

Member Bites: WFA Activities August 7, 2015

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Evidence given to Parliamentary trade committee

Following a referral received from the Minister for Trade and Investment, The Hon Andrew Robb AO MP, the Joint Select Committee on Trade and Investment Growth is looking into the "Business Experience in Utilising Australia's Free Trade Agreements". WFA gave evidence to the committee on July 26. The committee was strongly supportive of the approach WFA takes to market access and interested in where the wine sector model may be applied more broadly.

Contact: Tony Battaglione – 0413014807, tony@wfa.org.au

Prosecuting the case for WET rebate reform in Canberra

With three policy processes running at present (Senate Inquiry, Tax Review and the imminent WET Rebate Discussion Paper), the return of Parliament after the winter recess next Monday, August 10, marks the beginning of a busy five months of lobbying activity for industry. WFA will be in meetings in Canberra next week and promoting the need to retain the WET rebate but with reform, no increase to the level of wine tax revenue, no reforms to wine tax arrangements that are driven by social policy objectives and retention of a differentiated tax rate for wine from other alcohol categories.

Contact: Melissa Cheesman-Faull – 08 8133 4312, melissa@wfa.org.au

Another chance to raise IR issues: Industry feedback needed

The Productivity Commission's *Workplace Relations Inquiry* released a draft report this week on its recommended changes to the IR system. The South Australian Wine Industry Association (SAWIA), in collaboration with WFA, prepared a detailed submission back in May. Now SAWIA will be presenting evidence at the commission's September hearings and preparing a second submission on industry's behalf. WFA encourages members to participate – the submission will be nationally focused. See the Productivity Commission draft [here](#). If there are specific recommendations and findings you think are problematic or undesirable, or you have any other feedback, please get in touch. SAWIA wishes to have industry feedback by COB Friday, August 21.

Contact: Henrik Wallgren – 08 8222 9270 or henrik@winesa.asn.au

How to renew WFA membership

Please don't delay ... while all members should have received their membership renewals in the mail by now, it's also easy to go online and complete the process [here by following the prompts](#). [Your membership is important to us.](#)

Wine Award entries open & feature in Wine State magazine

WineState magazine has again teamed up with Fromtheproducer and will feature FTP wines at a special wine show judging and subscriber tasting on September 4. Hurry – there's still time to get your entries in (just \$66 each). All awarded wines will be featured in the magazine. See [here](#).

Code of Conduct Management Committee update

WFA's and WGGGA's Code of Conduct Management Committee is met August 5. The committee meets regularly to improve the code and provide a framework for fair and equitable grape purchase agreements and an impartial, cost-effective dispute resolution scheme to help improve commercial relationships between wineries and wine grape growers. An annual report produced by the committee is scheduled for release in September. The committee was also delighted to recognise the leadership shown by WFA President Tony D'Alosio in signing the code in 2015.

Contact: Tony Battaglione – 0413014807, tony@wfa.org.au

Women in wine awards – got to be in it to win it!

At last... the inaugural Australian Women in Wine Awards have been launched by the Fabulous Ladies Wine Society. WFA is delighted to be supporting the program which acknowledges and rewards the work of women in the Australian wine industry and industry leaders who champion equality and fairness for all in the workplace. Please take this opportunity to put in a nomination. Categories are: Winemaker of the Year; Viticulturist of the Year; Owner/Operator of the Year; and, Workplace Champion of Change (and businesses are eligible). See details [here](#), including how you can “tap someone on the shoulder”. A virtual awards night will be held on November 17.

Contact: Alexia Deegan – 08 8133 4303, alexia@wfa.org.au

Packaging Committee

WFA's Packaging Committee met on August 4. It plays a key role in the interface between wine companies and major packaging suppliers. Particular areas of investigation at the moment include issues to do with label adhesion and light-weight bottles. After many years of fine service, Chair Tania Brown has announced she is stepping down from the role.

Contact: Tony Battaglione – 0413014807, tony@wfa.org.au

Grants for tree planting projects

Grants of \$20,000-\$100,000 (GST exclusive) are available under the National Landcare Programme's *20 Million Trees Competitive Grants Round Two* program. Applications close 2pm (Canberra time), September 16. Projects can cover private and public land, urban, peri urban and regional areas. Projects must involve re-vegetation to establish native trees and associated native under story vegetation. For project guidelines and application details, see [here](#).

Have your say on R&D

WFA's Innovation Policy Committee plays a key role in providing advice to the WFA Board on policy related to R&D issues and it met on August 6. With strong participation from industry, Wine Australia (AGWA), AWRI, WGGGA and CSIRO, this committee has committed to raising the profile of R&D and improving its applicability to commercial outcomes. As with all our committees, WFA welcomes members raising issues they wish discussed by the committee.

Contact: Tony Battaglione – 0413014807, tony@wfa.org.au

Entwine membership

For all Entwine enquiries including Entwine membership renewals, please contact the Australian Wine and Research Institute (AWRI) help desk on phone 08 8313 6600 and mention “Entwine”. Mardi Longbottom, AWRI senior viticulturist, manages the program. Contact: 08 8313 6600, helpdesk@awri.com.au

October 21: Circle the date

The Rural Media Association of South Australia is a non-political, not-for-profit organisation running since 1970 as a forum to discuss topical issues with agricultural / rural journalists, government ministers and others passionate about primary industries and rural Australia. WFA will be addressing the October 21 lunch meeting in Adelaide. Details [here](#) soon.

Contact: Alexia Deegan – 08 8133 4303, alexia@wfa.org.au

Are you a responsible winery?

The WFA Responsible Winery Initiative outlines some simple steps wine businesses can take to help ensure visitors and staff are enjoying their wine experiences responsibly, as well as their advertising and marketing activities. There's a handy nine-point plan on the WFA website [here](#) which lists some simple but responsible steps to help people enjoy their tasting experience as well as prepare staff to play their part.

Calling Young Victorian producers: scholarships are open

The Victorian Government is calling for *Young Farmer Scholarship Program* applicants. There are 10-15 bursaries up to \$5,000 available, with the funding for go into on-farm training or professional development. Applications close August 21. See [here](#) for details.

Contact: Young Farmer Coordinator – 03 5833 5254, youngfarmer.coordinator@ecodev.voc.gov.au

Join Twitter campaign

Wine Australia (AGWA) has launched a Twitter campaign to help promote wineries on the march overseas. All you have to do is follow @wine_australia on Twitter and tweet your travels and experiences using the #auswinetour hashtag. Importantly, get your people to get in touch with Wine Australia so they can also help where ever they can when you are in-country.

Are you a good 'wine communicator'?

Let's face it, we need to tell people our good wine stories and Wine Communicators of Australia is on the hunt for this year's nominees in its annual Wine Communicator of the Year Awards recognised people with talent for writing, web design, digital communication or education in the wine industry is worthy of recognition. See [here](#) for details and [here](#) for upcoming Wine Communicator events near you, including webinars.

Are there issues you need an update on? Email wfa@wfa.org.au or contact staff above.

Upcoming events

August 10: Finlaysons 23rd Wine Roadshow – Hunter Valley ([details](#))

August 11: Finlaysons 23rd Wine Roadshow – Canberra District ([details](#))

August 12: Finlaysons 23rd Wine Roadshow – Rutherglen ([details](#))

August 12: Drinks Association breakfast with NAB Global Head of Research Peter Jolly ([details](#))

August 13: Finlaysons 23rd Wine Roadshow – Mornington Peninsula ([details](#))

August 14: Finlaysons 23rd Wine Roadshow – Launceston ([details](#))

August 18: Finlaysons 23rd Wine Roadshow – Barossa Valley ([details](#))

August 18: Free interactive Workshop on managing international freight costs conducted by the Export Council of Australia – Perth ([details](#))

August 19: Free interactive Workshop on managing international freight costs conducted by the Export Council of Australia – Adelaide ([details](#))

August 19: Finlaysons 23rd Wine Roadshow – McLaren Vale ([details](#))

August 21: Finlaysons 23rd Wine Roadshow – Coonawarra ([details](#))

October 21: WFA to address the Rural Media Association of South Australia ([bookings](#))

July 23-28, 2016: Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference & Trade Exhibition:

<http://www.awitc.com.au/> & <http://www.awite.com.au/>