



MEDIA RELEASE – 29 January 2018

Hot weather didn't deter fans at the 16th annual Shakespeare in the Vines held on the historic Seppeltsfield Winery Dining Hall lawns on Saturday 27 January 2018.

For the past 16 years, on Saturday of the Australia Day long weekend, Melbourne based theatre troupe - Essential Theatre, perform one of The Bard's great comedies at the annual Shakespeare in the Vines. Lovers of Shakespeare enjoy a modern take on classic Shakespeare, while experiencing great food and wine in the relaxed setting of the historic Seppeltsfield Winery Dining Hall lawns.

This year's production of Twelfth Night was well received with many attendees saying that the event just keeps getting better.

Shakespeare in the Vines is the main fundraising event for organisers, the Seppeltsfield Road Business Alliance. SRBA, as it is commonly referred to, comprises 30 business owners and 10 community members overseen by a small committee. The group was set up in 2001 to foster collaboration and community spirit, as well as drive business and improve tourism experiences along the iconic palm lined road.

The first Shakespeare in the Vines was held in 2002 on a hot summer evening. "I have been reliably informed that it was 45C for the first event in 2002, so we are no strangers to a little heat. We knew earlier last week that it was going to be a warm night, so we organised extra shading, fans and set up a misting station under the wisteria arbour. We had extra water available, as well as Gin & Tonics from the soon to be opened Seppeltsfield Road Distillers" says SRBA Chair, Sharyn Rogers.

Local group Make-a-Wish Foundation had their popular sausage sizzle. Ice creams and soft drinks were supplied by the Marananga Tennis Club; strawberries and cream by the Gnadenfrei Church and coffee from Barossa Coffee Roasters. Wine by the glass and bottle was also available from local Seppeltsfield Road wineries.

Numbers were slightly down on the previous year due to the heat, but the night itself turned on a spectacular Barossa red sky for the backdrop of the magical land of Illyria.

"One of the highlights for me was being able to present Sally and Martin Pfeiffer with an inaugural SRBA Honorary Life Membership gift made by Jam Factory in

recognition of their dedication and service to the Seppeltsfield Road community", says Sharyn. "Martin only recently stepped down from Chair after 15 years and Sally remains Secretary having also held that role for 15 years".

"We cannot run this event without the support of the Seppeltsfield Road community and the Seppeltsfield Winery. Not only does the winery offer a fantastic setting for an evening of Shakespeare in the Vines, but Tourism and Events Manager, Nicole Hodgson and team always go above and beyond with support of Shakespeare in the Vines. It truly is a great community we have along Seppeltsfield Road."

The Bard returns in 2019 with Essential Theatre performing A Midsummer Night's Dream. Tickets will go on sale in December 2018.

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