



Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council
Special Meeting 13th July 2021 10am – 12pm
GTE Board Room Mt Gambier + Zoom

Minutes

1. Welcome

- 1.1. Helen Strickland opened the meeting at 10am and welcomed those present & those on Zoom.

2. Attendance and Apologies

- 2.1. Pete Bissell, Claire Davies, Brian Nitinschk, Amy Blackburn, David Herbert, Biddie Shearing (Zoom), Will Legoe (Zoom), Helen Strickland, Ulrich Grey-Smith (Minutes)
- 2.2. Apologies – Sue Hodder, James Freckleton, Ian Mulligan, Leisha Munro.

3. Special Item – Adopt changes to Constitution as gazetted in 4 week lead up correspondence to members.

3.1. Discussion Points

- 3.1.1. Changes in wording and content clause 5.1.1 and clause 5.1.2 regarding Ordinary Membership were of concern to several members. Email from Leisha Munro (Padthaway President) was tabled that also voiced concerns with these clauses.

- 3.1.2. Pete Bissell and David Herbert suggested that clause 5.1.2 should be deleted and clause 5.1.1 be modified.

3.2. Changes in Ordinary Membership clauses are required before adoption;

- 3.2.1. Clause 5.1.1 on page 5 to be “An ordinary Member shall be a regional association.”

- 3.2.2. Remove clause 5.1.2 entirely.

- 3.2.3. Helen Strickland notes this takes the wording back to original & therefore is no change to ordinary membership. Helen asked for a mover and seconder to adopt the new constitution, and to consider a two thirds (2/3) agreement at this meeting is required.

3.3. Brian Nitinschk **moved** that the constitution as gazetted be adopted by the Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council, with the changes to Ordinary membership in Clause 5.1. **Seconded** Pete Bissell. Helen Strickland as asked for a show of hands – **CARRIED** unanimous.

3.4. **ACTION** – submit “constitution as adopted on 13th July 2021” (see attached) to Department of Consumer and Business Affairs as required by the Act. Ulrich Grey-Smith to undertake within timeframe stipulated.

4. Minutes of Previous meeting

4.1. LCGWC AGM (date)

- 4.1.1. AGM Minutes were sent as pre-reading and assumed read.

- 4.1.2. These minutes will be accepted at the next AGM.

5. Business Arising

5.1. Brief from the President

- 5.1.1. Helen Strickland referred to the Winter Newsletter published recently. This newsletter presented recent activities of the council in a new format. The structure of the newsletter under strategic plan headings is workable and recommend the council now produce seasonal quarterly

- newsletters to keep the greater membership informed and engaged. Suggestions, subcommittees updates, and ideas for improvement are encouraged with the next newsletter being the Spring edition in September.
- 5.2. Region Vintage/annual Reports. Helen asked for verbal reports from around the room;
- 5.2.1. David Herbert – in Mount Gambier 2021 proved to be a long and sustained vintage with good yield and good fruit. Much needed after 2020.
 - 5.2.2. Pete Bissell – was a mild year with no extended cold or hot events. Dry year with most growers using more water than ever before. Stretched out season. 2021 was similar to 2001.
 - 5.2.3. Brian Nitinschk – 24th February was an extreme weather event as hot wind effected Cabernet in Mt Benson. Otherwise it was a mild season with cool breezes, slow ripening conditions, with good yield and quality results. Benefits to those that the patience to wait. The mid May finish did result in a race to beat the rain, that did come.
 - 5.2.4. Amy Blackburn – good and even fruit in all varieties that meant high yield on the vine in some vineyards. Good separation between whites and reds. Slow moving acid-maturity curves gave time to pick windows across all varieties white and red.
 - 5.2.5. Claire Davies – from both grower and Wrattenbully perspective - yields were good with the canopies pulling up in good time as well. 2021 was similar to 2004 vintage in terms of yield, quality and finish time. Good/Bad set was isolated across the region resulting in different yield results by vineyard and block. After poor yield results in 2019 and 2020 – 2021 provided a good result for most.
 - 5.2.6. Will Legoe – in Robe we made good wines ourselves, but winemakers buying fruit played down the price and quality somewhat with this due to the Chinese market situation. Had average yields rather than high. Was a mild season with the hot spell, as already mentioned, causing a problem. Vinemoth in large numbers at seasons end is worth noting.
 - 5.2.7. Ian Mulligan (in absentia) – provided report pre-meeting. *PENOLA VINTAGE REPORT.20/21 Was a cool dry year with average rainfall. Early frosts just before growing season with 1 or 2 smaller events during budburst. Yield was up around 20% on all varieties. Slow ripening with no issues with disease. Quality was very good, great colour and flavour. Was a very long vintage. Saw a strong demand for white grapes and pinot noir with a strong price increase to match the demand. Other red grapes not so much in demand. Contracted red fruit price saw a drop of 5 to 10%. Uncontracted red grapes saw a price drop of 50 to 80%.*

6. Correspondence in and out

- 6.1. Letter of response from Hon David Basham MP, Minister for Agriculture, noting two concerns Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council has with Wine Grapes Council of South Australia..
 - 6.1.1. Tabled and attached.
 - 6.1.2. Helen Strickland noted that our concerns were considered and we now wait for the outcomes as in the letter. And that the results of the survey to members would be used as evidence for change.

7. Yearly Activity Statement

- 7.1. Helen tabled the YASS working document. This document is produced as a 'Who's who in the Zoo' and the statement shows no real changes from the previous year.
 - 7.1.1. Question if all Subs are in? No – Padthaway and Robe are outstanding from last FY. Expecting payment from both.
 - 7.1.2. The draft was shown here as FYI with final version to be produced on EOFY \$ figures during August.

8. General Business

- 8.1. Website
 - 8.1.1. Ulrich Grey-Smith talks to this.

- 8.1.1.1. Wine Show season will mean updates, online entries, and dinner bookings.
- 8.1.1.2. Using Posts to get stories out see <https://limestonecoastwine.com.au/survey-on-irrigation/> for the latest and an example of how they look.
- 8.1.1.3. New Library is popular with downloads by stakeholders already happening, and the project with Wine Australia (run by Pete Bissell) will increase traffic to that with 80 peer reviewed papers about to loaded-up.
- 8.1.1.4. Now paying \$100pm for a support subscription package with SlipperyFish - WebAware.
- 8.1.1.5. Brian advised that the amortisation of the refresh work had been calculated with less \$ coming from general revenue than planned for – both Wine Show and Technical Group activities picking up a larger share. For this reason \$100per month in technical support will be picked up in general expenses.
- 8.1.2. Helen recommends the google analytics be applied to the site to garner use. Biddie Shearing supports this by adding the LCLGA is setting up a destination webpage that will also embed <https://www.limestonecoast.org.au/locale/limestone-coast-wine-trails> and will be important to monitor where our consumers use the tool with how they access and have drop-off points.
- 8.1.3. **ACTION** Ulrich to set up Google Analytics on <https://limestonecoastwine.com.au/> ASAP.

9. Sub-committee reports

9.1. Mixed Dozen Wine Trails -Pete Bissell

- 9.1.1. Completed our funding agreement with Wine Australia and PIRSA in March, with the next phase underway with nominal for three years. Financial contributors are LCGWC, LCLGA , Stn Grampian Shire and Glenelg Shire.
- 9.1.2. Same people will continue on the steering committee.
- 9.1.3. Agreed finance for the next 3 years that will cover licences, administration and promotional projects.
- 9.1.4. Biddie Shearing is using the MDWT platform in regional tourism promotions nearly every day as is a great dovetail project for LCLGA (that is committing \$10,000pa for 2-3 years on review). Still is a large focus on international retailers and ITO's but without travel, it is not translating into sales.
- 9.1.5. Since 2018 bookable experiences in region have gone from 5 to 63.

9.2. Technical Research and Biosecurity – Ulrich Grey-Smith

- 9.2.1. A TRC Meeting in early June reported on projects from previous financial year and the 3 AOP activities planned for this year. There will be rollover funds available from both Virus Scoping and the Padthaway Mulching trial.
- 9.2.2. Three activities from this years are
 - 9.2.2.1. Managing extreme Weather events Workshop – planned for August but likely to be later
 - 9.2.2.2. Coonawarra National Cabernet Symposium – July 2022
 - 9.2.2.3. Vintettes Five – highlighting practice change, adoption and influences from the regional program. The short film interview format is supported by Wine Australia and there are many new videographer – suppliers in this space now.
 - 9.2.2.4. Continuation of the mulching trial in Padthaway is in process of being negotiated using roll-over funds from previous years.
- 9.2.3. Feedback and impacts of Grapevine Virus Symposium we held in May is still resonating. The Hybrid Seminar -Webinar with two rooms in Coonawarra and Margret River and zoom-in speakers from NewZealand, Victoria and Queensland proved to be a popular format with 20 in Coonawarra Hall (Host Venue with majority of the speakers) and 30 in Margret River Heart. The recording is available and has been a popular download from our library. It was the definitive grapevine virus knowledge showcase with an important Q&A at the end that showed that many questions are yet to be answered. Grapevine Virus is in that watch-and-act space.

- 9.2.4. Pete Bissell asked on where the financing of the TWE robotic tractors project is at. LCGWC has entered a third-party direct debit agreement with Treasury Wine Estates and the leasing company for a robot tractor project TWE is undertaking with co-funding from Wine Australia and PIRSA.
- 9.2.4.1. The first set of transactions happened in July with 10 more instalments to completion. Brian advised the two liability accounts had been set up in MYOB so would show on the Balance sheet but impact the P&L. It is essentially an in-and-an-out.
- 9.2.4.2. There is grant requirements from Wine Australia that results be shared with LCGWC at some point during the project.
- 9.3. Wine Show – Amy Blackburn
- 9.3.1. Half page report was presented – see attached.
- 9.4. Water
- 9.4.1. No updates since November 2020. Pete Bissell advised that following the review into the science underpinning the 2012 WAP there will be a new Water Allocation Plan in 2023, with work starting this year. Forestry may try to be removed from the requirement to have a licence water. There has been lobbying from the forestry sector to that end. Its important the LCGWC has a strong voice in this process.
- 9.5. Events – Ian Mulligan (in absentia).
- 9.5.1. 2021 EVENTS COMMITTEE NOTES as sent by email pre-meeting.
- 9.5.1.1. *In talks with National Wine centre about hosting a limestone coast tasting there. Waiting to hear back from them about possible dates.*
- 9.5.1.2. *Good Food and Wine 2021 have a limestone coast section with spaces still available , pricing starts around \$2200 for a 2m x 2m section.*
- 9.5.1.2.1. *If people are interested, please contact Sam Potts 03 7000 0515 for information.*
- 9.5.1.3. *Still in talks will with a Mt Gambier business about holding a limestone coast wine festival. Again just have to work out dates that suit the business.*
- 9.5.1.4. *Have talked to SAWIA and PIRSA about holding a Leigh Street type event in Adelaide.*
- 9.5.1.5. *Either group doesn't have any plans to put something on at the moment but there is going to be grant money available for associations to set up an event themselves. They both are happy to help associations in setting up an event in the city but not to get involved in it.*
- 9.5.2. Helen Advised that this sub-committee should set up a Term of Reference before undertaking events. ACTION: Use the exist pro-forma to set up a ToR for this group.
- 9.5.3. Discussion on Good Food and Wine Fest and need for collateral was discussed. Noted that at least three local producers had booked space in the Limestone Coast section
- 9.5.3.1. Wine Trails collateral is available to take and have handy for the fest.
- 9.6. GISERA – Ulrich Grey-Smith
- 9.6.1. No updates since the November 2020 (see AGM minutes)

10. Around the room

- 10.1. Pete Bissell on Shale Gas. Looks like Beach Energy is leaving Limestone Coast. Looks like Air Liquide will use the Nangwarry 1 well for CO2 harvesting.
- 10.2. From Brian as Treasurer advised we are looking at finalising EOFY results by end of August, with a provisional profit of about \$2,000 after all journals complete. This would be within previous guidelines. Helen asked if the financial results could be presented in the Spring newsletter. Helen acknowledged and thanked Brian for his time spent in this role & to keep up the good work.
- 10.3. Claire Davies on stubble burning at the end of vintage. This is an annual issue with 2021 showing a real clash with unharvested grapes were subject to potential smoke taint. Many calls were taken by James Freckleton to a point where some action is needed. Not sure the next steps but should engage government and other sectors in annual discussions in the least. Helen advises we put something on the yearly calendar to remind, engage and inform people to the risks we need to mitigate. A similar campaign to spray-drift during April would be good.

10.4. Biddie Shearing will forward and invitation to a meeting convened by an emerging group - The Limestone Coast Food Cluster. The meeting is on the 3rd August in Lucindale with a full day program. It is directed to Wine, Seafood and Food producers and this group has secured federal funding. ACTION Ulrich to distribute invitation email.

11. Next Meeting & close.

11.1. Tuesday 21st September , 10am, venue tba.

Gelen Strickland
2/11/2021.

