

Wine Service Guild of Australia (Victorian Branch Incorporated) 53rd President's Report 2012

Guild Members and Guests

It is with great pleasure that I report on the Wine Guild activities for 2011 - 2012.

Your Committee has again put together an outstanding and diverse range of 10 functions. Most have been very well supported.

No doubt all of us have read and seen first hand throughout our functions, the extreme ongoing difficulties everyone in all levels of the industry are experiencing to stay solvent, and unfortunately, this trend looks to continue for quite some time with the high Australian dollar and other world crises, not to mention the new 'Carbon Tax'. Even with these problems, the Wine Guild is most indebted to the wonderful support from all of the industry people; Wine Companies, Winemakers and Managers that have given us their time and effort to enhance our program this year.

I take this opportunity to express to the Committee of 2011-2012, a very big thank you for their ongoing dedication and support to me, in particular, over the past year. Congratulations to our Committee Member, Graeme Lofts, on the nomination of his book 'Heart & Soul: Australia's First Families of Wine', with foreword by James Halliday, for the World's Best New World Wine book, for which he was awarded runner up.

Terry Coles continues his wonderful work on our webpage. Take the time to check it regularly for Wine Guild updates at www.wineguild.com.au. Not to be behind with the latest technology, Secretary Di has spent hundreds of hours over the past year working on the Wine Guild's Facebook page, on which, would you believe, we have to date 755 friends.

Membership continues to grow with 9 new members this year. We welcomed Limin Shen, Richard Keville, Qi Keville, Huang Xiaoying, Alice Liu, Annie Zeng, Jianjun Guo, Jiapeng Lu, and Josh James.

We regret the passing of our esteemed Committee Member Hilton Ludekens. Condolences were sent to his family on their sad loss.

I would like to note as a matter of interest that the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 1981 is being repealed in November 2012 and a new Associations Incorporation Reform Act will come into effect.

For some time the Committee has been considering a name change for the organization. The current name does not correctly describe the Wine Guild as there is no such entity as the Wine Service Guild of Australia and, as such, Victorian Branch of a non-entity is misleading and not possible. Further, the word Service is now considered obsolete as the Wine Guild is not involved with service of wine.

The Committee will be sponsoring a special resolution to change the entity name of the Wine Guild from 'Wine Service Guild of Australia (Victorian Branch Incorporated)' to 'The Wine Guild of Victoria Incorporated.' The proposed abbreviated name of 'Wine Guild Victoria' describes the organization accurately and succinctly. Both our sister organizations in South Australia and Queensland do not have the word 'service' in their names.

The Committee will also consider recommending the update our Constitution to bring it into line with the other states.

Thank you
Bob Bailey
President