

Member Bites: WFA Activities July 9, 2015

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AGWA / Wine Australia Chair confirmed, interim Board extended

Coinciding with the recent annual WFA cocktail event at Parliament House was the announcement by Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce of the appointment of Brian Walsh to continue as Chair of the AGWA Board for the next two years. The Minister also confirmed a three-month extension of the interim AWGA Board while the selection process continues for a permanent Board. See [here](#).

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

National *Vintage Report* out on July 17

WFA will release the annual *Vintage Report* at the upcoming SA Winegrape Growers Summit. Last year's *Vintage Report* highlighted the need for structural adjustment to grow demand for wine and recapture share and margin. See a summary of the Federation's recovery plan [here](#). There's still time to register for the SA Winegrape Growers Summit at Adelaide Oval on Friday, July 17. Along with WFA, speakers include Rabobank's Marc Soccio, University of Adelaide's Professor Kym Anderson AO as well as well-known business commentator Michael Pascoe. See www.wgcsa.com.au for details or call 08 8351 4378.

Facilitation service to help resolve ATO disputes

The Australian Tax Office (ATO) has an in-house facilitation service to help resolve less complex disputes before they escalate. The ATO says the service would be of interest to small businesses and their tax agents. It says the aim is to reach a breakthrough point with people on all sides working through an issue and the in-house ATO facilitators are not connected to the audit or objection areas. For more see [here](#).

Membership renewal time

It's WFA membership renewal time. All members should have received their membership renewals in the mail. It's also easy just to go online and complete the process simply by going [here and following the prompts](#).

Contact: Yvonne McClaren – 08 8133 4314, yvonne@wfa.org.au

WET Rebate reform agenda continues

WFA was in Canberra again for the final sitting fortnight before the six week winter recess to continue to prosecute the case for WET rebate reform. Engagement with politicians with wine regions in their electorates, and dialogue with key departments and ministerial offices continues. The government's WET Rebate Discussion Paper is due for release in July and this will give renewed focus to the calls for reform.

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

Finlaysons Wine Roadshow

Finlaysons advises its XXIII Roadshow kicks off later this month. This series is titled *Decision Time! Brining an investor in or buying or selling a wine business* and will be held in Swan Valley, Margaret River, Hunter Valley, Canberra District, Rutherglen, Mornington Peninsula, Launceston, Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale and

Coonawarra from July 30 to August 21. WFA members receive a discounted rate (\$93.50 instead of \$137.50). Register [here](#).

Agribusiness focus for new Commissioner

The Australian Government has announced \$11.4 million to establish an Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Commissioner dedicated to agriculture and to give the national body capacity to focus on supply chain issues. "These new resources will enable the ACCC staff to attend the saleyards or visit farmers to see the market in action and gather necessary evidence," explained Minister Barnaby Joyce. See the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper [here](#).

Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper is out

The Australian Government has released its Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper. The new Ag Cmr (see above) is part of the package, along with a pilot program aimed at improving knowledge and understanding about cooperatives, collective bargaining and innovative business models. See [here](#) to view the report and related documentation.

Are there issues you need an update on? Email wfa@wfa.org.au

2. Upcoming events

July 14: AWRI Grape & Wine Roadshow Rutherglen Seminar ([details](#))

July 14-16, 2015: National Wine Industry Supplier Trade Show <http://www.winetechnology.com.au/>

July 15: AWRI Grape & Wine Roadshow Bendigo Seminar ([details](#))

July 14-16, 2015: National Wine Industry Supplier Trade Show, Adelaide: <http://www.winetechnology.com.au/>

July 14: AWRI Grape & Wine Roadshow Rutherglen Seminar ([details](#))

July 15: AWRI Grape & Wine Roadshow Bendigo Seminar ([details](#))

July 23-24: ASVO "Vineyard Longevity: maintaining the asset" seminar, [Mildura](#).

July 24: Free interactive Workshop on managing international freight costs conducted by the Export Council of Australia – Melbourne ([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](#))

July 23-28, 2016: Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference & Trade Exhibition: <http://www.awitc.com.au/> & <http://www.awite.com.au/>

3. Media Update & Links

Promotional power of the cellar door has vintage appeal (UniSA, July 7)

Cellar doors have an important role to play in influencing consumer purchases with 54% buying an average of 9.1 bottles in a world first Australian study. More than 3,300 visitors to 79 cellar doors across Australia were recorded in the research conducted by University of South Australia and Charles Sturt University, funded by Wine Australia. Read more [here](#).

SA skeptical of state changes to cellar door (ABC Rural, July 7)

Meanwhile, ABC reports a state govt proposal includes scrapping the existing \$2.7M cellar door liquor subsidy scheme with a \$1.8M industry fund. SA and Victoria are currently the only states still administering such a scheme, with WA abolishing its cellar door subsidy in May without a replacement program. Audio link [here](#).

Noosa Food & Wine Festival and Berardo's collapse leaves creditors stranded (The Australian, July 7)

The Australian reports the future of this event remains under a cloud following the collapse of the company that owns it and Berardo's Restaurant. The Noosa Food & Wine Events Pty Ltd has gone into voluntary administration, with many queuing for a share of the \$801,195.38 owed to unsecured creditors. [Story](#).

AGWA / Wine Australia five-year plan (various, July)

AGWA – which will return to using Wine Australia as its brand name has released its five-year strategic plan which prioritises increasing demand and premium paid for Australian wine and increasing Australian wine's global competitiveness as its priorities. The plan is available [here](#).

Taking middleman out of wine sales (ABC, June 30)

Cutting out the middle man remains *From the Producer's* goal for selling wine. See report [here](#).