

National Wine Sector Bushfire Conference

25 May 2021

Preliminary program

Venues

International Convention Centre, Sydney

Time: 10:00 am – 5:30 pm

Address: 14 Darling Dr, Sydney NSW

Adelaide Hills Convention Centre, Hahndorf SA

Time: 9:30 am – 5:00 pm

Address: 145A Mount Barker Rd, Hahndorf

Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre, Wangaratta VIC

Time: 10:00 am – 5:30 pm

Address: 33–37 Ford St, Wangaratta

**This venue is also offering a dinner following the conference. Please add the ticket on registration if you wish to attend.*

Queensland College of Wine Tourism, Stanthorpe QLD

Time: 10:00 am – 5:30 pm

Address: 22 Caves Rd, Stanthorpe

Drysdale TAFE, Hobart TAS

Time: 10:00 am – 5:30 pm

Address: 59 Collins Street, Hobart

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, South Perth WA

Time: 7:30 am – 2:30 pm

Address: 3 Baron-Hay Court, South Perth.

Opening addresses

Featuring presentations from:

- Shane Fitzsimmons – Commissioner of Resilience NSW and Deputy Secretary Emergency Management (Former Commissioner NSW Rural Fire Service)
- Andreas Clark – Wine Australia, and
- Tony Battaglione – Australian Grape & Wine.

Session 1: Vintage 2020 – regional overviews

This session will provide a look back at the fire conditions leading up to the 2020 vintage – the range, duration, location and intensity of the fires – and the impact from both fire and smoke on vines, grapes and wine. This session will feature regional overviews from:

- South Australia – Peter Leske, Revenir Winemaking
- New South Wales – Mark Bourne, President NSW Wine Industry Association
- Victoria – Brett McClen, Brown Brothers, and
- National – Mark Krstic, Australian Wine Research Institute.

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Session 2: Vineyard preparation, respond and recovery

Session two is vineyard and grower focused and will provide practical management solutions in preparation for bushfires drawing from personal experience of landholders and discuss future risk management including vineyard infrastructure protection and hazard reduction. This session will also present producer perspectives on options for processing smoke tainted grapes and managing relationships with your winery. Finally, it will present the latest research in rapid damage assessment and grapevine recovery after fire. This session will feature presentations from:

- Colin Hinze, Pinion Advisory
- Mark Kozned, Nova Vita Wines (SA)
- Tim Bartsch, Bartsch Vignerons (SA)
- Liz Silkman, First Creek Wines (NSW)
- Cassandra Collins, University of Adelaide, and
- Richard Hamilton, Hamilton Viticulture.

Session 3: Smoke taint analysis and sensory experiences

This session will discuss the methods used by commercial labs for the testing of smoke compounds, share the experiences of winemakers from the Adelaide Hills and Mudgee wine regions in conducting sensory assessments of suspect wines, and provide best-practice tips for setting up a sensory trial in the field. Presentations in this session will be from:

- Eric Wilkes, Australian Wine Research Institute
- Greg Howell, Vintessential Laboratories
- Peter Leske, Revenir Winemaking (SA)
- Jean-Francois Esnault, Skimstone Wine (NSW)
- Damian Espinase Nandorfy, Australian Wine Research Institute, and
- John Blackman, National Wine and Grape Industry Centre.

Session 4: Research updates and mitigation in practice

This session will explore some of the latest research findings on understanding smoke and how it affects grapes and wine, including the development of an early warning system for vineyards, new mitigation options and smoke taint from exposure early in the growing season. We'll also explore some case studies of how wineries managed smoke-affected fruit from the 2019–20 bushfires. Wines from trials will be available to taste. This session will feature presentations from:

- Ian Porter, La Trobe University
- Mango Parker, Australian Wine Research Institute
- Kerry Wilkinson, University of Adelaide
- Warwick Billings, Lodestone (SA)
- Joel Pizzini, Pizzini Wines (VIC), and
- Alex Cassegrain, Cassegrain Wines (NSW).

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