



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday 8th June 2023

Riverina Winemakers Association: Wine Australia Next Crop Program comes to the Riverina!

How do you encourage young people working in the local wine region to take on leadership roles, and build confidence to participate in industry decision making? An innovative program – a partnership between Wine Australia, regional program partners DPI NSW, Riverina Winemakers Association, and Riverina Winegrape Growers – aims to provide the answer.

Next Crop is an annual regionally-based professional and personal development program for emerging leaders who want to understand their leadership capacity and gain exposure to concepts of leadership. The aim is to build confidence within individuals and to provide a development opportunity that will keep the future generation engaged and committed to the region and their career in the grape and wine sector.

The Riverina Wine Region was the successful applicant for this year's Next Crop program and has been able to tailor a program specific to the region's needs. Dr Katie Dunne of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) said *"Wine Australia's Next Crop program for the Riverina. It will be a wonderful opportunity for the participants to work on their leadership skills locally. The DPI is proud to help facilitate the program as well, given the importance that the region has in the Australian wine sector."*

Wineries, growers, viticulturists, and other industry related businesses were encouraged to get their staff to apply for the coveted 14 spots available for 2023.

Carrah Lymer, Executive Officer of the Riverina Winemakers Association (RWA) said, *"I know first hand how valuable these leadership programs through Wine Australia are (having completed Future Leaders in 2019). I was thrilled to see this opportunity become available for 14 individuals in our local industry, and our RWA members agreed, putting forward a number of people to participate."*

The Next Crop program will commence at the end of June, and conclude with a graduation in November. All sessions are being held in the region, allowing easier access for the participants to juggle this learning experience alongside their personal and professional lives.

The successful applicants for 2023 are;



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Jordan Bellato - Calabria Family Wines Group	Georgina Horton - Riverina Winemakers Association
Peter Valeri - Self employed	Danisa Olivera - Dee Vine Estate
Matthew Santos - Berton Vineyards	Raquel Rosales - De Bortoli Family Wines
Nic Schirripa - Casella Family Brands	Stephanie Lucas - McWilliam's Wines
Glen Snaidero - Nugan Estate	Amba Goldsmith - Divas Beverages/Trimboli Wines
Luke Beltrame - Yarran Wines	Georgina Low - Casella Family Brands
Stephen Hirst - Elders	Crystal Webster - De Bortoli Family Wines



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“It’s great to see Wine Australia run the Next Crop leadership program here in the Riverina this year, this investment in younger wine industry participants will help provide industry leaders in the region for the future. The next crop program is nationally recognised within the wine industry and has been very successful in upskilling past participants. The Riverina Winegrape Growers board and I are proud to be partnered with Wine Australia, Riverina Winemakers and the NSW Government in this initiative, and look forward to the graduation of this new batch of leaders in November.” Jeremy Cass, Executive Officer of the Riverina Winegrape Growers

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Dr Katie Dunne, Development Officer Viticulture, Department of Primary Industries M: 0429 361 563 E: katie.dunne@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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