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MEDIA RELEASE

Future Leaders Registrations Open

Registrations are now open for the new intake of the groundbreaking *Future Leaders – Succession for the Australian Wine Sector* leadership and development program.

The program is designed to develop leadership and collaboration talents for the participants that will benefit the future business environment of the wine sector, while also giving participants a new insight into the management of their individual roles.

This year the program has a new provider, in the form of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF). The ARLF is a not-for-profit organisation which develops and delivers high-quality learning, support and engagement opportunities for industry and community leaders.

WFA Chief Executive, Stephen Strachan, commented, "We're very excited to announce the ARLF's involvement in the new *Future Leaders* program, and we are looking forward to a successful working relationship with them going forward, continuing excellent outcomes from the program into the future."

"The Australian wine industry has always enjoyed very strong leadership from key industry figures, but as part of the succession plan for the sector as a whole we must focus on transferring this knowledge and experience on to the next generation. This is the core aim of the *Future Leaders* and we are committed to investing in this program."

Future Leaders has run twice since 2006, with 15 extremely capable participants completing each intake. Graduates are encouraged to take on roles within industry organisations and committees at regional, state and national levels.

This innovative 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*.

Applications close on 31 October 2008. The successful applicants will be announced in December, and the program is expected to commence in May 2009. Application forms and program information can be downloaded from the WFA website at www.wfa.org.au

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