



LCGWC Spring Newsletter 2022

From the President

I recently attended two meetings, one in Adelaide for the Australian Grape & Wine / Wine Australia Forum for State & Regional Associations held over 2 days (30th Nov and 1st Dec), and the other the Wine Grape Council SA virtual meeting on December 7th. The involvement of the Limestone Coast in these forums is important so that our voice can be heard.

Topics from the AGW /WA forum:

Introduction of country managers, Rose McDonald – Japan Country Manager and Suzie Chung – Korea Country Manager

2022 – a year in review: What went well: Industry engagement / comms with AGW / Wine Australia and Where can improvements be made as a collective?

2023 – what does great look like?

Regional brand story

Setting the stage for wine export success: Roles and responsibilities Austrade / Wine Australia / AGW / States & Regions

Highlights from the WGCSA meeting:

Healthy Minds/Healthy Vines Podcast has been well received and watched

Discussion on Part Time Policy Advisor for the Council

The Wine Australia Market Insights team has recently embarked on a project to build a price indicator platform for the Australian wine sector.

EcoVineyards: Final reporting milestones for Smart Farms Small Grants Round 2 grant and Round 4 grant were completed and lodged with Department of Social Services. Reports were assessed and accepted with formal notification.

Farm Business Resilience Program proposal in progress

Updates on PPSA including

Chemical Stewardship: ChemCert are reviewing accreditation issues across Industries and seek representation to ground truth any review from Grape/Viti industry. CEO to seek further clarity on what is required from an Industry representative for the most appropriate industry contacts to be identified.

River Murray Floods: Weekly meetings and updates being provided by Brett Bartel – Director, Recovery, and resilience. CEO to forward all updates to WGCSA Councilors plus Executive Officers of Riverland and Langhorne Creek.

Thank you to all who have been involved with LCGWC this year, your engagement makes the association successful.

Helen Strickland

From the Treasurer

We thank our regional association and stakeholder contributors to our voluntary levy scheme as it enables this organization to function and provide the framework to support our objects and goals. It is levy collection time. This year we are targeting this financial quarter to streamline the process and give us certainty going into our 2022-2023 financial year.

The LCGWC is a non-governmental, not for profit association that collects subscriptions from Limestone Coast grapegrowers based on Hectares via their regional association. It maintains some reserves that



collect interest from term deposits. The Committee of Management (COM) and high functioning sub-committees implement the LCGWC [Strategic Plan](#) through a range of activities that oversight the Councils annual turnover of around \$230,000.

It is important the council retain appropriate cash reserves and continues to build this so we can invest in activities like

- 2018-2021 Spore traps - \$17500 over 3 years. Number of SARDI owned traps positioned around Coonawarra. Reports available in our Library.
- 2018-ongoing Mixed Dozen Wine Trails - \$30000 initially, \$2000pa ongoing until 2024. (\$36000 in total)
- 2016-Submissions into the parliamentary enquiry resulting in a 10-year moratorium on fracking - \$18,900
- 2003-2007 – water allocation plan arrangements including supporting reviewing the revised allocations \$52,000 With the next review of the Limestone Coast WAP occurring currently, further financial support maybe appropriate to ensure the Limestone Coast Wine Industry is not disproportionately impacted in the WAP process

Fully audited financial results were presented at the LCGWC AGM in November plus update of FY 22/23 1st Qtr, with sub-committee activities remaining cash positive leading into the new calendar year.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year – Brian Nitschinsk, Treasurer LCGWC.

From the Sub-Committees

(Focus and initiate)

All activities and effort are informed and guided by our 2020-2025 strategic plan – [here](#). Sub-committees run with [terms of reference](#) and have representation on the committee of management with a team leader for each. For more details use your mouse to hyperlink and access websites and articles of interest.

[Technical sub-committee](#)

Since 1976, Hans Loder – Current Chair

Next Workshop: Pre-Vintage workshop and projects update – Tuesday 7th February 2023.

[Register Now](#), all stakeholders welcome.

Biosecurity – working with Vine Health Australia & Australian Grape & Wine...

Biosecurity relationships is within the scope of the technical sub-committee. [Focus and Initiate]

- [Vine Health Australia](#) is funded mainly by statutory levies within South Australia.
 - Inca Lee (CEO, VHA) and Suzanne McLauchlan (Senior technical officer, VHA) are in contact regularly and report into our technical committee meetings.
 - We encourage Limestone Coast stakeholders to use [best practice](#) and tools provided by VHA, including the Phylloxera [Heat Shed](#) in Wrattontully.
- Australian grape and wine (AGW) are our national lobby and work closely with Wine Australia on all aspects of biosecurity. AGW is funded by professional memberships.
 - Ben Harris and Ulrich Grey-Smith have undertaken training and will be points of contact if an incident occurs that needs local management. Luckily none to so-far.
- Strategic thinking and tasks in this area rely on *volunteers and voluntary levies from the 6 regional associations and contributing vineyards.
 - *Thank you to the companies, organizations and individuals that are involved by technical committee attendance, your inputs in this area are invaluable.
 - [Spray Drift](#) reminders and advocacy are important and continue to be active in this. We will be looking for updates into the [Meso-nets](#) network that will be rolled out in our region the coming year.



Wine Australia grants – delivering the ‘Regional Program’ in SA South...

Within the scope of the technical committee. This rolling-contract is self-contained with allowances for approved activities. Approved activities new and on-going are,

- Soil Carbon Stocks (delivered by Adelaide University) – soil carbon measures by vineyard set-up and treatments.
- Smoke quality sensor network by region (delivered by Latrobe University) – ongoing, get an update on the [7th February 2022](#).
- Short-clip vignettes on Vimeo and YouTube – seven clips heralding past RDE for varying audiences, ongoing. Steering committee is Cath Kidman, Lachie Travis & Peta Baverstock. Videographer is Ockert LeRoux.
- Revised Edition Unearthing Viticulture – updating the climate chapters. Soft launch soon.
- Priority setting session for the next 5-year contract – facilitated session will be in May 2023.
 - Diary marker Thursday 18th May 2023, details soon.

Landscapes Grants – Adaptive Agriculture – Sustainability in the Greater Limestone Coast

Within the scope of the technical committee. This one-off grant is financially self-contained with allowances for approved activities.

- Approved activities will be delivered by AWRI's Sustainable Winegrowing Australia team.
 - The funding will help off-set training costs for accredited entities and engage companies yet to register.
 - Three workshops and 3 case studies, with adoption of Sustainable Winegrowing Australia certification the goal.
 - Acquittal is in September 2023.
- Next Workshop will be in July 2023,

Mixed Dozen Wine Trials Sub-Committee

Since 2018, Pete Bissell – Current Chair

Delivering and maintaining limestonecoast.org.au ...

Within the scope of the mixed dozen wine trail steering committee. This post-\$380K-contract continues maintenance of all fees, subscriptions, and licenses for the ATDW powered limestonecoast.org.au that is embedded in multiple websites including coonwarra.org.au and visitlimestonecoast.com.au.

- Financial support is from the local government co-cash and from LCGWC retained earnings (your voluntary levies at work)
- Financial support is only secured until April 2023, with the year-3 tbc and end of licenses in year-4.
 - We will be looking at either continuing with cash inputs from the regulars (LCLGA, Southern Grampians Shire, Glenelg shire and us) or, if another auspice organization can be found. The choice depends on voluntary levy support & if it features in our strategic plans.
- Encouraging all producers with cellar doors and bookable experiences to use the free Australian Tourism Warehouse [log-in](#) to create or update your tourism offering.
- Display your printed copies of [Visitor guide](#) and have the QR-codes handy.

Wineshow Sub-Committee

Since 2000, Carolyn Brown – Current COM Representative

Thank you to our Wine Show sponsors and exhibitors...

Without the generous and ongoing support of our sponsors we would not have a show.

- Consider using our sponsors in your supply chain and everyday needs.



- Thank you to the 64 exhibiting wine companies, [certificates of merit](#) are available.
- Thank you, Stewards, – put your name down to help in 2023 wineshow week.
- 2022 Results & media - [HERE](#)
- [2023 Key dates](#) and news.
- [Join the mail-out lists](#)

Showcase Events Sub-Committee

Since 2020, Ian Mulligan – Current COM Representative

Expressions of Interest to have Limestone Coast stands sought for 2023

- In 2022 producers exhibited at the Melbourne Good food and wine under the Limestone Coast Banner. Ideas and events to attend are being sought for 2023- Contact Ian Mulligan.
- The event group is an informal group of producers that come together for planned events - Join the contact list, and more news in 2023
- Encouraging all producers with cellar doors and bookable experiences to use the free Australian Tourism Warehouse [log-in](#) to create or update your tourism offering and actively promote the [itinerary planner](#).

From the Reference Groups

Advocate and represent

Water

Our vice chair, Claire Davies has stepped into the [LCGWCI water](#) rep position. With both the Lower Limestone Coast Water allocation plan (LLSCWAP) and the Upper Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan (ULSCWAP) in consultation review there has been discussion within the COM on collaborative approaches into getting the most out of the plans. The [Landscapes Board SA](#) has set up advisory groups that will inform decisions. The LCGWCI is considering allocating advocacy funds into this process & will discuss at the next meeting in February. Please contact Claire Davies for more information.

Wine Grapes Council of SA

Our President Helen Strickland attended the WGCSA AGM in September and resumed the Limestone Coast seat on the board. Growers receive regular newsletters from Lisa Bennier (EO – WGCSA) where funding, counseling, and advocacy opportunities are relayed regularly. Please contact Helen if you need any issuraised at the board level.

Biosecurity

Inca from VineHealth Australia was in-region this Month and held Q&A sessions in Padthaway and Coonawarra. If you missed the email or were not able to attend and have questions, please contact Inca 0418818543 or email inca@vinehealth.com.au The technical committee's field day on the [7th February](#) will provide you with another Q&A opportunity.

Vinehealth has commissioned an upgrade to the Naracoorte heat shed. This upgrade will see an updated control system implemented and new temperature probes installed, with the control system providing increased functionality for the Heat Shed Manager and users. The upgrade is scheduled over the Christmas / New Year period to minimize disruption for users. Dates when the heat shed will be unavailable given this upgrade will be posted on Vinehealth's website when confirmed. As always, please contact Sarah Bird, Heat Shed Manager, on 0429 430 641 if you need any further information.

Australian Grape and Wine

If your company is a member of this organization, you will receive emails Ali Laslett advising news and upcoming events.

At the recent state and regional organization forum at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide (attended by Helen and me) we were asked to provide a snapshot of what the limestone coast at its regions offers to different audiences.

The two-day event had a session on regional brand stories. This task to express and verbalize our strengths and features to our tourists, domestic and export markets, and other wine regions was an opportunity to show AGW, Wine Australia and DFAT what we are achieving in these days of climate change, trade barriers, and over-supply.

We

1. reported on our headlines, our communications focus, and commercial imperatives.
2. We did a plan on a page with vision, strategy pillars, and promise.
3. We looked at advocacy hot issues.
4. All regions were given the opportunity to talk to these three prewritten templated documents and discuss the common ground and the common issues, and then workshop possible solutions and actions.

AGW speak to government on our behalf and other than these annual face to face events there are bi-monthly online forums are an opportunity for regions to speak directly into national wine-sector discussions.

Some of the big topics are Sustainable Winegrowing Australia uptake, international tourism, Southeast Asia export focus (including India), national container deposit schemes, supply chain issues, oversupply/undersupply, regional identity, DFAT in India, and available funding help.

Australian Grape and Wine also run bi-monthly state and regional forums on zoom. If you would like to be involved, speak to your regional chair to get an attendance slip. Attendance from all regions is encouraged, let me know by email contact or call Ulrich on 0429 499 355 to discuss.

SA Wine Industry Association

If your company is a member of this organization, you will receive emails from Brian Smedley and his team advising news and upcoming events.

Congratulations to Kirsty Balnaves on her recent appointment as chair to SAWIA.

Communicate and promote

The Website

Attending the AGW forum earlier this Month was an opportunity to highlight our website and was the pivotable piece in being able to tell our story, especially our strategic plan. Curating the webpage is a large and enjoyable part of my paid role. There is always plenty happening in all areas of LCGWC activity.

It is a large resource webpage and worth spending time exploring the different tabs. In this spring issue we can investigate the topic Research + Sustainable. What is this about? When is the next workshop? What is sustainability? How can I get involved in research topics and funded projects?

Emails

Remember to keep an eye out for emails from tech3@limestonecoastwine.com.au and subscribe to our posts and book into our workshops.

Happy Christmas and see you next year! – Ulrich Grey-Smith, Executive Officer, and Secretary.