PHYLLOXERA AND GRAPE INDUSTRY BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

update

Summer 2010 Newsletter

Healthy phylloxera free vineyards for South Australia

New board appointed

Welcome to the new Board members

From left to right: Geoff Raven, Robin Nettelbeck, Cassandra Collins, Ashley Keegan, Raegan Noon, Peter Balnaves, Narelle Borgmeyer, Ashley Chabrel and Elise Heyes.

The Hon. Michael O'Brien MP—Minister for Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries has announced a new Board.

The new board members' appointment is from 20 October 2010 to 30 June 2013.

The new Board held its first meeting on the 22nd November 2010, where there were presentations on the Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act (1995), the Plant Health Act and regulations and roles and responsibilities of Board members.

The new Board are very keen to hear from industry stakeholders regarding biosecurity issues and welcome any comments.

To contact a Board member, please find their contact details listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Farewell to the retiring Board members

On the 11th October, Minister O'Brien made presentations to the retiring Board members at a farewell function at the Maylands Hotel.

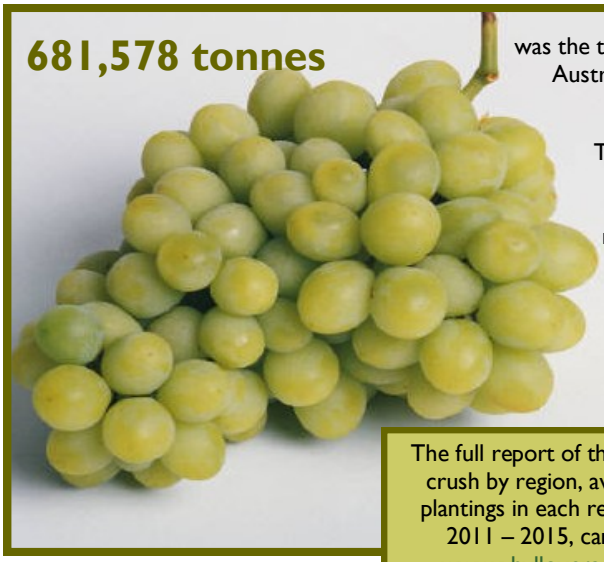
He thanked them for their commitment to the wellbeing of the grape industry in South Australia and in particular the Biosecurity of vines, ensuring that they remain healthy.

The retiring members were Kirsty Waller, Alison Phillips, Jim Caddy, Mark Gilbert, Dr Peter Dry and Richard Hamilton.

The Minister went on to especially thank Richard Hamilton for his unwavering efforts over many years to ensure that South Australia had the best protection against phylloxera possible.

Each retiring member received a Certificate of Appreciation and a boxed set of hand crafted goblets in recognition for their service to industry.

From left to right: Jim Caddy, Geoff Raven, Mark Gilbert, Kirsty Waller, Richard Hamilton, Robin Nettelbeck, Peter Balnaves, Alan Nankivell (CEO) and Dr Peter Dry. Absent: Alison Phillips



681,578 tonnes

was the total crush of South Australian winegrapes in vintage 2010.

The Riverland crush was down by 64,000 tonnes, but most other regions crushed more than in 2009. The total estimated value of the grapes was $426 million.

The full report of the 2010 vintage, including total crush by region, average prices paid by variety, plantings in each region and supply forecasts for 2011 – 2015, can be found on our website www.phylloxera.com.au/statistics/utilisation

Yarra Valley phylloxera outbreak case study

The Board has completed a case study of the phylloxera outbreak in the Yarra Valley – covering the main events in the progression of the outbreak and its management from the original detection in 2006 to the last detection in March 2010.

The full report can be downloaded from our website www.phylloxera.com.au/board/reports

A history of grapevine use in South Australia - Part 1

Ever wondered why grapevine rootstocks were introduced to South Australian viticulture? And why we have the rootstocks we have today?

This two part series looks at the history of grapevine rootstocks in South Australia and how they came to be part of a pivotal insurance plan against phylloxera.

Viticulture in South Australia has been a long established industry with vine cuttings arriving from overseas with the colonists during the 1830s (Bell 1988).

During the colonial period, the grapegrowing and winemaking industry was considered a commercially viable enterprise for South Australia, with ideal soil and climatic conditions for the successful growth of the grapevine crop (Bell 1988). The advent of vine propagation and importation soon followed. For South Australia, the primary source for these cuttings was a nursery in Camden, NSW which comprised a series of cultivars collected and sourced throughout Europe.

In 1877, phylloxera was identified in Victoria followed shortly after by detections in NSW (1884) and Queensland (1901). Over 275 hectares of vineyards in Victoria were infested by phylloxera (May 2001).

Phylloxera feeds on the roots of *Vitis vinifera* causing vine decline and ultimate death.

The initial spread of phylloxera throughout Europe was thought to be a consequence of the importation and use of the American Vitis vines and associated cultivars (May 2001). Phylloxera is a native pest to the American Vitis species, and as a consequence, American Vitis species are able to co-habit with the pest and hence, the use of the American Vitis root systems began. Grafting American Vitis root systems to a *Vitis vinifera* scion was the preferred method used in Europe and elsewhere in preference to breeding of American Vitis species, as grafting was found to be advantageous in not only providing resistance to the pest, but also ensuring the characteristics of the scion were maintained (Boehm 1996).

The American rootstocks used for replanting within Victoria during the initial infestations were based mainly on what rootstocks were being used in Europe at the time (May 2001). Among the most popular were the *Vitis rupestris* and *Vitis riparia* hybrids; 1202C, Rupestris du lot, 3306C and ARG1. In 1924, *Vitis berlandieri and Vitis rupestris* hybrids including 99 Richter and 110 Richter also gained favour for planting (Hardie and Cirami 1988, Whiting 2004, May 2001). Over 100,000 vines and cuttings were distributed at the time by the Victorian government as bench-grafted rootlings to growers and nurseries for replants within these infested areas (Hardie and Cirami 1988).

The threat of phylloxera infestation in South Australia prompted the South Australian Government of 1899, in conjunction with industry, to pass the Phylloxera Act, which prevented the introduction of vine material into South Australia from interstate and overseas.

The Phylloxera Board was established with the Chief Inspector, and eight ministerial appointed representatives from the industry. The functions of the Board can be found at our website www.phylloxera.com.au .

To this day, ***South Australia remains a phylloxera free state***, largely due to the strict quarantine restrictions.

(See the next Update for Part 2)

Factsheets on root knot nematode

Nematode infested vines showing poor growth

The root knot nematode (*Meloidogyne* spp.) is a highly damaging pest to grapevine cultivars (own roots or susceptible rootstocks) on which it is able to feed and reproduce.

As part of our ongoing work with this nematode and grapevine rootstocks, PGIBSA in conjunction with Nematologist Dr Greg Walker from SARDI, have developed information sheets on the life cycle of root knot nematodes and how to sample your soil for nematodes.

Potted grapevine rootstocks used in the recent nematode trials with Dr Greg Walker

The factsheets are one page in length and have been designed as a snapshot or "how to" guide for the vineyard worker. Information contained within the information sheets includes susceptible soil types, symptoms of nematodes and how to sample for nematodes and where to send these samples to.

The factsheets are now available online at www.phylloxera.com.au/viticulture/rootstocks

Adelaide Hills field inspections

The Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board staff conducted vineyard field inspections in late December 2010.

Sites of specific interest were identified from an analysis of aerial imagery flown early in January 2010; with a total of 31 sites warranting investigation.

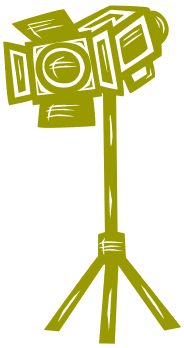
Inspection techniques consisted of either the sampling of six neighbouring vines or the use of emergence traps, depending on whether root samples could be extracted for each site.

Growers are always welcome to contact the Board if they are not sure about a site and would like it further investigated.

Hardcopy maps of individual vineyards in the Adelaide Hills are available free to growers, as well as maps of imagery from previous years.

Please contact the office for more information on 8362 0488 or email Brendan Tully at gis@phylloxera.com.au.

Spotlight on the Adelaide Hills



In September, a phylloxera outbreak simulation workshop was held in the Adelaide Hills and was sponsored by the Adelaide Hills Viticulture Technical Committee (AHTC). A total of 26 local growers and industry representatives participated.

The exercise raised many questions and issues which the AHTC will use as a basis for future planning. Some of the questions raised were: Is handpicking a greater risk than machine harvesting? Can wildlife or farm animals spread the insect? Are there penalties for not reporting a pest? How would we go about setting up a heat shed? Can the "phylloxera infested zone" status ever be lifted?

These workshops are a valuable exercise that "brings to life" the full practical impact that a phylloxera detection would have on a region straight away. The outcomes of these workshops have included regions developing regional action plans. If other regions are interested in conducting a similar workshop, please contact the office on 8362 0488.

Have you visited our WEBSITE lately?

www.phylloxera.com.au

The Board's website is visited by around 600 people each month – mainly from South Australia, but also from all other Australian states, New Zealand, the US, the UK, Canada and other countries.

It has information on phylloxera (of course!), plant health regulations, winegrape statistics, rootstock selection, phylloxera protocols and the Board's activities.

You can view or download maps of all the GI regions showing vineyard locations, past issues of newsletters, utilisation surveys going back ten years, press releases, annual reports and publications relevant to grapegrowers. And if there is something that's not on there, which you think should be, then please let us know!
Phone 8362 0488 or email admin@phylloxera.com.au

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Notice board

Thankyou Richard!

In October 2010, Richard Hamilton completed his term as a member of the Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of SA.

Richard has had a long association with the Board that began with the rewriting of the Act in the mid 1990's. He has served as Minister's representative, Departmental Representative and grower member, culminating as Chair of the Board from 2007 to 2010. Richard has been a leader in the vine biosecurity field promoting protection, prevention and where possible eradication of pests and diseases. His personal commitment and passion will be missed at the Board table.

On behalf of the wine industry sector, the Board sincerely thanks Richard for his contribution to keeping SA phylloxera free and is sure that Richard's expertise will be drawn upon in the future.

2011 Tour Down Under

It's on again! The internationally recognised TDU will be held in January 2011.

The Board has made contact with all the grape-growers that have vines within 100 metres of the route and provided advice on what measures they can take to reduce the Biosecurity risk presented by TDU spectators.

The TDU brings many visitors to the iconic wine growing regions in South Australia who enjoy the atmosphere and experience these regions offer. It is important that we ensure these regions remain healthy and pest free, so that generations of visitors continue to enjoy what these regions offer.

Removed your vines?

If you have removed part/all of your vines, please advise us in your Annual Vineyard Return so that the vineyard register is up-to-date. An accurate register means that in the event of a phylloxera outbreak, the Board can communicate with all growers at risk, in a timely manner.

We want your feedback!

The *Plant Health Act (2009)* has now been in place for just over 12 months. The Act has brought in requirements for importers of any horticultural produce or machinery to have their imported product inspected on arrival in SA – or become certified under an Import Verification Compliance Arrangement to inspect and sign-off on their own product.

The Board is interested in your feedback on how the Act is working in practice, particularly if you have any concerns about its implementation. It is our responsibility to provide advice to the Minister on the implementation of legislation related to the grape industry.

Please contact Alan Nankivell on 8362 0488 or email alann@phylloxera.com.au if you would like to raise any issues.

Assistance for grapegrowers in difficult times

It is estimated that about two thirds of vineyards in South Australia are currently experiencing financial difficulty.

The SA Rural Financial Counselling Service can help with identifying financial assistance available for farmers and with financial reviews and business planning. The service is completely free and independent.

Phone the freecall service on 1800 836 211 or contact Peter Hackworth, Wine Industry Specialist with the RFCS on 0427 430 247.

Do I need to pay my levy?

Under the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995*, the Phylloxera levy continues to apply while you have more than 0.5 hectares planted to vines that are alive, and are therefore subject to Biosecurity management.

The levy applies even if you have left the industry, did not produce a crop, sold your water allocation, or the vines have been abandoned.

Farewell Sandy!

After 14 years of service, Sandy Hathaway has decided to pursue new career opportunities.

During her time with the Board, Sandy has overseen the establishment of the National Phylloxera Protocols, communication strategies, awareness and education programs all aimed at addressing the Board's vision, and importantly, the production of the UPS as a service to industry. The Board acknowledges her tremendous commitment and contribution in protecting and keeping SA phylloxera free.

The Board and staff wish Sandy every success in the future as she applies her skills and passions to new fields of endeavour.

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

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