

A Short History of The Old Orchard Winery



The Knox Community Gardens and Vineyard is sited on just under 20 acres of Crown Land situated between Wadhurst Road and Scoresby Road just North of Burwood Highway in Knoxfield.

The 5-acre vineyard was first planted in 1981 as a "work for the dole" scheme sponsored by Knox City Council with vines donated by Knox's sister city in South Australia called Norlunga. The vines are all South Australian, McLaren Vale vines. Currently there are 5 varieties of 25-year-old vines: Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Shiraz and Cabernet Franc.

Knox City Council managed the vineyard until 1995 when it was taken over by the Swinburn TAFE's Lilydale Campus as an extension to their viticulture training activities.

Swinburn vacated the vineyard in 2004 and Knox City Council offered it, by public Expression of Interest, in October 2005.

Pat and David Smith asked Mark Jordan to join the team and took up the responsibilities for the vineyard's management, on the 15th December 2005. Knox City Council granted a lease on the 1st July 2006.

The team set about re-building the vineyard and created a Cellar Door by renovating one of the working sheds. The Cellar Door opened on the 26th January 2006 and has continued to build a client base of locals who enjoy fine wines. Many of the locals can walk to the vineyard's cellar door, as there are three entrances open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10.30am till 5.00pm. (51 Kleinert Road - 254 Scoresby Road and a gate on the Knox Walking Track)

The team has carried out considerable works on the vineyard and has created an environment which most visitors find extraordinary. The vineyard is now being developed into a winery and it is hoped that the team's first vintage will be harvested starting in late January 2007.

It was decided to re-name the vineyard - THE OLD ORCHARD WINERY, as the land was originally a large orchard.

Visitors are welcome. A vineyard tour can be arranged - By Appointment. Please call (03) 9801 2183.