South Australian
HERITAGE COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

Entry in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with s14(1)(a) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

NAME: Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) **PLACE NO.:** 26624

ADDRESS: Kaurna Country
207 Whitings Road
Blewitt Springs SA 5171
CT 5597/84, H106000 S683, Hundred of Willunga

Draft for Consultation

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Heritage significance in accordance with s 17(2) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) demonstrates an important evolution in South Australia's wine industry. The winery was established in 1862 and was managed by pioneering winemaker and vigneron Dr. Alexander Charles for Tintara Vineyard Company, founded the previous year. It was here that Dr. Kelly introduced new grape varietals, contour planting and a cooling system that enabled experimentation with cooling the fermenting must. The success of the Tintara Winery and Vineyard (Part) also led to the expansion of South Australia's wine exports to other Australian colonies and the direct representation of South Australian wines in the United Kingdom.

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) also has a special association with prominent winemaker Thomas Hardy and his role in the development and growth of the South Australian wine industry. Hardy purchased the site in 1877-1878 as a part of the expansion of his business into McLaren Vale, which became a centre of his operations. It was at Tintara that Hardy and later his company Thomas Hardy & Sons Ltd made their wine until 1927. Hardy initially employed John George Kelly, Dr. Kelly's son, as his winemaker at Tintara and expanded on Dr Kelly's initial achievements, implementing them across his other McLaren Vale holdings. Hardy's contributions have led to him being known as the father of South Australia's wine industry.

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Relevant criteria in accordance with s 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) demonstrates the evolution of South Australia's wine industry through the introduction of new growing techniques, grape varietals and the expansion of South Australian wine exports into international markets. Established and managed by Dr. Alexander Charles Kelly for Tintara Vineyard Company, Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) was the second commercial winery in McLaren Vale. It was also the first winery and vineyard to be established via a consortium of investors rather than as a small-scale, single-operator enterprise. Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) was the largest and most significant winery in McLaren Vale for almost fifteen years.

At Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part), Dr. Kelly implemented the contour planting method that he had previously trialled at his own property, Trinity, and that he publicised in his well-received technical books on winemaking, which achieved an international readership. Contour planting represented a significant technical innovation in winemaking, as did Kelly's method of cooling the fermenting must (crushed grapes). At Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part), Dr. Kelly trialled grape varietals, including ones he had personally imported from France. His winemaking method used slate fermentation tanks. Kelly made wines in sufficient quantity to export to other colonies and overseas, making Tintara Vineyard Company one of the first two firms to gain direct London representation for South Australian wines. Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) wines under the Tintara label were promoted in Australia and London by agent Philip Bond Burgoyne.

Under Dr. Kelly's stewardship, the names of Tintara and McLaren Vale became associated with fine table wines, particularly red Burgundy-style wines. The name Tintara was kept by Thomas Hardy as a marketing label and brand for the firm of Thomas Hardy & Sons, including for Hardy's export wines and spirits. Hardy's continued to make wines at Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) until 1927; replicated the improvements and innovations implemented at Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) at other sites, notably Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex; and utilised and expanded the national and international wine markets established by Tintara Vineyard Company.

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(g) it has special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) has a special association with winemaker, agriculturist and businessman, Thomas Hardy. Hardy is a major figure in South Australian agricultural and viticultural history; he is often referred to as the 'father' of the South Australian wine industry. After Hardy purchased the site in 1877-1878, he significantly expanded the vineyard holdings around Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) and under winemaker John George Kelly, Dr Kelly' son, continued the site's use for making blended table wines, notably including wines for export.

Hardy's new vines were planted followed Dr Kelly's contour method. Hardy kept the established name, Tintara, and put it to use in his own wine and spirits businesses. Wines produced at the site were transported to Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex in the McLaren Vale township (site of the former Mortlock mill cellars), to be stored and matured prior to sales and distribution. The expansion and success of Thomas Hardy's wine enterprises were continued by the limited company he established with his sons, Thomas Hardy & Sons and its successor businesses in the twentieth century, making it a household name. Hardy family members remained in control of the business until the early 1990s, making Thomas Hardy the founder of one of the longest-running family businesses in the State. Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) has been owned continuously by the Hardy family for nearly one hundred and fifty years.

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) has a special association with Thomas Hardy as it demonstrates his early expansion into the McLaren Vale area and is where he made wine in the region. Collectively with the nearby Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex and Adelaide based Hardy's Wine Cellars (SHP 12365), Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) demonstrates a more complete history of the contribution of Thomas Hardy, attributed as the 'father' of the wine industry in South Australia.

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SITE DETAILS

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) **PLACE NO.: 26624**

207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs

FORMER NAME:	Upper Tintara	
KNOWN AS NAME:	Ox Hardy Upper Tintara Estate	
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Ruins of Tintara Winery, including slate tanks, elliptical masonry tanks, circular stone and brick tank, remnant masonry walls, remnant winemaking machinery, manager's cottage and worker's cottage.	
HISTORIC THEME/S	4. Building settlements, towns and cities 4.8 Making homes for South Australians 5. Developing South Australia's economies 5.4 Developing the wine industry	
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1863-1864: wattle and daub worker's cottage 1860s: cellar and domed water tank 1866: manager's cottage 1866-1867: fermenting house and slate tanks	
REGISTER STATUS:	Nominated: 28 August 2025 [Date of Provisional Entry]	
LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS:	City of Onkaparinga, authorised 2 December 2004	
CURRENT USE:	Vineyard and winery Vineyard: 1862 - 2026 Winery: 1862 – 1927, 2018 – 2026	
BUILDER:	James Vanstone (slate tanks)	
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	City of Onkaparinga	
LOCATION:	**Street No.:**	207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs 5171
LAND DESCRIPTION:	**Title Reference:**	CT 5597/84, H106000 S683
	Hundred:	Willunga

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Site Plan

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) **PLACE NO.: 26624**

207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs



Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)
(CT 5597/84, H106000 S683, Hundred of Willunga)

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LEGEND

Parcel boundaries

Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

*Red outline is indicative of elements of significance, noting imperfect alignment of aerial imagery with parcel cadastre for the site.

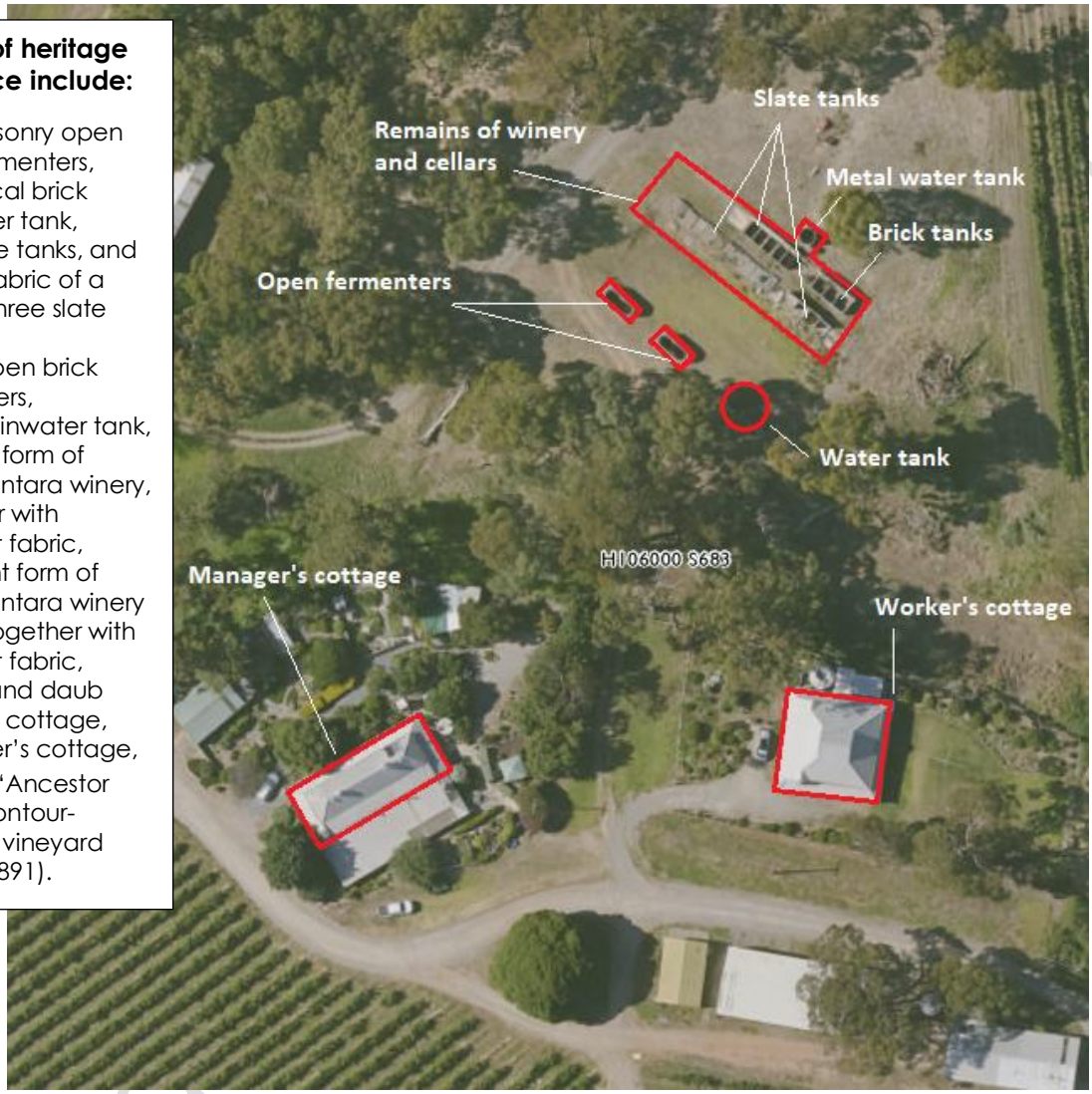
Site Plan (cont.)

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) **PLACE NO.: 26624**

207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs

Elements of heritage significance include:

- Two masonry open wine fermenters,
- Cylindrical brick rainwater tank,
- Five slate tanks, and partial fabric of a further three slate tanks,
- Three open brick fermenters,
- Metal rainwater tank,
- Remant form of former Tintara winery, together with remnant fabric,
- Remnant form of former Tintara winery cellar, together with remnant fabric,
- Wattle and daub worker's cottage,
- Manager's cottage,
- Hardy's 'Ancestor vines' contour-planted vineyard block (1891).



Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)
(CT 5597/84, H106000 S683, Hundred of Willunga)

LEGEND

Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

*Red outline is indicative of elements of significance.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include:

- Native and exotic trees, remnant native vegetation, Winter creek and remnant small dam,
- Contemporary shedding and infrastructure associated with Ox Hardy Wines,
- Contemporary fencing,
- Contemporary site access infrastructure, including graded roads, driveways, and crossovers,
- Round window to western gable of wattle and daub cottage,
- Lean-to, with skillion roof, to south-eastern elevation of manager's cottage,
- Twentieth-century vineyard blocks.

Physical Description

Tintara Blewitt Springs is a nineteenth century winery ruin, with two extant cottages and comprises a domed stone and brick water tank, slate fermentation tanks, other masonry tanks, and two cottages.

Features include:

- Two masonry, open wine fermenters, of elliptical form, with metal reinforcing bands, set on a masonry base,
- Cylindrical brick rainwater tank, with metal reinforcing bands, with domed masonry roof,
- Five slate tanks, set on brick footings, and partial fabric of a further three slate tanks that exist in ruined form,
- Three open fermenters, of brick, with cement lining,
- Rainwater tank of corrugated metal, set on stone masonry base,
- Remnant fabric from the former Tintara winery, including slate slabs, masonry rubble, remnant foundations, metal pins, and remnant masonry walls, including retaining walls of stone rubble and lime mortar,
- Remnant form of former Tintara winery cellar, extant mainly as rectangular depression indicating plan of excavation, together with remnant retaining walls of stone rubble and brick, embankment, slate slabs, and masonry rubble,
- Worker's cottage, of wattle and daub construction (c.1860s), square in plan, with Dutch gable roof of corrugated metal, verandah of corrugated metal to four sides, supported by round timber posts, with external brick chimney,
- Manager's cottage, rectangular in plan, with two brick chimneys and a further masonry chimney to northeastern elevation, set in cottage garden plot,
- Remnant winery machinery of cast iron,
- Hardy's 'Ancestor vines' contour-planted vineyard block (1891).

Elements of Significance:

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- Two masonry open wine fermenters,
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- Wattle and daub worker's cottage,
- Manager's cottage,
- Remnant winery machinery,
- Hardy's 'Ancestor vines' contour-planted vineyard block (1891).

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Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include:

- Native and exotic trees, and remnant native vegetation,
- Winter creek and remnant small dam,
- Contemporary shedding and infrastructure associated with Ox Hardy Wines,
- Contemporary post and wire and corrugated metal fencing,
- Contemporary site access infrastructure, including graded roads, driveways, and crossovers,
- Round window to western gable of wattle and daub cottage,
- Lean-to, with skillion roof, to south-eastern elevation of manager's cottage,
- Twentieth-century vineyard blocks.

History of the Place

McLaren Vale

McLaren Vale is located at the northern end of the Fleurieu Peninsula and has for thousands of years formed a part of the traditional lands of the Kaurna people.[1] Southern Kaurna people practiced their traditional lifestyles, fishing, hunting, gathering, basketry/weaving, and trading ochre obtained from the cliffs near Maslins/Moana with other Aboriginal groups.[2]

Colonisation had an immediate and detrimental impact on the Kaurna people. Kaurna country was surveyed and sold to the newly arrived colonists within 10 years of settlement. Traditional practises like relocating between seasonal camps and firestick farming were hindered or prohibited, while European methods of farming decimated traditional food sources. Many Kaurna people were also taken off country and sent to missions at Raukkan/Point McLeay and Point Pearce.[3] Despite this Kaurna have retained an ongoing connection to country and culture and have been engaged in a process of reasserting their ongoing relationship with and on country and 'reclaiming their cultural and linguistic heritage.'[4]

Government land surveys were completed in areas south of Adelaide by 1838 and released for sale in 1840.[5] Debate still continues as to whether the Vale is named for surveyor John McLaren or resident manager of the South Australian Company David McLaren.[6] Wheat was a primary crop of early settlers. In 1840, slate was discovered, enabling entrepreneurs such as Edward Loud and Sampson Dawe to establish quarries, providing material for local construction, sale, and export.[7] However, it was the wine industry that would have the most significant and lasting impact on McLaren Vale's economy, environment and culture.

Dr Alexander Charles Kelly and Tintara Vineyard Company

Commercial-scale winemaking began in McLaren Vale in the 1850s at Hope Farm. Between 1860 and 1870, South Australia's wine industry transformed from single-owner, small-scale vineyards to major industrial operations, backed by investors.[8] In McLaren Vale, the first major injection of capital came from the Tintara Vineyard Company, established in 1861, with the vineyard purchased and planted at Blewitt

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Springs in 1862-1863 by Dr Alexander Charles Kelly and underwritten by five notable businessmen including Thomas Elder and Robert Barr-Smith.[9] Until the late 1870s, with over 80 acres under vines, Tintara Blewitt Springs was the largest and, together with Hope Farm, one of only two commercial wineries in McLaren Vale.

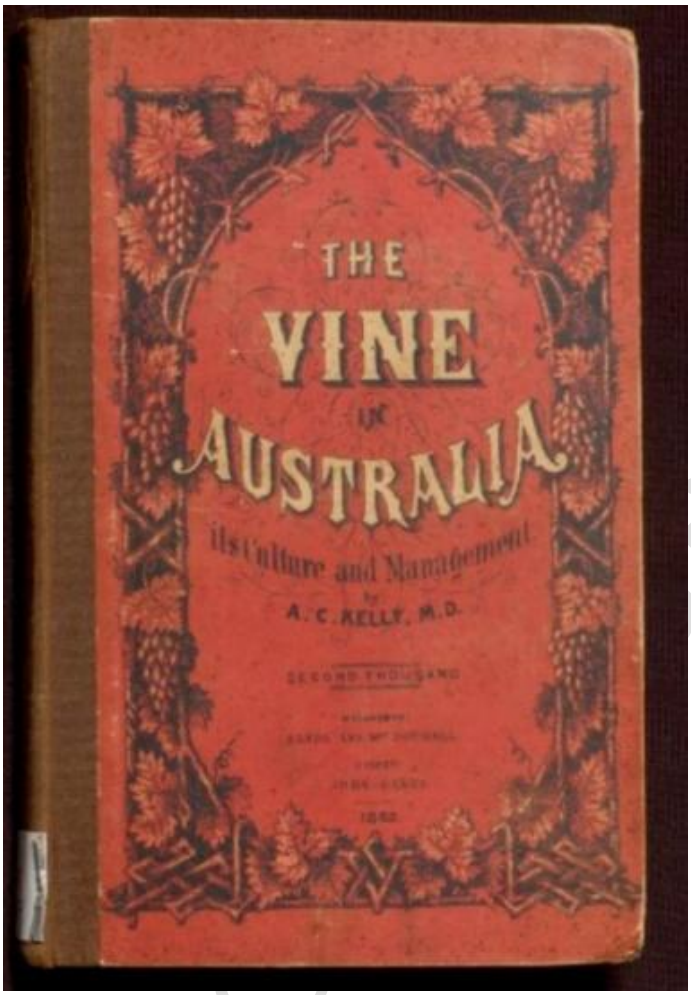


Alexander Charles Kelly, 1832

Source: SLSA, B12312

Kelly (1811-1877), born in Leith, Scotland, arrived in South Australia in 1840[10] and set up in private practice at Port Adelaide, before obtaining a position as Dispenser at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.[11] In 1843, Dr. Kelly acquired land near present-day Lonsdale where he established a vineyard and winery which he named 'Trinity.'[12] Like other prominent medical practitioners who migrated to South Australia, Kelly turned to winemaking, an activity that in part reflected nineteenth-century medical understanding of the therapeutic uses of wine and spirits.[13] Later, Dr William Angove continued the tradition.[14]

In 1846, Dr. Kelly was appointed Emigration Lecturer for South Australia and returned to England. He returned to South Australia the following year with his mother and settled at Trinity.[15] Dr. Kelly's winemaking efforts were contemporaneous with those of other pioneering winemakers in South Australia including John Reynell, Johann Gramps, and Samuel Smith and preceded the passage of the 1858 Act, "to encourage the culture of the vine in South Australia by permitting distillation of the fermented juice of the grape."

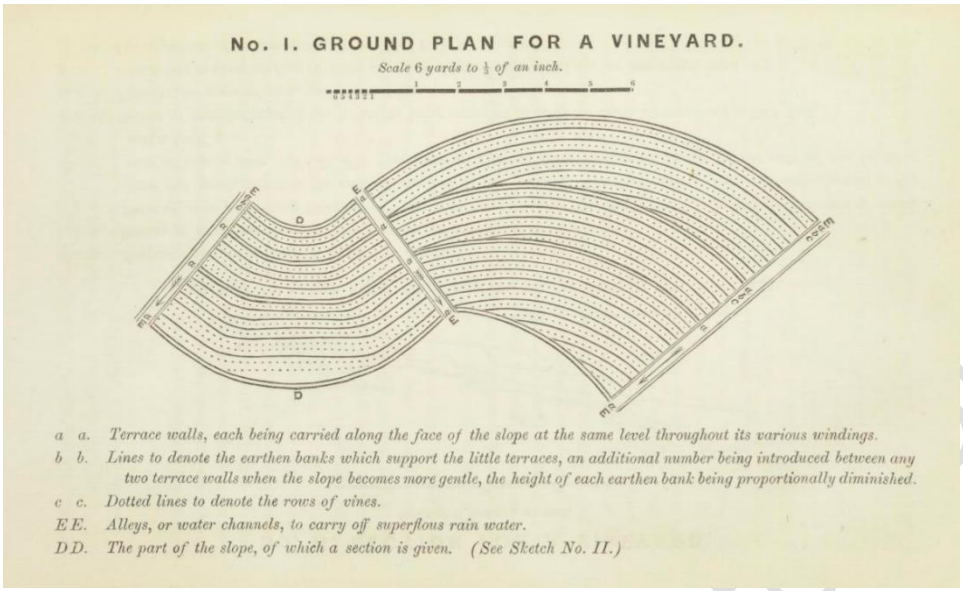


Dr. A.C. Kelly, *The Vine in Australia* (2nd printing, 1862 edition)

Source: National Library of Australia

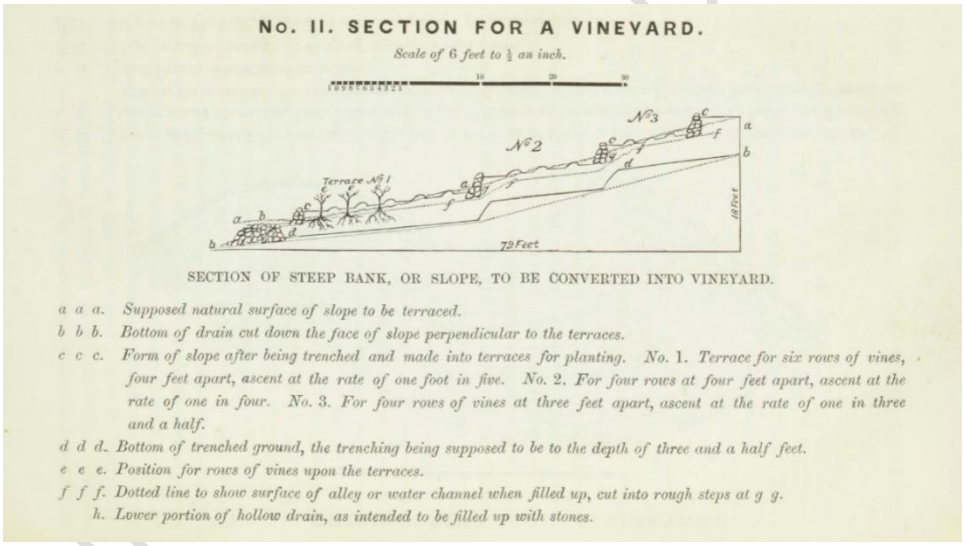
Dr. Kelly quickly became an authority on viticulture. He was a foundation member of the Vignerons' Club (est. 1869), and published two technical books on winemaking, *The Vine in Australia* (1861) and *Wine-Growing in Australia* (1867).[16] In these books, Kelly translated French winemaking texts, making the latest technical information and European expertise available to the Australian wine industry.[17] Dr. Kelly's chapter on fermentation was later reproduced by the French viticultural authority, Professor Lucien Roos,[18] in his *Wine-making in Hot Climates* (1898), a standard industry text in Europe.[19] Kelly promoted the contour method of planting (see: 'Ground Plan for a Vineyard' (1861) below), an industry innovation he demonstrated at his Trinity vineyard, which had the advantages of facilitating vine pruning and maintenance and reducing water requirements by minimising erosion and runoff.

Dr. Kelly also described a simple method to cool the fermenting must, to slow and control the fermentation process.[20] In this, as Roos later noted, Dr. Kelly was '*greatly in advance of the times.*'[21] Dr. Kelly's son, winemaker John George Kelly, would supervise the installation of a water-driven cooling system at Hardy's McLaren Vale cellars in the late 1890s; one of only two such systems then installed in South Australia, the other being at Seppeltsfield.[22]



***'Ground Plan for a Vineyard'*, 1861**

Source: Dr A.C. Kelly, The Vine in Australia, p.201



***'Section for a Vineyard'*, 1861**

Source: Dr A.C. Kelly, The Vine in Australia, p.201

In 1861, together with prominent South Australian businessmen, Thomas Elder, Alexander Elder, Samuel Davenport, Robert Barr-Smith, and Edward Stirling, Dr. Kelly formed a syndicate to create Tintara Vineyard Company, with nominal capital of £3000.[23] Dr. Kelly owned half the shares, with the remainder divided between the other members; he was appointed manager on a salary of £200 per year.[24] In 1862, the company purchased a parcel of land at what became Blewitt Springs (McLaren Vale) (Sections 681, 682, and 683, Hundred of Willunga) and Dr. Kelly was charged with clearing it, planting vines, building cellars, and making table wines.[25] Kelly announced his intention, on behalf of the company, *'to establish large vineyards for the growth of the same kind of vine and the manufacture of wine of a uniform quality.'*[26]

By 1866, his annual report to the Company detailed sixty acres under vines, and a further twenty acres cleared and prepared for planting.[27] Two wells had been sunk; extensive fencing put in; a manager's house of 'six rooms and a kitchen' built; and a 'large airy cellar or wine-house 60 feet x 24 feet' erected.[28] A large fermenting house (40 feet x 40 feet) was also erected, with half of it completed before the 1867 vintage and the remainder later that year. It was planned to be fitted with six fermenting tanks, built from solid slate slabs, together with a 10,000 gallon masonry tank which Dennis Hall and Valmai Hankel later described as 'a marvel of design and construction' because it pre-dates the use of reinforced concrete in South Australia.[29] The cost of the vats was estimated at £48, the tank at £15.[30] Motive power for the equipment was provided by horse winch.[31] Later, Dr. Kelly began work on a large family house, with servants' quarters, and started a cooperage.[32]

'Tintara' was simultaneously the name of the company formed to make wine, the name given to the vineyard selected by Dr. Kelly, and the name used to label and market the wines produced there. It was reported in 1886 that the company's name derived from an Italian name, 'Tintarara',[33] which was apparently deemed 'too long' to fit on wine labels.[34] The name may refer to a phrase in Italian ('tinta rara' in Italian: 'rare colour'); or Portuguese ('tinta rara' in Portuguese: 'rare red wine grape').[35] When Thomas Hardy later purchased the site, he kept the name, Tintara, and put it to use in his own businesses. Thomas Hardy & Sons would apply to trademark the name 'Tintara' in 1901.[36]



Dr. A.C. Kelly, 'Tintara', sketch, 1874

Source: SLSA, B 5764/2

At Tintara, Dr. Kelly changed vineyard plantings over time as he learned which varietals performed well, and which wines were preferred by consumers. By the mid-1870s, the majority of the Tintara vineyards were reportedly planted to Mataro, Shiraz, Burgundy (Pinot Noir) and Carbinet (Cabernet Sauvignon).[37] In 1875, Kelly changed his Grenache vines at Tintara, which by then were 'disapproved of as a wine grape,' grafting them to Doradilla and Sauvignon Blanc.[38] Sauvignon Blanc was one of the grape varieties, together with Clairette, Furmint, and Semillon, that Dr. Kelly imported to South Australia in 1872 as cuttings obtained from his contacts in Bordeaux and Montpelier, France.[39] His action incurred the disapproval of some local growers who feared that new imports could facilitate the introduction of pests and diseases to South Australia, especially 'oidium' (powdery mildew) and the devastating new disease of phylloxera.[40] However, Sauvignon Blanc was used successfully by Dr. Kelly to make Sauternes- and Barsac-style white wines.[41] After Thomas Hardy acquired Tintara, he expanded the Sauvignon Blanc vine plantings, but the vineyards remained dominated by red varietals. Hardy continued to use Kelly's contour planting method.[42]

In 1879, Hardy wrote:

> At Tintara, near Maclaren Vale, I have eighty-five acres of vines in bearing and have made 13,600 gallons from them, the kind most predominant being Mataro, which makes a fine deep-colored dry wine, the land being rich in iron stone and lime. There being but few white grapes grown there, I have planted twenty acres of Doradilla which makes a delicate light wine, and ten acres of a new sort, the Sauvignon Blanc, brought from France by the late Dr. Kelly, in 1872; they are a very shy bearing grape, but wine already made from them is A1. I notice these vines are rather subject to oidium.[43]

Rosemary Burden wrote in 1976 that, 'a row of [Kelly's] original Sauvignon Blanc contour-planted vines are still bearing.'

Dr. Kelly's efforts achieved a degree of international success and positive press from the early 1870s.[44] Small quantities of Tintara wine had been imported to London in around 1871 by the Cohen brothers, and the firm of Elders, but reportedly these were not available for public purchase; likely, they were used in private tastings.[45] Back in Adelaide, winemakers discussed the potential to develop an export trade for South Australian wines.[46] In 1871, Dr. Kelly was commissioned by Tintara Vineyard Company to travel to Europe, with the aim of exploring European markets. Kelly's aunt, Mrs Thomas Colton (née Bond), gave him a letter of introduction to her nephew, Peter Bond Burgoyne.[47] In London, Dr. Kelly met Burgoyne, who agreed to represent Tintara. Thomas Elder and Edward Stirling raised additional capital to finance the creation of the Tintara Vineyards Association, as a marketing organisation, with premises at 50 Old Street.[48] Tintara Vineyard Co.'s representation on a London high street was, alongside Patrick Auld's office for the Australian Wine Company (also established 1871), the first such presence achieved by a South Australian wine company.[49]

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'Oldest Wine' (1867 'Tintara' Claret). Wine made by Dr Alexander Charles Kelly for the Tintara Vineyard Company; the oldest known Australian wine.

Source: SLV, H2012.140/527, Photograph by Rennie Ellis, 1982.

Ill-health meant that Dr. Kelly had to cut his trip short, and he returned to Adelaide early in 1872.[50] He advised fellow winemakers that the wine export trade could not achieve its potential without a guaranteed supply chain and quality control.[51] Kelly foresaw that the making of blended wines would be important to the export industry's future.[52]

Tintara Vineyards Association appears to have become the Australian Vineyards Association until 1873, when Edward Stirling died and Thomas Elder withdrew.[53] Captain Walter Watson Hughes then invested funds and the business was divided into two concerns: P.B. Burgoyne and Company, and the Australian Vineyards Association.[54]

Through Burgoyne, the name 'Tintara' came to be associated with dry red, Burgundy-style wines. In 1874, at the exhibition of Australian wines at the Albert Hall, a London newspaper described Tintara as '*perhaps the best red wine shown by Mr. Burgoyne*.'[55] In 1875, Burgoyne exhibited an 1867 Tintara wine at the Vienna Exhibition, Austria, and at London's South Kensington Exhibition.[56] Tintara wine was one of eighteen wine exhibitors from the Australian colonies to be awarded a Supplementary Award at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition in 1876 (USA).[57]

While Burgoyne succeeded in bringing Tintara and other South Australian wines to public notice, he also sought to protect his commercial interests in ways that wine producers found problematic. Robert Barr-Smith wrote three letters to Burgoyne in 1874, demanding a full explanation of his gross expenditure (over £2500); by 1875, Burgoyne's advertising spend alone had risen to £700 per annum.[58] In 1872, Kelly had offered '*to extend the benefits of [Tintara Vineyard Company's] London agency to other large wine-growers in Australia [...] and [the Company] will undertake the sale of wines approved by Dr. Kelly, as such parties may ship to the consignment of their London agent, Mr. P.B. Burgoyne*,' with Tintara Vineyard Co. taking one-fourth of the

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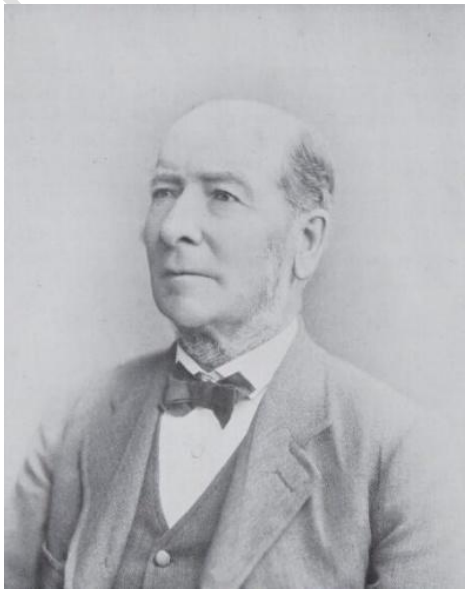
net profit from sales.[59] By 1886, Burgoyne's tactics included ring-fencing the proceeds of sales arising from his presentation of South Australian wines at international wine exhibitions, and trademarking wine names and brands that he represented in Britain by labelling and selling them under his own imprint, for example, 'Burgoyne's Tintara,' 'Burgoyne's Auldana'.[60] His dominance caused resentment from winemakers and industry observers and was a factor in the founding of the South Australian Wine and Produce Depot in London (regulated in 1893), which to Burgoyne's dismay, competed with private distributors such as himself.[61]

Tintara Vineyard Company eventually foundered under the combined pressures of inter-colonial tariff barriers,[62] consumer taste,[63] and the lack of an end-to-end system for handling the logistics of international wine export, marketing, and sales.[64] Dr. Kelly retired in 1876, having completed vintage for that year,[65] and by September, the Tintara estate was offered for sale.[66] Tintara Vineyard Company was dissolved around this time.[67] The following year, with no settlement on the Tintara property, Dr. Kelly's grape crop was offered for sale at vintage time, with the land agents mentioning that '*arrangements for use of cellar, &c., might be made*.'[68] The Tintara crop was purchased by Thomas Hardy.[69]

Thomas Hardy

After Dr. Kelly, the second major agent in the wine industry's expansion in McLaren Vale was Thomas Hardy. By his own achievements and those of the winemaking firm he founded, Thomas Hardy & Sons, Hardy was to play a significant role in McLaren Vale's prosperity and in the broader development of the State's wine industry.

Thomas Hardy arrived in South Australia on 14 August 1850. In 1851 he left for the Victorian goldfields. After returning to Adelaide, he purchased Bankside (near Underdale) where he planted grapes and established a mixed farm in 1853-1854.[70] It was from Bankside that Hardy expanded his wine business to McLaren Vale.



Photographic portrait of Thomas Hardy

Source: NLA, J.J. Pascoe (ed,), History of Adelaide and vicinity, 1901, http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-32986578

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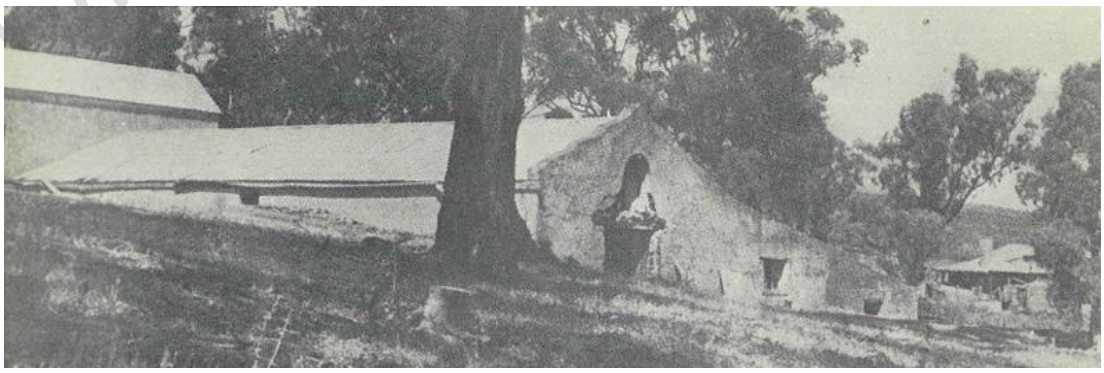
In 1877-1878, Hardy bought the Tintara Blewitt Springs vineyard, winery, and stock including 27,000 gallons of wine. He sold Kelly's wine, with the profit covering the cost of the property.[71] In October 1877, Hardy advertised Kelly's ten-room house and a 30-acre paddock for rent. Hardy would later use it for workers' accommodation.

While Tintara's vines were now in full production, poor local roads and the lack of rail transport inhibited distribution of its wines.[72] By 1878, Thomas Hardy had leased the former McLaren Vale Union mill,[73] and subsequently purchased it as a produce store, cellar and depot for Tintara.[74] This became Hardy's operational centre in McLaren Vale; offering a central location at which to deposit and cellar his wines and dried fruit crops before transporting them to Adelaide.

Hardy continued to expand his winemaking sites beyond Bankside and McLaren Vale, establishing a small winery at Morphett Vale in 1880 and building large cellars in Currie Street in 1881-1882. This eventually became the Company's registered address, serving as cellars and main offices, and was known as 'Tintara House'.[75]

In 1882, John G. Kelly, son of Dr. A.C. Kelly, was appointed manager for Hardy's McLaren Vale holdings, while Hardy managed the Bankside operation.[76] Two years later, Hardy further expanded his business in McLaren Vale by purchasing 640 hectares of additional land adjacent to the Tintara Blewitt Springs site. This enabled him to construct a road along the full length of his vineyards, joining up with the main road; creating a significant boost to the accessibility of his Blewitt Springs site.[77] Hardy's continued to invest in the facilities at Tintara Blewitt Springs and by the mid-1880s, Hardy extended the cellars, excavating '*on the hillside lower than the old cellar*,'[78] to support the increase in production while maintaining the gravity feed design.

In 1887, Hardy formed his business into a limited liability company, Thomas Hardy & Sons, with his three sons, James J. Hardy, Thomas N. Hardy, and Robert B. Hardy as partners.[79] The Blewitt Springs vineyard and winery site continued to be known as 'Tintara', but as the Mclaren Vale holdings of Thomas Hardy & Sons expanded, it eventually came to be distinguished as 'Upper Tintara', with adjoining vineyard properties purchased by Hardy known as 'Lower Tintara.' Hardy continuously updated his plant and equipment and expanded the footprint of his McLaren Vale / Blewitt Springs wine empire.



Old 'Tintara' Winery [now in ruins]. The Manager's Cottage [extant] can be seen to the right.

Source: Lester Firth and Murton Pty Ltd. Noarlunga Heritage Study, City of Noarlunga, 1979.

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Aerial view of Tintara Blewitt Springs (1949), showing the position of the former winery building.

Source: DEW, EnvMaps, 27 April 1949.

In 1892, in an important address to the Society of Arts (Foreign and Colonial Section, London) on South Australia's economy, Sir Edward Braddon acknowledged that the name 'Tintara', like 'Hermitage', had become a national byword for wine of quality.[80] By 1897, the footprint of Thomas Hardy & Sons' land holdings at Upper and Lower Tintara extended to 1,100 acres of land, with around 300 acres under vines.[81]

The last vintage was crushed at Tintara Blewitt Springs in 1927, but grapes grown at the Tintara vineyards continued to be used in making Hardy's wines. In 1955, the Black Sunday bushfire destroyed the remains of the Kelly mansion. In 1992, Thomas Hardy & Sons merged with Berri Renmano to form BRL Hardy, ending the long period of single-family ownership and control for the firm of Hardy's, but the Tintara Blewitt Springs property continued to be held and managed by the Hardy family. In recent years, the sixth-generation of Hardy family members have re-commenced winemaking at Tintara Blewitt Springs, using the historic slate fermentation tanks.

Chronology

Date	Event
1832	Scottish-born Dr Alexander Charles Kelly, M.D., L.R.C.S. (1811-1877) graduates in medicine from the University of Edinburgh.
1840	**John McLaren leads the survey of lands south of Adelaide.** **9 March: Dr. Kelly arrives in South Australia on the barque, *Baboo*, and becomes the colony's twelfth medical practitioner.** He sets up private practice at Port Adelaide.
1842	June: Kelly is made resident dispenser at Adelaide Hospital.
1843	21 August: Kelly purchases land near present-day Lonsdale (Sec. 634, Hd of Noarlunga).

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1844 Medical practitioner and vigneron, Dr Christopher Penfold and his wife, Mary Penfold, plant 10 acres of their Magill property with Shiraz cuttings obtained in France.

1845 Kelly builds his home, Trinity, and plants his first vineyard with the intention to make wine.

1846 9 Feb.: Dr. Kelly travels to Scotland via London, having been appointed Emigration Lecturer for South Australia. Towards the end of 1847, he returns to South Australia and settles at Trinity.

1850s McLaren Vale is farmed by wheat-growers. The thin soils over clay are rapidly exhausted; by the late 1850s, farms and mills are abandoned and settlements, including the township of Belle Vue, become near ghost towns.

1861 Dr. Kelly publishes *The Vine in Australia*.

1861 November: Dr. Kelly, together with five of Adelaide's businessmen, Sir Thomas Elder, Alexander Lang Elder, Sir Samuel Davenport, Robert Barr-Smith and Edward Stirling, forms Tintara Vineyard Company to make wine.

1862 Dr. Kelly clears land at Tintara Blewitt Springs, and plants the first 90 acres of vines, using the contour method described in *The Vine in Australia*.

1863 Cellars are dug into the hillside, adjacent to the house. Dr. Kelly advertises Trinity for sale, to concentrate on Tintara.[82]

1864 Dr. Kelly moves from Trinity to Tintara Blewitt Springs.

1867 Kelly publishes *Wine-Growing in Australia*.

1869 September: Kelly joins the newly-founded Vignerons' Club. Encouraged by Thomas Hardy, the Club has two aims: to exchange information on viticulture and winemaking, and to lobby the Government to reduce inter-colonial tariffs on wines and spirits. John Reynell is elected the first President, in February 1870.

1871 Tintara shareholders sent Kelly to London to search for new markets.
Kelly engages Peter Bond Burgoyne to represent Tintara wines in Britain and Europe.

1874 Tintara wine is exhibited at the Albert Hall, London.

1875 Tintara wine (1867 vintage) is exhibited at the Vienna Exhibition, Austria, and the South Kensington Exhibition, London.

1876 After completing vintage for the year, Dr. Kelly retires to his home in Norwood. Tintara Vineyard Co. struggles financially and is wound up.
September: the Tintara Blewitt Springs estate is offered for sale.

1877 9 October: Death of Dr. Kelly. Kelly is buried at Clayton Chapel Cemetery, Kensington.

1877 Tintara Blewitt Springs is purchased by Thomas Hardy. The sale process is drawn out; reportedly, it remained under offer 'for some considerable time' before the sale was finalised. The land title was only transferred to Hardy in June 1878.

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1878 Hardy leases the former Mortlock mill in McLaren Vale and converts it into wine cellars and a produce store.

1886 February: The *South Australian Register*'s agricultural editor visits Tintara Blewitt Springs and Hardy's McLaren Vale cellars, describing the expansion of Hardy's business interests in the district including his production of currants, raisins, and olive oil, as well as wine.

April: Hardy receives an additional order from Messrs P.B. Burgoyne and Co., London, for 15,000 gallons of his Tintara wine. This wine was considered *'a most valuable wine for blending purposes.'*

1889 Dr William Angove purchases 33 acres of farmland adjoining his house in Tea Tree Gully, and plants vines to make wine.

1891 Thomas Hardy plants the 'Ancestor Vines' block of Shiraz grapes at Tintara Blewitt Springs using the contour method.

1900s The district retains a rural character.

1910s Concrete is increasingly used in winery buildings, including in the construction of tanks.

1920s With the arrival of the motor car, McLaren Vale and surrounds become an increasingly popular and accessible destination for day-trippers from Adelaide.

1927 The last Hardy's vintage is crushed at Blewitt Springs. The vats are transferred to Hardy's McLaren Vale cellars.

1930s-1992 The vineyards continue to be maintained by Hardy's and are used to grow grapes for premium wines made at Hardy's McLaren Vale cellars.

1992 Thomas Hardy & Sons merges with Berri Renmano Limited to form BRL Hardy Limited. The Tintara Blewitt Springs property continues to be privately held by the Hardy family.

1955 Black Sunday: bush fire destroys the Kelly mansion (latterly, working mens' quarters).

1999-2000 Robert 'Bob' Hardy and Andrew Hardy begin to make small-batch Shiraz wines from the historic 'Ancestor Vines.' The wines are cellared for nearly two decades before the first public release in 2019.

2018 Andrew Hardy refurbishes two of the slate fermenter tanks, and beings using them to make wine, marketed under his own label.

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PHOTOS

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) **PLACE NO.: 26624**

207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs

All images were taken by DEW, 20 May 2026, unless otherwise stated.



Approach to winery site. Showing domed water tank.



Modern signage.

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Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) **PLACE NO.: 26624**

207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs



View of winery site looking towards creek line.



View of creek line.

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Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) **PLACE NO.: 26624**

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View of winery ruins.



Masonry wall, part of former winery building.

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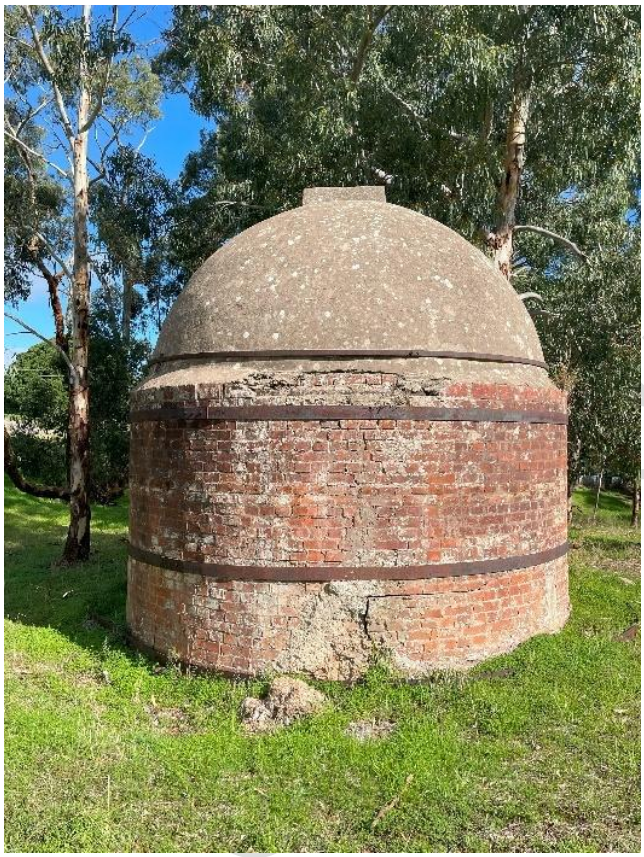

Domed stone and brick water tank.



Elliptical open wine fermenters, and domed water tank.

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) **PLACE NO.: 26624**

207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs



View of interior of elliptical open wine fermenter, showing iron reinforcing bands.



Side view of elliptical fermenter, showing iron reinforcing bands.

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) **PLACE NO.: 26624**

207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs



View of extant slate tanks. The leftmost two tanks have been recently refurbished with beeswax and are being used to ferment wine.



Remnant fabric of former slate tanks.

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Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) **PLACE NO.: 26624**

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View of brick fermenter tanks and remnant masonry wall, looking southeast. The wattle and daub worker's cottage can be seen to the right.



View of brick fermenter tanks.

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View of brick fermenter tanks, and remnant masonry wall showing the gravity feed winery design using the natural slope of the hillside and remnant slate flooring.



Rear view of remnant masonry wall, constructed from limestone rubble.

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) **PLACE NO.: 26624**

207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs



Metal water tank, and remnant masonry walls and foundations.



View of ruinous masonry wall, showing remnant cast iron winery equipment and water tank of corrugated metal. At left are a bank of slate tanks; at right, a bank of brick tanks.

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) **PLACE NO.: 26624**

207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs



View of masonry wall, cast iron winery equipment, and brick drainage channel. The earthen mound at right contains buried fabric of the former winery.



View of manager's cottage (south-eastern façade), with stone rubble garden edging. Lean-to addition is not significant fabric.

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) **PLACE NO.: 26624**

207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs



Manager's cottage. View of south-western façade.



View of wattle and daub worker's cottage.

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) **PLACE NO.: 26624**

207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs



Hardy's 'Ancestor Vines' contour-planted vineyard block, planted 1891.



Vine cordon, Hardy's 'Ancestor Vines'.



Vine cordon, Hardy's 'Ancestor Vines', showing layered stem.

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