

Lots Plonked Down in Auction

Hawke's Bay's famous wines attracted a frenzy of bidding at Saturday nights Midland's Hawke's Bay Charity Wine Auction and dinner at the Tom McDonald Cellar at Church Road Winery.

A total of \$131,650 was raised for Cranford Hospice with many lots reaching record numbers assisted by the entertaining auctioneer and Napier MP Chris Tremain.

The evening started with a tribute to Napier architect and Hawke's Bay wine industry supporter Richard Weston who died of a rare form of cancer last year.

A magnum of Matariki 2000 Syrah was auctioned in Richard's memory and reached \$1000. In the auction's early stages six signed magnums of former All Black John Ashworth's Front Row Pinot Noir made a whopping \$3800 and Esk Valley's Solera Selection Liqueur Muscat sold for \$5250 – one of the highest prices paid for a dessert wine in the auction's history.

It was the premium Hawke's Bay red wines that saw the figures soar above \$6000 with the Trinity Hill 2009 Gimblett Gravels Syrah going under the hammer at \$6600, and a barrique of Sileni Estates Winemakers Reserve Merlot also topping \$6000.

It was lot number 37, Ngatarawa's 2007 Merlot Cabernet which commanded the highest price of the night, reaching \$8600.

Next year is the 20th anniversary of the Charity Auction which has raised in excess of \$2 million for Cranford Hospice.