

CGWI BOARD Meeting Minutes		
Thursday 4 February 2021		8.30am
		Zoom
Attendees	Peter Balnaves (PB) – President & Chair, Pete Weinberg (PW), Bruce Redman (BR) – Treasurer, Heidi Eldridge (HE), Sally Macleod (SM), John Innes (JI), Ben Harris (BH), Tony Gleeson (TG)	
Apologies	Paul Gordon (PG), Luke Tocaciu (LT)	
Minutes	Heidi Eldridge (HE) Note PMN = Post Meeting Note	

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The emailed minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2020 were moved by SM and seconded by JI as a true and accurate record. All in favour.

3. Outstanding Actions from previous minutes

Date	Action Items	Person	Deadline	Status
02.5.19 28.08.19	3.1 Board to consider Contributors / Icons Increased role in activities moving forward. Invites to be sent to patrons for upcoming event involvement. Refer to minutes prior to Sept. 24/9	Board Member OJ HE		Intention maintain the presence acknowledging the PR element of sharing more about the stories behind our patrons.
25.6.20 23.7.20 21/10/20	3.2 Storage of Wine PB Proposed National Trust Bond Store Building deemed suitable option by Board Members. PB Moved. All in favour. National Trust applying for Grant to get floor laid & electricity to the building. Rental fee minimal ca.\$100 per month. Museum wines to remain at Zema Estate. Combination of Mesh lined walls for individual bottle storage, and shelves (boxes) to be installed. Conflict raised – Pete Balnaves President of both organisations. Letter to be written to PB from CV. HE to write to submit.	PB PB HE	Wine stored currently at Zema to be moved after vintage 2020.	Membership wines to remain at CV office until such time National Trust building refurb is complete. Letter of intent to rent Building send to National Trust. NT Grant Received for refirb.
1.08.19	3.3 Branding Document Create a Branding Document how to guide for members knowledge of COONAWARRA \.	OJ	ON HOLD	Put on hold. HE to follow up with ON.
21/10/20 24/9/20 4/2/2021	3.4 Wattle Range Council Actions PB to request specs of proposed tables and chairs for siding land. Board made aware of resignation of Steve Chapel. Airstrip. CV to approach WRC to withdraw Rates. Place Maker Signage project (funded by WRC) nearing completion. Signs require to be installed by property owners. MR to be supplied to WRC to provide update. Further update to be shared with members once signage has been erected, with map of locations.	PB PB BR PB+HE	Feb 2021 Feb 2021	CV to continue to be the liaising partner for region PB to talk to Peter Halten Application for rate exemption submitted by BR \$15K funding has been received. Project report and imagery to to be supplied to WRC
27.06.19	3.5 Museum Wines. BR moved the motion to sell the museum wines seconded by LT. Review the barrel series wines and agree approach. Refer to minutes prior to Sept. 24/9 for more detail Action to be reviewed in January 2021.	OJ J& BR	January 2021	ON HOLD
26.09.19 28/8/20	3.6 CV Weather Station Refer to minutes prior to Sept. 24/9 for more detail Board supportive to modernising weather data approach. Weather Station access will remain accessible to CV members via the member page on coonawarra.org until alternative method found. Weather station connected to water level monitor. PMN: Zoom seminar “Weather impacts on the grape sector” attended by HL and PB. Concerns HL raised at the seminar were the quality and reliability of forecasts surrounding frosts and rainfall events and the lack of disease modelling particularly with powdery mildew. Suggestion for BOM to build a PM pressure predictor	HE PB VOC		Email sent 29/6 to members. Responses collated for review. PB will talk to Tim to query accessing water level data. VOC Chair: HL to contact Vinay with a suggestion for a student to analyse the weather station data from

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4/2/2021	relevant to this region using indicators such as temperature, hours of overcast weather and humidity. Suggestion from PB to look at Miso-net- govt. funded technology. BH suggested alternative in Arable – Decision Agriculture . Arable currently have demo Trial Sites in McLaren Vale- supply FOC			the past 10 years.
24/9/2020	3.10 SAWIA Report Protocol Protocol for preparation of Regional report for SAWIA Regional Forum Meeting to be written. Contents of report not to divulge	HE/KB	December	ONGOING
21/10/2020	3.11 Grant Protocol & Register Noted there may be grant application in circulation that has not been formerly submitted by CV nor approved at Board level. Grant protocol to be written and shared with members. Grant register be developed for oversight of grants being applied for, status of existing grants and expiration of grants.	Jl HE	Nov 2020 Nov. 2020	Work In progress.
21/10/20	3.12 Trademark renewal Advice received by Lesicar Maynard Andrews, due Jan 2022 “Coonawarra Australia’s Red Wine Centre”. Cost \$1005 to renew through Legal Attorney. LT moved should the statement be maintained, renewal be done directly online for significantly lesser fee ca. \$400. Jl seconded. All in favour.	HE	Jan 2022	
4/2/21	3.13 Coonawarra Siding Road Sign Coonawarra Sculpture Sign to be replaced with Coonawarra Siding Road Sign	Jl.PW	March	Jl Investigating
4/2/21	3.14 State Grape Grower Council Email received from Wine Grape Council of SA on 21 Jan 21 requesting CV distribution to CV members, seeking feedback from independent grape growers on the future of the South Australian Grape Grower Industry Send CV Letter and supporting doc. to Members encouraging “no vote” for survey			
21/10/20	3.15 Original Vine at Yallum Park PB moved that CV fund trial to conduct DNA test to determine what variety of grape is being grown at John Riddochs original property.	PB		Priced to be advised. PB to liaise with Kerry DeGaris

4. Finance

Finance Papers & Update – BR provided an update on current balances of accounts and referenced the Finance Reports dated 2 February 2021 (P&L, Aged Receivables, Aged Payables & Balance Sheet). Noted that we are maintaining the need for quarterly membership payments and following up with those that are outstanding and open to payment plans where required.

5 Companies in 90+ Days to be followed up for payment. P

Summary of Wine sales from e-commerce presented. 63 Sales recorded between November and January. With all costs considered, a small margin of profit has been achieved (\$104.42). This figure also takes into account the cost of influencer packs valued at over \$1500, which were gifted during the initial project launch.

BR Moved for Finance report to be accepted. TG seconded. All in Favour

(Maintaining for future reference - Financial Policy on Term Deposit – Further to the Finance Committee recommendation the motion presented was moved by JB and seconded by Jl previously:

The reserve that we are aiming to maintain at \$300k can to be drawn on if required during the extenuating circumstances of COVID-19 with the aim to keep this at \$250k and to replenish the funds back to \$300k where possible for future needs.)

Treasurer presented his update that was moved by JB and seconded by PW. JB reiterated the conditional access to additional funds that they be replenished as per the note above also with the policy.

4.1 Membership Update – 21/22 Membership renewals due to be released. An increase of 1.5% (consistent with previous year increase, rather than CPI of 1.6%) to be applied. HE & CL to update renewal forms, highlight additional Web store member benefit.

4.2 Grants Update – Provided an update as follows.

- **Mixed Dozen Project – ON HOLD.** has received an extension due to the extensive disruption in particular for our region COVID-19 in any meaningful marketing of the itineraries. The project was due to complete in April. Steering Committee will continue and it is subject to approval that LCLGA Tourism will take over the role to maintain the www.limestonecoast.org.au wine trails and that all parties will consider financing contribution. NO FURTHER UPDATE.
- **SAWIDS (PIRSA) -Ecommerce Grant (\$60K)** Ecommerce store live with sale recorded set up, activation, automation and data management to be completed by Made with Moxie.
- **2020/21 SAWIA Project 250 (\$25K)** Project focus on post COVID Tourism Campaign- to tie into Ecommerce and drive traffic back to webpage to “Discover Coonawarra”. Core campaign to entice visitation to SWAP California for Coonawarra campaign. PR and roll out driven by Made w. Moxie/
- **SATC CCC** – New round Regional Event Funding live. HE to prepare CCC application for grant funding. Up to \$50k available for established events.
- **GWC** – Seeking inbound knowledge exchange bursary to assist with International Speaker/s for Cabernet Symposium in July/November 2021. On hold. Will email Brian Smedley pre leave to update. Not Discussed.
- **Landscape SA** (former SENRM Board) potential to apply for funds noting focus on drought resilience. OJ to email Kerry DeGaris pre leave also. Not discussed 21/10/2
- **PIRSA Drought Resilience** – Potential if Cabernet Symposium has a climate control component. No further progress due to COVID-19. Not discussed 21/10/20

5. Correspondence & Communication

5.1 Round Wood Solutions TANAPOST facility invite tabled. Invite shared with wider membership to attend site tour. No Further action required.

5.2 Outgoing Correspondence: Letter of Support for WRC Rail Trail Project - sent to Ben Gower via email 1. Dec 20

Letter of Intent to rent National Trust Bond Store – sent via email 7. Dec 20

Letter to State Grape Grower Council outlining CV position not to provide representative seat on Council - sent via email 7. Dec 20

Letter of Support for Penola Golf Course – sent via email 18th Jan.21

5.3 State Grape Grower Council- Email received from Wine Grape Council of SA on 21 Jan 21 requesting CV distribution to CV members, seeking feedback from independent grape growers on the future of the South Australian Grape Grower Industry

Action: Send CV Letter and supporting doc. to Members encouraging “no vote” for survey

5.4 Email received from Jacobs Construction re. Plans for Riddoch Highway dual lane overtaking lanes. Feedback from CV sought in regards to timing of construction. Commencement scheduled Spring 2021/ Summer 2022. Location map tabled identifying proposed upgrade sites. . Northern Overtaking Lane located approximately 22 km north of Naracoorte, and will accommodate south-bound traffic. Central Overtaking Lane located approximately 17 km south of Naracoorte, and will accommodate north-bound traffic. And Southern Overtaking Lane located approximately 5km north of Coonawarra, and will accommodate south-bound traffic.. TG made suggestion that construction of Southern Overtaking lane commences at the earliest appointment to avoid vehicle movement delays during Vintage 2022. PB to contact planning consultants and to supply details to members most likely to be impacted by the construction works : Bill Brand/ Bellwether

5.5 Regional Migration information and visa concessions due to COVID-19 - weblinks and information tabled and distributed to members following visit from Business, Industry and Regional Outreach Officer 18th Jan 20. Aim to ensure skilled migrants are job-ready and meaningfully connected to opportunities in critical skill shortage areas.

6. CV Resourcing

6.1 Executive Officer – Email received advising of Olivia’s intent not to return to the role. Dec 2021. EO Position description tabled alongside last advertised job advert for discussion and update. Exit interview to be scheduled with OJ, following which the role will be advertised. PB and JI to facilitate exit interview with HE in attendance.

EO position to remain Full time, with support of Admin and Finance officer (CL) and Events & Marketing Officer (HE).

HE tabled recommendation for OJ to be involved in the training/ handover of the role to the replacement person, given the experience and knowledge of OJ. It was also recommended that the role remain a full time position. OJ advised in her email that she is prepared to assist with handover once the position is appointed. HE Moved. SM seconded all in favour.

Action: Recruitment Subcommittee to be assembled to review applications and conduct interviews for replacement: PB, JI and

BR. Exit interview to be scheduled at earliest opportunity . HE to finalise Job Advert to be advertised following exit interview.

6.2 Events & Marketing Officer- HE expressed concerns of output and work life balance. External pressures driving request to return to 3 day week. PB Moved HE return to a 3 day working week as per immediately. TG Seconded. All in favour.
Action: HE to issue update to members advising of CV operating hours and resignation of OJ.

7. Brand Reference Committee (formerly Marketing Committee)

7.1 Update NIL TO REPORT// Last met on 13 May 2020. Group sought to revert to monthly meetings however given the current resourcing and priorities that we maintain every two months. PMN: Attempted to convene meeting on 3 June and only one member could attend and will revert to every two months from August which was supported by Board in May meeting.

8. Viticultural and Oenology Committee (VOC) Report

VOC Update – SM provided update on meeting held 15th December.

Coonawarra Heritage Cabernet Selection preserving heritage vines- Co-ordinator sought to lead the project. Tender document with a protocol outlining what is involved. to be sent to consultants for quotation.

Coonawarra Cabernet Project: Results from the project were discussed in a Zoom presentation to VOC committee on 10.12.20. Extensive amount of data analysed- so far only available in thesis/ technical paper form. VOC committee have requested results be provided in a user friendly format. Seek confirmation of where the analysis is at regards 2020 vintage wines and if there is a requirement for wines from the 2021 vintage. Possibility a field day to present results later in the year. Possibility to present results at next symposium.

BR queried where the ARC phd Study money is currently being \$7,500

8.1 Water – PB noted need to monitor for industry pressures in particular from forestry. Continuing to meet with other commodities to manage drainage across region. Ongoing.

Study opportunity for drainage systems. Water credits could be distrusted to all existing water users. Better understanding of how trees are using water.

8.2 Salinity Analysis: Coonawarra specific protocol document received by Neil Power 13/8/2 and shared with members, encouraging irrigators to submit samples. 2 to 5 wells to be sampled each year, twice a year (Pre vintage – Oct/Nov and During Vintage – Feb/March) to establish a reliable salinity trend over time. Samples can be anonymous

8.3 Fracking – No further information.

8.4 BioSecurity – AGW presented Biosecurity Industry Liaison Officer Briefing attended via Zoom by Heidi, Pete B and SCM. Very detailed seminar on how the outbreak of an exotic pest/disease in Australia will be handled going forward. An adjunct to this is their hope of having an Industry Liaison Officer from each grape growing area. Suggestion from Pete B is not to commit at this stage knowing that Vinehealth Australia has policies and people in place to handle outbreaks in SA. There may be potential to run a simulation in the Limestone Coast.

8.5 Climate Change – Proposed CV document to be produced on Coonawarra position on Climate Change focusing on positive actions. BH to liaise with VOC to gather info.– ie. Irrigation project, Eco Vineyards Biodiversity project. Wine Australia hosting dedicated regional webinars.

GMO outcome disappointing for the councils that submitted to be GMO free - Barossa, McLaren Vale and the Adelaide Hills were hoping to create an exclusion zone. Limestone Coast region has great difficulty to declare GMO free to due coexisting agriculture industry.

8.6 Outbreak Management Plan – SM in contact with Susanne McLaughlan about Phylloxera Outbreak plan. Vinehealth Australia are revising their plans. Once this is complete, it will be used as a template to develop a plan for Coonawarra.

8.7 Rootstock trial Vinehealth Australia continues to contribute funding ongoing and TWE continue with trial site. Berry shrivel trial confirmed to move to rootstock trial site in 2022. Contract yet to have been presented for signature from TWE. BH update that the contact is with lawyers and has been delayed due to other global activities. Grass roots funding. \$15K endeavour funding remains. Earmarked to go into rootstock trial.

8.8 Berry Shrivel – Currently on hold and over 12 months plan the next project to recommence Vintage 2022 for multiple years. Project funding ceased for 20/21. Initial findings but still a body of work to be undertaken. SM to investigate circumstances surrounding withdrawal of funds towards this project.

8.9 Coonawarra Biodiversity Enhancement Project- CV have committed to \$3k per year to support EcoVineyard project endeavours for 20/21 21/22 and 22/23. Mary Retallick presented at General Meeting which was followed by a well attended field day at Penley Estate on Thursday 29th Oct. Involved growers gave brief summary of where they are at with all having planted trees and achieving good survival rates. Mary talked about the planning of projects explaining what needed to be planted, where and why. New Growers being sought for 21/22 period. EOI to be sent to members.

8.10 Coonawarra Clone – Chris Brodie has requested idea for a Coonawarra. VOC exploring options.

8.11 Weather Station- refer to Action

9. Industry Engagement

8.1 HE provided an update on industry (SAWIA, PIRSA, SATC, RDALC, Wattle Range Council, Tourism Mount Gambier and other Regions):

- SAWIA – Nil to report.
- Australian Grape & Wine – New criteria for Wine Export Grants / Movement requirements now in force for

consignments passing through or entering into South Australia / Two further amendments to the Australian Wine Industry Code of Conduct originally released in October 2020 have been made. The changes are in response to the Code Management Committee recommendation to incorporate some important feedback from members. The current version of the Code, now dated November 2020 can be accessed [here](#)

- Wine Australia- Great focus on Wine Marketing diversification. WA has launched 'Australian Wine Connect' Australian wineries invited to register by 21 February 2021. 24/7 virtual platform will go live on 31 March 2021. Further opportunities for Regions to be advised – eg, international virtual tastings.
- SATC- Have launched 2021 Year of SA Wine campaign, focus on wine tourism visitation to regions.
- Tourism Mount Gambier – Maintaining contact through Mixed Dozen Project. Limestone Coast Destination Tourism + Marketing Plan 2025 being finalised for release. Limestone Coast Regional Guide to be reinstated.
- RDA –
- WGCSA –

10. CV Executive Officer Activity Report

10.1 EO Verbal Update.

10.2 Cellar Door Event Committee – Nil to report. Next meeting scheduled 10th Feb

10.3 Cup Committee. Nil to report.

Roadshow Committee – HE sought direction from the Board in regards to the planning and hosting of interstate events in 2021, Board agreed that ongoing uncertainties surrounding COVID19 and snap border closures would make it difficult to guarantee events would be able to proceed. Recommendation from board to cancel 2021 interstate events, with primary focus to be SA showcase. JI Moved the Roadshow be cancelled with the exception of an Adelaide Event. BR seconded all in favour.

10.4 **Australian Cabernet Symposium** – Organising Committee intended to meet late 2020 to discuss options to proceed with event for 2021. Event not included in 20/21 budget due to global pandemic. Board supportive of deferral of event to 2022.

10.5 **Resourcing** – HE working remotely on Mondays. Office hours to remain the same (Tuesday – Thursday), with Monday to be worked remotely. OJ's on Mat. Leave. Periodical reviews to assess needs of CV and Olivia with a catchup between Pete and Olivia. Calendar invites to be placed in diary as a reminder prior to the Board Meeting of that month for an update to be shared.

10.6 **Ecommerce Project** – Coonawarra Online Wine Store Live. 63 packs sold in total between November and Month End Jan. All wines included in packs also available for single purchase (pick and Pack). No further promotion activities at this point in time. MWM engagement has ended with reporting and analysis taking place in Feb, in preparation for final report. Short Term Liquor licence for webstore expires end Feb 2021.

Action: HE to investigate extension of current short term liquor licence or investment of long term 5 year licence.

10.7 **COVID Recovery Tourism Campaign** – "Swap California for Coonawarra" campaign Launched mid January 2021. Delayed from Nov. 2020 given border closures and ongoing COVID restrictions .PR managed by MWM. All social content, scheduling and posts prepared by HE. HE expressed frustrations with campaign activities and expectation placed on CV by consultant. Concern that campaign may not have gained the desired traction due to CV limited resourcing.

11. Welfare, Health and Safety (WHS)

11.1 **Update** : HE and CL working from office from Tuesday to Thursday. M

11.2 **Risk Planning** – n/a

11.3 **CV Shed** – Internal Leakage repairs undertaken. No further action required..

12. Membership

12.1 **Membership update** –
Nil.

13. New Business

13.1 CV Resourcing- refer to Item 6.

13.2 MWM – Project Presentation & Handover –Date to be advised for presentation to Board. Vintage may challenge attendance. COVID restrictions and border closures will dictate whether Mariella can deliver the project results in person or via zoom.

Meeting Closed 10:31am

Next Meeting – Thursday 25th February - Brands Laira Coonawarra Board Room