



Adelaide Hill's only advanced climate action innovator and eco certified vineyard and cellar door



National Landcare Awards

2010 Winner

Landcare's People's Choice Award



2010 Finalist

Woolshed Ho Primary Producer Award



About us

- Where is Sinclairs Gully?
- Our candlebark woodland
- Our Family



Where is Sinclair's Gully?

- Sinclair's Gully is up at Norton Summit in the Adelaide Hills, just 16 kms from Adelaide
- Over 20 acres of native vegetation on the property
- Rural fringe & urbanisation
- Traditional farming community
- Bordering a number of conservation parks



Our Candlebark Woodland

• flora diversity

Over 150 species occurring in our 20 acre sanctuary on the property, many with a state conservation rating

• fauna diversity

• Bat monitoring surveys

conducted, 8 of the 12 hills species recorded

• **Quarterly bird surveys.** 66 species recorded, with 22 on the declining list

• **Significant nesting sites** for yellow-tail black cockatoos



Our Family



The Case For Change

- Vineyard soil health
- Bushcare work
- Position of the house and impact on the family
- Water quality
- Reduction in biodiversity





A Move to BD Practices

- Ongoing risk of chemical residue moving downhill to house and into water course
- Native understorey and declining biodiversity in the vineyard (eg beneficial insect numbers dwindling)
- Soil health in vineyard declining, becoming sterile under vine
- Conventional viticulture at odds with bushcare work



Commercial Considerations

- Focus moved from growing grapes and selling wine, to creating tourism experiences for people to immerse themselves in the natural environment (wildflower walks, twilight tastings, phantom in the forest performances)
- Our BD viticulture practices and bushcare custodial role became our point of difference
- These choices resonate with customers and build brand loyalty



Sue and Sean at the National Landcare awards

Living Sustainably

- Our Environmental Management Plan (EMS)
- Our Vegetation Management Plan
- Key Carbon Mitigating Initiatives
- Accreditations

Ecocertification and climate action innovator certifications give the public confidence that our wine and tourism experiences are genuine

Our Environmental Management System includes;

1. biodiversity conservation
2. biodynamic and organic practices
3. water conservation
4. waste management strategies
5. energy efficiency strategies



Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity

- declared 20 acres of our rare candlebark woodland as a **sanctuary** under the National Parks & Wildlife Act
- Our **vegetation management plan** is used as the reference for all bushcare work in our sanctuary
- **Bushcare work** includes weed management, feral animal control, plant, bird and bat surveys, bush condition monitoring reports, establishing and monitoring photo points

Our Sustainable Vineyard Practices

Biodynamic practices have been employed over the past six years.

No synthetic herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers have been used since 2001.

Our focus in the vineyard is on improving soil health.

We are increasing the biodiversity across the vineyard floor to achieve a natural balance of plant and insect populations.

The vineyard coexists in harmony with the bush land.





Our Major Sustainability Initiatives;

- **water conservation.** We are 100% self sufficient in water collection and usage. All water used on the property (including irrigation) is collected onsite from rainfall. The waste water is then recycled through a sand filter for use on the surrounding garden,
- **waste management strategies.** Sinclair's Gully has implemented a **zero waste program** and uses recycled products where possible,
- **energy efficiency strategies** have been developed and implemented to reduce power consumption,
- The first stage of our **solar power project** was completed in June 2009, generating 72% of our business's energy requirements in the first year.



Sustainability Initiatives (cont)

- **Hand disgorging sparkling wine on site,** resulting in no purchase of cardboard wine boxes and dividers or the champagne hoods for sparkling wine produced. This is a 24% reduction in cardboard boxes, dividers and hoods used in the business,
- The **introduction of clear glass wine bottles** for the white wine range, as clear glass has lower embodied energy and more recycling options. This represents 32% of total bottles,
- Other initiatives include our energy efficiency **'switch off'** program and **vehicle fuel reduction** strategies

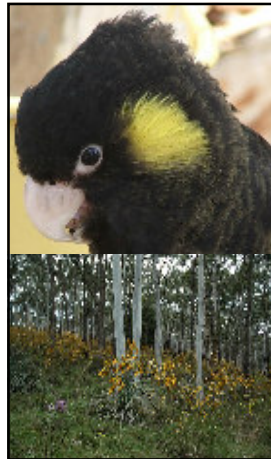


What are the results?

- **72%** of our business's electricity is generated on site from our solar power initiative,
- **25%** reduction in power usage last year (**49%** reduction over last 2 years),
- **8%** reduction in automotive fuel usage & converting to diesel ute (**31%**)

Outcomes of these strategies resulted in a **27%** reduction in our scope 1 and 2 emissions in 2009/10 and a **26%** in 2008/09 (**46%** over 2 years)

These initiatives not only reduced our environmental footprint, but resulted in significant cost savings over 2 years, improving the business's net profitability.



Lessons Learned

- People do respond to and support genuine sustainability initiatives. However, they have a very good sense of what is authentic.
- There are significant gains to be made in energy, water and waste savings which benefit both the environment and your bottom line profitability. These are relatively straight forward and low cost.
- Natural systems are remarkably resilient and we can all make a difference. It's a good news story and not all gloom and doom