

September 2003 Quarterly Update

HIGHLIGHTS

- Viticultural scholarships vacancies closing soon
- New vineyard management tool
- WINETAC projects for 03/04

New faces at WINETAC

Next time you contact us, it is likely you will 'meet' Jenny Benton who joined us mid-August as Office Administrator – welcome Jenny! Emma Walmsley (Jenny's predecessor) has moved to the position of Project Officer. We are very pleased to have Emma back with us after her short break interstate and congratulate her on her new role.

Revised constitution

A timely revision of the 10 year old WINETAC constitution has been formally approved.

Reflecting changes in the industry, the revised version broadens the WINETAC scope to include all aspects of learning and skill development rather than focusing solely on vocational education and training. This ensures the needs of higher level learning are considered, and newer wine sector occupations are included as well as the more traditional areas.

In addition, WINETAC's role in policy development and advocacy to government has been reinforced.

The structure of the Board has been redesigned to provide opportunity for broader industry representation and input into WINETAC activities. Members will also be now elected for two year terms, which will provide for greater continuity of representation.

To view the constitution, please go to www.winetac.com.au/aboutbody.asp and follow the link, or call Peter on (08) 8373 7090 for a copy.

Viticultural news and information direct to you

Join the CRCV information service – an email subscription that will:

- keep you informed about practical viticultural management issues
- inform you about seminars, events and conferences
- provide you with information about CRCV products, including AusVit and VineLOGIC software packages
- send you a copy of the monthly Viticare newsletter

To join, subscribe via the following link –

www.crcv.com.au/viticare/vitinotes or contact Sally Raphael of Fuller Communications on sally.raaphael@fuller.com.au

Updated wine industry learning and skill development strategic plan

The wine industry has demonstrated its endorsement of learning and skill development as a means by which to increase competitiveness by contributing to a revised strategic plan for 2003-2006. This plan is currently being finalised and will be disseminated in the near future.

Wine Industry National Education and Training Advisory Council Incorporated
Level 1, 206 Greenhill Road, EASTWOOD, SA 5063.

Phone: (08) 8373 7090 Fax: (08) 8373 7091 Email: info@winetac.com.au

The material in this Quarterly Update is published in good faith and is believed accurate at the time of printing. However, WINETAC does not make any warranty or accept any responsibility for errors or omissions.

Projects for 03/04

WINETAC is involved in a wide range of projects during the current financial year. These projects have been funded principally by the Cooperative Research Centre for Viticulture (CRCV), with additional funding from the Winemakers' Federation of Australia and Food Training SA. Resource sales supplement these funds. An overview of 03/04 projects follows, if you would like to discuss these projects in more detail contact us at WINETAC.

Continuing management of PhD researchers-

This project involves assisting new and existing PhD students through all aspects of their research, from their initial selection through to providing help with employment on completion of their PhD; and monitoring their progress and expenditure over the three and a half year term.

Creating education and training solutions in response to industry requirements-

WINETAC has been closely involved with the development of the Wine Sector Training Package since its first release in 1998. This year we will be managing the transition process from use of the 98 standards to the 03 standards; undertaking an annual maintenance and update process in consultation with industry and participating in other Training Package developments to ensure latest practices are integrated into the accredited training. Funding from Food Training SA has enabled the development of support materials (learning guides and assessment instruments) to support training and assessment in the Wine Sector Training Package.

The integration of research and development outcomes and the development of a culture of innovation are being addressed via our projects 'research outputs adopted by industry' and 'adoption of innovation by industry'. These projects will research the best processes for industry adoption of new information and ideas and see the implementation of an appropriate strategy.

A project titled 'Relevant, accessible and quality tertiary programs' has begun investigating how university programs are developed, and this year continues to assess the level of industry input and satisfaction with these processes. A quality assurance system will also be researched.

A longer term perspective of industry needs will be gained via research aimed at predicting shifts future in skill and knowledge in line with anticipated industry growth and development.

The final project within this area will assess the wine industry education and training model, and recommending a sustainable option for the future. Research into other industries models will be a platform for this.

Monitoring and researching education and training standards for the industry-

This project has two strategies - enhancing the national training system and enhancing the industry's learning culture.

System enhancements are expected to occur as a result of strengthening our relationships with state training authorities and industry training boards, thereby increasing the opportunity for inclusion of the wine industry's perspective in state and national training initiatives and arrangements. An analysis of vocational education and training programs will be undertaken to identify opportunities to influence program content, articulation processes and quality assurance mechanisms in response to industry requirements.

We will be examining and promoting approaches for incorporating learning and skill development in industry and organisational plans, working with associations and employers to make the most of their training efforts.

With a view to achieving high quality, consistent education and training outcomes, we will continue to provide high-quality liaison and advice and keep industry and stakeholders informed of WINETAC progress. Look out for improvements to our website over the next few months.

Managing and directing the Viticulture Research to Practice ® project -

Four of the Viticulture Research to Practice ® topics have recently become available for purchase under licence, in an effort to maximise the number of growers able to access this information. Peter oversees the license applications for these topics, as well as managing the Winegrape quality management workshop program.

Project Updates

Continuing management of PhD researchers-

WINETAC and CRCV welcome three new PhD researchers to the program, Dougal Currie, Stewart Field and Megan Shelden.

Dougal started in July and, based at the University of Adelaide, will be undertaking CRCV project 2.3.4- Impact of irrigation on plant available water capacity of soil and on vine root growth. Megan is also at the Uni of Adelaide, and has undertaken CRCV project 2.1.7- A novel plant based sensor to monitor vine stress. Stewart is researching CRCV project number 2.3.2- Irrigation and nitrogen management effects on grapevine vigour and the role of cytokinins. Stewart lives in Wagga Wagga and attends Charles Sturt University.

Creating education and training solutions in response to industry requirements-

Training Package developments

The Wine Sector Training Package was re-released in March. There are now over 200 units of competency relevant to wine industry tasks from vineyard through to cellar door. These units can be used in a variety of ways to meet industry skill and knowledge requirements – from using them as a benchmark for company procedures, to inducting seasonal labour, to issuing formal qualifications to staff (and many other options in between!).

The state training authorities are yet to formalise the new Training Package within their system – impacting the availability of government subsidised training. We are facilitating this transition process wherever possible.

We have registered for participation in a national review of the Training Package implementation process – with the intent that the outcomes result in a system that is more responsive to industry's needs.

We have recently entered into a collaborative arrangement with the Rural Training Council of Australia in relation to the development of a Viticulture Sector within the Rural Production Training Package. This will result in an expansion of options for vineyard training in the future.

Food Training SA have granted funds for the development of learning guides and assessment instruments in relation to the new and amended units of competency within the updated Wine Sector Training Package. WINETAC has contracted River Murray Training Limited to develop the materials which will be completed and ready for purchase from us in January 2004. Existing support materials for unchanged units will continue to be available.

Industry adoption of research outputs via the education sector

There are 6 CRCV subprojects with outputs available this year – these outputs will be integrated into learning and skill development in various ways including inclusion in relevant Training Package standards, incorporation into tertiary programs and updating of Viticulture Research to Practice ® manuals and workshops.

Tertiary program development

Research into current tertiary programs has been completed – including content, process for program development and articulation and bridging processes. Wine industry employers will be interviewed in September to generate a record of their requirements, which will then be communicated to tertiary providers with view to enhancing the relevance, quality and accessibility of programs.

Project Updates

Monitoring and researching education and training standards for the industry-

National training system developments

We have commenced a process of mapping state awards to the wine industry certificate level qualifications to identify ways in which the wine industry in each state can maximise the return from formal training within the scope of industrial arrangements.

We continue to communicate with state training authorities and industry training boards in relation to recent changes to their role, structure and funding.

Linking learning and industry success

We have investigated the link between learning and competitiveness, including the ways in which different organisations and industries have developed their learning culture to enhance their business outcomes. These approaches will now be shared with the wine industry through the provision of advice, the development of fact sheets and the promotion of industry case studies. We are currently articulating the link between the revised national education and training strategic plan and state industry strategic and operational plans prior to meeting with each association with view to establishing collaborative arrangements that address joint objectives.

Managing and directing the Viticulture Research to Practice ® project -

The new arrangement of licensing topics for Viticulture Research to Practice ® has been well received. There has been great interest from organisations qualified to deliver the training, and with the number of companies that have already purchased at least one licence, the goal of 880 participants for 03/04 appears to be quite attainable. Last year there were 429 attendees over all 4 workshops, so if the estimate is reached, the revised model of delivery will achieve it's aim of being more accessible to growers.

The fifth topic, Winegrape quality management, is also looking to be very popular this year, with all 10 workshops already fully subscribed.

If you are interested in undertaking a workshop, you can view all of the organisations who have purchased a license on the CRCV website at <http://www.crcv.com.au/education/rtp/>
In all of the major grape growing and wine making regions there are organisations already licensed to deliver the training.

If you would like more information about any of the Research to Practice topics, please contact Peter on (08) 8373 7090 or peter@winetac.com.au

Resources

Literacy one-stop-shop

Up to date literacy and numeracy resources, research, professional development and funding information is now available on the Department of Education, Science and Training's new look LiteracyNet web site. More than 40 resources are downloadable or can be ordered on line. To view, go to www.dest.gov.au/literacynet

Resources

On line assessment resources now available

<http://flexiblelearning.net.au/productsandservices/assessmentgenerator.htm>

The Assessment Generator is a web-based tool that helps registered training organisations (RTOs) and vocational, education and training (VET) practitioners construct and manage key assessment plans and tools in compliance with Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) requirements. The Assessment Generator provides RTOs with access to a bank of validated assessment plans and tools and improves quality management of the assessment process in line with the AQTF.

New vineyard training tool now available - VineLOGIC

What is VineLOGIC?

VineLOGIC is a simulation model of grapevine growth and development.

What does it do?

VineLOGIC can be used for education and training and also strategic decision-making, enabling 'what-if' scenarios to be run for a wide range of vineyard 'set-ups'.

How can I get a copy?

An Education Package of VineLOGIC is currently available from the CRC for Viticulture office. VineLOGIC is intended for use by education providers and students however copies are available to others through a 'Version 1 User's Network'. This network aims to generate feedback to enhance the next version of the package.

Who developed it?

The package has been developed by the CRC for Viticulture through CSIRO and with input from teaching staff at the University of Adelaide, Charles Sturt University and La Trobe University. The Murray Darling Basin Commission through the CRC for Viticulture is also funding an improved version with enhanced capacity to predict salinity impacts on grapevines – this version is due out in early 2004.

How does it work?

Users of the education package are guided through a 10-step, 'click-on' process to set-up a particular vineyard scenario. The computer then runs the simulation for that scenario and provides a summary of the outputs. The user can then change any of the 10-step inputs and re-run the model to compare the new outputs with the previous outputs.

What are the outputs:

- Time of end of dormancy;
- Time of budburst;
- Time of veraison;
- Time of ripening;
- Potential yield;
- Periods of stress;
- Severity of stress;
- Weather summary.

Outputs can be seen either as text or as graphs using a viewer that is part of VineLOGIC. This enables users to compare and analyse results from a wide variety of scenarios.

Where can I get more information?

For general information contact Rob Walker - Phone (03) 5051 3100

For sales & marketing enquiries contact Bridget Ransome – Phone (08) 8303 9663 or Email

bridget.ransome@crcv.com.au

Resources

Pest and Disease Management made easier with New AUSVIT CHEMICAL DATABASE

The Cooperative Research Centre for Viticulture (CRCV) is releasing its upgraded AusVit™ Chemical Database to provide grapegrowers with a valuable tool for dealing with any pest or disease problems during the busy Spring and Summer seasons.

The database contains information on 325 registered chemical products from 68 companies. It also includes application rates and notes, details about which pest or disease the product can be used to combat, Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) registrations for each state and maximum residue levels.

According to CRCV Business Consultant Bridget Ransome, with so many products on the market it can be difficult for growers to make a decision that is best for their vineyard and the particular pest or disease that is being targeted.

“Since we last updated the AusVit™ Chemical Database there have been 130 new products added to the database and other products have been improved or application rates might have changed,” she said.

“The database is a comprehensive source of information because it contains all of this critical information in the one place, saving growers a lot of time and energy in having to do their own research about the products available.”

Bridget said the Chemical Database was very easy to use with a range of search options to help growers find what they are looking for.

“Searches can be done by product or brand or by looking for a particular active ingredient or the final option is to search for a product to target for example light brown apple moth.

“It is more than just a product register because it contains a lot of other information about to use the chemicals responsibly and correctly. While spray application is an important part of vineyard management, growers need to be aware of their vineyard inputs and ensure they are using the right chemicals and the right amounts.

“By using this tool growers can better plan their spraying for the coming season, encouraging them to apply only what is needed.”

The AusVit™ Chemical Database can be purchased directly from the CRCV. It is available as a separate product and as part of the AusVit™ Vineyard Management System – a computerised decision support system designed as a management tool to assist viticulturists achieve targeted levels of efficiency, yield and fruit quality while reducing the risk of crop loss and minimising chemical inputs.

Existing users of AusVit™ will be able to download the upgraded Chemical Database from the CRCV website www.crcv.com.au/products/ausvit or can purchase the upgraded CD from the CRCV for a nominal fee of \$20.

For more information contact:

Bridget Ransome
CRCV Business Consultant
Phone: (08) 8303 9663
Email: ransome.bridget@saugov.sa.gov.au

News in Brief

Free assistance program for small to medium wineries

Wine**Skills** is a free business and marketing assistance program developed for owners and managers of small to medium wineries – it aims to address the challenges in the current business environment and provide the skills and resources to plan for a more successful future. The program is based on a 2 day workshop, the provision of tools and resources and a follow up service to provide additional mentoring and assistance.

To find out more, including workshop dates and locations, visit www.wineskills.com or contact the Winemakers' Federation of Australia on phone 08 8222 9255 or email info@wineskills.com.au

Viticulture scholarship vacancies

The 4 inaugural recipients of the Peter Barnes Viticultural Scholarship* are now well into their studies. Further placements are available and applications are invited from individuals interested in a career in the wine industry. The scholarship program provides financial assistance to viticultural personnel commencing their careers in the industry to gain formal qualifications to Certificate Level 3 in the Certificate in Food Processing (Wine). Please go to the careers section on our website,

www.winetac.com.au/resources.asp for further information and application criteria.

Applications close September 12th.

For more information, contact Peter Mansfield on 08 8373 7090 or peter@winetac.com.au

** Peter Barnes is the President of the Winemakers' Federation of Australia*

Questions and Answers

What makes for good workplace learning?

Recent research has identified 6 elements that are required to be in place for effective workplace learning. The study highlights the critical role workplace learning has in innovation. The findings are summarised in a publication available for download from www.ncver.edu.au/research/core/cp0207.pdf

Looking for a training provider?

Listings of training providers delivering training in the wine industry (from certificate to diploma to degree level) are available from WINETAC – download them from www.winetac.com.au/resources.asp or phone us for a copy on 08 8373 7090.