

NEWS RELEASE

**For immediate release:
24 June 2016**



The Australian Wine
Research Institute



Toasting three terrific tasters

The Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) announced today the winners of the dux of three recent Advanced Wine Assessment Courses (AWACs). Mr Tim Perrin, Winemaker, Oakridge Wines, was named dux of AWAC 36, Mr Tim Bourne, Assistant Winemaker, Sons of Eden, was named dux of AWAC 37 and Ms Stephanie Dutton, Winemaker, Penfolds, was named dux of AWAC 38.

The three winners will be offered places as associate judges for the 2016 Royal Adelaide Wine Show, to be held in September – highly sought after positions due to the very limited number available.

In congratulating the winners, Michael Brajkovich MW, Chairman of Judges for the 2016 Royal Adelaide Wine Show, said “The Royal Adelaide Wine Show is very supportive of the excellent training provided by the AWAC and is looking forward to welcoming the two Tims and Stephanie as members of the panel of associate judges this year.”

Tim Perrin, who joined Oakridge at the start of the 2016 vintage, said “Completing AWAC has been one of the best exercises I have undertaken for sharpening up my own palate and has allowed me to look at wines with greater focus and precision.”

Tim Bourne, who has worked in both Australia and New Zealand said, “This course has opened the door for me to wine judging, along with helping me hone skills that are very important to my job. I would highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in wine judging or who is looking to improve their tasting skills. “

Stephanie Dutton, who has been at Penfolds since 2007, said “The course reveals a lot about how you work as an individual, there’s nowhere to hide. It reminds you of the attention and standard required in both the winery and in a show environment, whilst highlighting your personal responsibility.”

The selection of the dux of each course is based on statistical scores, verbal skills and group interaction.

Con Simos, Group Manager at the AWRI who is responsible for the course, commented that “The dux winners all demonstrated an excellent balance of wine knowledge, sensory skills and ability to describe what they were tasting. They all have a bright future in wine judging”

The AWAC, presented by the AWRI, puts participants through a gruelling and intensive four-day program of wine sensory education and assessment. It aims to prepare potential new wine show judges and develop the sensory analysis capabilities and vocabulary of Australian wine professionals at an elite level. Twelve leading wine show judges, journalists and winemakers contribute to the delivery of the course, alongside AWRI staff.

The next two AWACs will be held in November 2016. Course details are available at:
http://www.awri.com.au/industry_support/courses-seminars-workshops/awac/

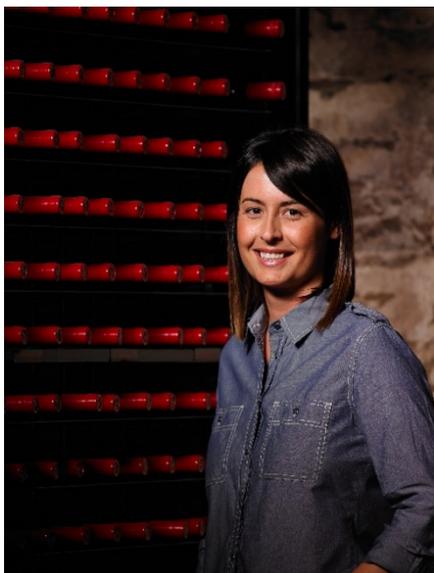
For more information, contact Ella Robinson, Communication Manager, AWRI on 08 8313 6600, ella.robinson@awri.com.au.



Tim Perrin, Winemaker, Oakridge Wines, dux of AWAC 36



Tim Bourne, Associate Winemaker, Sons of Eden, dux of AWAC 37



Stephanie Dutton, Winemaker, Penfolds, dux of AWAC 38

The Australian Wine Research Institute is the Australian grape and wine industry's own research organisation. It supports a sustainable and successful grape and wine industry through world class research, practical solutions and knowledge transfer. Website: www.awri.com.au.