

LCGWC Summer Newsletter 2021

From the President

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

- The Amended Constitution has been received and accepted by the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs
- A successful Wine Show and wine dinner were held, and it was lovely to have the opportunity to celebrate with industry contacts across the region
- The AGM was held as required
- Several committees have submitted draft Terms of Reference which will now be reviewed for clarity and consistency
- The review process for the role of the Executive Officer has commenced and will involve consultation with a wide range of stakeholders

Congratulations to Ben Harris on being awarded ASVO Viticulturist of the Year and Sue Hodder being inducted as a fellow in the recent Awards of Excellence Celebrations.

The new year is a good time for refreshment of all our committees. We have outstanding volunteers who give time and energy, often for many years – and sometimes they need a break and our organisation needs new ideas. We need to look at how we build succession planning into committee processes, including evaluating the balance of skills, knowledge, experience, independence and diversity in the committee. We also need to have Terms of Reference that make time commitments, tenure and responsibilities clear to potential committee members, and have a process to invite new people onto committees.

I believe we need to consciously and warmly invite and encourage others to play a part in the running of the LCGWC. I 'm not sure how we do this better and I welcome your suggestions and ideas.

From the Treasurer

The call for voluntary levies at (\$2/Ha) went out in September with good uptake from our regionally collected base. This means our financial position remains strong. However, the reality is that the overall cash position of the LCGWC has reduced in actual \$ terms each year for the last three years. Rising costs of doing business going forward mean we are going to have to consider options for raising additional funds. One suggestion at the AGM put to me was to raise the Regional Levy in accordance with the CPI. We will be asking that individual vineyards – not with regional association - to consider contributing in the next quarter to the \$2/Ha levy schedule.

Our accounts were audited without issue and presented at the AGM last Month. The treasurer's report to the AGM is comprehensive and will be published in the minutes bundle that will be available soon.

Managing the LCGWC accounts takes much effort from many people including COM members who approve invoices for payment promptly, our EO Ulrich Grey-Smith who assigned the account codes to the invoices and enters the details to MYOB and our Book-

Keeper Lisa Saunders who make sense of it all and applies best practice accountancy to the entries. A special Thank You from me for all your efforts.

From the Executive Officer

Communicate and promote

As well as these quarterly newsletters, I will continue to provide a mailbox service on:

- Communiqués on Export Markets,
- Communiqués on funding opportunities for business
- COVID restriction changes
- Biosecurity Incursions
- Regular **webpage posts** <https://limestonecoastwine.com.au/>, plus a social media presence when required by an event or opportunity.
- 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.

If you have not already - I encourage you subscribe to either or both our *MailChimp* lists - Technical & Wineshow. The lists now number 100+ subscribers each and the emails have direct links to registration pages of upcoming events, updates, reminders and posts.

Landscapes Board Yarn Day Report

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46wlyURCYEg> for a short clip on the Yarn Day held last week. Our acknowledgement of country meeting starts and webpage were appreciated by the local focus group, and the Landscapes Board have a number of acknowledgement statements ready for use if you contact them. Staff from the Landscapes Board presented research work they are undertaking. If there is enough interest we can arrange another of these sessions by a scar tree near you.

Website Traffic

It has been nearly a year since the Webpage refresh went live.

Some statistics from Google Analytics content drill down report,

- On 22.10.21 a peak of 1072 views were recorded on the one day. (WineShow results released, socials, and exhibitor tasting bookings.)
- 1.7.21 to 19.12.21 – Wineshow pages,4313; library pages,1284; home page,2680; events,555. [total views was 8832, which was up 136% from the same period in the previous year)

Other Statistics from our plug-ins

- Wineshow entries (453 by WISH), dinner registrations (114 by Event Espresso) and exhibitors tasting (50 by Event Espresso)
- Managing Extreme weather events registration page (21 by Event Espresso)

Advocate and represent

BIOSECURITY: Reminder that there are legal requirements (in both SA and Victoria) with movement of any plant and equipment. VineHealth Australia (VHA) [tools](#) and [bulletin](#) pages are a good resource in [pre-vintage plans](#).

- To book and use the Phylloxera Heat Shed – contact Sarah Bird 0429 430 641

WGCSA Levy Changes

Growers will have received notification that WGCSA levy collection system will change starting this vintage. The LCGWC has actively lobbied against the change to 0.2% *farm-gate value* levy, but Minister Basham did enact this last Month. There are still questions of bonus payments, will they be excluded? (This is due the current timing of collection of the levy at the winery weighbridge) regardless it will result in an increase in the levies paid by Limestone Coast growers of premium fruit (low yielding – medium/high value).

Stubble Burning and Hazard Reduction Burns 2022 – Smoke Taint is considered very high risk by the wine sector and mitigation is the best strategy. There are competing requirements across agricultural sectors which occur each year towards the end of vintage. We plan to hold meetings with district councils and croppers in February and March to discuss the Burn Off Permits that are issued by your District Council. Letters will be sent to state and local government highlighting wine taint science, weather related details, and a good neighbor plan. Our technical research sub-committee discussed during the December meeting and plan to have much of the detail available before vintage. There is a growing body of research into smoke potency and likelihood of taint.

Water Allocation Plan (WAP)

The next WAP is due to commence in 2023. We expect there will be considerable preparation work by Limestone Coast Landscapes Board prior to stakeholder consultation. We will keep you posted as details or issues are advised.

GAS Mining

The local arm of CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) have not met since December 2020 so no update.

Australian Grape & Wine (AGW) – *formally WGGGA and WFA, now consolidated.*

AGW plan to hold a pre-vintage workshop in Padthaway on 'Best Practice Grape-wine Assessment at the Vineyard and Winery'. More information and bookings soon.

Members of AGW and SAWIA will have seen a submission to the National Container Deposit Scheme [NCDS] asking that wine bottles be excluded. The call for comment time has closed and the submission was made this month.

AGW will hold a February conference in Adelaide at the Wine Centre. On the agenda is; industry structure and reform, market diversification, national biosecurity, and hot issues. As this is a national conference, The LCGWC will have a representative attending.

Focus and Initiate Sub Committee News

Technical Research Sub-Committee

Recently completed activities

- Literature Review features in both AWRI Library as well as own. 80 papers – 35 years.
- Grapevine-virus scoping review – now available,
- Eutypa Spore Trap project is complete, with traps now returned to SARDI, and the final report due early next year (this completes the LCGWC 5-year investment in this)

Regional Partner activities underway (and to be completed by June 2022!)

- Unearthing Viticulture – Climate Edition
- Padthaway Mulching trial measures 2022
- Porters smoke analyser network extends into the Limestone Coast
- Series of Vignettes focusing on 8 topics - Research to adoption.

Financials

- Roll over of \$24K approved by regional partners.
- \$50K received for activities this year.
- \$53K still to spend this Financial Year and before acquittal of expiring contract and the start of the new contract.

SURVEY OVER SUMMER – The facilitated Research Development and Extension priority setting session is being held in February, with all stakeholders encouraged to participate. In the lead up to this could you respond to a pre-survey and be invited to this free regional partner funded session will be sent to the *MailChimp* list – so best to subscribe.

Next Meeting – Regional Partners Limestone Coast Research Development and Extension Priority Setting Session will be held on the Thursday 3rd February. Bookings and more information soon, including plans for breakfast.

Mixed Dozen Wine Trails

This Cross-Border initiative continues, with more bookable experiences coming online with more businesses with an ATDW presence being included in the consumer facing itinerary planner. A marketing plan – both consumer and business facing – is being implemented with Toni Duka leading us once more.

Financials – LCLGA - \$10K Southern Grampian Shire - \$2K, Glenelg Shire - \$2K will continue with financial contributions for 2022. This along with \$2K from LCGWC as agreed inform a budget based on \$16K per annum for the next 2 years.

Wine Show Results

Use our results search engine to find the winners and use the sort filters powered by the WISH program.

See the Top40 list that we published last week.

Financials – Thank you to our Sponsors and exhibitors that provide the income to run this not-for-profit activity. It looks like we will run a small profit this year and hopefully the International Judge (and Award) will return in 2022, with all associated costs therein. Retained earnings from previous years are held within the LCGWC liability accounts.

BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR.

Published: December 2021.