



NOVEMBER 2002

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## Dear Friends of Fox Creek JIM AND HELEN WATTS Directors

This is our final newsletter this year and we send you Christmas greetings from our small group of loyal and friendly staff. For a lot of you, one of the major changes here has been the leaving of bubbly and larger than life Jo Thompson who ran Cellar Door for nearly three years. For those of you who visit Cellar Door you will now have the opportunity to meet our new Cellar Door supervisor Alison Jansson, who has previously worked at Yellowglenn Winery in Victoria.

As you will see below, our wines have achieved quite outstanding results at the recent McLaren Vale Wine Show. Our winemakers, Dan and Tony deserve congratulations and so do the vineyard staff that grow the excellent grapes from which the wine is made.

You will read in this newsletter that we have released a wine under a new label called Shadow's Run. I will not repeat the story here, except to say that this wine is very good value.

Its closure is a new venture for us, using a convenient screw cap to avoid problems with corks spoiling the wine. Like many other wineries and for similar reasons, we are likely to use this new closure on some of our white wines in 2003. Can you please let us know what you think.

With best wishes from all of us here at Fox Creek and thank you for your continuing support.

## Trophies & Gold Medals

October 2002 has been a particularly successful month for our wines, two of which are released with this newsletter.



**2001 'JSM'**  
**SHIRAZ-CABERNET FRANC**

Edinburgh Cellars Trophy and Gold Medal for Best Red Wine Blend at the 2002 McLaren Vale Wine Show

**2001 SEMILLON-SAUVIGNON BLANC**

Hyatt /Advertiser Trophy 2002 for the Judges Choice, Semillon and Blends

**2001 'SHORT ROW' SHIRAZ**

Gold Medal, 2002 McLaren Vale Wine Show

**2001 RESERVE SHIRAZ**

Gold Medal, 2002 McLaren Vale Wine Show

**1999 RESERVE SHIRAZ**

Gold Medal and equal fourth place in the 2002 Visy Board Great Australian Shiraz Challenge (from 217 entries)

**2000 RESERVE SHIRAZ**

Gold Medal, 2002 Royal Melbourne Wine Show. Silver Medal and equal sixth place in the 2002 Visy Board Great Australian Shiraz Challenge (from 217 entries)

**1999 'JSM'**  
**SHIRAZ-CABERNET FRANC**

Selected in "Wine Ireland Top 100 Wines", 2002  
Highly Recommended, Winewise Magazine April 2002

**NV 'VIXEN' SPARKLING**  
**SHIRAZ-CABERNET FRANC**

Top Sparkling Red Wine and Silver Medal, 2002 McLaren Vale Wine Show



## Shadow's Run



Shadow at work in the vineyard

### Limited Release of Reserve Shiraz

THE FIRST SIX VINTAGES  
1994 TO 1999



Handsome wooden presentation boxes containing a bottle of each of the first six vintages of Fox Creek Reserve Shiraz have been offered exclusively to Wine Club members over the last two months and are now available on general release. We are very proud of this wonderful wine and it has received many outstanding accolades from both the public and wine judges.

We have limited quantities of these boxes which are accompanied by an attractive hand stitched booklet telling the history of the brand, the story of the Willows Vineyard from where the grapes are sourced for this exclusive wine and recent tasting notes. These wines have been stored under ideal conditions, are maturing slowly and are capable of further cellaring.

**WHO IS SHADOW?** Shadow is a handsome, noisy and active Border Collie who can be seen around the Fox Creek Vineyards and Winery, believing he is doing his bit for the company!

**BUT WHAT DOES HE ACTUALLY DO?** Shadow spends most of his days with the workers in the vineyard. When secateurs hit the wires on which the vines are trained, the wires vibrate and Shadow chases the vibration up and down the vineyard rows, barking as he goes. Some of the pruners love Shadow's antics, others hate them and wear earplugs or choose another place to prune!

Shadow's work is done when pruning has finished for the day and he returns home exhausted, sometimes covered in mud but always happy in the service with his long hair full of grass seeds and weeds. Helen spends 10 minutes each night removing the debris from his long fur, but even the pain of having these foreign bodies removed does not deter his enthusiasm to go out and work again the next day.

Shadow has given permission for us to name this new and very drinkable wine after him and his habit. He even believes that he has earned the privilege for all his hard work!

**THE NEW WINE.** Up until this year Fox Creek has usually selected about a third of the wine it has made for the premium products you know so well. The remainder of the wine has been sold to other companies. Of course the best wine was always kept for Fox Creek labels, ranging from a small selection for Reserve wines to

larger amounts for other labels. The wine we have selected for Shadow's Run is a blend of 2001 Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon that is made for immediate

drinking and not for long term cellaring. It is a wine that you can enjoy drinking at home in the evenings or to share with friends on informal occasions. I think you will be very surprised at just how good the wine is.

Another change we have made is to join the modern trend and avoid closure of the bottle with a cork. The use of the screw cap will avoid spoiling of the wine by cork taint, will be very convenient at picnics and barbeques as a corkscrew will not be needed and the bottle is easily resealed.

Try Shadow's Run! We are sure you will not be disappointed.

**When secateurs hit the wires on which the vines are trained, the wires vibrate and Shadow chases the vibration up and down the vineyard rows, barking as he goes.**

## Our Wines

We've just finished bottling the red wines from the 2001 vintage. As you will see in the section "Trophies and Gold Medals" these reds have favourably impressed the wine judges. The cooler 2002 vintage was outstanding and we believe the white wines released now reflect this.

### Reds

#### 2001 'SHORT ROW' SHIRAZ

This popular wine has won gold medals for each of its first three vintages in 1999, 2000 and 2001. A straight Shiraz, it is the epitome of McLaren Vale red wine. Do not miss it!

#### 2001 'JSM'

##### SHIRAZ-CABERNET FRANC

Our international red wine that has already won a Trophy and Gold Medal! We sell just as much of this wine overseas as in Australia, particularly in the United States. Although this wine is blended to be suitable for early drinking, it will cellar well for some years with likely improvement in complexity.

#### 2001 SHIRAZ-GRENACHE

This fine wine is only available by mail order and at Cellar Door as most is sold overseas so it will not be seen in retail shops or restaurants. Our least expensive premium red wine, it is best consumed with food and is very approachable now.

#### 2000 RESERVE MERLOT

Earthy dark berries with savoury and chocolate flavours typical of our Merlot. Soft ripe fruit fills the palate balanced by supporting oak and acidity giving great length of flavour.

#### 2000 RESERVE

##### CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The palate shows rich, sweet blackberry, cherry and chocolate. The middle palate is full and is followed by a drying, elegant finish with flavours that are very persistent. Shows potential for ageing well.



Alison Jansson at the Cellar Door.

#### 2000 RESERVE SHIRAZ

This wine has lovely blackberry, blackcurrant, allspice and licorice flavours. An integrated firm tannin structure supports the fruit, which balanced by acidity leads to a finish of extraordinary length and softness.

#### NV 'VIXEN' SPARKLING

##### SHIRAZ-CABERNET FRANC

Great for any occasion especially with Christmas turkey! It has intense flavours of blackberry, licorice and chocolate with a lingering semi-dry finish.

### Whites

#### 2002 SEMILLON-SAUVIGNON BLANC

Lemon is the dominant aroma and flavour of this lovely wine which has rapidly increased in popularity in its first two years. Europeans just love this blend, but there is enough for everybody.

#### 2002 VERDELHO

A very good and cool vintage for white wines in 2002 led to a Verdelho of strong flavours and a natural acidity that is highly desirable. The lime and tropical fruit flavours are very characteristic of the variety. A great Summer drink, with or without food.

#### 2002 SAUVIGNON BLANC

This is a very good example of the variety with plenty of zesty primary fruit and a clean finish helped by the natural acidity of the cool vintage.

#### 2001 CHARDONNAY

This wine has complex aromas and flavours of citrus, melon, peach and vanilla. The oak is imperceptible on the palate but adds texture to the wine.

## Magnums

#### 2000 RESERVE SHIRAZ MAGNUMS

Magnums are great Christmas presents and we have just released the long awaited Gold Medal 2000 Reserve Shiraz Magnums in time for Christmas. These are very popular so don't delay if you want one or more. They look terrific with gold labels etched into the glass and are packed in attractive wooden box. The bottles are individually numbered.



# The Invasion of the Killer Koala DR. JOHN ROBERTS Partner & Director

Our back door is open at night. No fear of home invaders here as three fearless Rhodesian Ridgebacks Mak, Cass and Jo prow the darkened house pillaging food stores and between times sleeping on a variety of comfortable and enticing furniture items, beds +/- people, lounges, bean bags and other rough options. Just like the African veldt really. Koalas are said to be an endangered species. Haady, haady, ha ha! Not in suburban Belair they ain't.

Over the last year we have had numerous visitations to garden trees and a couple of RR v koala encounters when the latter decided to hang off the underside of the pergola which shades the back door. The dogs went ape and one would think any sensible koala would have gotten the message and decamped forever – but no.

Dr. J. had characteristically fallen to sleep fully clothed on the lounge while watching television. Lyn had sensibly retired to bed. The lounge concerned is situated three rooms and eighteen metres from the open back door. At 1:30am, all hell broke

loose behind the lounge. Mak had latched onto the ear, Cass the rump and Jo the side of a very angry large koala. Fur flew and the noise level itself was a health hazard. Dogs

**the designer standard lamp toppled, smashing its irreplaceable embossed glass shade. We now had broken glass, tufts of koala fur, koala droppings and utter cacophony.**

barking, leaping and baying while the koala hissed, grunted, spat and lashed out with its claws at everything in sight.

At this point the designer standard lamp toppled, smashing its irreplaceable embossed glass shade. We now had broken glass, tufts of koala fur, koala droppings and utter cacophony. Not to be outdone, the indefatigable Dr. J., half-asleep and still cruising on an evening bottle of Fox Creek Shiraz, embarked on a program of wildlife preservation.

Three large and excited RRs were somehow detached from their prey when the “victim” decided to escape up the nearest tree trunk which

happened to be Dr J.'s long, shapely (but somewhat ageing) right leg. Two thirds – and only two thirds and I'm grateful for that - up the thigh it realised that this was no tree but part of the enemy. The claws dug in and it bit with extraordinary force. The front verandah door was opened, the beast detached and unceremoniously booted into the night. It then sat, seemingly unconcerned, on the verandah railing for well over an hour preening itself and with no apparent signs of injury apart from missing several tufts of fur - they were all over the lounge room floor.

My linen trousers are shredded beyond repair, I have three lacerations and three deep puncture wounds. Each of the dogs has multiple punctures to the snout, face and head. I am now off to take the dogs to the vet, have a tetanus shot myself, buy a new lamp and some trousers and I'm thinking about a 303 rifle. And they say “koalas” are an endangered species!

## Ideas for our Newsletter

We welcome your ideas for articles and improvements for our Fox Creek newsletter. We'll try to include as many of them as we can in future editions. Please send your ideas by writing to us or by email to: [sales@foxcreekwines.com](mailto:sales@foxcreekwines.com) explaining your idea and providing your contact details to assist us should we need to follow up on your suggestion.

## Cellar Door Quote

**“Why cleanskin? Do they have special equipment to peel the grapes?”**

Lyn Norris, New Zealand



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

ABN 63 070 468 423

