



YARRA VALLEY WORKSHOP

Thursday, 14 July, 8:30am – 12:00pm

Healesville Memorial Hall
237 Maroondah Hwy, Healesville VIC 3777

This workshop is a two-part program presenting short- and long-term climate change projections as well as tools and resources to assist grapegrowers and winemakers manage reduced water and adapt to a water-constrained future. It also covers a range of drivers for sustainable production and demonstrates the tools and resources available through Sustainable Winegrowing Australia to support the adoption of sustainable practices.

Time	Agenda	Presenter
08:30 – 08:45	Registration	
08:45 – 08:50	Introduction – Climate change adaptation: building resilience in the vineyard	Robyn Dixon (AWRI)
08:50 – 09:15	The Climate Atlas	Dr Tom Remenyi (University of Tasmania)
09:15 – 09:40	Soil health for building resilience in cool climate vineyards	Prof. Bob White (University of Melbourne)
09:40 – 10:05	Cover crops for building resilience in cool climate vineyards	Dr Thomas Lines (University of Adelaide)
10:05 – 10:30	Morning tea	
10:30 – 10:55	Online water budgeting tool	Mark Skewes (SARDI)
10:55 – 11:20	Irrigation scheduling tools	Dr Vinay Pagay (University of Melbourne)
11:20 – 12:00	Online non-chemical weed control tool and cover crop selector	Robyn Dixon (AWRI)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 13:15	Introduction – Sustainability workshop	Mardi Longbottom (AWRI)
13:15 – 13:45	Sustainability – global insights	Mardi Longbottom (AWRI)
13:45 – 14:15	Sustainability performance and targets in Yarra Valley	Liz Pitcher (AWRI)
	Q&A	
14:15 – 14:45	Afternoon tea	
14:45 – 15:15	Sustainability in action at Yarrowalla Vineyards	Lucy Etheridge (Yarrowalla Vineyards)
15:15 – 15:45	Sustainability in action in a Yarra Valley winery	TBC
15:45 – 16:00	Q&A	

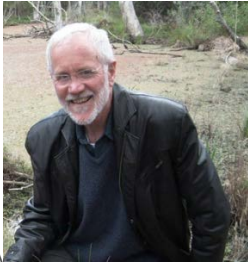
This workshop is supported by funding from the National Landcare Program. Support from Wine Yarra Valley and the Australian Wine Research Institute is also acknowledged.

Booking is essential. Please [register here](#)



Robyn Dixon (AWRI)

Robyn Dixon is a Senior Viticulturalist at the AWRI, with over 20 years of national and international experience in vineyard management, technical viticulture, research, and extension. Since moving back to Australia from New Zealand, Robyn has been adapting her cool climate viticulture knowledge to Australian conditions, through the management of technical and extension programs across Australia.



Prof Robert White (University of Melbourne)

Prof. Robert White is Emeritus Professor of Soil Science at the University of Melbourne, where he held the Chair of Soil Science from 1994 to 2003. Previously he was Professor of Soil Science and Director of the Fertilizer and Lime Research Centre at Massey University, New Zealand. He has extensive experience in soil science nationally and internationally, having worked in CSIRO and universities and been a private consultant in the viticulture industry from 2004. His main experience is in soil, water and nutrient management in places as diverse as Australia, USA, UK, NZ, China and southern Africa, where he has led national and international research teams. Bob has received several awards for his research and has authored a number of books on soil science.



Dr Thomas Lines (University of Adelaide)

Dr Tom Lines is currently working with Chris Penfold and Prof. Tim Cavagnaro at the University of Adelaide on quantifying the effects of undervine cover cropping. He finds motivation in providing an evidence base which growers can use to make informed decisions to improve their industry. Before Tom started in this field, he studied algal physiology, chemical engineering and biochemistry.



Mark Skewes (SARDI)

Mark has worked at Loxton Research Centre since 1988, primarily in the field of irrigated crop management, including irrigation scheduling, and soil and plant water monitoring. Mark was involved in a project to develop a smart phone app for assessing water stress in vines, and a current project investigating the use of hyperspectral cameras to assess water stress in citrus. Mark is part of a team establishing the Almond Centre of Excellence research orchard at Loxton and is the national coordinator for AgriFutures Australia's industrial hemp variety trials.



Dr Vinay Pagay (University of Adelaide)

Dr Vinay Pagay is a Senior Lecturer in Viticulture at The University of Adelaide, Australia, where he teaches viticulture and conducts research on grapevines. Vinay received his doctorate at Cornell University (USA) in 2014 where he worked on the development of novel tools for plant water sensing. Vinay also holds a degree in computer engineering from McGill University (Canada). His basic and applied research lies at the intersection of grapevine ecophysiology and vineyard technology. His current applied research is looking into the use of proximal and remote sensing tools to obtain high spatial and temporal resolution data of both biotic and abiotic stresses in vineyards, as well as for precision irrigation scheduling in vineyards. His basic research is focusing on elucidating the mechanisms involved in improved grapevine water use efficiency under reduced irrigation, specifically the roles that chemical and hydraulic signals play, as well as the role of aquaporins in regulating root and leaf water transport.



Mardi Longbottom, Manager Sustainability and Viticulture, AWRI

Mardi began her career in the wine industry in the early 1990s helping to establish her family's vineyards in Padthaway, South Australia. Shortly afterwards she gained her viticultural degree and held technical and vineyard management positions across numerous Australian wine regions. Mardi returned to the University of Adelaide in 2002 where she completed a Masters and PhD in Viticulture and was a Lecturer in Viticulture. For the past ten years, Mardi has focused on research and extension of wine industry sustainability projects including regional climate risk analyses, benchmarking greenhouse gas emissions from vineyards and the management of corporate water assets. She now manages the Australian wine industry's sustainability program, Sustainable Winegrowing Australia. Mardi is a graduate of the SA Governor's Leadership Foundation Program and a former director of Australian Grape and Wine Inc and the Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology.



Liz Pitcher, Sustainability and Viticulture Specialist, AWRI

Liz has qualifications in both Agricultural Science and Applied Science (Viticulture) and twenty years of wine industry experience. Her work experience includes various roles within small, medium and corporate wine industry businesses, incorporating grapegrowing, winemaking and research. Liz worked for seven years across SA's Limestone Coast, Langhorne Creek, McLaren Vale and Adelaide Hills regions as a Grower Liaison Officer for Treasury Wine Estates and, most recently, she worked as Technical and Organic Manager at Chalk Hill Viticulture in McLaren Vale. In that role Liz gained extensive experience implementing sustainability and organic certification systems including managing Sustainable Winegrowing Australia membership on behalf of 17 vineyards, five of which she also successfully led through the certification process. Liz has served as a director of NASAA Organic for the past two years, giving her valuable strategic insight into organic certification systems.