

For immediate release

**Tractorless Vineyards is leading the way in sustainable viticulture, becoming the first producers of carbon negative wines in the Southern Highlands.**

Southern Highlands, Australia, February 2016 – The carbon footprint of your next glass of wine may well be reducing Australia’s carbon emissions if you choose to drink a Tractorless Vineyard wine. With a global shift towards biodynamic principles in winemaking, Tractorless Vineyards is leading the way for Southern Highlands wine region.

With the help of Eling forest winemaking services and a newly installed solar power system generating 37.8kWh/day, plus the use of Australian made low carbon bottles and sustainable grape production, Tractorless Vineyards is leading the way as the first producers of carbon **negative** wine in the Southern Highlands region.

In doing so, they’ve managed to cut their annual carbon emission by 7.47 T - the same amount of carbon produced when driving a small car from Sydney to Bowral 1000 times.

Founded by Jeff Aston, Mark Bourne and Ian MacDonald, three local winemakers with a passion for sustainable farming, Tractorless Vineyards strives to limit its environmental impact at every stage of the grape growing and winemaking process.

“By running our vineyards biodynamically we can save up to 9 tonnes of carbon each year, as we work towards a more long term sustainable production model for cool climate wines.

” says, Jeff Aston.

The Tractorless Vineyard name comes from the black-faced woolly lawn mowers at the McVitty Grove vineyard, outside Mittagong.

“Our use of an old English sheep breed called Hampshire Downs in the vineyards during the growing season has eliminated the use of herbicide, reduced the need to mow vineyard rows and remove excess shoots from vines, at the same time as adding a touch of natural fertiliser .

”Every time our woolly workers are in the the vineyard we are saving 100 kilograms of carbon.”

“An added benefit of buying a Tractorless Vineyard wine from the Southern Highlands is that it is Sydney’s closest wine region. Every time you get a bottle or case of wine from this region, you would be saving at least 9.38 kg of carbon , which is equivalent to planting a tree,” says Aston.

Launched in 2013, Tractorless Vineyards will celebrate the opening of its new cellar door on February 1<sup>st</sup> at Mcvitty Grove, 434 wombeyan caves road, Mittagong, and encourage customers to make the short trip to the picturesque Southern Highlands wine region to enjoy a drop that’s helping to save the planet.

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Cellar door website - [mcvittygrove.com](http://mcvittygrove.com)

Cellar door phone number – 02 4878 5522

For more information please visit: <http://www.tractorlessvineyard.com.au>

Or contact: Ian, Jeff or Mark at  
[tractorlessvineyard@gmail.com](mailto:tractorlessvineyard@gmail.com)

02 4878 5522

For photo downloads

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/Tractorless%20Carbon%20Neutral%20release>