

# Chatto's top of the tree

PEPPER TREE WINES' Jim Chatto has been named the Hunter Valley's 2009 winemaker of the year.

He was named at the third annual Hunter Valley Legends and Wine Industry Awards. Brokenwood's assistant winemaker, Sarah Crowe, is rising star of the year, Ian Tinkler of Tinkler Wines is viticulturist of the year and Scarborough Wines took the cellar door of the year title.

Four new names were added to the honour roll of Hunter Valley Living Legends. They are Phil Ryan of McWilliams Mt Pleasant, Jay Tulloch of Tulloch Wines, Bruce Tyrrell of Tyrrells Vineyards and Fay McGuigan, formerly of McGuigan Wines, whose husband Brian and father-in-law Perc have previously been recognised as Hunter Legends.

The awards recognise and celebrate the dedication of men and women of the region. The Legends are people who have shown long-term vision and commitment to the Hunter Valley wine industry.

Winemaker of the year recognises an outstanding Hunter Valley winemaker who is a leader in their profession, judged on several factors including experience, qualifications, winemaking techniques, experimentation or individual style resulting in unique wine styles.

The rising star is for an aspiring star of the Hunter Valley wine industry who may be involved in winemaking, vineyard management, marketing or sales and has made an outstanding contribution over the preceding 12 months.

Viticulturist of the year awards an outstanding viticulturist involved in the management of Hunter Valley vineyards that have achieved iconic status under



**Rising star ... Sarah Crowe.**

their care. It also recognises research and development to improve quality, and work that has resulted in better practice for the Hunter Valley.

Cellar door of the year salutes excellent service that has enhanced the image and public perception of the Hunter Valley.

A new heritage award was added this year to acknowledge landmarks or items of historical importance that have influenced the Hunter Valley wine industry. This went to Tyrrells for Uncle Dan's Slab Hut, which was home to Edward Tyrrell, who settled on the property in 1858.

**Huon Hooke**