

Wine sector shares costs of fruit fly eradication in the Torres Strait

Three exotic fruit fly species; Melon fly, Oriental fruit fly and the New Guinea fruit fly; annually invade Australian territory in the Torres Strait from the north. If they were not eradicated in the Strait, they would threaten crops on the Australian mainland. One of these species, the Oriental fruit fly, is a threat to grapes.

For some years now, the Commonwealth and Queensland governments have conducted an annual eradication program that has successfully kept these fruit fly species out of the Australian mainland. Over the last three years, there

have been discussions about bringing this annual eradication program under the cost-sharing arrangements of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed, to which WGGA is a signatory on behalf of the wine sector.

Negotiations about these arrangements between the Commonwealth government, State governments and thirteen affected industry parties were completed in November this year. WGGA agreed, together with twelve other affected industries, to share the costs of an annual eradication program

which will continue to be carried out by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments.

The annual cost to WGGA is \$1,107 for each the next three years, when a review will occur. Usually, such an expense is covered by activating the wine sector's zero-rated Emergency Plant Pest Levy but the cost of doing so (through industry consultation) would outweigh the revenue returned and it was therefore decided by the WGGA Executive Committee that the fee should be paid directly out of WGGA's funds.

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WGGA matters...

An interview with Jo Andrew, new Chair of WGGA

Wine Grape Growers Australia recently announced the appointment of Jo (Joanna) Andrew as Independent Chair of the organisation, following the retirement of long-standing Chair and South Australian representative Vic Patrick. A month into the position, Jo gives some insights into who she is and her views and plans on the future of the wine industry.

What interested you in the position of Chair of WGGA?

I see the wine industry as being in an exciting period where it needs to set a new course for the future. I like to be a part of making positive changes for an industry or an organisation - helping to set a new strategic direction or bring in reforms. Also I grew up in the country, so primary produce is an area of particular interest to me.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up on a citrus and grape property in the South Australian Riverland. My parents still have the property, and my grandparents and uncles were all farmers as well. I used to love(!) spending my holidays cutting apricots and training vines, and now my children enjoy their time on the property. It's a really important and special part of the industry to have that connection from generation to generation. Dad has always been very



Jo Andrew

positive about the outlook for SA as the produce state and maintaining the food bowl, and I think that has influenced me.

A month in to your role as Chair, what are your impressions?

I see a really healthy appetite for change among the people I talk to, and real potential to grow the industry and improve relationships between the growers and winemakers. I think growers understand the difficulties with supply and demand, and recognise the need to

work with winemakers as their customers in a positive way - not looking for differences to argue about.

Where would you like to see the industry in five years' time?

With one united industry body at a national level giving the industry a far more effective voice and helping to sort out problems between grapegrowers and winemakers by building trust and a collaborative approach. I believe that this is what we need, and I will be driving that change.

You are the first woman to be appointed as Chair of a national organisation in the wine industry. Do you see that as significant?

I think it shows that times are changing, and that different skills are seen to be more relevant now - including professional skills such as governance, legal and accounting, but also perhaps a different approach to negotiating and a fresh perspective.

And the big question: how would you increase demand?

Like everyone in business, I think we have to strive to improve all the time - never relax on quality standards and improving the brand.

More details about Jo can be found on our website.

Additional new faces at WGGA

At the 2015 AGM in November, Vic Patrick stood down as both the Chair, and as one of the South Australian representatives on the Executive Committee. **Jo Andrew** has taken up the role of Chair (see front page) and **Heather Webster** is now the second South Australian representative, via appointment by the Wine Grape Council of SA.

Heather Webster has had a number of successful careers in transport, science and librarianship and continues to be involved in organizational matters through local heritage preservation work, a directorship, AICD, WGCSA and Langhorne Creek Grape and Wine. She and her family grow grapes in Langhorne Creek.

As announced in the last newsletter, Edwina Donoghue has replaced Kelly Bonser as Office Manager while Kelly is on maternity leave. **Edwina Donoghue** first started working in the wine industry in 2009 as a Cellar Hand at Robert Oatley Wines in Mudgee, moving then to Adelaide in 2011 for an Administration role at the Penfolds Magill Estate Cellar Door. Edwina and her partner acquired a small Riesling vineyard in Watervale earlier this year and she now carries the additional title of Chief Pruning Officer!

At the time of writing, a new Executive Director had not been appointed but was imminent.

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