

Member Bites: WFA Activities Friday, September 25, 2015

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WFA's AGM Nov 10

The Annual General Meeting of the Winemakers' Federation of Australia will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide, starting at 4.15pm. A Notice of Meeting will be sent to all members shortly.

Ministerial appointments

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has reshuffled his Cabinet and there are some new faces of direct relevance to the wine industry. Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, from Remark in South Australia, has been appointed Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources. The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP; representing the federal seat of Higgins in inner metropolitan Victoria, is our new Assistant Treasurer and new Minister for Small Business. She has also joined Cabinet. The Hon Scott Morrison MP, representing the inner metropolitan seat of Cook in New South Wales, is the new Treasurer and will have responsibility for managing the broader tax reform process and White Paper. The Hon Christopher Pyne MP from South Australia is the new Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science. He has carriage on issues such as country-of-origin labelling. In coming weeks, WFA will be meeting with the new ministers and their advisers to brief them on our industry and the policy issues of shared relevance.

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

Your membership is important

Membership of WFA for the 2015/16 is currently open and if you haven't renewed you would have received a reminder recently in the post together with the necessary membership forms and a letter urging your support. It's important that you fill out the application/renewal form and return it to us as soon as possible as we near the October 1 end of grace period. We encourage you to please maintain your membership and continue your support of your national industry association. The WFA AGM will be held in November and it's important that you ensure you are a current financial member of WFA to retain your vote and have your say. Membership can also be easily renewed online, including credit card payment of membership levies.

Contact: Jane Zadow – 08 81334302, jane.zadow@wfa.org.au

Market access work progresses

The Wine Industry Market Access Group met in Canberra this week. This forum is co-chaired by WFA and enables industry to directly raise issues on market access with government. Key areas of discussion this week included new regulatory requirements in Thailand, progress on Free Trade agreements and developments on harmonising Maximum Residue Levels for agrichemicals and additives. Please get in touch with WFA if you have any market access issues.

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

Invitation to Rural Media gathering Oct 28

The Rural Media Association of South Australia is a non-political, not-for-profit organisation running since the 1970s to provide a forum to discuss topical issues with agricultural and rural journalists, government ministers and others passionate about primary industries and rural Australia. WFA CEO Paul Evans will be addressing the October 28 meeting at the Royal Showgrounds – all warmly invited to attend. See [here](#) for booking and payment details.

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

Trade growth opportunities

WFA has provided a submission to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (FADT) References Committee inquiry into Australia's relationship with Mexico. It is due to report by December 3, 2015. While Mexico is not a major market for the Australian wine sector at this time, we already enjoy a productive and collaborative relationship between our respective industries. This is exemplified through collaboration within APEC and the World Wine Trade Group. We believe there are growth opportunities within Mexico and scope for enhanced relations, including the potential for increased bilateral engagement and also through jointly held memberships of groups such as WWTG, APEC, and the OECD.

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

What really makes Australian wine drinkers tick?

Wine Intelligence is offering WFA members two-for-one tickets to attend an upcoming interactive workshop on the latest research into Australian wine drinkers and insights into the latest market dynamics, shopper behavior and sparkling wine category. Topics to be covered include how brand hierarchy supports trading-up, how to make wine recommendations work for your brand and what motivates Australian wine drinkers in-store. Tickets are (2x for price of 1) \$190 (excl GST). Sessions: Sydney, 9am-12pm, October 13, at The Porter, 1 O'Connell St, City, and in Melbourne, 12.30-3pm, October 14, at The Depot, Donkey Wheel House, 673 Bourke St, City. See [here](#) for bookings and more details.

Contact: Wine Intelligence - eleanor@wineintelligence.com

Nominate NOW!!!

Time is running out to nominate for the inaugural Fabulous Ladies' Wine Society *Women in Wine Awards*. WFA is supporting the initiative and we encourage members to have a go – either put your name forward or encourage someone you know to nominate. Award winners will be publicly recognised and that's a great way to shine a light on personal and professional achievements as well light up our industry. But don't delay - nominations close October 6. Award categories are: Winemaker of the Year; Viticulturist of the Year; Owner/Operator of the Year, and; Workplace Champion of Change (open to women & men). See full details [here](#). Contact: Alexia Deegan – 08 8133 4303, alexia@wfa.org.au

Opportunity to gain ISO standards

An opportunity has arisen for up to 4 South Australian wine businesses to pursue their ISO certification under a state government initiative administered by Primary Industries and Regions SA (see [here](#)). Businesses taking part will be able to obtain part or all of the following standards: ISO 9001 – quality; ISO 22000 and HACCP – food safety; ISO 14001 – environmental; AS/NZS 4801 – safety. Firm JBL Consulting & certification company TQCSI are also working on an association-scale model and are keen to speak with members of our sector about the project, as well as the grant funding opportunity. Grant applications close very soon on October 15. Contact Dr Peter Lauer directly on email peter@jbl.com.au or 08 8347 2933.

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

Australian Wine Industry Code of Conduct

The Australian Wine Industry Code of Conduct's 2015 Annual Report will be published very shortly. The code has been updated over the past year to extend the time allowable to resolve disputes from 14 to 60 days, giving businesses a more manageable timeframe in which to resolve issues especially during the busy harvest period. During the year, there were three dispute enquiries and more wine businesses signed up to the free code. While it's not a binding legal document, the code outlines the good will of parties to be fair in their business dealings. See [here](#) for a list of companies already signed on and how to get involved.

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

WET Rebate Discussion Paper

The Consultative Group appointed by the Australian Government to assist in the development of reform to the WET rebate had its first meeting in Canberra. The Treasury is expected to work up options for Cabinet's consideration and this will reflect the Consultative Group's input. What is yet to be confirmed at the time of writing is which Minister will have carriage for the policy developments and passage of recommendations through Cabinet. In the Abbott Government it was Assistant Treasurer the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP. The new Assistant Treasurer is the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP from Victoria.

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

ASVO Awards – only 2 weeks left!

There's just two weeks left to nominate for the 4th annual Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology's (ASVO) Awards for Excellence. Open to viticulturists and winemakers in Australia, the awards promote excellence and share good practice. Winners will be announced during an award presentation evening at Carrick Hill on Thursday, November 19. The award categories are: Viticulturist of the Year; Winemaker of the Year; Best Viticultural Paper of the Year; Best Oenology Paper of the Year; and AWAC Scholarship. Nominations close Friday, September 25, 5pm CST. See [here](#) for full details.

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

Supplier of the Year Awards – Entries close Sept 25

Awards are still open – just – for the Wine Industry Suppliers Australia Inc's (WISA's) 9th annual awards which will be presented at its black-tie fundraiser on October 22 in Adelaide. Funds raised through the night's silent auction go to the Leukaemia Foundation. The coveted awards recognise excellence in supply and manufacturing in the Australian Grape and Wine Industry and categories are: Supplier of the Year; the Innovation Award; Environment & Sustainability Award; Export Award, and; Chairman's Industry Engagement Award. See full details [here](#).

Finlaysons Roadshow news

This year's Wine Roadshow XXIII seminar series was completed at the end of August and was very successful, with much good feedback and interesting discussion. The topic this year was "How to buy or sell a wine business or take in an investor". As we expected, it was quite clear a lot of Australian wine industry assets are on the market (either formally or informally). However, there are also people looking to expand and, to that end, wanting to take in an investor/partner. Unsurprisingly, tax was a topic of much discussion again. There were also a lot of questions about family business succession planning. We have been doing a lot of work in this area over the last few years. There was clearly a demand for more information on this topic and we are considering dedicating Wine Roadshow XXIV, next year, to the subject.

Contact: Will Taylor 08 8235 7421, will.taylor@finlaysons.com.au

New Vinehealth Australia hits road

The organisation responsible for protecting South Australian vineyards from pest and disease since 1899 has a new identity. The former Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia is now Vinehealth Australia, with a five-year plan to collaborate nationally which it needs to do to help maintain SA's phylloxera-free status as well as protect against other disease and pest risks. See [here](#). Contact: Alan Nankivell – alan@vinehealth.com.au

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

2. Upcoming events

September 25: Australian Grape and Wine Industry Senate Public Hearing, Launceston

October 7: Opportunities in a new climate Padthaway Workshop. See [here](#).

October 15: Opportunities in a new climate Riverland Workshop. See [here](#).

October 21: Opportunities in a new climate KI (Southern Fleurieu) Workshop. See [here](#).

October 28: WFA to address the Rural Media Association of South Australia ([bookings](#))

October 28: AWRI Adapting to Difficult Vintages Mudgee Workshop. See [here](#).

October 28: AWRI Adapting to Difficult Vintages Orange Workshop. See [here](#).

October 30: AWRI Adapting to Difficult Vintages Canberra Workshop. See [here](#).

November AGM (Sarah)

November 19: Earlier, Shorter, Hotter: Managing Compressed Vintages ASVO Adelaide [Seminar](#)

November 20: Crush 2015 Grape and Wine Science Symposium ([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

Wine industry calls for urgent tax reform (The Australian, Weekly Times, Sept 25)

The Australia reports from the first day of the Senate inquiry in Adelaide, with grape growers outlining how they would be forced to abandon their vineyards before next vintage without urgent reform to the WET rebate.

Organisations and companies highlighted the problems and the pressures involved. Full story [here](#).

Winemakers appear at Senate Inquiry and back WET rebate reform (TheShout, Sept 25)

Overview of evidence presented so far to the Inquiry including presentations by Accolade Wines, Angove Family Winemakers and the Yalumba Wine Company. Read full story [here](#).

Senate inquiry into wine sector's woes hears a long list of problems but few solutions (ABC, Sept 25)

The Senator in charge of the inquiry Glen Sterle (ALP) says many issues raised so far in the inquiry echo problems a decade ago, but there's no quick fix. With the exception of Seppeltsfield Wine managing director Warren Randall, there was a unified call for adoption of the Winemakers' Federation of Australia's (WFA) suggested Wine Equalisation Tax (WET) rebate reforms. Audio snippet from Senator Sterle is [here](#), along with full article.

Reshuffle comes up roses for Ruston (Stock Journal, Sept 24)

SA Liberal Senator Anne Ruston is the new Assistant Ag & Water Minister and she says her focus will be on delivering strong policy. Read more [here](#).