



WINE AWARDS
FRANCES
Steward

WINE AWARDS
KARYNNE
Regional

Cairns Show *Wine Awards* 17th - 20th June 2026 *Stewards Handbook*

Contents

About the Awards	3
Program of Events	4
Official Structure	5
Our Judges	6
Chair of Show	6
Andrew Corrigan MW	6
Panel Judges	6
Hamish Seabrook.....	6
Brooke Blaire.....	6
Ben Wilcox	7
Senior Judges.....	7
Associate Judges	7
General Information	10
Event Location & Instructions	10
Stewarding	10
Steward & Pouring Checklist	11
Setup & Preparation (Judging Days).....	11
During Judging	11
Between Classes	11
End of Day	11
Steward Public Tasting Checklist	12
Arrival & Setup	12
Serving Wine.....	12
End of Public Tasting	12
Wine Purchase Procedures	13
Eligibility	13
Ordering & Payment	13
Need Help?.....	13
Acknowledgment of Steward Procedures	14
Contact Details	14
Cairns Show Association Contact Details	15

About the Awards

Welcome to the Inaugural Cairns Show Wine Awards

Organised by the Cairns Agricultural, Pastoral, and Mining Association, the Cairns Show Wine Awards have been a celebrated feature of the Show since their establishment in 1992.

This year, we are proud to mark the **33rd Anniversary** of these prestigious awards. Presented by **Regional Insurance Brokers**, the Wine Awards have firmly established themselves on the Australian Wine Industry Calendar each June.

These awards not only recognise excellence in winemaking but also highlight the importance of wine styles, food pairings, and overall quality - a focus that is particularly meaningful in Far North Australia, where tourism and hospitality play such a vital role.

Serving as a **Steward** at the Wine Awards offers a unique opportunity to gain firsthand experience in wine judging and to connect with fellow wine enthusiasts. Stewards are encouraged to shadow our Judges, learning the techniques and nuances of professional wine tasting.

This hands-on experience provides valuable insights into wine appreciation and can open pathways to becoming an Associate Judge in the future.

We are delighted to welcome back **Master of Wine, Mr. Andrew Corrigan**, as our Chair of Show for this year. He will be supported by a panel of Senior and Associate Judges, each bringing extensive knowledge and expertise to the Awards, and eager to share their insights.

The role of a Steward is essential to the smooth running and success of the Wine Awards. Your participation is greatly appreciated, and while the role may present challenges at times, we hope it will also provide a rewarding and memorable experience.

Thank you for your support in making this event a continued success, and for helping us celebrate the very best of Australian wine.

Mr. Ian Allen

President, Cairns Show Association

Our Focus

The focus of the Cairns Show Wine Awards is to:

- Judge and make awards to exceptional wines.
- Examine wine styles in the context of food matching in a tropical location.
- Spread awareness by communicating these results to the local hospitality industry and the public.



Program of Events

Judging

Location: Cairns Showgrounds, De Jarlais Function Centre

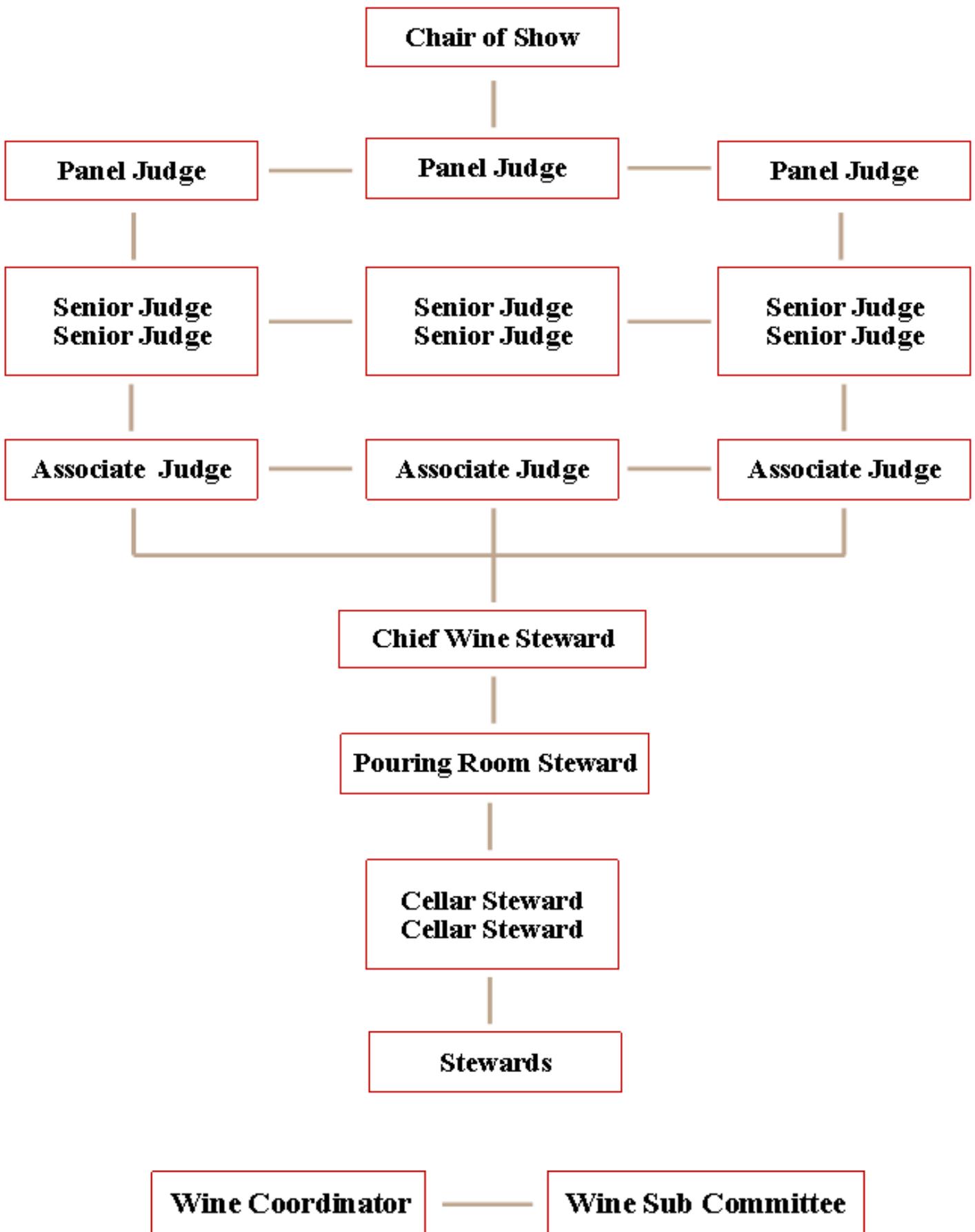
- Wednesday, 17th June
- Thursday, 18th June
- Friday, 19th June

Public Tasting

Location: Cairns Showgrounds, De Jarlais Function Centre (upstairs)

- Saturday, 20th June
 - **Official Welcome & Announcement of Awards: 2:00 PM**
 - **Public Tasting: 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

Official Structure



Our Judges

Chair of Show

Andrew Corrigan MW

Founder of the Cairns Show Wine Awards, Andrew Corrigan MW has been a Master of Wine since 1997, one of only 15 in Australia. With a background in restaurant management and award-winning wine consulting, he contributes to major wine publications and presents at Australian and international wine seminars.



Panel Judges

Hamish Seabrook

CEO of Seabrook Wines, Tanunda SA.

A fifth-generation winemaker, Hamish Seabrook crafts wines showcasing the Barossa Valley's unique terroir. A respected judge at major wine shows nationwide, he was named Dux of the prestigious Len Evans Tutorial in 2004.



Brooke Blaire

Senior Winemaker at Peter Lehmann Wines, Barossa Valley SA.

Brooke trained in Oenology at the University of Adelaide and refined her skills with vintages in Coonawarra, Spain, and Canada. Now Senior Winemaker at Brand's Laira, she leads a team blending tradition and innovation to craft exceptional wines.



Ben Wilcox

White Winemaker at d'Arenberg, McLaren Vale SA.

Ben began his career as a cellar hand at Petulama Wines and is now a White Winemaker at d'Arenberg.

He has judged at major wine shows, including the 2021 Barossa Wine Show and 2024 McLaren Vale Wine Show, and joined the Cairns Show Wine Awards as a first-time judge in 2024.



Senior Judges

- Mr. BJ Foley
- Mr. Boxi Zhen
- Ms. Hayley Wano
- Mr. Kenji Izukura
- Mr. Luke Broadbent
- To be confirmed...

Associate Judges

- Mr. Gonzalo Sanchez
- Mr. Christian Peterson
- To be confirmed...





General Information

Event Location & Instructions

- **Location:** Cairns Showgrounds, De Jarlais Function Centre (upstairs)
- **Entry:**
 - Pedestrians: Main Gates, corner of Severin St & Mulgrave Rd
 - Vehicles: Severin St Gate 4, with parking available in front of the Function Centre

Stewarding

- **Age Requirement:** All Officials (Judges and Stewards) and public participants on Public Tasting Day must be 18+
- **Induction:** Tuesday 16th June at 5:00pm. The Wine Coordinator will email confirmation. **All Stewards must attend the Induction & Briefing.**
- **Roster:** Wine Coordinator will provide the final roster once confirmed.
- **Judging:** Arrive by 8:00 am (morning) or 1:00 pm (afternoon) and report to the Chief Wine Steward. Judging runs Wednesday 17th, Thursday 18th, and Friday 19th June (depending on entries).
- **Public Tasting:** Arrive by 2:00 pm on Saturday 20th June
- **Refreshments:** Morning & afternoon tea plus a light lunch will be provided. Stewards will be directed by the Chief Wine Steward or Pouring Room Steward on appropriate break times.

Steward & Pouring Checklist

Setup & Preparation (Judging Days)

- Set up the Pouring Room under the direction of the **Pouring Room Steward**.
- Each pour normally uses **4 glasses per judge**, or **5** if the Steward is also an Associate Judge.
- Sort wines by **judging number** - double-check if unsure.
- Place empty glasses on judging tables to indicate withdrawn or disqualified wines.
- Open bottles and pour **45ml** per glass.
- Ensure all glasses are **clean** and free of advertising.
- Place glasses at the **correct judging number**. If a mistake is suspected, **stop immediately** and notify the Chief or Pouring Room Steward.

During Judging

- Maintain a **quiet, professional environment** - no drinking or tasting of wine.
 - If a Judge requests a **re-pour**:
- Complete a Re-Pour slip and give it to the Chief Wine Steward.
- Open a second bottle and pour for the Judge.
- Place the new glass in the Judge's position, moving the original glass to the back. **Do not remove the original glass.**

Between Classes

- Refresh **bread, olives, and water**.
- Empty, rinse, and return **spittoons**.
- Prepare wines and glasses in the Pouring Room for the next class.

End of Day

- Remove rubbish and tidy judging tables.
- Set up tables for the following day's judging.

Steward Public Tasting Checklist

Arrival & Setup

- Arrive by 2:00 pm.
- Set up the Public Tasting area as directed by the Chief Wine Steward.
- Wear Cairns Show Wine Awards t-shirt, black pants/shorts/skirt, and enclosed shoes.

Serving Wine

- Use only opened bottles.
- Arrange bottles by class, labels facing out. Loosen corks/caps but leave in/on the bottle.
- Serve small portions only; distribute high-quality wines fairly.
- Do not allow members of the public to serve themselves.
- Answer questions to the best of your ability.
- Trophy winners and top Gold/Silver medal wines may be exhausted and unavailable.
- Do not taste wine behind the service area.
- Follow Responsible Service of Alcohol rules -report anyone visibly intoxicated to the Chief Steward.

End of Public Tasting

- 5 minutes before closing: re-cork/seal all bottles.
- Remove bottles from tables and return to crates.
- Stop serving wine when “time” is called.
- Chief Steward will appoint Stewards to return all bottles to the Pouring Room.
- Remaining Stewards stay on the floor until all visitors have left.
- After the Public Tasting ends, Stewards may take up to two cartons of opened wine, only after all visitors have left.
- No wine is taken before the Public Tasting is finished.

Wine Purchase Procedures

Eligibility

1 Carton

You may purchase **1 carton** of assorted wine (from the 2024 Cairns Show Wine Awards) if you:

- Complete **2 shifts** (morning and/or afternoon) during the Judging Period **AND**
- Work during the **Public Tasting**.

2 Cartons

You may purchase **2 cartons** if you:

- Complete **4 shifts** (morning and/or afternoon) during the Judging Period.

Ordering & Payment

Orders will be taken by the **Pouring Room Steward** during the Judging Period.

Each carton is **\$72 (GST included)**.

Cartons must be **paid for and collected** from the Cairns Show Association Show Office by **Tuesday, 23rd June 2026**.

Need Help?

If you have questions, speak with the **Pouring Room Steward** during Judging, or the **Wine Coordinator** after the Public Tasting.

Acknowledgment of Steward Procedures

Please review and acknowledge the roles, responsibilities, conditions, and guidelines outlined in the *2026 Stewards Handbook*.

To be considered for a Steward position, please complete and sign the declaration below to confirm your understanding and acceptance of the terms and conditions contained in the Handbook.

Acknowledgment

I, _____, acknowledge and accept the roles, responsibilities, conditions, and guidelines outlined in the *2026 Stewards Handbook*, and hereby express my interest in serving as a _____ Steward at the **2026 Cairns Show Wine Awards**.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Contact Details

Full Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Cairns Show Association Contact Details

Wine Coordinator:

Heather Rowlands

E: info@cairnswineawards.com.au

M: 0459 181 977

PH: (07) 4042 6630

FAX: (07) 4031 3671

Address: Corner Severin St and Mulgrave Rd, Cairns, QLD 4870

Postal: PO Box 811, Bungalow, QLD 4870

Cairns Show Association

Cairns Agricultural, Pastoral, and Mining Association



Cairns Show Association

Phone: (07) 4042 6630

Fax: (07) 4031 3671

Email: info@cairnswineawards.com.au

Facebook: CairnsShowWineAwards

<https://cairnsshow.com.au/cairns-show-wine-awards/>

Stewards Handbook