

Media statement – for immediate release

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Barossa and Clare share glory at South Australian Pruning Champs

Barossa and Clare shared the winners' glory at the 2021 South Australian Pruning Championships, held at the Barossa Pruning Expo at PIRSA's Nuriootpa Research Station on Wednesday.

Barossa grower Steve Schiller was the overall winner, for the third time, of the "Wolf Blass Shield", scoring a perfect 100 to place 1st in the Individual Spur Pruning event. Ryan Schiller, also of Barossa, blitzed the field for 1st in the Individual Cane Pruning event, and "Clare's Old Timers" team of Giulio Dichiera, Chris Verran and Ghulam Mohammadi were happy winners of the Team Spur Pruning event (see full results below).

The only female team, "Sizzling Secateurs" Mandy Mader, Cheree Boehm and Laura McEwen, also featured prominently, scoring 2nd place in the Team Spur Pruning event.

Around 175 people attended the 2021 Barossa Pruning Expo, which combines a pruning competition, workshops, and a trade show – an initiative of Barossa Grape & Wine Association's Barossa VitiTech Group.

The competition, now offering over \$13,000 worth of prizes donated by leading suppliers including Pellenc, Bahco, Electrocoup and Felco, was resurrected in 2014 after a hiatus of 30 years, with local comps previously running from the 1920s until 1983.

The event is now run every alternate year in Barossa and Clare Valley, and in Barossa regularly attracts up to 200 growers, technical viticulturists, researchers and pruning technology suppliers to PIRSA's viticulture research station in Nuriootpa.

The 2021 Barossa Pruning Expo featured leading Eutypa research scientist Dr Mark Sosnowski, and BGWA's video case studies featuring growers talking about the benefits of utilising the Simonit & Sirch "soft pruning" method. And viticulturist Chris Rogers, and a panel of growers and winemakers, led an overview and wine tasting of BGWA's shoot-thinning trials with Penfolds, Torbreck, and Gomersal grower Steve Schiller.

"Barossa Grape & Wine Association is dedicated to ensuring Barossa is producing the highest quality wines from vineyards that are financially and environmentally sustainable," said BGWA Viticulture Development Manager, Nicki Robins.

"The Barossa Pruning Expo is an example of our strong focus on giving growers access to best practice viticulture tools and information so they can, in turn, run healthy, profitable businesses that will thrive for many generations to come," she said.

For more information

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South Australian Pruning Championships: Results

Wolf Blass Shield (overall winner)

Steve Schiller (Barossa)

Pellenc Individual Spur

1st place – Steve Schiller (Barossa)

2nd place – Giulio Dichiera (Clare Valley)

3rd place – David Vaughan (Barossa)

Electrocoup / Bahco Individual Rod & Spur (Cane)

1st place – Ryan Schiller (Barossa)

2nd place – David Vaughan (Barossa)

3rd place – Martin Gallasch (Barossa)

Felco Team Spur

1st place – “Clare’s Old Timers” - Giulio Dichiera, Chris Verran, Ghulam Mohammadi (Clare Valley)

2nd place – “Sizzling Secateurs” – Mandy Mader, Cheree Boehm, Laura McEwen (Barossa)

3rd place – “Cutting Edge” – Steve Schiller, David Vaughan, Karl Schiller (Barossa)