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Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia

SUMMER 2013

Newsletter

MINISTER ANNOUNCES FURTHER FUNDING FOR THE BOARDS' RESEARCH IN DNA TESTING

The State Government is expanding the development of a world-leading soil DNA testing system to help keep the State's grapevines free of phylloxera.

The project will also investigate how to apply the system to other pests and diseases that impact on the State's horticulture and cropping industries.

The system is attracting overseas interest after a recent presentation in Bordeaux, France, and the additional $500,000 in State Government funding will accelerate its commercialisation.

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister Gail Gago said the campaign to retain SA's phylloxera-free status would be strengthened through this funding.

"Further testing will allow the technology to be commercialised sooner, and delivered to industry to protect our phylloxera-free status," Ms Gago said.

"With phylloxera occurring interstate and overseas and the potential for it to come in on imported vine material or soil, we need to keep our eyes on developing further safeguards.

"South Australia has some of the oldest vines in the world that are famous for producing our premium wines, and we need to be ever-vigilant to protect this priceless resource."

The DNA soil test will help to protect our important grapevine industry – an integral part of the State's $1.8 billion wine industry – and is in the State Government's Premium Food and Wine policy, which is part of a series of policies aimed at Building a Stronger South Australia.

The simplified test will also help wine regions around Australia and the world combat the pest.

Ms Gago said the funding would help fast-track testing of the system; establish the commercial testing service in consultation with the Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia (PGIBSA) in 2016, and assist in expanding the tests to a range of other pests and diseases.

The additional investment in the research brings the total investment in the phylloxera project to $2.05 million.

Grape phylloxera is an insect that feeds on grapevine roots, with the use of tolerant rootstocks the only way to manage infested vineyards. The emphasis in South Australia is on ensuring the pest doesn't enter the state, but there is no cost-efficient testing for its presence in soil.

"At present, the only way to identify phylloxera in a vineyard is to take a shovel and dig up roots of the vine and visually inspect them," said Alan Nankivell, Chief Executive of the Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of SA (PGIBSA).

"It is our vision to develop a fail-proof alternative via rapid testing with the South Australian Research and Development Institute's (SARDI) soil diagnostic service, and tests so far have been very promising."

The State Government through SARDI, is co-funding this three-year project with PGIBSA, the University of Adelaide, Victoria's Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre, GWRDC, Department of Primary Industries NSW and Adelaide company Rho Environmetrics.

Ministers' Press Release

NEW - Online Grape Industry Kiosk

NEW - Online Interactive Maps

2013 Annual Phylloxera Workshop

Risk Assessment update

Strategic Plan Development

2013 SA Winegrape Crush Survey results

Rootstock Trials update

6th International Symposium on Phylloxera

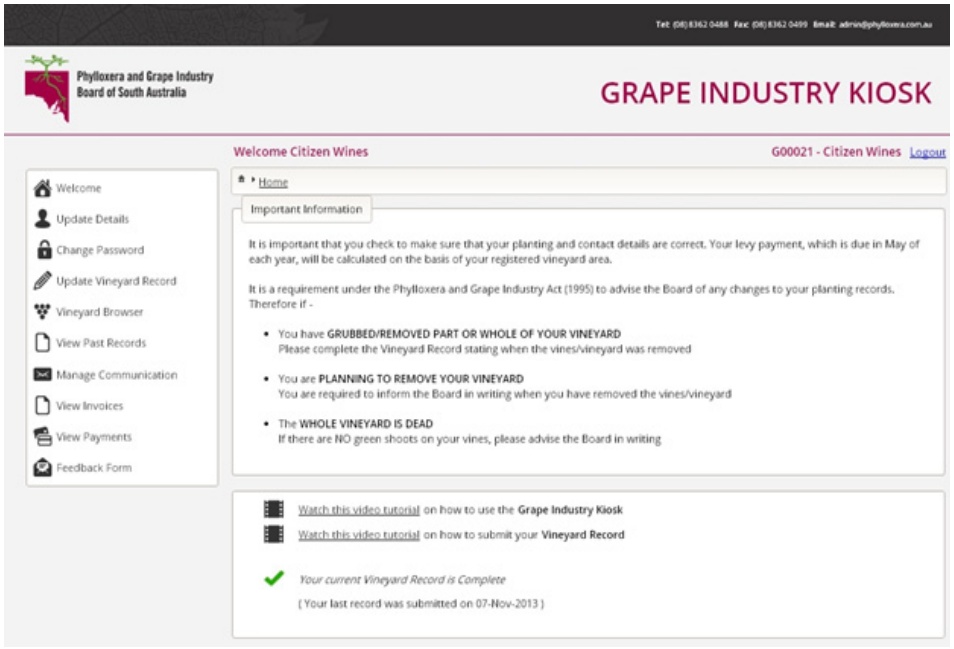
New Board annouced

PGIBSA news

NEW

ONLINE GRAPE INDUSTRY KIOSK

Grapegrowers and vineyard owners will soon be able to comply with phylloxera and grape disease control obligations - and manage their own vineyard records - using the new web-based tool.



The Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of SA has developed a new password-protected "Grape Industry Kiosk" that can be accessed and updated at any time by grapegrowers and vineyard owners.

It contains electronic versions of individual vineyard maps, as well as details of planting varieties, hectares, rootstocks, locations and ownership.

In January 2014, levy payers will receive correspondence from the Board containing their credentials and a User Guide. Once logged in, the Kiosk will also provide 3 informational video tutorials on how to use the site.

Since May 2013, all information entered into each vineyard record has been archived for historical reporting information. This information will become rich and valuable over time to grapegrowers and the industry.

The tools that sit within the Kiosk will enable grapegrowers to update their planting records as they occur, rather than once a year as previously, or within three months of notifiable changes.

Having an accurate database is essential for the Board's effective management of an outbreak of the Phylloxera insect or any other exotic pests or diseases.

One hundred and fifty grapegrowers from all wine regions around the State tested the Kiosk during the development phase.

The feedback received, concluded that it was easy to use and had potential as a business support tool.

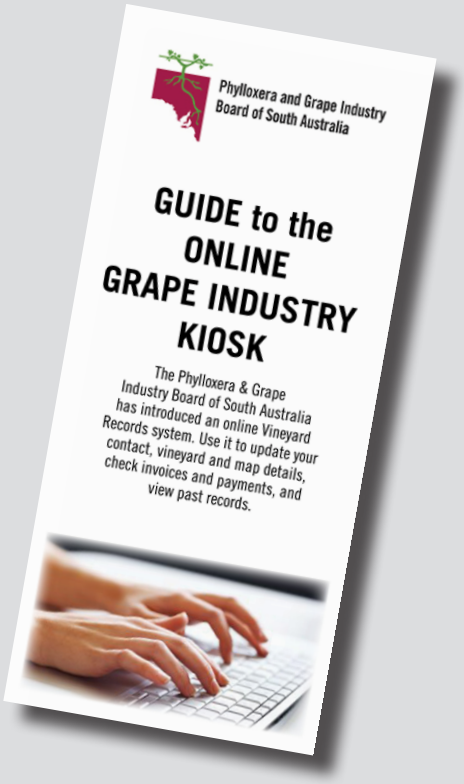
The Board wants to expand the system's functionality and the information it contains for the benefit not just of grapegrowers, but the wider industry as well.

We are now working on -

- Collecting levy payments online,
- Display real time planting reports,
- Recording imported planting material, and
- Reporting stockpiles of posts.

The Kiosk has the scope for additions such as collecting yield data, water use and any other data industry considers as necessary.

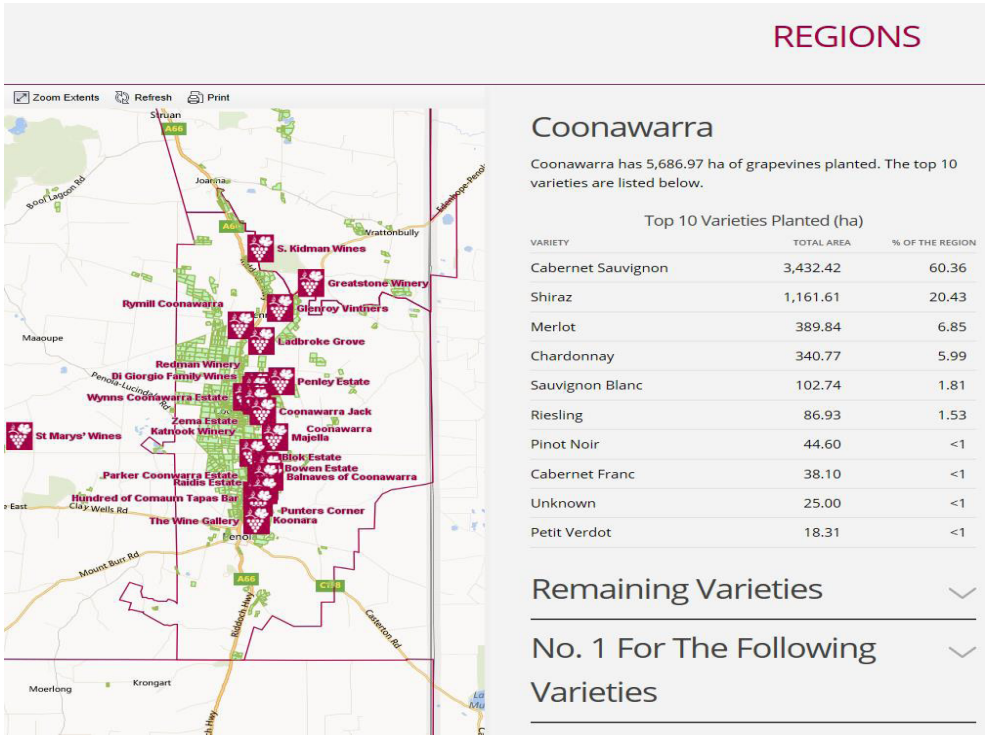
Your feedback is welcome to enhance the Kiosk.

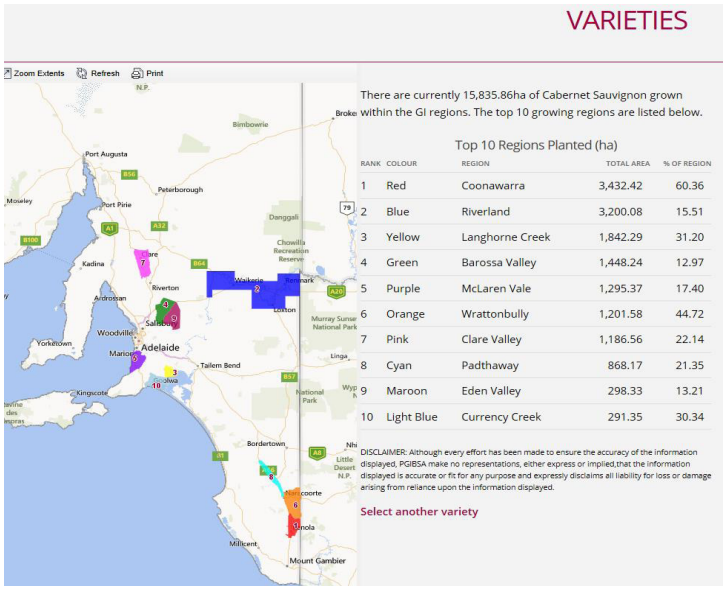


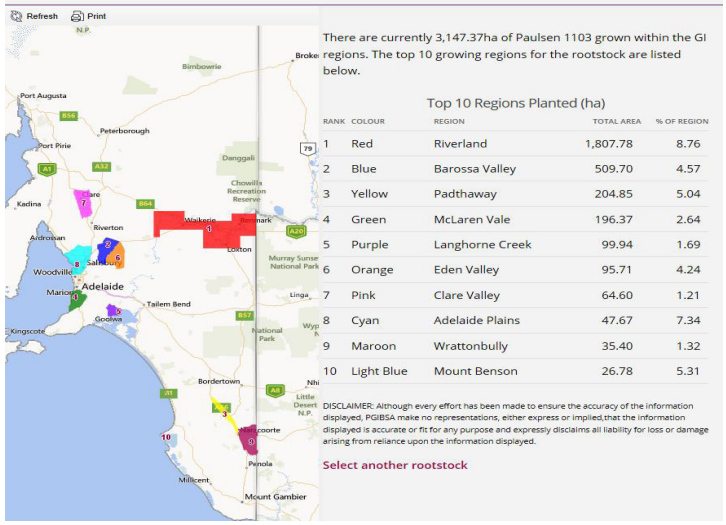
NEW

ONLINE INTERACTIVE MAPS

"It's a great display of how SA is ahead of the other states regarding capturing and providing this information"







"The 3 interactive maps provide useful information"

The Board has made available a series of interactive web maps on its website.

Reports available include:

- Regional – provide an overview of plantings occurring in the GI regions
- Variety – information on areal plantings and where they occur.
- Rootstock – usage throughout the GI regions

The maps are dynamic in nature, providing real time delivery of information using data from the Vineyard Register. This will provide industry with a useful tool to assist indusry to plan and make informed decisions.

The maps are viewable at the following URL - http://www.phylloxera.com.au/resources/interactive-maps/

"It's a great source of updating potential supply opportunities from each region"

2013 ANNUAL PHYLLOXERA MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
Yarra Valley, Victoria

The annual phylloxera workshop was held in the Yarra Valley, Victoria on the 2-3 December 2013. It was attended by 9 industry members.

Presentations were given by:

- Andrew Clarke (Yering Station) - the consequences of a vineyard being potentially infested and the mangement practices that need to be implemented. The take home message was to treat every vineyard as though it was "infested";
- Greg King (DPI-Vic) - in respect to vineyard surveys and the implementation of PIZ and PEZ regulated zones;
- Richard Gardner (Coombe Farm) - supervised the vineyard dig for phylloxera at Coombe Farm, with footbath protocols.
- Steve Flamsteed (Giant Steps Winery) - discussed phylloxera management practices and protocols with respect to winery intake operations;
- Andrew McIntosh (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.

Participants L to R: Will Zacharin, Marc Allgrove, Geoff Raven, Dan Everitt, Alan Nankivell (CEO), Nigel Blieschke, Ben Gibson, Jeff Flint, Andrew Clarke (Yering Station), Suzanne McLoughlin and Jonathon Shearer.

RISK ASSESSMENT UPDATE - ongoing incidents

Of the two alleged incidents reported in the last quarter, one required no further action as no breach was established. The second one remains outstanding awaiting a completed incident report.

In the June 2013 to September 2013 period, there has been an anonymous allegation of illegal importation of cuttings into South Australia. A joint investigation was undertaken with Biosecurity SA and the evidence does not disclose any offence.

The Board welcomes input on any incidents, including any that allegedly may have occurred sometime ago (ie. years ago) that have caused concern.

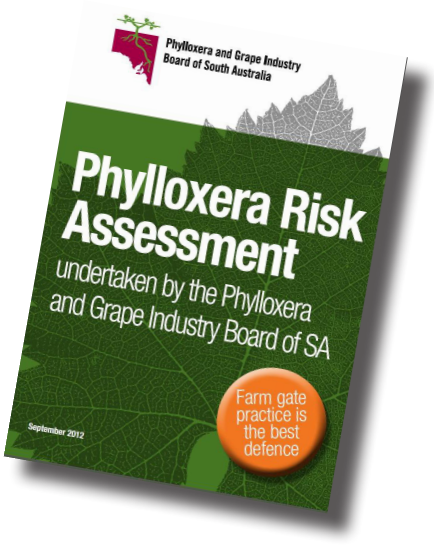
The Board will apply the risk assessment principles to the incident to ascertain the level of risk. The Board is particularly interested in alleged breaches of regulation (Plant Quarantine Standard) and between PEZ's and PRZ's/PIZ's.

RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

The Board has conducted a series of "Risk Assessment Workshops" across the regions - Riverland, Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale; with Adelaide Hills, the Limestone Coast and Langhorne Creek; with Clare Valley scheduled for early 2014.

The purpose of these workshops is to demonstrate the application of Risk Management Guidelines ISO 31000, as they apply to the establishment of Phylloxera in South Australia. This tool can be applied to everyday assessment of other pests and diseases, apart from Phylloxera.

The workshops explore "What is Risk?", likelihoods, consequences and what measures can be put in place to mitigate risk.



STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

At its Board meeting on 26 September 2013, the process of preparing a framework for the development of a Strategic Plan for 2014-19 commenced. The Board will be conducting a series of consultations with industry stakeholders, including regions, over the coming months. The Board will be engaging an independent consultant to undertake this work with the planned outcome of having the next 5 year Strategic Plan completed by July 2014.

Further information on when the specific consultations will take place will be provided once the consultant is engaged. Watch the events calendar on the website for developments.

VIEW PHYLLOXERA VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

The Board has established its own YouTube site at www.youtube.com.au, with the following videos that can be viewed -

1. Controlling Grape Phylloxera with Rufus Isaccs
2. Phylloxera Disinfection Technique
3. Phylloxera Rezoning Project II
4. Introduction to Phylloxera with John Whiting

2013 SA Winegrape crush survey results

700,525 tonnes was the total crush of South Australian wine grapes in vintage 2013.

$439m was the total estimated value of grapes, up by $19m (4.3%) from 2012.

Top 3 regions for tonnes crushed

Riverland	56.5% (396,199t)
Langhorne Creek	6.7% (46,930t)
Barossa Valley	6.2% (43,824t)

253 wineries responded voluntarily, with a 3.1% non-response rate across the state.

For the full, state and regional reports, please go to http://www.phylloxera.com.au/resources/sa-winegrape-crush-survey/

UPDATE - ROOTSTOCK TRIALS

All of the trial sites have been pruned, with all of the data from last season being analysed. We are currently carrrying out review meetings with the respective regions about the future research requirements they would like carried out and how we can closer align the trials to the individual region's objectives. We have completed a meeting with the Limestone Coast trial partners and have made amendments to the original objectives, as there are great regional research opportunities in gaining more value from the investment made by all partners. These reports will be available by the end of the year on the website.

If anybody is interested in further postgraduate studies based on the trial site data, please contact Andrew on 08 8362 0488 or by email viti@phylloxera.com.au .

FEEDBACK ON THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PHYLLOXERA

The Board presented the early findings of the DNA sampling protocol at the 6th International Symposium on Phylloxera that was attended by approximately 50 people from around the world. Interestingly, there were a significant number of papers on rootstocks and rootstock breeding.

A public presentation was held in November 2013 on lessons learned from the Symposium. Alan would be please to present his findings to any region if they wished.

BOARD MEMBERS'

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Elise Heyes
0408 333 976

Suzanne McLoughlin
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Geoff Raven
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News

NEW BOARD MEMBERS ANNOUCED

From left to right: Marc Allgrove, Ashley Chabrel, Elise Heyes, Ben Gibson (Chairman), Suzanne McLoughlin, Geoff Raven, Cassandra Collins, Alan Nankivell (CEO), and Roseanne Healy. Nigel Blieschke (absent)

The Hon. Gail Gago MP - Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries has announced a new Board.

The new board members' appointment is from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2016.

The new board held its first meeting on 26 September 2013, where an induction process took place, including a presentation by Barry Windle on the Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act (1995).

The new Board has commenced planning on the next 5 year Strategic Plan and is keen to ensure the plans priorities reflect the needs of the SA grapegrowing industry.

2014 SUVEILLANCE INSPECTIONS

This year, staff will be conducting inspections in late January in the Langhorne Creek region.

Imagery was taken from early November to December in 2012 as part of a collaborated capture between Local Government (District Council Mt Barker, Rural City of Murray Bridge, District Council of Yankalilla), DEWNR and PGIBSA.

Analysis of the multispectral imagery showed very few sites with low vigour presenting as a possible oval shape, however, a handful of sites will be ground truthed.

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

KEEP IT CLEAN — HEAT IT!

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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