

## NEWS RELEASE

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The Australian Wine  
Research Institute

### **AWRI Board election results announced**

The Australian Wine Research Institute this week announced the results of its recent Board election.

Toby Bekkers of Bekkers Wine in McLaren Vale was elected in the small producer category from a field of five candidates. Louisa Rose of The Yalumba Wine Company (current AWRI Chair) and Ben Bryant of Pernod Ricard Winemakers were the only nominated candidates from the medium and large producer categories respectively, and were therefore elected unopposed.

AWRI Chair Louisa Rose, said “I am delighted to serve another term on the AWRI Board, and look forward to working with Toby and Ben. This is an exciting time to be involved in the future direction of grape and wine research, development and extension in Australia.”

Toby Bekkers is a viticulturist, consultant and wine business manager with over 20 years’ experience. He and his wife, Emmanuelle, own and operate Bekkers Wine and vineyards in McLaren Vale, South Australia. Toby has recently been awarded a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by Wine Australia, to explore world best practice in the marketing of fine wines directly to consumers. Toby is a current Director of the AWRI and was initially elected to the AWRI Board in 2014.

Louisa Rose is the Chief Winemaker of The Yalumba Wine Company and the current Chair of the AWRI. She was initially elected to the AWRI Board in 2011 and has been Chair since 2014. Her role as Chief Winemaker sees her involved in viticulture and winemaking in Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia, covering cool and warm climates. Louisa is actively involved in a number of industry organisations and committees, and travels around Australia and overseas helping to promote Australian wines.

Ben Bryant is Director and Chief Winemaker for Australia for Pernod Ricard Winemakers. Ben joined Orlando Wyndham in January 2000 and since then has held various positions within Pernod Ricard Winemakers including winemaking, viticulture and global marketing. In July 2013, Ben was appointed International Brand Development Director – Asia based in Hong Kong. In 2014 Ben returned to Australia and held the position of Winemaking and Supply Manager, and then in September 2015 was appointed to his current role.

All three Directors will commence their elected term on 1 January 2017. Outgoing Board member Brett McKinnon’s term will conclude on 31 December 2016. The AWRI thanks Brett for his significant contribution over nine years.

For further information, please contact Ella Robinson, Communication Manager, AWRI on 08 8313 6600 or [ella.robinson@awri.com.au](mailto:ella.robinson@awri.com.au).

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**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](http://www.awri.com.au).