



WINE GUILD VICTORIA INCORPORATED

63rd PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021 – 2022

It is with great pleasure that I present this report of the Guild's activities for the 2021-2022 year.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Guild Members who have supported our functions and the Guild Committee during this very difficult year with numerous restrictions changing the way the Guild has had to operate since the COVID pandemic arrived in 2020.

Our coach tours have been badly affected and the changes are likely to be permanent. Many wineries have limited group numbers to 6 people and are charging tasting fees of \$10 or more, often not redeemable upon purchase of wine. Coach costs have tripled during the past two years. On recent visits to the Mornington Peninsula and the Yarra Valley we are seeing new restaurants everywhere and very little emphasis on winemakers and the vineyards. Restaurant dinners have been affected by restrictions on numbers and guest speakers being unable to travel.

Zoom events organised by Graeme Lofts, assisted by Tom Bendistinto and Don Hyatt have provided some great functions with many members joining in. These online functions, which have featured local, interstate and overseas winemakers have been very entertaining and informative.

Graeme's regular e-News is wonderful in keeping members up to date and well informed. Thank you Graeme.

Our Secretary, Dianne Lofts, continues to put in 100s of hours putting functions together. An enormous task. A very big thank you from all of us.

During the past year we have been saddened to see the passing of several long-standing Guild Members.

- Terry Coles, former Committee Member who held several executive positions over many years.
- Louis Paris, a Life Member at the age of 100. Louis was a valued Committee Member for over 60 years.
- Lyn Hall. A staunch supporter of the Guild and wife of long time Committee Member Graeme Hall.
- Valma Boyd. Wife of Frank Boyd. Both Val and Frank have been attending Guild functions for many years until ill health made it impossible.

Condolences and flowers were sent from the Committee on behalf of all Guild members.

The Committee is happy to welcome 10 new members to the Guild during the past financial year.

They are:

David (Darby) Higgs

Angus Straford

Kenneth Burton

Clarissa Vido

Lyn Wiles

Sue Lane

Brendan Paholski

Doreen Phang

Algy Silva

Anita Doraisami

With pleasure I list the Guild functions for the 2021 – 2022 financial year.

July 14, 2021	Food & Wine Trivia Night. Organised by Graeme & Di. Hosted by Graeme.
September 14, 2021	62 nd Annual General Meeting on Zoom. Organised and hosted by the Committee.
November 1, 2021	Melbourne Cup Sweep on Zoom. Organised and hosted by Don & Robyn Hyatt and Graeme.
November 16, 2021	Restaurant Dinner at Zest. Organised by John Gillies and Dianne Lofts. Hosted by Emad Ekhrouk.
December 12, 2021	End-of-year lunch at the Customs House Hotel Williamstown and return ferry trip. Organised by Graeme & Di and Bob & Helen Bailey. Hosted by Bob Bailey and Tom Bendistinto.
February 6, 2022	Breakfast on the Yarra. Organised and hosted by the Committee.
March 8, 2022	Winemaker's Dinner with Robbie Potts, Bleasdale Wines at Grande Forno. Organised by Lin Byron with Graeme & Di Lofts. Hosted by Robbie Potts.
April 6, 2022	Taste and Talk, Alternative Varieties. Organised by Darby Higgs and Graeme Lofts. Hosted by Darby Higgs.
May 3, 2022	Winemaker's Dinner with Dominique Portet at Le Galois. Organised by Lin Byron and Graeme Lofts. Hosted by Dominique Portet.
June 5, 2022	One-day Coach Tour to Mornington Peninsula. Organised by Graeme & Di and Bob & Helen Bailey.

Long standing Life Member, Graeme Hall stepped down from the Committee early this year taking a well-deserved rest. Graeme has been a valued Committee Member for over 30 years.

Thank you, Graeme Hall for your dedication and contribution to the Committee and the Guild.

I am also very pleased to see all of the current Committee seeking to re-stand for 2022- 2023. There are a number of vacancies on the Committee.

If you want your Guild to continue in the future, PLEASE give consideration to coming on the Committee and helping to organise functions. Otherwise the Guild will longer exist.

Bob Bailey
President. 28th August 2022