

Plonkies reunite for an evening of celebration

The *Wine Industry Journal* joined Roseworthy College and University of Adelaide graduates from several generations at the 'Plonkies' reunion dinner held at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide on the evening of 30 July.

The 308 attendees each contributed at least one bottle of wine, making 25 cases in total to be auctioned overseas to raise optimal funds for Canteen, the charity aiding children and teenagers living with cancer. Around \$5000 in cash raised on the night was also to be forwarded to Canteen.

Karen Ross, business development manager for Portavin, and co-event organiser along with Portavin general manager, Tony Royal, and Dr Richard Smart, former Dean of Oenology at the college, was delighted with the result of the event, saying some fabulous wines were donated and her expectations were well-exceeded.

"We had a great cross-section of graduates including some of the most experienced industry members, David and Robert Hardy, Alan and Ian Hickenbotham, Brian Barry, Graham Williams, Colin Campbell, John Vickery, Chris Hancock and Ian McKenzie.

"There were also many from the 1970s and 1980s including Kym Rayner from Torlesse Wines in NZ, Steve Webber from DeBortoli, Vanya Cullen from Cullens, David Baverstock from Esporão in Portugal, David Hayman from the Napa Valley, and many locals including Andrew Wigan from Peter Lehmann, Ben Riggs from Mr Riggs, Chester Osborn from d'Arenberg and Joe Grilli from Primo Estate. Some of the newer stars of the industry included Corinna Rayment from Oliver's Taranga Vineyards, PJ Charteris from Brokenwood, Greg Follett from Lake Breeze, and Christopher Dix from Fox Creek," Ross said.

Selected attendees were bestowed with military hats to form a 'Plonkies' Army', the cause of much hilarity during the official proceedings. Titles included Operational Counter Intelligence Officer, Lieutenant Peter Leske; International Relations Officer, Wendy 'it's getting hot in here' Stuckey; and Chief Coordinator of Chaos and Anarchy, Sergeant Nick Haselgrove.

Plans for future Roseworthy College and University of Adelaide viticulture and oenology reunions are likely to be under the control of the University's Alumni Development Office, who are keen to see the tradition continue, likely to be held in line with the Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference.



Cheers!... (from left) Rachel Davidson, Renae Buchanan and Liz Riley.



The boys are back in town... (from left) Andre Dorich, David Morrison, Steve Clarkson and Chris Osborne.



Sarah Marquis, Christopher Dix, Paul Grbin and Philip Spillman.



Nigel Catt (left) and Andrew Garrett.



Richard Smart and Chester Osborn.



Hamish Gibson (far left), Liz Riley and Tony Hoare.



Peter Godden and Olga Kostic.



David Kingsbury (rear) and Larry Lockshin.



Ian Hickenbotham (left) and Brian Barry.



Flying in... (from left) David Baverstock, Richard Smart and Mike Peterkin with a photograph of the Roseworthy College oenology class 1975-77.



Kicking back... Kevin O'Brien, Dean Hewitson and Ben Riggs.



Charles Whish (far left), Chester Osborn and James Holland.



Plonkies' Army... (from left) Steve Webber, Gordon Gebbie, Richard Smart and Tony Royal.