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March-April 2009

## She's Apples

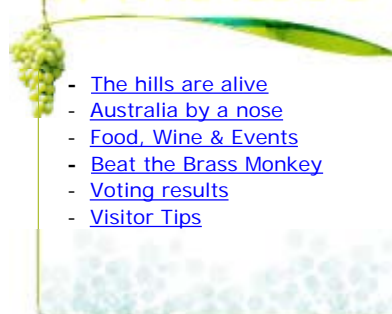
Have you sunk your teeth into a new season Stanthorpe apple yet? It's one of the timeless pleasures of truly fresh produce and this season's crop is superb.

At the moment here, you can pick your own grapes, apples and strawberries, plus a few other things! Perhaps this is why visitor numbers through our visitor centre in January and February have been the highest on record for summer.

Each day the media tries to convince us that financially the end of the world is nigh....so escape now and soak up a little country hospitality and enjoy the golden glow of autumn.

And finally, thanks to all who voted in our wine label survey. For the results [click here](#).

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About Us

## The hills are alive with....

*'the sound of music'* - but that's not all.

It began in 1993 when two opera lovers watched the sun settle behind Sundown National Park in Ballandean. They shared a glass of wine, they listened to their favourite arias and the idea was born that others should enjoy this. Since then almost 50,000 people have done just that and raised more than \$1million for charity in the process.

This annual favourite is on again on Sunday 3rd May and to meet public demand this year you can book online. To learn more about [Opera in the Vineyard click](#).



## "Australia" by a nose

We recently asked you what you think should appear on our wine labels? Should they read: *Granite Belt, Queensland* OR *Granite Belt, Australia*. When voting began "Australia" was in the lead, but then "Queensland" mounted a serious challenge. In the final analysis it was a close run thing, but "Australia" won by a nose.

Thanks to all who voted - it has been an interesting exercise and proves that opinion is still pretty much divided. Voting aside, if you want to drink



Granite Belt wine all you have to do is to ask for it in your bottle store or when eating out. Vote with your feet!

Congratulations to one lucky email pollster, Cameron McManus who has won the bottle of Granite Belt vintage port. Congratulations also to Catherine Devries and Lauren Chadwick both winners of the six bottle Granite Belt wine pack promoted in our last Enews.

[Wineries](#)

## Food



Royal Gala and Red Delicious apples are widely available now and this season's crop is excellent.

During autumn our farmers are also harvesting figs, nashis, pears, grapes, olives, persimmon and strawberries plus beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbages, capsicums, cauliflowers, celery, Chinese cabbages, cucumbers, eggplants, leeks, lettuces, parsley, peas, snowpeas, sugar snaps, mushrooms, pears, pumpkins, shallots, silverbeet, spinach, squash, tomatoes and zucchini.

Explore the [Nude Food Trail](#)

Food Facts

## Wine



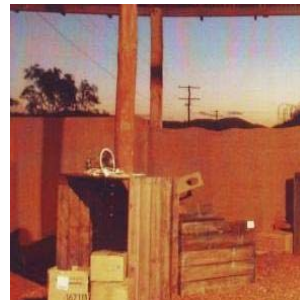
During the current vintage most white grapes are now harvested and in tanks. The first red to be picked was Tempranillo - the Spanish variety which is performing very well on the Granite Belt. Picking the reds (and some late harvest whites) will continue until late April.

Each vintage new varieties come on stream as our winemakers explore the alternative grape varieties. We've just produced Queensland's first [Saperavi](#) a red grape from Georgia in Russia. In time this will join the popular Strange Bird [alternative wine trail](#).

PS: We'll soon be introducing you to our Strange Bird winemakers on the Strange Bird Facebook.

StrangeBird

## Events



Autumn is a great time for art lovers. *It's a Case of Art in the Mill (above)* weekend 2-4 May (07) 4683 4210 Ballandean. Stanthorpe Art Gallery offer in April: *Aspire, Inspire* - 15th birthday of Borderline and in May "*Hermannsburg Artists*" [email](#).

*Festival of the Three Saints* at St Joseph's Church Sunday 3 May: Santina 0439 794 367.

*Say I love you mum* - pamper her in the country with a Mothers Day High Tea (07) 4685 2367 or themed lunch (07) 4685 5050.

Learn more online about regular music and themed [events](#) at Lucas Estate, Robert Channon Wines, Whiskey Gully Wines and the Queensland College of Wine Tourism.

Events



## Beat the Brass the Monkey

When English poet John Donne wrote "No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace, as I have seen in one autumnal face" he might just have been writing about autumn on the Granite Belt. For the next two months we are spoiled with morning mists and golden leaves...it really is a photographer's dream. But if that sounds like too much hard work, just feast your eyes on nature's bounty and savour some of the regional wine and food.

Don't wait until the peak winter season to visit. If you visit now you should still pack that jacket - overnight temperatures in autumn drop to about 8 degrees and traditionally the first frost falls on Anzac Day!

## Voter news

Stanthorpe's Apple & Grape Harvest Festival is currently listed in the Top 300 icons in the state. As part of the Q150 celebrations you can vote - see how far up the list we can get this festival which invented wine tourism in Queensland. Vote now for the Festival which returns to Queensland's apple and grape capital on 5th, 6th and 7th March 2010 -visit [Apple & Grape Festival](#)



And from results in from the RACQ's online poll to determine *150 Must-Do's in Queensland* you voted for two Granite Belt attractions. During the three month poll more than 150,000 votes were registered and we made the top 100, not just once, but twice:

- At 89 is a [Tour of the Granite Belt Wine Country](#)
- At number 92 is [Girraween National Park](#)

## Visitor Tips

A [number of books](#) have been written about the Granite Belt but, the one everyone looks out for is the Granite Belt Ultimate Guide.

- This annual guide provides you with a print version of all the information you need on the region. For your free copy of the current guide - [email](#) your request.
- Of course we've comprehensive information about [Stanthorpe and the Granite Belt](#) online.
- If you are visiting with a group by bus - we recommend the tour organiser make advance reservations for wine tastings and meals prior to arrival.
- If you are not visiting until winter, be sure to book your Stanthorpe [accommodation](#) early.
- Always pack a jacket - even in summer. Check out [Stanthorpe's temperature](#) today.



### Granite Belt Wine & Tourism Inc.

Phone: 1800 SO COOL

Fax: 07 4681 1200

Post: P O Box 749, Stanthorpe, QLD, 4380

Email: [info@granitebeltwinecountry.com.au](mailto:info@granitebeltwinecountry.com.au)

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