



Adelaide: 9 August 2012

NSW wine producers to benefit from new AWRI node

Dr Dan Johnson, Managing Director of The Australian Wine Research Institute, announced today the establishment of the AWRI's fourth regional node, which will be based in the Hunter Valley. "With the support of the Hunter Valley Wine Industry Association and the NSW Wine Industry Association, we are pleased to secure the services of Sam Connew to establish AWRI's second node in regional NSW," he said.

In support of the increased presence of the AWRI in NSW, Mr David Lowe, President of the NSW Wine Industry Association, said, "NSW wineries, particularly in the Hunter/Mudgee/Orange regions, will benefit from applied research projects in the fields of oenology, process optimisation and viticulture with particular focus on the priorities and requirements in these areas."

Mr Andrew Margan, President of the Hunter Valley Wine Industry Association, worked closely with the AWRI to establish the node in the Hunter Valley. "The presence of the AWRI in the Hunter Valley will facilitate increased adoption of R&D outcomes by wine businesses in the Hunter/Mudgee/Orange wine regions. The aim is to achieve outcomes of improved wine quality, productivity and sustainability for wine and grape producers through the application of those technologies."

An experienced winemaker, Sam has had winemaking positions in Italy, USA and Spain. In Australia, she was Senior Winemaker at Wirra Wirra Vineyards before moving to Tower Estate in the Hunter Valley. Sam won the International Wine Challenge's 'International Red Winemaker of the Year' award in 2007, and is currently a Senior Wine Show Judge and Panel Chair at regional and national shows throughout Australia. She is also a Board Member and head of the Wine Show Committee for the Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology.

The AWRI's Hunter Valley node will be based at the Keith Tulloch Winery and will commence operations on 3 September.

For further information:

Dr Dan Johnson, Managing Director, The Australian Wine Research Institute, ph: 08 8313 6610,
email: dan.johnson@awri.com.au