

# OFF THE VINE

AUTUMN 2014



TWO RIVERS

HUNTER VALLEY

## HARVEST

The 2014 season reminds us again that no two years are ever the same in the Hunter Valley. After a very mild winter and an early bud burst, the vines got off to a flying start and it was quickly evident that it was going to be an early year. Good rain in November was ideally timed but that was pretty much all we got for the season. The hot, dry conditions through December and January gave the vineyard a real Mediterranean feel and we were very thankful to have the ever reliable Hunter River running through the property. Harvest commenced on the 9th January (one of our earliest starts ever) with Chardonnay and Verdelho being my picks of the vintage!



Heading out for the night harvest

## FROM THE VINEYARD

Our vineyard is a proud participant in the Stepping Stones project, a conservation initiative designed to create habitat for endangered native birds and animals by connecting our waterways with the natural surrounding bush land.

A team from Conservation Volunteers Australia has been on site at Two Rivers for two weeks to assist us to clear weeds from a section of the Hunter River, helping clear the way for future native tree plantings.

We aim to continue to clean up and improve sections of the Hunter so we can establish a river walk and picnic area on its banks. We are planning a picnic day in winter so all staff can get down and dirty with some tree planting and continue the clean-up. Stay tuned for updates.



Stepping Stones Co-ordinator Kirsten McKimmie, Brett & the Conservation Volunteers

## PETER BYRNE CONCERT

2013 was our 25th anniversary at Two Rivers so we celebrated in style with a live open air concert featuring Australia's leading Neil Diamond tribute artist Peter Byrne and his seven-piece band. Peter showed why he is regarded as one of Australia's best entertainers and it wasn't long before the whole crowd had their hands in the air and were singing along to favourites like Cracklin Rosie, Crunchy Granola Sweet and Red Red Wine.

Peter took the audience on a journey through all of Neil Diamond's classic hits, engaging the crowd with his charm and Irish humour. The night was a stunning success and it was great to see the local community come together and enjoy a world class act right here in Denman.



Peter Byrne playing to a packed house at Two Rivers

## AWARDS

STOP PRESS: Two Rivers have been recently notified that they have won a highly sought after Blue-gold medal at the 2014 Sydney International Wine Show for the 2012 Two Rivers Reserve Chardonnay. Announcements of the Trophy winners will be held early March.

## FILM FESTIVAL

Two Rivers is very proud to once again host the Red Carpet Awards night of the Muswellbrook Shire Blue Heeler Film Festival on April 16. Winners in all five categories for 2014 will be announced, including the coveted 'Bluey' for best film. For all you budding starry-eyed film directors out there why not have a go and enter your short film into this very popular film festival. All entry details are on their website at <http://www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au> and follow the prompts.



## MY KITCHEN RULES

For those of you who have been following 'My Kitchen Rules' on Channel 7, you will know all about the gorgeous newlyweds Jason & Annie Chesworth, better known as Mr & Mrs Cheese. Two Rivers vineyard was the venue chosen by Jason & Annie to host their wedding nuptials and reception. Flashes of their wedding in the Two Rivers vineyard have been popping up all through the series.

Jason's parents, Tania & Geoff Chesworth have been long-time friends of Two Rivers. They took over the reins of nearby Hunter Belle Cheese nearly four years ago and have built up the business offering an extended range of hand crafted cheese, yougurt and fudge. Here at Two Rivers we are very proud to offer Hunter Belle cheese exclusively on our Cheese & Antipasto platters. We wish Jason & Annie all the best for the remainder of the series.



Annie and Jason's wedding day at Two Rivers



John and Linda - September 2013

## VALE – JOHN MUDDLE

November 2013 saw the sad passing of John Muddle at age 89. John was Linda's father, founder of the renowned Richmond Grove vineyard and one of the original partners with us here at Two Rivers.

In the late 1960's John left behind a very successful career in the family poker machine business (known as 'Nutt and Muddle') to move with his wife Mary and five children from Sydney to a cattle property at Sandy Hollow known as Richmond Grove. Their involvement in the Upper Hunter wine industry happened almost by accident when during a particularly boozy weekend with friends, they ran out of wine and one of the guests made the comment; "I don't know why you don't just grow the grapes yourself!" This sparked John's interest and a phone call was made to a young Brian McGuigan who was running the nearby Penfold's operation at Wybong. Brian arrived at the property, loved what he saw of the soils and topography, and a long and successful partnership was formed.

John and Mary expanded the vineyard planting over 250 acres of vines, making it one of the largest vineyards in the Hunter Valley for its time. The decision to plant vines was richly rewarded with Richmond Grove wines going on to achieve international acclaim, becoming one of the premier brands in Australia.

John was an instrumental figure in the establishment of Two Rivers and his experience and wisdom helped to shape our vineyard into the successful operation that it is today. He was a wonderful mentor to me and so many others in both his professional and family life. John was liked by everyone who knew him and he is missed by us all.

*Brett Keeping*

## WINE AND FOOD AFFAIR

Now in its 11th year the Upper Hunter Wine & Food Affair has gained a well-earned reputation as the 'Hunter's Best Street Party' and will be soon upon us on Saturday May 3rd. As a very proud supporter of this great event since its inception, Two Rivers will once again be there showcasing a wide selection of our wines on this fun filled day. Along with gourmet treats from across the Valley and entertainment to keep everyone of all ages occupied from 11am to 4pm this day is not to be missed in Denman.

For those of you who aren't regulars to the event, make sure you visit [www.upperhunterwineandfoodaffair.com.au](http://www.upperhunterwineandfoodaffair.com.au) or contact Troy Jones on 0412 551438 for more details.



If you can't come to us, we can come to you.  
Visit [tworivers.com.au](http://tworivers.com.au), order your wine and say hello to our wines at your house the next day.

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