



BGWA BOARD MEMBERS 2017/18



Front Row (L-R): Fiona Donald, Matt Alexander, Linda Bowes (Chair), James March (CEO)
Back Row (L-R): Sam Clarke, Stefan Jury, Tim McCarthy, Brendyn Hueppauff, Nigel Blieschke, James Rosenzweig, Jan Angas
Absent: Brett McKinnon

GRAPE GROWER REPRESENTATIVES

Nigel Blieschke

Nigel is the head of viticulture at Torbreck Vintners and is based at Marananga in the Barossa Valley.

After graduating from Roseworthy Agricultural College with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Natural Resource Management in 1993, Nigel began his wine career working firstly as a cellar hand with Penfolds and Orlando Wyndham before moving into the vineyards at Jim Barry wines in 1994.

In 1996 he completed a Graduate Certificate in Viticulture from The University of Adelaide and then spent 12 years as a viticulturist for The Yalumba Wine Company, working with growers and vineyards in both South Australia and Victoria as well as managing their vine nursery.

He joined the Peter Lehmann Wines team in 2008 where his primary task was to liaise with their Barossa grape growers, and work with the winemaking team on grape and wine quality.

In 2015 Nigel took up his current position at Torbreck Vintners where he now manages over 100ha of vineyard in the Barossa Valley, including 22ha of 100+ year old Shiraz, Grenache, Mataro and Semillon.

Nigel has been on the board of the BGWA since 2014 as a grower representative. He is passionate about sustainable production and strongly believes that the Barossa future lies at the premium end of the wine market.

Nigel is also currently on the board of Vine Health Australia and has previously held board positions with the Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology. Throughout his career Nigel has been an active member of many regional organisations such as the Barossa Viti Tech group, Barossa Grapegrowers Vine Selection Committee as well as Vine Industry Nursery association. In 2015 he completed the Wine Industry Future Leaders program.

Brendyn Hueppauff

Brendyn is a sixth generation Barossa grape grower with 29 years' experience working and managing 24 hectares on the Valley floor. He lives and works in the family vineyard in Bethany.

Brendyn also runs a long-standing contact harvesting business with his brother, working with other growers in the valley. He left school and obtained a certificate in viticulture from TAFE in Nuriootpa. After qualifying he gained work experience at Yalumba, before returning to work on the family farm.

Brendyn has been a member of the BGWA Board since 2015. He is a grower representative. His particular interest is advocating on the growers behalf.

Brendyn is also the current chairman of the BGWA Grape Barossa Committee and was one of the graduates of the 2013 Next Crop Program.

James Rosenzweig

James has been growing grapes in the Barossa since leaving school at the age of 15. He works on the family's 100 ha property in Nuriootpa, and has recently branched out into wine tourism, building a cellar door to deepen his wine knowledge and involvement in the wine community.

James was involved in the original steering committee that helped establish BGWA and is a strong believer in the Barossa Wine Industry Fund as a means of ensuring the best benefit to the region is achieved by a small contribution from everyone rather than a large contribution from a few.

James was re-elected to the BGWA Board in 2017, after serving previously on the Board in [time period]. He is particularly passionate about promoting sustainable business practices across the whole supply chain from grapes to retail, so that everyone can make a reasonable margin. He sees building "brand Barossa" globally as the key to sustainability because it builds demand for Barossa wine.

He is also the vice-chair of Barossa Vine Improvement and a member of Grape Barossa.

Tim McCarthy

Tim is currently employed as the Viticulture Operations Manager for Pernod Ricard, which entails managing the company-owned national vineyard portfolio.

Tim was born and lived in the Barossa until starting his professional career in early 2000's, managing vineyards in Victoria and the South East before returning to the Barossa in 2012.

As the owner of a small vineyard, a few kilometres out of Tanunda, he has both a private and a large corporate grower perspective.

Tim has been a grower representative on the BGWA Board since 2014. Given his current role with Pernod Ricard Winemakers, he brings a national perspective on grapegrowing to the Board.

He is also a current Director of Barossa Infrastructure Ltd and Janimiti and was previously a member of the both the Coonawarra and Padthaway Grape Growers' Committees.

WINEMAKER REPRESENTATIVES

Jan Angas

Jan with her family runs Hutton Vale Farm located in the north-eastern section of Eden Valley, Barossa.

Jan has had a strong commitment to the Barossa since becoming part of the Angas family in 1979. She played a pivotal role in bringing together community members in McLaren Vale and the Barossa to engage government on the importance of these regions for their food and wine culture.

Jan was elected to the board of BGWA in 2013 as a winemaker representative. She is particularly interested in addressing the complexities and challenges facing small wine producers and grape growers including succession planning, environmental management and marketing.

Jan has recently completed her term on the board of Tourism Barossa and Barossa Food and is the Chair of the Barossa Partnership initiative and Vice Chair of the Botanic Gardens of SA Foundation, as well as being a Baron of Barossa. She is passionate about facilitating collaborative work between food, wine and tourism with the aim of positioning the Barossa and South Australia as a global culinary destination of high repute.

Fiona Donald

Fiona is Senior Winemaker at Seppeltsfield winery. She is married with two children and lives on 12 acres of Barossa dirt planted to vineyard producing premium Barossa fruit.

Fiona was born in New South Wales and moved to SA to study at Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1988. She graduated in 1991 with the Silver Medal for Second Aggregate.

After graduation she started work with Thomas Hardy and Sons in McLaren Vale and in 1993 became Red Winemaker at Renmano.

In 1995 Fiona moved to the Barossa and worked for Barossa Valley Estate and then Penfolds before taking maternity leave.

After a year in Austria, and two years at Chateau Reynella, Fiona returned to the Barossa in 2009 as Senior Winemaker at the historic Seppeltsfield Winery.

In 2012 Fiona was awarded Barossa Winemaker of the Year by the wine fraternity Barons of Barossa and in 2016 she was a finalist in the ASVO's awards for excellence winemaker of the year and was inducted as a Baron of Barossa.

Fiona has been a winemaker representative on the BGWA Board since 2012. She is also a current member of the Royal Adelaide Wine Show committee, a Len Evans scholar, panel chair at the Hunter Wine Show and Chair of the Riverland Wine Show. She has served on various committees including the CRC3 Planning Group, the Barossa Winemakers' Committee, the Barossa Vintage Festival Committee and the tasting panel for Barossa Grounds. She convened the Barossa Rare and Distinguished Wine Auction in 2003.

Sam Clarke

Sam Clarke is the joint proprietor of Thorn-Clarke Wines. He is a CPA by background, with strong managerial skills developed over the past 20 years in forming and growing Thorn-Clarke Wines.

Sam completed a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Finance and Accounting along with some elective units in Geology, in 1991. He worked as a Graduate Accountant with Rio Tinto and spent five years working in the mining industry before a year in London working in IT as an accountant. He came back and joined the family wine business in 1997.

He has completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors course as well as a CPA post-graduate qualification and the WSET level 3.

Sam was appointed to the BGWA Board in 2017. He has a particular interest in furthering the reputation and quality of Barossa wines, through promoting the Barossa brand, which he sees as the gateway to sustainability for everyone involved. He also believes that the Barossa needs to be adaptive to the changing climate in the wine styles and varieties that it produces. Using the many old vineyard varietals is part of the Barossa story but also trialling new varietals will be important.

Sam is actively involved in a local revegetation group based around the Krondorf subregion where he lives with his wife and two daughters. He has previously been a Director of the Barossa Cooperative in Nuriootpa.

Brett McKinnon

Brett is currently the Global Operations Director of Pernod Ricard Winemakers. He has held various roles within Pernod Ricard since 1999 including Chief Winemaker & Winery Manager for Wyndham Estate, Technical Director Orlando Wines & Managing Director Orlando Wines. Previous to this Brett had over 10 years of commercial and winemaking experience gained from a range of roles in Australia, Europe and the US with various companies.

Although a winemaker by trade, he has held a variety of roles encompassing many aspects of the wine business on a global scale. Brett gained his Degree in Oenology with honours from the University of Adelaide.

Brett has lived in Adelaide since 2010 with his wife Jo and their four children. Previous to this they resided in Tanunda for eight years. Brett enjoys most sports, travel, great food & wine as well as simply hanging out with the family.

Brett joined the BGWA Board in 2012 as a winemaker representative. He takes a particular interest in marketing, strategy, leadership and sustainability.

Brett is also a director and member of the executive management committee of Pernod Ricard Winemakers, a previous director of the Australian Wine Research Institute and a previous vice president and committee member of the South Australian Wine Industry Association.

SPECIAL BOARD MEMBERS

Matt Alexander

Matt is a third-generation Horticulturist/Viticulturist with over 30 years of agribusiness operations and vineyard management experience.

Matt was born and raised on the family's mixed horticultural property in Sunraysia. After spending time managing vineyards in the Yarra Valley, he returned to Sunraysia where he spent several years managing large scale mixed horticulture enterprises including fresh citrus, avocados, almonds, dried fruit and wine grapes.

Relocating to the Barossa with his young family in 1995 Matt commenced work with Southcorp Wines, moving from a role as the Barossa Vineyards Manager, responsible for the management of an extensive portfolio of vineyards including the historic Kalimna and Seppeltsfield vineyards, to a regional management role encompassing the Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, Adelaide Hills and Riverland.

Since late 2002 Matt has been the Managing Director of Advanced Viticulture and Management Pty Ltd (AV&M). AV&M has grown from a start-up operation to one of Australia's leading vineyard management companies with over 2000 ha under management.

Matt holds a Certificate of Agriculture and is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Initially elected to the BGWA Board in 2010 as a grower representative Matt now occupies one of the special board member positions.

He is also the current Chair of the Barossa Water Allocation Plan Advisory Committee.

Stefan Jury

Stefan is a partner in the established law firm Jones Harley Toole. He has a broad interest in international matters, having travelled very extensively and worked as a corporate finance lawyer in the Middle East for five years with the largest Arab firm in the region.

Stefan has a Law degree (Honours) from the University of Adelaide. He has more than 25 years' experience in finance and commercial advisory legal work and has provided advice for listed public companies, financial institutions and government bodies across a wide range of industries including primary industry, insurance, aviation, mining and banking and financial services both in Australia and the Middle East.

He has been on the BGWA Board since 2015 as a special Board appointed member. He has particular expertise in corporate governance, finance and regulatory issues.

Stefan lives in Adelaide with his wife and two sons. He is an avid supporter of the Adelaide Crows and follows cricket and tennis closely.

Linda Bowes

Linda is the Independent Chairman of the BGWA. She is also a consultant and has her own successful startup manufacturing and retail business: Glamwrap Merino.

Linda's professional career spans senior management and chief executive roles in marketing, real estate, local government, the wine industry and the arts.

She has served as a non-executive director on numerous boards and committees throughout her career, including the South Australian Tourism Commission Board, the RAIL Advisory Board (Adelaide-Darwin Railway) and as chairman of Australian Dance Theatre and of the South Australian Wine Tourism Advisory Board.

Linda's contribution to business and industry has been recognised with her induction into the Australian Businesswomen's Hall of Fame. She is also a member of The Executive Connection (SA Chapter) alumni.

Linda was appointed as Chairman of BGWA in 2008. She is also the current presiding member of the Environment Protection Authority of South Australia (EPA). She has particular empathy with not-for-profits and industry sectors and loves the work she does supporting the development of future leaders.

An adventurer at heart, Linda has successfully tackled the 96km Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea, summited one of the highest mountains in SE Asia - Mount Kinabalu in Borneo, and is currently planning her next exciting journey.