DOMUS**  
— HAWKES BAY —

Alpha Domus winery was established by two generations of the Ham family. The vision began in 1990 with the purchase of bare land and planting began in 1991. Their commitment is to produce premium quality wines that are true to varietal character and are a reflection of their unique terrior.

The vineyard lies in the renowned Bridge Pa Triangle Wine District of Hawkes Bay. From these soils, Alpha Domus winery produces world-class wines from a wide range of varietals including Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec, Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. Chardonnay, Viognier and Syrah.

Alpha Domus wines are single vineyard, estate grown, and vinted at the on site winery.

The name Alpha Domus was inspired by the first initial of each of the family's first names from the father through to the youngest brother; Anthonius, Leonarda, Paulus, Henrikus and Anthonius (ALPHA); Domus is Latin for house. Some really good wines, we look forward to what is offered.

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Glancing Back

**Cuba Street Bistro – 203/205 Cuba Street, Te Aro**

A great night enjoyed by nearly 50 members and partners. All the feedback from those attending was extremely positive.

## Club Information

**President and Membership Coordinator:**  
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Our President said "What a wonderful night - thank you Gayl and Wayne, for organising what may well be the most successful dinner ever! I didn't get a single complaint." An excellent venue and great food, thoroughly enjoyed by all those attending.

## January 2014 – BBQ

Thank goodness for the cover at Derek's house. Just as everyone was arriving the skies opened and it poured down. However once there, we were all under cover and enjoyed a great BBQ, some nice wines and convivial company. A good turnout with at least 35 attending including some new members. Let's hope more people think about attending in future, it really is a great event.

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## Have you Heard ?



## Five ,Six pick up sticks

A furniture dealer from Knoxville, Tennessee, decided that he wanted to expand the line of furniture in his store, so he decided to go to Paris, France to see what he could find. After arriving in Paris (this being his first trip to the French capitol), he met with some manufacturers and finally selected a line that he thought would sell well back home in Tennessee.

To celebrate the new acquisition, he decided to visit a small bistro and have a glass of wine. As he sat enjoying his wine, he noticed that the small place was quite crowded, and that the one other chair at his table was the only vacant seat in the house.

Before long, a very beautiful young Parisian woman came to his table, asked him something in French (which he did not understand), and motioned toward the chair.

He invited her to sit down. He tried to speak to her in English, but she did not speak his language so, after a couple of minutes of trying to communicate with her, he took a napkin and drew a picture of a wine glass and showed it her. She nodded, and he ordered a glass of wine for her. After sitting together at the table for a while, he took another napkin, and drew a picture of a plate with food on it, and she nodded.

## Quote of the Month

*What is the definition of a good wine? It should start and end with a smile.*

- William Sokolin

## Drinking and Driving

Members will be aware of the proposed lowering of drink/drive limits coming next year. We ask members to always be conscious of these limits and to take care when attending Club events.

They left the bistro and found a quiet cafe that featured a small group playing romantic music.

They ordered dinner, after which he took another napkin and drew a picture of a couple dancing. She nodded, and they got up to dance. They danced until the cafe closed and the band was packing up. Back at their table, the young lady took a napkin and drew a picture of a four-poster bed.

To this day, he has no idea how she figured out he was in the furniture business.

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## In the News

### **Gisborne Herald, Thursday 30 January 2014 Grape harvest is under way**

THE first grapes in New Zealand have been harvested in Gisborne this week. Fuelled by increased demand and powdery mildew the first grapes are not for wine but are for Wrights Wines' non-alcoholic verjuice. Powdery mildew has put the grape crop under extreme pressure this season and growers have worked hard to contain it.

Wrights new organic Manutuke vineyard has been badly affected by powdery mildew, says owner Geoff Wright. "The situation was worsened by a string of bad luck, including crucial equipment not working during a strong infectious period in November," he says. It was to be a lesson for the Wrights.

"To be an organic grower in this industry you have to be on your 'A' game at all times." Holding true to their tradition of hand-picking to ensure only the best of the crop is harvested, Wrights will be out harvesting at Manutuke for the balance of the week and into next week.

Geoff and Nicola Wright have had to look outside the traditional wine contracts and will be processing a large portion of their crop into organic grape juice for the Chantal Wholefoods Organic chain. They are also planning on breaking new ground in the de-alcoholised wine market, where they hope to release New Zealand's first organic sparkling white and red de-alcoholised wine in 2014. "The vintage this year will have its challenges and will see us breaking new ground in Gisborne's wine industry. With our powdery mildew infection in Manutuke, we are having to take one day at a time," Mr Wright says.

"We anticipate the remainder of the crop should hold out for longer in the season." In contrast, the Wrights' Ormond Valley vineyards in Gisborne are looking "amazing" and intense fruit flavours are already apparent in the fruit. Mr Wright is excited to see what 2014 will herald.

His dream of owning his own fully-equipped winery is finally coming to fruition. October 2013, saw the doors of the former Whitecliffs Winery open to the public for tastings. After 14 years, the Manutuke property will once again be processing grapes.

The Wrights have been busy fitting out the winery over the last four months. They now have capacity to process up to 100 tonnes. Having taken delivery of four new 10,000 litre tanks to meet demand for his "on the edge" organic wine from Gisborne, Mr Wright looks forward to another vintage with their fourth (and final, according to Nicola) child due in the middle of it all.