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### **Winemaker at Malabar's Merton Vineyard honoured**

Malabar congratulates Atsuko Radcliffe, who was honored this month at the Consul-General of Japan's Commendation Award Ceremony for strengthening bilateral relations between Japan and Australia.

Atsuko is the winemaker and founder of *Small Forest* wine. The brand name is the translation of her maiden name, Kobayashi, and is based at our Merton vineyard on the Spur Hill Underground exploration licence. The vineyard produces Chardonnay, Verdelho and Shiraz wines.

As Japan's first female winemaker, and the only Japanese winemaker to establish a wine brand in Australia, Atsuko has distinguished her wines as among the best in the Hunter Valley.

Atsuko's relationship with Malabar began in 2013, when we acquired the Merton vineyard in the Upper Hunter. We wanted to ensure the vineyard and winery flourished and assisted Atsuko to create her own wine brand. Having earned a degree in microbiology and biochemistry, establishing the first wine and viticulture consulting company in Japan, and previously working for legendary winemaker Philip Shaw, Malabar's grapes are in expert hands.

Our vineyard manager Rod Muldoon produces the grapes for Atsuko with the support of Liz Riley (who was awarded Australian Viticulturist of the Year in 2017).

Importantly, our relationship with Atsuko is a perfect example of what can be achieved when mining companies and other agricultural enterprises work together. For Malabar, co-existence means the local community can continue to reap the benefits of two strong industries that have worked side by side for over a century – in this case, fantastic wines, jobs and sustained local economic investment.

Malabar Coal Chairman, Wayne Seabrook, was delighted to attend the ceremony at the Consul-General's Residence in Bellevue Hill in Sydney on 4 December.