



## **BIG HILL VINEYARD**



### **Our Roots**

The Big Hill Vineyard was originally owned by B. Trerise in 1857. It was then purchased by Edward Bissil in 1866 and was known as the Belvoir Park Estate.

Granite quarried from behind the barrel shed was used to build the Bissil Homestead which is still standing near the Belvoir Park Golf course.

A 4 acre vineyard was planted just 250 metres south of the existing dam (which will be pointed at the Shiraz release lunch).

The original vines came to an abrupt end when they had to be pulled out around 1895 due to phylloxera (a mite) spreading in the region and destroying the vines root system.

A short stroll south and in between the Calder Highway carriage ways was the Buckeye Hotel which was the last stop for Cobb & Co.

The hotel wined and dined its guests and also provided accommodation.

The horses were changed and the carriage then proceeded with up to 32 passengers to Belvoir Park (road) where it then traveled east or west around the Big Hill and then into Sandhurst (Bendigo).

Today the tradition lives on as Big Hill Vineyard wines and dines its guests with its Estate wines and gourmet meals (including both traditional and savory dampers).

### **Buckeye Hotel**

The Buckeye Hotel in the late 1850's – the last Cobb & Co changing station on the way to Sandhurst (Bendigo). The coach in front is a 32 passenger "Concord".

The journey between Melbourne and Bendigo took the early settlers 3 days and during the gold rush many Inns sprung along the way including the Bullock Creek Inn and Granite Rock Inn on the Big Hill Vineyard property. Scarcely a trace of them remains today.

