

## VINTAGE REPORT 2016

Wine Australia has just released the Vintage Report for 2016.

At a glance:

- Crush up by 6 per cent to an estimated 1.81 million tonnes
- Crush in warm irrigated regions down 0.6 per cent and cool/temperate regions up 26 per cent.
- Red crush increased its share from 50 per cent to 52 per cent of the total crush.
- Cabernet Sauvignon up by 20 per cent and Shiraz up by 7 per cent.
- White crush up 2 per cent overall.
- Chardonnay up by 6 per cent and Sauvignon Blanc up by 11 per cent; Pinot Gris and Semillon decreased by 4 and 6 per cent respectively.
- The total estimated value of the Australian winegrape crush is \$951million—up 21 per cent from \$788 million in 2015.
- Average purchase prices paid increased across the board:
  - Reds up by 13 per cent
  - Whites up by 12 per cent
- Overall up by 14 per cent, due to a higher proportion of reds.
- Average price across all varieties is \$526 per tonne (Nationally) the highest since 2009.
- The proportion of winery-owned fruit increased from 28 per cent of the crush in 2015 to 32 per cent in 2016 (signally a higher level of ownership and yield in these vineyards).
- On page 5 of this newsletter is a full roundup of the production and prices paid for 2016 in the Riverina. Please note that the average is based on all the figures in the region. Therefore if a winery is consistently paying higher prices than the rest in a region and are taking large volumes of winegrapes the impact of this will be noticeable in the report.
- 100,000 tonnes increase across Australia is not significant but the increase in the temperate regions is telling of a rise in the demand for premium grapes.

## Change by state and region

State/regions	2016 tonnes	2015 tonnes	% change 2015-16	% of crush 2016
<b>South Australia</b>	926,430	798,097	16%	51%
Langhorne Creek	68,090	43,348	57%	4%
Barossa Valley	61,580	49,790	24%	3%
McLaren Vale	46,433	31,668	47%	3%
Riverland	517,577	505,863	2%	29%
<b>Murray Darling – Swan Hill</b>	416,966	425,150	-2%	23%
<b>New South Wales</b>	348,441	367,271	-5%	19%
Hunter Valley	3,034	5,593	-46%	0%
Mudgee	1,997	3,215	-38%	0%
Riverina	311,639	324,550	-4%	17%
<b>Victoria</b>	63,933	70,011	-9%	4%
Mornington Peninsula	3,198	2,097	53%	0%
Rutherglen	1,907	2,357	-19%	0%
Yarra Valley	9,378	11,652	-20%	1%
<b>Western Australia</b>	39,055	33,549	16%	2%
Great Southern	7,615	5,459	39%	0%
Margaret River	20,639	18,925	9%	1%
Pemberton	2,805	2,062	36%	0%
<b>Tasmania</b>	10,214	8,016	27%	1%
<b>Queensland</b>	2,168	694	212%	0%
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	-	24	-100%	0%
<b>Warm inland regions</b>	1,259,180	1,266,499	-0.6%	70%
<b>Cool/temperate regions</b>	548,027	436,312	26%	30%
<b>Total tonnes</b>	1,807,207	1,702,811	6%	100%

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## BOARD ACTIVITIES REPORT



**Griffith Centenary Parade:** The Board is grateful for the assistance of Serafin Ag Pro and Codemo Machinery Services for assisting the Board in ensuring that the grape industry will be represented at the Centenary Parade down the main street.

**Riverina Regional Tourism:** The Board has allocated \$5,000 in promotions funding to advertise the region and the forthcoming Lunch in the Vineyard event to be held 2nd October 2016. The funds will be to ensure that the Riverina winegrape industry is well represented in the forthcoming Spring and Summer edition of the digital magazine Inside Riverina.

**Grower Workshops:** The Board facilitated a series of workshops presented by the Business Enterprise Centre for grape growers recently. These were on Succession Planning, Understanding Contracts and Financial matters. These were well attended by local business with some minor attendance by grape producers.

**Meeting with NSW Minister for Primary Industries:** The Board Chair and CEO meet with Minister Niall Blair in Sydney to raise the Board's concerns over payment terms in the region. Since the Board's legislation ceased many growers are not getting paid in accordance with the agreement that they have signed. This is a disappointing position for the region to be in. Growers are not getting paid enough per tonne and then many are having to wait for payments to arrive.

Growers are encouraged to let the Board know about these occurrences. The Board can still provide advise and put growers in contact with mediation services and legal representatives that can assist growers. The Board is also proposing to the NSW Government that legislation be reintroduced to allow the Board to act on behalf of growers in recovering funds.

The entire state of South Australia has legalisation that is designed to assist growers and regional business in terms of knowing when payments will be paid to its customers. The legislation also is there to prevent wineries from purchasing grapes when they have not paid for their purchases from the prior year.

**Meeting with Senator Anne Ruston:** The Board held a meeting with the Senator to discuss the issues that it has with the WET Rebate and the impacts that the

rebate is having on the industry. As growers would be aware the Government has proposed many changes to the WET Rebate and unfortunately it will make it harder for people the industry to claim it over time. The Board is continuing to propose that it be removed entirely.

**Meeting with the Minister for Roads and his Chief of Staff:** During the Board Chairman and CEO visit to NSW Parliament House they literally bumped into the Minister for Roads. The issue of minor overloading breaches was raised as it had at the time been reported to the Board that a grower had been fined for 150kgs overloading this season. The grower alleged that the Roads and Maritime Services staff had pulled his vehicle over on the roadside and seized his delivery dockets that showed minor loading breaches. These were then confirmed by checking winery records and the fines were sent out many weeks after the actual offence. Overloading in the paddock is a difficult thing to manage and the 3% tolerance scheme or benefit of the doubt policy developed by the Riverina Winemakers Association for the past years is actually not a legal instrument and cannot be relied on to limit growers liability under the current Chain of Responsibility legislation.

If growers are caught overloading you could be fined - it is that simple This is despite the Board talking to the Government about this and seeking to have a 5% system in place.

Originally the Board sought local council approval and received this but wineries declined to support the Board's proposal, citing higher costs for them to undertake a regulated system. They preferred to use their own system but this has not got the support of government.

**Industry Development Officer position:** The Board advises that it has currently not replaced the IDO position at the Board office. The position was advertised and while we received some interest from persons in the industry the Boarding decided to trial not replacing the position.

What this means is that we will be reducing the Wine Australia funded activities undertaken by the Boarding that was managed by the Industry Development Officer.

The Technical Officer role currently undertaken by Bridget Murray will be growers point of contact for viticultural issues and all matters relating to HACCP auditing.

## MEDIA WATCH

### *Australia's reputation for fine wines is under threat*

19-07-2016 Luke Costin/AAP, The Shout

<http://theconversation.com/australias-reputation-for-fine-wines-is-under-threat-62432>

The wine tax and its accompanying rebate are outdated and distorting the Australian wine industry. The tax is encouraging the production of cheap wines and oversupply at a time when the industry is struggling to compete internationally.

While Australian wine drinkers might not care too much about drinking non-premium wine, this comes at the expense of Australia's reputation as a premium wine producer to overseas markets.

The wine tax was originally established in 1930 as a wholesales tax, at a rate of 2.5%. Over time it was repealed and then reintroduced, steadily increasing to 41% by 1997.

With the advent of the 10% GST in 2000 the wine tax was reduced to 29% (and renamed as the Wine Equalisation Tax) so as not to alter the overall tax burden. Australian producers (and New Zealanders) can claim an annual rebate off the wine tax of A\$500,000.

From the 1980s to 2007 the Australian wine industry experienced explosive growth on the back of a low Australian dollar, exports, innovation and differentiation. This came at the expense of "old-world" wine countries (such as France and Italy).

However, since 2007 the growth changed to a contraction. Domestic wine sales have remained flat and exports declined by 38% between 2007-12.

In the wake of the oversupply of grapes and low profitability, the high wine tax has stymied the industry's ability to compete internationally. It differs to the policies of old-world wine countries and emerging competitors who impose zero or low amounts of wine tax.

This decline coincides with a higher exchange rate, emerging new competitors from New Zealand, Chile, Argentina and South Africa, and a more competitive old-world wine industry. Wine drinkers in traditional and new wine-consuming countries, such as the United Kingdom, United States and China, tend to prefer premium wines. As a result these wines have a considerable market share.

However the wine tax punishes premium winemakers

and favours voluminous cheap wine, as the Treasury's 2015 Tax White Paper reform process noted. The Australian wine tax has different impacts on consumers and producers and this creates different distortions.

It raises consumption and tax revenue but incentivises winemakers to reduce prices, downgrade product quality, reduce advertising and marketing costs. The costs of complying with the tax dissuades winemakers from investing in the quality of their wine and encourages winemakers to lower the cost of their wines due to competition.

The annual rebate of A\$500,000 that goes with the wine tax also helps inefficient producers stay afloat and is subject to widespread rorting. A Senate committee found this damages the profitability of the industry overall because of distortions it creates and the widespread rorting.

It also provides a competitive advantage to the New Zealand wine industry which increasingly accesses the rebate. NZ wine producers are not subject to the same tax compliance checks as Australian businesses, as they do not lodge an Australian income tax return or Business Activity Statement (BAS) statement, but are still able to claim the rebate. The amount NZ wine producers are claiming has grown quickly from A\$5 million in 2006-07 to A\$25 million 2013-14.

The health sector frequently calls for higher taxes on alcohol given the external costs of alcohol to hospitals and health services for alcohol abuse and other government expenditures such as police. However, the wine tax is not effective in targeting those who abuse alcohol.

The vast majority of wine drinkers drink in moderation. Also, the external costs associated with wine consumption appear to be significantly lower than other forms of alcohol.

While governments have previously cited revenue-raising as the rationale for significant increases in the wine tax, only comparatively small amounts of revenue are raised by wine taxation (0.2% of total tax revenue).

Wine should be taxed using a broadly based tax, such as a comprehensive GST set at a uniform rate. This is a fairer tax for the wine industry and aligns with the tax policies of competitor countries. This is less distortionary, far simpler, and provides a more continual revenue source for governments.



Department of  
Primary Industries

# REGISTER NOW

## JOIN US AT THE NSW DPI SPRING VINE HEALTH FIELD DAYS: GRIFFITH

Nothing ever stays the same and that extends to the development of tools once unimaginable for vineyard management. This workshop will be packed full of the latest technologies and innovative approaches to assist winegrape growers stay ahead of the curve. Hear from the experts in their field on App development,

disease modelling, drones, robotic yield assessments, lasers, novel synthetic yeasts and much more. So come along and join us for a day of practical demonstrations and fantastic presentations to bring you up to speed with what's new in viticulture.

When: 8.30 am – 3 pm  
Thursday 1 September 2016  
Where: NSW DPI  
Centre for Irrigated Agriculture  
Farm 217 Murray Road HANWOOD NSW 2680  
Morning tea and lunch provided  
Cost: Free  
Registration:  
email [darren.fahey@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:darren.fahey@dpi.nsw.gov.au)  
RSVP: Friday 26 August 2016



Wine Australia

NEW SOUTH WALES



## HACCP UPDATE

Growers that operate under the Wine Grapes Marketing Board HACCP system are to be advised that head post tags specifying the variety of the block is now a requirement under the system.

Failure to have your vineyard blocks clearly identifiable will result in a minor non-conformance being issued to the grower. This means that the matter will need to be rectified prior to an Audit Certificate being issued.

Tags can be ordered from the Board if required, the cost of the tags is \$6.60 per block/variety (4 tags) these can be numbered if growers require. Payment in full prior to order. Please contact the office for further details, we now have credit card facilities.



## RIVERINA AVERAGE PRICES REMAIN UNSUSTAINABLE FOR MANY

The Board is very concerned that the average prices listed on the opposite page do not accurately reflect the reality of what many growers are receiving per tonne for their production.

What growers need to understand is that the average price figures presented are the result of all the wineries in the region submitting a report that has them itemise the volumes of each variety sold at different price points. This is then how the results are weighted. For example is 30% of a variety is sold at \$400 and the remainder is sold at \$200 the weighted average is \$260. Thus showing that even the smaller amount of purchases at the higher price can impact on the overall weighted average. That is what we are seeing with the 2016 figures.

The media has been reporting a national average of greater than \$500 per tonne which is the highest it has been since 2009. Using an average number to report on the national crush does not do justice to what is occurring in many of the regions across the country particularly regions such as the Riverina.

While the regions weighted average sits for all varieties at \$319 per tonne (\$359 for reds and \$289 for white varieties) it does not take into account the problem that 30% of reds (26,997 tonnes) and 49% of whites (59,508 tonnes) where sold at below \$300 per tonne. 40% or 86,505 tonnes of purchased fruit was sold at less than \$300 per tonne. Such sales can be considered unprofitable for growers.

2016 RIVERINA WEIGHTED AVERAGE PURCHASE PRICE

Variety	Tonnes purchased	E <sup>f</sup> (less than \$300)	D (\$300-\$600)	C (\$600-\$1,500)	B (\$1,500-\$2,000)	A (above \$2,000)	Total value purchased	Calc avg. purch. value per tonne	Winery grown fruit	Total crushed <sup>g</sup>	Est total value ALL grapes
Cabernet Sauvignon	14,071	19%	77%	4%	0%	0%	\$5,176,260	\$368	6,709	20,780	\$7,644,255
Durif	3,713	1%	92%	7%	0%	0%	\$1,582,721	\$426	519	4,233	\$1,804,090
Lagrein	-	na	na	na	na	na	\$0		82	82	\$29,347
Mataro	240	77%	23%	0%	0%	0%	\$56,671	\$236	30	271	\$63,806
Merlot	14,270	18%	79%	3%	0%	0%	\$5,122,140	\$359	4,725	18,995	\$6,818,256
Muscat a Petit Grains Rouge/Rose	285	37%	63%	0%	0%	0%	\$93,874	\$329	447	732	\$241,181
Petit Verdot	1,822	75%	25%	0%	0%	0%	\$462,854	\$254	680	2,501	\$635,561
Pinot Noir	3,465	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	\$1,455,575	\$420	835	4,300	\$1,806,313
Ruby Cabernet	4,658	45%	55%	0%	0%	0%	\$1,484,440	\$319	908	5,565	\$1,773,778
Sangiovese	216	68%	32%	0%	0%	0%	\$56,744	\$263	133	349	\$91,737
Shiraz	45,429	38%	60%	3%	0%	0%	\$16,184,893	\$356	8,170	53,599	\$19,095,535
Other red	1,822	7%	92%	1%	0%	0%	\$672,749	\$369	2,782	4,603	\$1,700,205
<b>Red Total</b>	<b>89,990</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>\$32,348,921</b>	<b>\$359</b>	<b>26,020</b>	<b>116,010</b>	<b>\$41,704,065</b>
Arneis	-	na	na	na	na	na	\$0		60	60	\$17,246
Chardonnay	47,400	44%	56%	0%	0%	0%	\$13,490,361	\$285	14,229	61,630	\$17,540,094
Colombard	5,664	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	\$1,040,432	\$184	814	6,479	\$1,189,993
Marsanne	724	37%	63%	0%	0%	0%	\$233,235	\$322	152	876	\$282,180
Muscadelle	-	na	na	na	na	na	\$0		25	25	\$7,318
Muscat a Petit Grains Blanc	8,330	32%	68%	0%	0%	0%	\$2,195,179	\$264	3,163	11,493	\$3,028,718
Muscat Gordo Blanco	4,074	92%	8%	0%	0%	0%	\$967,520	\$238	932	5,006	\$1,188,927
Pinot Gris and Pinot Grigio	13,964	4%	96%	0%	0%	0%	\$5,986,834	\$429	3,539	17,503	\$7,503,908
Riesling	1,574	75%	25%	0%	0%	0%	\$337,828	\$215	844	2,418	\$519,117
Sauvignon Blanc	8,633	2%	98%	0%	0%	0%	\$3,190,400	\$370	3,092	11,725	\$4,332,921
Semillon	18,761	92%	8%	0%	0%	0%	\$3,997,892	\$213	4,912	23,673	\$5,044,722
Traminer	5,282	63%	37%	0%	0%	0%	\$1,343,804	\$254	2,028	7,310	\$1,859,679
Trebbiano	270	45%	55%	0%	0%	0%	\$68,515	\$254	25	295	\$74,959
Verdelho	1,946	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	\$356,507	\$183	2,097	4,043	\$740,721
Viognier	1,380	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	\$341,634	\$248	212	1,592	\$394,148
Other white	3,442	7%	93%	0%	0%	0%	\$1,496,947	\$435	1,483	4,925	\$2,141,788
<b>White Total</b>	<b>121,445</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>\$35,047,087</b>	<b>\$289</b>	<b>37,608</b>	<b>159,053</b>	<b>\$45,866,440</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>211,435</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>\$67,396,008</b>	<b>\$319</b>	<b>63,628</b>	<b>275,063</b>	<b>\$87,570,505</b>

## WINE GRAPES ATTRACT EARLY BUYER INTEREST - MURRAY VALLEY

With still six months' to go before the 2017 winegrape harvest, wineries have been active in securing grapes.

"There's far more interest at this time of the year than is usual because wine stocks have declined and the export demand for Australian wine is growing," says Murray Valley Winegrowers (MVW) Executive Officer Mike Stone.

**"It's promising that wineries are wanting to source fruit now, but it's disturbing that prices generally aren't included in the conversation. Growers could be signing supply agreements now for 2017 without being informed of prices until harvest starts, by which time it's too late to make other arrangements."**

Mike Stone says pricing provisions of the Australian Wine Industry Code of Conduct have inadvertently hindered the process of growers' being able to engage in genuine price negotiations.

"As signatories to the Australian Wine Industry Code of Conduct, several of Australia's largest wine companies release indicative prices in December. These companies are significant purchasers of fruit in the Murray-Darling and Swan Hill regions and other

companies tend to follow their lead in setting prices. This means that the majority of growers don't receive formal price advice until harvest arrives," Mike Stone explained.

"If agreeing this far in advance to sell grapes in 2017, growers deserve to know what they'll be paid, particularly as most of the cost of producing wine grapes is incurred between now and harvest. As too often is the case, growers risk being stuck with prices that fall short of covering costs."

To help generate more competition, Mike Stone says the indicative price provisions of the Code of Conduct should be scrapped to encourage more wineries to engage in meaningful price negotiations when sourcing fruit, not waiting for the release of indicative prices on the eve of harvest.

**Editors Note:** Similar is occurring in the Riverina with some wineries very interested in locking growers into contracts. However the prices being offered for red and white varieties appear to be lower than the average prices paid to growers in 2016.

Growers need to be very comfortable that they can make a viable return if they are locking into agreements for less than \$300 per tonne.

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## 16th AUSTRALIAN WINE INDUSTRY TECHNICAL CONFERENCE REPORT

**Report by Bridget Murray Technical Officer with the Wine Grapes Marketing Board.**

### Overview

I attended the 16th Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference on behalf of the Riverina Wine Grapes Marketing Board. The conference was held in Adelaide over 5 days from the 24 July until the 28 July.

Over 1200 wine industry personnel attended the technical conference and of these over 900 attended the workshops. All states of Australia were represented, with South Australia having the largest contingent. The Riverina was well represented by the wineries of the region.

The conference was very comprehensive, covering a range of themes of which several speakers, national and international discussed their views, research or predictions. In addition to these plenary session, a number of workshops were offered of which a maximum of 3 could be attended. A poster display of current and recently completed research undertaken by

various researchers from Australia and internationally was exhibited over the duration of the conference. A few of the displayed research works were also presented during the plenary sessions.

Following is a brief review of some of the plenary topics covered that seemed most relevant to the Riverina (Griffith/Leeton) region, and also an outline of the main points of the three workshops attended.

### Plenary Sessions – points of interests for Growers

#### Industry Outlook – Position and State of Play

Andrew Weeks from Wine Grape Growers Australia provided a broad overview of the 2016 Australian vintage and in general was very positive for most regions. Overall the crush was up for most regions, except for Riverina and Murray–Darling where there was a slight decline.

The wine industry as a whole in the world market is reported to be in a good place and various speakers

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spoke on Australia's largest markets and broad advice of how best to continue to maintain/increase a good status in China, US, UK, Canada and Australia. For example Danny Brager of Nielson's Beverage Alcohol Practice Area in the United States stated that the Australian wine market is second by volume overall in wine in the United States but first by volume for table wines, with Yellow Tail still holding a 3% market share. He advised Australia needs to focus more on premium wines in the US market as need to capture the interest of the newest market segment – the Millennials.

Dan Jago of Berry Bros. & Rudd in London also provided a similar message of focussing more in the top end of the market in the UK rather than middle of the road. A move to focus on regionality rather than brand Australia was also seen as important for the Australian wine industry.

## **Changing Climate**

With a warming climate and observed and documented evidence of increasingly compressed vintages, Dr Paul Petrie from SARDI/AWRI provided some options for managing vineyards to ameliorate effects of a compressed vintage. Options suggested included double pruning – that is prune again around 20-30 days post flowering which can delay maturity by up to 75 days, however yield may not be as high.

Other suggestions included: delayed pruning; use of plant growth regulators – though these are yet to be approved for use on grapevines; defoliation - again yield losses may occur; and use of anti-transpirants which delay maturity and may also have some positive effect to reduce effect of powdery mildew.

## **Vineyard Health and Diversity**

Many interesting topics were covered in this session. For example breeding for resistant varieties; genetic diversity in clones of Chardonnay and regional evaluation of Chardonnay and Shiraz clones.

Another topic was fungicide resistance in Australian viticulture by Dr Barbara Hall of SARDI. She advised that both Powdery Mildew and Downy Mildew resistance has become evident in Australia. Downy Mildew poses the biggest problem as there has been increasing resistance to Metalaxyl. Dr Hall's take home message was to use all chemicals as recommended. Timing of application is critical and do not apply chemicals at rates other than recommended as this will lead to resistance, and always refer to the AWRI Dog Book.

## **Workshops**

### **Vineyard Management to Adapt to Climate Change**

Convened by SARDI. Speakers: – Victor Sadras, Peter Hayman, Mike McCarthy, Martin Moran, Marcos Bonada - SARDI, Paul Petrie – AWRI; Gioia Small – TWE; Hans Schulz- Geisenheim, Germany.

This workshop covered varying topics from water management during drought and high heat stress to coping with shorter vintages and effects of increasing temperatures on grape quality and yield. The main theme of this session was that growers need to monitor what is going on climate wise in their region, if not more locally, and manage vine stress and water use accordingly rather than following general trends. Climate change doesn't have the same effect in all areas therefore some areas may experience lower rainfall winter whereas other areas have increased frost incidence.

### **Rootstock Development for the Australian Wine Industry**

Convened by CSIRO. Speakers: - Peter Clingeleffer, Harley Smith, Mandy Walker, Everard Edwards – CSIRO; Kevin Powell – Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; Leigh Francis – AWRI

Main areas covered included Phylloxera and nematode resistant rootstocks, development of rootstocks and efficacy. Other areas covered were choosing the most appropriate rootstock for coping with drought or efficient use of water and abiotic stress. The session was concluded with a tasting to try to determine differences in flavour and taste from the use of different rootstocks. This proved very interesting as there were quite obvious differences in some cases and some rootstocks exhibited less than desirable aroma/taste traits.

Choice of rootstock is crucial and something that should be carefully considered and not just included in a vineyard because a neighbour did or traditionally a particular type has been used in the area. Careful research into what is most appropriate for performance for a growers own vineyard should be paramount along with consideration for aroma and flavour for the end product if grapes are to be sold based on quality rather than quantity.

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## Using Soil Test Indicators and Petiole Sap Analysis data to make effective Vineyard Management decisions

Convenors and Speakers: Darren Hicks – AgVita Analytical; Ian Porter – Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; Daniel Fischl – Eartrumpet Consulting

This workshop covered importance of soil testing and petiole sap analysis and appropriate sampling times.

Soil analysis and sap nutrient determination provides an informative guide as to the best nutrient regime for a vineyard, in particular variety within a vineyard. Key to analysis though is being able to interpret the results. Most laboratories will give basic guides as to what expected levels of a particular nutrient should be. Agronomists should be able to interpret the results easily and provide best program for nutrient correction if required.

Leaf petiole collection for sap analysis is fairly quick and can/should be carried out at key development stages. It is important that samples are collected around the same time of day each time and from same area so as to gain the most accurate analysis over time.

Soil analysis is also important but this only really needs to be carried out every 3 or 4 years, main reason being time taken for corrective measures taken to show in soil analysis. It was suggested that a soil sample be collected after harvest and any deficiencies addressed as soon as possible. This is due to roots of vines still being active even though the canopy is not productive.

Whilst analysis involves a cost, in the long run savings should be made by ensuring vines are healthy, and in peak performance regarding quality.

The workshop concluded with tastings of two different producers. Each provided a Shiraz made from two different sites. It was interesting to taste quite different

qualities in the wines and importantly it turned out the better quality wines came from the vineyards most suited to that variety.

## Poster Display – Current and Recently Completed Research Projects

Just under 200 posters were displayed in the convention centre of current research being undertaken or recently completed. The posters were displayed in 13 theme groups, the main themes being: Clarification and maturation; Fermentation; Grape and wine aroma, Flavour and colour; Grape and wine business; Grapevine management and physiology; Information and technology transfer; New vineyard and winery technologies; Pest and vine disease; Phenolics in wine; Soil and irrigation management; Viticulture and the environment; Wine and grape composition and analysis; Wine and health; and Wine spoilage and contamination.

There were many interesting research projects that had relevance to the Riverina region, for example topics covering: spray coverage and drift; trunk disease projects relating to pruning and wound protection/sanitisation; sour rot in grapes; effect of berry shrivel on grape quality/composition; various phone apps for use in the vineyard; and achieving sustainability in the vineyard through sustainability programs such as Entwine Australia.

## Further Information

The above review is by no means exhaustive. Copies of the 2016 AWITC proceedings and poster abstracts can be purchased and downloaded as a PDF file once published – these will contain all abstracts of posters and speakers.

In the meantime, please contact Bridget Murray Technical Officer at the WGMB for further information relating to the conference and/or the research projects presented at the conference on 02 6962 3944.

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