

Welcome to the Quarterly Update!

This June edition is reaching many grape and wine industry people who have not received any information from Winetac in the past, as part of a targeted strategy to enhance communication both ways in the future.

This edition is larger than usual, as we have attempted to cover a wide range of topics to be relevant to all readers.

The general format of the Quarterly Update remains the same for each edition- you will find industry and education and training news in the first few pages; then Winetac progress updates since the previous edition; and lastly an overview of resources.

Highlights of this edition include:

NEWS (p. 2-3)

An update on the tertiary program action plan, Research to Practice® changes, and Responsible Service of Alcohol in NSW training options

PROGRESS UPDATES (p. 4-5)

An overview on projects Winetac has been working on in 03/04, and direction they are headed in 04/05.

RESOURCES (p. 6-8)

New publications, such as Flowering and Fruitset in Grapevines, and Regulated Deficit Irrigation and Partial Rootzone Drying are explained, with contact details for more information.

CHANGES TO NATIONAL VET

If you are a little confused or concerned about the current changes that are occurring in the Vocational Education and Training world, we don't blame you!

In short, the Federal government is changing arrangements through which it receives advice from industry about vocational training. Industry Training Advisory Boards (ITABs) used to fulfil this role, representing each industry. Now, Industry Skill Councils (ISCs) are being formed, which represent groupings of industry sectors only.

The vocational training requirements of the grape and wine industry, which were represented through the Food Processing ITAB, will now be represented by the Agri-Food ISC. On the maths alone, it will now be more challenging for the grape and wine voice to be heard. One of sixteen sectors within Food Processing now becomes one of approximately 40 within the ISC.

We will keep you up to date about what these changes will mean for the grape and wine industry. If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact me on (08) 8373 7090.

We hope you will find our publication interesting and useful to your business, and welcome your feedback and suggestions to make it more relevant to your needs.

Peter Mansfield
Executive Officer

NEWS

Industry and providers enhancing tertiary education programs

An action plan has been developed with view to enhancing the relevance, responsiveness, quality and accessibility of grape and wine industry related tertiary education programs.

Research into industry tertiary education requirements was conducted in 2003. This research was used to develop a position paper which was tabled at a meeting of tertiary providers and industry in April. Twelve tertiary providers and five employers were represented at this meeting, during which an action plan was drafted.

This action plan has now been completed, with implementation to commence in July 2004, and can be downloaded from www.winetac.com.au/downloads/Tertiary%20action%20plan.pdf

Key components of the action plan fall within the following areas of focus:

- Industry consultation processes
- Quality assurance mechanisms
- Research and development transfer
- Access opportunities

Ensuring currency of wine industry standards

Industry developed standards covering all aspects of industry operations, from growing grapes to wine tastings in the cellar door, are contained within the Wine Sector Training Package. This Training Package can be used for formal training within a vineyard or winery or as a valuable benchmarking tool.

The Training Package is maintained to ensure it is reflective of current industry practices.

Minor amendments have already been made – these include the updating of standards from other Training Packages, ensuring the latest versions of those standards are available to our industry. For details on these minor amendments, visit the training packages page of our website: www.winetac.com.au/training.asp?Expand=7

More substantial amendments are now being planned. Feedback into the redevelopment of existing standards or development of new standards is being sought from industry and training providers. To provide your input, download the training package feedback form: www.winetac.com.au/downloads/Training%20Package%20Feedback%20Form.pdf or give us a call. Feedback will be accepted until 16th July 2004.

Evaluation of grape and wine industry vocational education and training outcomes

An evaluation of the successes and constraints of current accredited vocational education and training solutions available to the grape and wine industry has recently been undertaken.

A national survey was conducted that sought the views of small, medium and large wineries, grapegrowers, trainees, industry associations, and registered training organisations in relation to the relevance, responsiveness, quality and accessibility of existing solutions.

These views are currently being compiled to determine industry preferences and to identify opportunities for improvement. These findings will be shared with providers and other organisations with view to developing a collaborative action plan to enhance outcomes for industry.

PhD Researchers professional development program update

19 CRCV supported PhD and honours researchers recently attended a Leading and Managing People workshop, held at Mt Lofty in SA. The CRCV project 'Enhancing the ability of PhD Researchers' aims to develop the researchers' entire professional skill-base, including their management and leadership qualities.

The interactive format of the workshop, presented by Peter Hobart of Oztrain, was well-received by the students. Topics of particular interest included the managing your boss and conflict management modules. The training overall was thought to be very useful to the researchers, both for the present and for their future careers!

Changes to Wine Sector Training Package purchasing

The Wine Sector Training Package is now available for purchase solely through Australian Training Products (ATP). ATP is the national publisher and distributor of Training Packages and endorsed resources.

Learning guides and assessment instruments to support the Wine Sector Training Package continue to be available from Winetac.

To contact ATP: Phone (03) 9655 0600; email sales@atpl.net.au; or go to their website: www.atpl.net.au.

Responsible service of Alcohol in NSW.

All wineries undertaking promotions in New South Wales from 1 July 2004 will be required to ensure staff are NSW RSA certified. This means all staff involved in the sale or service of alcohol need to have completed the national Responsible Service of Alcohol certificate as well as the NSW bridging course.

The Winemakers' Federation of Australia is looking at training options for producers, and a wider range than first expected is looking viable, including course delivery in each state and distance learning.

For Wine Australia 2004 specifically, it is likely training will be offered in Sydney a day before the event. Full details will be posted on our website once available.

Murray TAFE (SA) has taken a lead role in facilitating training, having already arranged for the RSA and NSW bridging courses to be delivered throughout South Australian regions over the next two months. Murray TAFE has also offered to assist training providers in each state with delivery of training if required. Please contact Melanie Keynes on 08 8562 0563 if you wish to discuss options.

Keep checking the Winetac website for updates regarding training for Wine Australia- www.winetac.com.au

Additions to the Viticulture Research to Practice® repertoire

From July 1st 2004, the popular Research to Practice® topic, Winegrape Quality Management, will be available to purchase under licence agreement. Also, a new topic entitled Getting Started with Environmental Management in Viticulture will be released, and both will be available to suitable providers for \$286 including GST.

These topics will add to the very successful Research to Practice® format, in which licensed providers can use the material to develop training suited to their own region. Over 750 participants have attended training in the 03/04 season, and it is expected there will be many more in the 04/05 with the release of these new topics.

Some short courses have also been developed and have been distributed to existing licensed organisations, in the areas of Spray Application and Water Management. These courses provide an update to the information already provided, and also highlight specific areas of training which industry believe should be targeted for short course delivery.

If you are interested in purchasing any of the Research to Practice® topics, please contact Peter Mansfield on (08) 8373 7090, peter@winetac.com.au or download the licence application form: <http://www.winetac.com.au/downloads/VRTP%20License%20Application%202004.pdf>

If you are interested in attending training in any of the topics, please check out the listing of licensed providers in your state- <http://www.winetac.com.au/downloads/Organisations%20licenced%20to%20deliver%20Research%20to%20Practice.pdf>

More information is available on our website- www.winetac.com.au/supportmaterials.asp, or give us a call.

PROGRESS UPDATES

Objective 1: Long-term industry representation for learning and skill development

Since March, we have:

- Developed a strategic management framework that enhances the evaluation of progress against strategic objectives.

Our next activities include:

- Meeting with key representatives from state and national industry associations and training authorities.

Objective 2: Enhanced industry commitment to a learning culture

Since March, we have:

- Commenced contacting all regional grape and wine industry associations with view to ongoing communication
- Developed a model to evaluate the learning culture within the industry
- Sought industry input into the integration of research outputs into Wine Sector Training Package competency standards

Our next activities include:

- Evaluating the learning culture within the industry
- Gaining industry input into other Training Package developments
- Providing ongoing liaison and advice.

Objective 3: Enhanced resource allocation to learning and skill development in the Australian grape and wine industry

Since March, we have:

- Commenced sourcing existing regional plans with view to promoting and supporting the integration of learning and skill development into current and future plans
- Identified enhancements to the Business Needs Learning Solutions resource available on our website

- Identified updates to Wine Sector Training Package competency standards to integrate research and development outputs
- Conducted a *Leading and managing people* workshop for PhD researchers
- Provided employment assistance to PhD researchers to progress to industry positions
- Increased access to the CRCV Viticulture Research to Practice program through the development of short course options and two additional topics (wine grape quality and environmental management)

Our next activities include:

- Developing a business planning template that integrates learning and skill development considerations
- Identifying current and future resource allocations to industry learning and skill development by employers and training providers.

Objective 4: Improved understanding of skill gaps and industry learning requirements

Since March, we have:

- Articulated industry tertiary education requirements on the development and delivery of tertiary programs in a position paper– see other objective updates for more information on this activity
- Discussed findings from research into future shifts in skill requirements with the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation and Winetac committees
- Provided materials for use by Winemakers Federation of Australia Tourism Development Director at a regional wine tourism development meeting.

Our next activities include:

- Further research into skill gaps.

Objective 5: Influence Governments regarding grape and wine industry learning and skill development needs

Since March, we have:

- Communicated industry tertiary education requirements to the Department of Education, Science and Training.

Our next activities include:

- Communicating vocational education and training needs to government

Objective 6: Improved relevance and responsiveness of learning and skill development solutions

Since March, we have:

- Developed an action plan in response to tertiary provider and industry meetings, which focussed on a position paper on the development and delivery of industry related tertiary programs
- Been informed of the progress of the higher level review of Training Packages-undertaken by ANTA earlier this year, it's reaching its final stages. A report has been compiled and is to be considered by ANTA at its June meeting. For more details, go to <http://www.anta.gov.au/highlevel.asp>. As contributors to this review, Winetac will continue to be informed of outcomes.
- Reviewed information within the publication 'Growing quality grapes to winery specifications' to identify relevant updates to wine grape growing competency standards. These updates to the Training Package will be undertaken over the next few months. In addition, the review found information beyond the level of skill and knowledge contained within the Training Package – this has been flagged to tertiary providers for consideration of its inclusion in course content.
- Evaluated the successes and constraints of current vocational education and training solutions available to the grape and wine industry– see article in this update for more details.

Our next activities include:

- Developing and implementing a vocational education and training action plan aimed at enhancing program outcomes
- Updating CRCV Viticulture Research to Practice programs
- Implementing the tertiary education program action plan
- Updating the Wine Sector Training Package.

Objective 7: Improved accessibility of learning and skill development solutions

Since March, we have;

- Undertaken a national survey, which included assessing delivery mode requirements of VET solutions in the grape and wine industry
- Finalised the tertiary action plan in

response to position paper and industry and provider meetings held in April and May

- Become a member of a course advisory panel looking at the development of nationally accredited Certificate IV and Diploma in Viticulture.
- Provided a resource pack to the Winemakers' Federation of Australia for use in a Victorian regional development workshop.

Our next activities include:

- Developing and implementing a vocational education and training action plan aimed at enhancing program outcomes
- Implementing the tertiary education program action plan
- Investigating and trialling other solutions.

Objective 8: Improved quality performance of service providers

Since March, we have;

- Provided feedback into the development of a Wine Sector Implementation Guide for schools in Victoria
- Discussed potential collaborative activities with SA TAFE quality assurance group.
- Received acceptance of displaying a poster at the Australian University Quality Forum, which will highlight tertiary and provider meeting outcomes.
- Commenced redevelopment of support materials in response to updates to the Wine Sector Training Package
- Undertaken a national survey to evaluate the accessibility, quality, relevance and responsiveness of VET solutions in industry. A position paper is currently being developed in response to this survey.

Our next activities include:

- Implementing the quality assurance aspects of both the tertiary and VET action plans.

RESOURCES

New Books

Flowering and Fruitset in Grapevines

Grapegrowers, particularly in Australia's cooler winegrape regions, will recall the impact of the very cool, wet spring of 2001 on flowering and fruitset. Following a record cold spring, Coonawarra's harvest was only a third of that harvested in 2001 and, despite a milder 2002, spring the following vintage was again down in yield.

The Phylloxera & Grape Industry Board of South Australia decided that the first priority was to undertake a complete review of the scientific literature. Dr Peter May, one of Australia's most productive and highly regarded researchers, agreed to take on this task and to give recommendations to the industry on gaps in knowledge and research priorities.

What started as a research paper has grown into a book, which has recently been published. *Flowering and Fruitset in Grapevines* reviews, for the first time, all the relevant scientific international literature on the subject, very little of which has been conducted in Australia.

The result is a major work that is likely to become a standard reference for researchers, students and grapegrowers. This is not surprising given the reputation for scholarship of its author. Dr Peter May's ability to read French and German research papers is a not insignificant contribution to the book.

For those wanting a deeper understanding of vine physiology, the book comprises brief descriptions of the origin of the inflorescence and its flowers, followed by a detailed description of flower development from budburst to flowering. Information is provided on the phenology of the grapevine and its relation to weather conditions that affect both the timing and the intensity of flowering. The process of flowering itself, its dependence on genetic and environmental factors, and the problems related to the conversion of flowers into berries are then described.

The book identifies that low temperatures, rainfall, lack of sunlight, poor nutrition and/or inadequate balance between nutritional components all can have a detrimental impact on fruitset. Selection of planting material, rootstocks, timing of pruning are other important factors and may provide clues for reducing poor fruitset. The book also identifies the importance of site selection and recommends the long-term collection of weather and phenological data. This may provide the basis for a system to warn growers of the likelihood of a climatic event that could impact on fruitset.

The book can be purchased from Lythrum Press, (08) 8415 5150 or go to www.lythrumpress.com.au/publish/index.html#Fruitset

Guide to Topworking

To address the growing interest in the practice of topworking, the Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board recently published *A Growers Guide to Topworking Grapevines*.

Topworking offers the potential to replace undesirable varieties rapidly and relatively inexpensively. Get it right and only 12 months production is lost, but get it wrong and the loss of production can quickly blow out another four years as top-worked vines are removed and a total replant is commenced.

The guide urges growers to carefully assess the risks, costs and benefits of topworking. This includes assessing the health of the existing vines to ensure that there are not disease and production issues that will emerge as major problems after the vines are top-worked. The guide also includes best practice guidelines for selecting and grafting new scion material and managing the vines.

The guide can be purchased from PGIBSA (08) 8362 0488.

Regulated Deficit Irrigation and Partial Rootzone Drying

This new book, 4th in an Irrigation Insights series, is suitable for viticulturists and irrigators wanting to learn about both innovative techniques of irrigation. The book summarises research conducted into RDI and PRD, but also provides critique from industry people who have begun using the strategies. It is published by the National Program for Sustainable Irrigation in conjunction with the Cooperative Research Centre for Viticulture and the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation.

RDI and PRD can improve water efficiency by exploiting a plants' natural hormonal response to drought, and using this to maintain growth with minimal water. This is achieved by manipulating water application rates, applying water in specific areas at specific times.

The publication is available in hard copy format (Quote item number PR020382) from Land and Water Australia- www.lwa.gov.au/products.asp or call 1800 776 616.

Also available is a CD called Irrigation Research 1993-2003, which includes this publication along with 4 other Irrigation Insights books. Featured on the CD is a collection of reports, articles and fact sheets about research completed under the National Program for Irrigation Research.

Go to www.lwa.gov.au/irrigation/news.asp?news=18&title=policy to order a copy.

For further information, please contact Tim Lester at the National Program for Irrigation on (02) 6263 6021, tim.lester@lwa.gov.au

Free publications

Maximising confidence in assessment decision-making:

This report examines potential models that can be used by assessors aimed at enhancing assessment outcomes. The models include a diagnostic assessment tool, an assessment principles checklist, and guidelines for the development of assessment instruments. A resource kit for assessors is also available. To download the report and resource kit, visit www.ncver.edu.au/publications/1315.html

Winegrape Assessment in the Vineyard and at the Winery

This publication has been developed by the Wine Industry Relations Committee, which comprises of winemaker and grapegrower representatives from WFA and the former WCGA. It is a significant step in reducing the uncertainty surrounding winegrape assessment and pricing, as both growers and winemakers have agreed on this as a framework, providing stronger guidelines and more transparency to the process of winegrape specification.

Winegrape Assessment in the Vineyard and at the Winery includes:

- Grower and winery expectations regarding vintage transactions, including assessment
- Procedures for winegrape specifications, criteria and tolerances
- Criteria for maturity, purity and condition

The publication can be downloaded from the WFA website: http://www.wfa.org.au/stop_press.html.

Free copies are also available from:

Murray Valley Winegrowers' Inc.

ph. (03) 5021 3911

Wine Grapes Marketing Board NSW

ph. (02) 6962 3944

Riverland Winegrape Growers' Association

ph. (08) 8582 2078

RESOURCES continued

Useful poster

Terminology for communicating the mouth-feel of red wine:

A full colour poster entitled "A Mouth-feel wheel", is available from ASVO (Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology). This poster is based on an original paper by Richard Gawel, A. Oberhalster and I. Leigh Francis that was published in the *Australian Journal of Grape and Wine Research* Volume 6 (3) pages 203-207, 2000 and entitled "A 'Mouth-feel Wheel': terminology for communicating the mouth-feel characteristics of red wine". This ASVO reproduction of their original 'wheel' is a useful resource for researchers, educators and marketers.

The ASVO poster lists 53 plain language descriptors of red wine grouped within 13 sets of distinguishing features, most of which fall under two broad groupings: 'feel' and 'astringency'. Within 'feel', representations include 'weight', 'texture', 'heat' and 'irritation'. Within 'astringency', representations include 'particulate', 'surface smoothness', 'complex', 'drying', 'dynamic', 'harsh' and unripe. In offering an hierarchical set of terms that can be used to convey mouth feel, special provision is made for two additional descriptors viz. 'flavour' and 'acidity'. Flavour 'equates to perception of volatile components' and is subdivided further into 'concentration', 'activity' and 'lift'; while 'acidity' is subdivided into 'metallic', 'steely', 'sour' and 'soapy'.

The original authors went to great lengths to ensure all attributes were scored objectively, and provide comprehensive definitions of the terms employed. In this way, tasters can be assured of a functional and meaningful terminology in describing red wine characteristics.

The mouth-feel wheel costs only \$15 (+ postage and handling) for a full colour, A3 sized laminated poster. Please contact Val Rechner at ASVO to order a copy. During business hours, phone (08) 8303 6607. Alternatively, please feel free to fax (08) 8303 6803 or send an email to admin@asvo.com.au



COOPERATIVE
RESEARCH CENTRE
for
VITICULTURE

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Winetac is a core participant of the CRCV.

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