



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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Our October meeting

Ines Patritti

The Patritti Story

We had a great talk from Ines about her family winery at the October meeting. Ines referred to it as the oldest unknown winery in Australia. That may well be the case, but I for one always think of it as a local institution, and the go-to place for all of our family events!

Giovanni Patritti left his home in the Piedmontese village of Carru, north-west Italy in 1925, at the age of 25. He boarded the Palermo in the Port of Genoa, thinking that he was on his way to meet his sister in America. Instead, he landed at Port Adelaide on 28 April 1925 – the only Italian bound for Adelaide, and among the first Italian immigrants to land in Australia.

Giovanni changed his name to the more Australian 'John' and came to live in Marion in 1926. By the late 20s he owned several acres of vineyard in the Marion district, and had built a winery along with his best friend, Cristiano (Jimmy) Bissacca.

The original winery buildings were made from corrugated iron, using seaweed as insulation. The barrels of wine were stamped with the 'JPB' logo – John Patritti Brighton. This logo is still used to stamp barrels and is included on some wine labels.

John (Giovanni) married Giovanna Callegari in Melbourne in 1938. She was the sister of one of his Melbourne-based customers. They had three sons and a daughter, all of whom entered their family business. Growing up in the winery, they spent a lot of time with their extended Italian family.

Lots of parties were held at the winery. Some were small family affairs and others, community events. When the bowls weren't big enough to mix the pasta dishes for these events, they were mixed in the bathtub!

The winery continued to develop and grow with the addition of buildings and a community weighbridge. By 1960 new land was needed to keep up with business demand, and Giovanni purchased more land at McLaren Vale.

In 1963 the business branched out into a new line called 'Pasta Gloria'. The pasta was of excellent quality but could not compete with the lower priced shop brands. The pasta business was soon wound down.

Giovanni died in 1968 and passed the business on to his children. They branched out again, and in 1973 the first of their 100% non-alcoholic wine was produced. Juices of all kinds were also produced. These found a ready export market in Saudi Arabia, Canada, China, Vietnam and other parts of Asia. In 2001 Vietnam was their largest export market. Currently, 80% of Patritti business is in export, and 80 % of that is their juice range.

In the 1950s, population growth and demand for housing had seen much of the local land going for housing. In 2006 the City of Marion gave Patritti's the responsibility of caring for Marion's last historic vineyard.

Giovanni Patritti's grandchildren experimented with the production of premium wines, and many prizes have been won for these. In September 2017 a new range was launched for the domestic market called the 'Merchant Series'. These feature historic photos and stories on the labels. The various wines all have a different photo on the label.

These days Ines is the managing director and Giovanni's sons are all on the board.

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Ines kindly provided two door prizes which were drawn after question time – a gift pack bearing the ‘JPB’ logo, and one of their sparkling juices. Two very happy winners went home that night!

From the Newspapers 100 Years Ago

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 12 November 1918, page 1

THE PROCLAMATION

An Immense Gathering

The Governor's Speech

Great Enthusiasm

Tens of thousands of people assembled in the neighbourhood (sic) of Parliament House on North-terrace, at noon on Tuesday, when the Governor (Sir H. Galway) formally announced the conclusion of hostilities

His Excellency said:—As his Majesty's representative, it is my privilege formally to announce to you the joyous tidings that Germany signed the armistice at 5 o'clock yesterday morning. (Cheers.) On this day of victory and national joy and thanksgiving, let us proclaim aloud our unfaltering loyalty and devotion to the throne and person of his Majesty the King, whom may God bless; our profound gratitude to our fighting men on land and sea for the immortal services they have rendered; our determination, each one of us, to play his or her part worthily, as loyal and devoted citizens in the great work of reconstruction, that must be taken up after peace has been concluded, and our thanks to Almighty God for all that he has done for us. (Cheers.) The most momentous event in history has come to pass; civilisation has been freed from the greatest peril that has ever beset it. (Cheers.) If the Allied statesmen are as capable and wise in counsel as our fighting men on land and sea have been magnificent in battle, they will secure for the world a peace that will ensure no repetition of the sufferings and horrors of the last four years. Let us put into the work of reconstruction that spirit which brought victory to our arms and in the midst of our joy let us present the calm and dignity worthy of a great nation, and in keeping with the terrible sacrifices made by our fighting men,

God save the King. (Loud cheers.)

Speech by the Mayor.

The Mayor of Adelaide said to-day (sic) is a red-letter day, not only in the British Empire, 'but throughout the whole of the civilised world (Cheers.) It is a day not only of thanksgiving, but a day of rejoicing. Right has triumphed over might, liberty over oppression, justice over tyranny, and truth over calumny. (Cheers.) We should give heartfelt thanks to Almighty God that the terrible conflict has been brought to a victorious finish, and we should fervently pray that strong action shall be taken to prevent for all time a recurrence of such terrible devastation and dreadful sacrifice of human life. (Cheers.)

News from the

Marion Heritage Research Centre

Thank you very much for your support of the Heritage Research Centre this year. It has been a busy one, as always, with more interesting new items donated and catalogued.

We will close to the public for Christmas at 4pm on Wednesday 19th December and will re-open in the New Year at 10 am on Monday 4th February 2019.

In 2019, watch out for our events listed in the What's On! brochure and local newspaper. Or just stroll in any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

In the meantime, Danielle and the MHRC Volunteers wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and joyful new year.

Marion Historical Society

**Our next meeting will take place on
Wednesday 20th February 2019
7.30pm at Cooina**

Jason Shute (Pioneers Association)
“The Visit to SA by Prince Alfred”



**Wishing you and those you love a
Merry Christmas and a Happy
and Healthy New Year**

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