



PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

NATIONAL ECOVINEYARDS PROGRAM

We invite you to find out more about the National EcoVineyards Program aims, themes, activities and resources



GROWING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

What is the National EcoVineyards Program?

Winegrape growers throughout Australia are being supported in their actions to enhance soil health, increase use of ground covers and improve functional biodiversity in their vineyards via the National EcoVineyards Program from July 2022 to June 2025.

This national program is funded by Wine Australia and delivered by Retallack Viticulture Pty Ltd with significant support from regional communities.

Aims

The National EcoVineyards Program is helping to accelerate adoption and practice change outcomes specified in Wine Australia's Strategic plan 2020 to 2025 specifically:

- to increase the land area dedicated to enhancing functional biodiversity by 10 per cent, and
- to increase the use of vineyard cover crops and soil remediation practices by 10 per cent

Themes

Each year has a different theme and events are held in spring and post vintage each season:

- soil health (2022/23)
- ground covers including cover crops (2023/24)
- functional biodiversity (2024/25)

For information about upcoming events please visit the [events](#) page.

Dr Mary Retallack, Retallack Viticulture Pty Ltd, National EcoVineyards Program Manager

Mary is the Managing Director of Retallack Viticulture Pty Ltd (which also trades as Retallack Ecology) and offers a broad range of agribusiness and agroecological consulting services throughout Australia and overseas.

As an experienced agricultural scientist, agroecologist and third-generation viticulturist, Mary brings a wide range of skills and experience from practical, research, teaching, and consultancy roles and is recognised internationally as a Chartered Agriculturist (CAg).

These skills have been gathered over the past 30 years along with a PhD in Viticulture and Plant Protection and tertiary qualifications in Conservation and Park Management, Natural Resource Management, Education, Viticulture, and Arbitration.

Mary is a recognised leader in the fields of viticulture, agroecology, functional biodiversity enhancement and is the founder of the National EcoVineyards Program.



EcoGrowers

Following an 'open call' in late 2022, we announced the new intake of EcoGrowers in each participating region in early 2023. They are establishing a diverse range of demonstration sites to provide practical insights to questions in the field around the topics of soil health, ground covers and functional biodiversity. These insights will be shared in a series of case studies in late 2024.

The new cohort of 31 EcoGrowers joins the EcoVineyards alumni of 45 EcoGrowers who have completed the program, bringing the total number of EcoGrowers to 76 since the programs inception in 2019.

You can read more about each national EcoGrower [here](#) and EcoGrower alumni [here](#).



Regions

Participating regions:

- Hunter Valley, New South Wales
- Orange, New South Wales
- Yarra Valley, Victoria
- Mornington Peninsula, Victoria
- Margaret River, Western Australia
- Clare Valley, South Australia
- Adelaide Hills, South Australia
- Langhorne Creek, South Australia

Regional on-ground coordinators (ROCs)

Meet your local ROC who can answer questions you may have about the National EcoVineyards Program in your region. To find out more contact admin@ecovineyards.com.au



Rebecca Archer
Lower Blackwood LCDC
Margaret River



Brent Hutton
Retallack Viticulture
**Hunter Valley and
Orange**



Karen Thomas
Melbourne Water
**Yarra Valley and
Mornington Peninsula**



Emma McInerney
Ag Excellence Alliance
Clare Valley



Janet Klein
Retallack Viticulture
**Adelaide Hills and
Langhorne Creek**

Grower resources

Wine growers have access to a new suite of region-specific resources via the [knowledge hub](#):

- fact sheets
- case studies
- grower insights
- soil health indicators (videos, booklet and posters)
- native plant lists for each participating region
- a range of podcasts and videos
- biodiversity action plan (BAP) template
- scientific articles
- best practice management guides
- the natural predators booklet

All growers benefit through the information-sharing activities associated with the National EcoVineyards Program including various grower events and resources, grower discounts on supplies and field walks associated with each demonstration site.

ECOVINEYARDS
GROWING RESILIENCE NATURALLY

BEST PRACTICE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

**ON SOIL HEALTH IN AUSTRALIAN VINEYARDS
PART A: CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL**

by Dr Amanda Schapel and Dr Mary Retallack

Wine Australia | retallack viticulture | Government of South Australia | S.A.R.T.I.

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BEST PRACTICE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

**ON SOIL HEALTH IN AUSTRALIAN VINEYARDS
PART B: SOIL BIOLOGY**

by Dr Mary Retallack, Dr Joseph Marks, Dr Thomas Lines, Mark Tupman and Dr Mary Cole

Wine Australia | retallack viticulture | THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE | AGPATH

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BEST PRACTICE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

ON GROUND COVERS IN AUSTRALIAN VINEYARDS

by Dr Mary Retallack, Stuart Pettigrew, Jade Killoran, and Dr Ian Chivers

Wine Australia | retallack viticulture | AgDynamics | Healthy Farming Systems

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BEST PRACTICE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

ON FUNCTIONAL BIODIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIAN VINEYARDS

by Dr Mary Retallack

Wine Australia | retallack viticulture

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BIRD GUIDE

UNDERSTANDING THE ECOLOGICAL ROLES OF BIRDS IN AUSTRALIAN VINEYARDS

by Ian Falkenberg, Dan Falkenberg and Dr Mary Retallack

Wine Australia | retallack viticulture

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FACT SHEET

NUTRIENT-DENSE PLANTS ARE MORE RESISTANT TO PESTS AND DISEASES

By Dr Mary Retallack, Retallack Viticulture Pty Ltd

Wine Australia | retallack viticulture

To find out more please visit the knowledge hub www.ecovineyards.com.au

Deliverables

The following deliverables have been achieved and provide insights to the broad and diverse ways the National EcoVineyards Program has created significant impact in a relatively short period of time.



160+

Partnering businesses

are working in collaboration with the common purpose of fostering environmental stewardship.



76

Demonstration sites

have been established across Australia featuring a range of ecological practices and tailored EcoVineyards signage.



240

Microbat boxes

have been installed across Australia (in collaboration with Seaford Rotary).



75

Predator perches

and 75 photo points have been designed, manufactured, and installed (in collaboration with Ocvitti Australia/Ocloc).



75+

Grower events

field days and networking events (twice per year over 5 years in 8 major wine regions).



1,500

Attendees

at grower events over the last 4 years.



100,000+

Native insectary plants

grasses, forbs, woody ground cover, shrubs and trees have been planted in the last 5 years.



68

EcoGrowers profiles

have been completed.



37

Case studies

have been completed.



12

Supporting information

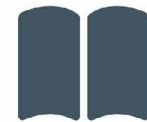
12 articles that provide scientific research about native insectary plants and the arthropods found in association.



14

Native plant community lists

a summary for each participating region across Australia.



80 page

Booklet

'Natural predators of vineyard insect pests' written by Dr Mary Retallack, Retallack Viticulture.



45

Fact sheets and videos

comprising 400 pages have been developed showcasing a broad range of topics, visit the knowledge hub to search by topic, resource type or region.



13

Signage templates

EcoVineyards signage templates x 3 large and x 10 small format for native insectary plants and the arthropods found in association have been produced.



800+

Facebook followers

Facebook has all the latest EcoVineyards news and events notifications.



1,250+

Instagram followers

Instagram has all the latest EcoVineyards news and events notifications.

Stay in touch

For more information about the National EcoVineyards Program please visit www.ecovineyards.com.au

We invite you to join the EcoVineyards community via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)

@ecovineyards

For more information please contact the EcoVineyards team admin@ecovineyards.com.au

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PROGRAM PARTNERS



REGIONAL PARTNERS



MARGARET RIVER WINE

The National EcoVineyards Program is funded by Wine Australia with levies from Australia's grape growers and winemakers and matching funds from the Australian Government.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

EcoVineyards proudly acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and their ongoing cultural and spiritual connection to this ancient land on which we work and live.

As the Traditional Custodians of this land, we recognise their wealth of ecological knowledge and the importance of caring for Country.

We pay our respects to elders past and present and extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.



