

### Bruno Brombal—The Man the Myth **THE LEGEND**



Bruno Brombal is the Riverina's latest Legend, His award was presented to him at the Riverina Wine Show Awards Night by Andrew Calabria President of the Riverina Winemaker's Association. The award took Bruno completely by surprise, as every one in the know was sworn to secrecy, Bruno is the 5th recipient of this award and joins Les Worlard 2019, Jim & Keith McWilliam 2020, and Bill Calabria 2021 in receiving this well deserved Award

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## BOARD ACTIVITIES REPORT



**Riverina  
WINEGRAPE  
GROWERS**

### **Wine Grape Index**

Due to the current oversupply a number of growers have no home for some or all of their grapes for the coming vintage, Riverina Winegrape growers are actively trying to find homes for this fruit. In order to get a handle on what is available we have started an index of available fruit, so that we can engage with potential buyers with regard to varieties and quantity available. If you wish to add your fruit to this list please contact Jeremy on [jcass@wgmb.net.au](mailto:jcass@wgmb.net.au) or 0427 759094

### **Alternate industries workshop**

On 27th of July Riverina Winegrape Growers held an Alternate Industries Workshop at the Exies Club. The aim of this workshop was to showcase other crops that growers could transition to as a way of avoiding some of the pain caused to the wine grape industry due to the over supply. The industries looked at included Fish farming Murray Cod, Dried fruit being Grapes and Prunes, Pistachio & Hazel Nuts, as well as a talk by water brokers Waterfind. Olives was a crop that we were targeting but due to their own industry commitments they could not attend, so we were hoping to get them back later in the year for a mini workshop here at the board offices. This workshop was not in any way aimed at telling growers to exit the industry it was just an acknowledgement of the current situation for growers that may see this as something that would work for them.

### **Weather Station Network**

Issues with failing parts and insects have been ongoing with the weather station network, and with the 3 G network coming to a end next year the board has to look at all available options going forward. Option 1. would be to up grade the existing stations to the 5 G network, this has a large cost attached and will still have maintenance issues going forward. Option 2. Scrape data from BOM weather stations of which there are nearly as many in the area as we maintain now. Option 3. Decommission existing stations and let growers utilise existing weather apps and websites. Our preferred course of action is option 2, with the possibility of using predictive algorithms, so that disease alert warnings may be given prior to weather events. Growers are advised that the weather station

network can be accessed by PC or smartphone at the following link <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/horticulture/grapes/weather-stations-network/wsn> these stations show data like rainfall, temperature, wind speed and direction.

### **2023 Strategic Plan and Budget Meeting**

The 2023 –2027 strategic Plan and budget meeting Budget meeting was held following a dinner at the Yoogali Club at 7:00pm on the 12 October 2022. The meeting was attended by 32 registered growers and 14 guests and staff.

### **Transport Code of Practice for Industry**

The SA Wine Industry Association and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator along with representatives of other winegrowing states will be holding a meeting to discuss how we can make a code that allows for the safe transport of winegrapes from farm to winery. This is in response to many winegrape spillages in this industry. **Date and location: Griffith – 25 October 2022 - Tuesday - 10.00 am-12.30 pm** - Location: Quest Griffith, 53 Railway Street, Griffith, NSW 2680

### **90th Anniversary Dinner 10th December 2022**

December will mark 90 years since Riverina Winegrape Growers, or the Wine Grapes Marketing Board as it was then known was formed. To mark this occasion we will be holding a dinner at the Yoogali Club, and we would love to have you attend if you are free at this time.

### **Annual General Meeting for 2021 Financial Year**

A good attendance showed up at the Annual General Meeting for the 2021 financial year, the meeting was attended by 39 registered growers, along with 23 other guests, partners and staff at the Yoogali Club on 22nd of June. 2022. The members approved the Annual Report for 2021, unfortunately the outlook for vintage 2023 is not good, and this was reflected in the report where we are now given to the attendees by Jim Caddy the chairman from the Inland Wine Regions Alliance. Attendees were provided with a thorough overview of a vineyard cost of production spread sheet developed by Extension Officer Brian Bortolin. This spreadsheet is available to every one to input their numbers, growers wishing to obtain a copy of the spreadsheet and get some instructions on its use please contact Brian on 0401 567449.



## Riverina Profitability Sustainability Project Grants for Growers

Riverina Winegrape Growers are offering grants to growers to be part of the profitability and sustainability pilot project, this project is made possible from a collaboration between Riverina Winegrape Growers, Wine Australia, NSW Wine, NSW DPI, CSU Gulbali Institute, And FIAL. Riverina Winegrape Growers has contributed \$100,000 which has been matched by Wine Australia to provide \$200,000 in total to be paid to growers to take part of the project, growers will receive a \$1000 grant for their participation in 2 half day workshops. The First workshops are proposed to take place between the 7th and the 11th of November and will introduce growers to the Sustainable Winegrowing Australia and cover the entry fee into this program, this will take around 3 hours and will be followed by a couple of surveys from CSU. There will be some minor home work to be done that will need to be brought in to the second workshop, which will take place in early December. Growers that do not wish to take part in these workshops will still be sent copies of the surveys

to complete by mail, These surveys will be one of the tools that CSU will use to analyse the profitability of our region. While no grant payment will be attached to these surveys, anyone completing and returning this information will be in line to receive one of the many generous prizes for doing so. I would urge every one to at least fill in the surveys as the more information contributed the more accurate the outcomes will be, be part of the solution. By taking part in this project you will be helping to make wine grape growing in the Riverina more profitable and sustainable into the future.

### The \$1000 Grant

This grant is aimed at growers wishing to make there business ready for the next level of certification that will be needed by wineries in the future, we are hoping growers will take advantage of this offer and provide feed back on the program whilst being paid to do so. The first round of workshops will accommodate up to 100 growers, further workshops will follow if required.



The Pilot Profitability Workshop above was held on 17th August 2022



## Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference

As part of a focus by the NSW WINE Industry, NSW DPI and the AWRI toward promoting young and emerging industry participants, Riverina Wine Grape growers was able to secure 4 free tickets to the Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference. The conference is held once every 3 years in Adelaide and brings together participants from all areas of the wine industry, the 4 successful delegates from the Riverina were James Cremasco, Robert D'Ambrosio, Samuel Raciti, and Daniel Rogato, Riverina Winegrape growers sponsored travel, accommodation and meals for the delegates. The conference started on a Sunday with workshops specialising in latest research and technology for both Viticulture and Winemaking, all the delegates attended at least one workshop. The official opening of the conference is on the Monday where the opening address focused on the state of the industry, and it was

rather depressing as the speakers acknowledged the pain that the industry was in due to the oversupply caused by the Chinese tariffs. As I sat there listening to this I could not help but think how different this opening was compared to the previous conference, where China was being touted as the saviour of the Australian wine industry. These plenary sessions continue through out the conference and cover all aspects of the wine industry, the main buzz word of this conference was **SUSTAINABILITY**. It was very interesting to listen to speakers talk about sustainability, and even more interesting to what the consumer thinks about it. The perceptions of the consumer as to what sustainability is range environmentally responsible to organically grown. So in reality sustainability in both export and domestic markets is driven by the supermarkets, and its not going to go away any time soon.

*(Continued on Page 5)*



The team from the Riverina enjoying one of the industry networking events at the conference



## Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference — continued

Wine Tech is another highlight of the conference and is open for the 3 days of the conference. This is one part that I believe that the young delegates particularly enjoyed. although the majority of the exhibits were wine focused there was still plenty of stands focused of viticulture, with every thing from grape harvesters to vineyard posts. This is where the resellers come to show off the latest and greatest they have on offer, every thing from bolt on implements that will turn your regular tractor into an autonomous tractor or sprayers that monitor the canopy and adjust the output rate of the spray in real time.



The conference also promotes up and coming researchers by way of a poster display. This is where the researcher has to condense down there research and present it in the form of a poster. The sheer amount of posters on display is testament to the research that is been done in the wine industry as a whole.

The conference also gives rise to a mega networking event due to the number of people attending the conference from all corners of Australia as well as some guests from overseas. As the young delegates were sponsored By NSW Wine and the NSW DPI, some of the networking events were with other young delegates from other regions in NSW. This was an eye opener for us all, as we realised the disconnect between ourselves and the other regions. Some of the dinners that we all



attended together were quite amusing as we all got to know each other and appreciate the differences and similarities between our regions and individual operations. Another of these events called in the Wine Light focused on young researchers, these young scientists were given a minute to pitch the research that they have been working on, with the audience voting for the presentation that they liked best. the winner gets a trophy and got to present there work to a larger audience as part of the conference. (Continued on Page 6



## Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference — continued

One Night was spent listening to a band called The Yeasty Boys, this band is made up of people working in the wine industry and has been a regular social feature of the conference for many years now. They must be getting good as this years they were hosted by the casino, with many notable wine industry personnel dropping in for a drink and a dance.

Once the conference had concluded we had a debrief with the rest of the NSW delegates in the Barossa Valley, before heading to the Barossa we took the time to explore a couple of the wine regions that surround Adelaide. Our first stop was McLaren Vale followed by the Adelaide Hills, then it was on to meet up with the rest of the NSW crew for a tour through the Orora bottle making facility. It was then on to the Barossa for the night for the debrief the next day the debrief took place at the Barossa Cellar, a facility set up to showcase the wines of the Barossa act as a education center for Barossa wine and the home of Barossa Australia. The debrief let the young delegates express themselves and reflect on their experiences over the time at the conference, every one was in agreeance that the trip was very worth while and that they had all learned a great deal. One of the outcomes from this was the an action by Maggie Jarrett from NSW DPI to establish a young growers network with in NSW.

The final leg of the trip was a tour of 2 of the more progressive growers in the Murray Valley, this tour was organized by Paul Derrico EO Murray Valley Winegrowers. We visited The Chalmers Operation in



Merbein before crossing the river to see Brent Farnsworth's Vineyard, Chalmers continue to be leader in alternate varieties, while Brents operation is high density and high input. This tour made for interesting conversation for the rest of the trip home.

## Chemical Users Course And HACCP Certification

Riverina Winegrape Growers have been working with both TAFE and Tocal College to provide free chemical user courses to growers and their employees. Riverina Winegrape Growers Extension Officer Brian Bortolin is the man to contact if you require either a full course or a reaccreditation, Brian is also the man to see if you need your HACCP done,

don't leave it till vintage get in now and get it done. Don't forget if you have already done a chemical users course and paid for it then you can get a \$100 rebate or a \$150 rebate for a third party HACCP audit.

**For more information or to make a booking call Brian on 0401567449**

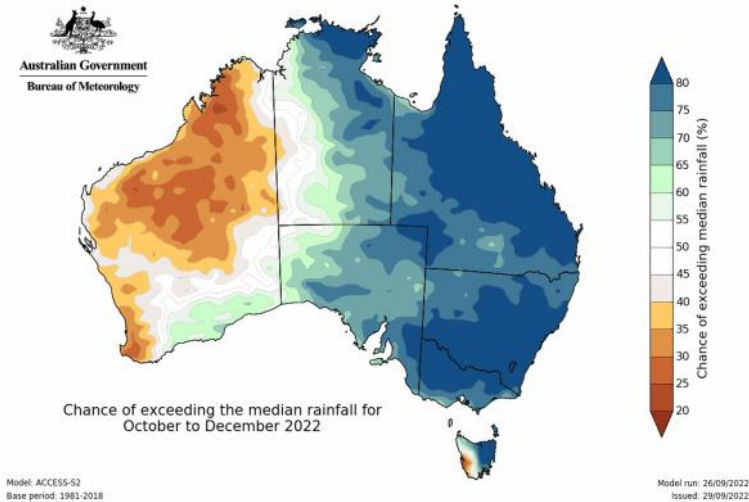


## Weather Outlook until December 2022

## Rainfall October to December 2022

## Rainfall October to December 2022

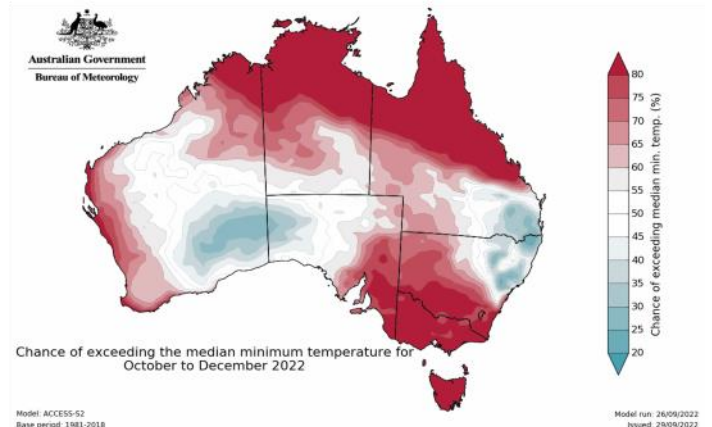
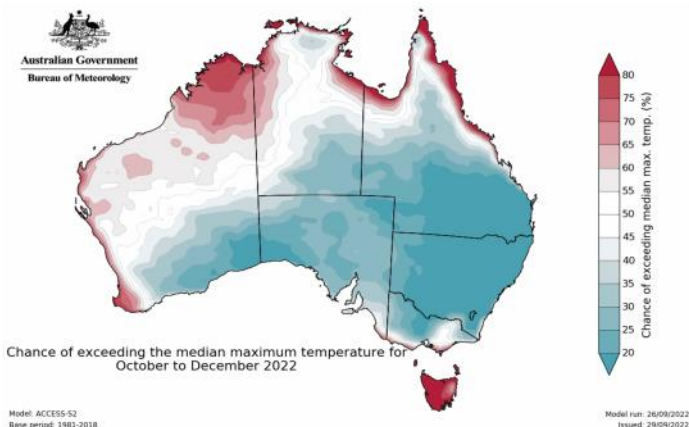
Bureau of Meteorology - Climate Outlook - Issued 29/9/2022



	Average rainfall October to December (mm)	Chance of above average rainfall October 2022 to December 2022	Rainfall outlook accuracy October 2022 to December 2022
Armidale	243	79% Moderate to high	59% Moderate
Pokolbin	200	85% High	64% Moderate
Mudgee	190	84% High	77% Very high
Orange	212	87% High	80% Very high
Cowra	152	87% High	80% Very high
Young	146	88% High	82% Very high
Bowral	215	89% High	62% Moderate
Tumbarumba	236	90% High	81% Very high
Canberra	169	87% High	72% High
Griffith	109	87% High	76% Very high
Mildura	68	82% High	73% High

Outlook accuracy represents the percentage of times that the outlook for this period was correct 1981-2018.  
Outlook accuracy that is very low or low is unlikely to add value to decision making.

## Temperature October to December 2022

October to December 2022 maximum temperature  
Chance of above averageOctober to December 2022 minimum temperature  
Chance of above average

## Temperature October to December 2022

Bureau of Meteorology - Climate Outlook - Issued 29/9/2022

	Maximum temperature			Minimum temperature		
	Average maximum temperature October to December (C)	Chance of above average maximum temperature October 2022 to December 2022	Maximum temperature outlook accuracy October 2022 to December 2022	Average minimum temperature October to December (C)	Chance of above average minimum temperature October 2022 to December 2022	Minimum temperature outlook accuracy October 2022 to December 2022
Armidale	22.4	2% Low	77% Very high	9.4	44% Moderate	78% Very high
Pokolbin	20.0	1% Low	81% Very high	13.7	33% Low to moderate	78% Very high
Mudgee	26.2	2% Low	92% Very high	11.3	48% Moderate	77% Very high
Orange	21.6	1% Low	90% Very high	8.4	64% Moderate to high	64% Moderate
Cowra	26.8	3% Low	90% Very high	10.9	73% Moderate to high	64% Moderate
Young	26.5	6% Low	91% Very high	10.4	79% Moderate to high	67% High
Bowral	22.5	7% Low	78% Very high	9.6	61% Moderate to high	82% Very high
Tumbarumba	22.2	30% Low to moderate	88% Very high	7.6	77% Moderate to high	84% Very high
Canberra	23.5	7% Low	84% Very high	9.5	77% Moderate to high	74% High
Griffith	27.8	13% Low	87% Very high	12.7	81% High	78% Very high
Mildura	28.4	21% Low to moderate	83% Very high	13.3	80% High	88% Very high

Outlook accuracy represents the percentage of times that the outlook for this period was correct 1981-2018.

Outlook accuracy that is very low or low is unlikely to add value to decision making.

## Australian Grape & Wine Announces New CEO

Australian Grape & Wine announces new CEO

On behalf of the Board of Australian Grape & Wine, I am pleased to announce that Lee McLean will be the next Chief Executive Officer of the representative body for the Australian wine industry.

An extensive international search was conducted over the first quarter of the financial year. This search revealed a substantial and very high-quality field of applicants. The Board is grateful to all of the applicants for their interest in this important role.

Lee has an extensive background in the Public Service, in both the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Agriculture. He has most recently been the General Manager, Government Relations and External Affairs for Australian Grape & Wine.

Lee has demonstrated the past achievements and the vision that is required to take Australian Grape & Wine to the next level of evolution. Given the challenges the Australian wine industry currently faces, the Board has set Australian Grape & Wine the mandate to be the most inclusive and effective advocacy body it can be. It is our belief that Lee McLean is the best CEO to drive that outcome for the industry.

We are looking forward to Lee being able to take on the CEO role in the near term to ensure an effective transition from our current CEO, Mr Tony Battaglene. We thank Tony for his great service to the organisation and the industry over many years.

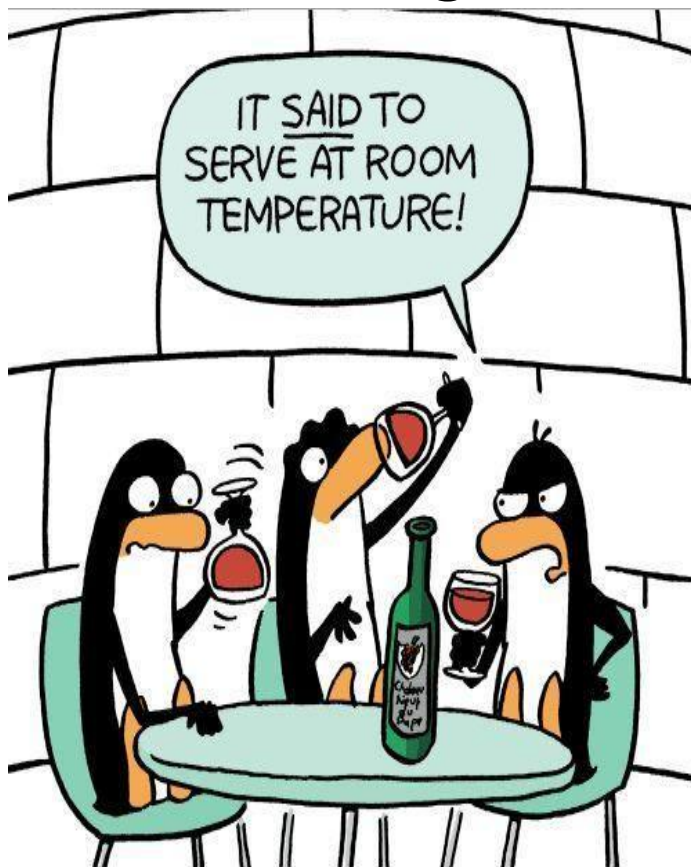
**John Hart OAM**

**Chairman, Australian Grape & Wine**

## R U OK—Don't let the Black Dog Bite

We all know that grape growers are going through some very trying times, the pressures caused by the oversupply can affect every one's situation in different ways. These negative pressures can directly affect people's mental health, and unfortunately most people see this as a weakness that they don't want the rest of the world to see. Please look out for your family, friends and neighbors, sometimes the signs are not obvious and even when they are asking the hard questions like are you thinking about harming yourself can take us out of our comfort zone. We all need to look out for each other and sometimes just talking about it can be an immense help, I am always willing to listen so please feel free to give me a call Jeremy Cass 0427 759094 or drop into the Office. Or you can contact any of the below resources for help.

- **Beyond Blue 24 hour helpline: 1300 224 636.**
- **Lifeline: 13 11 14.**
- **Mental health line: 1800 011 511.**
- **Mensline Australia: 1300 789 978.**



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