



PHOENIX C.C. WINE APPRECIATION CLUB

NEWSLETTER

One of the really lovely aspects of our Phoenix is the “all hands on deck” attitude of our members. And, amazingly, as new people appear, the first words out of their mouths after they arrive are, “how can I help”. I’m still blown away by it! Thank you all. Your Committee is so very grateful.

February Meeting

Our first meeting for 2026 featured Classic Aussie Blends and we were rewarded with a record number of attendees. including three new members and six visitors. We need to buy more glasses!



We tried a slightly different format this meeting. Very comprehensive notes were, as usual, prepared by Rod and circulated prior to the meeting, with the



expectation that attendees would be familiar with them by the event.

Rod was then able to reduce his presentation sufficiently to allow for a short interval when we can enjoy the nibbles prepared by Fraser and his team of helpful members and socialise with the other attendees.

It seemed to work well enough, just needs a little fine tuning to avoid the queue.

As usual, Rod’s presentation was informative and entertaining, with six very enjoyable wines sampled and discussed. Seems everyone found something in the selection that they enjoyed. For me it was, surprisingly, the miles from nowhere Margaret River Sav. Blanc Semillon and the 2021 Alkoomi Grey Label Cab. Merlot - also from WA.

New Members:

A very big welcome to Karin & Chris (our picnic hosts), Nathan and our very newest members, Catherine & Ray and Steph and Paul. Wonderful to see our Phoenix growing.

Concert Picnic:

A few of us made the trip to Wagstaffe in late January to picnic with the U-Bouddi big band, with which Noel plays, for their Australia Day Concert. It was a very hot day and my wine warmed, but the music was great. It was lovely there by the water when the day cooled. Maybe think about it for next year.

Degustation Dinner:

This is, sadly, fully booked with a waiting list. Hopefully more places can be secured at the next one. So sorry for those members who missed out.

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Visitors

We were delighted to welcome six visitors to our February Meeting.



Ray & Catherine (now members), Steph & Paul (now members) David, and Julie (not pictured). Ray & Catherine read about us in CC Community News, Steph and Paul in the Copacabana Next Door Magazine. David is a mate of Rod's. Julie is a bush dance friend of mine.

Lucky Door Prize:

No one is pointing the finger at Steph, one of our then visitors, and now our newest member, but she actually DREW HER OWN winning LDP ticket! We certainly won't ask her to draw the raffle!

Raffle:

What would we do without our raffle!
It has been our mainstay since our inception, allowing us firstly to exist, then to expand our wine choices, our nibbles, our prizes, etc. I loved this one because one each was taken out by Fraser and moi. This is no doubt considered as dubious as the lucky door prize, although Fraser and I hotly dispute that.

To top off the night, the three quarter full bottles of the tasting wines were also raffled off, and some happy people went in search of a straw. One with a bottle in each hand.

Thanks you, everyone, for your continued support .

March Meeting:

We are most fortunate that one of our newest members, Nathan, who has recently completed the globally-recognised Wine and Spirit Education Trust's Level 3 qualification with a top grade result, has agreed to conduct the March meeting for us in Rod's absence.



Nathan works with Oldfield Cellars (which has been judged as the "Best Bottle Shop in Australia") specialising in their Imported Wines Range.

The theme of our event will be "Affordable Italian Wines". Judging by the agreeable murmurings, when the theme was announced at the end of our February meeting, this is a very popular choice. We look forward to it. And thank you Nathan. Isn't that just like Phoenix, though. A Member for five minutes and you are put to work!

And Coming Up:

A natural follow-up to the March event will be a tasting of Australian wines produced from Italian grape varieties ... and there are others in the pipeline: Australia's Two BIG Grape Varieties, 6 Foreign Grape Varieties (you've probably never heard of), Aussie Fortified Wines, Up and Coming Victorian Wine Regions, and several others. So, 2026 is going to be something special.

R.E.N.