



# Beechworth survives fires unscathed!

After the devastating fires in Canberra, the Victorian emergency services including the CFA, SES and DSE were much aware of the need to act quickly and effectively. Luckily the massive winds that caused the ACT fires did not appear as strong in Beechworth. Whilst temperatures soared in the area, locals kept a vigilant eye out for any spotting or smoke.

Many of the towns' shops had to close during the Australia Day long Weekend as a precaution.

The Opera in The Alps, regrettably, scheduled for that weekend, was cancelled as it was considered too dangerous and smoky. Now that we have survived this period of environmental uncertainty, local businesses are again

open as usual and many offer special discounts to entice tourists to return to the North East of Victoria. For more details contact the Tourist Information office on 03 5728 3233.

At the Beechworth Wine Centre, we have massive stocks of wine which need to be cleared. Close to 100 cases were delivered to us for the Australia Day weekend in anticipation of thirsty opera crowds. With more local vignerons releasing their vintages in the coming weeks we need the space. To help us clear this overstocking we have vastly reduced many wines as well as other massive discounts including 30-50-% off our entire range of Chinese porcelain decorator urns.

We have also just re-

ceived another container of cast iron garden ornaments and , despite increased shipping, purchasing and insurance costs, we have kept the prices consistent. Single cast iron streetlamps are still a bargain at \$440 each. Cast iron Coalbrookdale settees are available from \$535 each.

We also have the popular garden urns and vases from \$95 each as well as many animal, statues and fountains priced from \$75 each. All cast iron is of course fire resistant!



Photo pre 1900 of the Beechworth Wine

## Business as usual, tourists flock to see the town's good fortune!

The number of clients and friends who phoned us in Beechworth, was heartening. Many felt concerned for our safety and many also were concerned for our stock of fine antiques. We thank you all for your concern.

Beechworth had over 800

fireman and over 90 fire trucks and State emergency vehicles in town, complete with support crews and volunteers, "almost doubling the towns population," as suggested by one local.

The fires burnt mainly bushland in the vicinity

and the beautiful town of Beechworth is just as it was, with the additional greening from the recent rainfalls. So now is the time to visit Beechworth and take advantage of the many reductions and discounts in town. So be early for the best bargains.

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### Special points of interest:

*Selected discounts throughout Beechworth with investment opportunity*

*Great wine grape harvest for the Beechworth area...AGAIN! With quantity down but quality to die for!*

*Historical properties on view including the Old telegraph office, Court House (Ned Kelly's cell), the antique gardens of Mayday Hills etc (La Trobe University)*

## Just To Say Thank You !

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The people of Beechworth held a “*Just to Say Thank You*” concert on Friday 14th February, outside the local CFA headquarters in Camp Street, Beechworth. The entertainment was organised by the Rotary Club and included many local musicians and helped to raise well over \$15,000 in donations. Local businesses also donated some \$6,000 worth of fire fighting and communications equipment.

“There is much work to be done in the next few months “ local

organiser Geoffrey Palmer said, “The generous donations meant that all the money received could be put towards the replacement of our community fire truck, which is now 11 years old.” \$40,000 is needed for this upgrade.

The night attracted more than 2500 people and held an honour parade for the remaining CFA and emergency crews in Beechworth. Mayor Peter Graham was so happy about the turnout he jested- “ we should have charged for entry!”

The CFA captain Keith Harms said the whole brigade was overwhelmed by the towns generosity.

Local artist Peter Caddy held a generous raffle for a painting he executed of Fletchers Dam in Stanley. The lake’s foreshores were devastated by the fires and little remains of the beautiful scenery. However with time it will regrow. “Mr. Caddy was able to raise around \$8,500 through his own efforts” said Rob Cowell of Black Springs Bakery.

## New Wine release from Savaterre Vineyard, Beechworth

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### 2001 Chardonnay by Savaterre

More Meursault than an Ozzie Chardonnay. Brilliant straw/green in appearance, the bouquet is rich with lifter white peach, citrus blossom, honey and grilled nuts. The 2001 Savaterre has powerful complex flavours and a fabulous silky palate with added mineral dimension. This intense wine is just in it’s infancy and, although immensely enjoyable right now, will reward cellaring for 10 years plus.

### Q.E.D. 2001 Pinot Noir by Savaterre.

Deep crimson in colour this Pinot has elegance and length. Powerful aromas of sour cherries, violets, cured meat, briars and exotic spice. A wine which opens to reveal complex layer upon layer with earthy truffle characters. Balanced by excellent tannins and acidity this wine is unfiltered and utilises only natural wild yeasts for fermentation. Cellaring will vastly reward but eminently enjoyable right now!

The cellar door release will be in mid 2003 and also available at the Beechworth Wine Centre. The winery is open by appointment only.

For more detailed tasting notes and release details please refer to the website:

[www.savaterre.com](http://www.savaterre.com)

## Local Tradition is revived with Lantern Festival!

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Organisers Kathryn Duffy and Iris Manik were proud to reintroduce the Chinese Lantern Festival to Beechworth at the Chinese Gardens.

Though still in it’s infancy, the gardens commemorate the invaluable contribution by the Chinese community to Beechworth and its strong heritage ties reaching back over 150 years.

Indigo Shire Mayor Peter Graham and Sophie Panopoulos (MHR, Indi) officially launched the festival with the

unveiling of the Chinese marble lions at the entrance to the Chinese Gardens with the help of a direct descendent Elaine Franks.

The marble guardian lions were discovered by Oliver von Wilpert whilst in China and after much negotiation these fine sculptures were secured and relocated to the entrance of the Beechworth Chinese Gardens.

Designed along Feng Shui



principles, the selection of planting and landscaping is an ongoing process with lakes and paths meandering amongst the gardens.

Sponsorships and donations by prominent businesses are still sought. Does your company wish to be recognised in this historic project?

Contact Kathryn on 03 5728 2968. Email address [kathryn\\_duffy57@hotmail.com](mailto:kathryn_duffy57@hotmail.com)

## New Stock of Antiques and Décor a sample now in store!

If you haven't visited us at The Beechworth Wine Centre *and antiques* recently then here are a few of the things you may be missing out on. The following selection are on offer at the time of going to press:

Magnificent triple door full Australian cedar wardrobe with two doors of good hanging depth and one door with shelving. The beautiful lustrous show timber is well polished. Raised on a plinth base and with architectural stepped cornice this piece could have been original to our old bank building, circa 1856. \$8,975. Reference code (6390)

A wrought iron dome top gazebo with lattice work column supports and topped with an ornamental spire. In all 350 cm tall and 200 cm diameter. A bargain at only \$3,300.(4350)

Baroque style carved and gilded lime wood mirror with bevel edged glass. The acanthus frame topped with a crown and either. 69 cm wide by 107 cm high at only \$ 715.(6293)

Elegant pair of full white marble art Deco style foyer floor lamps with turned and fluted marble columns and hollowed white marble spherical shades. An impressive 183 cm high. Excellent for any entrance or dining room. \$8,300 pair. Reference code (5939)

Pair of Louis XVI style French Provençal oak corner cabinets with glazed upper doors and panelled lower doors. The whole raised on shaped taper legs and surmounted with neoclassical parapet. Dark nutty French polish and wax finish full of depth and character. \$3,880 each (5001/5002)

Ancient Egyptian statue of IMHOTEP. Height 154cm. Hand carved in full dark veined grey marble. Priced at \$11,375. Reference code: (5956)

Wines by: Giaconda, Sorrenberg, (Len) Evans Family, Q.E.D., Savatere, Wood Park, Smiths, Amulet, Lark Hill, Nugan Estate, Pfeiffers, Star Lane, as well as French imports etc. Ring for more details on 03 5728 1855.

**SPECIAL: BUY ANY 12 BOTTLES AND GET 10% OFF THE TOTAL RETAIL PRICE! Limited to 2 dozen per personal customer.**

## Harvest Festival 18th May 2003

Food Fit for a King or Queen! Wine made in heaven! Produce so fresh it winks at you as it is served at your table.

The Beechworth Harvest Festival is set for another roaring success this year. With the release of some of the best wines ever made in Beechworth and with many restaurant trying to outdo each other to serve the best food in town the atmosphere is pure decadence! So go ahead and indulge yourself and visit

the "city in the hills" on the 18th May this year.

Harvest Festival will have street closures in the centre of town (right outside our front door) and marque tents, musicians, fresh produce (farmers market) gourmet dishes, wine appreciation



*Gourmet to Go!*

workshops, formal dining in the marquee on opening night, Pumpkin weighing, fruit art etc. Foods featured will include, venison, emu, smoked trout, frozen berry ice-cream, preserves, olive oils, cheeses from the world famous Milawa Cheese factory, traditional cordials, mustards, sausages, sweets and old fashioned lollies, etc.

Details phone 03 5728 3233.

## The Bank Getaway !

Exclusive to the readers of this newsletter is an offer too good to miss!

The famous *BANK RESTAURANT AND MEWS* is offering a two course A La Carte dinner for two persons, excluding beverages, as well as one night's luxury Bed and Breakfast accommodation for only \$99. Per person.

This offer is valid Sunday to Friday only and is available until 31st August 2003. (Excluding Public Holidays)

As this offer will be very popular it is advised that you book early.

You may contact *THE BANK RESTAURANT AND MEWS* at 86 Ford Street Beechworth, 3747 by phone on (03) 5728 2223 or Fax (03) 5728 2883 or by email [info@thebankrestaurant.com](mailto:info@thebankrestaurant.com).

Visit their website :

[www.thebankrestaurant.com](http://www.thebankrestaurant.com)



Don't forget the harvest festival in mid May!



## BEECHWORTH WINE CENTRE

Open 10AM-6PM except Tuesday/Wednesday.  
Beechworth Wine Centre  
87 Ford Street  
Beechworth Victoria 3747  
Australia

Phone: 0357 281855  
Fax: 0357 281844  
Email: [empirecompany@bigpond.com](mailto:empirecompany@bigpond.com)  
Warehouse : 2 Wingrove Street,  
Alphington, 3078 Victoria,

**Where quality and style *are*  
affordable**

**We're on the web at  
[www.beechworth.com.au](http://www.beechworth.com.au)**

*The Beechworth Wine Centre is dedicated to the good things in life.*

*We offer good wine and great interior design items that are unique. Our garden selection is also amongst the finer things in life including garden statuary and animal sculptures. Over 90 % of our stock is sourced directly in Europe by the company director Oliver von Wilpert. With at least four trips overseas a year and at least eight containers landing at our Melbourne warehouse every year there is plenty of choice.*

*We also wholesale these items to our colleagues in the trade (see below) and have set up co-operative stores in Sydney, Melbourne, The Hunter Valley, Mittagong Brisbane and Tasmania, etc..*

*Our newest retail colleague is located at Melbourne's exciting new Docklands. **Metropolitan Tree Growers Pty Ltd.** are not only our good neighbours at our Alphington warehouse but are also open for business to the public at : Dock 4, North Wharf Road, Victoria Harbour, Victoria.*

*Here you may choose from our cast iron garden ornaments as well as supper advanced trees and shrubs etc. For details:*

*[www.metrotrees.com.au](http://www.metrotrees.com.au) or phone John Fitzgibbon on (03) 9481 5496.*

## Last chance to purchase these items and secure yourself a great investment!

Large scrubbed Baltic pine two height kitchen dresser over 3 metres long with fitted spice drawers at only \$3,950. Reference code: (5096)

Pair of Swedish birch side chairs circa 1820 with cane seats as seen in the Nordiska Museet, Stockholm and pictured in Sigurd Wallin's "Furniture from Swedish Manor houses Volume 3. \$2,200 pair. (4047)

RARE Original early 17th century walnut Italian commode from the Dr. Albert Figdor collection. Complete and original catalogue allotment from the sale in 1930. \$65,000.(4990)

French Louis XV style 19th century Bureau plat. Complete with tulip and kingwood veneers and original ormolu mounts to the cabriole legs. Red morocco leather top with pull out writing slides to each side. An elegant and practical piece. \$12,300. (4094).

Pair of hand carved rouge marble console table in the William Kent style with acanthus scroll marble support and 40 mm. thick top. The whole top is 120 cm. x 60c m. wide and 76 cm. high. May be sold separately. \$5,500 each (5953).

Set of ten Austrian Walnut dining chairs in the Gothic manner with pierced backs and columnar supports, raised on sabre legs. Beautifully French polished. \$495 each. (4950).



*Modern or Biedermeier period 1820's elegance?*

French three piece Empire revival period salon suite, consisting of two bergere and a two-seater settee. The show-frames in French grey wash and gold leafed highlights. Fully re-upholstered in charcoal satin stripe with old gold crosses laurel design. Very comfortable and elegant. Circa 1830. \$8,600 set (4120).

French Cherrywood farmhouse table of full cherry with parquet top to seat 10-12 persons. 290 cm. long raised on taper legs. \$3,450

Sets of English oak reproduction country double spindle back chairs. Hand finished nutty brown patina. Rush seats. Only \$595 per armchair and \$485 per dining chair. (6345)

Selection of Swedish hand blown glassware including wine glasses, vases and cake stands. Priced from \$14 each