

# update

Summer 2011 Newsletter

## Board visits the Yarra valley!

The **study tour** was an important learning experience for the newly inducted Board. It was noted that this was the first time that the entire Board had visited a phylloxera infested region such as the Yarra Valley. The Board also visited the Phylloxera Research Centre at Rutherglen to see firsthand the research work that is currently been undertaken by Dr Kevin Powell and his team.



*From L to R: Andrew Downs, Geoff Raven, Cass Collins, Narelle Borgmeyer, Rae Noon (patting the resident dog), Andrew McIntosh, Robin Nettelbeck, Elise Heyes, Scott McCarthy, Ashley Keegan, Alan Nankivell, Ashley Chabrel & Pete Balnaves at Helen's Hill Vineyard.*

The tour culminated with a site visit to Helen's Hill vineyard, which is a 61 hectare estate with 44.5 hectares of dry grown vines on own roots situated inside the Mandoorah PIZ. Helen's Hill has implemented strict Phylloxera operational guidelines in order to safeguard the estate from the introduction of Phylloxera.

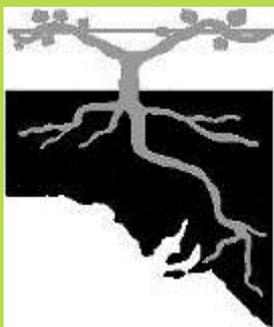
Quarantine measures are in place for all visitors and if winemakers or Grower Liaison Officers wish to inspect the vineyard, appointments are required and Helen's Hill staff ensure that on site transport is available for use by visitors.

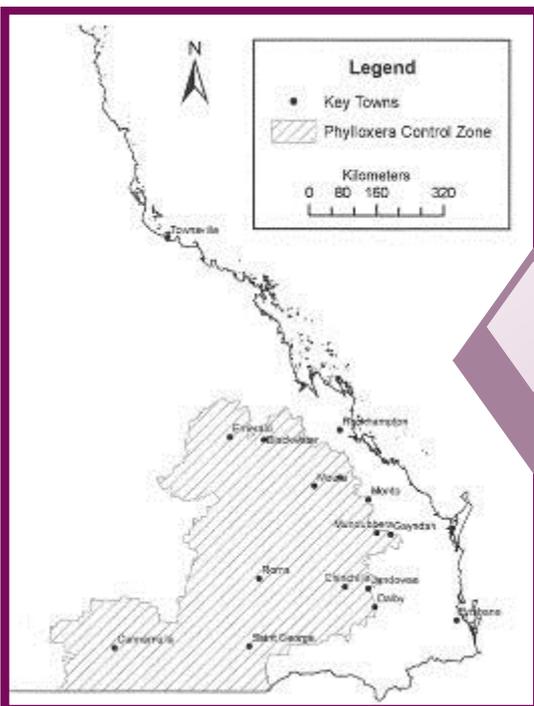
Andrew McIntosh, owner of Helen's Hill, hosted the Board to a very informative presentation into the operations of the vineyard and the professionalism he expects from all vineyard and winery staff in observing quarantine protocols. He also highlighted that the cost of implementing phylloxera protocols was like an insurance premium as it is much cheaper to maintain what they have in healthy own root vines as opposed to been forced into a replanting program.

One observation made by the Board was that the whole Yarra Valley wine region is working together to ensure that Phylloxera management protocols become second nature.



*L to R: Elise Heyes, Dr Kevin Powell, Robin Nettelbeck & Rae Noon at the Rutherglen Research Centre.*





## Congratulations Queensland on achieving a Phylloxera Exclusion Zone

For more information and to know what the area is made up of, please visit -

[http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/documents/Biosecurity\\_MovingPlantsAndPlantProducts/IA\\_4.5.pdf](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/documents/Biosecurity_MovingPlantsAndPlantProducts/IA_4.5.pdf)



## Tour Down Under

The internationally recognised TDU will be held during January 2012.

The Board has made contact with all the grape growers that have vines within 100m of the route, as in previous years, advising them on measures that they can undertake to reduce Bio-security risks arising from the event.

The TDU is a fantastic tourism event, bringing many visitors to the iconic wine regions of South Australia.

A real opportunity exists to showcase these regions both nationally and internationally.

It is important that we ensure these regions remain healthy and pest free to preserve the very asset the event showcases.



### Heat Shed

Heat treatment will greatly reduce the risk of spreading phylloxera when moving any machinery between regions.

For all bookings, please contact Mark Dinham during business hours on 08 8762 0666 or email Mark at [gyrobuilt@tpg.com.au](mailto:gyrobuilt@tpg.com.au).

## Coonawarra Field Inspections

This year staff aim to conduct inspections late January through to early February.

With 2010 being a La Nina year, we experienced a wet summer. Imagery taken from the late January flyover showed many vines with plenty of vigour, and as a result there is a decrease in the sites warranting investigation.

The aim this year is to trial the use of emergence traps and mapping locations with a DGPS, so that in the advent of a disease outbreak it may be tracked spatially using our GIS.

Finally, growers are always welcome to contact the Board if they are unsure about a site and would like it further investigated.



## Can we control Phylloxera numbers with insecticides?

One of the objectives being undertaken by the new R,D & E Committee, is to investigate the possibility of using an insecticide, Movento, for the use of controlling population numbers of Phylloxera.

At present, the committee is going through the process of gaining a Minor Use permit that will enable growers to spray vines within a Phylloxera Infested Zone (PIZ). We are currently working with Bayer, the manufacturers of Movento, in obtaining the relevant information that will enable us to begin the permit process.

Movento is currently registered for use on grapevines in the US and we will look at replicating their label recommendations in Australia. One of the major tasks is to access data of treated grapes that have finished the fermentation process to be sure that the resultant wine does not exceed any Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) set amongst export destinations whilst following their withholding period (WHP) restrictions.

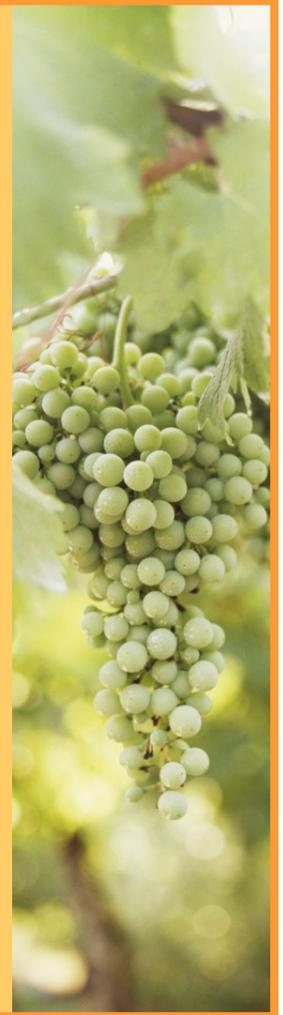
Further information will be provided post-vintage as we continue to progress the application.

## Utilisation & Pricing Survey 2011

**682,671 tonnes** was the total crush of South Australian winegrapes in vintage 2011.

- The Riverland crush increased its production by 15%.
  - The top 3 regions were Riverland 56%, Barossa Valley 9.1% and McLaren Vale 6.7% tonnes crushed.
- The total estimated value of the grapes was \$360 million, down by 15.4% from 2010.

The full report of the 2011 vintage, including total crush by region, average prices paid by variety, plantings in each region and supply forecasts for 2012 – 2016, can be found on our website <http://www.healthyvines.com.au/UtilisationPricingSurvey/2011FinalReport.aspx>



## Below Ground Management for Quality and Productivity

The Board in collaboration with the Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology (ASVO), delivered the “Below the Ground Management for Quality and Productivity” seminar in Mildura, Victoria on the 28th-29th July 2011, with 184 participants attending.

The keynote speakers included - Professor Robert White - University of Adelaide; Dr Rob Murray - University of Adelaide; Dr Peter Cousins - USDA Geneva NY USA; Dr David Smart - University of California, Davis USA; and standing in for Professor Randolph Kauer - University of Applied Sciences, Wiesbaden-Geisenheim was Dr Cassandra Collins - University of Adelaide.

Topics for future seminars include:

- Quality issues relates to region, soil type, irrigation and rootstocks
- Vineyard economic and the impact of technology
- Under vine mulches vs herbicides etc
- Precision viticulture with relationship to fruit quality
- Pests and diseases eg Eutypa, dead arm lessons learnt from 2011 season
- Marketing
- Grafting techniques



The Board will be exploring ways to bring these topics to the industry in the year ahead.

Proceedings from the seminar will be available on our website [www.phylloxera.com.au](http://www.phylloxera.com.au)

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*Disclaimer: While the board has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter, it accepts no liability for the use of the information and any consequences arising from doing so.*

## Notice board



**Is the National Broadband Network coming near your vineyard?**

Go to <http://www.nbn.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/12-month-rollout.pdf> to find out!

The Board has a NEW website! Check out [www.phylloxera.com.au](http://www.phylloxera.com.au). We welcome your feedback!



## PIRSA welcomes Minister Gail Gago MLC



Premier Jay Weatherill announced his new Cabinet on 21 October 2011, making a number of changes with the view reforming the way South Australians communities are serviced.

In a renewed focus on the regions, primary industries portfolios have been allocated to Minister Gail Gago MLC, along with regional development, food and tourism. These new arrangements see Minister Gago leading the "Regions" suite of portfolios, designed to provide a more streamlined approach and facilitate strong connections between these departments.

Minister Gago has travelled widely throughout country SA in her role as Regional Development Minister and previously as Environment Minister.

The Minister is now responsible for the following portfolios: Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Forests; Regional Development; Tourism; and The Status of Women.

## The Board welcomes Andrew Downs - Viticulturist/ Project Officer

Andrew Downs commenced his position as Viticulturist/Project Officer with the Board on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Andrew has an extensive background in agriculture with a greater focus in viticulture over the last 10 years. Andrew will be responsible for maintaining and reporting results from the Board's trial sites and as well as investigating and carrying out projects identified by the R, D & E and Marketing/ Communications Committees.

