

Newcastle Daily Telegraph

Wines will end up all white

By Neil Keene

Wednesday 27 August, 2008



Champion: Pokolbin Estate Vineyard's Graham Ward

Picture: Robert McKell

Wines will end up all white

Neil Keene

WHITE is the new red for dozens of Hunter vineyards after rain ruined this year's crop of shiraz grapes.

Wet weather in the February harvest season spoiled tens of millions of dollars' worth of red wine grapes, forcing winemakers to focus on white varieties.

Hunter Valley Wine Industry Association president Geoff Krieger said more than 80 per cent of the crop was

lost, with many vineyards — including his own — cancelling the 2008 vintage of their flagship red wines.

But semillons and other white grape varieties picked before the big wet produced award-winning results.

Seven of 64 gold medals presented at last week's Hunter Valley Wine Show went to 2008 white wines, including a semillon produced by boutique winery Pokolbin Estate Vineyard.