

The Cellar Club, President's Report 2022

Wednesday 11 May 2022

It is usual for a President's Report to be **EITHER** comprehensive and an ordeal **OR** for it to be cryptically short and to the point. So it seems in this most unusual of years that **short is best. As such** this should allow the AGM to proceed swiftly so as to enjoy the wines from the club cellar and the supper on offer tonight.

It has been my absolute privilege to have been the club's President this year. I want to begin by thanking most sincerely **all of you as valued club members for your support in a trying year**. For your subscriptions, of course, but particularly for your support at the scheduled tastings and sundry other monthly events such as the dinners and annual club BBQ.

Our **membership has held up well again this year**. This despite all the pressures our

communities and families have endured. Last year I reflected at some length in my report on the impact for the club of the pandemic so I will quickly move on from that. Again this has been a challenging year for all of us but through the club activities we have generated good company and a focus for interest in a time of lockdowns. **Most particularly the attendance numbers at tastings and dinners** have been regularly and phenomenally good which signals there must be something right about the way tastings are delivered, enjoying the company of friend and the functioning of the club. So, to all of you my thanks.

May I briefly **review the tastings and activities** [11] that we have been able to achieve for these past 12 challenging months. Tastings included Mahi Wines (Marlborough), Western Australia by Keith Tibble (Eurovintage agency), Butterworth (Gladstone Wairarapa), Crater Rim (Waipara), Portugal (Confidant agency), the Gold Medal wines from the NZ International Wine Show (2021), a celebration of Pinot (club members) as well as dinners at La Marche Frances and Juniper as well as at the club's January BBQ

I wish to extend the **club's thanks to the wineries, presenters and agencies** that have supported the club during a year that has been challenging for their businesses, where labour restrictions, lockdowns, cancellations and social distancing have impacted us all. At least three wineries were unable to present in 2021 but have indicated they are keen to return for 2022/2023 and we are organising with them

As well as thanks to the meeting presenters and the tasting organisers, it is the **committee that also deserves our appreciation for their work for the club**. As a group they have met regularly and communicated frequently with each other in most constructive manner. This has been the prime reason for tastings continuing to happen when withdrawals have occurred or organisation of meetings has hit road blocks or come up against Covid limitations. **Without naming committee members, because you know all of those involved** – our secretarial servicing, our financial management, our newsletter communications with members, the meeting venue organisation efforts and suppers, cellar management, the facilitation of the tasting programme and deliveries have all kept pace and been successfully undertaken without there seeming to have been any hitches at all – even though there have been a few, and one cancellation. It has been a **demanding time organisationally** but the efforts of the 8 person committee have shone through and for that I wish to sincerely thank them one and all for their efforts on behalf of the club membership.

I am thrilled to report that the **committee collectively has indicated a willingness to continue** to serve the club for a further year and I am indeed grateful for that. The committee's co-operation, sharing of the load and their special skills and interests continue to be the cornerstone of how we



Dinah Murray Robin and Pat at Tiwaiwaka

have managed to keep this great little club moving forward, fulfilling its wine appreciation objectives whilst providing a source of company, regular meetings and the occasional glasses of vino. **Being Wellington's premier and enduring wine society for over forty years** is no mean feat. It is you as members, and the committee's efforts, that have ensured that this continues to be **the Cellar Club reality**. We will move next to the **election of the club's officers**. My best wishes to all club members as you navigate the societal challenges we are all facing.

Murray Jaspers | President, The Cellar Club Inc