



# The Cellar Club Inc

Established in 1980

## Newsletter - April 2020

From your Committee.



"As you might expect, in the current Level 4 Emergency status, your club has effectively gone into adjournment, albeit your committee continues to communicate and make plans for the year ahead.

Our April tasting with The Crater Rim has been deferred and we are considering the Level 4 impact on the whole AGM process. Our club rules require us to give 3 weeks' notice of our AGM which we will do as soon as it is practical to do so. However, if this means we will be holding the meeting after May [a possibility] then that will breach the time requirements set out in our constitution/club rules. Whilst we don't do that lightly, there is no way we can comply with those rules in the L4 environment. We can't even conduct a Special AGM to change the club rules so we are between a rock and a hard place and just need to be practical."

We are considering if there is some way we could have a remote AGM. Your committee has held a meeting on Zoom but there would be too many for that approach. We continue to think through options and will keep you in touch.



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From the Editor

There is little more that I can add. Other Events and tastings are being pursued but it is clear that the future depends on events somewhat beyond our control. Let's hope it doesn't last too much longer and we can get together to enjoy some good company and wines.

Rick and Fay Julian were members of our club for many years until they shifted to Hawkes Bay. Many of our members will be upset to learn that they have been involved in a vehicle accident where they both suffered mainly bruising injuries that required some hospitalisation. Unfortunately Fay's mother was in the vehicle and has died from injuries sustained. Our heartfelt condolences and best wishes go to them at this very sad time.

Cheers Robin Semmens, Editor

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## Looking Back and Looking Forward

Clearly, as we had no Club activity during March looking back has little value. As it happens it is equally difficult to look forward in our current environment. Suffice it to say that your committee will keep abreast of developments and will make appropriate plans when things become clearer. The Wairarapa trip and The Crater Rim will be foremost in our future arrangements.



Palliser



grava

alana

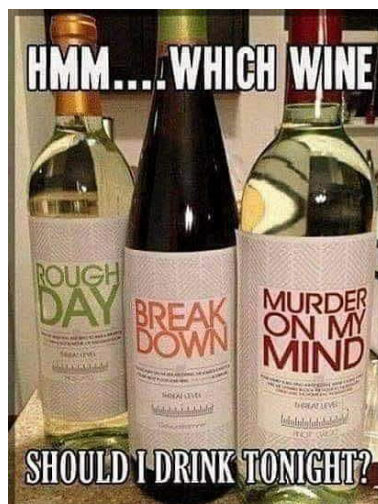


**THE CRATER RIM**

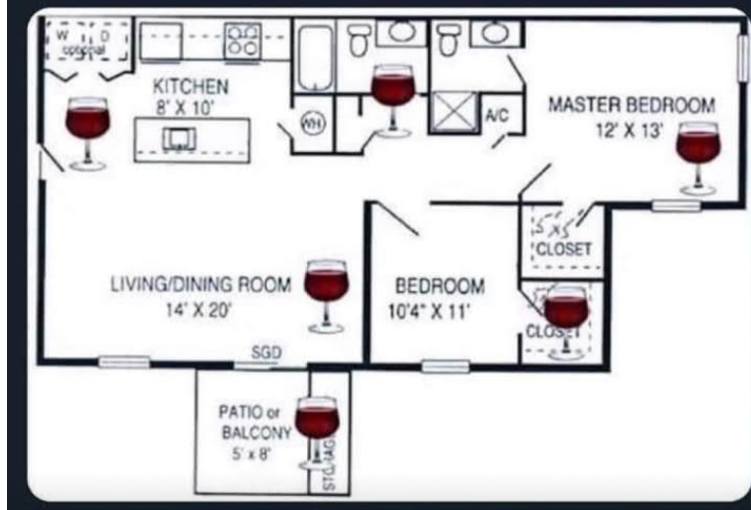
Clearly Covid-19 has forgotten to consider our club's 40th anniversary celebrations. Your committee is still focused on holding these events as we can and planning is well underway for a dinner at a pretty special venue in November. So let's hope the lockdown is a distant memory by then and we can all make up for lost time with a great night out. In the meantime we trust all of us are doing our bit to help wineries stay financially afloat

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“Have you Heard” - The effect of Lockdown and our alternative for the Wine Tour



## Planning your next wine tour made easy



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In the News – Distilleries pause alcohol production to make hand sanitizer

Michael Rubikam and Lisa Rathke; Mar 17 2020



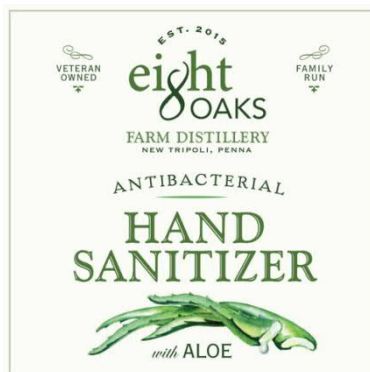
A US distillery owner who grew increasingly angry as he saw the skyrocketing price of hand sanitiser has decided to do something about it: He's temporarily converting his operation into a production line for the suddenly hard-to-find, gooey, alcohol-based disinfectant. Eight Oaks Farm Distillery filled its first 20 bottles this week, a batch destined for charitable groups that need hand sanitiser but haven't been able to get it due to the coronavirus pandemic. The family-owned distillery plans to dramatically boost production this week and distribute the bottles to charities as well as offer them at farmers' markets where it sells its spirits and through its website.

The price: whatever people decide to donate. "We are in a national emergency," said brewery founder Chad Butters. "What's the right thing to do? The right thing to do is support this community by providing something that is in desperate need. We'll flood the valley with hand sanitiser and drive that price right down." Other distilleries are also putting their spirits to work to help fill the shortage of hand sanitisers. Green Mountain Distillers in Morrisville, Vermont, is giving away a hand sanitising solution and Durham Distillery in Durham, North Carolina, is donating one to hospitality colleagues, using high-proof alcohol and other ingredients. Patrons must bring their own containers. (The Good Lord only knows what is going to turn up – Ed)

"We wanted to do something that would be as positive as possible," said Harold Faircloth, an owner of Green Mountain Distillers. Smugglers' Notch Distillery, also in Vermont, plans to launch a hand sanitiser later this week at its Waterbury and Jeffersonville sites. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Vermont's efforts to respond to the virus outbreak.

"I know I have a unique opportunity to help out a little bit and keep my staff employed," said co-owner Jeremy Elliott, who said 40 per cent of his business comes from bars and restaurants, which are closing in some other parts of the country.

The Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, a trade group, has been in touch with federal regulatory agencies as well as the Trump administration's coronavirus task force to clear red tape and "make sure we can be quick and nimble and fill a need in the marketplace", said chief executive Chris Swonger. "We all want to do our part."



(There are plenty of very positive ways people are helping to deal with the pandemic but is there a possibility that the local lads will be getting drunk on cheap hand sanitizer – Ed)

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## Coming Events

Wednesday 08 April 2020  
Deferred

Wednesday 13 May 2020  
AGM- possible deferment

Wednesday 10 June 2020  
Saint Clair - Marlborough

Wednesday 8 July 2020  
Mid Year Dinner

Wednesday 12 August 2020  
To be confirmed

Wednesday 9 September 2020  
To be confirmed

The programme is very much up in the air and all detail is subject to change. We will endeavour to keep members informed however the resumption of Club activities will very much depend in how we are able to come out of the Coronavirus lockdown.