

PRESENTATION TO JIM FREEBAIRN

**By the President of the Nital Club Jack Klok on behalf of the President of
Beefsteak and Burgundy**

Jim

We were delighted that you and Jill were able to attend the April dinner of the Adelaide Beefsteak and Burgundy Club held at the Adelaide Club.

We all enjoyed your company and of course reading your comments on the dinner. It is always interesting to have an outsiders view on what happens!

As I mentioned at the dinner, we had planned to make a presentation to you. However things did not progress as planned so I have asked this to be done belatedly my behalf by your Club President Jack.

Our Committee decided that it would be fitting to recognise the support that you, ably supported by Jill, have provided to Beefsteak and Burgundy over many years.

We are aware of the significant contribution and support that you have provided to the Nital Club which I know has been appreciated by your members and appropriately recognised.

Beyond your club, you have always taken the opportunity to attend conventions and of course we have always looked forward to the "Freebairn Report" - an insightful overview of the convention program and a useful guide to those organising the next one. As well you have been a great promoter of convention attendance which is appreciated.

Our committee is encouraging members to take the opportunity to visit other clubs – the main reason why we produce the Handbook annually!!

You have certainly done this and been a great supporter for this – by visiting other clubs, writing about your visits and promoting the welcome and enjoyment one experiences to the wider membership.

In summary Jim, you have been a great supporter and ambassador for Beefsteak and Burgundy.

Please accept this plaque as recognition of your continuing support over many years.

We also thank Jill for her support and in later years for her contribution and leadership of the Nital Club.

With sincere appreciation and thanks

Peter Johnston
President
Beefsteak and Burgundy Inc

May 2011

PS

This presentation is later than it should have been. My excuse is that I have followed your lead and took the opportunity to visit our clubs in China.

Jan and I were most warmly welcomed and the hospitality most generous.

In Shanghai we joined with the Shanghai, Shanghai Cosmopolitans and Shanghai Ladies Clubs at a combined dinner where I also presented the Charter to the new Suzhou Club.

A meeting of four clubs – the first ever I think!

We also attended three memorable functions with the Beijing Club.

Jim and Jill - I strongly recommend that you put them on your visiting list!!

[REDACTED]
1st July 2011

Mr. Peter Johnston,
President,
Beefsteak and Burgundy Inc.
PO BOX 6088
Halifax Street,
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Peter,

PRESENTATION

It was a surreal experience for me at our Club's meeting last Tuesday as our President Jack Klok read your letter and presented me with the commemorative plaque. Was this me being talked about? It all seemed to be dreamlike! When I was given the honour of Club Life Membership in 2005 I was relieving Winemaker at the time and attending to those duties when the then Secretary addressed the meeting. I was soon "brought to heel" when he said "Shut up and sit down, Jim. This concerns you." I must say Jack's approach was much more appreciated.

As you mentioned Jill and I have supported every Convention since I joined Beefsteak and Burgundy. We sometimes use it as a test of sobriety. If we can remember them all in order (which we always can) we must be capable of another glass of red wine. The reason why we have been to so many conventions and visited other clubs is very simple. We enjoy the company, the food, the wine, and learning about how other clubs conduct their meetings.

We have also found a wider contact with other Club members besides their formal meetings. As I explained to our members on Tuesday since our visit to Adelaide in April we had a busy May/June. One of our daughters lives in Townsville and we paid a visit to see her and four of our grandchildren. There was no Townsville Club meeting during our visit, but their President, John Kelly and his wife Wendy invited us to their home for lunch with two other Townsville Club members. Their Unit overlooks Townsville City with views across the bay to Magnetic Island, the venue for our Sunday lunch at the 2007 Convention. We had a very pleasant afternoon and enjoyable lunch with fine wines.



Lunch with Wendy and John Kelly.

The following day we joined the Kellys, several members of Townsville B&B and others for a lunch and wine presentation by “Erin Eyes” Clare Valley at A Touch of Salt Restaurant. The company, food and wines were all outstanding. Steve Wiblins presented his wines before departing mid afternoon to catch his flight back to SA. He was co owner and winemaker at Neagles Rock for 13 years but illness has seen him downsize his activities to the new venture.



Fresh water yabby entre medium rare eye fillet main course.



A glass of wine and a plate of cheese, pear and fig paste.

We flew back to Melbourne and were only home for a day (we had a Scotch Malt Whisky Society Dinner to attend) before motoring to Adelaide for a 60th birthday celebration. It was at the 1994 Canberra Convention that we first met Christine Murphy and we have been good friends ever since. She is a member of Alexandra Beefsteak & Burgundy Club and she had several of the Club's members and partners along for a dinner at Jah's Lounge. My sister-in-law, Val Freebairn is a member as is Lois Dand. We had not seen the Dands since 2007 and it was good to catch up with Lois and Bill again. Long standing members of B&B will remember Bill as General Secretary of B&B for several years. My association with Bill goes back to 1963 when we worked together in the Accounts Department of Dalgety and New Zealand Loan Limited Currie Street. It was another delightful function and we enjoyed delicious antipasto followed by peppered kangaroo served with Enterprise Wines Old Vine Grenache. Christine was widowed when quite young as result of a car accident and she has done a wonderful job raising her two sons. We all had a good night.



Christine Murphy with her sons Jarrod and Andrew

Upon our return to Melbourne on 17th June we were guests of John Sanders, a member of Melbourne B&B for the President's Annual Dinner (Ladies Night) held at The Athenaeum Club in Collins Street. It is an excellent venue with attentive waiters and outstanding food. A highlight of the night was being piped in to dinner by one of their members, dressed in his traditional kilt. The evening took the form of a dinner dance with scant attention paid to the food or wines. The President said that the ladies were not interested in such matters which I thought was a missed opportunity as there was a total of about 70 or 80 members and guests present. Inevitably, I find that where there is music as the evening progresses the volume gets louder, until it reaches a stage where conversation is impossible. Thankfully there was a sole musician and there were several breaks when we were spared the deafening noise.



Jim, Claire Sanders, Hamish Grant, Jill (watch out for those flies Jill) John Sanders and Maxine Grant.



Peter, this has given you a picture of what can happen as a result of getting to know people in the wider Beefsteak and Burgundy Club and I often reflect on what would have happened had I not had a chance conversation expressing my interest in food and wine all those years ago with Greg Treble, who was a member of Nital B&B and invited me along as a guest. Thank you and the Adelaide Club for your generous comments and Commemorative Plaque which has taken pride of place beside my Life Membership Certificate on the mantelpiece.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jim Freebairn'.

Jim Freebairn