

# LCGWC Autumn Newsletter 2022

## From the President

I hope vintage has progressed well and that before long we can all welcome rain.

### Executive Officer position and responsibilities review process

Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council (LCGWC) is currently reviewing the Executive Officer position and responsibilities, so that we have a clear understanding of what is required. The role of Executive Officer (EO) to the LCGWC is key to providing the results that the council works towards, but we do not currently have a position description for it. This review process seeks input from regional committees, LCGWC sub committees, the LCGWC committee and the current EO to ensure that the direction of the role is clear and clearly documented. To guide discussion some questions are provided. Please consider these (and others that you see as important). This is NOT a review of the current Executive Officer, but of the position itself. (Thank you Uli for the feedback you have provided)

Please contact me for further information and make sure your suggestions and ideas are considered through our committee structures. Have your say before the end of May.

### **Executive Officer position and responsibilities review Discussion starters**

What is working well with the role? What could we do better or differently? What could we stop doing?

What are the most important things we need the Executive Officer to do? Do we need to document this?

What skills, abilities and experience does the EO need to have?

Do we want a consultant (as currently) or employee?

What support does your region/ committee need from the EO? What tasks do they need to do?

Does the EO need to attend your meetings and if so, what services should they provide at the meeting?

For the EO role do we need a Service Provider agreement or Contract for Consulting Services or Consulting Services Agreement or Letter of Engagement or Scope of Services Agreement?

Should the role be administrative (for example: taking minutes, website oversight, financial management, information dissemination) or strategic (for example: governance, facilitating the strategic direction of the organization, management of overall external public relations and communications, oversight of event management and marketing activities, sourcing grant and sponsorship funding)

Should the role be paid on an hourly rate or by results achieved or flat rate?

Should the role include representation of the LCGWC with key state and national bodies and governments?

## From the Treasurer

Third Quarter reconciliations and reporting shows we are tracking for a small operating profit again in 2021-22. The forward cash cash-flow budget has no new activities and so looks real.

With the Wine-Show back on stream (breaking even, plus some) and some \$50000 still to spend within the regional partners program, and Mixed Dozen Wine Trails with cash on hand – we have significant dollars held 'in trust' in our liabilities on the balance sheet.

Voluntary Levy collections from member-Regions and vineyards is ongoing, with the last invoice to go out in May.

A summary Financial Report will be produced in the next weeks, after the vintage dust has settled. A comprehensive financial report will be circulated to Committee of Management members before our next general meeting in September

## From the Executive Officer

### Communicate and promote

#### It's National Careers Week!

<https://careersweek.com.au/>

*"You may be interested in registering for a free online workshop for parents, teachers, and industry members who want to support young people to find their way into a career in agriculture at 12:30pm AEST on Wednesday 18 May.*

*Please share amongst your networks.*

*Registration is open to anyone at [cqu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vS3FRUhtT1OkfGAcf1G-QQ](https://cqu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vS3FRUhtT1OkfGAcf1G-QQ)*

*Career pathways into our sector has been a focus point for Wine Australia in the last Months, with new landing pages for this in draft." Jo Hargreaves – Wine Australia.*

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> newsletter. It has been a good idea from the President Helen to have these quarterly updates in these extraordinary times where we haven't travelled so much or had that many face-to-face opportunities. They will continue and we are always looking for articles to include. Please email Helen [stricklandsolutions01@gmail.com](mailto:stricklandsolutions01@gmail.com) or EO Ulrich [tech3@limestonecoastwine.com.au](mailto:tech3@limestonecoastwine.com.au)

If you are active sub-committee member or levy-payer and have subscribed to our mail-out lists, we 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 to 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.

#### **Website Traffic – Google Analytics**

Some statistics from Google Analytics from December to April

- On 13.4.22 we had a peak of 138 users.
- Views 1.12.21 to 30.4.22 – Wineshow pages 394; Unearthing Viticulture pages 151, library pages 69; home page 1469.

## Advocate and represent

### Biosecurity

Vine Health Australia | Vintage Biosecurity Tip #14 | 16<sup>th</sup> May email

*"Please find below our 14th Vintage 2022 Biosecurity Tip.*

*#V22 Tip#14: Biosecurity signage is an important farm-gate hygiene tool. Vinehealth Australia has tourist-facing signs and farm-gate signs to help educate your visitors. #Vinehealth [www.vinehealth.com.au](http://www.vinehealth.com.au)"*

Get these emails direct from Cindie Smart – Subscribe [HERE](#)

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

### Surveys and Results

Recent Surveys you may have been asked to do:

- Vinay Pagay (Adelaide Uni.) [Irrigation Survey Results](#)
- Landscapes Limestone Coast Survey – [still open](#).
- WGCSA Pre-Vintage Survey [Results](#)

### Stubble Burning and Hazard Reduction Burns 2022

Smoke Taint is considered very high risk by the wine sector, with the issue coming to prominence through widespread bushfires, persistent smoke, and lost crops as a result of the Black Summer bushfires of 2019.

Mitigation is the best strategy but competing requirements across agricultural sectors in the Limestone Coast mean that smoke from stubble burning, is observed annually around the time of vintage. While annual burns cause anxiety amongst growers, the good news is that these can be managed and as such, controlled in their implementation.

A few weeks ago, some of you were involved in an email-update-circular looking for information on council permits and prescribed burns. We are aware that permits have been issued for March-April-May and DEWNR have commenced prescribed burns. On your behalf the LCGWC are in contact with your district councils, to promote use of codes-of-practice around stubble burning and reducing risk of smoke taint in vineyards. Please continue to let LCGWC know when you think any burn or smoke event is of concern.

The technical research sub-committee discussed the issue during their December meeting, with the opportunity identified to participate in research being undertaken by LaTrobe University in Victoria. This has culminated in a first outside Victoria, demonstration regional smoke sensor network, with one in each of the regions: Mt. Gambier, Coonawarra, Wrattonbully, Padthaway, and Robe.

Research into the application of smoke sensors is ongoing, with the technology yet to be proven across regions and environments. It is part of a Wine Australia project with the Limestone Coast having the first trial sites outside of Victoria, before potential for national rollout of the monitoring system. While current testing of juice through AWRI Analytical Services remains the definitive standard in identifying smoke taint, it is hoped that networks of continually operating sensors will provide wine growers with annual insight of smoke dose and potency affecting their vineyard. This in turn has potential to provide insights to better manage seasonal burns and requirement for pre – harvest testing.

An information session detailing principles, application and observations of the smoke sensor network is currently being planned, aiming for a day in August. See the recent wine Australia article '[Green light for early warning detection system](#)' for more back-story to this.

### **Mesonet Network now in Limestone Coast**

The Mackillop Group has secured grant funds to roll-out a mesonet network locally.

This is designed to reduce the incidence of spray drift by providing easy access to detailed weather and inversion details. In addition to this, insights from existing networks have been used by emergency services and broadacre contractors to understand fire danger periods and optimal timing for operations such as baling.

There are many benefits of a Mesonet network to wine growers in the Limestone Coast beyond a reduced risk of spray drift, with detailed weather insights able to potentially be used during periods of stubble burning or to better understand frost conditions. While not guaranteed, it is most likely that data will be made available to producers under a subscription model which is in the process of being drafted. All sensors on Mesonet towers are annually calibrated and data is therefore provided to the Bureau of Meteorology as part of their "Trusted Private Automatic Weather Stations" (TPAWS) portal, to refine BOM models with a greater density of observations. Meteorological modelling is currently underway to determine the optimum siting of towers in the Limestone Coast, after which time growers will have the opportunity to apply to host a Mesonet site.

### **Australian Grape & Wine (AGW)**

*This was formal Wine Grapes Growers Association WGGGA and The Wine Makers Federation of Australia WFA, they have now been consolidated.*

Helen and Claire attended a combined Wine Industry forum which was held at the National Wine Centre in February.

Bi-Monthly meetings continue with opportunities for us to highlight both achievements and concerns to the larger Australian Wine Fraternity. More on that in the Winter newsletter.

### **Wine Industry Tech Conference**

This conference, held in Adelaide, is coming up from the 26 to the 29<sup>th</sup> June. Program and registrations can be found [HERE](#).

## **Focus and Initiate Sub Committee News**

### **Technical Research Sub-Committee**

The Priority Setting Day was POSTPONED (from 12<sup>th</sup> May) to November 2022. This is due to the Regional Partners Contract being given a one-year extension.

### **Two recent grants we applied for in early May**

- Sustainable Wine Growing – Greater Limestone Coast | Landscapes SA Limestone Coast | \$39550
  - Adaptive Agriculture Grants - If successful will be 3 workshops run by SWA/AWRI,
  - What is Sustainable Winegrowing Australia [SWA]
- Wine Australia Regional Partners Program | Annual Operating Plan | Regional Partners | \$50000
  - Contract GRP1706 extended for extra year.
  - This will be our 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive AOP submission, each year worth \$50000 in levy return.
  - Three Activities (see minutes last meeting for details)

New articles & news published by your tech research committee

- [Literature Review](#) features in both AWRI Library as well as own. 80 papers – 35 years.
- Wine Australia Launches GrapeVine Virus Best Practice Management Guide (BPMG)
- <https://www.wineaustralia.com/news/articles/research-at-the-pulse-for-limestone-coast-growers>

From the yarning day put on by the Greenlake Advisory Committee last year – a reel [acknowledgement of Country](#)

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.

Regional Partners Financials;

- Five-year Regional Partners contract extended for an extra year.
- \$50K still to spend for this Financial Year
- Looking for AOP approval to spend another \$50000 in 2022-23

### **Mixed Dozen Wine Trails**

This Cross-Border initiative continues, with financial contributions secured for the next 2 years. More bookable experiences are 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 – look out for emails and social posts from Toni Duka. The Annual Report is available [HERE](#).

### **Wine Show 2022**

Planning is already underway for the 2022 show. We have support from most return Sponsors and are starting to book venues and accommodation for the WineShow week in October. Mt Benson will be the Dinner Host this year, and then Padthaway in 2023.

### **Events Banner Committee**

Limestone Coast Stand at Good Food and Wine,

A group of local wine and spirit producers will go to the Melbourne Good Food and Wine event under the Limestone Coast Banner. If you are a producer who would like to be involved in these public & trade shows, please contact Ian Mulligan.

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