

# Sunraysia Daily

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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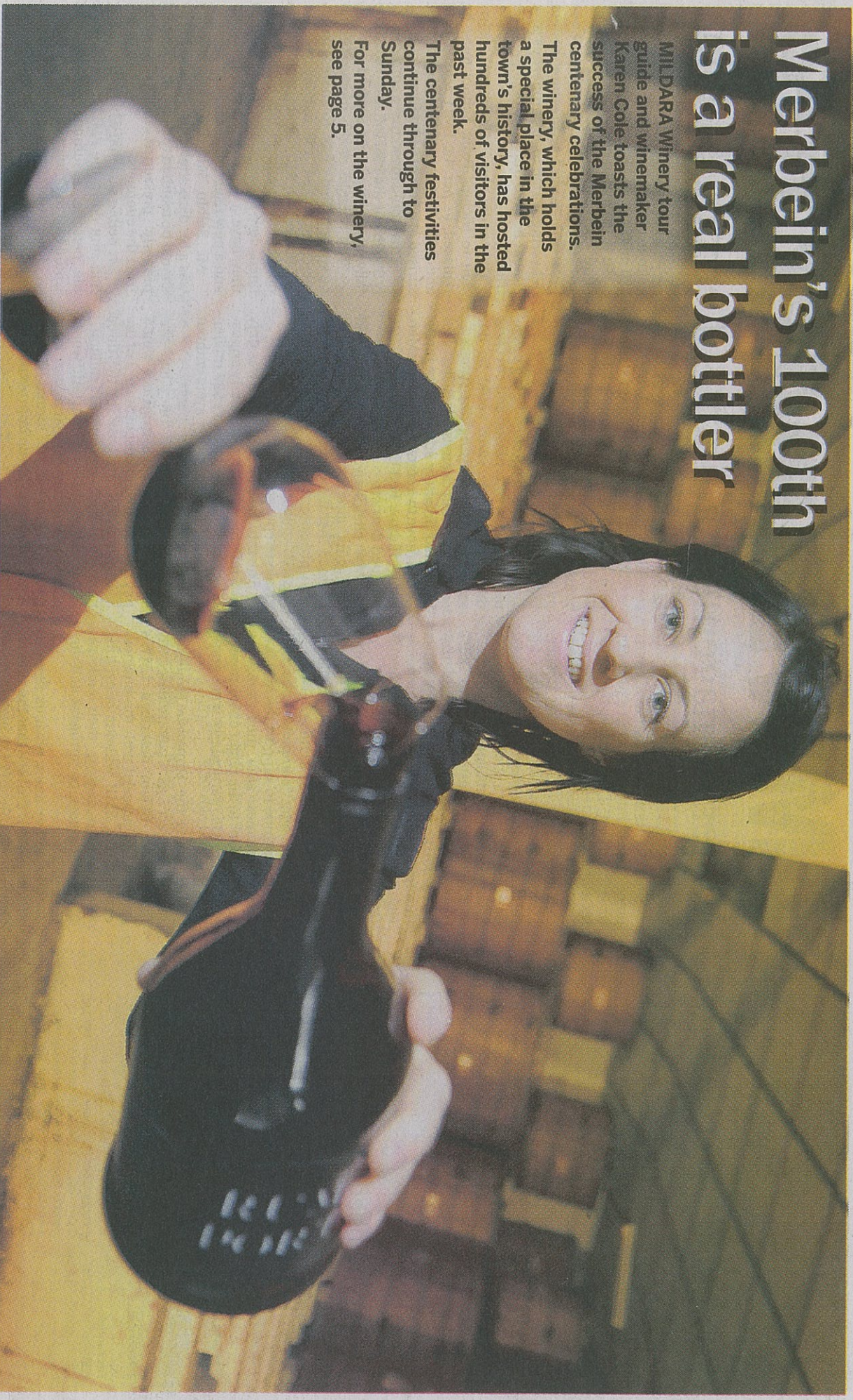
## Merbein's 100th is a real bottler

MILDARA Winery tour  
guide and winemaker  
Karen Cole toasts the  
success of the Merbein  
centenary celebrations.

The winery, which holds  
a special place in the  
town's history, has hosted  
hundreds of visitors in the  
past week.

The centenary festivities  
continue through to  
Sunday.

For more on the winery,  
see page 5.



# Memory lane tour at winery



**BACK TO WORK:** Betty Hudson enjoys a tour of the Mildara Winery, her former workplace.

Picture: Sarah Simmons

weightbridge, weighing the fruit to be crushed.

**TAKING** a walk down memory lane yesterday, a former Mildara Winery employee returned to see her former workplace six decades later.

Merbein woman Betty Hudson was one of hundreds of those who toured the Mildara Winery this week, as part of town's centenary celebrations.

Mrs Hudson, who has lived in Merbein for 83 years, said her visit to the winery has sparked great memories.

"Merbein is just wonderful, everything is happening and I've passed people I haven't seen for years and years," she said.

"Children who were so small have grown to become men, and I couldn't recognise them, but name tags are wonderful."

Mrs Hudson took a stroll with family around the facility, where she once worked in administration and was then known as Betty Dyring.

"It was wonderful, it was a great place to work," Mrs Hudson said.

"Herb Chaffey was my boss and I used to do his letters and type up the reports from the excise officers, and sometimes I was on the

weightbridge, weighing the fruit to be crushed.

"Things have changed dramatically, nothing is the same – the big two-storey building used to be where my office was.

"It has changed hands so much and everything is so different that it's lovely to have all the memories coming back of what it was like when I was here."

Mrs Hudson recalled some of her most treasured memories during her time at the winery and noted how only the view of the Murray River had remained.

"I used to ride to work on a little auto-bike and one morning Herb Chaffey came into the office and pointed his finger and said, 'You were speeding Betty'."

"Apparently he had followed me all the way to work and I was going 25 miles an hour."

Mildara Winery tour guide and winemaker Karen Cole said for many visitors the tour had been a reminder of Merbein's historical significance.

"A lot of the people on the tour actually remember the winery in its hay-day when it was functioning and when the stills were all up and running – they love it," she said.

"They just think it is fantastic that we open it up to them so they can come and see it for themselves and what it used to be like."

Built in the early 1900s by William Chaffey, the Mildara Winery is the oldest winery in Sunraysia. Ms Cole said it was often a key interest to show residents how the business had evolved.

Mrs Hudson said although working conditions were harsher back when she worked, compared with today, she had no complaints.

"It was hard but we enjoyed it anyway. There were lovely people to work with and the office staff were great," she said.

"It's our history, it is an important part of Merbein history here and I don't think school-children are aware or taught enough of their own history."

With more tours scheduled this week, Ms Cole urged everyone to come and see the history-filled hundred-year-old site.

"I encourage people to try and book themselves in, it's definitely something to share with the Merbein centenary. If not, they're missing out on a fantastic chunk of Merbein history," she said.