

Saturday 23 August 2008

Contact: Michele Cozzi 07 4681 0411 or 0417 620571 marketing@granitebeltwinecountry.com.au

New Team for GBWT

The 2008 Annual General meeting of the Granite Belt Wine & Tourism Inc (GBWT) held on 21 August has elected its new management committee. Incoming president is Philip Moye who has a strong business background in the management of associations.

Two years after the amalgamation of the former wine and tourist associations, the GBWT has proved to be a dynamic and progressive organisation. Handing over the reins of president at Thursday night's meeting was Mrs Bobbi Cragg. Mrs Cragg, together with outgoing the secretary and treasurer are widely recognised as the driving force during a period of significant growth.

Standing down from the board were Letitia Williams (Secretary), Ron Williams (Treasurer), Don Stirling, John Neville, Tony Cridland and Athena Corbally.

Remaining on the board are Leeanne Puglisi-Gangemi, Ewen Macpherson and Peter Wilkins. New board members are Trevor Burton, Vince Catanzaro, Michael Cragg (Vice President), Mark Deegenars, Cathryn Leigh and Beryl Moye (Treasurer).

In acknowledging the previous board, Mr Moye said "Using this solid foundation, I intend to move the business forward to drive the GBWT to an even higher level of achievement. To this end we will need to secure our financial viability as a prerequisite for success and sustainability."

"Non profit organisations do not exist to make money; they exist to make a difference," Mr Moye added.

An enthusiastic group of members and stakeholders who attended the meeting were witness to an impressive track record of achievements in the past year. Highlights included significant growth in revenue and membership, the development of unique promotional opportunities and heightened media profile.

Special guest speaker at the evening was Mr Laurie Longland, Executive Director Food, Wine & Tourism at the Queensland Department, Tourism, Regional Development and Industry.

Mr Longland was fulsome in his praise for GBWT's achievements in the past year and said, "The range of attractions now available on the Granite Belt is second to none. The Granite Belt Wine & Tourism association has taken the initiative in smartly promoting these many attractions to increase public interest and, importantly, visits. The Strange Bird wine trail and upcoming Primavera Spring promotion are great examples of how to attract additional visitors to the region with flow-on benefits for Granite Belt businesses generally."

New board: Trevor Burton (McDonalds), Vince Catanzaro (VC Catanzaro & Vincenzo's at the Big Apple), Michael Cragg (Rumbalara Estate Wines), Mark Deegenars (Sirromet Wines), Phil Moye & Beryl Moye (31 The Rocks Luxury Villas), Leeanne Puglisi-Gangemi (Ballandean Estate), Cathryn Leigh (Azjure Studio Retreat), Ewen Macpherson (Symphony Hills Wines) and Peter Wilkins (Murray Gardens Motel)

ENDS

To learn more about Queensland's premier wine region visit www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au or phone 1800 SO COOL and experience **Elevated Taste!**

EDITOR'S NOTES

- Wine** The history of the Queensland wine industry dates back to the 1860s - and like all good wines it has developed with age. Of Queensland's current 1100 hectares planted to wine grapes, approximately half of these are on the Granite Belt. The Granite Belt is Queensland's premier wine region and one of ten wine regions in the state, of which only two have official GI status. 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.
- Food** The Granite Belt is the only area in Queensland to produce apples: creating a gross value of approximately \$35m per annum (DPI&F 2006). Agriculture is the largest employer in the area, which

boasts a vibrant and diverse horticultural sector. In this part of Queensland, the food production sector is expected to experience an average annual growth rate of approximately 8.0% per annum, despite the drought. Over the 10 years to 2017, growth in the sector is expected to result in a 12.7% increase in the regional economy's turnover (source Darling Downs & South West Queensland Centre of Enterprise and AEC Group 2007.)

Granite Belt Wine & Tourism Inc ABN 34072882028 PO Box 749, Stanthorpe Queensland 4380 Australia
Facsimile +61 7 4681 1200 www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au
The Stanthorpe Visitor Information Centre 28 Leslie Parade, Stanthorpe Queensland 4380 Australia
Telephone +61 7 4681 2057 Email info@granitebeltwinecountry.com.au