

Viticultural and Oenology Committee (VOC)

MINUTES – VOC Meeting		
Wednesday 29 April 2020	10.00am	Zoom

1. Welcome/Attendance/Apologies

Present: Chris Brodie (CB), Trent Nankivell (TN), Hans Loder (HL), Martin Wirper (MW), Rae Clark (RC), Heidi Eldridge (HE), Olivia James (OJ)

Apologies: Gavin Hogg (GH), Dru Reschke (DR), Allen Jenkins (AJ), Sally Macleod (SM), Kerry DeGaris (KD), Luke Trotter (LT), Sean Murphy (SM), Catherine (Cath) Kidman (CK)

Minutes: Olivia James (OJ)

2. Minutes of the VOC Meeting held February 2020

Approved CB	Seconded HL	
		• The Minutes are also available here on the website: https://coonawarra.org/cgwi/ .

3. Actions arising previous meeting		Who	Status / Completed
4.10	Vine Improvement - Coonawarra Heritage Cabernet Selection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note not funded and optional opt in of members to participate if minimum requirements are blocks that are greater than 35 years old and unknown clonal origin. The briefing document provided by CB for CV member review and to consider in strategic plan moving forward. What are the Barossa learnings to be shared? Why have they been so successful? SARDI supported it. Government funding. Vine Improvement involved. Was there a commercial outcome recognised? HL proposed a Barossa Visit to review the situation cuttings, root to market and overview when climate permits to review scope for Coonawarra application. Action: Provide an update at General Meeting, but requires further research prior to further steps from CV wide approach. 	CK & CB	CB circulated a briefing document on 29/4.
8	Vinehealth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phylloxera Signage Visitor Campaign 	OJ	Signage perspective no further action required. Vinehealth sharing those participating online. CV following up with those with signs.
10	Welfare, Health and Safety Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk assessment workshop held in Coonawarra in December. Identified a lack of sites that had a Fire Plan. Further Disaster Relief Meeting held in VIC recently. Action: Fire planning to be reviewed and the role to play of CGWI considered further. Noted that the meeting was held by Wattle Range for Disaster Relief and CGWI has sourced this plan. 	OJ	Not discussed however subject of discussion at SAWIA given bushfires and will have a doc ready for HE to present at next meeting.
4.9	Coonawarra Rootstock Trial Contract to be finalised with 10 year term.	Vinehealth	Remains outstanding. OJ has emailed on 29/4 as relates to future budgeting.
4.11	External Education & Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed involvement in the Biodiversity Project specifically the Coonawarra Siding Plantings. Given the 18 month lead time good idea to commence discussion. 	OJ	Noted constrained by site ownership for ongoing Operations and Maintenance. OJ will follow up with KD for

3. Actions arising previous meeting		Who	Status / Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KD advised the Youth Engagement Leadership Program (YELP) Action: Explore connections – CV to assist. 		handover noting that due to COVID-19 interactions and school activity compromised.
4.13	Weather Station (HL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HL advised that we currently invest \$1.7k on this service which is a hosting cost. No ongoing calibration. There are 2 stations owned by CV and any maintenance is reactive. HL proposed to Committee that was unanimously supported that we present to General Meeting that we have a phase shutdown in first quarter 2021 and explore new possibilities with technologies. Action: Incorporate in General Meeting briefing following General Meeting this action item can be closed. 	HL	
5	Wattle Range Council funded signage. Action: OJ to send the sign locations.	OJ	Note outstanding and to follow.
8	Vinehealth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further to raising the need to revisit the Outbreak Plan for the region and to also explore further options for phylloxera controls such as booties for walking trail etc. Pre vintage we shared Phylloxera reminder in conjunction with outbreak in another region. OJ has followed up with Suzanne however with COVID-19 and the already scheduled Rootstock Trial Wine Tasting time did not permit any further briefing. 	OJ	Closing this action and including booties in Vinehealth ongoing update.
11	Welfare, Health and Safety Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smoke Taint Session to be planned for greater awareness of all impacts. CK noted that The Pennant shared the contact list CFS issued and that this can be shared with members and further to action 1 communication around bushfires and mediums to share this are to be explored. HL and OJ to meet on Wednesday 1pm to discuss handover actions from CK to commence planning for this item. Action: OJ to follow up on the above two actions and report before burn off. 	CK, HL & OJ	Closed Action. Session held on 12 March 2020 and noted that the season ends 30 th April. Permit period has demonstrated good outcomes and this will be communicated. We will also look at whether the burn off season can be brought forward.

4. Priority Projects (Note reordered based on review – see separate attachment and email)	
4.1	Coonawarra Cabernet Project (CB) PHD Student <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality assurance process is now in place for this project, to ensure that the content being prepared is reviewed by Coonawarra and Coonawarra is ready to respond to content that may require clarification. Action: CB to share the presentations this week for us to consider findings to share at General Meeting. We can also host a Zoom Webinar for a further briefing by student. Student to advise timing to set up session. Action: Summary to be incorporated in HL General Meeting Brief.
4.2	Irrigation Optimisation (Remote Sensing Technologies) Project (CK) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OJ has followed up with Vinay Pagay and shared papers. Katnook Estate and Wynns Coonawarra Estate has active sites and meeting with Vinay Pagay today to review this season and making plans for next season and can provide update this week. Questions raised for address for strategic planning. What value does this project bring to members? Potential to change irrigation for next season. Noting subject to further towers for management perspective. This is to be clarified. Outcomes to be achieved across 4 years, currently in year 2. What are we planning to achieve in years 3 and 4? Action: CB to report back on 2020/21 plan and if funding is required for budget purposes by the end of the week. Action: Vinay Pagay to provide short update at General Meeting 8:40am on 5 May 2020.

4. Priority Projects (Note reordered based on review – see separate attachment and email)	
4.3	<p>Coonawarra Rootstock Trial (MW, KD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft 10 year agreement was redrafted by OJ and circulated to the partners for review. Awaiting this to re-sign and set the plan. Limited funds required at present with no wine made this year. Not sure if they have measured the fruit yield from the rootstocks from 2019? Update to be provided. Workshop held on 13 February 2020 presented by Vinehealth, Wynns Coonawarra Estate and CV with support by LCGWC. Noted that we were planning a site walk that was cancelled due to COVID-19. <p><i>Action: Can provide an update to General Meeting and share summary.</i></p>
4.4	<p>Berry Shrivel Project (CK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OJ followed up with Vinay Pagay for a project update and schedule. VP advised “The berry shrivel project has completed as of last season and is not continuing this season as not currently funded. We can provide the Wine Australia final report as well as updates to that report for last season. As we are in middle of our field season, we could do a presentation of our work on both projects over the winter post-harvest. Would this suit? Next year’s symposium would also be great to present at.” Currently on hold and over 12 months plan the next project to recommence Vintage 2022 for multiple years. Initial findings but still a body of work to be undertaken. LCGWC and Wine Australia to advance. Questions: North South less stress than East West rows (inclusive in trial). Everything being equal there shouldn’t be a difference. Are East West on shallower soil for example? How will this impact vineyard planting? What are the key takeouts and differences in the blocks for example. <p><i>Action: Significant project and looking at scope for future of the project. Vinay to provide an update at General Meeting.</i></p>
4.5	<p>Coonawarra Biodiversity Enhancement Project (DR, RC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EcoVineyards has commenced and CV contributing \$3k that has been paid. This is committed for next financial year 2020/21. Mary is following up with sites in region for social content given workshop deferred due to COVID-19. <i>Action: RC to confirm a time and location with Jacqui and we can promote opportunity to members.</i> <p><i>Action: Noted we could incorporate biodiversity plantings in Penola in addition to the proposed Coonawarra Siding that is subject to approval of land (State owned). Committee strongly encouraged to complete the Survey for Penola Placemaking Strategy, click here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PenolaEM.</i></p>
4.6	<p>Vine Improvement (CB) See action table for the heritage scoping.</p>
5. Ongoing Commitments	
5.1	<p>Water Allocation Plan (WAP) (PB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Maintain allowance in budget.</i> <i>Action: Summarise the licence notification to members for status update given no media release. Note this is to be prepared by OJ for record purposes.</i>
5.2	<p>Coonawarra VOC Sponsorship (CB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OJ noted to be explored as opportunities present. Note we do need to be careful with committed projects and currently not a priority, but may need to be a consideration for budget planning to increase project spend on viticulture projects. Endeavour Drinks Group meet monthly with OJ and this will be handed over to HE during OJ’s maternity leave. Noted that EDG were due to come to region to participate in rootstock trial brief and site walk but given the cancellation due to COVID-19 this is put on hold. Likewise involvement in Roadshow as cancelled in 2020.
5.3	<p>Coonawarra Cabernet Symposium - 2018, 2021 was schedule (CK with support from RC, SM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted Margaret River have reached out to seek if a satellite connection can be provided to partner with the Symposium. Noted AJ’s concerns with involvement. Coonawarra to maintain hosting. Noted Australian Cabernet Symposium and process that we are reviewing for a dual event. CB reviewed with ASVO the platform (Zoom) used to set this up for their conference with multiple other satellite sites. LCGWC submitted funding application for \$10k this has been shared with CV. Note CV also approached GWC for funding. Sub Committee Meeting is 19 May 2020 (cancelled April due to COVID-19 status and inability to forecast until Cabinet Meeting on 11 May 2020) to review position on event in 2021 due to COVID-19 and the uncertainty for securing international speakers and the permission of travel and uncertainty of event provision. It was noted both the Board at last meeting and VOC further to discussion in today’s meeting recommend looking at a future date beyond 2021. <i>Action: Sub Committee to review and share outcome from next meeting.</i>
5.4	<p>External Education & Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil to report.

5.5	Weather Station (HL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See <i>action</i> table
5.6	Rail Trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted that we still do not have government approval to start any formal project. RDA Rail Review outcomes have not been shared as yet (March 2020) in conjunction with State review. Continue to advocate noted unsolicited bid went in 2019 and we will monitor.

6. Board Update and information

OJ provided an update as follows:

- Board is focused on monitoring situation of COVID-19 and impacts to business across members and association. Noted due to potential decrease in activity relating to events that the organisation will not replace OJ during maternity leave and tasks will be allocated to current resources with some re-prioritisation of activity during this period June 2020 to June 2021. OJ noted HE will be the point of contact for VOC and HE was in attendance during the meeting. OJ to commence leave 1/12 June 2020.
- Cellar Dwellers and Coonawarra Cabernet Celebrations programs have been prepared and we now monitor as cannot promote until cellar door tastings resume.
- Roadshow cancelled.
- Cabernet Symposium as advised recommendation to Sub-Committee to defer.
- Focused on grants and submitted to PIRSA for COVID-19 Recovery inclusion of e-commerce and strategy for sales until May 2021.
- Submitting to SATC on Friday for Hero Event for Cellar Dwellers and Comedy & Wine in Coonawarra expansion of GOM Saturday.
- Liaising with PIRSA, Minister Whetstone, SAWIA, AGW, WGCSA & LCGWC re industry issues and noted pruning coming up. Only outstanding query was best method of accessing work with multiple parties in one vehicle.
- PMN: Cellared museum wines are under review with Langton's for a potential auction in 2021 delayed due to COVID-19.
- Note need to follow up with Neil Power re Salinity remains on the agenda. Background: PB noted rise in salinity levels in irrigation water – testing of water and where it can be tested? DEW no longer offer. Limestone Coast Landscape Board will look at this as a service provision. Less than \$10 per sample. Traditionally levy money goes to Adelaide DEW possibility that levy money will remain. CK noted that the observation wells in this zone are of concern. The wells are a good method of observing the water under different agricultural inputs. These bores are modelled for Water Allocation Plan. Available on water connect website. Pressure needs to be applied as less and less monitoring and salinity is dropping off and it is not consistent with different times of data collection. We have what is current and last time the salinity was completed. Each year more and more are dropping off.
- General Meeting on 5 May 2020. Details emailed on Monday 27 April. Join Zoom Meeting Click: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83157268104?pwd=NU1vL0ZyV3FzeCtNN3ZLN2RrUnNaUT09>
Enter Meeting ID: 831 5726 8104 Enter Password: Coonawarra

7. Correspondence

- Weekly correspondence every Monday with the latest information and there is a big focus on COVID-19 given the situation. We are also issuing updates during the week as information is received from other parties given the changing nature of situations. We do not expect any further changes or directives until 11 May when Cabinet meets. We will review events again in June along with promotional materials that will be due for print renewal.

8. Finance

- Budget was discussed in conjunction with projects to clarify requirements of the Irrigation Optimisation Project \$5,000 and the Berry Shivel Project \$14,000. If both projects can be put on hold with scope to be confirmed for 2022 given the current COVID-19 restrictions noting that three versions of Budget have been presented to Board given the potential loss of event revenue scenarios. Noted also the approach to be presented on the Weather Station allocation of \$1,700 noting the current usage and data robustness.
- A snapshot of the Budget is below and areas highlighted that are likely to be put on hold in 2020 Budget:

Income

4-3000	VOC Miscellaneous Income		
4-3100	LCWIC Membership Fee	\$	6,475.00
4-3300	Sponsorship	\$	15,000.00
4-3650	Phylloxera Rootstock Trial	\$	-

Expenses		
6-3500	VOC	
6-3508	Water Level Monitoring	\$ 1,000.00
6-3510	LSCWIC Subs (\$0.75)	\$ 6,004.00
6-3511	Remote Sensing Project	\$ 5,000.00
6-3513	Water License	\$ 50.00
6-3514	Workshops	\$ -
6-3515	ARC Phd Study	\$ 7,500.00
6-3516	Coonawarra Environment	\$ -
6-3518	Proximal - Sensing Thermography	
6-3520	Biodiversity Enhancement Project	\$ 3,000.00
6-3521	Water Allocation Plan	\$ 2,500.00
6-3522	Berry Shrivel Project	\$ 5,000.00
6-3523	Pest & Control Disease Monitoring	\$ -
6-3600	Technical Comms	
6-3604	Phylloxera Rootstock Trial	\$ 5,000.00
6-3609	Weather Stations	\$ 1,700.00

9. Vinehealth Australia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil to report. See Action Table.

10. Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council (LCGWC) – Technical Sub-Committee update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KD not in attendance to provide an update. Action: OJ to follow up.

11. Limestone Coast Landscape (SE NRM Board)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KD not in attendance to provide an update. Action: OJ to follow up.

12. Welfare, Health and Safety Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See action table for Smoke Taint closed out. Note review of future process further to CV willingness to help with contacts list and map of region and extending the start for permits.

13. Viticulture and Onology news for social media posts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please forward pictures and updates from the vines for social media posts to marketing@coonawarra.org or tag us via Instagram @coonawarra_wine. Ideas include any activities occurring in your vineyard along with a short description please. Let's also keep photos of the project progress for ongoing updates.

14. New Business
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Meeting on Tuesday 5 May 2020. HL and VP to provide an update with support by OJ.

Next Meeting: 9:00am Tues 7 July 2020 – Zoom Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83139659487?pwd=cWNYaWEzZ1VKd3VidjBnTkj3QzFHdz09 Meeting ID: 831 3965 9487 Password: 005817

Meeting closed at 11.03am

Date	THESE MINUTES WERE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING DESCRIBED AND THE CHAIRPERSON OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE WAS DULY AUTHORISED TO SIGN THEM AS SUCH	
	Name	
	Signature	