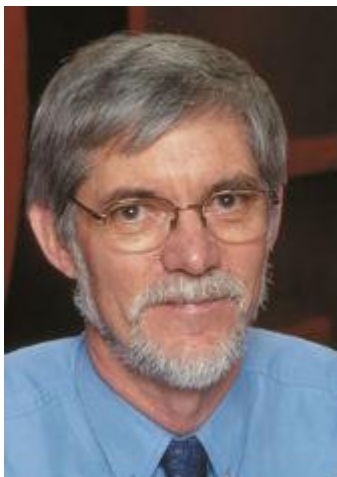# Wine Alumni Newsletter
March 2019

Patron's Message

This time of the year brings vintage and a new intake of students in the wine courses at The University of Adelaide.

I wish alumni all the best for the coming vintage. It is a busy, and at times, a challenging period but also the most creative time in the wine year. To take a batch of grapes and carry them through the winemaking process to produce a drink, that at sometime in the future a person will enjoy, is a great achievement. And today, with the popularity of Australian wine globally that person could be anywhere in the world.

It is also the time when the new students begin their viticulture and winemaking courses. I wish them all the best in their studies and for an enjoyable time during their time at Waite.

2019 will be a busy year for the people on the Wine Alumni Network Steering Group. We are planning two reunions, the Vintage Conversations programme will continue at the Waite throughout the year and the dinner for graduating students at the end of the year. The people on the Steering Group at the moment are Paul Grbin, Mary Retallack, Annabel Mugford, Jill Bauer, Alanna Pepper, Angus Davidson and myself. They all do this voluntarily and I thank them for their continuing support for organising the wine alumni activities.

And all of the activities would not come together unless it was for the great work that Carolyn McLean carries out for the group. Carolyn is The Alumni Relations Officer (Sciences) based at North Terrace Campus. Although she covers the Sciences, she has devoted a great amount of time to helping us with wine alumni activities. Thank you Carolyn. Carolyn has been part of the group that has organised a Wine Alumni Network website.

This year we will have two reunions. One, for all alumni, will be a breakfast at the Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference in July. This event has now been held at the last two Technical Conferences and will continue at future conferences. Many alumni will be attending the Technical Conference and it is a great opportunity to catch up with fellow alumni. More information will be available closer to the event.

The other reunion will be on the 5th October. The University of Adelaide has begun a series of reunions for the different University Alumni Groups. They are based on 5 year graduation blocks. The first reunion for the wine courses will be for the group of graduates from 1985-1989. Each year will then roll on to reunions for the next 5 year group. The reunions will follow the theme of 'Remembering Roseworthy' or 'Remembering Waite' depending on the years and where the courses were presented in that period. More details will be available later.

And we have not forgotten all the students who attended Roseworthy pre 1985. This reunion will be in 2020. We were going to plan it for this year but thought that organising two reunions in this year already is sufficient work for the Steering group members. It will also give us time to attempt to find as many contacts for the pre 1985 graduates as possible.

Congratulation to Associate Professor Kerry Wilkinson, School of Agriculture, Food and Wine on being awarded Best Wine Educator in the 2018 Wine Communicator Awards.

Congratulations to Professor Peter Hój who was awarded an AC in the Order of Australia Awards on Australia Day 2019. Peter would have taught some of you when he was at The University of Adelaide and many of you would have known him through his role as Director of The Australian Wine Research Institute.

Best regards

Patrick Iland, Patron, The University of Adelaide Wine Alumni

Vintage Conversations

Vintage Conversations was created to open dialogue between Wine Alumni and current students in a casual way, outside of academic lectures.

We are very excited to announce the Australian Society for Viticulture and Oenology will be sponsoring six Vintage Conversations for 2019.

Check out our website for future Vintage Conversations.

We would love to hear from alumni who are traveling through Adelaide. If you would like to host a Vintage Conversation, please contact Jill Bauer –jill.bauer@adelaide.edu.au

2019 Graduating Dinner

The Wine Alumni Network hosted a celebratory dinner in November 2018 for students who will graduate in 2019. We wish the graduates the best with their future endeavours.

View the photos from the night.

Introducing Ben Pike

After leaving a successful career in hospitality, Ben enrolled in a Bachelor of Science (Viticulture) in 2002, graduating in 2006. After gaining valuable viticulture experience in McLaren Vale and the Adelaide Hills, he returned to Waite to take over the management of the campus vineyards and orchards from the soon to retire Peter Dry.

Over his seven years in the role, Ben increased student participation in many aspects of practical vineyard management and implemented several systems to better manage research and teaching demands in the vineyard and orchard areas.

During this time, he also completed his Masters by Research. In 2015, Ben was seconded into an administration role for the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine. He held this position until the end of 2018 when he successfully applied for the new Associate Lecturer's role in both the Viticulture and Agriculture. The role includes an increased teaching load and ongoing oversight of vineyard and orchard management for the campus

Ben is looking forward to the challenge of the new position and is already enjoying the increased interaction with students. At some point this year he will be enrolling as a PhD candidate.

Wine Alumni Network

As a graduate of a wine related degree, you are automatically a member of the Wine Alumni Network; a network created by wine alumni for wine alumni. To ensure you remain informed on network news and events, please update your details below.

If you know anyone who is not receiving emails about the Wine Alumni Network but would like to, please ask them to contact Carolyn McLean, Alumni Relations Officer – carolyn.mclean@adelaide.edu.au to update their details.