

2006 got under way under a baking sun, signalling a bumper wine harvest and a busy year ahead for Rapid Labels.

Our Touch team came 4th out of 30-odd in the local business house comp. Tidy effort.

Villa Maria once again won the Rapid Labels Trophy at the Royal Easter Show Wine Awards in March.

Darren was in Canada heli-skiing early on, and later Julie also saw a fair bit of North America on the back of a Harley.

We had a good number of staff celebrating service milestones – five notching up 5 years (Stacy, Doug, Jack, Michelle, Paul), two 10's (Brent, Pam), two 15's (Yong, Scott) and an impressive 20 (Keith). We surprised Brent on the day of his 10th and whisked him off to Lake Rotoiti for some rafting action.

Along the way our business was starting to show good growth. Certainly we made a marked advance in the wine label market, signing up some 34 new producers, on top of 30% organic growth from existing clients.

To match that progress we have continued to invest in new equipment – a new press arriving this month plus a basket of ancillary gear to support our 5-day turnaround.

Howard moved to Australia in September, about the same time as we started to pull our offices apart, realising in November a long-held goal of shifting the office downstairs beside the factory. To facilitate that we also created a new lunchroom upstairs, featuring what must be one of the largest cafeteria tables you're likely to see.

We go-karted and golfed during the year, as well as hosting a stand at the biannual Foodtech trade show. We pioneered medal labels for the Massey Food Awards in October.

And on and on we continued to service you, our clients – pumping out 40, 50 and 60 million labels a month – at a pace unmatched in the market.

Thank you for your business and support during what has been a very satisfactory year.

Please read the back of this card.

