

## AUTUMN 2026

Dear Pfriends of Pfeiffer,

Like me, recently you would have seen or heard about the wonderful people who became '**Australians of the Year**' in their various categories of contributions to our country.

All those people are to be congratulated and encouraged to continue to their best ability to serve their country and fellow Australians. We all thank them for their contributions to our lives as Australians and to our country and its future.

I am sure you know of people who should also be 'Australians of the Year' but rarely get acknowledged or recognised for their contribution to their community or the broader society in general. These are the people we call 'volunteers.' And I am certain you know many and most likely are one or have been one, yourself.

### Thank you.

Here at Pfeiffer Wines, we have a diverse range of people who are part of Team Pfeiffer. They all have specific roles to play as their job requires **but not many of you know of their contribution to their community as volunteers.**

**Kylie** who is our Sales and Marketing Manager, and **Janice**, who is one of our Wine Club Administration Coordinators, along with Janice's husband **Geoff**, who works for us when he can, are incredibly kind people working to prevent suicide. They volunteer to an organisation called WASP, Wangaratta Area Suicide Prevention, to educate, help and support those who are impacted by suicide.

Their group has developed an incredibly valuable website that features an updated directory of over 250 resources, helplines, organisations, and support groups that provide crisis support, counselling, information, and research related to mental health and suicide prevention.

This year they are facilitating the delivery of an ongoing youth-focused mental health and suicide prevention program into their three local secondary schools. Their group have also painted two blue trees in Wangaratta. The blue trees you see in paddocks or gardens around our country are painted to be conversation-starters around mental health issues and suicide and aim to reduce the stigma that is still largely attached to mental health in our communities.

Jackson, known as **Jacko**, is our Vineyard Manager. Jacko is a volunteer fire fighter for one of our local CFA (Country Fire Authority) groups. There are many volunteer fire brigades on both sides of the border and each one supports the other as required. Over the course of this summer, Jacko has been called out to numerous fires and car accidents. At times, Jacko has had to leave work at short notice to respond to emergencies. On other occasions, callouts have occurred in his own time, often meaning his 'down time' is anything but restful after attending such demanding and challenging incidents.

**Toni** who manages our Cellardoor is a volunteer with the local SES (State Emergency Services). Recently, on one of those scorching heatwave days, I watched her run to her car, dress hurriedly into her bright orange SES gear, kept in readiness in the boot of her car, and then drive a little faster than I have ever seen her drive before, to a car accident.

Sometimes she is called to attend a roof that has come off in a very strong wind event or to clear a fallen tree blocking a road. Toni and her SES are also often the first on the scene at a traffic accident and undertake the challenging and confronting task of extricating trapped motorists. These call outs can be any time of the day or night and Toni is always ready to help and coordinate alongside her SES colleagues.

**Sharon** is our most recent member to join Team Pfeiffer. She is a qualified Scuba Diving Divemaster and regularly dives around Nusa Penida, a stunning island southeast of Bali. Unfortunately, the ocean around the island has become polluted with plastic bottles because local schoolchildren rely on bottled water as their only safe drinking source, and many of these bottles eventually make their way into the sea.

Sharon discussed this with the local school principal, came back to Australia and through her Rotary Club, organised for refillable bottles (like the ones we carry around with us as a matter of course,) to be sent to hundreds of Nusa Penida students, not only to help them as individuals, but to encourage them to care for the environment in which they live and others love, as Sharon does.



**PFEIFFER WINES**

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She also volunteers as a crisis interviewer helping people in need with Uniting Vic Tas Emergency Food and Material Relief Services in Wodonga.

Then there are those who just 'do.' They 'do' by supporting their partners and friends who are volunteers in the official groups, like those I have mentioned above. They 'do' because it is the right thing to do. They 'do' because they know it needs to be done.

**Thank goodness for volunteers and their supportive families.** You know people and I know people who are volunteers and we are better off for knowing them. They truly are our 'Australians of the Year.'

Coming up during the busy calendar of life at Pfeiffer Wines in 2026 is **Tastes of Rutherglen**, a two-day festival of wine, food and fun. This year Tastes of Rutherglen is on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March. It is a huge undertaking to have a major event weekend in the middle of harvesting grapes and vintaging wine, but Autumn is when all this vital activity happens and as you know, Autumn is also a wonderful time for sitting outside in the warmth (but not the heat of Summer), which makes it the perfect time to also host Tastes of Rutherglen.

We are thrilled that the talented team at **Pickled Sisters** will be catering for us at Tastes of Rutherglen this year. An **Asian Style Slow Cooked Beef Brisket in a Soy and Ginger sauce with Chilli Oil and a Puffed Rice, Edamame and Mango Slaw** will be matched to our very special **2024 Pfeiffer Pinot Noir** and at the sweets end, we have a **Creamy Baked Citrus Cheesecake with an Orange and Berry Compote and White Chocolate Sauce** matched to our **2024 Pfeiffer Late Harvest Muscadelle**.

Our shaded and spacious grounds are the perfect setting to enjoy these delicious wine and food offerings as you relax and enjoy the sounds of our much-loved local singer and song writer, **Dave Daly** who will be performing all weekend.

If you are looking for something to do on the Saturday evening of Tastes of Rutherglen we invite you to join us at Pfeiffer Wines between 5pm and 8pm for our **Bridge Bar & Beats**.

Entry is FREE and Pickled Sisters will be on-site with a **pop-up Dumpling Bar**. Dave Daly will be performing and we will also have our 'pfabulous' Pfeiffer wine, **wine cocktails** and our super refreshing and much loved Pfeiffer Seriously Pink slushies? So bring your own chair or picnic rug and find your own little piece of paradise within our beautiful grounds, either on the shaded grass area or under our century old pines, enjoy some wine and beats and watch the sun go down in our very special part of the world.

After the success of **Mad Monday** after Tastes of Rutherglen in 2025, we are once again inviting you to the winery on Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> this year. This is one-day ONLY opportunity to pop into the cellardoor and try the museum and Wine Club only wines we have in our current Wine Club packs.

**Easter** also comes at this same busy time of wine production, but offers that wonderful chance to get away and visit Rutherglen to soak up the beauty of a North East Victorian Autumn. We will not be open Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> but will be open every other day during your Easter break.

We will have games for the young—and the young at heart. The **Authentic French Crêpe** food van will be on site all weekend serving up délicieux savoury and sweet French crêpes (oui, s'il vous plaît!), and **Ben Chan and the BIG Bass Man** will be performing both days, bringing us some great tunes and good vibes throughout Easter.

We'll also have platters, our 'pfabulously pfamous' pink and blue slushies, and of course our regular award-winning wines available for tasting and sale.

Please consider pre-booking your **Seated Tasting Experience** or your bridge seating reservation at this time of year as it is always a very popular time to be in the area.

No matter what time of year and when you can come, think of reserving your accommodation before coming to our beautiful area and book ahead. You love visiting here. And so do many other people who are discovering the secrets and charm of our Rutherglen wine region.

See you here soon. Kindest regards,



Robyn Pfeiffer...99% retired with 1% given to writing the Dear Pfriends Letter. 😊

“ PFEIFFER 'S PFINE WINE PFOR PFINE PFOOD AND PFABULOUS PFOLK ”