



## Media release

Wednesday 9 January 2019

### Wisdom meets fresh thinking in Future Leaders 2019

Applicants have until Friday 15 March to apply for the 2019 vintage of Australia's grape and wine sector leadership development program – Future Leaders.

People with the skills and leadership drive to contribute to the future success of the sector are invited to apply for the program, which has been reshaped to better harness the collective wisdom across Australia's grape and wine community.

Wine Australia Senior R&D Program Manager Jo Hargreaves, who is co-ordinating the 2019 program, said that Future Leaders would guide participants on a personal leadership journey and ask them to consider the opportunities and challenges facing the sector.

'Through our partnership with Pragmatic Thinking Future Leaders 2019 participants will explore cutting edge leadership skills, hear from world class speakers and receive state of the art input on topics such as innovation, thought leadership, culture and sector impact', Ms Hargreaves said.

'We will also be calling on previous alumni and long-serving individuals in our sector to be mentors throughout the 2019 program; to provide their wisdom, build greater networks and support an exciting future for our community.'

Future Leaders – funded by Wine Australia and supported by Australian Vignerons and the Winemakers' Federation of Australia – has sounded the call for leadership since 2006 and many great leaders have stepped up, taking both their businesses and the sector to the next level.

2017 Alumnus Sarah Collingwood, CEO of Four Winds Vineyard, said Future Leaders had a significant impact both professionally and personally.

'We discussed issues such as what personal impediments we each put in the way of making progress, how to develop and maintain great culture in our businesses and how to have tough conversations. But most importantly from the Future Leaders course I have made life-long friends who work in all aspects of the sector.'

Australia's grape and wine community members are being encouraged to give their peers a tap on the shoulder; 'If you know someone who's ready to step up and "be next" – encourage them to apply', Ms Hargreaves said.

'I received some great advice from a friend who had said that I should keep applying for Future Leaders as it is competitive, and most people don't get in the first time around', said Ms Collingwood.

Up to 15 places are being offered in the Future Leaders 2019 intake. Visit [www.winefutureleaders.com](http://www.winefutureleaders.com) for information and to submit an application. Applications open Wednesday 9 January and close Friday 15 March 2019.

[Ends]



**Wine  
Australia**



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**About Wine Australia**

Wine Australia supports a competitive wine sector by investing in research, development and extension (RD&E), growing domestic and international markets, protecting the reputation of Australian wine and administering the Export and Regional Wine Support Package.

Wine Australia is an Australian Commonwealth Government statutory authority, established under the *Wine Australia Act 2013*, and funded by grape growers and winemakers through levies and user-pays charges and the Australian Government, which provides matching funding for RD&E investments.