

6 August 2007

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### Amalgamation Boosts Membership

Amalgamation has proved a winner for the Granite Belt Wine & Tourism Inc (GBWT), with a growth of thirty four cent in membership in the past three months alone.

In July 2006 the Granite Belt's wine and tourism associations merged. The goal was to provide a stronger, more focused group with a clear strategic focus for the Queensland wine capital's wine and tourism activities.

The achievements in the first twelve months of the reinvigorated local tourism group have obviously been a crowd pleaser with dozens of new members signing-up recently.

GBWT President Mrs Bobbi Cragg commented: "Obviously the merger was unsettling for some members of both former organisations so they held back to see how the new group performed. We've come a long way in one year and it's great to welcome these members back. It is also very encouraging to see such a strong number of new members."

The GBWT offers both full and associate membership. Full membership applies to anyone on the Granite Belt whose primary business activity is in tourism, enabling them to achieve economies of scale through a recognised marketing levy scheme. The associate membership status applies to those who derive only part of their income from tourism such as local business operators, artists or community groups. Membership in both categories has grown in recent months.

GBWT members are invited to next AGM on Wednesday 22 August at the Queensland College of Wine Tourism. Prospective members should contact the Stanthorpe Visitor Information centre to obtain a prospectus.

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