

## ILNAM Estate Winery



*Mark Quinn on his estate. The ILNAM Estate winery is located at 750 Carool Rd Carool.*

The aim of the Stormwater Education & Assessment (SEA) Project is to minimise pollution of waterways from business activities. This is done by offering education through voluntary assessments. Around 5000 businesses are involved across the shires of Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed.

**This week's business of the week for the Tweed shire is ILNAM Estate Winery in Carool.** Owner and operator Mark Quinn has developed work practices that ensure the winery operations do not impact on the environment. The clever use of stormwater also makes this business an exceptional one.

Mark said "We are not on town water and so we collect stormwater runoff on site for domestic and commercial requirements." Mark explained that "The quality of the stormwater is critical to the winery operations so we do a number of things."

First, Mark said "Clean water is collected from building roofs on the property. First flush valves divert the

initial roof water to irrigation. After a few minutes of rainfall, the valves close and clean stormwater is directed to large storage tanks."

Secondly, at the top of the estate, local flowering and non-flowering rainforest tree species have been planted. These act as a natural filter for the large volumes of water that runs off the road when it rains. Mark said "We use trees to help to slow the runoff and this allows the water to infiltrate the ground.. Any excess runoff is directed along vine rows as natural irrigation."

"Lastly, at the bottom end of the estate" Mark explained, "any excess stormwater runoff is directed to grassy areas or swales that help absorb any sediments or pollutants. They work like a big filter."

The ILNAM Estate is to be congratulated for their responsible environmental management and their sustainable use of stormwater.

**For further information on the SEA project contact Judy Mason at Byron Shire Council on 6626 7077**