

REPORT FROM QUEENSLAND – By Glen Spry, Queensland Wine Guild of Australia

HUNTER VALLEY TOUR with WINE GUILD VICTORIA, 15-18 May 2015.

5 Queensland members joined 25 Victorians on their recent HV Tour.

Everyone made their own way to the Wine Country Motor Inn in Cessnock where most of the party stayed. This was also the venue for the Welcome Dinner (with Moorebank wines) on Friday evening.

We were all made very welcome by the Victorian members, and the whole weekend was friendly, relaxed, educational and extremely well organised.

Saturday started with a full breakfast at Peterson House including sparkling wines and was followed by a formal sparkling tasting on their deck. Then on to private tastings and tours at Calais and First Creek Wineries, and lunch at the Australian Regional Food Store & Café.

The afternoon was spent at Tyrell's in their old tasting room with the dirt floor, before proceeding to the Hunter Distillery where some people more than looked at the many very pretty coloured vodkas, liqueurs etc. Not much time to rest up before the Winemakers Dinner where we were regaled by John Drayton who was also very generous in providing many of his wines for the evening.

Sunday was also jamb packed with private tastings at Mount Pleasant, McLeish, Tulloch and Brokenwood Wineries. We also visited the HV Chocolate and Fudge Factory and HV Cheese Co, with lunch at HV Gardens Village.

Sunday evenings Closing Dinner was served with McLeish wines, and after breakfast on Monday everyone made their own way home, with some staying on to enjoy more Tastes of the Hunter.

In all a great long weekend enjoyed by everyone and highly recommended if future Tours are offered by the Victoria Guild.