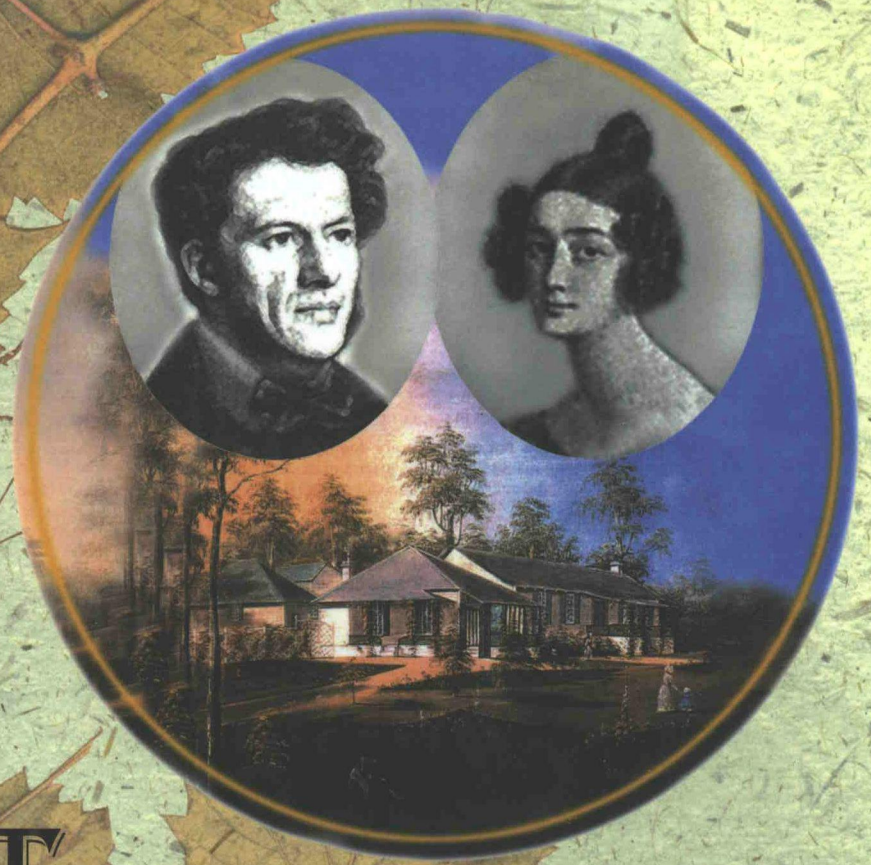


YARRA WINE - TWO CENTURIES

# FROM JOLIMONT TO YERING

RAYMOND HENDERSON

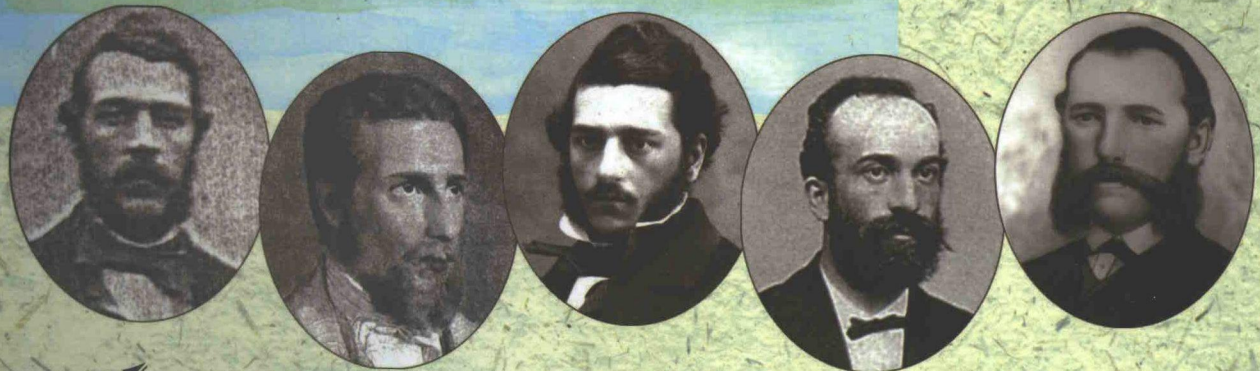
## FROM JOLIMONT TO YERING



### SWISS BACHELOR VIGNERONS



### ROMANCING THE YARRA VALLEY 1830 - 2000



## RAYMOND HENDERSON

**La Trobe - Montmollin crest**



**Jolimont cottage  
(in circular inset)**

**Ryries' original Yering  
Homestead (inset) on  
Yering Station**



ST. HUBERTS



**Raymond Henderson, descended from Swiss wine-making grandparents, Leuba and Paris of Lilydale, was motivated to research the coming of dozens of Neuchateloise vigneronns who migrated to the Port Phillip district in the 1840s and 1850s.**

**His story is set in the period of the beginnings of Melbourne when vigneronns and vinedressers planted vineyards in the virgin Barwon and Yarra River valleys alongside other pioneers of the time.**

**Although this first wave of winemaking had largely subsided by the early 1900s, a dramatic revival of the industry began to take place in the 1960s, being a part of today's global expansion of wines from these valleys, with vintages held in high regard the world over.**

**While arousal over their new wines was in the air, today the mood has grown into a crescendo of excitement.**

Two Centuries of the Yarra Valley Wine Industry

FROM

JOLIMONT

TO

YERING



(National Trust of Australia (Victoria))

1- Robert Hoddle c. 1840 Near Ryrie's Yering on Yarra.

AND ALONG OUR

YARRA VALLEYS

WITH NEUCHÂTEL'S

BACHELOR VIGNERONS

RAYMOND HENDERSON

© Raymond F. Henderson 2006

B.Agr.Sc., 1944, Melbourne

National Library of Australia

ISBN No. 0-9581358-5-1

This book is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without the written permission of the author.

Cover Design: Ona Henderson and Syd Tunn, Creek House Studios, Kangaroo Ground.

*Front*

*Charles La Trobe and Sophie de Montmollin*

*Five of the six Swiss coterie of pioneer bachelors of Yering, left to right in the 1850s*

<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hubert</i>	<i>Guillaume</i>	<i>Samuel</i>	<i>Ernest</i>	<i>Missing Adolphe</i>
<i>de Castella</i>	<i>de Castella</i>	<i>De Pury</i>	<i>De Pury</i>	<i>Leuba</i>	<i>de Meuron</i>

Designed by Sue Thompson of Roundabout Publishing Pty Ltd  
28 Milford Street, Kilsyth Vic. 3137 Australia 61 3 9761 9192

Printed by Breen Printing 11 Hunter Road, Healesville Vic. 3777 Australia

## Foreword

After years of exhaustive research which has forged links with archives, other historians and family members in many parts of the world, Raymond Henderson has produced the definitive work on a family of Swiss vigneronns who settled the Yarra Valley in the nineteenth century, and from whom he is descended.

The author is a distant cousin of Sophie La Trobe, wife of Victoria's first Lieutenant Governor, Charles Joseph La Trobe. The lineage of both can be traced directly to the great Swiss theologian Jean Frederic Osterwald.

Every conceivable detail of the circle of acquaintance of his forebears has been included in what is not only a history of his Leuba family but also a superb account of the development of the wine industry in the Yarra Valley.

The author has enlivened his text with countless appropriate contemporary and more recent illustrations which will make this a book of reference for future researchers. He is to be congratulated on this labour of love, a mammoth task well done!

Dianne Reilly,  
La Trobe Librarian,  
State Library of Victoria.

Raymond Henderson's manuscript *From Jolimont to Yering* is a most comprehensive history of the Yarra Valley, its people and places. From the Aboriginal caretakers of the land, it takes us through the arrival of the first Europeans and the major contribution that is made by Charles Joseph La Trobe and his wife born Sophie de Montmollin, to the early Port Phillip District, later Victoria.

There is extensive detail on the La Trobes' connection to Switzerland and the introduction of large numbers of French Swiss vigneronns and vinedressers from Neuchatel to establish viticulture in Victoria from 1839. The book gives information on many of these families with names such as Dardel, de Pury, de Castella, Brequet, Pettavel, Leuba, Tetaz, Gugger, Belperroud, Amiet, de Meuron, Kitz, Guillaume and Deschamps. All had their Victorian origins in the Yarra and Barwon valleys.

John Tetaz,  
Author of *From Boudry to Barrabool*.

This is a massive work detailing all the early settlers of the Yarra Valley from their origins in Europe to their role in the development of Victoria and its relationship to the rest of the Colony.

Raymond Henderson examines the evolution of the wine industry in the Yarra Valley and Geelong over the last 150 years from the early pastoral days to the current resurgence of the Victorian Wine Industry. The author has carried out exhaustive research into the lives and relationships of the early settlers. He has brought together a great deal of information from many public documents and private papers, both Australian and international. The lives of many of the people involved are discussed in detail and the factors that influenced them are recorded. The result is an invaluable source of information about the people who first settled in Victoria and particularly in the Upper Yarra Valley.

Without author Raymond Henderson's enthusiasm and tenacious research, much of this early history would have been lost. The descendants of these early pioneers congratulate him on his efforts, which tell in much detail the story of their forebears in this country.

Guill De Pury,  
*Yeringberg, Coldstream.*

It is not every day one reads a book and learns something about one's ancestors!

Credit for our increased knowledge must go to Ray Henderson who has ranged far and wide to gather information from many people in many countries for his significant and expansive book entitled "From Jolimont To Yering".

We have had the privilege of reading the unedited version of Ray's book and found it not *just* another account of the history of the wine industry in Geelong and the Yarra Valley. It also provides an account of a large part of Victoria's history woven together with personal facts, elicited from family documents and historical records, about the lives and times of many people whose visions, actions and achievements purposefully or inadvertently created that history.

Ray traces the origins of key historical players and gives them context and substance by telling us of their families of origin, original homelands and the people and factors which influenced them both prior to and during their time in Australia. His enthusiasm for telling the whole story in great detail is both astounding and admirable. This is not a "history of" written in a vacuum; rather it is written with passion and purpose and in such a way as to give a sense of connectedness not only between the characters themselves but also between the old and new worlds that they, as historical characters, bridged.

Grand father, Hubert and grand uncle, Paul, we are sure, if they were alive today, would be extremely excited and gratified to see vindicated their joint conviction that the Yarra Valley is a place to produce great wines. Equally, Francois, who, most energetically, dedicated himself to the world of oenology would also be delighted to see how the Australian wine industry is flourishing and the high regard in which its wines are held.

Paul & Ros de Castella,  
Rosanna.

Out of his love for the Yarra Valley, with which his family has long been associated, Ray Henderson has compiled a sumptuous history of the place and the people. He has a rich heritage, having grown up hearing stories of his family in both Victoria and their native Switzerland. With great tenacity and thoroughness he has traced a complicated network of relationships between the early Swiss vigneron and their descendants, among whom he is to be numbered. A striking feature of his work is that he has travelled extensively and, being equally familiar with Switzerland and the Yarra Valley, is thus able to tell the story of the families in a fuller content than is usually within the range of family historians.

This lavishly illustrated book is an idiosyncratic expression of a man with a deep feeling for the land and an understanding of it. Of special interest to those who live in the Valley and those who visit it is the account given of the 'six bachelors' and the beginnings of the wine industry. For Ray Henderson the history of the place is a very personal history, and his book will undoubtedly be treasured by his own family and his descendants. It would be good, however to see the material about the wine industry extracted and shaped into a book for a wider public.

John Barnes,  
Editor, *The La Trobe Journal*, State Library,  
Emeritus Professor of English, La Trobe University.



# Contents

Foreword .....	3
Preface .....	6
Acknowledgement .....	7
Introduction .....	8
Prologue .....	11
Chapter 1 Beginning of Port Phillip District .....	13
Chapter 2 Original Lower and Middle Yarra Squatters .....	27
Chapter 3 Victoria's First Governor and First Lady .....	49
Chapter 4 Early Pioneering Neuchatel Vignerons Families Interlacing Yarra Valley Emigrants .....	75
Chapter 5 Original Upper Yarra Pioneering Graziers .....	113
Chapter 6 Yering's Bachelors, the Ryries and Swiss .....	129
Chapter 7 Yering Coterie's Second Decade Closer Settlement .....	149
Chapter 8 Vignobles and Vignerons of Geelong and Melbourne .....	167
Chapter 9 Early Yarra Vignobles and Vignerons .....	193
Chapter 10 de Meuron, Montmollin, Emigres Leuba and Paris Second Generation.....	223
Chapter 11 No Man's Land - Everyone's Spirit .....	257
Chapter 12 Leuba-Paris, Robarts-Leuba, Leuba-Barrelet, Quinche-Chable Their Third Generation .....	285
Chapter 13 20th Century Resurgence of the Yarra Vineland .....	315
Chapter 14 The Valley's Revival Blossoms by 2000 .....	343
Chapter 15 Global Destiny of Yarra Valley Wineries and Markets .....	355
Footnotes .....	362
References .....	400
Illustrations .....	403
Index .....	409

## *Preface*

Sources and beginnings of vines and wine in the Yarra Valley awaited a comprehensive telling, attempted here preferably in a pictorial narrative.

In the relatively few decades of wine's introduction into our Barwon and Yarra valleys of fifty years (1840s–1890s), compared to centuries of wine's evolution in Western Europe, excitement and vibrancy was abundant from its inception.

Its origins involve the “haut bourgeoisie” de Montmollin family and wine fraternity of Neuchâtel canton in French speaking Switzerland to give this migration movement context of its era. It is woven into the period of early settlement in Melbourne's Yarra country.

A mini mass of European migrants arrived making their way into aboriginal territory, the homeland of the Wurundjeri who loved their River Valley – so did the Europeans when they started pioneering this beloved valley in 1835. Its multitude of settlers can motivate us to reflect on our origins for all sorts of reasons. Often ethnographic with their ponderables, and as more hidden history surfaces, it satisfies a hunger for our deeper past that fascinates, opening up awareness of who we were, and in making comparison, assists in understanding what we are.

Having lived in the Yarra Valley most of my life and having had a horticultural occupation along its length, this experience has prompted me to look at aspects of a multitude of pioneers, including my forbears during the valley's first white century. Most migrants coming to this part of the Colony of New South Wales, known as Port Phillip District in Batman-Fawkner times, needed their own government, distinct from Gipps' rule from Sydney to govern the British, Scottish, Irish and European population mix. Charles La Trobe with his Lady, born Sophie de Montmollin, were chosen for this role.

Overstraiters from Van Diemens Land came searching for new pastures, as did Overlanders from Port Jackson. When the mid 1830s drought made finding grass for grazing a paramount necessity, soon hundreds with their herds and flocks had identified this rich sector of the colony, yet to be claimed by individuals, and in doing so created a whole new regional economy. The migrant mass swarmed across future Victoria's vast open grasslands, virtually unowned, previously roamed, held and fought over by the small indigenous aboriginal population for decades of millennia.

Opening in the Yarra Valley, this familiar tale unfolded in a fast growing Melbourne during an historically very short period, quickened by the discovery of gold in 1851 that so rapidly generated development.

To give the story a logical sequence, the Yarra Valley has been divided into lower, middle and upper regions on both sides of the river, telling of the early circumstances first settlers, including the Swiss vigneron coming into the valley, had to confront.

The book is divided into chapters which are mostly independent and can be read separately, but which together tell the full story outlined above.

In order not to divert attention from the main theme of the story, extra relevant data has been assembled as footnotes.

The re-emergence of the wine industry in the 1960s created much anguish as every one of the vineyards has made a valuable contribution. It was impossible to include all 100 or so vineyards, wineries and cellar door outlets so I focussed on those who played a pivotal role in that re-emerging era and have traced them through to today. I leave it to the younger generation to tell the stories of the newer contributors to the Yarra Valley wine story.

## Acknowledgement

Researching this journal into the Yarra Valley's beginnings has been a rich experience, rummaging through multitudinous libraries and museums, especially at Lilydale, talking and writing to authoritative historians – country, suburban and city – visiting many pioneers, seeking out maps, sketches and photographs (in colour where they existed) primarily to make the story attractively stimulating.

Many more people will flick the pages of an illustrated book rather than one not illustrated and read about the event which interests them. This publication is therefore likely to attract a wider interested following, to ponder our past and compare it to their future endeavours, stimulating younger generations to value what pioneers endured.

Many contributors have selected their ancestors' treasured anecdotes, produced cherished documents from deep down in cupboards, under beds and out of back rooms, co-operating to make this record possible, and in putting this story together it is expected it will stir nostalgia and a feeling of gratitude for the efforts expended by many pioneers of the valley.

Throughout these chapters trail blazer and other involved families appear and deserve particular mention. Charlotte de Castella of Sion assiduously located treasured family photos. Guill de Pury of Coldstream willingly provided family background as did the Leubas, Robarts and Chables.

Dr Monique de Meuron of Neuchatel more than ably assisted with de Meuron and de Montmollin research. Most appropriately Christianne and her son Thierry Grosjean of Chateau d'Auvernier provided Chateau records to give the Neuchâtel story of its wine's authenticity. Jacques Petitpierre's genealogical publications were invaluable, as also were Editions Gilles Attinger of Hautrive (NE) for their generosity.

Many thanks to some of the local helpers – Jan Miller, Jeffrey Dardel, Lal Gugger, John Tetaz (Boudry to Barrabool author) and his son Tim, Moira and Berni Burgi, Rob Dolan, Murray Bragge, and Sandy Ross, and to Suzie Stuart for her tolerance during my endless writings. Also to many others, too many to detail here. Dick Barten is remembered for his procurement of the Blaeu maps of the 1600s used in Purry's prologue story.

My deep gratitude goes in particular to Neville Buckland, whose painstaking effort over 10 years succeeded in turning my hand written manuscript and hundreds of illustrations into a working document. Latterly the typing of Jim Fullarton, Thelma Tetaz and Wendy Renzi was much appreciated and thanks to Office Works, Richmond for their generous cooperation. A special thanks goes to Sonja Bauer for her thorough proof reading of my manuscript.

Special mention goes to Sue Thompson who offered to edit this extensive narrative using her skills accumulated over many years. Sue has transformed a somewhat raw manuscript into an history book for the people of the Yarra Valley.

The book has taken almost 15 years to research and records history that was almost went into oblivion.

Finally, remembering this story is mostly set in the first decades of Port Phillip's history, the supply of illustrative material is limited. This means the quality of available prints leaves something to be desired and I hope readers will make allowances as they look at the scenes of this period.

Many hours have been spent tracing the copyright holders of the material in this book - the photographs, illustrations and maps. Many could not be traced and others have proved elusive so I apologise in advance if I have failed to contact some owners of the material.

Raymond Henderson.

## *Introduction*

This project documents the beginning of wine in the Yarra Valley, starting soon after Batman and Fawkner stepped on the Yarra's banks in 1835. Pioneer squatters gathered along both banks of the river, vigneron followed.

The La Trobes' arrival in 1839, brought with them, their association with Neuchatel wine from Switzerland. The telling of this narrative revolves around "Six Swiss Bachelors", who put their roots down at Yering Station Run, Coldstream, in the early 1850s.

One and a half centuries later, Yarra wines are again making an impact on Europe in no uncertain manner.

The story begins in the Aboriginal era, when La Trobe attempted reconciliation of opposing morés and cultures on this new community of peoples.

Why did my mother name our beach house *La Trobe*?

Why was I not of Swiss, Brazilian or Fijian, but of Australian Nationality?

Why did I refuse to learn my mother's original tongue, French?

These early day questions perplexed me, and years later, in my retired seventies, were explored to tell this story, the early days of the vine and it's wine. As early as 1836 winemaker James Dardel arrived – who was he ?

---

My maternal ancestors were part motivated to migrate by the La Trobes' early presence in Port Phillip. Family anecdotes colourfully passed on by my grandmother, particularly, during French tutorials in my teen years, and letters from Switzerland over decades, whetted my geographical appetite here and overseas. Then a simultaneous activity in vegetable agronomy originally kindled by my father, led to my brother and I creating a vegetable research and seed business that involved me in some 40 overseas visits. Europe was our first export market and Switzerland being central to most continental countries, provided a base for opportunity to delve deeper into our heritage, of the 1860s, 70s and 80s through the 90s and coincidentally, the story has come together through much door knocking in both Europe and Yarra country.

Migrants coming to Port Phillip a century or more ago had their early origins in Caucasia. Their make up became a comfortable mix of Celtic-Anglo-Saxons and Northern Continentals – mainly German, some French (speaking) and Italians who rode horseback up the Yarra catchment valleys.

They were a long way from home, having to face opportunity and adversity, confronting unknown Aboriginals, shifting nomads of their Birrarung Valley, whose hunter-gatherer practices were to be supplanted by sheep flocks and cattle herds that were a threatening culture shock to these indigenes. With this influx, the Aboriginals were understandably utterly perplexed, receding to wherever they could and collaboration was very difficult. Corranderrk was established as a supportive alternate refuge, meant to alleviate their plight, but it was a short lived attempt. At the time my grandfather took the opportunity to photograph aspects of Aboriginal life, putting together a useful historical collection that resides in Canberra and now also in Melbourne.

To succeed, settlers needed tolerance and acceptance of one another developing a mateship, a camaraderie that grew over generations. This evolved out of an ethnic jumble into the Australian character, as we have come to know, a distinctive individuality – with its "Aussie" marked traits slowly

being understood around the world, and also as we too learn to understand other cultures. In Port Phillip, the Australian way supervened in a short period, starting in 1835, half a century after the First Fleet arrived in Port Jackson. 'Aussiness' grew quickly, it had to, it had new roots, and Yarra land was no exception to its onset.

Surveyors came from Hobart, colonial government from Sydney, while graziers with their sheep and cattle suddenly up to their bellies in grass, were establishing their stake in this new territory. Primitive infrastructure abounded in all departments. Superintendent Charles La Trobe, one of Australia's founding fathers, had an almost insurmountable task – it was happening all too fast for everyone.

He had what approximated to six separate government departments to oversee, as well as that of "Premier of Port Phillip" – with hopelessly inadequate means of communication, compared with today – it was only an infant "state". Wherever he went, it was on horseback. His jurisdiction was granted statehood in 1850. The following year, gold was discovered in the valley at Warrandyte, however gold miners' luck soon ran out, forcing them to seek new sources of income.

New industry was generated, diggers sought small holdings to clear and farm, to grow cereals and pasture, woodcutters abounded and bullock wagons appeared. Flour mills powered by water wheels were needed, orchardists and market gardens came to life. Chaff millers, coach builders, farriers, store keepers, tradesmen, builders, doctors, hoteliers were all pioneering in new communities. The villages grew into towns and railways followed. Local government evolved, establishing order where none existed.

Breweries had their place providing beer, while spirits and wine were imported a decade before vigneron were supplying their local vintages – a new bioculture was in the offing - viticulture.

Fortunately for Victoria, Charles La Trobe and his wife Sophie, born de Montmollin, came from a bourgeoisie French Swiss family, who had made wine since the 1800s. Together they were responsible, in no small measure, for introducing through migration wine production to Geelong and 10 years later, County Evelyn, passively assisting mostly Neuchatel families to settle there.

This La Trobe-Montmollin presence emanating from England and Neuchatel in 1839, led to Swiss curiosity with La Trobe's jurisdiction, culminating in a concerted migration from mostly French speaking Swiss, many with skills associated with the grape vine.

James Dardel of St Blaise had come to Port Jackson in 1836, followed by the Belperroud brothers in 1839, who after a few months at Lower Plenty, moved on to the Barwon River in 1840.

Concurrently in 1838, well up into the valley, graziers like Gardiner, Ryries and Brierty opened up the Yarra flats to fatten cattle. A little more than a decade later the de Castellias, de Meuron and de Purys, encouraged by the La Trobes, supplemented grazing with viticulture – the beginning of the Yarra Valley wine industry. Arriving in 1854, staying at Jolimont on their way to Yering station, Hubert de Castella, Adolphe de Meuron (his second visit) and Ernest Leuba this writer's great grandfather, prompted the telling of this narrative.

The Leubas, hailing from Mont de Buttes in the Swiss Canton of Neuchatel, constitute a broad illustration of pioneer migrants leaving conservative Europe to make a life in the New World, with chance more than playing its role, at the same time enduring the risky rhythms of the economic cycle.

Prominent in this narrative were six Neuchatel bachelors forming a *Swiss coterie at Yering* that became the precursor of Yarra wines – known as *The Original Six Swiss Bachelors at Yering*. Through knowhow mostly provided by Neuchatel vinedressers, these bachelors used their astute entrepreneurial management skills to achieve success. Fortuitously they were assisted with contributory seed capital from the Andersons, Jenkins and Ibbotsons. A new industry began to ferment. Most of this fascinating story centres around the exploits of this small army of migrants who chose to make their life's work here. It was the foundation for today's Geelong and Yarra Valley wines.

Their wine industry prospered for four decades in Geelong (1840s–1870s) and in the Yarra Valley (1850s–1890s). Tragically, phylloxera killed off the Geelong vineyards and the lack of market thwarted the industry in County Evelyn. It lay dormant until it was rejuvenated a century later, when by 1970 a new start up was initiated by new professional enthusiastic vigneron.

For many settlers, not only was the climate more inviting, but the way of life became more attractive. The social and cultural conditions in Europe, that took over two millennia to mould, underwent a radical revolution here, within only a century or more. A national attitude had crystallised as seen in the First World War, the broad coalescing of volunteering youth. Australian-ism was more than embryonically pulsating, and industries burgeoning. The spectacle of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Opening portrayed this spirit.

By the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century our valley's wines had exploded into global recognition, promising the industry's future prosperity. But some wondered about the vineyards as urbanisation of the valley encroached. Would buffer zones be necessary to secure the future of our valley's wine?

Along the way wine will have its ups and downs as young people and new migrant families of today explore our extensive valley, touring the roads, viewing the country scenes, tasting its locally grown food and wines and asking about its beginnings. This somewhat compact tale will contentedly provide some answers about hope and joy, endeavour and struggle, failure and success experienced by the valley's first pioneer winemakers and settlers in general.

Melbourne, 2004.  
R.F.H.

## Prologue

How many Australians have heard of Neuchatel visionary, Jean Pierre Purry, of Burgundian origin and Huguenot descent, who lived between 1675 and 1736?

By 1640, Dutch seafarers were reasonably familiar with the northern and western coasts of Australia, but the extent of the 'Great South Land' in the easterly direction remained shrouded in myth and mystery. This position was changed, however, by the great voyage of Abel Jansen Tasman in 1642-1643, when he circumnavigated the continent, landing at Tasmania, or Van Diemens Land as he named it, after the Governor General of the Dutch East Indies. From there he sailed straight across to discover New Zealand, which he named Statenland; and from there returned to Batavia via the Pacific Islands. Although he at all times sailed well clear of the coast of New Holland, as the Dutch knew Australia, his voyage served to dispel earlier dreams of a vast south land stretching around the globe in the southern latitudes.

At this period in history, the V.O.C. or Dutch East India Company, based in Amsterdam and operating out of Batavia, was searching for tradeable commodities from Asia to sell via their Amsterdam auctions, and this is where the west coast of Australia entered the scene. On leaving the Cape of Good Hope, their vessels kept to southern latitudes to take advantage of favourable wind before turning north to make for the Sunda Strait and Batavia. At that time, navigation was largely by guess work; there being no reliable way of determining longitude, and as a result, a number of ships went too far and were wrecked on our western coastline between 1622 and 1727. Despite these setbacks, a thriving trade was eventually developed with the Spice Islands.

The Dutch were not so much interested in settlement as in finding products to trade, and for this reason did not concern themselves with establishing sugar plantations, confining their activities to shipping sugar from Batavia. By the same token, the thriving trade in trepang, made from dried sea slug, which was obtained from the northern waters of Australia, was ignored by the Dutch, who left it to the Chinese to exploit.

### Jean Pierre Purry

At this stage, the character with whom we are most concerned enters the story in the person of Jean Pierre Purry, of the Canton of Neuchatel. A well educated man of 37, he was a Receiver at Boudry, then a merchant vintner of Neuchatel wines in Holland, before taking up employment with the V.O.C. in 1713 he sailed for Batavia from the Dutch island of Texel, arriving in the East Indies in February the following year. We have few clues as to what he did for the V.O.C., but there is record of him having written several papers proposing settlement in Australia without arousing any interest from either the Dutch or the French.

In 1718, Purry enunciated a theory that, as the *sun gives spirit to the wines*, the most suitable environment for grape growing was to be found in the temperate latitudes around 33 degrees, both in the northern and southern hemispheres. The figure of 33 being half way between the Arctic or Antarctic circles at 66 degrees latitude and the Equator at zero.

In 1713 he had spent a month in southern Africa, this being one area where he considered that his theory would apply. Subsequently he suggested to the directors of the V.O.C. that his idea should also be tried in Pieter Nuyt's Land, on the coast of the Great Australian Bight, on the Eyre Peninsula. His proposal was that a substantial force of men should be put ashore to reconnoitre the land and assess its possibilities, but the hard nosed directors of the V.O.C. were not enthusiastic, and Purry's proposal fell on stony ground. In one respect, Purry was a man ahead of his time, in that he thought positively about the indigenes of Terra Australis. If they chose to continue unchanged by European migration, they should be free and relaxed; however, it was their choice to accept change and absorb European ways.

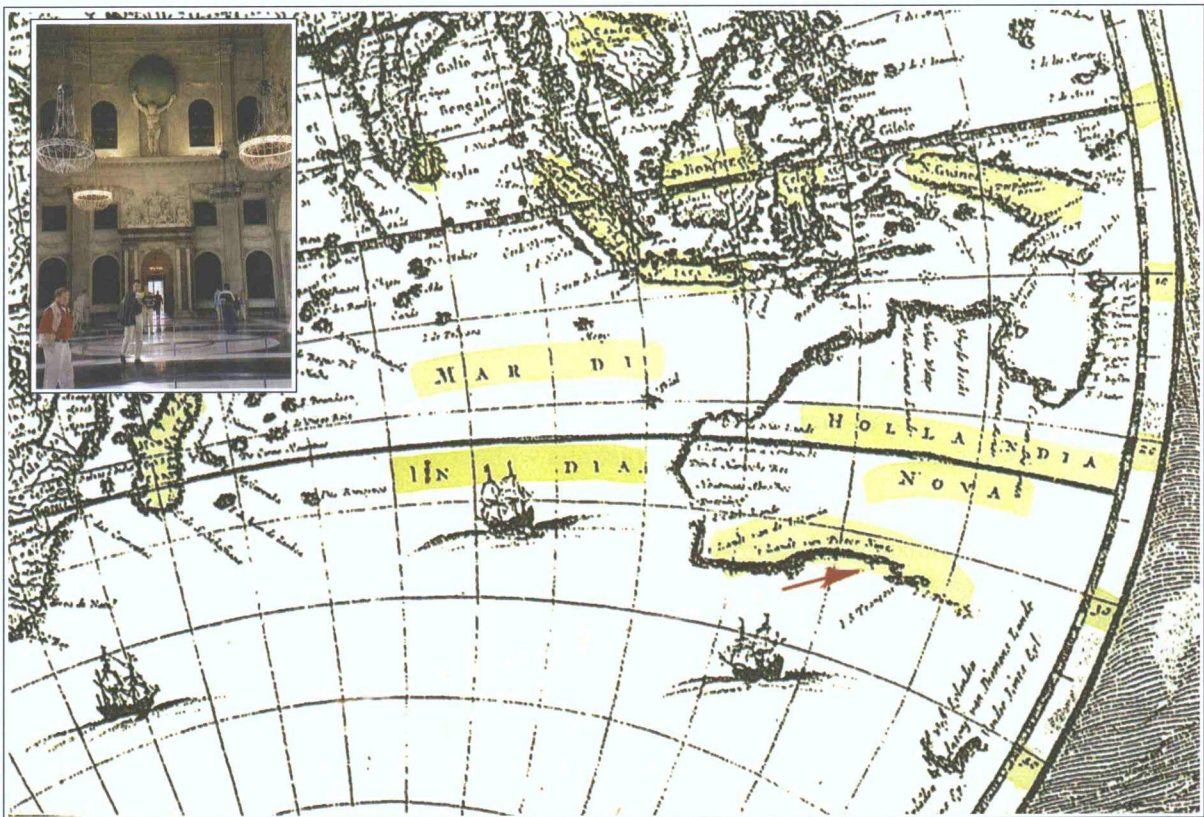
After his disappointment with the gentlemen of the V.O.C., Purry returned to his home town of Neuchatel, then he moved on to Paris and London. Subsequently, he managed to arrange a settlement of Swiss Protestants in South Carolina, USA, the main town of the group being called Purrysburg, where its founder died in 1736. History has proved Purry's nascent vision was sound in theory, but too far ahead of its time, being decades before the arrival of Captain James Cook in Botany Bay in 1770, or the landing of the first fleet in Sydney Cove in 1788. Incidentally, Sydney lies on latitude 34<sup>o</sup> south!

Jean Pierre's son, David de Purry, became banker to the King of Portugal in Lisbon, during which time he built up a substantial import-export business in Brazilian Pernambouc timber and diamonds etc. all over Europe. During this period the Brazilian slave trade contributed to the growth of capital in Portugal, however the influence of the Moravian Church intensified the La Trobes' antipathy to this activity.

### Charles La Trobe

It was more than a century before Charles La Trobe assisted vinedressers and vigneron with visas to emigrate to Geelong with pioneers Dardel and Belperroud brothers leading the way. Finally, again the same century after the death of the elder Purry, a parallel branch of the Purry family from Neuchatel, now incorporated in Switzerland, was represented in Australia by the arrival of the two brothers de Pury at Yering Station in the 1850s. Both became viticulturists and winemaker-vigneron, to be revealed as the story unfolds (See Footnotes).

Literally Purry foreshadowed almost three centuries earlier that in his New Holland, wine growing areas such as embryonic Margaret River, Mt. Barker in Western Australia and established Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale in South Australia would flourish globally with world class wine. His descendants proved the Yarra Valley to do the same.



(Insert: Dick Barten)

- 2 - Pieter Nuyt's Land marked on Blaeu's famous 1642 map.
- 3 - Insert - Amsterdam's Royal Palace showing the map in the marble floor mosaic.



## Chapter 1

### *Beginning of Port Phillip District*



(Alexander Sutherland)

1.01 - Newcomers.

### **Introduction**

Only a decade after the first fleet's arrival in 1788, Surgeon George Bass (1771-1803), and Lieutenant Matthew Flinders (1774-1814) circumnavigated Van Diemens Land, eventually leading to treacherous water south of the mainland being named Bass Strait. London and Sydney were not exactly abuzz at the turn of the century, at which time the French were already exploring this area under Nicholas Baudin in vessels *Geographie* and *Naturaliste*. Their interest was in the sealing industry with a base somewhere in Bass' Western Port.