



Media Release: under embargo until 5:00 pm (AEST), 18 September 2020

Riverina Winemakers Association: Local wineries celebrate show success, and pioneers, Jim & Keith McWilliam awarded as dual winners of the 2020 'Riverina Legends' award.

Pioneers, Jim & Keith McWilliam announced as dual winners of the 2020 Riverina Legends Award

The Riverina Legends award was first introduced last year to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions made by individuals working across any sector of the local wine industry. In its second year, the Riverina Winemakers Association Wine Show Committee is pleased to announce Jim and Keith McWilliam as dual recipients of the 2020 award.

These two men have worked over 90 local vintages between them and have been involved in the local wine industry most of their lives. Jim's first vintage was 1942 and Keith's 1944.

Keith was the president of the Riverina Winemakers Association (formerly known as the MIA Winemakers Association) for several years. After the Co-op winery at Beelbangera failed, the winery was taken over by McWilliams and developed into production again under Keith's management.

Keith helped in the development of the large Stainless Steel red fermenters that produced premium red table wines for many years, before operations ceased at Beelbangera.

Keith's Vintage Ports soon became wine show highlights. He was also chairman of the family company for several years.

Jim McWilliam took over the management of the Yenda winery from his father Doug. Yenda became the main blending cellar for the company and was the first local winery to establish bottled sparkling wine production.

Jim was responsible for all the sparkling wines made at Yenda. He was also the main distiller of the brandy that the company made and aged at Yenda. He was the Production director following on from his uncle Glen McWilliam.

Their winemaking expertise, along with the engineering expertise of Glen McWilliam, saw the company win the most successful exhibitor in the Royal Sydney wine show for over 20 years.

QUOTES

"The McWilliam family were the pioneers of our Riverina wine region and remain an integral part of our local industry today, largely due to the commitment these two men gave to their business." - Carrah Lymer, Executive Officer

'Local wineries celebrate great success'

The Riverina Winemakers Association wine show awards have been presented online for the first time ever, and the local wineries have been successful across many of the awards

Of the 30 Trophies awarded, 11 of those trophies were picked up by our local wineries. De Bortoli Family Wines and McWilliam's Family Winemakers won a number of trophies each with Calabria Family Wines and Berton vineyards also



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picking up trophies. A total of 33 Gold Medals, 45 Silver Medals, and 118 Bronze Medals were awarded to local wineries.

LOCAL TROPHY WINNERS

OPEN SHOW RESULTS	
The Sean Hampel Trophy - Best Shiraz	Berton Vineyards 2019 Metal Label Shiraz
RIVERINA GI SHOW RESULTS	
Best Riverina Dry White	McWilliams Wines 2020 Enticement Gracious Pinot Grigio
Best Riverina Dry Red	McWilliams Wines 2020 Alternis Nero D'Avola
Most Successful Exhibitor	Calabria Family Wines
AUSTRALIAN ITALIAN VARIETIES WINES AWARDS RESULTS	
Best Pinot Grigio	McWilliams Wines 2020 Enticement Gracious Pinot Grigio
Best Rose	De Bortoli Wines 2020 Rose
Best Italian Red Wine	Calabria Private Bin 2019 Montepulciano
SWEET WINE SHOW RESULTS	
Best Sweet Fruity	De Bortoli Wines 2018 Noble One Botrytis Semillon
Best Wine of Show	De Bortoli Wines 2008 Noble One Botrytis Semillon
Best Museum Class	De Bortoli Wines 2002 Noble One Botrytis Semillon
TUMBARUMBA WINE SHOW RESULTS	
Best Young White	De Bortoli Wines 2019 Regional Classic Tumbarumba Chardonnay
HILLTOPS WINE SHOW RESULTS	
Released at the end of September	Young in NSW. By the Hilltops Wine Association

Carrah Lymer, Executive Officer of Riverina Winemakers Association and the wine show organiser, says "It is great to see our talented winemakers have their wines awarded especially in the key varieties for which our region is renowned - Italian varieties and Botrytis Semillon. We're also thrilled for the Berton Vineyards as their Metal Label Shiraz won Best Shiraz of the Open Show, which is our most contested class with 100 entries across Australia entered."



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The judging for the wine show was held from Monday 31st August through to late Wednesday 2nd September, where the crew of judges, stewards and organisers worked tirelessly in hosting a covid safe event as well as ensuring the tasting and scoring of over 800 wine entries. The judging panels, headed up by Gabrielle Poy, had a great mix of winemakers from across the NSW and ACT wine regions, many who joined at the last minute due to a number of Victorian based judges being unable to travel. The six different wine shows (listed below). wines

- Open Show
- Riverina Region Wine Show
- Sweet Wine Challenge
- Hilltops Wine Show (results not released until late September 2020, in Young NSW)
- Tumbarumba Wine Show
- Australian Italian Varieties Wine Awards

- ENDS -

MEDIA CONTACT

Carrah Lymer, Executive Officer, Riverina Winemakers Association
M: 0427 600 151 E: info@riverinawinemakers.com.au