SUMMER 2026-2027

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Dear Pfriends of Pfeiffer,

About a month ago I started to notice Christmas decorations in shopfront windows. They are beautiful, all different and a gentle reminder that Christmas is coming.

Then the not so gentle reminders start being heard, like conversations that tell us how many days are left to Christmas and people questioning where the year has gone. I guess this is a good thing because it means we are busy in our lives, with work and family commitments, time spent with friends and in our communities in which we live and contribute.

I know this has been my life and the life of all of us at Pfeiffer Wines this Year and also one we are all very grateful to have experienced.

The photograph accompanying this newsletter was taken at our **41st Pfeiffer Pfrolic**, held on our beautiful Sunday Creek Bridge on November 1st. It was a wonderful afternoon, with four delicious courses prepared by Rafferty's Catering and eight different Pfeiffer wines, perfectly matched to each course, including our very special 2026 Gamay Noir.

I particularly love this celebratory photograph because I think it captures so much of what we value here. It's not just about celebrating wonderful food and wine, although there was certainly plenty of that! The picture shows us celebrating friendship, sharing good times, enjoying the company of others and taking a moment to appreciate the year that has been.

It truly is amazing how quickly a year passes, and looking back at this photograph made me realise just how much has happened since we welcomed in 2026.

The first half of the year started with the busy time of visitors coming to our beautiful winery with family and friends, sharing quality time relaxing and catching up with one another in holiday mode.

For the winery, final preparations for the start of **grape harvest and vintage** were in full swing at that time. The winery interns had arrived from their various countries where they live, ready to embark on the experience of their lifetime, working in the winery with Jen, as their teacher and mentor.

For this year's vintage of 2026, we were blessed to have a wonderful crew of 4 beautiful interns, Avery, Thomas, Harry and Katie, to join Jen, Jack and Alexis. They were hard working and keen to learn. They all became friends and after their return home they have kept in touch with us and one another.

With the changes of climate over our 42 years of being here in Rutherglen, the vintage period started at the beginning of February and went through to the end of April. During these 3 hectic and constantly busy months, the different grape varieties ripen in their own time and when ready, the vineyard team deliver the fruit to the winery for the beginnings of turning those grapes into wine. As you know, there is much that goes on after crushing grapes, before they become the beautiful wines you get to enjoy.

During this time our hard-working Cellardoor team despatched your **February Wine Club** packs. We also had the Winemakers of Rutherglen festival of food and wine called **Tastes of Rutherglen**. Watch out for details in 2027, when Pickled Sisters from Rutherglen will provide the delicious food again. In fact, don't wait, plan to come now and book your accommodation as it is always on the Victorian Labour Day long weekend which is the same time as the Canberra Day long weekend, so a busy weekend for our local accommodation houses on both sides of the border.

Whoops, I got distracted...a common trait. Back to my recap of 2026.

After vintage, all hands were on deck to prepare for another Winemakers of Rutherglen Festival, **Roam**

Rutherglen, (aka Winery Walkabout) where we loved seeing so many fabulous young people 'dressed to impress' as lions or tigers, Snow White with her 7 followers, many 'Where's Wallys' and the imagination of these young ones, who are our future, goes on and on. Of course, there are plenty dressed in their comfy, warm winter clothes as Roam Rutherglen is always over the King's Birthday weekend in June.

After Roam Rutherglen, the very important and skilled **pruning of the dormant vines**, in need of their annual 'short back and sides' starts, and goes through to the end of Winter.

Our **Winter Wine Club** packs were despatched in July, and August saw another Winemakers of Rutherglen festival with the **Dark Side of Wine**, adding 10 days and nights of activities to excite and entertain visitors to Rutherglen.

The equally important wine work continues, **making the wines pristine and ready to bottle** or ready for their time in barrel where the gentle influence of oak is imparted into the wines. Time in oak is a 'forever process' for our very precious fortified wines, who live their lives in those special huge casks, until we bottle. That way, you always get your Muscats, Topaques and Tawnies 'fresh from cask' (which is the absolute best way to get them) when you purchase these very special Pfeiffer fortified wines.

By the way, they make great Christmas gifts and are very affordable. Whoops...I digress again.

The second half of the year was equally busy but in a different way. The **Wine Shows** begin with judges assessing wines from all over the country, without knowing where they have been made and by whom. Jen enters our wines in quite a few Wine Shows. And she also judges at various wine shows throughout the country. This year was very pleased to have her Assistant Winemaker, Joaquin, who we call Jack, to be invited to be an Assistant Wine Judge at the Victorian Wine Show. This is such an important part of learning and improving one's palate as a Winemaker.

We have had wonderful feedback from the Wine Shows we entered this year and also success with many of our wines, adding to the tally of trophies and medals we have won over the last 42 years here at Pfeiffer Wines.

The second half of the year is also when our last **Wine Club** packs for the year are despatched and when we come to see you, though we do very much love you continuing to come and see us here too.

We have our very popular lunches in **Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Geelong**. And with our fellow Winemakers of Rutherglen, we attended Canberra and Melbourne for **'Rutherglen in the City'**, a collaborative tasting event from our Rutherglen wineries to all of you, who live in those two cities.

Of course, we would love to come to you in other locations, but time runs out, other jobs must be done back here and before we know it, it is **Christmas again**, or nearly Christmas, as it is now, as I write this letter.

So, as you ARE my dear **Pfriends of Pfeiffer**, I would like to wish you and your loved ones, a happy Christmas and a very healthy year ahead for 2027. My family and my wonderful Staff join with me in wishing you the same.

I would also like to thank you for your continuing support of Pfeiffer Wines. Without you visiting our winery, spreading the word about our wines and our beautiful location to your family and friends, without you coming to our festivals, functions and lunches and buying our wines, we would not still be in business.

Please consider yourselves partners in our winery, with the best shareholder dividends, 'pfine wine pfor pfabulous pfolk'...YOU, our Pfeiffer Pfriends.

My kindest regards and very best wishes,

Robyn Pfeiffer. (The writer of this letter)