

Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Newsletter: December 2023

From the President

This year we have increasingly moved from an internal to an external focus. We have placed our Council on the regional, state, and national scene so that we can advocate for the specific needs of our region. This has included:

- Engagement with Wine Australia during our consultation process to identify areas for research funding.
- Presentations to Minister Scriven, Minister Champion, and Member for MacKillop Nick McBride during the Country Cabinet, which stressed the issues of:
 - Water security
 - Research and Development
 - Workforce development
 - Local leadership and direction
 - Wine Tourism
 - Infrastructure development
 - Biosecurity

We asked for funding for Research and Development, Workforce Development, Local leadership and Direction and Wine Tourism. I am currently following up these requests and have received positive feedback.

- Representation on the water allocation plan review
- Representation on the Education and Training precinct in Mount Gambier Steering Committee
- Engagement with Rare Earth activity
- Representation on Wine Grape Council SA
- Engagement with Higher Education sector research opportunities in our region

We have continued our focus on the governance of the organisation. This year:

- A review of the Executive Officer position has been completed and a Service Agreement for this position is in place.
- An Annual Operations Plan, which outlines activity for the year ahead, is currently being structured. The EO position will report against this. This AOP will also outline the responsibilities of other Council members as they take part in committees.

This year marks the start of considering strategies to ensure the long-term viability of the Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council. Currently we have a voluntary process which collects funds based on hectares from growers across the region. In some cases, the local GI pays for all hectares, in other cases it pays only for those who are members. I anticipate discussion throughout the year as we consider options.

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Communicate and promote.

Grow strong Program comes to the Limestone Coast in February 2024

Are you a passionate grower seeking to improve your viticulture business? Welcome to GrowStrong. A transformative program specifically designed to fuel your business with strategic management and planning resources.

This immersive training experience is packed with practical tools and invaluable knowledge that

will equip your viticulture business to meet the demands of grape growing for the immediate and long-term future.

The Wine Grape Council of SA will bring the GrowStrong Program to the Limestone Coast and will begin on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th of February 2024 with the AWRI Sessions (which will include a networking dinner on the 8th).

The University Masterclasses will be in May 2024 (Dates are to be confirmed, but after vintage is complete)

This program is supported by the Wine Grape Council of South Australia, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Government of South Australia.

Sign up via the link below. Spaces are limited to 20 applicants.

GrowStrong Application Form- [Limestone Coast Survey](#) (surveymonkey.com)

More [info](#)

Pre-vintage checklists

How many days to veraison? This growing season is fully upon us. Conditions in general have been cool, with frost, rain, hail, and humidity all playing a part so far. Reminders to

Keep up your spray programs,

Monitor your canopies and bunches for damage.

Interstate and Riverland fruit need health certificates

People Biosecurity considerations (seasonal workers, contractors, and staff)

Still looking for staff and accommodation?

Do you need Sustainable Wine Growing Australia accreditation?

Check your emails.

Member Regions receive regular emails from tech3@limestonecoastwine.com.au forwarding communiques from

- National bodies: Wine Australia, Australian Grape and Wine,
- State Bodies: PIRSA, VHA, SAWIA, WGCSA.
- Research Institutions: Australian Wine Research Institute.
- Government co-investment opportunities [Austrade,
- Tourism

Join [our subscriber](#) lists general and [wineshow](#). We use *MailChimp* to herald upcoming events and important messages. All of events and messages are posted to our webpage in real-time.

Visit the online library.

Are you looking for the latest [Vignettes](#)? for [Unearthing Viticulture](#) publications? Information on the literature review 2022?

Check out the [library index](#) and search keys to download papers and meeting notes for the last 30 years. (Check-outs are free, but you will need to leave your email with us thank you.)

Calendar 2024

See our 2024 calendar online – including technical subcommittee events, wine show key dates and meeting dates. This will be updated monthly, and invitations and event reminders will be sent to by email to our member lists.

Advocate and represent.

State and regions forum with Wine Grapes Australia Inc.

The last forum was on the 16th November in Adelaide.

This face to face had 37 attends including all states and 18 regions. The agenda included one sector plan reporting, Brand Australia plans with Wine Australia, DFAT and Austrade. Workshop sessions delved into national and state wine sector priorities. Ulrich attended, representing the Limestone Coast and provided a report to the COM meeting on 23rd November 2024.



Wine Australia

Strong ties with Wine Australia continue. The new regional partners contract has been signed and research projects are underway within the technical subcommittee remit. Find the [2023-24 AOP](#) online in our library.

International Judge tours during Wine Show

For the 2023 Wineshow we flew-in Madeleine Stenwreth to fill our international judge spot. She toured Padthaway, Wrattontully, Mt Benson, Robe, and Coonawarra. The Tour, leading up to judging, is an important orientation and education piece we will continue to invest in. The 2024 international judge will be announced in-line with entries open.

Water

Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan

The Limestone Coast Landscapes Board Stakeholder advisory group has spent 12 Months reviewing the WAP & have recommended to the Landscapes board to amend the plan. The amendment will be substantial & the process will begin in early 2024 – it may take 18-24 months. The evidence overwhelmingly indicates a declining trend in the water resource, and it is the view of the SAG (advisory group) that the current plan is unsustainable. The Landscapes Board has resolved to amend the LLCWAP, to sustainably manage the resource into the future. Claire Davies has been invited to continue the Stakeholder Advisory Group and be part of the amendment process. Pete Bissell also sits on the stakeholder advisory group as co-chair representing the Limestone Coast Landscapes board.

Upper Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan

The Padthaway and Tatiara Water allocations are nearing completion.

Smoke in grapes and wine – latest literature Adelaide Uni

[Impact of Smoke from Wheat, Oat, and Clover Stubble Burning on Cabernet Sauvignon Grapes and Wine \(hindawi.com\)](#)

We have several operational smoke sensors linked into the Victorian network. This is possible because of the regional partners program, run within the technical subcommittee.

Spray Drift - Mesonet Network now in Limestone Coast

This network, run by CotL has a [web-based map](#) collecting and recording weather data specifically to help farmers (and grape growers) with spray decisions. This is a free web-based service. (There is a subscription service for additional weather parameters – contact Damon Grace damon.grace@cotl.com.au for more information.

Focus and Initiate Subcommittee News

Technical Research Sub-Committee

The next meeting will be in April 2024 (see the calendar) – all stakeholder's welcome, if you are not getting this, please add yourself to the subscribers. Minutes from the 7th December meeting are online, with pre-vintage biosecurity and Sustainable Winegrowing Australia accreditation reminders being topical.

In Particular

- Australian Cabernet Symposium in Coonawarra – 1st February 2024. [Tickets.](#)
- Ag Tech Field Day at Penley – 2nd February 2024. [Tickets.](#)
- [EOI](#) for Sustainable Winegrowing Australia. (If you need accreditation pre-vintage 2024)



- Know the requirements if you are planning to crush or transport fruit from Riverland or Interstate. Contact Warren Birchmore warren@vinehealth.com.au and request the ZIP file with fact sheets and required documentations.
 - To book and use the Phylloxera Heat Shed – contact Sarah Bird 0429 430 641
- Keep inspecting your vineyards for disease and insect damage.
 - It could be phylloxera | spray drift | insects.
 - David Logan (Entomologist SARDI/Adel Uni) is working with Wine Australia to collect samples for a survey of Scale populations, enabling identification of scale across wine growing regions.
 - Contact the AWRI helpdesk, VHA or PIRSA if you need help.
- Smoke sensor network – Ian Porter will be in-region checking the network is fully operational and to show the real-time alert-application being developed.
- Soils carbon sites continue for another year. Updates will be given to our field day and workshop program.

Mixed Dozen Wine Trails

This Cross-Border initiative continues, the subcommittee is currently examining the potential to re-sign the website as the Adelaide to Melbourne Touring route to get more buy in from Western Victoria, but wine tourism bookable experiences will remain in the list of options. Funding is covered until October 2024, and we are looking at future funding arrangements from Limestone Coast Local Government, Glenelg Shire, and Southern Grampians Shire.

Wine Show 2023-2024

Planning is already underway for the [2024 wine show](#). Full Results 2023 [here](#).

ENDS.