

Thursday, 14 December 2023

Queensland College of Wine Tourism – Varias Restaurant
22 Caves Road, Stanthorpe QLD 4380

8:30am – 1:00pm AEST

Irrigation management is critically important in a drying environment when water supplies are stretched. Ensuring your irrigation system is applying water evenly and at a known application rate is essential. So too is using the tools available to determine that water is being applied in the right amount at the right time.

AWRI, with support from Jeremy Giddings, Agriculture Victoria, is presenting a half-day workshop for wine-grape growers in the Stanthorpe region on drip irrigation systems. The workshop will cover system evaluation, maintenance, irrigation scheduling and management practices in a dry season. Overall, the topics covered will help producers to maintain production in a challenging water supply situation.

At the conclusion of the irrigation workshop, an online Q&A session on smoke will be presented by a panel from the AWRI.

Agenda	Presenter
Introduction	Robyn Dixon (AWRI)
Drip irrigation system audit and evaluation, including field evaluation [Part of this presentation will be held outside in the field]	Jeremy Giddings (Agriculture Victoria)
Morning tea	
Drip irrigation system maintenance	Jeremy Giddings (Agriculture Victoria)
Irrigation scheduling	Rochelle Schlank (AWRI)
Smoke taint Q&A session [VIRTUAL]	Matt Holdstock, Dr Eric Wilkes and Dr Mango Parker (AWRI)
Conclusion	Robyn Dixon (AWRI)





Robyn Dixon – Senior Viticulturist, AWRI

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Robyn Dixon is an experienced viticulturist with over a decade of expertise in grapegrowing and wine production across Australia and New Zealand. She has built an extensive international network and possesses exceptional written and oral communication skills rooted in technical viticultural practices. Currently a Senior Viticulturist at the AWRI, she provides vital viticultural support, leads extension initiatives, and advocates for sustainability. Robyn's career highlights include leadership roles in establishing national vineyard standards, offering strategic guidance, and overseeing significant vineyard projects. She holds a Master of Applied Science from Lincoln University in New Zealand, and a Bachelor of Science and Post Graduate Diploma in Viticulture from the University of Adelaide. Robyn's commitment to sustainability and community engagement is evident throughout her career and volunteer work, making her a passionate viticulturist and communication specialist.



Jeremy Giddings – Manager Irrigation, DEECA

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Jeremy Giddings has more than 25 years' experience in the irrigation industry, since joining NSW DPI in 1996 and then transferring to Agriculture Victoria in 2016. In this time, he has been based at both the Dareton Agriculture Research and Advisory Station NSW and Irymple Agriculture Victoria office, working in irrigation extension, primarily for horticultural irrigators in the lower Murray Darling. Jeremy is a Certified Irrigation Agronomist and Certified Irrigation Designer (Sprinkler) with Irrigation Australia. He has primarily worked with irrigation of citrus, vines, almonds and avocados.



Rochelle Schlank – Viticulturist, AWRI

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Rochelle is a newly appointed Viticulturist at the AWRI and is in the process of finalising her PhD with the University of Adelaide. Her research has focused on enhancing water use efficiency through optimised irrigation scheduling for premium Coonawarra Cabernet and Shiraz. She has a particular interest in plant-based sensing technologies and has also spent time investigating varietal responses to drought stress. Prior to her appointment, Rochelle spent time with the AWRI in a casual capacity assisting with various viticulture and sustainability programs.