



*A*s we move into autumn, it's hard to believe that we have actually had a summer! As Brett will report in his harvest roundup, we have had incredibly mild conditions and for the first time in our 23 years here on the property we did not record a single day over 40 degrees. As I write this half of NSW is underwater so I hope not too many of you have been adversely affected by this extreme weather event.

We are very excited to have launched our brand new website for Two Rivers, and I hope you can spare a few minutes to check it out. [www.tworiverswines.com.au](http://www.tworiverswines.com.au)

So why not sit down with a glass of your favourite Two Rivers and catch up on what we have been up to of late. Cheers,

*Linda Keeping*

## HARVEST 2012

To our enormous relief, I am pleased to say that the 2012 harvest is now in the winery! After a beautiful growing season and a hectic harvest it is now time to regroup and start preparing the vines for the winter ahead.

The 2011/12 season was dominated by mild conditions with only four days of summer recording temperatures above 35 degrees – unheard of for the Upper Hunter! As a result, the vines enjoyed soft, lush, stress-free growing conditions and ripened with great flavour and balance. Harvest was shaping up as a classic.

We got off to an early start with picking commencing on January 20. With weather threatening, the harvesting team really hooked in and went hard, picking as much as we could while the conditions were favourable. Over recent years we have worked hard on restructuring the vineyard with a focus on earlier ripening varieties that are best suited to the Hunter's changing weather patterns. It paid off this year with most of our fruit harvested and in the winery before the rain fell.

2012 will be dominated by white varietals with the Verdelho and the Chardonnay the stand outs, both harvested early with light crops and plenty of flavour. Our little block of Viognier also produced some beautiful fruit and we are looking forward to some great results.

*Brett Keeping*



## 2011 STONES THROW SEMILLON NAMED AUSTRALIA'S BEST VALUE WHITE

Semillon is the benchmark variety of the Hunter Valley. It is globally unique for its unwooded, steely and long ageing qualities, and has been described by UK wine guru Jancis Robinson as "Australia's gift to the wine world".

At Two Rivers we have worked hard on making our Semillon vines happy – part of their success is the use of compost and natural soil additives and the elimination of all manufactured fertilizers.

It seems to be paying off – the 2011 Two Rivers Stones Throw Semillon was named Australia's best value white in the Sydney Morning Herald/Age Good Wine Guide of 2012. It's an award to add to the already bulging mantelpiece for this wine. It has won Gold medals at the Hunter and Cowra Wine Show and the trophy for the best young Semillon at the NSW Wine Awards. Supplies of this wine are extremely limited, but #semsational so enjoy it while you can!



## COTTAGE MAKEOVER

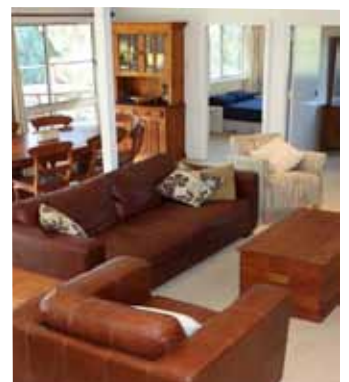
Our Cottage amongst the vines has undergone a major makeover and transformed into a fantastic getaway for couples, friends and families alike. With a brand spanking new kitchen and bathroom, the Cottage is now more than ever an idyllic place to base yourself in the Upper Hunter.

Summer is the ideal time to sit outside on the verandah and enjoy the expansive views over the vineyard and down towards the river – enjoy BBQ facilities and of course a chilled bottle of the best Two Rivers has to offer.

Winter is the time to snuggle up in front of the crackling wood fire and discover why our reds are our best kept secret.

Four bedrooms, spacious living areas – and of course the brand new kitchen and bathroom. What more could you need for some serious R & R nestled amongst the vineyard.

Please contact Linda for any enquiries. [linda@tworivers.com.au](mailto:linda@tworivers.com.au)



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

The 1955 flood had a devastating impact on the area. The Goulburn River unleashed its full fury, first claiming the high level bridge at Sandy Hollow and later the Yarrawa Bridge, isolating the residents of Yarrawa, Baerami and Widden.

Locals had to find a way to get supplies to those stranded by the flood, and in true Australian style, renown Denman golfer Ken Pascoe attached a piece of fishing line to a golf ball, and in one shot, hit the perfect drive across the swollen river. A succession of string and rope was dragged back and forth until it was strong enough to install a flying fox which became the life line to the western side of the river for the next three years.

A young John McCormick from Yarrawa, picked up the golf ball and has kindly allowed us to use it in a display in the Cellar Door, allowing this piece of Denman folk lore to live on.



## RECENT WEDDINGS

We have recently held some gorgeous weddings in the vineyard and Cellar Door. Tahnee Sowter and Blake Dureau, Heather Graham and Lindsay McBride, Beth Rikard-Bell and Grant Tranter – a very big thank you to Tanya D’Herville for her incredible photography. [www.tanyadhervillephotography.com](http://www.tanyadhervillephotography.com)



What’s this then? It’s a quick response (QR) code. A two dimensional code that can be scanned and read by smartphone cameras to transfer information. See where this one takes you to.



## TWO RIVERS HAS A NEW WEBSITE

Not only are we on facebook and twitter, we have recently given our website a new outfit to wear. The revamped site has the facility for online ordering so it is now easier than ever to stock up on your favourite Two Rivers wines! Have a look and see what you think. We hope you like it and we would love to hear from you.

[www.tworiverswines.com.au](http://www.tworiverswines.com.au)

## RIVER STORIES

ABC Radio has recently completed a follow up series to River Stories – a wonderful collection of interviews that unlocked the passion of landholders on the Hunter River between the Barrington Tops and Newcastle Harbour. The current series looks at the changes in the river over the last ten years and provides a stirring insight into why the river is the life blood of the Hunter Valley. Two Rivers featured in the original River Stories, and ten years later we have made the cut again - this time with a featured video! Visit the link below to see our River Story, we are really proud to be part of such a great series.

[www.abc.net.au/newcastle/riverstories/?section=video](http://www.abc.net.au/newcastle/riverstories/?section=video)

## EVENTS

We look forward to meeting you at this year’s Upper Hunter Wine and Food Affair. Held on Saturday May 5 in the main street of Denman, it is a fantastic outing to experience all the culinary delights the Upper Hunter has to offer. Come and say hello!

After all the stress of listening to great bands, sipping your favourite Two Rivers wine and deciding which gourmet food stall you will dine at, spend the following day (Sunday May 6) at our Cellar Door in the relaxed atmosphere of Recovery at the Rivers. More food, fantastic wines and great music make for a very chilled day out. Gather up your friends, bring a blanket or chairs, and bask in the beautiful surrounds of the vines.

For further information visit

[www.upperhunterwineandfoodaffair.com.au](http://www.upperhunterwineandfoodaffair.com.au)



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