

LCGWC Spring Newsletter 2021

From the President

All statistical results from 2021 Vintage are in, and what a difference 1 year can make. The vintage report can be found at <https://limestonecoastwine.com.au/home/about-us/2020-vintage-report/> It would appear that there were consistently good results although it was also important to also hear of the challenges faced by some that were voiced at our mid-July meeting.

The last 3 months have been busy for the Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council with a number of activities addressed. These include:

- The review of the Constitution has been completed
- A meeting was held on the 13th July with the next one on 21st September
The books have been closed for the last financial year
- As detailed elsewhere in the newsletter, LCRWA committees have been busy.
- It's Levy time as outlined by the Treasurer

From the Treasurer

An end of financial year update email was sent to the executive committee on the 24th August. Some points to share are:

- As a Council we operated a small surplus, while as a whole, a slightly larger loss.
- F20 year books are closed off showing an operating loss. Books are with Murray Nankivell auditors with report due at the November AGM.
- Total Equity of \$240K.
- Have 2 aged debtors.

The [2021 Vintage report](#) shows there are 15147 Hectares planted to vines in the Limestone Coast. The Council's main income stream is a voluntary \$2/ha levy collected by the regional associations of Coonawarra, Padthaway, Wrattobully, Mt Benson, Robe, Mt Gambier and Penola Coonawarra Wine Industry. These 7 regional entities make up ordinary membership of our executive Committee of Management. Last year we received levy proceeds from 9812 Hectares from Regional associations and collected a further 1045 Hectares from Limestone Coast other vineyards. Collection advice reminders for 2021 will be sent this month

A reminder from me on process – all government contracts require treasurer sign-off on acquittal. Office bearers and the public officer are authorized to sign contracts.

From the Executive Officer

Communicate and promote

This is the second of the newly instated quarterly newsletters. Please read and communicate within your groups and talk to our executive Committee of Management people so that we can address news and issues as they arise.

We use *mailchimp* to deliver event invitations and important news to subscriber lists. Many members and stakeholders are on the two lists. Use the links to find subscriber pages to update your details for our [Technical Events](#) and/or [Wineshow](#) news.

As part of the mail-box service we provide I will send emails on:

- Communiqués on Export Markets,
- Communiqués on funding opportunities for business
- COVID restriction changes
- Biosecurity Incursions
- Webpage posts <https://limestonecoastwine.com.au/>, plus social media presence.
- Mailbox forwards as they are received (hopefully taking out the SPAM for you)

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

Advocate and represent

BIOSECURITY: The Technical Research Group speaks directly to VineHealth, Wine Australia and AGW on incursion planning, risks and incidents. In this state Vinehealth Australia will act and monitor on phylloxera, fruit fly, Xyella and other pests. Vinehealth still run the Heat Shed at the Naracoorte Sale Yards site. Suzanne McLauchlan of Vine Health Australia will give updates and news at our Technical Research group meeting on the 23rd September.

- To book and use the Phylloxera Heat Shed – contact Sarah Bird 0429 430 641
- Also with biosecurity; AGW's Anna Hooper has provided training and assembled local contacts lists in the event of a major incursion. Ulrich Grey-Smith and Ben Harris represent the LSC.

The Co-funding with SARDI to have [Spore Traps](#) in the region continues. The LCGWC commits \$5000pa to this.

Spray Drift – look out for adverts and flyers will place in local media to remind neighbours to 'think before you spray'. We will encourage PIRSA and agronomists to help convey this message.

Stubble Burning and hazard reduction in May – this issue was evident as grapes were still being picked as these fires were lit. Smoke taint is the risk to us. The permits are issued by your District Council. We will engage with local government pre-vintage 2022 and send information and reminders as we do for the spray drift issue.

[Wine Australia Regional Partners](#) review meetings have commenced. On the 7th and 8th September we met online to discuss and share activities with other 10 regional clusters. Activities in **funded research, development and extension** were discussed in detail by region. The next meeting gazetted for mid-October will be a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of the program itself and the next five-year contract. This forum enables us to get updates on Best Practice Management Guide's, AgTech, Xyella monitoring work in Victoria, and other national noteworthy news Wine Australia might have. Contact Ulrich directly if you have questions or issues you would like to take-up with Wine Australia. Locally, we will hold a facilitated session to work through our Research, Development & Extension ([RDE](#)) priorities 2023-2028 in early December.

With the next **water allocation plan** due to commence in 2023 there will be considerable preparation work by Limestone Coast Landscapes Board prior to stakeholder consultation. We will keep you posted on that.

The local arm of CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) have not met since December so updates here.

The last bi-monthly Australian Grape and Wine (**AGW**) online briefing meeting was on the 18th August. Ulrich attended. An upcoming concern are proposed changes in the food standards regulations to include energy ratings and sustainability in wine labelling. Questions on Carbon policy were also asked. The next briefing and engagement meeting is on the 15th September.

Landscapes Board Limestone Coast local engagement officer, David New is looking to host an engagement day with first nations people soon. We have an acknowledgement of country [page](#) on the website that inspired the interest here. We will put out a call for interest in this space soon.

Focus and Initiate

Sub Committee News

Technical Research Sub-Committee

From the [home](#) page "With Covid Restrictions rolling on, we have not been able to bring you as many events as planned. With new online platforms we are now holding **Hybrid-Seminars** where many (if not all) presenters zoom-in to the Seminar. We can offer online registrations as well as 'in-person' - this gives us the capability to go to the webinar format if that is required."

The Technical Research Group will meet on 23rd September with invitations and agenda sent out two weeks ago. This is a meeting open to all stakeholders with attendance at the Coonawarra Hall or online possible. We hope to get a good attendance as we will hear from and discuss:

- Biosecurity News from Vinehealth
- 'Here come the Robots..' – Hans Loder will present on his Nuffield Scholarship
- Wine Australia regional program Q&A with Dr Paul Smith, including AgTech and Xyella projects.
- Updates on all the funded activities from both last year and this year.
- Importantly, now that the Coonawarra Cabernet Symposium has been postponed, we will discuss proposals and replacement variation activities that meet funding guidelines that will utilize some of the \$27500 now un-allocated.
- Our next event is Managing Extreme Climate Events in the Limestone Coast, being held this Friday 17th September in Robe and online. If you would like to attend this free event (with food) registrations are still [open](#). Speakers are:
 - Peter Hayman, SARDI
 - Tom Remenyi, Uni Tas
 - Marcel Essingling, AWRI
 - Ian Porter, LaTrobe Uni
 - Darren Ray, Consultant Oceanographer
 - Darren Fahey, NSW DPI
 - Paul Smart, Tasmania
 - Q & A session

This is the final 9 months of our five-year contract with Wine Australia (Regional Partners: GRP1706). We will hold a facilitated priority setting day in November, similar to the one held in [2016](#). Mark the 25th November in your diary for this with invitations to be sent out shortly.

Mixed Dozen Wine Trails enter next phase.

This itinerary planner tool is being used by the Limestone Coast Local Government Association s to engage with international and domestic tourism operators. It is a showcase online tool that now boasts 65 bookable experiences in our region. QAccess this site at <https://www.limestonecoast.org.au/locale/limestone-coast-wine-trails>

This continues to be a success story from January 2018 when the consortia proposal was awarded a \$375,000 project contract with Wine Australia and PIRSA to this post-project phase we are in now. The LCGWC initial investment of \$30000 enabled us to be the lead agency with Wine Australia. We have committed \$6000 for the next 3 years for the upkeep of this important tourism tool. The other financial contributors are LCLGA, Southern Grampians Shire and Glenelg Shire giving us a budget of \$16,000 pa to use for licenses, subscriptions, promotions, and training.

The Steering Group continues to meet four times a year. Toni Duka has been engaged to help with promotions and training. The next meeting will be on 21st September, Chaired by Pete Bissell.

20th Wine Show in 2021

The 20th Annual Limestone Coast Wine Show is back and on [track](#). The organising committee would like to thank the 63 exhibitors for entering 455 exhibits and the sponsors for being willing and supportive. It is the second year of uncertainty of holding such a large and risky event, but we are working toward the wine show week with confidence and caution.

Your wine show team this year is;

- Amy Blackburn | Brands Laira
- Matilda Innes | Ottelia
- Lauren Hansen | Penley
- Alice Baker | Aunt Alice Robe
- Sarah Pidgeon | Wynns.
- Bruce Gregory | Majella
- Sean Murphy | Ladbroke Grove
- Natalie Cleghorn | Katnook
- Uli Grey-Smith | LCGWC | Grey-Smith
- Terry Strickland & Mt Gambier Region | Dinner Hosts

Chief steward Alice is assembling a team of stewards to go on roster during the wine show week starting on Monday 18th October. Amy and Sean are in contact with exhibitors with the next steps and delivery of exhibits. Sarah is organizing our judges, with a stand-by team of SA based judges depending on interstate restrictions. Matilda is our foodie, Lauren our media liaison, with the rest of the team in support roles and working towards the event week.

Tickets to the Awards dinner on Thursday October 21 will go on sale on the 22nd September. The venue is the Barn at OB Flat – keep an eye on your emails and social media when we open [registrations](#).

Events Sub-Committee

This new sub-committee lead by Ian Mulligan (St Marys Wines & Spirits) continues to look for suitable events to have a presence under the banner of Limestone Coast.

There is an email group that includes producers - St Marys, Eight at the Gate, Koonara, Good Intentions, Wangolina, Mt Benson Estate, Malone Wines and Cape Jaffa, For any other producers that may be interested in opportunities in this space, contact Ian.