

ASVO




**ANNUAL
REPORT
2025**



Acknowledgment of Country

The Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology acknowledges the traditional custodian of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to lands, water and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to Elders past and present



2025 Annual report

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President's Report



Andy Clarke

The ASVO has continued to evolve during the past 12 months with numerous new activities to support our member community. With knowledge exchange as a key foundation, we have launched several initiatives designed to strengthen our community and advance professional development across all career stages.

The ASVO launched a comprehensive scholarship programme providing professional development bursaries for members both new and not so new. The cornerstone is the Dr Patrick Illand Scholarship, supported by generous royalty donations stemming from book sales by Patrick and his fellow authors, with Pia Merrick the inaugural recipient.

The CRUSH Symposium brought our Journal's editorial team, including our Chief Editor Prof. Stefano Poni together in person for the first time in over a decade. This forum provided collaboration opportunities between researchers and additional development for the next generation.

After an exhaustive consultation process, ASVO members overwhelmingly endorsed an amended constitution in June this year. The key changes were an increase in term length and the appointment of skills-based directors. These changes will enable greater continuity of director roles, and ensure that the board will have the ability to engage directors with skills applicable for future challenges.

We commenced a three-year partnership with Wine Australia to roll out the Rootling's network nationally, which connects young wine professionals through peer-to-peer support and development opportunities. During a challenging industry phase and demographical transition, it provides a direct conduit to those new to the sector.

We face our own transition challenge over the next 12 months as we engage a successor for Chris Waters as our Executive officer. Chris's passion and dedication to the role has provided a steady hand for over a decade, and we look forward to working together in finding and mentoring the new addition to the team. Chris has been enabled by the generosity of our members and volunteers who contribute to the delivery of the journal, programs, events, and awards, and the board is deeply grateful for their contributions this year. Through collaboration and a willingness to step up and contribute to the organisation, we build a strong and vibrant community.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your continued commitment and engagement as we seek to build resilience and excellence in our people and industry.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Clarke'.

Andy Clarke
President

Executive Officer Report



Chris Waters

Most members will be aware that after 14 years of serving ASVO, this will be my final report. My plans to retire in 2026 and the search for a new Executive Officer have recently been made public. It has been an honour to serve the Society over these years and particularly during 2024/25, a year of both progress and reflection. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the key achievements of the past year, the challenges that lie ahead, and to acknowledge the personal connections that have made this journey so meaningful.

A defining theme of 2024 has been engagement. Regional forums, seminars, and events have reinforced the importance of staying connected with our membership.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role has been the opportunity to work with the next generation of professionals. Supporting undergraduates and early career members through initiatives such as the ASVO Scholarship Program, the WSET partnership, and Rootlings has been a strategic priority, ensuring the long-term strength and relevance of ASVO.

The Society's achievements have only been possible thanks to the dedication and professionalism of the ASVO Board, our Brand Manager Ruth Harris, and the many members who volunteer their time and wisdom to support the ASVO. Their leadership has been instrumental as we advance into the second year of our Strategic Plan: Roadmap 2024–2029.

At the same time, 2024/25 has highlighted key challenges. The membership survey confirmed that, while ASVO is valued for its professionalism and credibility, members are seeking stronger regional connections, increased practical value, and more tailored support. Membership renewal rates remain a concern, with revenue from dues decreasing by 10%. This trend reflects broader challenges faced by many professional associations, driven by economic pressures, evolving professional needs, and the ongoing difficulties in the Wine Industry.

The decision to join and remain with ASVO will always rest on perceived value. The incoming Executive Officer and Board will need to build on current initiatives by:

- Reconnecting with members through targeted engagement, particularly in regional areas.
- Strengthening the value proposition by expanding opportunities for networking, mentorship, and knowledge exchange that go beyond free resources.
- Developing a sustainable membership model that balances affordability with financial stability.
- Deepening partnerships and collaborations that extend ASVO's reach and relevance across the sector.

- Maintaining a strong focus on the next generation, ensuring ASVO remains the professional home for early career members.

As I conclude my time as Executive Officer, I am proud of what we have achieved together and confident that the Society is well-positioned to build on this foundation. The next phase of ASVO's journey will require fresh energy and strategic focus. The commitment of our members, Board, and volunteers will provide a strong platform for future growth.



Chris Waters
Executive Officer

Key Priorities for 2024-25

Enhanced Member Engagement

- Build engagement with research community through support of Crush 2024
- Build engagement with regions through regional spotlight visits
- Build engagement with members through community forums.

Increase Value Proposition

- Increase the number of networking opportunities
- Facilitate easier access to relevant information
- Launch a scholarship program to assist members career development
- Form a new collaboration to offer online access to a bespoke version of the WSET's Level 2 Award in Wines course with WSET Certified Educators

Grow the next generation of members

- Be a key player in the national roll out of the Rootlings network
- Create opportunities for next generation members with Next Gen Scholarship and an Emerging Talent Award

2024-25 Highlights



Community

We fostered connection and growth across our membership, launching the National Rootlings Project to support the next generation, celebrating members at the 2024 Awards Dinner, and welcoming new Fellows into the Society.

Dealing With Frost Damage - ASVO Community forum

- Community Forum - Dealing with Frost Damage
- Community Forum - Wet & Humid conditions
- Launch of National Rootlings Project
- Recognition of members at the 2024 Awards dinner
- Induction of new Fellows of the Society



Journal & Research community

We focused on restoring the Journal's quality and reputation, supporting editors and authors, and steadying the ship. By returning to Wiley as publisher and signing a new three-year contract, we reinforced the Journal's platform for high-quality research. These efforts have strengthened the community, rebuilt confidence, and positioned the Journal for future growth and impact.

- Return to Wiley as the publisher for the Journal
- New three-year contract signed
- Increase in Cite Score to 6.5
- Journal Editor Meeting and Crush: Grape and Wine Science Symposium Day two



Knowledge Sharing

We connected growers, winemakers, and professionals to share insights, strategies, and best practices

- Regional Spotlight, Orange - Managing extreme weather conditions
- Community Forum - Growing season review
- Community Forum - Vintage Review V25 -V26



Professional Development

We supported the next generation of wine professionals by launching a new Scholarship Program, partnering with WSET to expand learning opportunities, and achieving a record number of participants in the Mentor Program.

- New Scholarship Program Launched
- Exciting Collaboration with the Wine & Spirits Education Trust (WSET)
- Mentorship Milestone of a record number of participants in the Mentor Program



Governance

We reviewed and modernised the Constitution, ensuring it reflects our current governance practices and sets a strong foundation for the future.

- New Constitution

What we heard from you

This feedback provides the Board with a clear picture of where ASVO is making a difference and where we need to focus more attention. These insights will shape our priorities for the coming year as we work to ensure ASVO remains a valued, relevant, and inclusive Society for all members.

The ASVO Board thanks members for their candid feedback. Your perspectives help us understand what we are doing well and where we can do more to support you.



What's working well

- **Day-to-day Operations**

Many members expressed strong satisfaction with ASVO's work and appreciation for the Society's role in advancing the industry.

- **The Youth network (Rootlings) & Mentoring program**

Support for students and early-career professionals was highlighted as a valuable contribution.

- **Events and resources**

Members recognised the Society's efforts to maintain events and resources despite financial and operational pressures.

Opportunities for improvement

- **Regional Connections**

Expanding local and regional events to strengthen networks across all states.

- **Value & Relevance**

Clarifying ASVO's unique role and delivering more practical, focused content.

- **Journal & Research**

Revitalising the AJGWR to improve accessibility, presentation, and author engagement.

- **Events**

Increasing in-person, technically focused events with a balance of research and practice.

- **Membership**

Reviewing pricing and options to ensure value for students, early-career, and retired members.

Community

2024-25 Highlights

1. Launch of National Youth Network (Rootlings)
2. Dealing With Frost Damage - ASVO Community forum
3. Grower forum - Wet & Humid conditions
4. Recognition of members at the 2024 Awards dinner
5. Induction of new Fellows of the Society

Launch of Rootlings

In the second half of 2024, the national network Rootlings was launched, connecting young wine professionals under 35 across Australia. Building on a highly successful 2023 pilot in New South Wales led by Maggie Jarrett, NSW Wine, and NSW DPI, Rootlings is designed to foster the next generation of talent through peer-to-peer support and professional development opportunities. The ultimate goal is to retain young people in the wine industry.

The Rootlings program is part of a three-year funding partnership with Wine Australia. ASVO plays a central role in administering Rootlings, with National Project Officer Jenna Vaughan driving the program to ensure its successful rollout. This partnership allows ASVO to play a pivotal role in nurturing the next generation of wine professionals, helping to retain young talent in the industry, and providing structured peer-to-peer support and development opportunities.

ASVO's involvement in Rootlings is a natural extension of our commitment to fostering professional development across all career stages. By administering the program, ASVO can leverage our industry network, managing national initiatives to ensure the successful rollout of Rootlings.

ASVO's stewardship ensures that the program aligns with broader industry objectives, creating a sustainable framework for professional growth that benefits both young professionals and the Australian wine sector as a whole.



Dealing With Frost Damage - ASVO Community forum

In mid-September 2024, a significant frost formed across multiple regions, affecting yield and crop viability. Considerable losses were reported in the Barossa and Riverina region, with damage estimated to cost approximately \$35 million or 100,000 tonnes of crop. In response, we held an open forum to discuss the impact of recent weather events, specifically frost damage, on the agricultural industry, particularly the vineyard sector. They shared their experiences and challenges with managing vineyards during frost events, and discussed potential solutions such as kelp spray and the importance of well-hydrated vines.



Grower forum - Wet & Humid conditions

Rain and humid overcast conditions in many regions put vines under significant threat of disease. ASVO facilitated a grower forum to discuss best practices and share experiences to help with the difficult decisions about control options.

2024 Awards for Excellence

The 2024 ASVO Awards for Excellence were celebrated on 31 October at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide. The Awards continue to highlight the people and projects driving excellence and innovation across the sector. The evening showcased the depth of talent within our community, with recipients acknowledged not only for their professional achievements but also for their commitment to advancing the industry as a whole.

The Awards are proudly supported by major partner **Wine Australia**, with **Syngenta**, **TangoSix**, and **WineCheck**, generously sponsoring award categories and helping to showcase achievement across the industry.

Winemaker of the Year: Virginia Willcock

- o for her long-standing service and contributions to Margaret River winemaking

Viticulturist of the Year Dr Mardi Longbottom

- o for her work on climate change and sustainability in vineyards, including regional risk analyses and greenhouse gas benchmarking.

Wine Science & Technology Award Dr Eric Wilkes

- o for his outstanding technical contributions to the Australian wine industry.

Dr Peter May Award Dr Ana Hranilović

- o for the most cited AJGWR paper published in the previous five years.

Best Oenology Paper of the Year: Tingting Shi

- o for her paper on the impact of stubble burning smoke on Cabernet Sauvignon grapes and wine.

Best Viticultural Paper of the Year: Dr Guiseppe di Vita

- o for his paper on From Roots to Leaves: Understanding Consumer Acceptance in Implementing Climate-Resilient Strategies in Viticulture.



Fellows

This year, the Society welcomed two distinguished professionals as new ASVO Fellows, recognising their outstanding contributions and leadership within the viticulture and oenology community. Their induction celebrates their commitment to advancing the industry and exemplifies the values and expertise that define ASVO Fellows.

Liz Riley



Liz Riley has been part of the Australian Wine industry for over 25 years, entering during what she calls the “glory days” in the 1990s after studying viticulture at Roseworthy. Liz moved to the Hunter and commenced her viticultural consulting business ‘Vitibit’ in 2000. Over her career, Liz has been on the Board of the AWRI and ASVO, won the ASVO Viticulturist of the Year Award in 2017, and has contributed on countless ASVO viticulture seminar program committees, been an avid mentor of others, a champion for the Hunter and an expert on topics such as pest and disease control, biosecurity and agrochemicals.

“It is a privilege to be invited to be a Fellow of the Society. Receiving this honour is the result of a career of being supported by many great people who have provided sage advice and direction that have led to serendipitous opportunities. I am grateful to the Hunter Valley wine community, which welcomed me in one of the more challenging places to be a viticulturist.” *Liz Riley*

David Wollan



David is vocal in espousing the importance of the ASVO as the professional membership body for the Australian wine industry. He has held continuous membership since joining in 1981. David has contributed strongly to ASVO, serving on the Board of Directors from 2016 to 2018, and served on the organising committee for several cycles of the Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference. He helped shape the Australian Journal of Grape and Wine Research, serving on the advisory committee for fifteen years from 1981 to 1996. He also contributes to his regional industry, serving as president of the Yarra Valley Winegrowers Association and deputy chairperson of the Victorian Wine Industry Association.

“I have spent over 40 years as an ASVO member, practising my belief: “Ask not what your society can do for you; ask what you can do for your society.” Well, now my society has seen fit to recognise my contribution to it, and the industry more widely. In being honoured as a Fellow, I join an esteemed group. For this, I am profoundly grateful.” David Wollan

Acknowledging Our Volunteers

We sincerely thank the dedicated volunteers who generously contributed their time and expertise on ASVO advisory committees throughout the year. Their guidance and commitment play a vital role in shaping our programs, supporting our members, and advancing the wine industry.

Assoc. Prof. Malcolm Allen	Academic Editor	Lauren Hansen	Award Committee
Ashlinn Theroux	Guest Speaker	David Hansen	Guest Speaker
Dr. Eveline Bartowsky	Academic Editor	Assoc. Prof. James Harbertson	Academic Editor
Kristy Bartrop	Guest Speaker	Dr Jacqui Harper	Award Committee
Jill Bauer	Award Committee	Lee Haselgrove	Guest Speaker
Dr Keren Bindon	Academic Editor	Xanthe Hatcher	Award Committee
Nigel Blieschke	Guest Speaker	Ken Helm AM	Presenter
Dr Marcos Bonada	Presenter	Bruce Henderson	Guest Speaker
Dr. Rob Bramley	Academic Editor	Dr. Paul Henschke	Academic Editor
Jason Capello	Award Committee	Prue Henschke	Fellow Selection Advisory
Jeremy Cass	Guest Speaker	Prof. Justine Vanden Heuvel	Academic Editor
Alex Cassegrain	Award Committee	Teresa Heuzenroeder	Award Committee
Assoc. Prof. Michela Centinari	Academic Editor	Colin Hinze	Award Committee
Dr Toni Chapman	Guest Speaker	Sue Hodder	Fellow Selection Advisory
Dr Andrew Clark	Journal Advisory Committee	Adrian Hoffman	Guest Speaker
Kendall Clements-Virag	Award Committee	Justin Jarrett	Guest Speaker
Peter Clingeffer	Fellow Selection Advisory	Sally Johnson	Award Committee
Sarah Crowe	Award Committee	Rusell Johnstone	Fellow Selection Advisory
Tamara D'Mello	Guest Speaker	Larry Jorgensen	Award Committee
Robyn Dixon	Award Committee	Ashley Keegan	Award Committee
Rauri Donkin	Award Committee	Catherine Kidman	Award Committee
Jen Doyle	Award Committee	Prof. Paul Kilmartin	Academic Editor
Nick Dry	Guest Speaker	Emma King	Award Committee
Dr Ian Dry	Guest Speaker	Dr Mark Krstic	Guest Speaker
Prof. Gregory Dunn	Academic Editor	Libby Tedstone	Guest Speaker
Dr Katherine Evans	Academic Editor	Jean Macintyre	Award Committee
Steve Faulkner	Award Committee	Pia Merrick	Award Committee
Dr Sigfredo Feutes	Journal Advisory Committee	Paula Newman	Award Committee
Penny Flannery	Presenter	Nick Dry	Guest Speaker
Dr Chris Ford	Journal Advisory Committee	Mark O'Callaghan	Award Committee
Dr Chris Ford	Guest Speaker	Gwyn Olsen	Master of Ceremonies
Dr. Leigh Francis	Academic Editor	Dr Amber Parker	Academic Editor
Dr Carly Gamble	Award Committee	Matt Patridge	Guest Speaker
Marty Gransden	Guest Speaker	Dr Anne Pellegrino	Academic Editor
Prof. Paul Grbin	Academic Editor	Mark Pengilly	Guest Speaker
Dylan Grigg	Award Committee	Assoc. Prof. Paul Petrie	Academic Editor
Dr Andrew Hall	Academic Editor	Ali Phillips	Award Committee

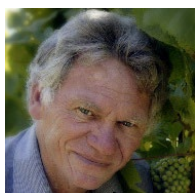
Community

Dr Anne Pellegrino	Academic Editor	Dr Paul Smith	Guest Speaker
Mark Pengilly	Guest Speaker	Nigel Sneyd MW	Award Committee
Assoc. Prof. Paul Petrie	Academic Editor	Nigel Sneyd MW	Wine Show Training
Ali Philips	Award Committee	Dr Mark Sosnowski	Academic Editor
Ben Pietsch	Award Committee	Professor Chris Steele	Academic Editor
Prof. Stefano Poni	Academic Editor	Fred Strachan	Guest Speaker
Dr Anne Rae	Journal Advisory Committee	Dr Tim Sutton	Journal Advisory Committee
Rhys Thomas	Award Committee	Tanya Worontschak	Award Committee
Dr Hayley Ridgway	Academic Editor	Dr Bin Tian	Academic Editor
Liz Riley	Guest Speaker	Emeritus Prof Steve Tyerman	Academic Editor
Dr Renata Ristic	Academic Editor	Dr. Rob Walker	Academic Editor
Prof Paolo Sabbatini	Academic Editor	Tom Wallace	Award Committee
Dr. Anthony Saliba	Academic Editor	Tom Ward	Guest Speaker
Dr Sam Scarratt	Guest Speaker	Dr Liz Waters	Academic Editor
Dr Jason Smith	Guest Speaker	Prof Kerry Wilkinson	Academic Editor
		Dr. Hong Zhou	Guest Speaker

In Memoriam

This year, ASVO mourns the loss of several treasured members of our community. While we honour those who have made particularly notable contributions, we also recognise all members we have lost, some sudden and tragic, leaving a profound sense of loss among colleagues and friends. Though they are not singled out here, their contributions, friendships, and presence in the ASVO community are sincerely missed and will not be forgotten.

We honour these members and all those we have lost, who contributed so much to ASVO, supporting, mentoring, and inspiring the next generation of wine professionals in the spirit they exemplified.



Richard Smart

Richard Smart was a visionary viticulturist whose knowledge, dedication, and enthusiasm touched the lives of countless wine professionals. Internationally recognised yet always approachable, Richard shared his expertise generously, inspiring innovation and excellence across the vineyard and beyond. His mentorship, warmth, and unwavering commitment to the industry leave a legacy that will continue to guide and inspire future generations.



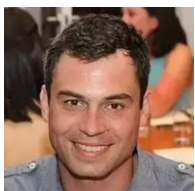
Russell Johnstone

Russell Johnstone will be remembered as a highly respected and much-admired member of the Australian wine community. Known for his integrity, generosity, and deep commitment to the industry, Russell made lasting contributions through both his professional achievements and his personal support of colleagues and peers. His wisdom and kindness left an impression on all who worked with him, and his loss is deeply felt. Russell's legacy will endure in the people he mentored, the friendships he fostered, and the standards of excellence he championed.



Chris Dundon

Chris Dundon was a respected and cherished member of the wine community, known for his professionalism, generosity, and genuine care for colleagues. His dedication to viticulture and winemaking, coupled with his approachable and supportive nature, made a lasting impact on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. Chris's memory will live on through the people he inspired and the work he championed.



Ben Mitchell.

Ben was just 38 when he died after a short battle with cancer. Ben was a viticulturist and vineyard manager, a father of two small boys and an ASVO member. Ben will be desperately missed by his family and friends, and both the ASVO community and the broader wine industry.



Simon Killeen.

Simon was a talented and passionate winemaker, he carried a love for the craft passed down from his beloved great-grandfather, grandfather and father. While he had stepped away from the business in recent years, Simon's connection to Rutherglen and its history remained strong.

Journal & Research community

2024-25 Highlights

- Return to Wiley as the publisher for the Journal
- New three-year contract with Wiley
- Increase in CiteScore to 6.5
- Journal Editor Meeting and Crush: Grape and Wine Science Symposium Day Two

The current situation of our Journal

In recent years, the Board sought to position the *Australian Journal of Grape and Wine Research* within a new publishing model that would not only secure the Journal's future but also generate additional funds. The aim was to create a sustainable income stream that could be reinvested into the research community, furthering the ASVO's mission. While this approach was ambitious, it did not deliver the outcomes we had hoped for. The experience highlighted the risks of moving too far from proven models. Subsequently, the Board has taken a more measured path to ensure stability, even if this means smaller, more predictable financial returns.

With the challenges of the Hindawi arrangement now firmly behind us, the Board has approved a new three-year contract with Wiley. This extends our partnership with Wiley through to 2028. The Journal is now fully managed and published by Wiley who are an established and trusted publisher in academia. Given experience, it offers authors enhanced credibility and confidence when submitting their work. This renewed stability provides a solid platform for the Journal to continue its role as a respected source of scientific knowledge and a vital resource for the viticulture and oenology community.

Whilst this provides some stability going forward, the Board acknowledges some challenges remain with Wiley's new Research Exchange platform. This has included a less-than-ideal user experience for editors and data quality issues linked to journal-specific configurations. However, as with any innovative new technology, there will be both successes and challenges along the way.

Since returning to Wiley, we have seen a welcome increase in submissions and, in most cases, a return to the level of quality expected of the *Australian Journal of Grape and Wine Research*.

Journal recognition & performance

In 2024, the *Australian Journal of Grape and Wine Research* (AJGWR) received a significant increase in CiteScore to 6.5 (from 5.3 in 2023) and its ranking as the #1 journal in oenology and viticulture and 11th globally in horticulture, a notable rise from the previous year. This means that AJGWR falls within 87% percentile of the Horticulture Subject category. This confirms its solid first ranking among the journals specialised in Viticulture and Oenology (second is Oeno-One with a current CiteScore of 4.3).

The rejection rate is now stabilised around 60-65% of the submitted papers, and the speed of publication has strongly increased.

Journal communication

Two new initiatives were successfully introduced during the year to enhance communication and engagement with members and the editorial team:

- **Research Roundup**

A quarterly newsletter designed to summarise and highlight recent publications in the Journal. This initiative ensures that all members are kept up to date with the latest research, trends, and findings in the field, supporting ongoing professional development and fostering a stronger connection with the Journal's content.

- **AJGWR Editor News**

A periodic newsletter targeted at the Journal's Editorial team. This communication provides updates on policy changes, new guidelines, solutions to previously raised issues, and other important developments. Its purpose is to maintain alignment across the editorial team, ensure consistent application of procedures, and equip editors with practical solutions to common challenges, thereby enhancing the efficiency and quality of the editorial process.

Journal Editor Meeting and Crush: Grape and Wine Science Symposium Day Two

On Thursday, 26 September 2024, ASVO proudly hosted 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.

The event featured the CRUSH Symposium and the Annual Editorial Meeting, with presentations from leading researchers and publishing experts. This gathering not only strengthened connections within the editorial team but also provided a platform for sharing insights, discussing innovations, and aligning on strategies to maintain and enhance the quality of the Journal.

The event was made possible through a grant from AWITC, reflecting the ongoing commitment of industry partners to support collaboration, professional development, and the advancement of research excellence in the field. ASVO also thank the WIC Crush committee for their support.

- **Best Presentation (sponsored by ASVO)**

Ecosystem monitoring of scale insect and mealybug vineyard pests
Dr Chris Ward, AWRI

- **Industry Impact Award (sponsored by ASVO)**

Can spinning cone column distillation and activated carbon remediate smoke taint in wine?
Ysadora Mirabelli-Montan, University of Adelaide



Professional Development

Extension Activities 2024–25

ASVO Extension Activities 2024–25

Over the past year, the ASVO has continued to deliver targeted extension activities that support members in responding to industry challenges and advancing viticultural and winemaking practice. A key focus has been on creating opportunities for growers, winemakers, and researchers to share knowledge and practical solutions in a collaborative setting.

Regional Spotlight - Managing extreme weather conditions

In partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, ASVO held a Regional Spotlight in Orange, NSW, addressing the growing challenge of extreme weather events. From frost and hail to floods and heatwaves, these risks are at the forefront of many growers' minds.



Field Visit to Tamburlaine Organic Wines, and See Saw Wines

The program included field visits to Tamburlaine Organic Wines and See Saw Wines, where Marty Gransden and Mark Pengilly demonstrated sustainable and organic vineyard practices, showing how proactive management strategies can reduce the impact of extreme conditions.



2024 Growing season review

This member-exclusive forum provided a valuable opportunity for participants to hear first-hand how peers managed the growing season, what approaches worked, and what lessons were learned. By sharing experiences, members gained practical insights that could be applied to their own operations.



Vintage Review Reflections on V25 and Setting up for V26

With many growers experiencing frost damage during the season, the Vintage Review focused on treatments applied, outcomes achieved, and strategies to prepare for the next season. These discussions not only helped members evaluate the effectiveness of different practices but also provided advice on setting their vineyards up for success in V26.



2024-25 Highlights

- New Scholarship programme launched
- New collaboration with Wine & Spirits Education Trust WSET
- Record number of Mentor Program

New scholarship programme launched

The new scholarship program was launched in April 2025. Its structured with the flexibility to allow applicants to propose a unique professional development opportunity that best suits them, whatever stage they are in their career:

- ASVO NextGen Scholarship - five scholarships available of up to \$1000
- ASVO Growth Scholarship - two scholarships of up to \$2500
- ASVO Dr Patrick Iland Scholarship - one scholarship up to \$5000

In total, the new scholarships will provide \$15,000 towards supporting members' careers by providing funding for training courses, educational opportunities and professional development projects.

Next Gen Scholarships

The NextGenScholarships are supported by Wine Australia with levies from Australia's grapegrowers and winemakers and matching funds from the Australian Government.

Four successful recipients were awarded in 2024-25:

Michelle Li, Winemaker at Knappstein Wines in the Clare Valley

Michelle will use the scholarship to assist with registration and workshop fees for the 19th Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference.

Michelle hopes to learn from industry experts and gain new critical thinking skills to find novel solutions to winemaking and viticultural challenges.

Keegan Thomson, Cellar Hand at Robert Stein Winery in Mudgee, NSW,

Keegan will use the scholarship to assist with travel expenses to attend the Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference.

Keegan hopes to learn about sustainable production practices and broaden his perspective on the industry.

Syuzanna Mosikyan, PhD researcher at the University of Adelaide

Syuzanna will undertake a strategic visit to Canberra. The purpose of this visit is to meet with scientists and key regulatory bodies - including FSANZ - who are working on the policies around genome editing. This trip will directly contribute to both her PhD research and broader industry discussions surrounding the regulatory landscape for novel breeding techniques.

Benjamin Totino, Assistant Winemaker at Credaro Family Estate in Margaret River
Benjamin will use the funds to support his enrolment in the Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) Level 3 Award in Wines WA course. He aims to improve his own skills in wine evaluation and share his knowledge with the vintage and cellar staff to enhance wine quality.

All recipients will report on their experiences and outcomes through ASVO communication channels, ensuring the broader community benefits from their insights.

ASVO Dr Patrick Iland Scholarship

The inaugural recipient of the Dr Patrick Iland Scholarship is Pia Merrick, head winemaker at Australian Vintage's Buronga Hill Winery in Mildura, Victoria.

Pia will use the scholarship to attend the Sustainability Leaders' Summit in Melbourne in March 2026 with the intention of exploring cross-sector strategies for a more sustainable future, which may be applied to the wine and grape sector. This scholarship was possible due to the generosity of the authors who publish under Patrick Iland Wine Promotions.



Techniques and methods for chemical, physical and sensory analyses and tests of grapes and wines.

Authors: Dr Patrick Iland OAM, David Bruer, Nick Bruer, Sue Caloghiris, Greg Edwards, Andrew Ewart, Dr Chris Ford, Dr Andrew Markides, John Sitters, Dr Eric Wilkes.

Theory and concepts of chemical, physical and sensory analyses and tests of grapes and wines.

Authors: Dr Patrick Iland OAM, David Bruer, Nick Bruer, Dr Chris Ford and Dr Eric Wilkes

The Grapevine: from the science to the practice of growing vines for wine

Authors: Dr Patrick Iland OAM, Dr Peter Dry AM, Dr Tony Proffitt, Dr Steve Tyerman, Dr Cassandra Collins, Dr Christopher Steel, Dr Vinay Pagay

Australian Wine: styles and tastes, people and places

Authors: Dr Patrick Iland OAM, Peter Gago AC, Dr Peter Dry AM and Andrew Caillard MW.

New collaboration with Wine & Spirits Education Trust WSET



The Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology (ASVO) has taken a significant step in expanding its professional development offerings by partnering with the Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET). Through this collaboration, ASVO members now have access to the online WSET Level 2 wine courses, opening up new opportunities for learning and career growth within the industry.

This initiative reflects ASVO's commitment to providing high-quality professional education to its community, with a strong focus on wine production and the various factors that influence wine styles and characteristics. Delivered entirely online, the courses offer flexibility, allowing members to study at their own pace while balancing professional and personal commitments.

By partnering with WSET, a globally recognised leader in wine education, ASVO is strategically positioning itself as a key provider of professional development for the viticulture and winemaking community. This enables strengthening knowledge and skills of its members through supporting the ongoing advancement of the Australian wine industry.

Wine Industry Mentor Program 2025

The 2024 cohort of the Wine Industry Mentor Program (WIMP) demonstrated the program's growing impact and commitment to fostering leadership within the Australian wine sector. With over 100 applications received, 55 early-career professionals were selected to participate, representing a diverse cross-section of the industry, including viticulture, winemaking, marketing, media, education, and supply chain management.

Mentorship was provided by more than 50 esteemed industry leaders, such as Matt Woo from Penfolds, Samantha Connew from Stargazer Wines, and Annabel Mugford, Head of Education at Barossa Australia. These mentors dedicated their time to support the professional development of mentees, aiming to build leadership potential within the industry.

The program's structure included monthly one-on-one sessions between mentors and mentees, complemented by group professional development sessions and access to resources via the MentorCloud platform. This comprehensive approach facilitated the growth of both personal and professional skills among participants, contributing to the development of future leaders in the Australian wine industry.

Overall, the 2024 WIMP cohort exemplified the program's success in connecting, growing, and inspiring the next generation of wine industry professionals.

2024-25 Highlights

- New Constitution

Constitution revision

As part of its commitment to good governance, the Board undertook a review of the Society's constitution to ensure it accurately reflects our current objectives, activities, and operations, while also providing the flexibility needed to meet future challenges.

Following this review, the Board proposed several amendments for member approval:

1. **Affiliate Membership Category** – creation of a new membership class to broaden the Society's reach. This category inherits the existing rights of Wine Show Members, with current Wine Show Members migrated into the new category.
2. **Director Tenure** – introduction of longer terms for elected Directors along with limits on continuous service, ensuring both continuity and renewal.
3. **Appointed Directors** – granting the Board the ability to appoint up to two Directors, strengthening diversity of skills and fostering an inclusive Board culture.
4. **Constitutional Clarity** – updating language to better reflect current practice and clarify previously ambiguous provisions.

Members overwhelmingly endorsed the amended constitution at a meeting held in Adelaide on the 11th June 2025. This strong vote of support reflects the Society's shared commitment to a modernised governance framework, positioning us to better serve members into the future.

The Board acknowledges with gratitude the contributions of **David Wollan, Tony Robinson, and past Directors** who led the 2018 amendments, and **Malcolm Allen** for his earlier work shaping the constitution. Their efforts have provided a strong foundation on which these latest reforms build.

Board of Directors



Andy Clarke
President 2022 – 2025
Elected Regional Director -
Victoria
2018 2020 2022 2024



Dr Samantha Scarratt
Vice President 2025
Elected General Director 2023



Dr Alana Seabrook
Treasurer 2022-2025
Elected Regional Director –
South Australia 2020, 2022 2024



Dr Vanessa Stockdale
Public Officer and
Secretary 2022 -2025
Elected General Director 2021,
2023



Jeremy Dineen
Elected Regional Director -
Western Australia, Tasmania,
ACT and Queensland 2022, 2024



Dr Katie Dunne
Elected General Director
2021, 2023



Dr Eveline Bartowsky
Public Officer and
Secretary 2019-2021
Elected General Director
2019, 2021,2023



Nick Dry
General Director Elected 2023



Chrissie Smith
Elected Regional Director NSW,
2024

Financial statement

Overall while trading income increased significantly in 2025, the rise in operating expenses led to a lower net profit compared to 2024. The major differences between 2024 and 2025 are:

1. Trading Income:

- Total trading income increased significantly from \$187,678.95 in 2024 to \$267,121.78 in 2025.
- Key contributors to the increase include:
 - Grants (AWITC): \$38,575 in 2025 (no grants in 2024).
 - Merchandise: \$20,650.54 in 2025 compared to \$9,191.22 in 2024.

New Income Streams:

- New income streams such as WSET Courses (\$2,100 in 2025) and Project Management (\$10,000 in 2025) were introduced to reflect the new offerings.

2. Operating Expenses:

- Total operating expenses increased from \$206,029.56 in 2024 to \$295,026.65 in 2025.

Significant increases include:

Crush- Day2

- Accommodation: \$10,500.18 in 2025 compared to \$4,936.37 in 2024.
- Event - Audio-Visual: \$8,721.08 in 2025 compared to \$3,288.43 in 2024.
- Event Catering: \$27,113.32 in 2025 compared to \$16,959.86 in 2024.

COGS

- Goods for Sale: \$17,823.73 in 2025 compared to \$8,036.39 in 2024.

Salaries:

- \$92,498.40 in 2025 compared to \$85,009.26 in 2024.

Travel - Speakers & Others:

- \$15,052.55 in 2025 compared to \$566.28 in 2024.
- Project Expense - Rootlings: \$33,876.27 in 2025 (no expense in 2024).

3. Net Profit:

- Net profit decreased from \$36,081.50 in 2024 to \$19,833.23 in 2025, despite the increase in trading income, due to higher operating expenses.

In summary, the increase in income was driven primarily by grants, sponsorships, and project funding. Core income streams, such as membership and sponsorship, remained steady or experienced a slight decline. The increase in expenses reflects the costs associated with delivering funded projects and events, while core operating expenses remained stable.

Audited Finance report

Aust. Society of Viticulture & Oenology

ABN 42 404 438 575

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Profit and Loss

Aust. Society of Viticulture & Oenology For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024	
Trading Income			
<i>a</i>	Grants (AWITC)	38,575	-
	Interest Income	18,945	13,277
<i>b</i>	Membership Fee	92,938	99,821
<i>c</i>	Merchandise	20,651	9,191
	Posters	178	409
	Proceedings	82	107
<i>d</i>	Project Management	10,000	-
<i>e</i>	Publishing Royalties	19,836	17,837
<i>f</i>	Registrations	21,277	28,708
<i>g</i>	Sponsorship - Annual	17,541	18,329
	Sponsorship - Corporate	25,000	-
	WSET Courses	2,100	-
	Total Trading Income	267,122	187,679
	Gross Profit	267,122	187,679
Other Income			
<i>h</i>	Investment Income	8,219	8,851
<i>i</i>	Project funding	33,876	42,150
<i>j</i>	Royalties/Donations	5,643	3,432
	Total Other Income	47,738	54,432
Operating Expenses			
<i>k</i>	Accommodation	10,500	4,936
	Advertising	119	156
	Audio / Video Production	-	1,050
	Audit Fees	-	2,250
	Awards	1,174	1,724
	Bank Charges	143	169
	Beverage & Corkage fees	5,037	6,691
	Board Election Expense	950	950
	Board Meetings/AGM Expenses	84	263
	Board Training	72	3,550
	Bookkeeping Services	908	715
<i>l</i>	Contract Services	19,185	18,750
	Depreciation	-	441
	Domain Hosting	-	160
<i>m</i>	Event - Audio-Visual	8,721	3,288
<i>n</i>	Event Catering	27,113	16,960
	Event Photographer	575	830
	Event Printing & Stationery	523	336
	Event- Hire	740	261

	2025	2024
	467	-
	-	141
<i>o</i> Goods for Sale	17,824	8,036
Insurance	2,735	2,677
Internet/Telephone	1,173	1,275
<i>p</i> Leave Provision Expense	8,433	4,384
<i>q</i> Legal Fees	5,087	-
Membership fees	-	727
Merchant Fees	1,126	1,376
Other Employer Expenses	695	576
Postage	230	192
Printing & stationary	87	354
<i>r</i> Project Expense - Rootlings	33,876	-
Promotional Merchandise	2,976	-
Rent	3,600	3,600
Repairs & Maintenance	-	30
Salaries	92,498	85,009
<i>s</i> Scholarship	8,041	4,900
Software Licences	3,012	2,820
Sponsorship	414	5,013
Stripe Fees	177	55
Subscriptions	-	2,045
Superannuation Fund Expense	10,637	9,351
Travel - Committee	3,890	2,306
Travel - EO/Staff	1,047	825
<i>t</i> Travel - Speakers & Others	15,053	566
Venue Hire	418	2,972
Website Hosting & Maintenance	3,152	3,316
WSET Course fees	2,535	-
Total Operating Expenses	295,027	206,030
Net Profit	19,833	36,082

Balance Sheet

Aust. Society of Viticulture & Oenology As at 30 June 2025

	30 JUNE 2025	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2023
Assets			
Bank			
CBA Cheque Account	57,145	166,628	166,753
Cash Deposit Account	376,703	258,745	203,634
Total Bank	433,848	425,373	370,388
Current Assets			
Accrued Interest	5,571	4,563	1,991
Deposits Paid	5,442	-	-
Trade Debtors	47,215	638	-
Equities Portfolio	144,210	144,638	142,785
Sundry Debtors	14,202	-	-
Total Current Assets	216,639	149,838	144,776
Fixed Assets			
Office Equipment Accum Dep'n	(7,040)	(7,040)	(6,599)
Office Equipment at Cost	7,040	7,040	7,040
Total Fixed Assets	-	-	441
Non-current Assets			
Prepayments	5,121	-	-
Total Non-current Assets	5,121	-	-
Total Assets	655,608	575,211	515,605
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accrued Expenses	-	2,250	7,930
GST	2,670	5,936	3,179
Membership paid in advance	54,613	58,205	70,593
Trade Creditors	6,822	2,595	1,368
Provision for leave	26,328	17,895	13,511
Scholarship balance withheld	1,641	-	-
Mastercard - Commonwealth Bank	-	-	976
Total Current Liabilities	92,073	86,881	97,558
Non-current Liabilities			
PAYG Withholding Payable	6,105	4,953	4,368
Prepaid registrations	8,804	9,216	2,736
Super Payable	1,273	2,338	2,054
Deferred Income	81,124	25,000	-
Total Non-current Liabilities	97,306	41,507	9,158
Total Liabilities	189,379	128,388	106,716
Net Assets	466,228	446,823	408,889

	30 JUNE 2025	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2023
Equity			
Current Year Earnings	19,833	36,082	48,941
Retained Earnings	446,253	410,171	361,230
Investment revaluation reserve	143	570	(1,283)
Total Equity	466,228	446,823	408,889

Income

a. Grants (AWITC)

Grants (AWITC) contributed \$38,575 in 2025. This takes up the total available grant funding from AWITC in this round.

b. Membership Fees

Membership fee income decreased from \$99,820.73 in 2024 to \$92,937.85 in 2025. The Board is conscious of this decline and has discussed it in detail. While overall membership remains solid, we recognise the importance of reversing this trend. Over the coming year, we'll focus on strengthening member engagement, enhancing the value of membership through targeted programs and professional development opportunities, and increasing our visibility to attract new members and retain existing ones.

c. Merchandise Sales:

Merchandise income increased significantly from \$9,191.22 in 2024 to \$20,650.54 in 2025. This income is primarily driven by aroma kits and represents a net income of \$2827 after COGS is deducted.

d. Project management

Income earned from managing the Wine Australia Rootlings collaboration project, reflecting fees received for project coordination and administration.

e. Publishing Royalties

Income received from publishing royalties paid by Wiley in recognition of publications in the Australian Journal of Grape and Wine Research, representing a share of sales revenue generated from article processing charges.

f. Registrations:

Registrations income dropped from \$28,707.51 in 2024 to \$21,276.91 in 2025. Seasonal difference in the number of events that fall into the financial year.

FY2024 had 3 events (Oenology Seminar, NSW Regional visit, 2023 Awards) whilst FY2025 had only the 2024 Awards (Due to the AWITC)

g. Sponsorship Corporate

Sponsorship is now split into 2 lines to recognise the different income streams.

- Sponsorship Corporate
Sponsorship obtained through funding agreements
Corporate contributed \$25,000 in 2025
- Sponsorship Annual
Sponsors that support ASVO throughout the year or support specific events or Awards
Annual also decreased slightly from \$18,329.06 in 2024 to \$17,541.44 in 2025.

***h.* Project Funding**

Project funding Project funding decreased from \$42,149.74 in 2024 to \$33,876.27 in 2025.

This reflects the end of the 3 Year Wine australia Wine Australia Collaboration Agreement (People development GL8000-00-6790-636 Extension and Adoption GL8000-00-6600-768) and the commencement of the new Wine Australia Collaboration Agreement People development (GL8000-00-6790-813) for Rootlings agreement

***i.* Investment Income**

ASVO reserves are partly invested in the Betashares Active Australian Hybrids Fund, which provides income through a diversified portfolio of Australian hybrid securities, bonds, and cash. Returns are generated from interest payments, dividends, and franking credits, with the fund aiming to deliver income above the RBA cash rate.

***j.* Royalties/Donations**

Income received from Patrick Iland Wine Promotions due to the generosity of the authors who publish under Patrick Iland Wine Promotions and donate their share of Royalty to the ASVO.

Operating Expenses

***k.* Accommodation**

Costs for accommodation for the Editorial team to attend Crush Day2, speakers, or event participants while travelling for ASVO business.

***l.* Contract Services**

Professional fees paid to external contractors engaged to provide specialised services or support, such as our media consultant Ruth Harris

***m.* Event – Audio-Visual**

Expenses associated with AV equipment, technical support, and production services for events.

***n.* Event Catering**

Costs for food and beverages provided during ASVO meetings, seminars, and events. The major difference is the Crush Day2 event.

***o.* Goods for Sale**

Expenses incurred in purchasing merchandise or other items intended for resale, mainly the Aroma kits

***p.* Leave Provision Expense**

Provision for employee leave entitlements, including annual and long service leave obligations.

q. Legal Fees

Costs associated with legal advice, contract review, and other professional legal services primarily associated with the new Constitution.

r. Project Expense – Rootlings

Direct costs related to the delivery and promotion of the Rootlings program.

s. Scholarship

Funding allocated to scholarship recipients, including payments and associated administration costs.

t. Travel – Speakers & Others

Expenses for travel, accommodation, and related costs for guest speakers and other approved travellers.