

## Media Release

Wednesday 2 June 2021

### Wine Industry Mentor Program participants for 2021 announced

Sixty-one early career professionals have today been announced as the latest recruits to the Wine Industry Mentor Program following extraordinary numbers of applications for the expanded program.

Industry partners Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology, The University of Adelaide, Wine Australia and Wine Communicators of Australia are delighted at the outstanding applications received and congratulate the mentees and mentors of the program in 2021.

WCA executive officer, Andrew Stark speaking on behalf of all partners said, “It was no easy task to decide from among the almost 150 applicants who would be part of this program aiming to support and inspire the future generations of wine industry professionals.”

“It was pleasing to receive applications from early career professionals across the wine sector including wine marketers, winemakers, viticulturists, researchers, wine students, wine retailers and sommeliers, all eager to be mentored by some of the most respected wine sector leaders.”

One of the drivers of Australian wine’s global success has been the willingness of those in the industry to share knowledge and expertise and there is no better example of that than this program. The program partners are proud to offer the Wine Industry Mentor Program in 2021 to give those early in their wine sector careers the opportunity to connect with like-minded, ambitious peers, grow their knowledge and inspire them to be the best they can be.

The program will see participants building their knowledge through genuine connections with experienced industry professionals over a period of six-months from 1 June and until the end of November. A graduation ceremony will be held at the end of the year to celebrate participants achievements and create a further networking opportunity.

2021 Mentees accepted into the program are listed below.

<b>Ian Batt</b>	Small Things Wine	<b>Adeline Lin</b>	Pacific Vintners Pty Ltd
<b>Alexander Beckett</b>	Briar Ridge Vineyard	<b>Mark Law</b>	Dan Murphys
<b>John Biggar</b>	Brown Family Wine Group	<b>Ben Luker</b>	Wine Intelligence
<b>Jessica Bloomfield</b>	Pernod Ricard Winemakers	<b>Emily MacDonald</b>	Master of Wine Student
<b>Clare Burder</b>	Eminence Wines	<b>Mitch McKenzie</b>	Chateau Tanunda
<b>Jessie Caines</b>	Viticulturalist	<b>Imogen McNamara</b>	Chateau Tanunda
<b>Natalia Caliani</b>	University of Adelaide (PhD Student)	<b>Pia Merrick</b>	Qualia Wine Services
<b>Lisa Cardelli</b>	Terroir Selections and WSET	<b>Baden Mills</b>	Yabby Lake Vineyard
<b>Gemma Charles</b>	Pernod Ricard Winemakers	<b>Brad Nott</b>	Poignant Pty Ltd
<b>Jessica Clark</b>	Giant Steps Wines	<b>Melanie Olson</b>	Parade Cellars
<b>Jane Curley</b>	Gilbert Family Wines	<b>Sam Pfeiffer</b>	Whistler Wines

<b>Samantha Davidson</b>	WD Wines + Mount Majura Vineyards	<b>Zachary Phillips</b>	Wine Writer
<b>Ben Dolan</b>	Rob Dolan Wines	<b>Carla Pizzini</b>	Pizzini Wines
<b>Chloe Earl</b>	Dixon Creek Estate	<b>Nicole Reschke</b>	Reschke Wines
<b>Kristy Farrell</b>	Pernod Ricard Winemakers	<b>Stuart Rusted</b>	Treasury Wine Estates
<b>Rhys Fitzgerald</b>	Nutrien Ag Solutions	<b>Adam Shelley</b>	Pernod Ricard Winemakers
<b>Daniela Gaggl</b>	Yalumba	<b>Kasia Sobiesiak</b>	The Real Review
<b>Yanina Daniela Giordano</b>	University of Adelaide (PhD Student)	<b>Darran Stone</b>	Stone Family Wines
<b>Yevgeniya Grebneva</b>	Australian Wine Research Institute	<b>Eva Sui</b>	University of Adelaide (PhD Student)
<b>Max Gu</b>	Schubert Estate	<b>Holly Tagima</b>	Australian Vintage Limited
<b>Hannah Hodges</b>	Mac Forbes Wines	<b>Alyson Tannenbaum</b>	Vinteloper
<b>Will Hugo</b>	Hugo Wines	<b>Courtney Tate</b>	Wine Envy
<b>Alexander Hum</b>	Brokenwood Wines	<b>Karja Thiele</b>	Joval Wine Group
<b>Georgina Jacobs</b>	Balnaves of Coonawarra	<b>Kelly Thomas</b>	Ten Minutes by Tractor
<b>Jackson Jansz</b>	Project Wine	<b>Moria Tirtha</b>	Veraison Magazine
<b>Grace Jiraneck</b>	Ten Minutes by Tractor	<b>Daniel Tokar</b>	Tokar Estate
<b>Harry Kinsman</b>	Australian Vintage Limited	<b>Allan van Breukelen</b>	Endeavour Group
<b>Sandra Kneile</b>	Vinotopia	<b>Naomi Verdonk</b>	University of Adelaide (PhD Student)
<b>Vanesa Lambert</b>	Lambert Estate Wines	<b>Ravi Vithal</b>	Pooley Wines
<b>Lauren Langfield</b>	BK Wines & Lauren Langfield Wines	<b>Patricia Williamson</b>	Australian Wine Research Institute
		<b>Kristen Zerk</b>	Z Wine Pty Ltd

The program boasts Australia's most highly respected and experienced wine sector leaders, who are passionate about wine and the future of the Australian wine industry. The program partners thanked the mentors who are giving their time willingly and voluntarily to support and foster the growth of the Australian wine sector. A list of 2021 Mentors is available [here](#).

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## About the program partners

### Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology

The Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology was founded in 1980 as a non-political organisation to serve the interests of practicing winemakers and viticulturists by encouraging the exchange of technical information. The Society has held over 40 one-day seminars since it was established and, in conjunction with The Australian Wine Research Institute, organises the Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference every three years. The Society has awarded over 20 scholarships for research and international study visits. Membership now exceeds 700 individuals and affiliated companies.

### University of Adelaide

The University of Adelaide is a world-class research and teaching institution. We are centred on discovering new knowledge, pursuing innovation and preparing the educated leaders of tomorrow. For over 140 years the University of Adelaide has pushed the boundaries in wine education, delivering innovative and transformative courses in viticulture, oenology and wine business, and producing a network of alumni that have gone on to make a real-world impact in the world of wine. With a unique emphasis on both the production and sales aspects of wine, the University's [Viticulture and Oenology](#) and [Wine Business programs](#) are tailored for a career in the industry.

### Wine Communicators of Australia

Wine Communicators of Australia aims to be Australia's pre-eminent organisation connecting business professionals working with wine and currently has more than 500 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. For more information visit [www.winecommunicators.com.au](http://www.winecommunicators.com.au)

### Wine Australia

Wine Australia supports a competitive wine sector by investing in research, development and adoption (RD&A), growing domestic and international markets, protecting the reputation of Australian wine and administering the Export and Regional Wine Support Package. Wine Australia is an Australian Commonwealth Government statutory authority, established under the *Wine Australia Act 2013*, and funded by grape growers and winemakers through levies and user-pays charges and the Australian Government, which provides matching funding for RD&A investments.