

CREEK CONNECT



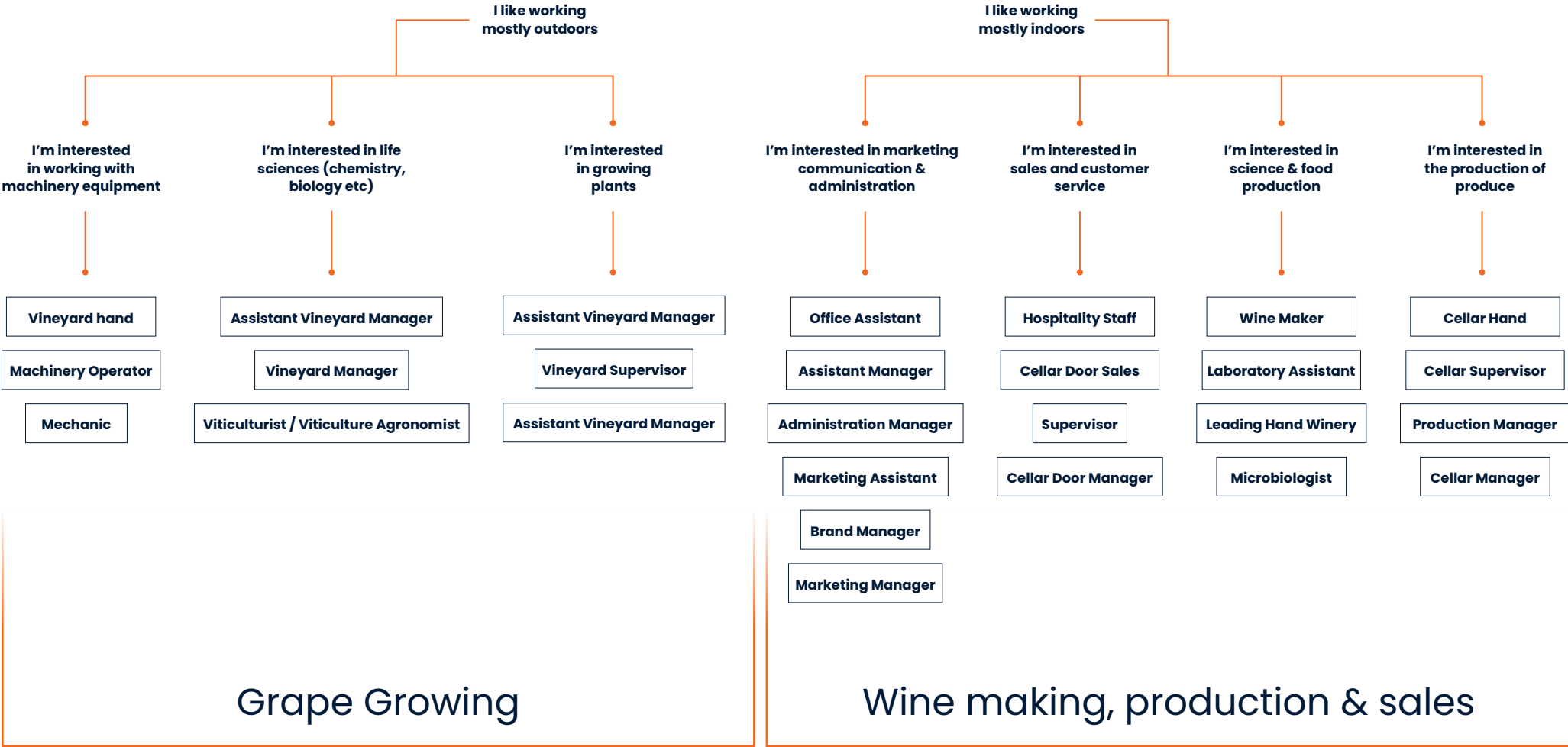
LANGHORNE CREEK

EXPOLIATORS

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IN THE CREEK



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Mitch

Vineyard Nurseryhand

Mitch works in his family's vineyard nursery business in a 'hands on' role. He oversees the entire propagation of the vine – from its beginning as a dormant grape vine cutting through to its planting in the nursery. Once established as a grown rootling, the plants are delivered to vineyards locally and across Australia.

Mitch's role involves a wide range of agricultural tasks including tractor driving, spraying, propagating vines, planting rootlings and managing irrigation. Mitch is also developing his people management skills through supervising staff.

As a family business, Mitch works alongside his brother Lachlan, with his father Mark overseeing the whole business.

In his role Mitch has gained a lot of 'on the job' training including skills in time management, people management and how to work in a business environment with up to thirty people at a time.

Recently Mitch has applied to study a Diploma in Viticulture. The three year course will build on his viticultural knowledge and develop his confidence to one day take over and manage the family business.





Stella

Environmental and sustainability officer

Stella used to live in London and whilst there fell in love with wine. It ignited her passion to learn more about its creation – from the grape to the glass – and she immersed herself in roles in both the vineyard and winery.

Stella's wine career has seen her working in the winery cellar and in the laboratory undertaking data entry. She has since moved into her current role where her working week is shared between the laboratory and the office.

A typical day in the lab sees Stella setting up equipment, ensuring its smooth operation, doing repeatability and calibration checks and analysing results. Other tasks include taking monthly wine samples to check sulphur levels and pH levels of each batch of wine.

In her role as Environmental and Sustainability Officer Stella looks for continuous improvement in the winery – better ways of doing things to ensure that business practices are sustainable and environmentally compliant.

One of Stella's favourite things about working in the wine industry is the opportunity to grow and the exciting pathways it offers.

Caroline

Winemaker

Growing up in Switzerland, Caroline had the opportunity to travel to Australia on an exchange program where she met her (now) husband and commenced a career in winemaking.

Caroline started out as an assistant winemaker, moving into the role of winemaker after just one vintage.

She enjoys seeing the 'magic' in wine as it evolves, matched equally with the practical science that lies behind its creation.

Every growing season is different and impacts the style of wine created for that year. Caroline blurs the line between vineyard and winery, as she monitors how the grapes are developing in the vineyard and considers the style of wine to create. She then moves indoors to perfect the wine through analysis and tasting.

Caroline never imagined she would be spending the rest of her life on the other side of the world. Studying winemaking took her around the world and brought her to South Australia to pursue her passion.





Travis

Assistant Vineyard Manager

At an early age Travis decided that school wasn't the best fit for him. At fifteen he commenced a TAFE course, started work, and hasn't looked back.

Starting out as a vineyard hand Trav did the basic seasonal activities that come with the job - driving tractors, pruning, shoot and fruit thinning, de-suckering and wire lifting. Keen to be challenged, he undertook a Diploma in Agriculture which allowed him to move into a role he really wanted. Trav believes studying this course really paid off and provided a strong foundation for his current role.

Today Trav manages five full time staff and many contractors. His day ranges from foliar spraying to limit disease in vineyards, through to irrigation and fertigation management to promote vine health.

Trav believes that in this role it's important to be able to get along with people. He works closely with a wide range of people including his team members, contractors and suppliers.

Trav's job takes him out of an office and into the outdoors - he enjoys working out in the vines and being challenged. Travis believes there are many exciting opportunities for a career in the wine industry.

Kate

Cellar Door Manager

The role of Cellar Door Manager is diverse in nature and has people at its core, both of which attracted Kate to the job. A Cellar Door is where stories are shared and memories (and sales!) are made. Kate enjoys creating a relaxed atmosphere where people from all over the world can learn about the winery, its wine products and the region.

As Cellar Door Manager Kate is responsible for the daily operation of Cellar Door including hosting wine tasting sessions, staff rostering, product merchandising, managing events, stock management and budgeting. Working closely with the owner, Kate is responsible for meeting sales budgets and is proud to help grow the business.

For this role Kate believes it's important to be a 'people person' who is confident and enjoys meeting new people. Kate loves seeing people happy and sharing her love of the product with them.

Kate is always keen to increase her knowledge in areas such as people management, the grape growing and wine making process and financial management.





Will

Agronomist

Will grew up on the family farm with vineyards beneath his feet.

With a strong passion for farming and 'growing things', agriculture was a natural career choice. Will headed to Geelong's Marcus Oldham College to study Farm Business Management – a course which gave him both a broad idea of agriculture and emphasised the importance of business management skills. But it was agronomy – the science of soil management and crop production – that captured his interest.

Will accepted an internship with a local ag reseller which sees him monitoring vineyards for pest and disease throughout the growing season. He also undertakes grape maturity and tissue sampling.

Whilst the role has taken Will out of his comfort zone, he believes it's really important to be challenged and to embrace opportunities when they present themselves.

For Will, the best part of being an Agronomist is being outside all day. He loves seeing the weekly changes in the vineyard, whether it be grapes developing from flowers, or tiny shoots growing into big purple bunches. It's a role that he finds challenging, interesting and exciting – the hallmarks of an enjoyable job!

Robyn

Business Operator / Cellar Door Sales

Robyn's wine industry career started when the winery itself was just developing. Originally helping out with a 'little bit of work', the role quickly developed into a full time job in Cellar Door.

With the title of Business Operator / Cellar Door Sales, Robyn's role is varied. Robyn manages the daily cellar door administrative tasks including customer enquiries and filling orders, stock control and merchandising. Robyn hosts visitors in cellar door for tastings and sales and particularly enjoys talking with customers who really appreciate wine.

Robyn manages the winery's social media channels, an area of increasing importance in building relationships and customer loyalty. She enjoys sharing authentic, seasonal stories from the vineyard, winery and cellar door which in turn builds brand knowledge and product loyalty.

Robyn believes the industry is exciting and dynamic and offers a springboard for different pathways. From viticulture to wine making, through to cellar door and wine tourism including coordinating dinners, festivals and tasting events, there are many skills learnt along the way. A job in the wine industry is a perfect passport for travelling around Australia or the world.





Tom

Vineyard Contractor

Tom left school to pursue a career as a carpenter but quickly realised it wasn't for him. An opportunity of a "little job" as a vineyard contractor soon turned into a full-time position. These days, Tom's day starts early and takes him across many grape growing regions in South Australia undertaking a variety of roles. Across the season it sees him operate a range of machinery including tractors, harvesters, all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) and sprayers.

As a machinery operator, Tom appreciates this is a stepping stone to a future career. He has learnt a lot in his first few years; but is keen to explore other pathways. Tom intends on studying a Certificate III in Viticulture which he believes will open up further opportunities for him in the industry.

Tom encourages anyone to 'just give it a crack' and be open to any of the many job opportunities in the industry. Tom believes he has the best job in the world.

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