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David Bicknell takes the helm of the RQWS

The Royal Queensland Wine Show (RQWS) will welcome a new Chief Judge in 2016.

Renowned winemaker David Bicknell will take over the reins from PJ Charteris, who had been with the RQWS since 2013.

Mr Bicknell, who will oversee the prestigious wine competition, promises to bring “an open mind, a good judging crew and plenty of laughs,” to the 2016 RQWS.

From someone who decided to “study wine on a whim” at Roseworthy College in 1991, Mr Bicknell has never looked back.

He was Dux of the 2005 Len Evans Tutorial, a finalist in the 2008 Gourmet Traveller Wine Winemaker of the Year Competition, co-founder of the Victorian Pinot Noir Workshop and is involved with various wine shows across the country.

He is now CEO and Chief Winemaker at award-winning Oakridge wines in the Yarra Valley, which includes a 120 seat restaurant.

A previous RQWS judge, Mr Bicknell credits his predecessor PJ with moving the RQWS to a position of relevance within the industry.

“The RQWS has dramatically transformed over the last three years,” he said.

“It has taken a progressive, forward thinking approach and married that with current best practice in wine show administration.”

Mr Bicknell believes wine shows play an important role in the Australian wine industry.

“Australians love to compete and measure themselves against the opposition and well run shows are a great place to do this as they drive producers to constantly challenge themselves with respect to wine quality, style and fashion.

The RQWS endeavours to give Australian wineries exposure and helps promote the nation’s diverse growing regions, passionate winemakers and their outstanding wines. Entries open on 21 March, 2016 with judging taking place from 26 - 30 June.

A special public showcase ‘**Grape Grazing by Night... celebrating Australian wine**’ will return in 2016. The debut event saw more than 500 wine enthusiasts taste their way through the 2186 entries in 2015. It is the perfect event for winemakers to get direct access to the consumer.

Visit www.rqfws.com.au for more information



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