

2014 REGIONAL AVERAGE GRAPE PRICES SOFTEN AGAIN

It will come as no real surprise to many growers the 2014 Riverina farm gate returns decreased in average terms by around 4% from the previous season. Production also declined by 10% from the 2013 season even when taking into account the frost that potentially wiped out 60,000 tonnes of fruit in the region.

The price decline is unfortunately symptomatic of an industry in decline and follows the downward pricing trends in other major regions.

Emerging varieties such as Muscat A Petit Grain Blanc and Muscat Gordo Blanco maintained production levels but were impacted in price by 23% and 30% respectively. These varieties were the hardest hit in the region and while production is currently off a small base the market signals exist that growers should be aware if they are considering planting these.

Growers need to be mindful when looking at this report and comparing it to what they received as the report uses averages.

The Riverina region can be divided into a 2 speed market. One is moving steadily and predominately export based. The other is based around domestic sales and the lower price offers reflect this.

Low returns and reduced yields across the region resulting from the frost in 2013 are impacting negatively on the viability and sustainability of the region. Such impacts are signalling that the industry is suffering and as a result many growers are being forced to remove vines. Many growers have had to make the decision to

exit winegrape production. Some have been able to sell their vineyards while others are looking to enter into other activities/commodities on farm. Growers wishing to discuss the report can call the office.

Riverina	2014	2013	%	2014	2013
Cabernet Sauvignon	\$382	\$386	-1%	18,091t	21,717t
Chardonnay	\$274	\$288	-5%	51,767t	54,381t
Colombard	\$157	\$181	-13%	8,480t	10,599t
Durif	\$389	\$418	-7%	3,919t	4,448t
Merlot	\$344	\$362	-5%	17,459t	20,922t
Muscat A Petit Grains Blanc	\$286	\$371	-23%	10,330t	10,177t
Muscat A Petit Grains Rouge/rose	\$323	\$377	-14%	684t	605t
Muscat Gordo Blanco	\$248	\$354	-30%	5,741t	5,094t
Petit Verdot	\$308	\$285	8%	1,643t	2,487t
Pinot Gris	\$364	\$338	8%	16,605t	14,473t
Pinot Noir	\$411	\$442	-7%	3,368t	3,306t
Riesling	\$235	\$278	-15%	2,787t	3,662t
Ruby Cabernet	\$282	\$301	-6%	5,181t	7,402t
Sangiovese	\$213	\$227	-6%	420t	445t
Sauvignon Blanc	\$280	\$318	-12%	13,485t	11,777t
Semillon	\$236	\$233	1%	30,514t	34,621t
Shiraz	\$351	\$365	-4%	56,634t	70,773t
Traminer	\$317	\$349	-9%	6,274t	6,168t
Verdelho	\$200	\$256	-22%	3,129t	4,366t
Viognier	\$253	\$249	2%	2,119t	4,065t

Source: Winegrape Purchases: Price Dispersion Report 2014 & 2013

Riverina Winemakers Association vintage production report 2014 & 2013

CONTENTS

	Page
Board Activities Report	2
Grower Online Survey Results	3
Finlaysons Wine Roadshow - WET Rebate	4-5
The Riverina Business Enterprise Centre	6
Wine for Wine Industry in Pacific countries	6
Murray Darling Basin Update - 2 years in	7
Black-foot fungi in vines treated by midrow crop	8
Important Diary Dates	8

BOARD ACTIVITIES REPORT



MOU signed with chemical company Nufarm: The Board through its membership with Wine Grape Growers Australia has signed with, WGGA, Wine Grape Council of South Australia, Murray Valley Winegrowers, Australian Wine Research Institute and Nufarm. Nufarm is investing in trials to determine the residual effects of Phos Acid applications at a number of rates and times within the growing season. The outcomes of the trial work will inform the submission to Codex that it believes will ultimately be adopted by the Chinese Government as the maximum residue level (MRL) allowable for Phos Acid residues in wine.

The MOU binds the Board to publish the material coming from the trials verbatim. The Board will acknowledge Nufarm in the process and write about the proposed product name "Phostrol" to be marketed by Nufarm.

Agri-Options Workshop hailed a major success: The Board are pleased to advise that the options workshop that it held recently at Calabria Family Wines was a great success. Over 60 attendees were at this event and it provided the regions producers and service providers an overview of some of the alternatives currently available for land owners.

Invitations were sent to each grower and while not all interested persons could attend the Board is looking to hold this type of workshop again in the future.

NSW Small Business Commissioner to review the industry: In late September staff from the Small Business Commissioners office, Business Enterprise Centre and Small Biz Connect travelled through the region looking at the issues facing growers and looking for ways that they can assist growers in the current market. They also held meetings with the local Council, Griffith Business Chamber and representatives of wineries to get an overall picture of the problems affecting the industry.

As an industry representative body it is important that government understand your issues directly. The Board invited a small group of producers to meet collectively with the representatives. If others want to contact the SBC to discuss the industry please feel free to do so. The Board office is more than willing to provide the contact details of the most relevant persons that you could confidentially raise matters of concern with.

Social Media additions to the Board: Growers wanting to see what activities the Board gets up to on Social Media should jump onto the Board's website www.wgmb.net.au and look at the bottom of the home page. The three social media programs that the Board now uses are linked to this page.

The Board is now on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Each program has its own pros and cons and collectively they provide a valuable platform for the Board to promote the region and the wines that are made and crafted here. Growers should watch our YouTube feed as more and more exciting videos about the region are in the pipeline. You can subscribe to a YouTube channel and receive notifications of updates.

Finlayson's Roadshow: Board representatives attended the roadshow held 21st August at Baratto Wines. A report on the WET Rebate issue from that event is included in this Vine Chat.

Vine Removal Scheme - Road to nowhere: The Board formally advises that the NSW Government does not consider the purchase of irrigation water to fund a vine removal scheme as an appropriate use of funds. A letter to growers relating to this was recently posted.

Riverina Wine Show Trophy Presentation: The Board presented McWilliam's Wines with the 2014 award for the best still wine made from Riverina winegrapes. This was for the Durif that was grown by the Delves family. The award was presented by the Board's IDO and was received by Grant Delves on behalf of McWilliams Wines at the Riverina Wine Show dinner held at Griffith Pioneer Park.

Grower Survey to look at industry conditions: The Board approved the development of an online survey that looks at the financial conditions growers are currently operating in. The survey which is online is reported on in this newsletter.

DPI Viticulture Development Officer appointed: NSW DPI has filled the vacancy left by Jason Cappello's resignation. Mr Darren Fahey will now be based in Wagga Wagga at the National Wine & Grape Industry Centre.

Statutory Fees and Charges return cheques not presented: The Board took up a number of cheques that related to the return undertaken in 2013. A sum of around \$1,900 is still needed to be returned to growers. These cheques have yet to be presented.

GROWER ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

In August 2014 the Board emailed growers a link to a survey it created. The Board also had hard copies of this survey available for growers to complete the survey that do not have internet access. Please call the office and a hard copy survey can be forwarded to you.

For growers that did not receive the email but can access the internet you can find the survey at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JNC37DG>

To date the office has received 36 responses (approximately 10% of the grower base). The results of the survey are below (comments have been edited):

Q. What is your age group?

51% of the respondents are 51 years and older.

Q. What is the size of your vineyard holding?

71% of respondents have vineyards greater than 21 hectares in size.

Q. What percentage of your 2014 harvest did you sell below the cost of production?

37% of growers sold 100% of their crop below the cost of production. Only 1 grower surveyed did not sell below the cost of production.

Q. What percentage of your 2014 harvest did you not harvest?

25% of growers did not harvest a percentage of their 2014 crop.

Q. What percent Equity do you currently have in your vineyard?

Comments: 10% of growers have 0% equity in their vineyards 26% of growers have between 10 and 50% equity.

Q. If prices for winegrapes do not increase how many seasons can your business survive for?

25% of growers advised they could hold out for another 12 months.

Comments: Business only survives because the bank keeps lending to us. I would like to exit the industry but cannot recoup money invested in the farm. Luckily we have other business interests. We could not survive on grapes. Wine grapes are part of our business structure, Singularly, wine grape production has not been viable for at least 4 years and as such business longevity based solely on wine grape production would not last more than two years under current pricing.

Q. If the industry does not recover will you look to remove wines and invest in another commodity.

50% of people said they would remove and 50% said they would not.

Comments: The costs of removal is high. Would look to sell water and get out of agriculture. Cannot afford to invest in other commodities as all funds have been used to prop up the vineyard. Why bother - sick of working for public servants and industry representatives while getting nothing back. Looking to plant more citrus if funds are available.

Q. Do you have a home for all or some of your production in 2015?

80% of growers advised that they have a home for 2015.

Comments: Winery told us to try and find a home for half of our grapes, as they could not promise us to take our full crop. Yes but at prices below the cost of production. Some of the crop sold. Am able to sell the crop but the prices are pathetic.

Q. During the past 5 years have you had to work more off-farm to remain financially viable?

82% of growers advised yes.

Comments: No I just don't employ anyone anymore, work seven days a week for the last five years. Currently have a full time job. Other family members need to do transporting for other farmers to try and survive.

Q. Do you or a member of your family read the WGMB Vine Chat newsletter?

92% of growers said that they did.

Q. Do you or a family member use social media, i.e. Facebook or Twitter for example?

61% of growers advised yes.

Q. How do you rate the services of the WGMB?

In a score of 1-10 the average response was 5.29

Q. Does the Board represent value for money?

In a score of 1-10 the average response was 5.27

Comments: We need a Board but you should scale back in this recession. The Board is redundant, has been since it lost its powers to invest (sic) the crop. It is now just a very expensive overhead a tax we can not afford. It should be recommending its own closure. It is not the Boards fault that prices are so low.

FINALYSONS WINE ROADSHOW - WET REBATE

In August 2014 Finlaysons "Australian Wine Lawyers" hosted their annual Wine Roadshow for industry on relevant topics. The Board CEO attended the workshop to hear about Mathew Brittingham, Senior Associate with Finalysons present his report on the Wine Equalisation Tax - Back to the Future.

The following article contains a number of direct quotes from the presentation material provided to attendees by Finalysons on the day.

History of the WET Rebate

The WET Rebate was initially introduced as a \$42,000 per annum cellar door subsidy to provide assistance to small and medium sized winemakers and to promote employment in regional areas. Over the next 6 years, the WET rebate (following lobbying by the WFA) expanded to a \$500,000 per annum rebate available to all producers, including "virtual blenders" and New Zealand producers. Such expansion resulted in the WET rebate paid to producers increasing from \$60 million per annum in the 2004/05 financial year to \$280 million per annum in the 2012/13 financial year.

As the WET rebate has changed those persons that can access it have also changed and have obviously grown in number. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the increase in WET rebate claims is having a direct impact on the price offers to growers in the market. This is based on the case that if parcels of wine are able to receive the rebate they can be sold at a lesser price than parcels that may not be able to receive the rebate.

Please note that the rebate is only applicable per ABN and not per wine label.

From humble beginnings in 2000 the WET rebate has gone through a number of changes that have increased the rebate provided and opened up the ways that it can be claimed and by whom. Some in the industry now suggest that this opening up has led the WET rebate away from its original intention of benefiting small to medium wineries and promoting employment in regional areas.

In 2005 the WET rebate was extended to New Zealand producers. This was done to enable Australia to satisfy

its obligations under the Australia and New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement of 1983. To be eligible to claim the WET rebate NZ producers needed to produce the wine in New Zealand, export that wine to Australia and be subject to paying the WET on that wine when it was sold.

It has been stated in the past that other international producers of wine are now claiming the WET rebate on sales in Australia. According to the workshop it is not easy to determine whom is claiming the rebate. The industry is not privileged in getting the information from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and the claimants need only complete a legitimate Business Activity Statement and claim the rebate as a line item.

Industry should be comforted that the ATO is constantly auditing and reviewing claimants of the rebate to ensure that there are no false claims.

Winemakers Federation of Australia position on WET Rebate

The WFA in December 2013 following increasing pressure and discussion amongst its diverse membership base released an action plan highlighting (among many other issues) the WET rebate as an issue for industry that needed to be addressed.

The WFA noted that its consultation with industry confirmed that the WET rebate "remains an important revenue source for small and medium winemakers" and that "without the rebate a significant number of wine businesses would be severely impacted financially".

WFA also noted that "the rebate has been factored into business models and pricing strategy at all points in the supply chain" and that "at this point in time, the majority of the industry supports the retention of the rebate."

WFA also acknowledged that the rebate has "evolved beyond its original intent and is being compromised by the ability of brokers, intermediaries and foreign-based entities to access the entitlement". WFA are therefore arguing that changes to the rebate are needed so that it can be "accessed only by those who make a

The ATO are currently auditing WET Rebate claims and to date have received \$32 million in claims back from industry from incorrectly made claims. Penalties have also applied.

(Continued on page 5)

FINALYSONS WINE ROADSHOW - WET REBATE (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

contribution to regional communities", in Australia, in line with the original policy intent.

Therefore if your business has winegrapes made into wine and then these are packaged and sold to consumers you fall within the original intention of the rebate. However it is commonly known that many claiming the rebate are doing so on bulk unbranded wines only.

WFA is currently working in partnership with the ATO to understand and identify uncommercial arrangements designed principally to access the WET rebate, and sort out what can be done to eliminate these.

The Wine Grapes Marketing Board has been asked by its growers at its most recent Annual General Meeting that it should expend statutory funds in an effort to stamp out rorting of the WET Rebate. With this in mind the Board has in the past instigated a review of licencing within NSW on the basis that a number of licence holders in the region where not owners of vineyards and therefore should not have been holding a licence. Unfortunately the same ruling applied to a large number of existing local wineries that also do not own their own vineyards.

The Board has met with Michael McCormack, Member for Riverina and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance a number of times to express its concerns about the impacts on winegrape prices that an increase in claiming of the WET Rebate was having on the industry.

Recently the Board asked if the Government could provide a hotline number that concerned participants within the industry could call if they knew of rorts occurring in relation to the WET Rebate.

The other matters of concern raised with the local member were:

- The explosion in claims for the WET Rebate are causing major distortions in the domestic wine market leading to farm gate prices trending below the costs of production.
- The current WET Rebate rorting being investigated by the ATO with the assistance of the Australian Federal Police needs to be made public in the event

of actual convictions. The industry needs to be made aware that rorting is being stamped out. It will also serve as a reminder to persons (that may be concerned about their own business dealings) to come forward. It is understood that persons genuinely not aware that their business dealings are illegal whom come forward will receive a lighter financial penalty on top of having the repay any overpayment of funds they may have received from the ATO.

- The WET Rebate should go back to its original intent, i.e. to benefit rural communities. This means that the rebate should apply only to cellar door sales direct to consumers, not retail sales at liquor outlets or sales of bulk products.
- The Board is concerned that the federal Government is only taking on advice from those that are claiming the rebate rather than those that are being effected by the rebate, i.e. growers farm gate returns.

WFA Plans to fix the issue

The WFA want to see the WET Rebate phased out for bulk and unbranded wine. WFA believes that branding enables producers to develop customer loyalty, and thereby generate sustainable profits, which can be *"reinvested back into regional communities and infrastructure"*. On the other hand, WFA believes that sales of unbranded bulk wine, cleanskins and private labels are not conducive to building sustainable businesses and therefore do not play a *"long term role in encouraging regional development"*.

The WFA proposes that the WET Rebate should be limited to producers who *"sell wine in a form that is packaged ready for retail sale and where the finished product is identifiably theirs."* However to allow the industry time to adjust, WFA is recommending that the WET rebate on bulk (defined as wine in containers over 25 litres) and unbranded wine, be phased out at 25% per year, starting at 75%.

A phase out period would allow adjustment to occur but as it stands many growers are hurting from the unintended impacts of the rebate and perhaps it should be removed sooner rather than later.

Approximately 200 New Zealand wine producers claim up to \$25 million in WET Rebate annually from their sales of wine into Australia.

THE RIVERINA BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRE

Who are we? The Riverina Business Enterprise Centre [BEC] is a community based not-for-profit organisation helping build resilient and sustainable businesses in our region. Based in Wagga Wagga the Riverina BEC has since 1990 provided advice and information to more than 22,200 business enquiries. Currently two mobile business advisors service respectively the Eastern and the Western Riverina. In association with the Murray Hume BEC we have since 2012 managed the NSW Office of the Small Business Commissioner's specialised business advisory service *SmallBiz Connect*

What are our aims?

We seek to:-

- provide quality advisory services as a 'one stop shop' for local small to medium-sized businesses across the Riverina
- identify local needs of both business intenders and existing businesses and wherever possible meet those needs with tailored advice, information, training, and mentoring
- wherever possible assist and stimulate local economic growth and job creation
- cover all stages of the business life cycle: those considering and starting up a new business; growing your business; driving for growth; or planning for succession

How do we work? In practice, the Riverina BEC focus

is on the 'business of business'. All our advisors have been owner/operators and so we understand the practicalities of 'wearing many hats' including, sales and marketing, purchasing, HR, finance, and of course your many compliance obligations. We seek to guide you through the maze of those many responsibilities and where necessary identify those that have greater priority. Our service is confidential and is provided to you at no-cost / low-cost.

Our service is unique: full-time skilled business advisors providing a 1:1 mobile service to our region at no-cost or low-cost to you; supported by specialist advisors available to you on request with accounting, marketing, retail and other skills; and equipped with sharp tools of business diagnosis such as the *SmallBiz Connect* Business Health Check

To help us in this broad role, we liaise with other private services and with government services to business. We can identify and recommend complementary specialist services that can further assist you in meeting your business goals and help boost your profits.

We welcome your enquiry: The Riverina BEC is at 66-70 Coleman Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650. Contact us there on telephone 02 6925 6588; or email us on bus.support@riverinabec.com.au. Western Riverina Mobile Business Advisor is **Paul Crack**. Contact Paul on telephone 0409 494 492 or email pcrack@riverinabec.com.au

WINE FOR WINE INDUSTRY IN PACIFIC COUNTRIES

Originally titled "Win for wine industry with Pacific countries agreeing on standardising chemical residue limits.

The Australian wine industry says an agreement by Pacific countries to standardise their acceptable limits of chemical residue in wines will lead to millions of dollars in savings.

A meeting of the APEC Wine Regulatory Forum has agreed to start work on setting maximum residue limits for agricultural chemicals in wines.

Currently, every country has its own rules for setting maximum residue limits.

Some countries, like China, won't accept any level of commonly used vineyard sprays, like the fungicide phosphorus acid, used to combat downy mildew in wet years.

Tony Battaglione, the Winemakers Federation of Australia's general manager of strategy and international affairs, says the new limits, which are still being negotiated, could take up to two years to come into effect and will have big benefits for Australian vineyards, winemakers and exporter.

"It means that you can just produce one batch of wine that can be sold in any market in the world, so it's tremendously exciting in that we have flexibility to produce wine according to one method that can go anywhere in the world," Mr Battaglione said.

"It will save millions of dollars. It will increase efficiencies. It will help the whole supply chain activity."

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-18/nrn-wine-residue/5752988>

MURRAY DARLING BASIN UPDATE - 2 YEARS IN

This article draws from the MDBA publication titled *"The Basin Plan 2 years in"* published September 2014. (almost 70% of the surface water recovery target of 2,750GL).

The central objective of the Murray Darling Basin Plan is to ensure a healthy working river system: In 2013-14 the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder had 1,449GL in its water account.

It involves:

- Recovering water through infrastructure investment and efficiency programs.
- Efficient delivery and effective use of water for the environment.
- Devising smarter ways of managing rivers.
- Improving the operation of water markets.
- Continuing to address water quality and salinity issues.
- Determining the plan's effects on communities, business (including agriculture production), plants, animals and the environment. *(Also know as the triple bottom line).*

All of these activities occur in a framework of cooperation between the Murray Darling Basin Authority, the Australian government and Basin state governments.

According to the MDBA progress to date has been good. They report that all of the tasks in the Plan to date and deadlines agreed with governments have been met.

Infrastructure investment

More than \$2.2 billion has been spent on infrastructure since 2007-08.

As at 30 June 2014, 580 gigalitres long term average annual yield had been contracted to be recovered through infrastructure projects.

1,150 on-farm irrigation projects have been funded and in-principle approval for a further 476 projects have occurred.

Water for the environment

The first Annual Watering Priorities at both the regions and Basin scale were prepared by States and MDBA for 2013-14 and 2014-15. MDBA also prepared and released an Environmental Watering Outlook for 2014-15. MDBA has released a draft Basin-wide environmental watering strategy to seek public comment.

By 30 June 2014 around 1,904 gigalitres of environmental water has already been recovered

Sustainable Diversion Limits - adjustment

The sustainable diversion limit is the amount of water that can be sustainably taken from the basin's rivers. The Basin Plan determines that the basin-wide surface water SDL is 10,783GL (annual long term) and each river catchment in the basin has its own SDL.

The Basin Plan provides an opportunity in 2016 to change the limit up or down as long as the environmental outcomes remain equivalent to those in the Basin Plan and there are neutral or better social and economic effects.

Smarter ways of managing rivers - constraints

A constraints management strategy was released in November 2013. It identified areas where changing constraints would provide the best environmental gains. Inundation maps have been prepared to inform land owners. MDBA has developed community consultation networks in key locations.

Development of community consultation networks has occurred.

Water Resource Plans

The MDBA and Basin states have agreed a work program for Water Resource Plan accreditation. MDBA has published a handbook for practitioners - water resource plan requirements.

Agreement has been reached on the monitoring and reporting requirements on surface on water diversions from all Basin water resources to ensure SDL compliance is in place from June 2019.

Water markets and water trading

New water trade rules commenced on 1 July 2014. The new rules improve the operation of the water market in the Basin by: increasing the transparency of the market, improving rules for disclosure and by reducing restrictions on trade.

Evaluation progress - social, economic and environmental effects.

Being able to measure the difference the Basin Plan has made, measuring the impact and adopting accordingly is fundamental in gaining confidence.

BLACK-FOOT FUNGI IN VINES TREATED BY MIDROW CROP

Summary: Decline of newly planted, grafted grapevines is a serious viticultural problem worldwide. In the Riverina characteristic symptoms include low fruit yields, very short shoots and severely stunted roots with black, sunken and necrotic lesions. A replicated vineyard field trial was established in 2013 in Yenda to examine the efficacy of a number of different brassica biofumigation methods to decrease the severity and incidence of black-foot fungi (*Ilyonectria* spp.) in soil and grapevine roots. This trial was expanded in 2014 to include a site in Hanwood. Incorporation into soil of brassica/biofumigation crops and their seed meals causes the release of toxic chemicals, known as isothiocyanates. These chemicals are toxic to soil borne fungi as well as to nematodes and some insects.

Treatments Used: Control; Low rate mustard 2t/ha seed meal buried under-vine; High rate mustard 4t/ha seed meal buried under-vine; Deactivated mustard seed meal buried under-vine (seed meal (wetted and heated at 70 °C for 48 hr to remove glucosinolates/ITC)

Fungicide with activity against *Ilyonectria*: root drench under-vine as positive control; Mustard seeds sown in inter-row, plants slashed and side thrown and buried at flowering; Low rate (3.1kg/panel) canola seed meal buried under-vine; High rate (6.2 kg/panel) canola seed meal buried under-vine.

Results: *Pruning weights, June 2013:* Before the treatments were applied, pruning weights were 22% lower for diseased than for uninfected grapevines ($P < 0.001$).

Bunch number at harvest, January 2014: At the end of the first season, bunch numbers were 20% lower for diseased than for healthy control grapevines. Three treatments increased the bunch numbers of diseased grapevines: fungicide root drench (36% increase); deactivated mustard seed (32% increase); and 4t/ha mustard seed meal (26% increase) ($P = 0.003$).

Yield, January 2014:

Yields were 28% lower for diseased than for healthy

control grapevines. Two treatments increased the diseased grapevine yields: deactivated mustard seed (51% increase); and 4t/ha mustard seed meal (61% increase) ($P < 0.001$).

None of the treatments caused changes to berry quality (phenolics, anthocyanins, titratable acidity or pH).

Pruning weights, June 2014:

The pruning weights in June 2014 were 35% lower for diseased than for uninfected control grapevines, but this result was not statistically significant.

The canola seed meal and mustard plant shoot treatments had no effects on plant growth by the diseased grapevines.

Discussion

Both active and de-activated mustard seed meal were successful in increasing the bunch numbers and yields for the diseased grapevines. In agreement, Zasada et al. (2009) reported that both active and de-activated mustard seed meal resulted in a significant increase in plant parasitic nematode suppression. They suggested that this suppression may have been caused by increased growth of suppressive fungi in the soil.

In conclusion, mustard seed meal applied undervine at the rate of 4t/ha (with and without glucosinolates) significantly improved the growth and yield parameters of grapevines infected with *Ilyonectria* spp.

There were 5 replicates of eight treatments in 2013/14.

Field walk

This trial has been continued and expanded for 2014/15, with a site a trial site at Steven Barbon's property in Hanwood established this season. **The WGMB will be holding a vineyard BBQ lunch and field walk on the 10th October from 12 noon – 2pm where interested growers can come and see the trial, and chat with the researchers involved. Please contact the Board office for further information and to RSVP for catering purposes.**

VINEYARD REMOVALS - IT IS VITAL TO KNOW THE DETAILS

The Board is asking that growers contact the office to advise of any farm changes that may have occurred.

WINE GRAPES MARKETING BOARD - proudly serving winegrape producers since 1933

182 Yambil Street (PO Box 385) GRIFFITH NSW 2680 Phone: (02) 6962 3944 Fax: (02) 6962 6103

Email: board@wgmb.net.au Web: www.wgmb.net.au Office Hours: 8:30am - 5:00pm Mon - Fri

Disclaimer: The Wine Grapes Marketing Board Newsletter is for the information of constituted winegrape growers. The Board accepts no responsibility for the actions or potential financial losses of individuals or companies taken as a result of acting on information contained in this newsletter. The information contained in this newsletter comes from various referenced sources and is often edited, changes in the meaning of items from their original context when edited may occur and is not an intentional act by the Board. All editorial comments made do not reflect those of the Board members and are provided only to stimulate discussion on topics raised.