



September Newsletter.

(Or weather and people keep life interesting)

Its winter, spring for a while then back to winter again.

A few days of 15 c degree days and melting ski field's meant the vines thought it was time to wake up, so the dormant buds which for the past few months have been closed and hard like a snail's shell start to become soft and a little wooly looking.

We get nervous as there is still a couple of weeks work left in tying down the pruned canes, if the buds grew too much more they are easily knocked off during tying down affecting next years harvest.

But as I said at the start, back to winter, a week of cold southerlies, 30-40cm of new snow, much cooler temperatures and the vines have had their smack, they know not to be so impatient.

A good thing to, as Duncan (the vineyard manager) broke his wrist snowboarding and with me picking up the slack we were not exactly ahead of schedule in the vineyard.

The great thing about managing a small vineyard is that with a little effort and extra friend or two you are all up to date in no time.

Oh I could have had it all almost finished by myself but had to throw in a sales trip to Melbourne and Sydney. It was a very successful trip though and good to see the Australian economy feeling as vibrant as it does down here. Though a sales trip doesn't really count as a break so in the next newsletter I will be reporting the vineyard finished and ready for spring frost fighting and that I had time to relax by the riverbank and hopefully have a freezer full of whitebait.

Grant

