



March 31, 2014

Dear Members,

It is exciting to see our membership continuing to grow! We now have over 3,200 members, including spouses and significant others, in 56 countries. We are also adding new local chapters around the world and we view this as the most significant source of our future growth and service to our members.

As usual at this time of the Rotary year, we will begin by giving an update of our convention events. It is of interest that we have been told that one of the main reasons that many of our members attend the international conventions is to attend our events before, during and after the meetings. Certainly they add to the enjoyment and interest of the conventions and I am sure this is true for all the R.I. Fellowships. What a wonderful opportunity to share our interests with special like-minded folks from all over the world!

### **RI Convention in Sydney, Australia**



We have made some changes to the Sydney event descriptions, including links to additional information on each venue, so please read the updates below. Our events are filling up, so if you would like to attend one or more of these, please make your reservations quickly. Please also note that we have now opened the attendance to include guests of RWAFF members. This is typically always true anyway for our Sunday night affairs which are typically larger venues designed to accommodate new members who join at the conventions and/or prospective members. Click on the links below each event to reserve and pay for you seats, using Eventbrite. Note that the prices are quoted in Australian Dollars.

#### **Seafood Master Cooking Classes, Saturday, 31 May at 10:00 AM and at 3:00 PM – SOLD OUT**

Travis Harvey, one of the world's finest seafood chefs, will be conducting cooking classes pairing the finest Australian seafood with some delightful Aussie wines. This is a ~~once~~ <sup>yearly</sup> in a lifetime+seafood experience where we learn cooking methods for chilli mud crab, crispy skinned barramundi, seared scallops, and shrimp.

#### **RWAF Night At AESOP'S RESTAURANT – Sunday, 1 June , at 7:30 PM**

Rotarian James Gamvros will be our host for an authentic Greek banquet at his Aesop's Restaurant in Macquarie Street in Sydney. Expect generous servings of delicious Greek food. Your Australian Rotary organisers have selected some wonderful Australian wines to accompany the food dishes. This will be a fun evening and a great way to start out the convention. Bring guests and prospective members

The dress is smart casual. Location is within walking distance of most hotels in central Sydney. Cost: A\$76.84 includes food, wine and booking fee. <http://www.aesops.com.au>

<http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rotarians-wine-appreciation-fellowship-at-aesops-tickets-10181439961>

### **Wine Lovers' Banquet Night at the MENZIES HOTEL on Carrington Street, Sydney. – Tuesday, 3 June**

This is our "big event" for 2014 and it will be a highlight of the Convention. It is open only to Lifetime Members and their guests. Annual Members can always upgrade to Lifetime prior to or during the convention.

This dinner will feature delicious Australian food and premium quality wines carefully selected to represent some of the best boutique wine makers of Australia. Two experts from the Aussie wine industry will share some wonderfully entertaining stories of Australian wine and the people who make it.

To ensure a wonderful wine appreciation experience and presentation of splendid food dishes designed by the Executive Chef, this event is strictly limited to the allocated 64 seats. Once sold out, no further bookings can be taken. We are over three quarters filled so hurry if you want to attend. The dress is cocktail wear for ladies and jacket and tie for gentlemen. Cost: A\$118.87 includes food, wine and booking fee.

<http://www.sydneymenzieshotel.com.au/history.html>. To book:

<http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rotarians-wine-appreciation-fellowship-at-the-menzies-hotel-tickets-10181652597>

### **Farewell Buffet Night at the Kirribilli Club, Wednesday, 4 June at 7:30 PM**

This fellowship event, on the final night of the Convention is to be held at the iconic Kirribilli Club on the north side of Sydney Harbour. It will be the perfect opportunity for our members, old and new, and their guests, to share a wonderful and relaxing night with like-minded wine lovers from around the world. A delicious Australian buffet will be accompanied with white and red wines, plus non-alcoholic beverages. <http://www.kirribilliclub.com.au>.

Transport options to the Kirribilli Club include trains across Sydney Harbour Bridge to Milsons Point station (first station across the bridge) or harbour ferry from Circular Quay. Show your RI Convention lanyard name ID for free train or ferry travel. If you prefer a taxi ride, it is only 6 minutes from the Sydney Central Business District.

The dress is smart casual. 120 guests. Cost: A \$88.00 per person including the buffet, Australian wines and Australian beers. To book:

<http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rotarians-wine-appreciation-fellowship-at-kirribilli-club-tickets-10181744873>

### **Thursday/Friday, 5-7 JUNE**

#### ***WINE APPRECIATION TOUR TO THE ORANGE DISTRICT OF NEW SOUTH WALES – THURSDAY 5 JUNE to SATURDAY 7 JUNE 2014***

Our Rotarians Wine Appreciation Fellowship Tour will visit the Orange Wine Region of New South Wales, Australia. This is a wine fellowship project of the Rotary Club of Orange Daybreak.

The Orange Wine Region is 1000 metres above sea level with over 50 wineries varying from large international commercial operations to boutique wineries. The region produces some of Australia's best cool climate wines including sauvignon blanc, chardonnay, pinot noir and shiraz. Our Rotary hosts have selected some very special wineries where our guests will meet winemakers and taste some wonderful vintages.

This 3-day, 2-night tour features Rotary home hosting accommodation, and includes breakfasts, dinners on both nights, all wine tastings, local touring in the region, and coach transport from Sydney to Orange and return to Sydney. Strictly limited to 22 guests. We are almost full so please book quickly!

Cost is A\$369.95 per person, including booking fee. Here is the link: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rotary-wine-appreciation-tour-orange-region-tickets-10385496299>

For further information please contact Murray Paterson at [murray.paterson@keystosuccess.com.au](mailto:murray.paterson@keystosuccess.com.au) or +61 418 206 485

## **Itinerary for Rotarian's Wine Appreciation Fellowship Tour to Orange Wine Region**

### **Thursday 5 June**

9.30 am Depart from the Menzies Hotel Carrington Street Sydney

11.15 am Visit to the Three Sisters in the iconic Blue Mountains at Katoomba (one of Australia's most photographed locations).

12 noon Brunch at the historic Carrington Hotel, Katoomba

2.30 pm Visit Bathurst's Mount Panorama Race Track, home to Australia's premier production car classic. Drive around the race track in our bus at a gentle pace.

4.00 pm Arrive at Orange Visitors Centre after short tour of Orange. Meet with Orange Daybreak Rotarians for home hosting.

6.00 pm Dinner with host family, and overnight home stay.

### **Friday 6 June**

9.30 am Visit to De Salis Wines at 1050 metres. Pinot Noir and Wild Chardonnay. Tastings from the barrel followed by Morning tea.

11.30 am Visit to Ross Hill Wines, Wallace Road Winery (rated 5 star winery) for tasting of their much awarded Pinnacle Series Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon wines

1.00 pm Aussie BBQ Lunch at Montoro. Presentation by Cargo Road Winery of their award winning Zinfandel and International Gold Award Riesling

3.00 pm Visit to Phillip Shaw Winery, Koomooloo for tasting of No 5 Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 and No 89 Shiraz 2011

7.00 pm Dinner at Highland Heritage Estate

### **Overnight home stay with host family.**

### **Saturday 7 June**

9.30 am Tour of Anson Street Special Needs School (sampling their Tempranillo) followed by morning tea,

11.00 am Travel to the Charles Sturt University Winery for final tastings, a light lunch and final farewells

12.30 am Depart Orange

4.30 pm Return to Menzies Hotel Carrington Street Sydney

**Please ensure you are registered to attend the RI Convention prior to booking our events, as there can be no refunds once you book online. All bookings will be managed by Eventbrite and we will accept MasterCard, Visa or PayPal.**

**Note: Sydney is an expensive city, similar to New York, London and Tokyo, so the prices that Chris has negotiated are good deals. Note also that the above prices are in Australian Dollars and the current exchange rate is about: A\$1.00 = US\$0.91**

**Chris Joscelyne, RWA Events Coordinator – Australia [chris@apro.com.au](mailto:chris@apro.com.au)**

**Free transit pass for all Sydney convention registrants** – Source: Mark Maloney, Chair of the Sydney Convention Committee - Rotary Voices

One of the unique benefits for the Sydney Convention is the free transit pass offered to each convention registrant by the New South Wales Government. This pass will permit convention attendees to travel throughout most of the State of New South Wales without cost.

The pass will be honored on trains, buses, and government-operated ferries and will permit travel from Thursday, 29 May, until Thursday, 5 June. This includes the three days prior to the convention, the four days of the convention itself, and the day following the convention.

Recently I was in Sydney for a convention planning visit. Over the weekend, I used a similar pass to travel around greater Sydney. I was able to travel to all of my destinations by public transportation without a single taxi ride.

I began my travels at the Holiday Inn in Parramatta, a western suburb of Sydney. It was only a short five-block walk from the hotel to the Parramatta Station. From there, trains departed at least every fifteen minutes to Sydney's central business district. It was only a 35-minute ride into the district. I enjoyed shopping and seeing the sights in Circular Quay, Hyde Park, and Darling Harbour.

That evening, I decided that I wanted to explore Sydney's Little Italy in the suburb of Leichhardt. To get there, I caught a bus from George Street at the Queen Victoria Building direct to Leichhardt. Just two blocks from the bus stop, I found a delightful, family-operated Italian restaurant on Norton Street which I hope to revisit during the convention.

After a wonderful meal, it was time to head back to the hotel in Parramatta. A short bus ride from Norton Street in Leichhardt took me to Petersham Station. The bus driver was very friendly and made sure that I got off at the right stop and found my way into the station. From Petersham, it was a nice ride to Parramatta with a quick change of trains at Strathfield.

The New South Wales Government wants convention attendees to fully explore all that New South Wales has to offer. This complimentary transit pass provides all Rotarians with the opportunity to see as much as they wish to see. Take advantage of this tremendous convention benefit and join your fellow Rotarians from around the world in Sydney as we Engage Rotary, Change Lives.

## **New Website!**

Check out our new website [www.rotarywine.net](http://www.rotarywine.net). Ken Kohnhorst is our new web master and he has revamped the website completely . with more changes and additions to come. If you need to reach Ken for any suggestions, his email is: [graphicone@charter.net](mailto:graphicone@charter.net)

## **Bless the Australians and their sense of humor:**

These were posted on an Australian tourism website, and the answers are the actual responses by the website officials, who obviously have a great sense of humor (not to mention a low tolerance threshold for cretins!)

Q: Does it ever get windy in Australia? I have never seen it rain on TV, how do the plants grow?

A: We import all plants fully grown, and then just sit around watching them die.

Q: Will I be able to see kangaroos in the street? (USA)

A: Depends how much you've been drinking.

Q: I want to walk from Perth to Sydney - can I follow the railroad tracks?

A: Sure, it's only three thousand miles. Take lots of water.

Q: Are there any ATMs (cash machines) in Australia ? Can you send me a list of them in Brisbane , Cairns , Townsville and Hervey Bay ? (UK)

A: What did your last slave die of?

Q: Can you give me some information about hippo racing in Australia ? (USA)

A: Af-ri-ca is the big triangle shaped continent south of Europe. Aust-ra-lia is that big island in the middle of the Pacific which does not ...Oh, forget it. Sure, the hippo racing is every Tuesday night in Kings Cross. Come naked.

Q: Which direction is North in Australia ? (USA)

A: Face south, and then turn 180 degrees. Contact us when you get here and we'll send the rest of the directions.

Q: Can I bring cutlery in to Australia ? (UK)

A: Why? Just use your fingers like we do.

Q: Can you send me the Vienna Boys' Choir schedule? (USA)

A: Aus-tri-a is that quaint little country bordering Ger-man-y, which is ... Oh, forget it. Sure, the Vienna Boys Choir plays every Tuesday night in Kings Cross, straight after the hippo races. Come naked.

Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK)

A: You are a British politician, right?

Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany)

A: No, we are a peaceful civilization of vegan hunter/gatherers. Milk is illegal.

Q: Please send a list of all doctors in Australia who can dispense rattlesnake serum. (USA)

A: Rattlesnakes live in A-mer-ica, which is where YOU come from. All Australian snakes are perfectly harmless, can be safely handled, and make good pets.

# Liberté, Egalité, Sobriety

## ***A proposed law in France would change wine from cultural treasure to public health threat.***

By Mitch Frank

Imagine France without wine. Bizarre, non? Wine is so associated with French culture, you would think they invented the stuff. (The Greeks and Etruscans taught them. Shhh.) Man has been making wine for thousands of years, but the French made it big business, refining it and marketing it to a thirsty world.

While the image of French wine has arguably never been stronger, especially in young markets like China, the French don't drink nearly as much as they used to. Part of this is healthy: For centuries, the average French farmworker drank a few liters a day because it was safer than the water. But lifestyles have changed in other ways; the French don't linger at long meals with a bottle or two like they used to, and young people don't see wine as a staple. When wine isn't seen as part of a meal or something with cultural value, then it becomes just another alcoholic beverage.

Maybe it's not so surprising that the French Senate is considering a bill that would impose new restrictions on wine. As our contributor Suzanne Mustacich recently reported from Bordeaux, the proposed law—pushed for by the National Association for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Addiction (ANPAA)—is being touted as a public health measure. Sin taxes on wine would rise, and warning-label language would change, from "the abuse of alcohol is dangerous for health" to "alcohol is dangerous for your health." Suddenly, even moderate drinking is dangerous.

The bill's original language also contained new restrictions on advertising and marketing. French winemakers have long complained about the Evin law, passed in 1991, which bans alcohol ads on TV and restricts how it can be portrayed in print ads. Since 2008, thanks to a lawsuit brought by the ANPAA, editorial content is restricted too. Journalists are limited on how much they can praise a wine—too much is considered free publicity and forbidden. The new provision would have extended the rules to social media, preventing wine promotion on Facebook or Twitter.

How would the government enforce such rules? Well, according to ANPAA director Patrick Elineau, China has proven it can be done—by censoring political dissidents. Vive la liberté. So far, no politician seems to be jumping to lead the charge for the bill. The French agriculture minister has promised no higher taxes on wine for at least two years. President François Hollande has stayed silent. And the social media language quietly disappeared from the bill as it wound through the Senate. Yet the bill is moving forward. French winemakers have formed their own lobbying group to fight back.

Is it wrong to put more controls on alcohol? Alcoholism is a serious issue, with medical and social costs. Drunk driving claims innocent lives. But will these restrictions have a real impact at reducing those ills? Elineau is quick to say that he and his allies do not want prohibition. But what will happen when the restrictions don't solve alcohol abuse?

What may be most revealing about this campaign is a comment by Dr. Alain Rigaud, ANPAA president and a Reims-based psychiatrist specializing in addiction. He told *Wine Spectator* that these restrictions would not deter fine-wine drinkers. No, they would target those drinking cheap wine. "They are not drinking for the pleasure of tasting wine. They drink for the alcohol," said Rigaud. Take note, Two-Buck-Chuck fans.

America's "noble experiment" with Prohibition was marked by a similar attitude. The country's temperance movement gained steam in the decades before the 18th Amendment was ratified in 1919. During that time, America experienced a huge immigration wave. Southern and Eastern Europeans came, looking for opportunity. In 1910, a majority of Americans lived in small towns. By 1920, most lived in cities, and the country was more ethnically diverse than ever. Congress actually delayed reapportioning its seats for nine years after the 1920 census to keep urban voters from gaining majority rule.

Temperance supporters looked at the newcomers who frequented city saloons and decided they could not handle alcohol. The best thing for both America and for immigrants' well-being was to ban "intoxicating liquors," which meant all alcohol. (In the South, temperance fans felt African Americans couldn't handle a drink either.) So, a Congress representing a minority of voters in an increasingly diverse country banned the production and sale of alcohol because they thought they knew what was best for those poor, urban, ethnic voters. You know how it worked out.

Even though it was repealed, Prohibition's impact on wine was felt for decades. By making wine a banned substance, something people brewed in their basement, it reduced wine's value to its ability to intoxicate. Wine was just another type of booze, an intoxicating liquor.

If France decides to chip away at wine's status as a pillar of French heritage, how long before it becomes just hooch?

## WINE QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

***“What is better than to sit at the end of the day and drink wine with friends, or substitutes for friends?”***

---- James Joyce- Irish writer (1882-1941)

## Calendar of Events:

In this section we want to publicize any upcoming events that either the RWAFF or local chapters are planning. An annual calendar will be maintained on the new website.

**June 1-4, 2014: Rotary International Convention in Sydney, Australia.** Register early! Early registration ends on 15 January 2014. Go to the RI website or directly to: [impromo@rotary.org](mailto:impromo@rotary.org).

**June 6-7, 2014 Le Tour de Vin in Norman, Oklahoma**



**WHAT** - The 12th Annual Le Tour de Vin is a joint effort of the Cross Timbers, Norman, and Sooner Rotary Clubs. It is a weekend festival of fine wine tasting, food sampling, and silent and live auctions to benefit the Center for Children and Families and other Rotary projects.

**WHEN** - Friday, June 6, 2014. The Friday night party features fine wines paired with food catered by Benvenuti's Ristorante. Limited reservations are \$150 per person.

Saturday, June 7, 2014. Saturday evening is a "grand tasting" of over 200 wines, gourmet food, and silent and live auctions. Reservations are \$100 per person.

**WHERE** - The Friday event is at a private residence in Norman. The Saturday event is held at Riverwind Casino (a very large casino on I-35 one mile south of Norman). Lodging is available at two hotels on the casino property.

**NOTICE** - Advance reservations are required to comply with state law.

Thank you for helping get the word out. We have a successful event every year but would like to make sure that wine loving Rotarians in the region have enough notice to make plans to attend.

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**August 10, 2014 Paso Robles Rotary WinemakersqCook-Off**  
Contact Linda Midkiff for information [lmidkiff105@gmail.com](mailto:lmidkiff105@gmail.com)

## Recommended Value Wines:

As we continue to do, we will list about ten value wines with each newsletter. These are wines from around the world that are readily available in many markets, are rated by some ~~W~~expert+as being at least 88 points (out of 100) and which cost \$20 USD or less. We would appreciate any additions suggested by any member. We feel that no matter what type of wine you enjoy, you ought to be able to find a good one at a reasonable price.

Year	Name of Wine	Specific Designation	Type	Cost	Rating	Rater
2011	Sterling	Carneros, California	Pinot Noir	\$16	90	WE
2008	Freemark Abbey	Napa Valley, California	Merlot	\$19	94	WE
2009	Abada Retuerta	Selection Especial	Duero	\$15	90	WA
2011	Murphy-Goode	Alexander Valley, California	Claret	\$16	89	WA
2010	Pierre Amadieu	La Gracngeliere, Vacqueras	Southern Rhone	\$19	93	IWC
2010	Perrin	L'Andeol	Rasteau	\$17	92	WS
2011	Pezat	Red Blend	Bordeaux	\$13	88	WA
2010	Ch. Fleur La Mothe	Medoc Superior	Bordeaux	\$15	90	WS
2010	Ch. D'Aurilhao	Haut Medoc	Bordeaux	\$15	89	WA
2010	Castilion Del Bosco		Toscana	\$12	90	WS

## A Few Special Wines:

Year	Name of Wine	Specific Designation	Type	Cost	Rating	Rater
2011	Pierre Usseghio	Chateaneuf du Pape	Southern Rhone	\$37	93	WS
2006	O. Fournier	Alfa Crux, Mendoza, Argentina		\$29	94	WA

WS = Wine Spectator+

WA = Wine Advocate+ (Robert Parker)

WE = Wine Enthusiast+

CCH = Not yet rated, my score

We will always appreciate your comments and suggestions. You are receiving these newsletters because you are members of the RWAF and publishing a newsletter is one of the duties of a Rotary Fellowship. If you would like to discontinue receiving these newsletters, please so indicate by return email and you will be removed from our address list.

Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve.

Conrad C. Heede, PDG

President

RWAF