

Riverland Wine Industry Development Council Inc.

Some Like It Hot II

TECHNICAL SEMINAR

Some Like it Hot II the Riverland's annual wine industry technical seminar was presented by the Riverland Wine Show on Thursday 14th October, during Riverland Wine Week.

Over 100 winegrape growers, winemakers and technical staff converged on the McCormick Centre in Renmark to see the following presentations:

- Berry Sensory Analysis with Erika Winter of GrapeLinks Viticultural Knowledge Management.
- Irrigation Best Management Practices with Peter Clingeffer of the CSIRO Merbein.
- Winegrape Colour with Mark Downey of the Department of Primary Industries in Mildura.
- Consumers' Perspectives on Riverland Wines with Tim White, Wine Columnist.
- Supply and Demand Outlook with Lawrie Stanford of the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation
- Old ways with old varieties with James Godfrey, Chief Fortified Winemaker for Southcorp Wines.
- New winegrape varieties for the Riverland with David Nitschke of the Riverland Vine Improvement Committee Inc.

The popularity and importance of Some Like it Hot II was underpinned by the record attendance by local industry personnel. Some Like it Hot has now firmly established itself as the principal technical forum for the Riverland wine industry.

TASTING FOR RIVERLAND WINEMAKERS

Following on from the technical seminar Some Like it Hot II, Riverland winemakers were given the rare opportunity to taste a broad selection of wines from across the globe at a tasting held at the Berri Resort Hotel.

Event organisers were fortunate in securing renowned Australian wine writer Tim White to host the tasting. Tim White, a well known journalist who writes a wine column for the Australian Financial Review is also the Chief Judge for the Australian Alternative Varieties Wine Show. It was his work with alternative varieties that sparked his interest in the Tasting for Riverland Winemakers because the main aim of the tasting was to define 'new' varieties for the Riverland and compare Riverland wines with international wines from regions with a similar growing climate.

Working within the theme of non traditional grape varieties for the Riverland, participants were guided through the following topics:

- Petit Verdot – The Riverland's emerging variety. A comparison between a range of Australian and international wines.
- Durif / Petit Syrah – A less widely planted variety with great potential. Examples from Australia and the US.
- Carmenere – Almost unknown in Australia yet one of the mainstays of the Chilean wine industry.
- Muscat – A selection of possible styles made from this flavoursome variety.

The profile of the Tasting for Riverland Winemakers has grown so much in the past year that some local winemakers who could not secure tickets to the event assisted 'behind the scenes' so they could taste the wonderful selection of wines on offer at the tasting.

Some Like it Hot II seminar participants.



Locust Control in Viticulture

Spring/Summer 2004

NOTE: Grape growers must contact their Winery Liaison Officer or grape purchaser prior to the application of any Fenitrothion spray.

Problem

During April and May 2004 adult locusts migrated into the Riverland from southwest Queensland and possibly New South Wales. These adults were in search of green feed to continue their development. Egg laying was observed at a number of locations in the Riverland. These eggs will hatch in the spring (late September – early October). It is likely that hopper bands will be seen in the Riverland in proximity to vines and orchards. To help prevent damage, regular inspections of susceptible crops should be undertaken as hoppers and adults have the ability to move many hundreds of metres a day. New flights of adults into the Riverland from interstate are unlikely to occur.

Locust behaviour

Locust behaviour should be observed prior to making any management decisions. In areas where egg laying was observed last season, deep ploughing will help reduce hatching of these eggs. In many situations where seasonal or permanent cover crops are grown the locusts will be attracted to these areas and not the main crops. Also locusts do not usually feed at night.

Locusts can display the following behaviour:

- Formation of hopper bands from hatchings in nearby paddocks, roadsides and fence lines can move into crops.
- Adults fly in and feed around the margins of the main crop with little economic damage.
- Adults fly in and actively feed on the main crop causing significant economic damage.
- Hopper bands and adults actively feeding on the main crop will require chemical control.

Chemical Control

NuFarm Fenitrothion is the only chemical registered in South Australia for the control of the Australian Plague Locust on grapes. Fenitrothion kills mainly on contact with the locust, but may have a low level of residual activity for two to three days following application. It is not a repellent, and cannot be applied prior to locusts entering the crop.

Withholding Period

Withholding periods should be observed at all times. The label withholding period for fenitrothion is applicable to grapes destined for wine sold in the Australian market. If the grapes are destined for wine exported to overseas markets then fenitrothion should be used no later than 80% capfall. This withholding period has been developed on the assumption that the wine will be sent to a range of overseas markets many of which have maximum residue limits (MRLs) that differ from the Australian MRL.

Chemical application

Fenitrothion can be applied to locusts by boom or air mister depending on circumstances. Small areas can effectively be sprayed by hand. Application must be according to label directions.

All chemical applications should be effectively directed at the target. Consider any off target impacts, particularly; water courses,



Photo courtesy of Riverland Animal & Plant Control Board

dams and neighbouring aquaculture, organic and livestock operations. In many cases only edges of vineyards, roadways and non-crop areas may require spraying, rather than the vines themselves.

There are some specific points to note when spraying:

- Spray early in the morning or at dusk.
- Spray only where the locusts are located.
- Fenitrothion is toxic to bees - consult your apiarists. Avoid spraying flowering crops if possible, and late afternoon spraying is less likely to harm bees.
- Fenitrothion is not a repellent. No insecticides are effective repellents and it is therefore not possible to spray prior to a swarm arriving to prevent them entering a crop.

Integrated pest management programs

Fenitrothion has the potential to cause disruption to any integrated pest management program. Consult your pest management consultant or supplier prior to any control program or post control re-establishment program.

Young plantings

All young plantings will be susceptible to locust damage and chemical control may be necessary. However, prior to spraying consider the potential for the introduction of other pest population problems such as mealy bug. Fenitrothion will harm beneficial insects; therefore ongoing monitoring will be necessary after spraying.

Organic control

There are no quick acting organic control methods for organic growers. There is a new biological based spray product under trial in Australia, however it will not be available this year.

Additional Information

In the first instance, contact your grape purchaser. This fact sheet and other information about locust control is available on the PIRSA website www.pir.sa.gov.au/locust. For information on chemicals, contact your winery liaison officer or grape purchaser in the first instance, or the PIRSA Rural Chemical Program on 08 8226 0549.

Information on MRLs for Australia's major wine export markets can be obtained by visiting the Australian Wine Research Institute's website www.awri.com.au or by contacting Dr Sally-Jean Bell on (08) 8303 6600.

Source: The Department of Primary Industries (South Australia)

Powdery Mildew field days coming

In recent years powdery mildew *Erysiphe necator* levels in this region (and most regions in Australia) have been unnecessarily high and some growers have suffered the loss of their crop, having it rejected on account of the unacceptable level of mildew at harvest.

Powdery mildew infection causes leaf loss, shoot and leaf damage that results in less effective photosynthesis for the production of sugars required for plant metabolism and fruit quality. Affected fruit can be uneven or unripe. Importantly though, powdery mildew infection on either leaves, bunches or bunch stems can be detrimental to wine quality due to off taints in wine. As little as 3% infection is enough to cause major taints. Splitting of berries and exposure to bunch rotting organisms can also have an economic impact.

Many Riverland growers are maintaining excellent control of powdery mildew but with today's technology, any loss from this disease is avoidable. This is especially so given the high level of epidemiological knowledge and the well-developed spray technology of recent years. This, combined with the availability of some excellent fungicides in Australian viticulture, provides growers with an 'armoury' of weapons that if correctly deployed are capable of eliminating powdery mildew from the list of important diseases in the Riverland.

With careful use of disease management strategies, levels of mildew can be reduced each year. The result is a depletion of local inoculum sources and a reduction in the number of sprays required for control.

Once the disease's inoculum reservoirs are depleted, careful monitoring will reduce and may eliminate unnecessary spraying. The key issue preventing growers achieving this level of excellence is a lack of understanding of the principles of managing inoculum reservoirs in the vineyard.

The results of diligent application of strategies that lead to 'clean vineyards' has been successful in effectively eliminating powdery mildew as a problem of consequence in some Riverland vineyard blocks.

The RWIDC Viticulture Technical Group, in conjunction with SARDI and The Fruit Doctors will soon present a series of




workshops to convey the latest knowledge about powdery mildew and to encourage growers to think about adopting 'clean vineyard' strategies.

The field based, medium size group workshops will be delivered at Loxton, Berri and Waikerie. Presentations and discussion will focus on:


- Lifecycle of powdery mildew
- Disease development from infected buds and cleistothecia
- Conditions favouring powdery mildew development
- Symptoms and identification of infection
- When and how to monitor
- Management options
- Effective timing
- Chemical selection
- Spray set-up, volumes and targeting

For more information, or to register your interest, please contact Julie Sippo ph 8582 2952




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Contact your local Riverland office:

Barmera	08 8588 1334	Berri	08 8582 5267
Loxton	08 8584 4941	Renmark	08 8586 5424
		Waikerie	08 8541 4783



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wine week 2004



Judging of a white wine class at the Riverland Wine Show.



Crowd enjoying wine, food and music at the Riverland Wine and Food Festival.



Rosé class ready to be assessed at the Riverland Wine Show.



Riverland Wine Show Judges and associates.

Vintage aside, Riverland Wine Week is now recognised as the most important spot on the Riverland wine calendar. Held in the week commencing 11th October 2004, Riverland Wine Week saw the coming together of the local industry to discuss important technical issues, plan for the future and celebrate achievements in grape growing and winemaking.

Riverland Wine Week 2004 was so successful that some 450 winegrape growers, winemakers and technical staff participated in industry events and over 6,000 members of the public attended the Riverland Wine and Food Festival.

Following are some of the highlights from Riverland Wine Week 2004:

RIVERLAND WINE SHOW

Currently in its 32nd year, the Riverland Wine Show is one of Australia's largest regional wine shows. The Riverland Wine Show continues to grow and develop along with a rapidly expanding wine industry.

Exciting changes to the wine show schedule

In a reflection of changes to this industry two exciting additions have been made to the show's entry schedule:

Boutique Winemakers Classes

The Riverland Wine Show Committee has embraced the burgeoning boutique winemaking industry in the Riverland through the introduction of two small volume classes.

Chairman Stephen Cook explained "in the past a number of small local wineries were ineligible to enter the wine show due to minimum stock requirements set for the standard classes. We have introduced a new red and white class to give local wineries crushing less than 50 tonne per annum the opportunity to benchmark their position in the industry."

Durif Class

A class exclusively for Durif has also been introduced to the show schedule to cater for an increasing number of entries made from this intriguing variety.

"These changes to the schedule are just two examples of the Riverland Wine Show's progressive aim to identify trends

in the industry and to meet the needs of local wine producers" said Mr Cook.

Growing number of entries

The number of wines entered in the Riverland Wine Show continues to grow every year. Wine show entries are received from the Riverland, Swan Hill, Rutherglen, Riverina and Murray Darling wine regions.

Wine show organisers were pleased to see an increase in the number of entries in the following classes: dry white table wine, Rosé style wines, Viognier and Petit Verdot - a reflection of growing interest in these wine styles.

Judging the wines

Judging of the Riverland Wine Show took place on Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th of October. Chief Judge Mike Farmilo lead an experienced panel of judges including; Ian McKenzie (Ian McKenzie Pty Ltd), Glenn James (Penfolds Wines), David Mavor (Kirrihill Wines), Jeni Port (Wine Columnist), Martin Cooper (McWilliams Wines) and Natasha Mooney (Xanadu Wines).

The judging panel were particularly impressed with the performance of wines entered in the Petit Verdot and Durif classes, a clear affirmation of the suitability of these varieties to the Riverland and other warm climate regions.

WINE SHOW TROPHY PRESENTATIONS

The results of the Riverland Wine Show were released at a gala dinner on Friday 15th October held at the Berri Resort Hotel. A highlight of the evening was the medal success of first time show entrant Dino Sigismondi of Southern Secret Wines with the standout 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon.

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the following 2004 Riverland Wine Show Awards:

Air Liquide Trophy

Best White Wine Classes 1-6, 9-13
Zilzie Wines Pty Ltd, 2004 Zilzie Viognier

C.A. Schahinger Trophy

Best Dry Red Wine Classes 7,8, 14-19
2003 Westend, '3 Bridges' Reserve Shiraz

Austwine Trophy

Best Sweet Table Wine Classes 21-23
De Bortoli Wines, 2002 Noble One

Marjorie Ware Trophy

Most Successful Exhibitor Dry Red Classes 7,8,14-19
Westend Estate

Novozymes Australia Pty Ltd Trophy

Most Successful Exhibitor in White Wine Classes 1-6, 9-13,
21-23
Westend Estate

SAGE Automation Trophy

Most Successful Exhibitor Classes 1-23
Westend Estate

A&G Engineering Trophy

Best Fortified White Wine Class 24-26
Hardy Wine Company, Lauriston Show Muscat

JBM Juvenal Australia Trophy

Best Fortified Red Wine Classes 27-29
Hardy Wine Company, Lauriston Show Port

AW Kelly Memorial Trophy

Most Successful Exhibitor Fortified Classes 24-29
Hardy Wine Company

Booth Transport Trophy

Best Brandy Classes 30-31
Hardy Wine Company, XO Brandy

Winery Supplies Trophy

The Best Wine in Show
De Bortoli Wines, 2002 Noble One

Hahn's Haulage Trophy

Most Successful Exhibitor
Hardy Wine Company

JMA Riverland Wine Maker of the Year

Kevin Pfeiffer, McGuigan Simeon Wines

2004 JMA RIVERLAND WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Kevin Pfeiffer of McGuigan Simeon who was named the 2004 JMA Riverland Wine Maker of the Year.

JMA Engineering, a local company supplying storage and fermentation infrastructure to the wine industry, is committed the development of the Riverland wine region and sees the winemaker of the year award as a great opportunity to support the work of local winemakers.

An initiative of the Riverland Wine Show, the JMA Riverland Winemaker of the year award recognises the efforts of individual winemakers who are committed to innovation, wine style development and raising the profile of the Riverland wine region.

The award was presented to Mr Pfeiffer at the Riverland Wine Show presentation dinner, a rare gathering of his peers in the industry.



Kevin Pfeiffer accepting the 2004 JMA Riverland Winemaker of the Year award. From left to right past winners Grant Semmens, Bill Moularadellis, Paul Kassebaum with Kevin Pfeiffer (with trophy) and Mark Johnson from JMA Engineering.

RIVERLAND WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL

The banks of the Murray River in Berri were bustling with activity during the Riverland Wine and Food Festival held on Saturday 16th October.

Over 6,000 people, of which were estimated to be 1,000 visitors to the region, joined in a celebration of Riverland wine and food. Glorious sunny weather and live entertainment set the mood for enjoying the best wines and gourmet food from the Riverland.

There were many highlights of the Festival including tours of the Murray River aboard the Big River Rambler. A new addition to the site this year was the 'Riverland Wine Stand' hosted by the Riverland Wine Industry Development Council, a major supporter of the Festival. Visitors to the Riverland Wine Stand were given the opportunity to meet local winemakers, view a selection of trophies from the Riverland Wine Show and obtain information about wine tasting and wine and food matching.

Event manager Sam Fielke was delighted with attendance at the event and she highlighted the importance of the Festival as a vehicle for raising the profile of the Riverland. Ms Fielke was particularly impressed with the quality of wine and food at the event: "It is wonderful to see local food and wine producers working together side by side to promote the Riverland region, in the Riverland we are blessed with a warm climate that aids in the development of rich, flavoursome foods and wines, and the Festival is the best venue for showcasing these products" she said.

Ms Fielke is already looking forward to organising next year's Festival because "the Festival has now established itself as a 'must see' event for the Riverland and local wine and food producers are realising the value of the exposure they gain through participating in the day" she said. Visitor numbers to the Festival are climbing each year and the Festival Committee will consider extending the length of the current site in future years.

Global analyst predicts testing times for Australian wine



Arend Heijbroek

Mr. Arend Heijbroek of Dutch-based international financiers Rabobank presented a compelling keynote presentation to the Annual General Meeting of the Riverland Wine Industry Development Council, posing several questions about a global wine glut, Australia's reducing export prices, and increasing stocks-to-sales ratio.

Mr. Heijbroek was appointed the Wine and Spirits Industry Specialist for Rabobank in 2002, and visited Australia and New Zealand through August and September in a two week research and presentation tour. Delegates at the RWIDC's Annual General Meeting appreciated receiving an impartial and thought-provoking view of the industry's performance and outlook, asking several incisive questions as well as providing Mr. Heijbroek with some of our own beliefs as to the state of the industry.

In his presentation, a review of predictions made by Rabobank from three years ago on Australia's performance was presented, with Australia actually producing more wine than forecast despite the 2003 drought, and likewise exporting more than anticipated. Nonetheless, Rabobank's earlier concerns of some oversupply and falling wine prices have been realised by the Australian wine industry as a whole. Mr. Heijbroek believed that these problems would remain with the industry for at least the next few years, although considered that the industry would be well served by making significant headway into a third targeted export market.

Since 2000, nearly 70 percent of Australia's exports have been directed into the United States and the United Kingdom combined, with a small number of brands dominating sales. The success of

Viticare on-farm trials update: Cover Crops using indigenous plants

In an effort to improve water use efficiency many Riverland growers now use drip irrigation, so the inter-row areas are not irrigated. The RWIDC Viticulture Technical Group identified this area of research as native cover crops are not generally found in the Riverland and the current knowledge about their effectiveness has not been directly compared. In addition to cover crop evaluation, this project also addresses the regional issues of soil structure decline, salinity, drainage and weed control.

A demonstration site has been set up at Banrock Station, which has been cultivating local native plants as a perennial cover crop for the past 2 years. They have reduced their use of herbicides substantially, and have not noticed any affect on the vines due to moisture competition. It is planned that a section of existing cover crop will be removed, so a direct comparison can be made between bare ground and the native cover crop. The trial will also look at comparing canopy temperatures.

Field walks for winegrape growers and other industry stakeholders will be conducted by Julie Sippo (Riverland Wine Industry Development Council) and Vanessa Narbeth (Cooperative Research Centre for Viticulture) to look at several floor management practices on the Banrock Station vineyard and these will be compared for weed control, cover crop management and beneficial insect populations.

Australia's penetration of the US market was noted as especially significant, tripling its market share in three years. Furthermore, it has been successful in staving off an aggressive lowprice marketing strategy by Chilean wine, thereby protecting its brand value and margins ... but not completely ... as Australian wine has since 2002 developed a trend of exporting wine at a declining price-per-litre. Fluctuating currency rates were acknowledged as a complicating factor when tracking the comparative performances of exporting nations.

An interesting position was noted in that while Australia is making headway into the US market, the United States' wine industry is making progress in the United Kingdom wine trade; Australia's traditional strong export destination. Mr. Heijbroek saw Australia and the US as direct competitors, with "a comparable business model and wines", proposing that the Australian wine industry's export success has to some extent catalysed the US industry into export action.

Australia was acknowledged for its strong competitive position, although ongoing concerns regarding oversupply would be countered by a combination of continual product innovation, progressive quality improvements, and a solid export foundation in a third key market beyond the US and UK, such as; Germany, China, or India.

The Australian Wine Export Council has already been acting upon many of the issues raised within Mr. Heijbroek's presentation through the refreshment of Wine Brand Australia and the implementation of its recommendations of the recent Strategic Review. These matters will also be considered by the proposed Cooperative Research Centre for Wine. Provided that the industry's bid is successful, the CRCW will;

- Develop improved insights into consumer wine preferences in existing and emerging markets,
- Enhance production efficiency in vineyards and wineries, and
- Drive change through practical adoption of research principles.

Links: rabobank.com.au - gwrdc.com.au - awbc.com.au

Cropwatch Online at field days

There was a very positive and supportive response to the project to take CropWatch – the RWIDC's principal project – onto the Internet, as winegrape growers learned more about CropWatch Online at the Riverland Field Days in September.

Developed in conjunction with the South Australian Research and Development Institute, CropWatch Online will be a viticultural 'one-stop-shop' for industry stakeholders. Beyond providing information on vineyard threats such as; powdery mildew, downy mildew, and light brown apple moth, the online service will provide a graphically-based diagnosis tool for easily identifying vineyard irregularities, vineyard management help, links to useful software resources and literature, and the opportunity to get in touch with other growers and scientists in the field.

Winegrape growers learnt more about the tool from Julie Sippo and Peter Magarey (SARDI) who staffed the CropWatch stand at the field days, and provided feedback as to which parts of the website they considered would be especially useful.

An application is before the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation for the development of the CropWatch Online project. Other participating regions include Sunraysia and McLaren Vale.

Growers also took the opportunity to sign up to CropWatch, a free service where weekly reports are sent to winegrape growers in the Riverland, or more frequently in high risk conditions. The CropWatch reports have been appreciated for several years for their contribution to better vineyard management.

If you would like to receive CropWatch via email or fax, please contact Julie Sippo ph 8582 2952.

Cellar door staff encouraged by tourism opportunities

The Riverland was delighted to host representatives from Tourism SA, University of South Australia, SA Wine Tourism Advisory Board, and The Advertiser newspaper in an informative and invigorating roadshow presentation held in August.

Riverland growers, wineries, and tourism operators were pleased to receive first hand advice on how businesses in the Riverland may improve their reach into the media by offering 'good stories' with supporting media material such as photographs and a well set out media release. Utilising the Public Relations Unit of the South Australian Tourism Commission, appropriate followup work, and approaching 'lifestyle' program producers such as; *Postcards*, *Getaway*, and *The Great Outdoors*, were other ideas that were presented and discussed.

Making a quick and positive impression with the media was considered crucial to the success of any campaign, and the importance of presenting a compelling media 'hook' within seconds of any media release could not be underestimated. Media launches, and 'familiarisations' were other strategies for larger mediafocussed campaigns. To assist tourism operators in South Australia, the Tourism Commission has developed a 'Media Guide' that touches upon many of those issues discussed at the roadshow.

The results of the 2003 Cellar Door Market Research were presented, identifying how the Riverland performed against the State averages in an array of areas. Unlike some wine producing districts closer to Adelaide, the Riverland cellar door visitors were characterised more as family tourists rather than short-break 'indulgents'. The survey indicated that a higher proportion of Riverland cellar door visitors stay in caravan parks or with friends than other regions where motel or 'bed and breakfast' accommodation was more common.

The draft SA Tourism Commission's 'Wine tourism strategy 2004-2008' was presented, which identified four key challenges:

- 1 To maintain South Australia's position as Australia's Food and Wine State,
- 2 To ensure that South Australia is the first choice for 'wine tourists', and that wine and food is an essential component of the South Australian holiday experience,
- 3 To enrich the wine and food experience, and
- 4 To empower wine and food businesses with tourism knowledge and skills, backed by a supportive structure.



Banrock Station featured in 'Uncorked'



The Riverland visit was further supported by the recently released document 'Wine Tourism Uncorked', a joint initiative of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources and the Winemakers' Federation of Australia. It provides anecdotes of Australian wineries that have made the most of tourism opportunities by 'adding value' beyond the familiar cellar door tasting. By building in food, concerts, tours, art, merchandising, accommodation, and so forth, many wineries have created a profitable tourist-friendly business arm to support their winemaking operations. The Riverland's Banrock Station Wine and Wetland Centre is featured in 'Wine Tourism Uncorked'.

The Riverland Wine Industry Development Council will be in a good position to represent stakeholders' issues on wine tourism matters, as our Marketing and Promotions Officer, Emily White, has recently joined the Board of the Riverland Tourism Association.

Links: tourism.sa.gov.au - riverland.info - wfa.org.au/projects/wineturism

Getting started with Environmental Management in Viticulture

In partnership with the Cooperative Research Centre for Viticulture, the RWIDC recently conducted a free pilot workshop called 'Getting started with Environmental Management in Viticulture'. The workshop was based around the user-friendly software package 'Viticare Environmental Risk Assessment' (VERA), and focused on building environmental management into broader vineyard and business management strategies.

The workshop was delivered in four modules that allowed plenty of time for questions and discussion. The focus of the workshop was on:

- introducing to the concepts of Environmental Management Systems (EMS);
- instruction on the use of the Viticare Environmental Risk Assessment (VERA) tool; and
- guidance on the development of environmental action plans.

The workshops were run as producers are becoming aware that now and in the future, a more formal approach to environmental

management could be critical to business - especially for managing the environmental risks or in demonstrating 'environmental performance'.

This workshop was designed to assist growers to identify, assess and prioritise the environmental risks that they may face and, with the aid of the VERA tool, begin to develop management plans to address these risks. At the end of the workshop, participants had learned the skills to use the VERA tool, as well as:

- write a brief environmental profile of their business,
- conduct an environmental risk assessment for their business, and
- develop a simple environmental action plan for their business.

If you would like to find out more about environmental management, or receive a summary of current environmental legislation, please contact Julie Sippo ph 8582 2952 or fax 8582 3309.

2004-05 Riverland Wine Industry Calendar

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
26-28th October	Viticulture '04 'Growing Our Future'	Mildura
3rd November	'Sustaining Success – The growing challenge'	Tanunda
18th November	Australian Winegrape Conference	Mildura
25th November	Wine Industry Outlook Conference	Sydney
26th-29th November	Wine Australia	Sydney
2nd-3rd February 2005	Wine Industry Environment Conference	Adelaide

Best practice irrigation management for winegrapes – get involved!

Winegrape grower groups are now being established for the 'Riverland water use efficiency demonstration sites' project. Demonstration sites are located at Loxton North, Monash, Pike River, Coolong and Sunlands.

Project sites will be visited by growers throughout the growing season at key times to ensure that varietal responses to management practices and climatic influences can be observed and discussed.

The aim of the project is to equip growers to better manage their water resources through developing a better understanding of the impact of irrigation scheduling on water use efficiency.

Quality parameters are closely linked with irrigation management and an understanding of the impact of irrigation scheduling on quality across varieties and soil types will also be explored in order to maximise grower returns. Participants will also consider visual assessment of grapevine attributes as they relate to water use and quality.

The content of the field sessions will vary depending on group needs, however the focus will be on efficient use of water in different soil types and across varieties explored through the following topics:

- Identification of major soil types in the region and their characteristics as they relate to irrigation management,
- Variety specific water requirements,
- Development of networks for delivery of 'in time' guidance,
- Utilisation and evaluation of different types of soil moisture monitoring techniques,
- Monitoring the impact of climatic and soil influences on vine water use, and
- Attention to different growth stages through the season to ensure water is applied at critical times.

Register your interest now with Julie Sippo ph 8582 2952 or fax 8582 3309.



RWIDC Councillors

The Riverland Wine Industry Development Council is pleased to welcome three new Councillors for 2004-2005;

Mr. Richard Dolan, Ms. Keryn Gorman, and Mr. Michael Roy have accepted their nominations as Riverland Winegrape Growers' Association appointees on the Riverland Wine Industry Development Council. They replace the outgoing Councillors; Mr. Mick Himsworth, Mr. Sam Albanese, and Mr. Kym Hudson. The Chairman would like to acknowledge his thanks for the respective contributions that Messrs. Himsworth (past President RWGA), Albanese (past Treasurer), and Hudson (Chair, Viticulture Technical Group) made to the work of the Council.

2004-2005 Council:

Mr. John Angove
 Mr. Draz Baric
 Mr. Richard Dolan
 Ms. Keryn Gorman
 Mr. Paul Kassebaum
 Mr. Bill Moularadellis
 Mr. Kevin Pfeiffer
 Mr. Michael Roy

Staff:

Mr. Cameron Hills (Executive Officer)
 Ms. Julie Sippo (Industry Development Officer)
 Ms. Emily White (Marketing and Promotions Officer)



**Riverland
 Wine Industry
 Development
 Council Inc.**

This newsletter was produced by the Riverland Wine Industry Development Council Incorporated. The views expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Council.

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