

## Cessnock Advertiser

Hunter Valley Wine Industry Awards

June 4 2010

# Hunter Valley Wine Industry Awards

## 09 June 2010

The Hunter Valley Wine Industry honoured the achievements of their very best in each wine making field at the fourth annual Hunter Valley Legends and Wine Industry Awards held at The Barrel Room at Tempus Two.

The evening celebrated and recognised the hard work and dedication by those from the region who are passionate about making the best wines in the country.

Hunter Valley Legends and Wine Industry Awards Chairman, Iain Riggs, said: "This year we have put emphasis on winners not only excelling in each individual field, but we wanted to recognise their tireless work promoting the Hunter Valley wine region, and their efforts to continue the legacy of the Hunter Valley legends and pioneers.

Well-known wine industry figure Christopher Barnes has been inducted to the Living Legend honour roll. Mr. Barnes has worked in the Hunter Valley Wine Industry for 40 years, starting his time in as manager at Saxonvale Wines and later planting his own vineyards.

He was elected to the Hunter Valley Vineyard Association for 32 years holding the position of president for eight years and secretary for eight years. He was President of the NSW Wine Industry Association for six years and has made a significant contribution to the wine and wine tourism industries with his roles on the Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourism Board, Hunter Tourist Organisation, NSW Licensing Committee and Australian Regional Winemakers Forum. In 2003 he was awarded the Order of Australia for services to the Wine Industry

The winemaker of the year award went to P. J. Charteris from Brokenwood Wines. This award recognises and celebrates the outstanding unique wine styles produced by P. J. who has had over 26 years experience in winemaking and has held many wine judging positions, including Chairman of the Barossa Show and Panel Chair in at least four other major wine shows.

The award for Rising Star was made to Matt Burton who is the winemaker at Wandin Valley.

Matt joined Wandin Valley Estate as assistant winemaker in 2003 following vintages in France, the U.S., and the Yarra Valley, and was promoted to winemaker in 2004, just prior to the 2005 harvest.

Brett Keeping from Two Rivers took out the award for Viticulturist of the Year. Brett has been involved in the Hunter Valley Wine Industry for the past 22 years. As General Manager of Two Rivers Wines, his responsibilities include the management of the company's 80 hectare vineyard in the Upper Hunter Valley.

Brokenwood Wines at Pokolbin took out the award for Hunter Valley cellar Door of the Year.

Forty years 'young' next year, Brokenwood Wines is owned by a group of friends dedicated to making great wine and having fun. This bond of great wine and food has grown to embrace not only the shareholders but cellar door staff, wine club members and customers alike.

The Heritage Award which acknowledges landmarks or items of historical importance that have influenced the course of, or made a significant contribution to the Hunter Valley Wine Industry. The winners were Drayton's Family Wines Old Cellar and Audrey Wilkinson Vineyards Old Vats.