

Media Release

The Hon Jaclyn Symes MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Regional Development

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Resources



Thursday, 1 October, 2020

SPIRITS HIGH WITH YACKANDANDAH DISTILLERY SUPPORT

A family-owned and operated distillery in the North East will be able to throw open their doors to more visitors thanks to support from the Victorian Government.

Minister for Agriculture Jaclyn Symes today announced Backwoods Distilling Co. would receive a Small-Scale and Craft Program grant of almost \$92,000 to help the business create a space where visitors can sample, buy and learn about the company's products.

Visitors to the distillery door will be able to taste and buy the company's whiskies as well as learn about the different grains and cask wood used to make products unique to Victoria's High Country.

The distillery will also be a place Backwoods Distilling Co. can collaborate with other craft producers to host events that highlight the region's premium food and drink businesses, creating a more exciting experience.

The grant will also allow Backwoods Distilling Co. to triple its spirit production, from 3,000 litres to up to 9,000 litres a year.

By helping local industry to expand, people are encouraged to choose locally produced craft spirits and Victorian produce, as well as supporting potential new makers to learn the craft of brewing and distilling.

Fuelled by a love of whisky, science and craftiness, the founders of Backwoods Distilling Co., Bree and Leigh Attwood, have run their distillery in Yackandandah since 2017.

Their first products, a single malt whisky and a rye whisky were released in August and sold out in less than 24-hours.

The Small-Scale and Craft Program Business Development Grants are part of the Government's \$10.2 million commitment over four years to support the sector. For a full list of recipients and to find out more about the Small-Scale and Craft Program, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/artisanag.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Jaclyn Symes

"Small-scale and craft agribusinesses play a vital role in Victoria's regional tourism and our reputation as a producer of quality food and beverages."

"I know many people will be keen to get back out exploring regional Victoria and supporting our small businesses. By backing projects like this, we're helping producers get back on their feet and throw open the doors to those eager visitors."

Quotes attributable to Backwoods Distilling Co. founder Bree Attwood

"This grant will enable us to take our business to the next level, allowing visitors to not only taste our products but give them another reason to stop in our region."

"It's been a challenging year and this support from government has meant our goal of opening to the public for tastings and sales is quickly becoming a reality."

Media contact: Casey Lodge 0410 964 928 | casey.lodge@minstaff.vic.gov.au