

RDA UPDATE



The Good News

Chair Ivan Venning has been re-appointed by the Australian Minister for Regional Development, Minister John McVeigh, for a further term. Ivan is well known in our community for his passion for the region having served as the region's local member for 24 years. Joining Ivan in the leadership team is Rolf Binder, equally well known to all as one of the region's leading wine makers. Rolf takes over from Alex Zimmermann, long serving RDA Deputy Chair. Ivan and the board and staff most sincerely thank Alex and other retiring board members Annabel Mugford and Sarah Goldfinch for their amazing contribution to the region's future.

New board members are Stephen Balch of Lyndoch and Robert Veitch of Adelaide Plains Council joining continuing board members Tony Clark, Victoria McClurg, Andrew Morphet, Henry Inat, Martin McCarthy and Brian Carr. The new board has started out with two site visits to see first hand and gain insights into two big regional opportunities – one being the Horticulture Industry on the Northern Adelaide Plains and the other the Gawler Innovation Hub at the Civic Centre redevelopment. This Hub promises to be the heart and home of regional innovation with a strategic mix of activities housed in the historic Institute and town hall redevelopment. Future planned site visits include Roseworthy Campus Education Equine Performance and Ag Technology centres, and Barossa's Food and Culinary Tourism facilities.

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Major Event: Transforming Business 2018



Then.... the Bad News...

The Barossa Career Service, an amazing service to assist people into jobs and careers, has closed its doors after 8 years as part of the reforms to employment programs of the new government. New initiatives are being developed through the Department of Industry and Skills and the Training and Skills Commission and hopefully these services will once again be available to job seekers. In the meanwhile we will post what information we can and links to support but without funding for the service we are unable to keep it open. On the bright side – I reflect on the outcomes and the benefits to the local community and businesses from this service.

The Pilot project for the Career Service, to test the demand and effectiveness, saw a short term contract services engagement of Adelaide Career Coach Denise Robins. The response to the service was immediate and we could also see how greater benefit would be achieved with integrating the Career Service into our business support services so that the job creation and job filling were as closely connected as possible.



Stephen Birch came on board after a long career in HR and cheered everyone up, hail or shine.

Stephen's strength was in helping people see what they were capable of and how their experience, including job experience, gave them skills worth recognising and marketing. He supported people to identify opportunities they would love, to access top up skills training for that job and then to prepare their resume and practice interviewing with ease. I think all of us got roped in at some stage or the other to be a mock interview panel for a job seeker. When after 7 years on the job Stephen felt the tug of retirement Shari Chambers and Angie Kruger brought different industry background to the job – Shari with knowledge of Aged Care and Disability HR Environments and Angie from Wine Industry and horticulture recruitment – we sharpened the focus on growth industries in need of a skilled and relevant workforce. These two hit the ground running with a fierce work rate, some great workshops and dozens of successes in helping people find quality and meaningful employment. Shari was lured back to HR in industry and Angie took up the challenge of local unemployment on her own. I sincerely thank all of the Career Coaches over the years for their amazing support of industry and working community. If you have a great story to share about the Career Service then please share it.

And again the Good News!

Well there is all that opportunity being created and actioned. Some from the past quarter which may be of interest....

The International Business Network jointly facilitated by RDA and the Barossa Grape & Wine Association, the network brings together regional exporters and international interests in the region to share information and insights into key international markets and local business and brand strategy. In an informal setting, with short topical presentations, the group meets periodically. All welcome. *A Regional Strategy* for opportunity in China Trade and Investment has been commissioned to understand the changes in market and tourism dynamics and identify the best application of regional resources into this market.

Barossa Partnership and Brand A collective group of RDA, local government, Food, Wine and Tourism bodies, chaired by Jan Angas, facilitates joined up conversations of matters of mutual priority, such as brand, destination marketing and regional promotion. The group was successful in attracting Wine Australia Wine Tourism funds to undertake further work in consumer and market insights, consumer connection and destination development projects. *SALA*: Our Arts Coordinators have helped local business draw attention to themselves through co-located South Australian Living Artists events. The whole region is alive with Art & Creativity and people out and about.

A visit to the Region by *International Industry Clusters expert* James Wilson was facilitated in collaboration with Tracy Scott Rimmington of RDA Brisbane. *Rick Li of Wholetour* was hosted in the region to visit facilities and opportunities for international adventure tourism. Rick is also engaged in educational exchanges which is a priority sector for this region.

Julian Day – Composer in Residence is working on a musical work complemented by a visual arts installation to celebrate the Barossa. Julian recently visited the region and was captivated by the regions collection of organs, large and small, and the possibilities they open up to the community and the musical world. Julian's visit was sponsored by CountryArts SA with generous support from the local Arts and business community.

The Gawler and Barossa Jockey Club has breathed new life into its Racing program with a series of events partnered with Barossa Wine industry and Barossa breeder and trainers, Goldin Farms. Gawler Racedays fly under the radar sometimes and RDA is working with the Club to facilitate greater opportunities, including transport to (and importantly from!) the races by train with the Adelaide metropolitan train service having a stop right at the racecourse.

Digital Business: RDAs in South Australia were part of a successful consortium to deliver a Digital Business program over the next few years. Workshops, mentoring and targeted support will be offered to assist businesses to identify and master enabling digital technologies in their businesses.

Regional Growth Fund: The Australian Government big projects fund closed with 7 projects submitted from the region, each proposing transformative multimillion dollar projects to be enabled if successful with contributed funding. Projects ranged from tourism accommodation to agribusiness to enabling infrastructure and we are holding our collective breath in anticipation of success. Regional Grant funds seek to contribute funding to a much larger project with a view to assisting the business case to deliver earlier than it could without that funding or create additional jobs to those that might be created without the funding. *The South Australian Government's Regional Growth Fund* is currently open to co-fund industry or consortium projects that create jobs and deliver wider benefit than to just the individual businesses involved. And our wine industry is anxiously awaiting an announcement of a fresh round of cellar door grants to assist businesses to upgrade or establish cellar door facilities for the increasingly important visitor economy – both trade and tourism. And whether people are visiting for trade or tourism, they spend time and money in the region, and that benefits everyone.



Transforming Business with knowledge and skill: We continue to host an amazing number of business breakfasts, workshops and networking events and coming up is our signature event of the annual calendar - Transforming Business 2018 with a theme of "Creating a Bloody Good Plan"... including financial planning, marketing, HR and Succession Planning. Not to be missed! 29 August at the Novotel. Information at www.barossa.org.au

The BIG Ticket Items

The big ticket items we are working on (and you can hear more about them at our upcoming AGM):

- Food production and supply chain opportunities on the Northern Adelaide Plains
- Roseworthy township development and associated University Expansion and Industry growth
- Equine Facilities and Education Education Industry opportunities in the region
- Entertainment, Art and Music industries growth including Film
- A Tourism Accommodation, Education and Cultural Precinct
- Food and Culinary Tourism (Barossa led but relevant to whole region with discrete projects in a number of areas)
- Cycle Trail networks expansion
- The Barossa Wine Train business case assessment
- The Innovation Ecosystem in the Region.

Get to know the Board Members

Ivan Venning Chairman

Ivan Venning former Member for Schubert, has years of experience in the public sector and is looking forward to working within the RDA Barossa region of Barossa, Light Gawler & Adelaide Plains.



Rolf Binder Deputy Chair

Rolf Binder is an iconic name from the Barossa Valley, known amongst true wine collectors and connoisseurs as a producer of rich Shiraz of cult status. With his sister Christa, Rolf has built up Rolf Binder Wines through consistently high standards and uncompromising wine quality.



Brian Carr

Brian has held the position of CEO at the councils of Wakefield Plains, City of Elizabeth, City of Tea Tree Gully and Liverpool City Council, NSW, before taking up his current position of CEO at Light Regional Council. A fellow of Local Government Manager's Australia and an inaugural chair of the CEO network LGMA. He has been recognised and appointed a Business Ambassador for the State of South Australia.



Tony Clark

Tony has had over thirty years experience in operational management, beginning as a management cadet with the Advertiser Group and progressing through various national and international roles around food, food packaging and marketing.



Henry Inat

Henry was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Town of Gawler in early 2013. Prior to this he worked as General Manager at the City of Charles Sturt. Over his 20 year career he has worked at seven Councils and two State Government agencies, including Planning SA and the Department of Treasury and Finance. Henry holds post Graduate Qualifications in Business Management and Regional Planning and a BA in Town Planning.



Martin McCarthy

Martin was appointed as the CEO of The Barossa Council in 2012 and brings a wealth of experience in state and local government in finance, economics and business management at senior management level.



Victoria McClurg

Victoria McClurg is the head cheesemaker and owner of Barossa Valley cheese company in Angaston. A national, and international award winning producer of artisan cheese, Victoria is committed to the integrity of the Barossa Valley and its primary producers.



Andrew Morphett

Andrew Morphett is an experienced businessman in Financial Services and Hospitality Management. He is also a grazier and current co-owner of Anaby Station, Australia mainlands oldest continuously operating Merino stud.



Lynette Seccafien

Lynette has a significant background in community and sporting organisations on a volunteer level, having served on many of the local committees. Lyn grew up in the district and has been involved in a voluntary capacity with community and sporting groups for over 30 years. Her role as governing chairperson of the Two Wells Kindergarten oversaw the development and construction of the Two Wells Community Childrens Centre.



Stephen Balch

Stephen Balch has operated as a private business consultant for over 10 years and was a founding partner in MDS Partners, a Darwin based Strategic Management Consultancy. Stephen is an accomplished executive manager with extensive senior management experience.



Robert Veitch

Robert is the General Manager – Development and Community at Adelaide Plains Council. His role is primarily responsible for ensuring Council's statutory obligations in a development and regulatory sense are adhered to. This position presides over the Development Services function, General Inspectorate, Environmental Health, Compliance, Community Services and Development, Community Event Management and Libraries.

