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For Immediate Release

### **The Inaugural Dr Allan Antcliff Vineyard of the Year Announced.**

Viticulturist Mr Joe Vaughan and his 100 Hunts Road vineyard, is the inaugural winner of the Mornington Peninsula's Dr Allan Antcliff Vineyard of the Year Award, as announced tonight at the Mornington Peninsula Wine Annual General Meeting.

Named after the influential vine physiologist, Dr Allan Antcliff, the biennial Vineyard of the Year Award recognises the deep commitment of the Mornington Peninsula wine community to continually improve the health of the vineyards and natural ecology of the region.

The esteemed judges of the inaugural award were three experienced viticulturists: Dr Mary Retallack, Mark Walpole, and John Whiting.

Dr Mary Retallack said the top four vineyards shortlisted were all very impressive and offered something different in every case, but Vaughan demonstrated an attention to detail, integrated thinking, a capacity to innovate and a great deal of resourcefulness to deliver a deep commitment to sustainability and excellence.

*"There was a clear focus on social, environmental, and economic responsibility with a broad range of topics encompassed in each - from farm safety to soil health, economic production and an appreciation of the surrounding environment, native flora and fauna and the interactions between each,"* Dr Retallack said.

Mark Walpole and John Whiting supported this assessment, commending Vaughan on developing a vineyard management system, which specifically catered to the needs of the 100 Hunts Road Vineyard and regeneration of the site's natural ecology.

*"Joe demonstrated to the judges his experience and resourcefulness in achieving a nice balance with a low input, sustainable system for his vineyard,"* said Walpole

The 100 Hunts Road Vineyard in Tuerong is 23 hectares and supplies some of the Mornington Peninsula's top wineries with shiraz, pinot noir, pinot gris, chardonnay and sauvignon blanc grapes.

It was selected as one of four finalists, which included Crittenden Estate, Handpicked Wines' Capella Vineyard and Polperro Winery's Talland Hill Vineyard.

The Dr Allan Antcliff Vineyard of the Year Award was initiated by benefactors Sarah and Bails Myer AC, who have provided a perpetual trophy and \$5,000 travel grant to the winning viticulturist to further their skills and knowledge in sustainable vineyard practices.

Mornington Peninsula Wine CEO, Olivia Barrie said this award and the long term commitment of the regional wine community to strive for excellence in farming sustainability is a priority for the organisation.

*"A commitment to environmental excellence from the region is really gathering pace,"* said Barrie.

“We are having many ongoing conversations about how the values and attitudes of the wine industry ensure the health of our vineyards and our local environment,” she said.

“Joe and his work at the 100 Hunts Road Vineyard, along with the generosity and vision of Sarah and Bails Myer, and the impressive work of all the nominees and finalists in our first Dr Allan Antcliff Vineyard of the Year Award, present a great deal of promise for how we can continue to improve our skills and reduce our future impact on the natural environment.”

Barrie expressed confidence the Mornington Peninsula will become a leader in sustainable winegrowing and congratulated Vaughan, the judges and all nominees for their participation in the process to recognise environmental excellence.

ENDS.

### [More information](#)

#### **About The Mornington Peninsula Vignerons Association**

The Mornington Peninsula Vignerons Association (MPVA trading as Mornington Peninsula Wine) is the peak industry body representing winemakers and grapegrowers on the Mornington Peninsula. It is a not-for-profit organisation funded by member contributions, industry sponsors and some ad-hoc government project funding.

Since its formation in 1982, the MPVA has had strong membership support from the region, representing approximately 80% of production from the region in a cohesive and collaborative community.

The MPVA is grateful to its partners for helping to realise the MP Wine Show and other events and initiatives to support, promote and advocate for the region's wine industry.

#### **About Dr Allan Antcliff**

Dr Allan Antcliff (1923-1985) was a vine physiologist and breeder. His research and work at the CSIRO proved vitally important to the Australian wine industry. He was responsible for introducing numerous varieties from overseas and propagated many cross varieties and hybrids. By 1983, Dr Antcliff had germinated and planted more than forty thousand seedlings. This work led to the health and vitality of the Australian wine growing industry today.

#### **About Our Judges**

##### **Dr Mary Retallack**

- Mary Retallack is a Viticultural Consultant based in Adelaide who has worked professionally in the wine sector over the last two decades. Mary grew up on a fruit block in the Riverland and is a third generation viticulturist. Dr Retallack completed a PhD at the University of Adelaide studying the use of native insectary plants to boost the presence of predatory arthropods in vineyards.

##### **John Whiting**

- John Whiting is a senior viticulturist who has experience working with the Victorian Department of Primary Industries. He now consults to wineries and works on specific grape projects with industry groups such as the AWRI and Wine Australia.

##### **Mark Walpole**

- Mark Walpole started his vineyard career at Brown Brothers in the 1980s. Today, Mark manages his own vineyard and wine label, works as a consultant, explores and establishes additional European grape varieties particularly in Victoria, and has become an advocate for low impact, sustainable farming.

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