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## You don't have to be a Grower to Get Fresh in Wine Country

Dozens of agri-food producers will soon converge on Stanthorpe for a *Fresh Futures in Food* workshop, and when all the work is done, they'll explore Queensland's wine capital.

The social programme for the April workshop is entitled "*Fall into Wine Country*" and it is open to anyone who wants to experience the delights of the region's wine, food and attractions.

The workshop itself is an initiative of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. To learn more contact 13 25 23.

The social programme includes a range of tours, lunch and dinner options on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and organised in association with Granite Belt Wine & Tourism Inc (GBWT).

Commenting on the partnership GBWT President Mrs Cragg said: "Business travellers are like everyone else these days - they want simple buying solutions. By bundling these extras, it's easy for conference delegates to say... I'll do that and tick the box.

"This is the first time GBWT has packaged a range of extras and our members have been very co-operative. It is definitely an area of demand and it's a service we see potential to grow," she added.

To find out more about the social programme, visit [www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au](http://www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au), select the Conference tab and then choose EXTRAS.

To learn more about Queensland's premier wine region visit the website or phone 1800 SO COOL and *Expect to be surprised!*

### ENDS

1. The history of the Queensland wine industry dates back to the 1860s - and like all good wines it has developed with age.
2. Of Queensland's current 1100 hectares planted to wine grapes, approximately half of these are on the Granite Belt. It is also the largest of the ten wine regions in the state and one of only two with official GI status.
3. 64% of Granite Belt plantings are of Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Merlot with an increasing number of plantings of alternative grape varieties proving popular.
4. The Granite Belt is home to approximately 50 wine cellar doors, the state's most awarded winemakers, plus the Queensland College of Wine Tourism - the first of its type in the world.