

press clip



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WINE DOWN



with Max Cruz

When tradie winds blow

MANY people realise I am not the most accomplished home handyman.

Indeed Ms L. contends that somewhere nearer the other end of the spectrum is more appropriate. Alas, now I have even less to support any argument to the contrary.

I know you shouldn't try to diminish others for your own self aggrandisement but Big Brother is probably still a couple of notches ahead (or is that behind) in the tradie crack-ups.

At least I didn't have to call the manufacturers to fix the do-it-yourself tool shed and I didn't attempt a concrete garden surround by first laying the cement dust and then adding water. Furthermore, my latest escapade had an up side, and a few upside-downs too.

All I had to do was chop down one little tree that was already leaning in the right direction, roughly, and physics is a straightforward science, notwithstanding that quantum stuff, all about equal and opposite reactions.

Ms L. ran for the video camera as soon as

she saw me with a ladder, a piece of rope and a saw. Most uncharitable.

Anyway, to cut a long story (and one tree) short, there was ample room between the Hills Hoist and the invaluable lime tree.

So much so that removing the clothes from the former seemed completely unnecessary.

Alas, that's when the fun started.

The branch hit the line on one corner with such force that it drove it to the ground before slipping off, allowing the equal and opposite force to take over and propelling it back up.

The clothes on the far side leapt with joy, before the clothes on the near side followed suit (so to speak) in a perfect a Mexican wave mixing whites and coloureds like never before, except when I do the washing. Most landed back in place, apart from those that ended up with a dash of lime.

The structure itself settled on a jaunty "Dali" angle.

"I'll put up the new wall-mounted clothes-line. now Ms L. Where's the drill?"



Optimiste Shiraz 2006, \$20ish.

Great name for a useless tradie and I have a soft spot for unicorns and an equally soft spot for Mudgee shiraz. After years of indulgence I have other soft spots too.

— 8.6/10

Oakdene Shiraz 2007, \$25ish?

Geelong has been under the pump recently, so get behind the Catters with a bit of Bellarine shiraz as part of your training regime.

— 8.4/10

Mount Eyre Hunter Valley Semillon, 2008, \$15.

It is such a treat to find a bottle of wine with only 10 per cent alcohol these days, that we drank the lot in celebration. Love the Mombassa-esque label too.

— 8.3/10

Windance Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2007, \$50.

It's a marvellous night for a Windance, and my washing dance. Drink with Van Morrison or after a Mexican party.

— 8.8/10