



LCGWC Winter Newsletter 2021

From the President

The last 11 months have been busy for the Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council.

- We have confirmed our strategic plan to 2025 and it informs our priorities. View it at <https://limestonecoastwine.com.au/home/about-us/strategic-plan-lcgwc-2020-2025/>
This newsletter reports against the Strategic Plan Key Result Areas
 - Communicate and Promote
 - Focus and Initiate
 - Advocate and Represent
- The constitution review working group have sent out a call for comment email, with this nearing completion.
- The Website revamp has been a major undertaking during the year, with it going live last January. Thank you Uli for your curating and editorial role in this work. It was a joint project with the executive and subcommittees with the costs being amortised across general business, tech-research, and wine show cost centres. Please explore the new features such as the interactive maps and new-look library. Check regularly on the posts & subscribe to areas of interest so we can get important dates and events directly to you. Go to <https://limestonecoastwine.com.au/> to check it out.

From the Treasurer

- EOFY home run underway and aged receivables are being chased. June is a busy month in terms of financial transactions and bookkeeping details, Thanks to Uli for his bookkeeping entries and Lisa Saunders our BAS agent for many hours applied to keeping track and providing reports in a timely fashion.
- The Yearly Activity Summary Statement is being prepared that will summarise key activities and show our net position at the 30th June 2021 which is expected to be within the guidance provided at the AGM.
- A reminder that LCGWC will collect our regional subs in August this year – that is \$2/Ha collected by the region your vineyard is in. It is a voluntary Levy which enables the running of this organisation.
- We now close off each financial quarter in MYOB, the Q3 Profit and Loss, Balance sheet and aged receivables will be circulated to the Committee Of Management members this week, along with the pre-reading papers for our next meeting in July.

From the Executive Officer

Communicate and promote

On a regular basis you will have received;

- Communiques on Export Markets,
- Communiques on funding opportunities for business
- Lifting of the GM free moratorium in South Australia (September 2020)

- PIRSA on-forwards re WGCSEA surveys
- Spray drift reminders <https://limestonecoastwine.com.au/spray-drift/>
- COVID restriction changes
- Biosecurity events
- Webpage revamp <https://limestonecoastwine.com.au/>
- Mailbox forwards as they are received (hopefully taking out the SPAM for you)

Please pass on to your members and let me know if there is other information that you feel needs to be communicated.

Advocate and represent

- Helen Strickland appeared before the Economic and Finance Committee on 9 February in Mount Gambier for its inquiry into essential production and supply chain security in the context of emergency circumstances in South Australia.
- Helen Strickland, Claire Davies, Sue Hodder and Kirsty Balnaves attended a wine industry roundtable with Hon Stephen Patterson MP, Minister for Trade & Investment in February 2021 to discuss the impact of the China tariffs on the Limestone Coast wine industry. The minister acknowledged the immediate impact the tariffs had on some businesses, but the long-term effects are yet to be felt. The impact on growers is likely to be significant as it will take time to develop new export markets. No immediate solutions were discussed but the state government have since announced various grants (e.g.: cellar door experience) to help SA wine producers.
- There is a new water allocation plan due soon, with latest information as it was presented to the AGM in November of 2020.
- The local arm of CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) have not met since December, so no new reports there. A reminder that we ask if any vineyard holder is approached by CSIRO or GISERA for bore quality analysis, do so advisedly. Ulrich attends these meetings.
- Other areas where Limestone Coast has been stayed abreast of national and state issues have been by the EO attending bi-monthly AGW briefings on zoom, and taking part in meetings with VineHealth Australia and Landscapes Board Limestone Coast. Issues and discussion points from these meetings and missives have been forwarded to the relevant office bearer &/or subcommittee concerned.
- We have had a request from Wine Australia in Victoria for installing sap-sucking insect trapping apparatus to monitor vectors of *Zyella*. This email was presented to the TRC earlier this month, and as an action we will be asking a region with a border to Victoria to lead this.
- GM Free Status. SA has had a moratorium on GM Crops. This was in line with National Wine Sector Policy and 'GM Free' is stipulated for Wine within FSANZ regulations. In August and September LCGWC worked with AGW, SAWIA, McLaren Vale & Barossa. Many submission-letters were sent to District Councils, the LGAs, the Minister, and local MPs asking the moratorium be left in place. In November 2020, this legislation was changed and Grain growers are now allowed to grow GM crops in SA.
- Australian Grape and Wine (AGW) had been working with government and a strong lobby group to oppose Mandatory Pregnancy Labelling. In July 2020 the LCGWC sent

letters, with the help of Lee McLean (AGW) to State and Federal Ministers with concerns and impacts. Most regions in Australia were involved in this campaign to oppose the changes, questioning both the hard-line wording & the medical evidence. New mandatory pregnancy labelling laws will come into effect within 3 years.

- Concerns with direction of WGCSEA. There are no updates on when the ad-valorum levy on growers will come in place – replacing the \$1/T levy as it is now. Surveys have been sent directly to grower levy-payers with the results of outcomes soon. Merger talks between SAWIA and WGCSEA continue. Neither Limestone Coast nor Coonawarra have had representation on the WGCSEA executive for the past 18 Months. Correspondence with the Minister will be tabled at the next meeting, with this last letter received on 3rd March 2021.

Focus and Initiate

Sub Committee News

Regional Program with Wine Australia

- The Technical Research Committee has been active with 4 activities due for completion this quarter.
 - Unearthing Viticulture Climatic Revision, (Dr Mardi Longbottom)
 - Collation of Peer work conducted within the Limestone Coast (Pete Bissell and Dr Cath Kidman editing)
 - Undervine Mulching Trials in Padthaway (Dr Thomas Lines)
 - GrapeVine Virus Symposium and scoping surveys in Coonawarra, Wrattenbully and Padthaway
- And a recent article highlighting all activities has been published here <https://www.wineaustralia.com/news/articles/virus-scoping-and-vine-health-on-the-agenda-for-li>
- Planning for next Financial Year events is underway with funding approvals in place using the Regional Programs' Annual Operating Plan submissions process. Our 5-year Wine Australia Regional Partners Program Contract is up for renewal in 2022, to this end we will hold a research and extension priority setting day in November of this year. The more that attend this facilitated session the better and will keep you posted. The TRC is always looking for more stakeholder involvement from across Limestone Coast regions to join the various steering groups involved in research, development, and extension – consider joining or nominating interested persons via email to tech3@limestonecoastwine.com.au or to just stay in the loop go to <https://limestonecoastwine.com.au/join-our-email-list-for-workshops-and-symposiums/>

Mixed Dozen Wine Trails enter next phase.

The Mixed Dozen Wine Trail contracts with Wine Australia and PIRSA were acquitted in March 2021. This itinerary planning tool was launched in January 2020, with the promotion and marketing to international audiences only recently being able to be completed in the terms of the contract.

The Steering Group will continue to meet and at a meeting in May co-funding support from LCLGA, Southern Grampians Shire and Glenelg Shire was agreed to for the next 2-3 years.

In this next phase, the Mixed Dozen Wine Trails Itinerary Planner Website will continue to be monitored, updated and promoted.

<https://www.limestonecoast.org.au/locale/limestone-coast-wine-trails>

20th Wine Show in 2021

- Key dates can be found at <https://limestonecoastwine.com.au/wine-show/trophy-sponsors/>
- Entries open in July
- International Judge Award & Tour will not feature in 2021. Hope that will be able to re-instate for 2022 and secure a UK judge.
- Thank you to regional trophy sponsors Padthaway and Wrattenbully.
- Dinner will be held at Coola Station Shearing Shed in Kongorong. Buses will be provided with tickets going on sale when entries open. Thank you to Mt Gambier Regional Grape Growers for helping and hosting this presentation dinner on Thursday 21st October. Save the date for a great evening.

ENDS.