AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF VITICULTURE AND OENOLOGY | ASVO

2025 Annual General Meeting of The Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology Inc.

held on the 11th of November 2025

Attendance

The Chair noted that a quorum was present in accordance with the constitution and declared the Annual General Meeting open at 5:05 pm.

Thirteen (13) members were present in the room, as recorded on the registration sheets.

Keren Bindon	Colin Hinze	Mardi Longbottom	Samantha Scarratt
Rob Bramley	Mark Krstic (6:03)	Syuzanna Mosikyan	Alana Seabrook
Peter Clingeleffer	Philip Laffer	Anthony Robinson	Rob Walker
			Richard Hamilton

Twenty-six (26) members were present as reported by webinar ID 950 4669 6540

Nick Bulleid	Nick Dry	Patrick Iland	Chrissie smith
Wendy Cameron	Katie Dunne	Cate Looney	Colin Starkey
Andy Clarke	Marianna Fasoli	Franco Meggio	Vanessa Stockdale
Di Davidson	Penny Flannery	Paul Petrie	Kerry Wilkinson
Mike Davies	Steve Guy	Alex Rashford	Lane Williams
Andi Roberts-Davison	Ruth Harris	Renata Ristic	David Wollan
		Mark Siebert	Ashleigh Seymour

Nine (9) members submitted proxy forms.

Andrew Allen	Jo Hargreaves	Ben Pietsch
Lucy Etheridge	Craig Markby	Glenn Thompson
Han Gao	Brett McClen	Eric Wilkes

Apologies

Six (6) members' apologies were recorded.

Peter Barry	Paul Boss	Liz Riley
Eveline Bartowsky	Kathy Evans	Liz Waters

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- The Chair asked if there were any amendments to the published minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting.
- No amendments were noted.

MOTION: That the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting be recorded as a true and correct record.

- Moved by: Andy Clarke
- Seconded by: Anthony Robinson

The motion was carried by a show of hands and an online poll.

- The Chair asked if there were any amendments to the published minutes of the 2025

Special General Meeting held in June 2025.

- No amendments were noted.

MOTION:

That the minutes of the 2025 Special General Meeting be recorded as a true and correct record.

- Moved by: Andy Clarke
- Seconded by: Rob Bramley

The motion was carried by a show of hands and an online poll.

2. President's report.

The Chair presented the report to the members, making note of ASVO's 3-year partnership with Wine Australia for the Rootlings Network, revitalised scholarship program, and the Journal's global ranking, while noting a 10% decline in full-paying memberships.

The Chair noted the recent announcement of the current Executive Officer, Chris Waters's retirement in mid-2026 and thanked volunteers and Board members for their service.

3. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer presented the financial highlights and progress of the organisation over the past year. The Board noted that ASVO secured new income streams during the year, including delivery of WSET courses and project management of the Rootlings project. An AWITC grant from the previous cycle also enabled a second day of CRUSH, bringing together the Journal's Editorial team in person for the first time in over a decade, including Chief Editor Professor Stefano Poni.

Increased income was driven primarily by grants, sponsorships, and project funding, while core income streams such as membership and sponsorship remained steady or declined slightly. Higher expenses reflected the delivery of funded projects and events, with core operating costs remaining stable.

The Society's net assets increased to $466,228, up from $446,823 in 2024, consistent with effective financial management. Current reserves remain in line with the ASVO Investment Policy, which aims to retain uncommitted reserves covering 12–18 months of internal non-deferrable expenditure, averaged over a three-year cycle.

The Board noted that this strong financial position enables continued reinvestment in member services, facilities, and technology. New initiatives launched in 2025, including the NextGen, Growth, and Dr Patrick Iland Scholarships, will collectively provide $15,000 in funding to support members' professional development and training.

Membership revenue declined from $99,820 in 2024 to $92,937.85 in 2025, reflecting broader industry challenges. The Rootlings project, a three-year partnership with Wine Australia, aims to address this trend by engaging and retaining early-career professionals.

ASVO continues to maintain strong relationships with its core sponsors, who value the exposure and collaboration associated with their partnership.

The Chair opened the meeting to questions about the financial report

Question

A member asked why the financial report shows approximately $20,000 in revenue from Journal royalties but no corresponding expenses for the Journal.

Response:
The Executive Officer explained that ASVO does not incur any direct expenses in relation to the Journal's publication. Under the current publishing agreement with Wiley, universities and institutions pay publication and open access fees directly to Wiley, which covers all production and publication costs. ASVO, as the owner of the Journal, receives royalty income based on the agreement but does not manage or pay any related expenses.

Question
A member asked if there is a non-active category available and if there is a penalty to rejoin if membership has lapsed.

Response:
The Chair confirmed that there is no penalty for rejoining. Under the Constitution, a member remains a member until they formally resign or pass away. Non-financial members lose membership benefits and voting rights but can reactivate their membership at any time without penalty. The Board noted that lapsed members are periodically targeted with promotional campaigns to encourage them to rejoin.

Question
A member asked if the number of members quoted by the Treasurer included affiliate members and if affiliate members paid membership dues.

Response:
The Treasurer confirmed that affiliate members (Wine Show and Wine Show judges and a small number of institutional individuals) are not included in the total membership count. Affiliate members do not pay membership fees, they have no voting rights, and their membership is offered on a complimentary basis.

Question
A member thanked the Treasurer for their report and noted the 10% drop in membership fees in 2025, which compounded declines over the past two years. The member expressed concern, highlighting that membership fees are a strong predictor of future revenue and asked whether the Board expected a shortfall again in 2026.

Response:
The Treasurer responded that the Board shares concerns regarding the decline in

membership and noted that projected revenue from membership fees is expected to fall further in 2026. Given the current economic conditions, the Board is focused on diversifying income and identifying alternative revenue sources to supplement membership fees.

Question
A member asked the Board to provide guidance regarding the increase in the balance sheet of trade Debtors and to explain what the purpose of the deferred income account was and when the Board expected the income to be expensed.

Response:
The EO responded that trade Debtors consisted of three invoices that have now been cleared.

The Treasurer responded that the deferred income account reflected the income from the Rootlings program, which was funded through a Collaboration Agreement with Wine Australia. The funds were received annually in advance.
In line with accounting standards and the matching principle, these funds are not recognised as income when received. Instead, they are initially recorded as Deferred Income (liability) on the Balance Sheet. As program costs are incurred, the corresponding portion of deferred income is released and recognised as income in the Statement of Profit or Loss. This ensures that income recognition is aligned with the utilisation of funds.
At the end of the financial year, any unspent portion of the funding is carried forward as deferred income and recognised in future periods as the related expenditure occurs.

4. Auditor

The Chair moved the proposed resolution that the auditor for the next financial year continue to be DW Johns.

MOTION: That the ASVO appoint D W Johns as the auditor for the next financial year.

Moved	Andy Clarke
Seconded	Rob Walker

The motion was carried by a show of hands and an online poll.

5. Board elections

The Chair announced changes for the 2024-25 Board of Directors.

The Chair thanked the outgoing Directors, Eveline Bartowsky (three terms), Vanessa Stockdale and Katie Dunne (two terms) and Nick Dry (one term)
The Chair welcomed and congratulated incoming Directors Cate Looney and Colin Hinze to the Board and told members that Dr Sam Scarratt had been re-elected.

The Chair noted that with the changes to the Constitution, the number of general Directors was reduced to three, and the Board would shortly be calling for nominations for appointed Directors, and there would be some communications coming out following the AGM.

The Chair advised that nominations would be sought for candidates with skills in academic

publishing or research leadership, extension, professional development, finance, and marketing or communications.

The Chair also announced the appointment of the independent members of the Nominations Committee, confirming that Brooke Howell would serve as the Independent Chair and that Tony Robinson had agreed to fill the second independent position. A current Director will be appointed following the AGM to complete the committee membership, in accordance with the charter.

6. Admission of Fellows of the Society

The Chair stated the ASVO Board of Directors had decided that two members be granted honorary membership as Fellows of the Society.
The Chair announced that the Fellow Selection Advisory Committee had recommended Dr Mardi Longbottom and Philip Laffer AM be invited to become Fellows of the ASVO.

The Chair highlighted Dr Longbottom's long-standing leadership and commitment to sustainability in the wine sector. Her current role as General Manager for Engagement and Sustainability at the AWRI and her significant contributions to education, research, and industry extension.
The Chair noted that Dr Longbottom had held many key industry leadership roles, including ASVO President, and had been named ASVO Viticulturalist of the Year the previous year. She remains an active and valued contributor to ASVO beyond her previous Board commitments.
The Chair invited Dr Mardi Longbottom to address members. Dr Longbottom expressed her gratitude for the opportunities and support she had received throughout her career.

The Chair highlighted Mr Philip Laffer's long-standing leadership in the Australian wine sector. As Chief Winemaker at Orlando Wyndham, he had driven innovation, elevated quality standards, and developed export strategies that made Jacobs Creek the world's top-selling Australian wine in the 1990s. He had promoted Australian wine internationally, contributed to research, industry bodies, and government advisory groups, and mentored countless winemakers. His advocacy for research and industry development projects throughout his career was noted as a key reason for his recognition by the selection panel. The Chair invited Laffer AM to address members. Laffer delivered a speech highlighting Australia's strengths in wine education, the Royal Agricultural Society's show system, the AWRI, and ASVO as key pillars for the industry's resilience in challenging times.

7. Other business

The Chair invited all those present to raise any further matters that have not been dealt with on the agenda.

A member expressed disappointment that the Board had renewed the contract with Wiley without consulting the academic editorial team, citing correspondence from an Author expressing ongoing issues with the submission process.

The Board was asked if the Authors had been contacted with an apology for four papers that

had a formatting issue. The Board responded that they had raised the issue with Wiley but had not yet contacted the affected authors.

A member stated that their organisation's research priorities had shifted significantly, affecting the ability to cover article processing charges (APCs) for several manuscripts currently in development, including co-authored papers with a collaborator. The member expressed the view that it was unlikely that the papers would be funded for open-access publication under the current APC support arrangements. The member noted that the group may need to consider open-access journals where APCs are either not charged, are lower cost, or can be supported through existing institutional publishing agreements. Examples of suitable journals referenced included OENO One, Vitis, and a South African journal that has active agreements in place through SARA.

The member further observed that the institution's open-access agreement with Wiley provides APC support across the publisher's journal portfolio, but is subject to a strict annual cap on the number of papers eligible for funded APC coverage. Due to the size of the institution and high volume of authors, many manuscripts are unable to receive APC support once the cap is reached.

The member emphasised the importance of submission timing for APC eligibility, noting that manuscripts generally need to be submitted or formally accepted prior to August, ahead of the annual cap reset period, and that CAUL–publisher agreements for APC support also operate within capped limits.

A robust discussion took place regarding the Journal Advisory Committee. Some members raised concerns that the committee had not met and questioned whether the current members had the skills to operate effectively. Others strongly suggested returning to the previous cohort, noting their experience as former members.

There was also debate regarding the committee's function, specifically whether it should operate in an operational capacity or solely as an advisory body. The Board noted the feedback and clarified that the committee's primary role is to provide an independent mechanism for addressing grievances within the editorial team, while operational matters are handled by the Journal subcommittee.

A member noted that he had been a member of the Journal Advisory Committee from its inception and had served for many years. He expressed concern about the evolving challenges for the Journal, particularly the impact of online publishing on the traditional print-based business model. He suggested that if the Journal was not fulfilling a meaningful purpose for members—such as providing opportunities or supporting their chances of publishing—the Board should give serious consideration to whether continuing to operate the Journal was justified.

The Chair assured members that a considerable amount of time was spent on the management of the Journal and engaging with the Journal process. The Chair agreed to

review the Terms of Reference for the Journal Advisory Committee and to improve engagement and oversight of the Journal's operations.

ACTION

1	Consider feedback on the Journal Advisory Committee's composition, role, and effectiveness, including whether to reinstate previous members or clarify its advisory vs operational functions.
2	Follow up with Wiley and affected authors regarding formatting issues and any required apologies for impacted manuscripts.
3	Evaluate the ongoing purpose and strategic value of the Journal in light of shifting publishing models, online impact, and member benefits.

A member asked about the appointment process for the EO role, given that the current EO had announced a transition to retirement. The member asked if the Board had given some consideration to the type of role that they're looking to replace. Is it a like-for-like, or are they looking for a Hybrid role, or are they looking for a part-time role, for example?

The Chair responded that the process would be managed through Wine Network Consulting and that the role was not defined at this point in time, but the Board would explore what worked for the right candidate.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked members present for their attendance, engagement, and continued support and declared the meeting closed at 6:16 pm.

Approved by

Andy Clarke
President/Chair



Date 3/12/2025

Dr Vanessa Stockdale
Secretary



Date 21/10/2026