PRESS RELEASE:

The Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia (PGIBSA) urges grapegrowers to review current vineyard hygiene practices

9 February 2009

With the commencement of the 2009 grape harvest in the southeast, grapegrowers are being encouraged to ensure they have measures in place to prevent the spread of the vine pest phylloxera by implementing best practice vineyard hygiene methods.

Phylloxera Board CEO, Alan Nankivell, said that the movement of harvesting equipment between regions and between vineyards does present an increased risk if transferring pest and diseases like Phylloxera. To reduce the risk, Alan

Elaine Zerk operating the Heat Shed computer

recommends that grapegrowers and vintage contractors ensure their equipment is heat treated in the Heat Shed. "I see that by using such resources as the Heat Shed to reduce the risk as a best practice approach to reducing the risk of phylloxera infestation." He went on to say that "the recent detections in the Yarra Valley in November and December 2008 is a timely reminder that the industry needs to counter complacency and reduce the risk."

The Phylloxera Heat Shed plays an important role in protecting local vines and ensuring growers' confidence. Phylloxera can be transported on people and machinery to other vineyards. He recommends that harvesters be washed between every vineyard and treated in the Heat Shed when moving between regions and vineyard workers clean boots and change clothes between vineyards. Grapegrowers are responsible for what machinery and people go into their vineyards and take the opportunity to ensure that any harvesters that have operated in other regions - in the Limestone Coast or elsewhere - are treated in the Phylloxera Heat Shed.

To make bookings for using the Heat Shed, please contact Mrs Elaine Zerk on 0428 194 847, and for further information contact the Phylloxera Board on 8362 0488.

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NEWS EDITORS NOTE: Press Release issued by Alan Nankivell CEO, and can be contacted on 0428 260 430