



## Grapevine Intelligence

August 2007

### Skeltons joins forces with Amarillo Wind Machines

**Skeltons is now the North Island distributor of Amarillo wind machines for FMR (Farm Machinery & Repairs), Blenheim.**

Over 300 Amarillo wind machines have been sold and placed in the South Island for successful frost fighting over the past five years, testament to the efficiency and effectiveness of this product's performance and reliability.

The most popular of the installed Amarillo options is the fully automatic John Deer 6 cylinder turbo charged diesel engine producing 152HP @ 2400rpm. With 26ltrs/hr fuel consumption this JD motor is rubber mounted above a 540ltr fuel tank and completely encased for protection from the weather, security and safety.

A 145HP two-fan aluminium blade achieves maximum velocity-to-thrust ratio of wind for frost fighting six hectares of crop (solid Fibreglass is optional).

Inversion heat pulled down by any wind machine is not always enough to keep the temperature above zero. Work done by Microclimate NZ shows that the placement of 20 diesel stack heaters in a 30m circle around the base of a windmill tower will give another 0.8 - 1 degree lift in the frost-fought area.

The return stack orchard heater (pictured) is designed for maximum clean burning heat on orchards and vineyards and is recommended for use in conjunction with an Amarillo Wind Machine. Skeltons is also an agent for these.

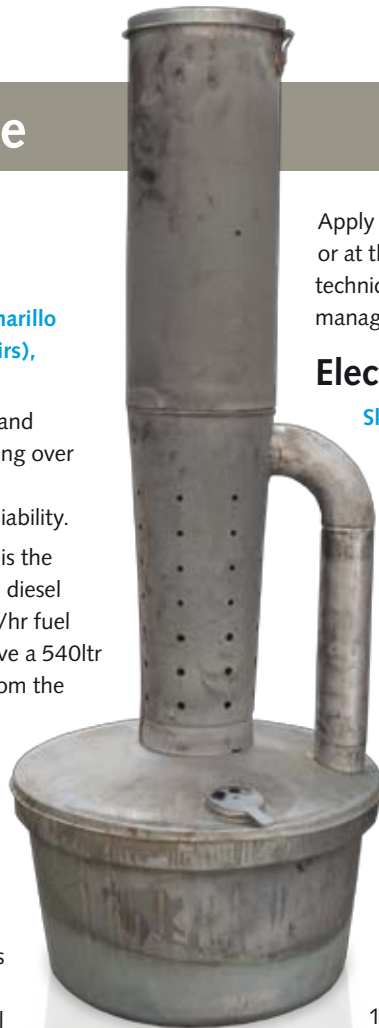
If you are interested in more information, or would like us to discuss what options are appropriate on your property, or want a price for an installed, turnkey, fully automatic Amarillo please give Skeltons technical advisors Blake Herbison or James Cropper a call.

### Pruning wound dressings

**When winter pruning your vines it's important to protect all cuts of living plant tissue as they can stay susceptible to disease infection for up to 14 days.**

Wood-infecting diseases such as Eutypa lata and Botryosphaeria infect vines via susceptible pruning wounds during or after rainfall events. It is recommended to not prune during rain, and to destroy and remove all infected material that can re-infect.

Bacseal Super or Garrison applied as a wound dressing will seal, protect and help with callusing. Also available is Vinevax Pruning Wound Dressing, a bio-inoculant containing Tricoderma that forms a living protective barrier against wood invading fungi.



Apply a liberal dressing directly on all pruning cuts immediately or at the end of the day (weather permitting). Your Skeltons technical advisor is available to discuss all aspects of the management of wood infecting diseases during pruning.

### Electronic Pruners

**Skeltons has available two brands of electric pruners (Felcotronic and Pellenc).**

The advantage of these pruners is they reduce the risk of OOS (occupational overuse syndrome), especially when spur pruning. Another advantage is they reduce the number of cuts required by loppers due to their increased cutting power – thus increasing speed and efficiency when pruning.

Batteries for both brands are identical (made by Pellenc) and have the same belt / harness system to spread the weight of the battery. The lithium battery technology means that if you charge the battery when it is half full it does not create a memory. The batteries have a digital display which shows remaining power left and each battery should enable at least a full day's work.

Also available is the Pellenc tying machine which can only be used for cane pruning. The machine is fast and lightweight and one reel of ties should tie approximately 1500 canes.

### Development and maintenance options covered

**When it comes to development or ongoing vineyard maintenance, Skeltons offers a range of posts, stays, strainers and wire as well as advice that will help achieve your goals on the vineyard.**

The wire stocked is a range from the Legacy brand. This wire is the standard high tensile 2.5 gauge wire but is coated in 95% zinc and 5% aluminium which doubles the life of the wire compared to normal galvanised wire. Another benefit is that Legacy has a metre machine that measures the coil to length rather than weight, making it possible to produce coils to suit the length of the rows on any vineyard, minimising wastage.

Our Hastings store also carries a range of training gear eg. string, bamboo stakes, tape guns, vine guards, milk cartons and fertiliser tablets.

**For more information on any of the articles in this newsletter please phone Skeltons technical advisors James Cropper 0274 428 948 or Blake Herbison 0272 844 147.**



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### Skeltons has your viticultural needs covered

Our new Hastings store in Ruahapia Road enables us to stock a wider range of the products you need to run your vineyard efficiently and effectively. Feel free to call in and check us out.

#### Wire

2.5mm HT wire 650m coils  
3.15mm wire (for end assemblies)

#### Posts

2.4m No.2 rounds  
2.4m No.2 pointed rounds (stays)  
2.4m No.2 ¼ rounded posts  
2.7m pointed No.2 strainers  
1.8m ½ round posts

#### Fencing gear

2.5mm crimps  
Permanent Hayes strainers and ratchet tool  
Straining gear

#### Wire care clips and nails

Post staples

#### Electric pruning gear

Felcotronic  
Pellenc

#### Tractor / Implement accessories

Lynch pins  
Drawbar pins  
Top link pins  
Sleeves  
Grip Clips

For further information on any of these products or services please contact our store manager Hamish McDonald on 876 8029 or Skeltons technical advisors James Cropper or Blake Herbison.

#### Frost protection

Amarillo Wind Machines  
Stack heaters  
Frost protection chemicals  
Smart lights

#### Planting / training

Vine guards (sleeves / milk cartons)  
Bamboo stakes / string  
Plant fertiliser tablets

#### Grass seed

Perennial Rye  
Annual Rye

#### Irrigation gear

Joiners and fittings  
Jiffi clips

#### Sprayer nozzles

#### Services

Our range of services include:

- Mapping
- Monitoring
- Truck delivery
- Soil / Petiole testing



### Enter the Young Viticulturalist of the Year competition

On Saturday August 4 the Hawke's Bay Grape Growers' Association is running the regional section of the Young Viticulturalist competition. Skeltons is proud to be one of the sponsors and technical advisors Blake Herbison and James Cropper are running one of the competition events.

This is a great opportunity for young (under 31 year olds) to show and hone their viticultural skills in a supportive and encouraging environment. As well as the obvious enjoyment of competing with fellow viticulturalists, there are some great prizes to be won and the opportunity to compete on a national level at the Bragato conference in Auckland in August.

### Meeting room available for industry use

Skeltons new office in Ruahapia Road has a meeting room available for use by clients, groups and organisations involved in the horticulture industry. The room can comfortably seat 12 around a conference table. A white board and projector are available at no charge.

To book please phone Lynda on 876 8029 to check availability.

### Upcoming Events

The following are activities of interest. If there's anything you wish to include please phone or email: [ian@skeltons.co.nz](mailto:ian@skeltons.co.nz)

**Young Viticulturalist of the Year** (regional contest) • Saturday 4 August • Prospect Vineyard, 1950 Maraekakaho Rd and Taradale Town Hall for evening session • contact Blake Herbison, phone 0272 844 147 or Andrew Curtis, phone 833 8093

**Regional Silver Secateurs Grape Pruning competition** • Saturday 4 August • Prospect Vineyard, 1pm • Contact Lexina Wyatt, HB Winegrowers Inc, phone 876 3418

**Bragato Conference** • 23-25 August • Check out [www.bragato.org.nz](http://www.bragato.org.nz)

### Weather Watch

Weather summary for June at Trotter Road is as follows:

June	2005	2006	2007
Rainfall	118.6	77.9	92.7
Average Temperature	8	7.1	9.3
Average Maximum	13.3	12.9	13.9
Average Minimum	2.9	1.7	4.5
Winter Chill Hours	380	437	343.5