



**Mountain View Mail
(Healesville)**

Tuesday 4/04/2017

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Very best of the Valley

By Derek Schlenstedt

More than 6000 people celebrated the best of the Yarra Valley's wine, brews and food over the weekend, accompanied by live music, sunshine and a great festival atmosphere.

The inaugural Yarra Valley Wine and Food Festival held at Rochford Wines on 1 and 2 April brought together for the first time the smaller boutique wineries and the larger big-name wineries in a spectacular celebration of Victoria's premier wine region.

It was the first wine and food festival to be held in

the Yarra Valley and festival organiser Ross Stevens said it was extremely popular and would definitely become an annual event.

"It was a fantastic major festival for the community, which we haven't had in a long time."

"We had locally sourced foods and wine, My Kitchen Rules (MKR) contestants were doing cooking demonstrations and were a big hit, and we had some bands- it was just a fantastic time for everyone.

"We're really looking forward to next year's event which will be even bigger

and better," Mr Stevens said.



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The main stage drew plenty of visitors. 166828_05



Plenty of stalls and food options were available for punters. 166828_02

Pictures: JODIE SYMONDS