



TOURISM

by Bill Nehmy

This week I speak to Paul Clark from Kersbrook Hills winery

BN: Welcome Paul, please can we start with your early years, where you were born, went to school, your early plans and aspirations?

PC: I was born at Cronulla in Sydney, and went to school at Caringbah High School.

At the time it was the largest school in the southern hemisphere.

If I remember correctly more than 2000 students (a little different than Kersbrook school with 62).

I studied Chemistry at UTS in Sydney, however about 18 months into the course I was offered a professional contract to play cricket in England.

I figured opportunities like that don't come your way very often.

So for the next five years I lived between the UK and Australia playing professional cricket.

I was in the NSW Sheffield Shield squad at the time and was transferred to play for SA.

So I found myself living in Adelaide.

After living in SA for 33 years now, I wouldn't dream of living anywhere else.

I became involved in wine making whilst living in Valley View with an old vine growing over the pergola.

It was covered in grapes, and after a trip to Tea Tree Gully Library I had instructions and made wine in our back yard, the first batch was terrible!

However the fire was 'ignited' and within 18 months we sold the house in town and bought our property in Kersbrook.

BN: Being near the Adelaide Hills/Barossa Valley 'border' has its advantages.

How have you leveraged this opportunity including being on the Epicurean Way?

PC: Being on the way to the Barossa has been an advantage, particularly 10 years ago when we first opened the cellar door.

Back then, the Adelaide Hills Wine region was small with virtually no identity of its own.

People stopped at our cellar door because they thought they were in the Barossa or were on their way there.

This was particularly true of visitors from interstate.

Today thanks to the efforts of a number of cleaved and passionate people, the Adelaide Hills is seen as a premium producing region in its own right.

Our challenge and opportunity now it to let people know that the hills extends beyond Stirling and



Paul and Mary Clark from Kersbrook Hill Wines

Hahndorf. The Hills cover such a large area, there are some great adventures to be had.

BN: You have a strong passion and are a keen advocates for the Adelaide Hills.

If you have visiting friends or relatives and you want to give them a memorable Adelaide Hills day, where do you take them?

PC: Given we have just put together a group of tourist related businesses all located in the Northern Hills it is only fitting that I would visit some of the attractions in this group.

At the risk of forgetting someone...

Breakfast at Cudlee Creek Cafe followed by a visit to the underrated Gorge Wildlife Park to cuddle a koala.

Then off to the National Motor Museum at Birdwood to look at our motoring history.

Swing back to Gumeracha to try the gin at Applewood Distillery and then to us at Kersbrook Hill for a pizza lunch and wine tasting.

An afternoon trail ride at Templewood.

Duck across to watch Damian make perry (Pear Cider) at Paracombe just in time for dinner at the Inglewood Inn.

That should take care of day 1!

BN: Please can you share any key interests/activities that might surprise us.

PC: I mentioned before my past life in cricket which a lot of people may not have known.

I still love playing or watching sport.

My other great love is music.

I learnt to play the guitar at around eight years old and have played it ever since.

After school I played in a band in Sydney pubs.

I was lucky enough to play shows with INXS and Cold Chisel amongst others which was a lot of fun.

Today my eldest daughter Lindsey is a very accomplished singer and she makes me look good in a duo we have put together.

I really enjoy doing small shows with her.

BN: What advice would you give a young person in respect to finding the right career and to have an enriching life?

PC: That's a great question.

Firstly, don't be afraid to have a go.

Failure to just part of the road to success (whatever you class success as).

Secondly, be persistent.

Not everything works every time. Lastly, try to see the good/positive in everything you do.

Be the half full glass person.

Thanks Paul, it was very interesting to get to know you better.

Wine and Cider 'co production' is developing well in the Adelaide Hills and your Northern Hills collaboration/cluster is gaining great momentum.

I think I might have had my timing right with my cricketing efforts for Mannum.

I was well retired when you came on the scene for Kersbrook!