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Nobel Prize-winning scientist to join the Australian Wine Research Institute Board

Winemaker and Nobel Prize-winning astronomer, Prof. Brian P. Schmidt, AC, FAA, FRS will join the Board of the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) as a special qualifications director in February 2014.

Board Chair Mr Peter Dawson said “The AWRI is delighted to welcome such a high calibre scientist as a new Board member.”

“Prof. Brian Schmidt brings to the AWRI Board a unique combination of scientific excellence, wine industry knowledge and relevant board experience.”

Prof. Schmidt is a Distinguished Professor at the Australian National University Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics. He shared the 2011 Nobel Prize for Physics with Saul Perlmutter and Adam G. Riess for the discovery of the accelerating expansion of the Universe. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 2012 and appointed a Companion (AC) in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2013. He is a non-executive Director of Astronomy Australia, a member of the Council of the Australian Academy of Science and serves on three Government advisory boards.

Brian is also the owner operator of Maipenrai Vineyard and Winery in the Canberra District – a small producer of high quality Pinot Noir wines.

Commenting on his appointment, Prof. Schmidt said, “As a new member of the AWRI Board I am keen to support the AWRI in continuing to undertake world class research that yields practical solutions for the wine industry, with success marked by industry uptake and competitive advantages”.

“The AWRI is highly valued by Australia’s grape and wine producers and its research and industry support services are the envy of other wine-producing nations. The continuing strength of the AWRI and its support of innovative products and practices will be essential to the future sustainability and profitability of the Australian wine industry”.

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

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.

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