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MEDIA STATEMENT

It's time to celebrate our women in wine

The Winemakers' Federation of Australia has joined with the Fabulous Ladies Wine Society to urge people across the country to enter the *Women in Wine Awards*.

Entries close midnight on Tuesday, October 6, and winners will be announced on November 17. More than 100 women have already been nominated.

"The Federation is delighted to be supporting these awards," Federation Chief Executive Paul Evans said.

"Women are a big part of driving our industry forward in innovation, marketing and every other aspect of the wine supply chain so it's time to turn the spotlight on their many achievements and I applaud The Fabulous Ladies' Wine Society and the Members of the Board of the Australian Women in Wine Awards for running this awards program," he said.

"Whether you grow grapes, make wine, own or operate a wine-related business, or you are a bit of a champion in the workplace, there's still time to put your name forward or encourage someone else to nominate and receive some well-deserved public recognition."

The awards are the brainchild of Jane Thomson, founder of The Fabulous Ladies' Wine Society, and this is the award program's inaugural year.

Ms Thomson said there was a positive buzz around the awards which has superseded expectations.

"We can't just ride the wave of good feeling for ever – there are less than two weeks left before entries close so we want to do everything in our power to ensure as many fabulous women in wine and their champions enter," she said.

"Sometimes the most talented and hardworking people are the last ones to put themselves forward so if you know a fabulous lady of Australian wine who deserves recognition, tap her on the shoulder and encourage her to apply."

This year's categories are:

- Winemaker of the Year
- Viticulturist of the Year
- Owner/Operator of the Year
- Workplace Champion of Change

Media Contacts: Jane Thomson (FLWS) – 0413 682 37; Alexia Deegan (WFA) – 0400 767 490,.