



► TONY DEVITT

With a passion for both wine and agriculture ex President of the RAS Tony Devitt has been a driving force behind numerous industry groups including the Wine Producer's Association, the forerunner of the Wine Industry Association of WA, encouraging viticulture development in regions throughout the State.

As President Tony spent time forging strong relationships between the agricultural and urban communities and for his involvement Tony earned a number of accolades including the Rudi Buring Scholarship for an overseas viticulture study tour, the Centenary Medal awarded by the Australian Government for services to the primary industry, a Paul Harris Fellow for service to Rotary and the Jack Mann Memorial Medal by the WA Wine Press Club for services to the WA wine industry.

Armed with a degree in Agricultural Science and a Diploma of Oenology Tony unleashed his expectations and professionalism – introducing wine industry workshops, took up an appointment as senior viticulturist heading up the viticulture section of the WA Department of Agriculture before forming the WA Grape Growers' and Wine Producers' Association acting as Interim Chairman, at the request of the State Government.

Various appointments including a three year stint on the national statutory body - the Grape and Wine Research Council, Principal Officer for horticultural research providing policy advice and liaison between the Government and the wine industry, director of the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corp, initiating the WA Vine Improvement Association.

In between these appointments Tony bought and managed Ashbrook Winery developing an international market with the major emphasis on Asia before retiring from the family business in 2013.

Having valuable experience within the wine industry Tony lectured in wine science at Curtin University of Technology, the WA Wine Education Centre, a member of the Planning member of the Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology and the Australian Society of Wine Education and contributed to countless wine tastings and magazine columns.