

Dear Members,

To keep you up to date on the latest information, we thought it necessary to provide this information separately while many parts have been previously advised in correspondence.

Organisational Structure

Independent Chair

The Coonawarra Vignerons is now in its fifth year of operation. During this timeframe we have had the capable services of two independent chairs in Mark Edwards, and Peter DeGaris.

The roles of the two chairs have been quite different, due to the Association's maturity and needs at the respective time.

At the most recent Board Meeting held on 21 November 2017, the Board decided not to replace the Independent Chair role based on the following reasons:

1. The first is that we have now gone through the amalgamation process that joined the Grape Growers and Vignerons' Association together; and
2. The second we feel that the organisation is at a stage of maturity that on a needs basis the services of an independent person will be sought.

An example of when we will draw on these services is when there is a member or staff conflict. An independent person will be sought to ensure independence in the dispute resolution process.

Events and Marketing Officer

Heidi Eldridge officially returned from her six month maternity leave on Tuesday 6 February 2018. We welcome Heidi back to the organisation working on a flexible 3 days per week, where due to differing event demands some weeks Heidi may work more days and other weeks less. We draw your attention and awareness to respect Heidi's non-contact days which will be shared in the weekly correspondence.

Heidi will work in the previously created role of *Event and Marketing Officer*. Heidi will draw on her experience and work with Olivia to manage the events as well as website updates and driving our social media content.

On behalf of the Coonawarra Vignerons we also take this opportunity to thank Emma Rasheed for her input and involvement in establishing the refreshed website and managing the changes to improve the websites functionality. Emma stepped in at a transitional time for the Coonawarra Vignerons and has also been covering social media and the events calendar updates over the past 6 months supporting event roll out. Emma will continue to support Coonawarra Vignerons working with the Walking Trail group on the walking trail online presence and assisting the office with technical issues as they arise in the future.

We hope that members are becoming more familiar with how to get the most out of the website and should you have questions or challenges in utilising the website please reach out to Heidi or Olivia to assist you.

South Australian Wine Grape Growers Council

The Coonawarra Vignerons Association has been asked to supply a representative for this organisation, Pete was the previous delegate for nine years and resigned due to governance issues that were considered to be undermining the organisation. More recently Pete is aware that they are proposing to change the levee payable by any grape grower who sells fruit from \$1 per tonne to .2 % of the sale price of the fruit sold; this could increase cool climate contributions to around \$7 per tonne.

Until a regional presentation on the levee increase has been undertaken Pete is reluctant to recommend that we nominate a representative.

If you are interested in being the Coonawarra endorsed representative please reach out to Pete, or Olivia to express your interest.

Water Allocation Plan Update

As you may have seen in the media, any opportunity that we have had to talk about the importance of water in the region has been exercised as we are heading towards the second cut of four cuts totalling 15%.

When these cuts were proposed we felt that they were warranted, but with two above average winters and recovery in water tables, we have been lobbying both sides of politics to get the cuts put on hold until the need to continue the cuts is displayed.

In short, every time one of the cuts occur, Coonawarra region loses \$2 million worth of water, disregarding the potential loss of production.

Unconventional Gas Extraction

The organisation's position on this issue is on our website and remains unchanged as we are not aware that any fracking has been proposed by Beach Energy.

Grants Update

Wine Australia ERSWP Grants – Close 2 March 2018

We are working with the Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council to form an application for Limestone Coast Wine Trails Funding. This will see us work with up to 12 stakeholders to build on our experiences and create an interactive platform for visitors focusing on international to visit our region.

We are also submitting to renew our Event funding for Cabernet Celebrations over 3 years.

We are awaiting feedback on our international strategy grant application submitted in November and tracking well on committed grants secured from SAWIDS and Project 250 respectively for the preparation of digital content that began rolling out last week with five videos being released to Youtube.

Digital Content

Updates will be provided on an ongoing basis to keep you informed and for you to share our content. We are pleased to report that we have five videos on our Youtube channel. The video link, which shall enable you to view the YouTube videos, under the new Coonawarra Vignerons channel is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaGSUJgFpXQf3gHFTstcpA>

- Time is Luxury
- Time for Family
- Now is the Time
- Land before Time
- Back in time

Please take a look and share the content widely.

Need more information?

Do you need more information on services available or a question on an industry issue? Please reach out to enquiries@coonawarra.org.