6 The Winemakers’ Federation of Australia (WFA) says a new campaign by Cancer Council Australia (CCA) offers nothing new in the link between alcohol and cancer.

9 The ongoing battle against the expansion of open cut mining in the Upper Hunter has been exacerbated by the threat of coal seam gas exploration in the Lower Hunter.

11 How would you spend $100m? Why you should have your say in developing the GWRDC’s new RD&E plan.

41 Toby Bekkers outlines the top 10 list of habits he believes are common to successful growers.

44 Tony Hoare explores some non-conventional cover crop options to improve vineyard profitability and productivity.

51 Yalumba’s Ashley Ratcliff reports on the results of a trial in which the effects of three canopy management styles on vine performance and wine quality of Vermentino were assessed.

53 Mount Benson grapegrower Peter Wehl talks about the small changes he’s made in canopy management in his vineyard which have led to yield improvements.

58 Electric vs pneumatic secateurs – the results of a trial in Victoria’s Goulburn Valley deliver some interesting findings.

66 Pressing Matters, in Tasmania’s Coal River Valley, is putting various clone and rootstock combinations to the test to see what impact they have on Pinot Noir vine and wine quality.

72 Commercial plantings of three new low-to-medium vigour rootstocks developed by the CSIRO reveal their suitability in various sites.

95 The straight-shooting Bruce Tyrrell talks with Matt Byrne about his industry achievements that make him most proud, the industry downturn, his beloved Semillon, climate change, mining and closures.

12 The AWRI reports on the development of three new wine yeast strains designed to take the stink out of fermentation.

16 Three winemakers – Travis Clydesdale, Corinna Wright and Adam Chapman - reveal how they deal with diseased fruit and low sugar ripeness in the winery – two issues that have plagued winemakers this season.

20 Wine and viticulture consultant Rachel Gore gives some advice on what to do about hard malic acid in low baume white wines tending to lighter styles – an issue many winemakers have grappled with this vintage.

27 Yangarra Estate, based in McLaren Vale, and Wither Hills, in New Zealand, report on how they’ve found their newly-acquired mechanical grape sorters.

80 What’s involved in valuing a vineyard or winery? Colin Gaetjens and Toby Langley, of Gaetjens Langley, outline the various factors in the process and give some insight into trends in winery and vineyard values.

83 Sam Paton guides readers through the process of compiling an asset register.

97 Hunter Valley: Proposed coal seam gas mining, current and future regional marketing initiatives, Semillon and vineyard practices are among the subjects canvassed in Matt Byrne’s regional report this month following his recent trip to the valley.

115 The producers behind five of the wines in this issue’s tasting (see page 121), which span the breadth of Australia, outline how they are making Semillon.