



Media release

Thursday 14 November 2019

Graduates to help lead the Australian grape and wine sector

Fifteen emerging leaders from across the Australian grape and wine community today (Thursday 14 November 2019) graduated from the intensive five-month leadership development program Future Leaders 2019 ready to make their contribution as confident, committed wine sector professionals.

Future Leaders 2019 has taken the participants on a journey to learn new skills and refine existing ones, develop networks and different ways of thinking, and build a solid foundation of knowledge and enthusiasm to contribute to the future of the grape and wine community.

The Future Leaders program is coordinated and funded by Wine Australia and supported by Australian Grape & Wine. Today's graduates join more than 100 alumni of the 13-year program.

Wine Australia Chief Executive Officer Andreas Clark said, 'This year's Future Leaders embraced the personal and professional challenges the program presented and have shown a commitment to the success of our sector. I'm delighted that the program has helped them to develop the skills, networks and confidence to positively influence the future of our entire community.'

Australian Grape & Wine Chief Executive Tony Battaglione said, 'People are the most important asset our sector possesses. We have backed this program from the beginning and its success is evident in the professional progression of its graduates and the growth in their role as thought leaders in the sector.'

The graduates of Future Leaders 2019 come from all parts of the grape and wine value chain – from viticulture and winemaking to marketing, sales and export, business investment and market development, managers, directors, event management, sommeliers and research.

Future Leader Cath Kidman from Treasury Wine Estates said, 'I learnt many amazing concepts, some of which challenged me and others that left a lasting imprint. The opportunity to learn from talented experts and interact with coaches and past alumni has been so rewarding. I feel our crew entered as individuals on a quest and are leaving as friends and importantly allies as we navigate our future paths. The program has challenged me and shaped me to be an inspired future leader very much upskilled, ready and excited for the future of the wine sector and my role within it.'

Fellow Future Leaders graduate Associate Professor Armando Maria Corsi from the University of South Australia said, 'Put simply, a life-changing experience. The Future Leaders sessions radically changed my approach to tackle problems and gave me the chance to review how to set up personal and professional life goals. Plus, I had the opportunity to meet some pretty spectacular human beings along the way, who are motivated by the very same goal: to make our wine sector better.'

**Wine
Australia**



The Future Leaders 2019 are:

- Andy Clarke The Dirt Dude Ag Advisor (Bendigo)
- Armando Maria Corsi University of South Australia, Ehrenberg-Bass Institute for Marketing Science (Adelaide)
- Carrah Lymer Emerge Creative Agency (Griffith)
- Catherine Kidman Treasury Wine Estates (Coonawarra)
- Chris Thomas Dowie Doole (McLaren Vale)
- Dylan McMahon Seville Estate (Yarra Valley)
- Hayley Purbrick Tahbilk (Nagambie)
- Jessica Chrcek Moothi Estate (Mudgee)
- Kavita Faiella Shaw and Smith (Adelaide Hills)
- Keira O'Brien Tasmanian Vintners (Hobart)
- Marco Gjergja Kooyong Wines Port Phillip Estate (Mornington Peninsula)
- Mark Fogarty Fogarty Wine Group (Western Australia)
- Matthew Bahen DeBortoli Wines (Yarra Valley and Hunter Valley)
- Nadja Wallington Philip Shaw Wines (Orange)
- Tom Donegan Voyager Estate (Margaret River).

Future Leaders is designed and delivered by [Pragmatic Thinking](#), using contemporary leadership thought practices grounded in behavioural science and neuro science. Wine Australia also welcomed [Thomas Elder Consulting](#) as inaugural sponsor of the program in 2019, which shared its knowledge and expertise as well as enhancing the experience for the Future Leaders.

Continuing a tradition set in the Future Leaders 2017 program, the 2019 program participants were asked to put pen to paper and express their thoughts on pressing issues for them, their business or the broader sector, which has been compiled into a book *Thought Leadership Volume 2*.

Wine Australia invests in the Future Leaders program as part of its policy of investing in sector leadership. In the same vein, it supports the Nuffield Australia program, travel bursaries and post-graduate scholarships.

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Image of the Future Leaders 2019 is attached

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About Future Leaders

Future Leaders is a professional and personal development program that encourages innovative, collaborative and change-making behaviours in the Australian wine sector. It encourages those who have demonstrated leadership potential to dare to ask 'Why' and 'What if...?'

Future Leaders creates a network of confident, committed individuals who will 'be next' to contribute to the future success of the Australian grape and wine community.

Future Leaders is funded by Wine Australia and supported by Australia's major wine sector body Australian Grape and Wine. Wine Australia gratefully acknowledges the support of Elders, a leading Australian agribusiness service provider, as a key supporter and sponsorship partner for Future Leaders 2019 and Longview Vineyard for hosting The Art of Leadership session in regional South Australia. Visit www.winefutureleaders.com.

About Wine Australia

Wine Australia supports a competitive wine sector by investing in research, development and extension (RD&E), growing domestic and international markets, protecting the reputation of Australian wine and administering the Export and Regional Wine Support Package.

Wine Australia is an Australian Commonwealth Government statutory authority, established under the *Wine Australia Act 2013*, and funded by grape growers and winemakers through levies and user-pays charges and the Australian Government, which provides matching funding for RD&E investments.

About Australian Grape and Wine Inc

Australian Grape and Wine Inc is the national association of grape and wine producers. We address issues across the supply-chain that impact on the profitability and sustainability of the sector. We lead and advocate public policy that enhances the ability to responsibly produce, promote and enjoy Australian wine in moderation.

Australian Grape & Wine is a passionate supporter of the development of our people and champions diversity & equality in all aspects of the Australian wine sector.