



AUTUMN 2015

# Newsletter



*Photo courtesy Barossa Grape and Wine Association*

## BAROSSA OUTBREAK SIMULATION

In November 2014 the Barossa Viti Tech Group hosted a simulation on what would happen if there was a phylloxera incursion in the Barossa Valley and Eden Valley.

A panel of local industry people including, grape growers, winemakers, transport operators, contractors and the Barossa Grape and Wine Association (BGWA) came together for the hypothetical outbreak. Invited guest Robert Sutherland from De Bortoli Wines in the Yarra Valley reflected on the impact to their business of the phylloxera incursion that occurred in 2014. Robert provided great insight into the discrepancy between what the business thought the impact would be prior to the incursion, and what the actual impacts were following the incursion.

During the hypothetical outbreak, issues discussed included:

- the impact and need for quarantine;
- movement of grapes;
- treatment facilities; and
- replanting programs on rootstocks.

The BGWA are now preparing a discussion paper which will be distributed to its members to seek feedback on the proposal to declare the Barossa Valley and Eden Valley GI's a Phylloxera Infested Zone if an incursion was detected. The discussion paper will be circulated later this year. Please contact Nicki Robins at BGWA on 85 630 650 if you would like further information.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**BAROSSA OUTBREAK SIMULATION**

**WINE SECTOR SURVEY 2015 TO COLLECT THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WINEGRAPE CRUSH SURVEY**

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

**DNA PROJECT**

**COMMUNICATION PLAN**

**PGIBSA HAS MOVED**

**2015 SURVEILLANCE INSPECTIONS**

## WINE SECTOR SURVEY 2015 TO COLLECT THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WINEGRAPE CRUSH SURVEY

As part of a larger task to streamline information gathering for the Australian wine sector, this year the Australian Grape and Wine Authority (AGWA) is conducting the Wine Sector Survey 2015 which combines information that would normally be collected for the:

- South Australian Winegrape Crush Survey,
- AGWA Price Dispersion Survey,
- Winemakers' Federation of Australia's Vintage Survey and,
- Murray Valley Vintage Survey.

This means all of the information will be collected once in one survey, which will help to save time and reduce paperwork.

If you would like information on the Wine Sector Survey 2015 please contact Sandy Hathaway at [agwa.surveys@agwa.net.au](mailto:agwa.surveys@agwa.net.au). The survey closed on Friday, May 29 2015.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

During the October to December quarter one incident was reported, where a piece of vineyard machinery was identified at the border as coming from a Phylloxera Infested Zone (PIZ) without the appropriate treatment and documentation. The South Australian vineyard owner who had requested the machinery to come to South Australia was unaware the behaviour was illegal and that the breach could attract a \$20,000 fine. As the equipment did not enter South Australia no fines were issued and the owner of the equipment was instructed to return to the original location, have the equipment treated via heat treatment and seek appropriate documentation before moving out of the PIZ. The Plant Health Officers in the other relevant state were also notified of the breach, and are currently undertaking an investigation.

Once this investigation is finalised, the PGIBSA will prepare a case study to highlight the lessons learnt with respect to:

- the vineyard owner's knowledge, both within a Phylloxera Exclusion Zone and a PIZ;
- enhancing communications between Plant Health Officers representing the different jurisdictions; and
- ways of encouraging all stakeholders to report incidents – these incidents add great value to our knowledge to ensure that vineyards continue to be protected from pests and disease.





## DNA PROJECT

### Main objective:

To develop an easy-to-use, cost effective, reliable and accurate sampling strategy for the detection of phylloxera.



*Dr Cassandra Collins (University of Adelaide) with Dr Michael Renton and Maggie Trishka of the University of Western Australia sampling a vineyard in the Yarra Valley in March 2015.*

### Update:

Extensive sampling has been conducted during the period October 2014 to March 2015.

Firstly, sampling continued in the Yarra Valley, King Valley and Rutherglen in October and December 2014 and March in 2015. For the March sampling the team was joined by Dr Michael Renton and Maggie Trishka from the School of Plant Biology, University of Western Australia, who are undertaking a Plant Biosecurity CRC funded project titled, 'Design and Evaluation of Targeted Biosecurity Surveillance Systems'. Phylloxera is one of the biosecurity threats included, so we are working together with Michael to identify opportunities for collaboration.

Secondly, as outlined in the previous quarterly report, the soil sampling method developed as part of the DNA project for phylloxera detection, was used to collect samples in the Riverland, Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale and Mundulla to determine whether it can also be used for the detection of other soil borne pathogens of vine, in this case nematodes. We recognise the benefits to growers if one soil sample can be used for multiple tests; this will not only assist in greater adoption but also increase efficiency and decrease costs.

Samples collected were assessed for two types of nematodes:

1. Root-knot nematodes (RKN) – *Meloidogyne* species that feed on grapevine roots and can impact vine health; and
2. Free-living nematodes – indicator of soil health

Overall, the results suggest that the sampling system currently under development for the detection of phylloxera also allows for effective detection of nematodes.

The results from this preliminary study has led to a further research proposal being submitted for funding to the Plant Biosecurity CRC, to ascertain if the current sampling method developed for phylloxera can have added value by providing information on nematodes and nutrition.

Finally, whole vineyard surveying was conducted in the Yarra Valley on sites where the vineyard manager knew phylloxera was present; however the survey team was not informed. Interestingly, phylloxera was confirmed at the sites the manager knew about but also at other sites that the manager did not know about. A further sampling was undertaken in a vineyard on rootstocks inside a Phylloxera Infested Zone, with no phylloxera found.

## BOARD MEMBERS'

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## COMMUNICATION PLAN

Following on from the successful launch of the Board's strategic plan in October last year, the Board is developing a communication plan to support it achieving its strategic objectives.

In the past month, an on-line survey was sent out to registered owners (vineyard owners) and key stakeholders seeking feedback on how we can improve our communications and services. The feedback obtained will guide the development of our plans to ensure that we deliver our strategic objectives and meet your requirements. Thank you to those who completed the survey.

## PGIBSA HAS MOVED



In early February the PGIBSA relocated from its premises at Kent Town to the National Wine Centre, alongside the Winemakers Federation of Australia, Wine Grape Growers Australia, South Australian Wine Industry Association and the Australian Grape and Wine Authority. We look forward to continuing strong collaborations with these and other industry bodies to ensure measurable outcomes for the wine industry and the achievement of the PGIBSA's strategic goals. Our new contact details are listed at the bottom of this newsletter.

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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.

## 2015 SURVEILLANCE INSPECTIONS

Each year field inspections are conducted as part of an ongoing surveillance program in South Australia. A review of imagery for both the Barossa Valley and Riverland regions found no new sites that warranted field inspections.

The PGIBSA is currently reviewing imagery for the Clare region.

Please contact the office for more information on 08 8273 0550 or alternatively email Brendan Tully at [gis@phylloxera.com.au](mailto:gis@phylloxera.com.au).