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MEDIA RELEASE

2009 Future Leaders Announced

The Australian wine sector today announced the selection of the 2009 participants for the *Future Leaders – Succession for the Australian Wine Sector* leadership and development program.

The Future Leaders program is designed to develop leadership and collaboration talents amongst the participants that will safeguard and foster the future business environment of the wine sector, while also giving participants new capabilities for their individual roles.

"I am very pleased to announce that we have selected 15 highly qualified people to participate in the 2009 program who have come from a variety of backgrounds and experience across the wine sector," said Stephen Strachan, Chief Executive of the Winemakers' Federation of Australia.

"Sixty-seven applications were received from around the country and the high calibre of the applicants demonstrates the depth of talent we have in the industry."

The 2007 and 2008 programs have proven to be very successful with a number of the graduates going on to take up leadership roles in the industry at regional, state and national levels.

"It is vital that the Australian wine industry develop and mentor the next generation. We must ensure that the strong leadership and knowledge that we have in the industry today is passed onto the leaders of tomorrow," Mr Strachan said.

In 2009 the Future Leaders program will be run for the first time by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF), a not-for-profit organisation which develops and delivers high quality learning, support and engagement opportunities for industry and community leaders.

The Future Leaders program is a joint initiative of the Winemakers' Federation of Australia, the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation, the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation and Wine Grape Growers Australia, with the program's founding partner, *WBM – Australia's Wine Business Magazine*.

This year, six scholarships were awarded to participants including:

- Three viticulture scholarships through Wine Grape Growers' Australia and funded by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry;
- A new scholarship, 'The Trevor Drayton Scholarship', in honour of the late Trevor Drayton, a serving Board member of the Winemakers' Federation of Australia at the time of his death; and
- Two additional scholarships awarded by the Winemakers' Federation of Australia.

The program will commence in May 2009 and will run for six months. Further information on the Future Leaders program can be found at www.wfa.org.au.

A list of the successful applicants is attached.

For media inquiries:

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Future Leaders – Succession for the Australian Wine Sector

2009 Program Participants

Participant	Role	Company	State
Toby Bekkers	General Manager	Paxton Wines	SA
Rob Bramley	Principal Research Scientist	CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems	SA
Bryan Currie	Chief Winemaker	Westend Estate	NSW
Michael De Iuliis	Winemaker and Manager	De Iuliis Wines	NSW
Nicole Esdaile	Chief Winemaker	Rutherglen Estates	VIC
Sophie Field	Sales Operations Manager	Lion Nathan Wine	NSW
Adrian Hoffmann	Grapegrower / owner	Dimchurch Vineyards Pty Ltd	SA
Daniel Johnson	General Manager – Business Development	Australian Wine Research Institute	SA
Nicola McConnell	GM Employee and Customer Communications	Foster's Group	VIC
Scott McWilliam	Winemaker, Winery Manager and Family Spokesperson	McWilliam's Wines Pty Ltd	NSW
Inca-Claire Pearce	Research and Development Manager	Orlando Wines	SA
Ashley Ratcliff	Agribusiness / Technical Manager	Yalumba Wine Company	SA
Edward Swift	Co-Owner of Printhies Wines	Printhie Wines	NSW
Thomas Ward	Vineyard Manager / Owner / Winemaker	Swinging Bridge Estate	NSW
Brad Wehr	Creator / Owner / CEO	Wine by Brad / Mantra Wines	WA