



e-Alert

Events and opportunities you may wish to know about

no. 52 – November 2015

WGGA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- AHA Viticulture
- Belvino Investments
- Broke Fordwich Wine Tourism Association
- Gaetjens Langley
- Lallemand Oenology
- Omnia Specialties Australia
- Performance Viticulture
- River Murray Training
- SCE-Energy Solutions
- Vine Sight
- Vitibit
- Woodshield

- New tool to help manage grape vines
- Assistance available for South Australian and Victorian farmers in drought
- Key viticultural information available for winegrape businesses
- Online yield forecasting tool hungry for data
- Funding grants for the development of emerging and accomplished women leaders
- ASVO Adelaide Seminar – Earlier, shorter, hotter; managing compressed vintages
- Are you an Association trying to increase the resilience, competitiveness and productivity of your region?

New tool to help manage grape vines

A new, free phone app developed by University of Adelaide researchers will help grapegrowers and viticulturists manage their vines by giving a quick measure of vine canopy size and density.

The iPad and iPhone app uses the devices' camera and GPS capability to calculate the size and density of the vine canopy and its location in the vineyard. The aim is to help users monitor their vines and manage the required balance between vegetative growth and fruit production.

To learn more about the VitiCanopy app visit [The University of Adelaide website](#)

Assistance available for South Australian and Victorian farmers in drought

The Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce, and SA Senator Anne Ruston, have announced assistance measures available for South Australian and Victorian farmers in drought.

A number of assistance measures have been advised.

- Tax deductibility in the first year of purchase for fencing and the cost of new water infrastructure.
- Tax deductibility over three years for fodder storage assets.
- Additional funding in 2015-16 for community mental health and family support where drought coordinators are already at work.
- Government spending on weeds and animal pest management in drought-affected areas.

To learn more about the South Australian assistance [click here](#) and the Victorian assistance [click here](#).

Key viticultural information available for winegrape businesses

The Wine Australia-funded *Vineyards Census 2014–15*, released mid October by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, provides key insights into grape varieties, yields and water use in each of Australia's 65 wine regions.

Winegrape businesses will be able to use the information from the Vineyards Census to better understand their business in relation to their region and other regions around the country.

The Vineyard Census 2014–15 is available at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1329.0.55.002?OpenDocument>.

Headline interpretation of this data has been conducted by WGGA and can be accessed from the WGGA website at <http://wgga.com.au/archives/9799>

Online yield forecasting tool hungry for data

Two Sydney researchers from Macquarie University are one year into a three-year, Wine Australia-funded project designed to develop an online tool for predicting yields.

Drs Steve Van Sluyter and Alex Ferry can already make a pretty accurate prediction of what Shiraz yields will be like in the Barossa next year.

Sluyter and Ferry are now reaching out to wineries and vineyards in other regions to get more data for other regions and varieties. They are looking for historical yield data and dates for budburst and flowering.

To read how you can be involved, simply follow [this link](#)

Funding grants for the development of emerging and accomplished women leaders

In 2015 Women & Leadership Australia is administering a national initiative to support the development of female leaders across all sectors.

From 1 July 2015 the initiative will provide women in the agriculture sector with grants for leadership development. More specifically, grant applications are open to women employed at two levels: [Advanced Leadership Program](#) and the [Accelerated Leadership Performance Program](#)

Visit the [Women & Leadership Australia website](#) for more information, or to discuss in more detail contact [Ian Johnson](#)

ASVO Adelaide Seminar – Earlier, shorter, hotter; managing compressed vintages

ASVO is holding its 2015 Adelaide Seminar on Thursday 19 November 2015 at the Plant Research Centre in South Australia.

The day is devoted to both vineyard and wine processing issues.

The four sessions are -

- Assessing Fruit Quantity, Quality and Maturity?
- Optimising harvesting and winery logistics
- Managing fermentations
- The high alcohol challenge

To book tickets or to learn more about this seminar [click here](#)

Are you an Association trying to increase the resilience, competitiveness and productivity of your region?

The Australian Government recently announced a new National Landcare grants programme for regional projects aimed at supporting the resilience, competitiveness and productivity of Australian agricultural and fishing industries.

If your association is interested in applying for a grant through this program, the AWRI can provide assistance with preparing applications and, where appropriate, sponsor individual applications. In addition, the AWRI will offer a number of one-day Research to Practice (RtP) training programs that

meet the funding criteria for these grants.

The closing date for applications for this funding is **7 December 2015**. Visit [Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants 2015-16](#) for more information, or to discuss possible projects, or the Research to Practice training programs, please contact either [Mardi Longbottom](#) or [Marcel Essling](#).

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If you have any queries regarding the above please contact us.

Please be aware that the information contained in this e-alert is for information purposes only and should not be considered an endorsement, advice or recommendation from WGGA.

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