

MATTHEW DELLER MW GAICD

Chief Executive Officer, Wirra Wirra Vineyards, Ashton Hills & Hahndorf Hill

Director, McLaren Vale Grape Wine and Tourism | Chair, Export Advisory Committee

Director, MW Endowment Company | Member, Wine Australia Joint Marketing Group

I am nominating for the Board of the Australian Wine Research Institute because I believe that applied science, innovation and governance are critical to the future of Australian wine.

As Chief Executive of Wirra Wirra, Ashton Hills and Hahndorf Hill, I lead three levy paying estates in McLaren Vale and the Adelaide Hills. This gives me insight into viticulture, winemaking, sustainability and market realities at different scales.

My career has combined leadership of Australian wineries with senior roles in the United States and New Zealand. I served as Chief Global Sales and Marketing Officer for Villa Maria, leading its integration into New Zealand's largest wine group. At Constellation Brands I was Director of Fine Wine Development with a USD 150 million portfolio including Robert Mondavi and The Prisoner. As Chief Operating Officer of TOR Napa Valley I delivered international growth, and as Chief Wine Officer of Wine Access I repositioned it as a direct-to-consumer retailer. These roles built expertise in markets, distribution strategy, consumer engagement and financial performance, experience essential to ensuring AWRI research delivers commercial advantage for Australian wine.

I am a Master of Wine and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, with executive training at Wharton and Harvard. I am a director of the MW Endowment Company and McLaren Vale Grape Wine and Tourism, where I chair the Export Advisory Committee. I also sit on the Wine Australia Joint Marketing Group. These roles reinforce my commitment to governance, strategy, sustainability and industry leadership.



David Lloyd

Winemaker

I am applying for a position on the AWRI board as I believe that I have a wide range of knowledge and skills that would be of great value and benefit to the AWRI.

I first worked with the AWRI in 1980 when trying to isolate the bacteria causing malolactic fermentation. Over the ensuing years I have sought the team's assistance in a wide range of areas. Most recently I have been involved in a project investigating how the iron levels in Pinot Noir affects the wines ability to utilise dissolved oxygen.

I have a long track record as a scientist, science communicator, and winemaker having completed 50 vintages. As a leader in the Mornington Peninsula wine community for many years as well as the sole proprietor, viticulturist and winemaker at Eldridge Estate of Red Hill for 28 years, my ability to manage all aspects of wine production and maintain a cash flow positive winery through difficult times such as covid, have given me a unique perspective on the wine industry. Winemakers need to be good communicators. My two years at CSIRO working as a science communicator developed this ability as well as helping refine my skills in the presentation of data. I have had several papers published over the years covering both oenology and viticulture.

I value greatly the work of AWRI and will work within the board to ensure strong governance and the pursuit of research that is valued by all sectors of the Australian Wine Industry.



Jamie Saint

Chief Winemaker, Australian Vintage Ltd

Jamie joined Australian Vintage Limited (AVL) in 2005 for work experience and never left. The science of wine quickly had him hooked, sparking a passion for winemaking that has guided his career ever since. Progressing through a range of roles to become Chief Winemaker in 2020 and a member of AVL's Senior Leadership Team, Jamie now leads winemaking, product innovation and vineyard programs, ensuring AVL's wines continue to connect with today's consumers from vine through to glass.

While grounded in traditional winemaking, Jamie is passionate about research, technology, innovation and creative thinking.

He played a lead role in developing the McGuigan Zero range, now a global leader in the NoLo category, and led a circular innovation project that transformed winemaking by-products into award-winning spirits under the Tempus Two brand, clear examples of his commitment to pushing boundaries with innovation-led AVL.

In 2023, Jamie spearheaded the successful Advancement of Australian Lifestyle Wines CRC-P, bringing together 11 industry partners and securing Federal funding to accelerate research and development in NoLo wine. He continues to lead this project, fostering collaboration between research bodies, suppliers and producers to deliver meaningful outcomes for Australian wine.

Jamie believes the future strength of the industry lies in connecting research with practical application from vineyards, innovation and sustainability and that genuine collaboration across the sector is key to ensuring Australian wine continues to lead on the world stage.



Damien Sheehan profile

A qualified viticulturalist with over 30 years experience. Currently the General Manager & Viticulturalist for Mount Langi Ghiran winery in the Grampians region of Victoria. My career has been wholly spent in vineyard management, however, I have always maintained a heavy involvement in industry matters at regional, state and at times national level.



In 2023 I succeeded Andy Clarke as a Director on the AWRI board in the Grape Research Levy category and I am now seeking a second term. In 2025 I have been active in all levels of industry, serving as deputy chair of the Grampians region wine association, a committee member of the Wine Victoria Technical Committee and a committee member of the National Biosecurity Advisory Committee. Previously I have served stints as chair of the Grampians Winemakers, chair of Wine Victoria, chair of the Victorian Viticulture Biosecurity Committee and chair of the Viticulture Committee of the Victorian Wine industry Assoc.

Over the journey I have had a long association with the AWRI having been responsible for managing Victoria's Annual Operating Program, a levy funded extension program and a program in which we often partnered with the AWRI and prior to that I was the industry member of the governance committee managing the [AWRI Node in Victoria](#) (2012-2018). And going back to 2001, Mount Langi Ghiran worked closely with an AWRI research team on the 'pepper project' eventually culminating in the discovery of rotundone. This exposure to the AWRI means that I am familiar with its services in R&D and E&A. I have also worked closely with the AWRI to shape and drive technical support for the Victorian wine industry on smoke taint utilising both its commercial and extension services.

I am keen to represent Grape Research Levy payers as a board member of the AWRI with particular emphasis on maintaining and strengthening relevance to industry in both research and extension and looking for innovation in its extension programs for greater industry engagement and improved skills outcomes.

Personal Profile

Peter Szabo

I am a vineyard owner and seasoned agribusiness leader with over four decades of experience across the Australian wine sector. As the current General Manager and Company Secretary of CCW Co-operative Limited—Australia's largest grower-owned grape supply organisation—I oversee the operations, financial performance, and strategic direction of a membership of nearly 500 winegrape growers.



Raised on my family vineyard, I hold a deep affinity with growers and the broader community. Over 25 years I have built strong professional relationships across the wine industry and developed a comprehensive knowledge of grape supply chains, grower engagement, and commercial innovation.

Governance & Leadership

I bring substantial board-level knowledge and experience through my leadership of CCW and my directorship with CIT. I have successfully led multi-stakeholder projects funded by government agencies, including CCW's Transforming the Riverland Project supported by PIRSA. These roles have honed my expertise in strategic planning, risk management, and stakeholder engagement.

Commitment to Innovation

I have always had a passion for scientific innovation and industry extension. I understand the Australian Wine Research Institute's commitment to delivering world-class research, technical solutions, and extension services that strengthen the sector's global competitiveness and sustainability.

Contribution to AWRI

I believe my combination of practical vineyard experience, strategic business acumen, and deep grower understanding uniquely positions me to add value to the AWRI Board. I am committed to helping guide AWRI's strategic direction and supporting its mission to provide innovative, evidence-based solutions for the Australian wine sector.