



MEDIA RELEASE
Thursday, 16 October 2025

Naracoorte High School Collaborates with Wine Australia and Industry Leaders to Transform Vineyard

Naracoorte, South Australia

Leveraging its strong relationship with Wine Australia, the Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council has teamed up with Naracoorte High School to transform the fortunes of a vineyard on school grounds that was planted back in 1997.

The goal is to transform the school vineyard into a high-tech 'viticultural demonstration and training' vineyard, which will become a pivotal element in the delivery of coursework to students of the agricultural curriculum in the school.

Emma Phillips, Learner Agency across the Curriculum, Agriculture Key Teacher, Naracoorte High School, has been a key proponent of the collaboration.

The first Wine Australia-funded activity for the season will focus on smoke taint research on Friday October 24th.

At this informal event, opportunity will be provided for producers to attend at their leisure and speak one-on-one with Professor Ian Porter (La Trobe University) to learn about the research, development, and adoption pathways of the "Wine Industry Smoke Detectors" or WISDs developed by his team and Wine Australia.

This technology has since been commercialised within Australia by Goanna Ag.

Industry professionals will relish in the opportunity to learn directly from the inventor himself about their installation and the factors to consider in their placement.

“This event will be the first of many held at the site to showcase best-practice technical and related management practices.”

– Hans Loder, Viticulturist and Chair of the Biosecurity and Technical Subcommittee of the Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council.

“To install this technology and capture this expertise here at a well-established, non-commercial vineyard site in Wrattobully is a fantastic outcome for the region. And it would not have been possible – and the potential for future collaborations would have been severely restricted – without the support of Wine Australia.”

– Edward Cavanagh, Executive Officer, Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council.

For media who wish to attend:

Drop-ins will be welcome from 08:00 to 11:00, but not at the school itself. Coincidentally, but unrelatedly, this event will coincide exactly with celebrations for Year 12 on school grounds from 08:00 to 10:30am. Therefore, the school may have different kinds of activities to what it normally would. To avoid any confusion about the location, the vineyard site can be accessed from [MacMillan Rd, Naracoorte SA 5271 - Google Maps](#). There will be a coffee van onsite and places to park your car. Vineyard biosecurity measures will be observed. Given the morning timing of the event, a coffee van will also be on-site for those in attendance.

- End -

The Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council Incorporated (LCGWC) is a non-government and not-for-profit entity formed in 1976 to represent the interests of the wine and vine sector and regions of the Limestone Coast.

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