The annual phylloxera workshop was held in the Yarra Valley, Victoria on the 3-4th December 2012.

It was attended by 14 industry members, with the Board sponsoring 6 members from McLaren Vale, Langhorne Creek, Clare Valley, Riverland, Adelaide Hills and Barossa Valley Regions.

Presentations were given by -

- Greg King (DPI-Vic) - in respect to vineyard surveys and the implementation of PIZ and PEZ regulated zones;
- Andrew Clarke (Yering Station) - the consequences of a vineyard being potentially infested and the management practices that need to be implemented. The take home message was to treat every vineyard as though it was “infested”; and
- Richard Gardner - lead the vineyard dig for phylloxera at Coombe Farm, with footbath protocols. Xavier Mende (vineyard manager - Coombe Farm) - showed the group a heatshed and discussed its performance. He also talked about vineyard surveying in the Yarra Valley;
- Steve Flamsteed (Giant Steps Winery) - discussed phylloxera management practices and protocols; and
- Andrew McIntosh, Scott McCarthy & Michael (Helen’s Hill Winery) - discussed phylloxera prevention protocols, national phylloxera management and how to be a phylloxera free vineyard operating within a PIZ.

The feedback was very positive, with participants encouraged to ensure that their work colleagues and other industry stakeholders also attend the workshop in the future.
In November 2011, the South Australian Government made changes to some of the regulated conditions of entry within the Plant Quarantine Standard (PQS) to align regulations with the National Phylloxera Management Protocol.

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

Earlier this year, some industry members raised concerns that these changes heightened the risk of Phylloxera establishment in South Australia.

The concerns were:

1. The surveying method used to determine a status upgrade from a Phylloxera Restricted Zone (PRZ) to a Phylloxera Exclusion Zone (PEZ) is not adequate and could result in the establishment of Phylloxera in South Australia.

2. The proximity of PEZ to Phylloxera Infested Zone (PIZ) creates a higher risk to Phylloxera establishing in South Australia.

3. That machinery moving from a newly endorsed PEZ into South Australia increases the risk of Phylloxera establishing.

4. The movement of grapes from a newly endorsed PEZ into South Australia can result in Phylloxera establishing in South Australia.

5. That by changing the SA Plant Quarantine Standard to align with the National Phylloxera Management Protocol the risk of Phylloxera establishing in South Australia increases.

The PGIBSA was seeking endorsement from industry stakeholders on the proposed actions to address the risks of highest concern. These recommendations have formed the Boards’ response to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Stakeholders were invited to make a written submission to the Board, either directly or through their Regional or State body by the 16th October 2012.

At the Regional meetings, 116 people attended; with the Board receiving 21 written submission.

**BOARD OUTCOMES**

At its General Meeting on the 30th November 2012, the Board unanimously resolved to advise Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to maintain the Plant Quarantine Standard at the July 2012 levels and that the Board will be pursuing the 10 high risk issues and other issues raised in the submissions as part of the Boards’ strategic plans 2013-2014.

The Board will be responding to each submission and thanks those who attended the regional meetings and/or provided a written submission.
The Board has been in consultation with Chateau Tanunda and Orlando Wines about the implementation of Phylloxera Protocols when carrying out seminars in the vineyard.

In April, Chateau Tanunda hosted their first annual Terroirs Tour as part of Wine Australia A+ Wine month. 30 guests travelled with winemaker Stuart Bourne to Ebenezer, Greenock and Lyndoch to taste each of the Chateau’s award winning Terroirs range in the vineyard where the grapes were grown. “People loved seeing where the wine came from. By travelling around they got a clear understanding of the distance between each vineyard, the elevation, even the soil types. We were lucky to have Anthony Scholz host our group at his vineyard in Ebenezer and go through the history of his vineyard, the soil, rainfall, climate etc. Everyone had a great day!” As part of the tour, The Phylloxera board donated the boots to protect the vineyards and formed an important education and awareness message to the guests.

During the month of September, Orlando Wines held a series of viticulture workshops for their growers throughout the regions of Griffith, Mildura, Riverland, Barossa, Adelaide Hills, Langhorne Creek and finishing in Coonawarra. During these workshops, fellow growers, staff and guest speakers were all required to sign-in to the sessions as well as dip their footwear in a footbath. “Our host growers have been kind enough to open their vineyards for us to hold these workshops, so it is only natural that we follow the Phylloxera Prevention Protocols and do our bit to protect our growers’ vineyards” said Chris Dent, the National Viticulturist for Orlando Wines.

**WINERIES IMPLEMENT PHYLLOXERA PROTOCOLS**

There were two practices employed in order to cater for their target audiences, wine consumer information session and a grower-based seminar.

The Board welcomes your comments/feedback.

Visit www.phylloxera.com.au

**“New-look” WEBSITE**

A “new-look” website was launched on the 30th October 2012.

VINEYARD REGISTER DATABASE UPGRADE

The first phase of the Vineyard Register upgrade, commenced in December 2011. This saw the production of the Annual Vineyard Returns which was mailed out to growers in January 2012. The second phase saw the completion of the Levy Notices, Statements and Penalties in May 2012.

The final phase of construction has commenced with the development of a Grower Kiosk. Registered vineyard owners will be able to login to their account, where they will be able to view notices/news alerts/maps, review/update their Vineyard Returns, view account balances and update their contact details.
**News**

**CRC update**

The Plant Biosecurity CRC was launched on the 28th November 2012, at Parliament House, Canberra. As a participating organisation, the Board is delighted to join with National and International research and industry organisations across a range of horticultural and grain crops to develop leading edge approaches to early warning, detection and response, safeguarding trade and securing the future as priority Biosecurity areas.

The Board is pleased to announce that a research project to establish sampling methodology for DNA testing, is the initial research project that the Board will commence in early 2013 under the PBCRC.

**2013 Surveillance Inspections**

This year, the Board will conduct field inspections in late January through to early February in the McLaren Vale GI. Sites of specific interest were identified from an analysis of aerial imagery flown early in January 2011.

Growers will be contacted in early January if their property is to be inspected. Vineyard owners are always welcome to contact the Board if they are not sure about a site and would like it investigated.

Please contact the office for more information on 08 8362 0488 or alternatively email Brendan Tully at gis@phylloxera.com.au

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**Victoria map changes boundaries**

The new Victorian PEZ was gazetted in July 2012. The area commenced surveillance in 2008 and was completed in March 2012.

Initially the project was approved for commencement by the National Phylloxera Technical Reference Group, and The National Vine Health Steering Committee with regular reports made to these committees. When these committees were disbanded, the Victorian Viticulture Biosecurity Committee assumed oversight of the program.

The program operated under the National Phylloxera Management Protocols, without any operational changes, and in the absence of any national committee to report to, the VVBC accepted responsibility to ensure governance of the program.

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**Keep it clean — heat it!**

There were 30 registered users who were able to utilise the heat shed at Naracoorte. The heat shed treatments remain an important tool in maintaining confidence in phylloxera free vineyard equipment.

For all heat treatment bookings, please contact Mark Dinham during business hours on 08 8762 0666 or email Mark at gyrobuilt@tpg.com.au

If you would like to become a registered user, please contact Alan Nankivell, CEO on 08 8362 0488 or by email at alann@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.