

**BarnHill Corporate Trustee and ME Bunn and LA Green & DE Bunn Estate – Statement Carol Bunn**

As stated in Debbie's evidence; point 12 and point 15, I have extensive expertise (spanning over 20 years) in winemaking and viticulture.

The inspiration for my career began when I was a girl. In 1977 Alan Brady - the pioneering Gibbston Valley founder, (I paraphrase from his book *pinot CENTRAL*) bought "a rocky piece of scorched earth in the middle of nowhere and embarked on a project which in a remarkably short time, would lead to the transformation of a valley that had moved to the rhythms of pastoral farming for a hundred years".

In 1984, he drafted "the proposal for the establishment of a commercial vineyard, winery and tourist winebar in the South Island's busiest tourist region which met with "a glowing letter of support from New Zealand National Travel Association's Queenstown branch chairman, Stuart Maclean".

"In his letter Mr Maclean said (the) proposal for a vineyard and winery aimed at the visitor market was an excellent idea, one of the few that came across his desk that really excited him. 'I have no doubt that the venture will succeed and in fact feel that it will become one of the better known attractions in the Wakatipu area.' Prophetic words, as time would tell." (Page 100 *pinot CENTRAL*).

Over 30 years ago in the late 1980's when I was in my late teens, I was considering what to do with my life. My late brother-in-law and I walked around the loft paddock west of the trail and the Lucerne paddock east of the trail. He told me his vision for the future of what we could achieve as a family: Café, art gallery, winery and vineyard, farm-stays etc. This vision of his has stayed with me ever since, as one that I was keen to bring to fruition.

The development of Gibbston into wineries and vineyards, has brought positive changes, high amenity values and sustaining businesses to our area. These changing amenity values were also coupled with a viticultural report written by Gordon Cossens, showing that areas of our farm were suitable for growing grapes.

Over the years, I have considered and re-evaluated how we could grow grapes on the farm and what varieties would have the best potential, to express the terroir of our farm, our family roots, and provide a sustainable future.

A vineyard and winery/café/art hub in my opinion, would draw trail users and interested people to our area and allow the bones of our farm to remain the same. The most fertile parts of land will remain farmland; suitable north facing slopes will become vineyards; wetland areas will be enhanced. This area will create positive visual amenities and provide enduring social and economic opportunities for our family, and for the people who will live and work around us.

Over the past 20-30 years, our family have gained a wide range of skills which complement our proposal, that ensure sustaining connections and guardianship of this land. We are its custodians – for four generations our family has been emotionally tied to this land.

As a family proposal, all the dots have joined up. The time has come for us to move forward as a cohesive unit to create our vision, which will continue to enhance the amenity values of this region. We would like to build on the positive impacts of development in our area, which have already effected us, such as what are now known as: "The Gibbston Valley wine sub-region" and "The Twin Rivers Trail".