

# **Viticultural and Oenology Committee (VOC)**

MINUTES – VOC Meeting		
Tuesday 15 December 2020	9.05am	Brands Laira Estate

#### 1. Welcome/Attendance/Apologies

Present: Hans Loder (HL), Heidi Eldridge (HE), Sally Macleod (SCM), Sean Murphy (SM)

Apologies: Kerry DeGaris (KD) Chris Brodie (CB), Trent Nankivell (TN), Rae Clark (RC), Brett Sharpe (BS), Dru Reschke (DR),

Minutes: Sally Macleod (SCM)

2. Minutes of the VOC Meeting held 15 September 2020			
Approved Seconded	•	The Minutes are also available here on the website: <a href="https://coonawarra.org/cgwi/">https://coonawarra.org/cgwi/</a> .	

3. Actions	arising previous meeting	Who	Status / Completed		
3.1	<ul> <li>Vine Improvement - Coonawarra Heritage Cabernet Selection</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Action: Provide an update at General Meeting, but requires further research prior to further steps from CV wide approach.</li> <li>15/9 - Need a co-ordinator for project – Make contact with people like Paul Petri SARDI, Mike McCarthy (Barossa) and maybe engage David Coleman (EO Adelaide Hills) to drive the project. All have hands on experience with similar projects in their respective grape growing areas.</li> <li>Funding required to pursue this project. Therefore need to seek grant money so project needs a scope.</li> <li>Action: CB to talk to Paul Petri. Hans seek information from CB on how we approach David Coleman then send email.</li> <li>15/12 – Project in a holding pattern. Need a tender document with a protocol outlining what is involved. This to be sent to consultants for quotation – Dr Richard Hamilton, Nick Drye.</li> <li>Action: Progress this for first half of 2022.</li> </ul>	CK & CB  HL to follow up with CB	CB circulated a briefing document on 29/4.  7/7 Not Discussed  15/9 As per details from last meeting.  On going		
	Welfare, Health and Safety Issues		Not discussed however		
3.2	<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>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 Relied and CGWI has sourced this plan.</li> </ul>	OJ	subject of discussion at SAWIA given bushfires and will have a doc ready for HE to present at next meeting.  7/7 Not discussed		

3. Actions	arising previous meeting	Who	Status / Completed
	15/9 – Action: Hans and Heidi to discuss creating a document for wineries outlining what they do with employees on high risk		15/12 Not discussed
	fire days.  PMN: 21/12/20 SAWIA Released Bushfire Emergency Booklte, with template for each business to create own Bushfire response plan. Available here: South Australian Wine Industry Association. (winesa.asn.au)		21/12/20 SAWIA Released Bushfire Emergency Booklet. HE Shared with CV members.
3.3	Coonawarra Rootstock Trial Contract to be finalised with 10 year term. 15/9 - TWE and VHA have agreed on contract for further 10 years. TWE still to sign. Berry Shrivel project to continue. This site also available for this project. Action: Hans to contact KD and/or Cath Kidman re a TWE contact who will oversee the site. Steve Tyerman will also need access to the site for berry shrivel work. 15/12 Action is as above. Trial is continuing. Need to know what the TWE access requirements are and who the main contact is. Contract needs to be signed off.	Vinehealth  HL to contact CK	7/7 KD noted a meeting will all partners to occur on 15 <sup>th</sup> July. Report will be provided on outcomes at Sept meeting.  15/9 As yet no report on project outcomes.  15/12 Contract still not signed off by TWE.
3.4	<ul> <li>External Education &amp; Training</li> <li>Proposed involvement in the Biodiversity Project specifically the Coonawarra Siding Plantings. Given the 18 month lead time good idea to commence discussion.</li> <li>KD advised the Youth Engagement Leadership Program (YELP)</li> <li>Action: Explore connections – CV to assist.</li> </ul>	OJ	Noted constrained by site ownership for ongoing Operations and Maintenance. OJ will follow up with KD for handover noting that due to COVID-19 interactions and school activity compromised.  7/7 Not discussed 15/9 Not discussed 15/12 Not discussed
3.5	Weather Station (HL)     HL indicated survey to members about weather stations only showed 30% using and mainly around frost period.     Action:. HL to investigate and report on alternative options to members for frost monitoring and weather data.     15/9 – The usage of the weather station information being scoped and until this is complete Pete B and Vinay have suggested keeping it running.     Action: Provide link to weather station in correspondence.	HL	15/12 see below

### 4. Priority Projects (Note reordered based on review – see separate attachment and email)

# **Coonawarra Cabernet Project (CB) PHD Student**

- CB indicated all wine (2020 unoaked CAS) has been collected and delivered to university
- PhD will offer results to contributors of wine.

4.1

# Zoom presentation on 10.12.20. Results from project discussed.

15/9 Lira analysed "big data" (some 8000 wine reviews/papers) to profile the sensory attributes of CAS wines from Coonawarra, Margaret River, Yarra Valley and Bordeaux. The main criteria used for selection of a wine by consumers was providence, variety and previous experience. Coonawarra wines were described as ripe fruit, complex and astringent. The most prevalent flavours were chocolate, dried fruit, dark fruit, mint and vanilla. The research pin points the fact that the consumer needs to understand that a wine with certain characteristics comes from a place.

Dimi described results from her quantitative analysis of several chemical compounds in CAS wines from the same regions. Very detailed with some significant differences in chemical make-up of CAS wines between regions. Especially prevalent between Bordeaux and the Australian wines and maybe due to the blends produced in Bordeaux.

	Co for those regults are only available in the sig/tophnical name forms. Individual namicination with a significant
	So far these results are only available in thesis/technical paper form. Individual participating wineries and
	CV have copies.
	Action: HL to ask that the results be provided in a user friendly format.
	Seek confirmation of where the analysis is at regards 2020 vintage wines and if there is a
	requirement for wines from the 2021 vintage.
	Possibility a field day to present results later in the year. If symposium goes ahead in 2021, results could
	be presented there.  Irrigation Optimisation (Remote Sensing Technologies) Project (CB)
	CB reported that trial to continue for 2020/21
4.2	Action: CB to follow up with Vinay to find out reporting future timelines
4.2	15/12 – Last year of project in Coonawarra - 20/21 season. Need a report answering questions as to have
	everything been achieved? Are the stress indicators mapped? And, is it ready to be rolled out for
	everyone's use?
	Action: HL to contact CB for report and answers.
	Coonawarra Rootstock Trial (MW, KD)
	KD reported that draft final report from trial provided to partners to be discussed at meeting on July ?
4.3	This meeting will resolve how the trial will be managed into the future.
	KD to report that the site would be a good fit for the Berry Shrivel work undertaken by Adelaide Uni
	15/12 – see above
	Berry Shrivel Project (CB)
	• Currently on hold and over 12 months plan the next project to recommence Vintage 2022 for multipl
	years. Initial findings but still a body of work to be undertaken. LCGWC and Wine Australia to
	advance.
	Stephen Tyerman (Adelaide Uni) resolved that they had the capacity to broaden their work to the
4.4	Coonawarra region but but would require assistance with funding travel and accommodation.
	Action: CB, HL & HE to scope "in kind" contribution by Vignerons to source accommodation and a
	study site. CB/HL to liase with Vinay Pagay and Stephen Tyerman to share travel arrangements.
	Access to the rootstock trial area has been approved and the trial will proceed this year
	Action: . HL to contact CK to find out TWE access requirements.
	Coonawarra Biodiversity Enhancement Project (DR, RC)
	• EcoVineyards has commenced and CV contributing \$3k for next financial year 2020/21. A further \$6
	over two years has been approved - \$3k 20/22 & \$3k 22/23
	Mary presented at General Meeting which was followed by a well attended field day at Penley Estat
	on Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct. Involved growers gave brief summary of where they are at with all having
	planted trees and achieving good survival rates. Mary Retallick talked about the planning of projects
	explaining what needed to be planted, where and why. There was also a presentation on birds.
4.5	Actions: HE to put a call out for interested growers for the 22/23 year. HE also to email Mary to ask whe
	the next round of projects will start. Suggestion to have an informal get together of current participants to
	prepare a dot point information sheet on lessons learnt for new growers.
	DR has finally made contact with the council regards the rail siding beautification and obtained imag
	etc. from them. Clarification of an application for a grant for this project by DR. Raised at Board
	meeting in October.
	Action: HE to contact DR to find out where he is at with the project – is he taking ownership, and where
	are the responsibilities? Also need to advise him of the development of the bike trail along the railway lin
	and the need to keep workers off the project area.
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5. Ongoing	5. Ongoing Commitments				
5.1	Water Allocation Plan (WAP) (PB)				
3.1	Not discussed				
5.2	Coonawarra VOC Sponsorship (CB)				
5.2	Not discussed				
5.3	Coonawarra Cabernet Symposium - 2018, 2021 was scheduled (CK with support from RC, SM)				
5.5	Not discussed.				
5.4	External Education & Training				
5.4	Nil to report.				
	Weather Station (HL)				
5.5	15/12 - Zoom seminar "Weather impacts on the grape sector" attended by HL and PB. Paul Bierman –				
	BOM meteorologist and Lisa Bennier from PIRSA were presenters. Concerns HL raised at the seminar				
	were the quality and reliability of forecasts surrounding frosts and rainfall events and the lack of disease				

modelling particularly with powdery mildew. Suggestion for BOM to build a PM pressure predictor relevant to this region using indicators such as temperature, hours of overcast weather and humidity. HL mentioned a forecasting resource called Meteye provided by BOM. HE to email link to member Action: HL to contact Vinay with a suggestion for a student to analyse the weather station data from the past 10 years. Future general meeting presentation idea could be BOM on the use of their forecasting resources in vineyards i.e. Meteye. Rail Trail 15/12 - Wattle Range Council have been granted Federal Government funds (\$730,000) to start rail trail project between Penola and the northern end of Coonawarra. Must be spent within 12 months so they propose to gravel this section. Proposal is to connect Penola to Naracoorte beginning on the railway line 5.6 then north of Rymills to cross road to Bellwether then wind up through pine forests to the Naracoorte Caves then in to Naracoorte. An extra \$1.3 M government funds needed to complete project. Suggestion of upcycling the railway line waste for signage off the trail to wineries etc. to name one use. Climate change and effect on water -- Proposal raised by board to promote the initiatives being undertaken in region and reinforce positive messaging on how Coonawarra is meeting the challenges of Climate Change – ie. Irrigation project, Eco Vineyards Biodiversity project. Proposal to approach Landline to undertake an article/story. Consensus that this was a good idea. 5.7 15/9 – further discussion on this proposal was had. Nuffield Scholar Richard Leschke has presented his findings on "Climate change's effects on water" and this could link in with the proposed Landline story. 15/12 – HL has been in contact with Landline – forward email to HE.

#### 6. Board Update and information

- Ecommerce project: Store live with curated mix packs being offered featuring up to 24 wineries Up to the end of November, 24 cases of a mixture of 6 and 12 bottle packs had been sold. Now offering mixed boxes of requested wines ("pick and pack") as opposed to standard packs offered at initial launch. 24 wineries now signed up.
- Cabernet celebrations Golf day very well attended with over 100 players. Decadence at Raidis Estate well attended. Visitation during October generally good.
- Salinity Important that the VOC champion this going forward and encourage all members to submit samples so that indications of the levels of salinity can be gauged over the entire Coonawarra area.

  Action: HE to resend email with sampling instructions time frame to be first samples taken before the end of October then second samples to be taken at the end of the irrigation season.
- Coonawarra Cup has also been cancelled and will be held as a normal race meeting with no marque.
- Mention needs to be made of the 25% reduction in membership fees due to Covid. Slight dissatisfaction that not
  more members have acknowledged this assistance.
- Phylloxera Outbreak Management Plan update required as last one was 2013. SCM has communicated with Vinehealth Australia who are revising their plans. Once this is complete, it will be used as a template to develop a plan for Coonawarra.
- Biosecurity Industry Liaison Officer Briefing attended via Zoom by Heidi, Pete B and SCM. Australian Grape and Wine presented a very detailed seminar on how the outbreak of an exotic pest/disease in Australia will be handled going forward. An adjunct to this is their hope of having an Industry Liaison Officer from each grape growing area. Interested people were to register with them by the 11<sup>th</sup> December. The suggestion from Pete B is not to commit at this stage knowing that Vinehealth Australia has policies and people in place to handle outbreaks in SA. There may be potential to run a simulation in the Limestone Coast.
- GMO outcome disappointing for the councils that submitted to be GMO free Barossa, McLaren Vale and the Adelaide Hills were hoping to create an exclusion zone.

7. Finance					_
4-0000	Income				
4-3000	VOC Miscellaneous Income				
4-3100	LCWIC Membership Fee	\$	6,475.00	\$	6,475.00
4-3300	Sponsorship	\$	15,000.00	\$	15,000.00
4-3650	Phylloxera Rootstock Trial	\$	-	\$	-
6-0000	Expenses			, i	
6-3500	voc				

6-3508	Water Level Monitoring	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
6-3510	LSCWIC Subs (\$0.75)	\$ 6,004.00	\$ 6,004.00
6-3511	Remote Sensing Project	\$ 5,000.00	_
6-3513	Water License	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
6-3514	Workshops	\$ -	\$ _
6-3515	ARC Phd Study	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
6-3516	Coonawarra Environment	\$ -	\$ -
6-3518	Proximal - Sensing Thermography		
6-3520	Biodiversity Enhancement Project	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
6-3521	Water Allocation Plan	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 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	\$ 5,000.00
6-3609	Weather Stations	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00

# 8. Vinehealth Australia

Nil to report.

# 9. Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council (LCGWC) - Technical Sub-Committee update

No discussion

# 10. Limestone Coast Landscape (SE NRM Board)

• No discussion

#### 11. Welfare, Health and Safety Issues

No discussion

#### 12. Viticulture and Oenology news for social media posts

• Please forward pictures and updates from the vines for social media posts to <a href="marketing@coonawara.org">marketing@coonawara.org</a> 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.

#### 13. New Business

- 15/12 Smoke taint
- Action: HL/HE to contact Tim at council advising agreement with extending the season so long as people do not all burn on the same day aim is to have less fires over a longer period. Need another session to communicate this intent.

Next Meeting: 9:00am Tuesday 23rd February 2021 – Venue to be decided

Meeting closed at 10.30 am

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		