

## Spring Bulletin 2024

Dear Limestone Coast Wine Sector Stakeholders,

Your Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council has been busy since the last grapes were harvested in the 2024 Vintage. The council has met twice, face to face in May and online in August. Our next council meeting will be in late October, following our AGM. We finished the financial year on a more favorable note than in the previous year, held a soils workshop in Padthaway (July 2024) and received 423 entries from 53 exhibitors in the wineshow.

Vintage reports were released in July. Our voluntary levy scheme remains the same (at \$2/Ha vineyard land) and will be asking for these contributions during September. The annual crush survey reports that we have 15180 Hectares of vines planted within the Limestone Coast. The 2024 Vintage produced 79,650 reported Tonnes worth \$99,405,311 in grape value. We have commissioned a study to quantify the full value (actual and perceived). Dr Jonathon Staggs from Qld University is our report writer and may be in contact with some of you for insights and interview. This study report and outcomes will be published and available by February 2025.

Our Strategic plan serves us well, and is due for review in 2025. This bulletin reports to the key result areas as set out in the headings below.

### **Communicate and Promote**

Upcoming events

- Workshop: Tools to help understand hazardous inversions. Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September in Coonawarra.
- Simonet and Sirch spring pruning workshop. Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October in Coonawarra.
- Print exhibit labels for the wine-show and deliver exhibits to Brand Laira between 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> October.
- Book your tickets for the Wine Show awards dinner. Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October, Naracoorte Town Hall, buses available.
- The council AGM will be on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 in Penola.

You can find the Wine Trails itinerary planner at <https://visitlimestonecoast.com.au/itineraries/> for a limited time before it is retired next month. Despite exploring various funding models and a stronger cross-border appeal focused on the Melbourne to Adelaide touring route, continuing without considerable investment to revive the platform was deemed unviable. Neither we nor the local councils and shires could continue funding the platform, so the decision was made to retire it. Thank you to all who have been part of this vanguard tourism project since 2018; the platform achieved the work it intended to do at the time & got us all together. There is a tangible legacy in that cross-border collaborations will remain an important tourism focus.

The Growstrong program, under the auspices of the Wine Grapes Council of SA continue to run workshops and activities on the Limestone Coast. The next workshop is the Simonet and Sirch Spring pruning Workshop.

Regular bulletins and media releases from Wine Australia, AGW, AWRI, VineHealth Australia are distributed by email to council members and wider circulation lists. Stakeholders may subscribe directly to many of these missives and encourage you to do so.

### **Advocate and represent**

Biosecurity

- To book and use the Phylloxera Heat Shed – contact Sarah Bird 0429 430 641
- VineHealth Australia has new a new CEO - Samantha Scarratt.
  - No active outbreaks or incursions now.

- We are watching this space on the National biosecurity bill.

#### Spray Drift

- Please report all spray drift incursions to PIRSA [here](#). Contact the [AWRI helpdesk](#) for diagnosing damage type.
- Be mindful of your neighbors when spraying in the vineyard.
- Get the latest information at the [workshop](#) on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, 2024.

#### Advocacy in relation to aquifer security and land access.

- Water - representation on LLC WAP Amendment Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Rare Earth Mineral Exploration focus groups.
- The ten-year moratorium on fracking finishes in 2026.

## **Focus and Initiate**

### **Sub Committee News**

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

##### Active Grants

- We have a new five-year funding agreement with the Regional Partners Program run by Wine Australia. Contract GRP2306
  - Four activities worth \$50000 are pending approval.
    - Hazardous inversion workshop, September 2024
    - Viticultural Demonstration and Training Vineyard at Naracoorte High School
    - Eucalyptus (1-8 Cineol) removal from wine – resin analysis
    - February Workshop: Managing carbon in the Vineyard.
      - We will set out a workshop program & publish it in the next newsletter.

##### Completed Grants

- Wine Australia contract GRP1706 was acquitted in July 2024.
- The Landscapes board Project 'Sustainable Winegrowing in the Greater Limestone Coast' was acquitted in May 2024.

##### Online Library

We have had 25 library item downloads in the last 6 months, this is a free up to date resource. So [visit the library](#) anytime and get your articles and e-books when you need them.

### **Mixed Dozen Wine Trails.**

See above.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Wine Show in 2024**

Thank you to the 53 exhibitors that entered 423 wines for judging on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

Exhibitors will be receiving communiques on exhibit delivery and booking into the Wine Awards dinner. Hosted by Wrattontully at the Naracoorte Town Hall on the 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.

Sean Ou, our international judge, will be touring the region before the show. Thank you to those exhibitors and regions that will help host his stay and further his insights into the Limestone Coast.

### **Events Sub-Committee**

The council has committed funds to event banners for the Good Food and Wine Show. We have about 6 regular exhibitors at the city venues in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. And this will bring them under one banner. This will be an annual commitment.

### **Forward financial projections**

A forward cash flow budget was presented to the May meeting and was accepted by vote by the council. We are a not-for-profit organization but do plan a small positive contingency in 2025.

The Secretary EO (contractor) works to a forward operating plan that reports quarterly to the executive.

Our books are in review with Galpin's, and the report will be presented at the AGM on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024. AGM notifications go out by the end of the month.

Our ordinary members (the regions) will be asked to contribute to the voluntary levy Scheme in September and October.

Wishing you the very best in this challenging growing season.

Look out for our next bulletin in late November.

Yours Sincerely,

The Exec team.

20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

[Contact Us](#)