

**Press Release
Friday 18 October 2019**

STEVE FLAMSTEED AWARDED VICTORIAN LEGEND OF THE VINE 2019

Steve Flamsteed was today announced Legend of the Vine amongst industry peers at the annual Royal Melbourne Jimmy Watson Trophy Winners Lunch. As a winemaker, chef and cheesemaker, our 2019 Victorian Legend of the Vine; Steve Flamsteed has lived a life many could only dream of.

As a young man Steve didn't follow the traditional path that many of his peers had taken before him. With a passion for cooking Steve moved from his hometown of Toowoomba to Brisbane as an apprentice chef. With his love for French cuisine our Legend jumped on a plane to Europe where he worked as a chef in London. Getting tired of London, he literally ran away to join a circus.

As fate would have it, Steve did not pursue his circus career and ended up in France where he met an Australian winemaker, who changed everything. With a new love for wine, Steve moved back to Australia to study winemaking.

Having completed his studies, his love for all things food and wine and particularly cheese saw a new adventure for Steve when he was successful in winning a Queen's Trust Scholarship to study farmhouse cheesemaking in France. He ended up spending a few years living the dream; bouncing between the winery, the creamery and the kitchen.

However, for Steve home was calling so he moved back to Australia ending up in the Yarra Valley as the Chef Winemaker for Giant Steps.

"Steve has made an outstanding contribution to the wine industry. His clear passion and pursuit for using the finest raw ingredients from exceptional vineyards in the Yarra Valley saw him being awarded the 2016 Winemaker of the Year by Gourmet Traveller WINE," said National Chair, Toni Carlino.

Steve is today a respected wine judge, panel chair and chairperson in the Australian wine show judging circuit. He has been instrumental in directing others to think differently about appraisal; drinkability first, fault finding missions second. Showing endless commitment to improving Pinot Noir in Australia, he has played a notable role in the quiet revolution of Victorian wines, both advocating and practising more transparent farming and limited intervention winemaking.

The Legend of the Vine Award was first introduced in Victoria in 2014 and extends across New South Wales and South Australia with annual awards issued in each state. The nominees from each state are nominated by the Wine Communicators of Australia (WCA) State Chapters, with their recommendation for the state winner. The final winner is then ratified by the WCA National Board.

Steve Flamsteed is the sixth person to be awarded *Legend of the Vine* status in Victoria, and joins a prestigious national list that includes Colin Campbell, Ross Brown, Kathleen Quealy, Eric Vivian (Viv) Thomson and Jeni Port.

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For further information including images from the annual Royal Melbourne Wine Show Jimmy Watson Trophy Lunch, please contact Lynda Schenk, WCA Executive Officer:

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WINE COMMUNICATORS
OF AUSTRALIA
PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN WINE

ABOUT WCA

Wine Communicators of Australia was established as a national not-for-profit company in December 2010 growing out of the well-respected Wine Press Clubs of NSW, Victoria and South Australia. It aims to be Australia's pre-eminent organisation connecting business professionals working with wine and currently has more than 600 members.

WCA's annual program includes networking events, webinars and its prestigious lunches in association with three major capital city wine shows – Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. It also runs the annual Wine Communicator Awards and Legend of the Vine Awards.