

WINE INDUSTRY IMPACT SUMMIT



PROGRAM 2026

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This summit is supported by Wine Australia, with levies from Australia's grapegrowers and winemakers and matching funds from the Australian Government and Wine Industry Suppliers Association.

9am - OPENING

9:10am - PANEL: Innovation That Is Delivering Results & the Power of Partnerships

The businesses in this session have identified a real industry problem and built something that solves it. They are all Wine Industry Impact Award winners and will speak about the relevance and impact their innovations have.

Nutritional Information Service - Heather Mackenzie, Affinity Labs

Oenodia's STARS technology - Eveline Bartowsky, Lallemend Oenology

WINEGRID by Enartis - Rocco Longo, Enartis Pacific

CASE STUDY · VITICULTURE

9:40am - Autonomous Spraying in the Vineyard: The Research-Supplier-Grower Story

Fifty hectares sprayed autonomously in a first full season. This session brings the researcher, supplier and grower behind the GOtrack project at Vinarchy together to show what genuine three-way collaboration delivers in practice.

Tim McCarthy (Vinarchy) | Caitlin Davies (AWRI) | Cam Clifford (Agri Automation Australia)

MORNING TEA

CASE STUDY: PACKAGING

10:50am - Sustainability in Packaging

A redesigned Riesling bottle and a new look at how to create a more sustainable Bag in Box. Two producer-supplier partnerships, and a glimpse of what's possible when the two work together early. See how rethinking a "solved" format unlocked new efficiencies, cost savings and market opportunities.

Gavin Wong (Visy) | Carmen Houston (SIG) | Matt Deller MW (Wirra Wirra)

11:20am - Built to Last: Risk, Resilience & the Conditions for Growth

For wine businesses that are looking forward, not just getting through. This session covers cyber and operational risk, cash flow as the engine of innovation & R&D tax incentive, export market exposure, and what it means to structure a business for sustainable growth.

Chris Matthews (MGA Insurance Group) | James Allen (Bentleys)

CASE STUDY: GRAPEGROWING • INCLUDES TASTING

12:00 - Next Generation Vines: Breeding for the Future

How cutting-edge vine breeding and varietal research is shaping the varieties and growing systems that will sustain the Australian wine industry over the coming decades.

Sharon Harvey (Wine Australia) | Nick Dry (Foundation Viticulture)

LUNCH

CASE STUDY: WINERY SYSTEMS

1:30pm - Winery Operating Systems in Action

A practical look at how modern winery management platforms are transforming operations — from production planning and inventory to compliance, traceability and reporting.

Paul Jackson (Innovint) | Jason Spiteri (Hill Smith Family Estates)

2pm - Balancing Innovation and Risk in the Age of AI

How leaders can implement AI with confidence while managing the real risks around privacy, governance and responsible use — and what that looks like in practice for the wine industry.

Eloise Leaver (National AI Centre) | Darren Oemke (Hydra Consulting)

AFTERNOON TEA

3:30pm - PANEL: Best Practice Innovation Management

From insight to impact — how do we get research into the hands of industry? This session examines innovation pathways: internal R&D versus external partnerships, aligning goals across research, supply chain and industry, and what best-practice innovation management looks like in the wine sector.

Josh Hixon (Wine Australia) | Caitlin Davies (AWRI) | Tim Stead (Amorim) | Justin Cohen (Adelaide University)

4:30pm - Facilitated Session: What Does Industry Collaboration Actually Look Like?

The summit closes with a 20 minute structured, facilitated session that will openly discuss and document what would it take for research, suppliers and industry to work together differently?

Networking Dinner

We invite you all to join us for a casual networking dinner Thursday evening.

Hut & Soul, Pultney Street
6:30pm
\$85 per head

Reservation and payment required in advance
via website

Partners invited.

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