

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 136

Vineyards Association of Tasmania

Wine
Viticulture

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INTRODUCTION

The Vineyards Association of Tasmania (VAT) was established in 1973 by wine industry operators across the state to address issues of a broader industry wide nature and to establish a point of contact with government and other relevant organisations. Claudio Alcorso, Andrew Pirie and Graham Wiltshire are considered the ‘founding fathers’ of the Association.

By 1994, VAT represented fifty one licensed wine producers and twenty one grape growers, producing over 98% of all Tasmanian wine. The Association strengthened the direction towards growing more suitable cool climate grape varieties as well as encouraging growers to maximise production of quality fruit.

VAT, in conjunction with the Licensing Commission and the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, established the Tasmanian Appellation of Origin Scheme in 1985. The scheme allowed producers of wine made from 100% Tasmanian fruit to receive additional benefits from those who produce Tasmania wine blended with fruit from other parts of Australia.

By the early 2000s, as the industry’s emphasis changed from wine development to wine marketing, it became apparent that the Vineyards Association of Tasmania no longer served its original purpose, that of producing excellent Tasmanian fruit and wine that attracted top prices within Australia. In 2006, on advice from the state government that the VAT was no longer considered representative, the decision was made to wind up the Association. The Association’s final newsletter was sent in January 2007, urging its members to join the new industry body, Wine Industry Tasmania.

The Vineyards Association of Tasmania’s archive was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in 2018.

1. Minutes of Meetings

1/1	Minutes of meetings typed and bound with Vol 1 on cover.	1973-1984
1/2	Minutes of meetings typed and bound with Vol 2 on cover.	1984-1987
1/3	Minutes of meetings typed and bound with Vol 3 on cover.	1987-1989
1/4	Minutes of Meetings	1988-1995
1/5	Minutes of Meetings	1996-1998
1/6	Minutes of Meetings	1999-2005

2. Minutes of Meetings Promotions Group

2/1 Minutes of Meetings 1993-1994

3. Constitution

3/1 Copies of the Vineyards Association of Tasmania's constitution

4. Reports

4/1 Financial Reports 1998-2005

4/2 Funding Proposal by VAT Promotions Group, Submission & Response to the Commonwealth Government Inquiry into the Wine grape and Wine Industry in Australia; Strategic Plan 1994-1996

5. Correspondence

5/1 Correspondence relating to taxation of the wine industry 1990-2000

6. Newsletters

6/1 Newsletters 1986-1996

6/2 Newsletters 1997-2003

6/3 Newsletters 2004-2007

7. Appellation

7/1 Various papers and correspondence relating to the formation of the Tasmanian Appellation of Origin System 1985-1997

8. Tamar Valley Wine Route

8/1 Various brochures, papers and correspondence relating to the establishment and management of the Tamar Valley Wine Route 1995-2010

9. Ephemera

9/1 Wine labels – from various Tasmanian vineyards 1985-2000

9/2 Wine Festival program; Athenaeum Club dinner menu, exhibition guide, Symposium program 1982-1994

10. Photographs

10/1 Various photographs relating to St Mathias Vineyard 1982-1986

10/2 Various negatives & prints ND

OTHER SOURCES