

Recorded:

Interviewer: Jan Hawkins

Abstractor: Sue Johnston

The time codes in this abstract summary have been recorded based on the original audio files. Please note that the times may differ for the online audio due to the original files being combined into one file. However, the order of content in this abstract below will match the online audio.

**Dates removed for privacy and security reasons. For enquiries related to genealogy, please apply directly to the Central Otago Oral History Project manager.*

File 01 (15th April 2021)

- 0:39 Recording Agreement.
- 0:40 Background information.
- 1:30 Introduction:- Topic – People involved in DEVELOPMENT of FIRST VINEYARDS in CENTRAL OTAGO.
FOCUS – JOAN LAWRENCE
- 1:54 FAMILY – Met HUSBAND TONY, at OTAGO UNIVERSITY. Married in last year of UNIVERSITY
DEGREE.
- Moved to AUCKLAND, TONY – DENTIST, JOAN – TEACHER.
- Two CHILDREN – SARAH, BROOK.
- 1997 – started CENTRAL OTAGO VINEYARD.
- 2:48 Describes memories of early CENTRAL OTAGO - GOLDEN LAND compared to grey coastal DUNEDIN.
Travelling to CENTRAL was like “climbing a ladder to the GOLDEN LAND.”
Explains long association with CENTRAL – TONY’S family owned house in FRANKTON.
Parents’ friends lived in CROMWELL.
- 3:38 Love of WINE led to starting VINEYARD. Visited brother, [NEIL DRIVER –ARTIST], in CLYDE and
CENTRAL OTAGO WINERIES over time.
- 4:16 Explains joining CHARD FARM CLUB – received newsletter. CHARD FARM had land for sale, would
manage the VINEYARD. JOAN and TONY very interested in WINE, attended many WINE COURSES in
AUCKLAND, gained knowledge of NZ WINES and WINES around the WORLD.
Explains – Arriving in WEST AUCKLAND 1971, start of WINE INDUSTRY in NZ, MONTANA, CORBANS,
little VINEYARDS started by first DALMATIAN, LEBANESE and CROATIAN SETTLERS. Most have now moved
elsewhere.
Visited WINERIES at weekends.
- 5:28 Describes arriving in CENTRAL OTAGO from AUCKLAND to golden AUTUMN colours.
Took on CHARD FARM deal. JOAN and TONY in late ‘40’s, had significant careers, TONY (ORTHODONTIST),
JOAN (in ARCHEOLOGY), both loved GARDENING, WINERY was GARDENING on a huge scale.

Mentions CHILDREN had left home. SON, WINEMAKER in AUSTRALIA.

- 6:25 Explains keeping AUCKLAND jobs, very expensive starting VINEYARD. Travelled from AUCKLAND to CENTRAL OTAGO for long time. Built house, came for holidays first, until JOAN left job in AUCKLAND. Describes working with MANAGER, part of team, learning on job. Completed VITICULTURE COURSES. TONY got CERTIFICATE in WINEMAKING through EIT (EASTERN INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY).
- 8:14 Explains cutting ties with CHARD FARM, taking control, employing own MANAGER. 1997 – bought 11 hectares, one of many similar sized VINEYARDS, many run by WOMEN alone. Thrown in deep end, most educated, - TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS, established careers. Most MEN PROFESSIONALS – DIPLOMATS living in IRAN, CHINA, TONGA, - offsite. Describes WOMEN supporting each other, meeting regularly, sharing difficulties - dealing with CONTRACTORS not used to dealing with WOMEN.
- 9:46 Describes other STRUGGLES - going from small time GARDENER to growing thousands of VINES, lot to learn, CHALLENGES – DISEASE CONTROL, LABOUR involved grooming each VINE, WEATHER – dreadful WINDS like HURRICANES, tangling, ripping NETTING, expensive. “Trying to tame wild VINES, and putting them under your domination.”
- 11:38 Describes PERSONAL CHALLENGES – working in 35degree heat, working by self at end of very long days, physically demanding, living alone (TONY came down every 6 weeks.) SON came home to live after many years overseas – brought lots of challenges. Loved and relished the challenges – felt healthier living in the outdoors of CENTRAL OTAGO compared with diesel fumes on AUCKLAND’S MOTORWAYS.
- 13:39 Explains missing MUSIC CONCERTS in AUCKLAND, not much else. Still able to experience some delightful musical experiences in CENTRAL. Mentions becoming official WIINE SPONSORS for CHAMBER MUSIC NZ, (includes NZ STRING QUARTET), played at their home. Enjoys CONCERTS on ARTS CHANNEL, YOUTUBE, while relaxing at home.
- 15:04 Describes CHALLENGES of creating GARDENS in CENTRAL OTAGO - different CLIMATE.
- 15:34 Explains SON (BROOK) and WIFE [LUCIE – FRENCH WINEMAKER], now running WINERY. JOAN and TONY in ‘70’s, walking backwards after nearly 25 years. Will still help in TASTING ROOM and VINEYARD but responsibility for paperwork and control now with next generation. Looking forward to travelling more, focus working on new things.
- 17:00 Describes proudest ACHIEVEMENT/ LEGACY – starting one of first VINEYARDS in CENTRAL OTAGO. Established 3 VINEYARDS altogether – 45th PARALLEL, TE WAIRERE (where the two families live now), RAWHITI (lies to the EAST facing rising SUN), family call it “UP the WAY”, first HARVEST 2021.
- 18: 15 Describes TONY as the DRIVER – always looking over the HORIZON- planning something new. VINES in beautiful condition and perfectly aligned due to TONY and BROOK ‘S precision.
- 19.33 Proud of SON BROOK, and WIFE [LUCIE] - created some beautiful WINES, built on what JOAN and TONY started.
- 20.17 Explains background in ARCHEOLOGY, love of CLASSICS, led to naming of AURUM (GOLD) WINES.

Strong CONNECTION to first owners of two of their VINEYARDS - PORTUGESE and CHINESE GOLD MINERS. The other owner was connected to first ABATTOIR in CROMWELL.
Lots of HISTORY associated with VINEYARDS.

End of File 01

Key Words:- CHALLENGES and ACHIEVEMENTS of EARLY VINEYARDS in CENTRAL OTAGO.