

Viticultural and Oenology Committee (VOC)

MINUTES – VOC Meeting		
Tuesday 15 September 2020	9.05am	Zoom

1. Welcome/Attendance/Apologies

Present: Chris Brodie (CB), Trent Nankivell (TN), Hans Loder (HL), Rae Clark (RC), Heidi Eldridge (HE), Brett Sharpe (BS), Dru Reschke (DR), Sally Macleod (SCM),

Apologies: Kerry DeGaris (KD) Sean Murphy (SM)

Minutes: Sally Macleod (SCM)

2. Minutes of the VOC Meeting held 5 July 2020

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

3. Actions arising previous meeting		Who	Status / Completed
3.1	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. <p>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.</p> <p>Funding required to pursue this project. Therefore need to seek grant money so project needs a scope.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action: CB to talk to Paul Petri. Hans seek information from CB on how we approach David Coleman then send email. 	CK & CB	<p>CB circulated a briefing document on 29/4.</p> <p>7/7 Not Discussed</p> <p>15/9 As per details from last meeting.</p>
3.2	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. <p>15/9 – Action: Hans and Heidi to discuss creating a document for wineries outlining what they do with employees on high risk fire days.</p>	OJ	<p>Not discussed however subject of discussion at SAWIA given bushfires and will have a doc ready for HE to present at next meeting.</p>
3.3	Coonawarra Rootstock Trial Contract to be finalised with 10 year term.	Vinehealth	<p>Remains outstanding. OJ has emailed on 29/4</p>

3. Actions arising previous meeting		Who	Status / Completed
	<p>15/9 - TWE and VHA have agreed on contract for further 10 years. TWE still to sign.</p> <p>Berry Shrivel project to continue. This site also available for this project.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>		<p>as relates to future budgeting.</p> <p>7/7 KD noted a meeting will all partners to occur on 15th July. Report will be provided on outcomes at Sept meeting.</p> <p>15/9 As yet no report on project outcomes.</p>
3.4	<p>External Education & Training</p> <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. KD advised the Youth Engagement Leadership Program (YELP) <i>Action: Explore connections – CV to assist.</i> 	OJ	<p>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.</p> <p>7/7 Not discussed 15/9 Not discussed</p>
3.5	<p>Weather Station (HL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HL indicated survey to members about weather stations only showed 30% using and mainly around frost period. <p><i>Action: HL to communicate intentions to CVA board to commence shutdown post first quarter 20/21 and look to outsource review of existing data to provide insights. HL to investigate and report on alternative options to members for frost monitoring and weather data.</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Action: HE to Provide link to weather station in correspondence.</i></p>	HL	
3.6	<p>Wattle Range Council funded signage.</p> <p><i>Action: OJ to send the sign locations.</i></p> <p><i>New Action: HE to resend sign locations</i></p>	OJ	<p>Note outstanding and to follow.</p> <p>15/9 Not discussed No further action required.</p>

4. Priority Projects (Note reordered based on review – see separate attachment and email)			
4.1	<p>Coonawarra Cabernet Project (CB) PHD Student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CB indicated all wine (2020 unoaked CAS) has been collected and delivered to university PhD will offer results to contributors of wine. 15/9 – Action: Dimi and Lara to provide results to contributors (CB to follow up). Deliver results to CV members via Zoom in October 		
4.2	<p>Irrigation Optimisation (Remote Sensing Technologies) Project (CB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CB reported that trial to continue for 2020/21 <p><i>Action: CB to follow up with Vinay to find out reporting future timelines</i></p> <p>15/9 – As above CB to contact Vinay</p>		
4.3	<p>Coonawarra Rootstock Trial (MW, KD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KD reported that draft final report from trial provided to partners to be discussed at meeting on July 15. 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 <p>15/9 – see above</p>		
4.4	<p>Berry Shrivel Project (CB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephen Tyerman gave a 15 minute presentation on the work being undertaken by Adelaide University. Resolved that they had the capacity to broaden their work to the Coonawarra region but would require assistance with funding travel and accommodation. <i>Action: CB, HL & HE to scope “in kind” contribution by Vignerons to source accommodation and a study site. CB/HL to liaise with Vinay Pagay and Stephen Tyerman to share travel arrangements.</i> <p>15/9 – see above</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 convening a meeting of participants in August. <i>Action: RC to confirm a time and location with Jacqui and we can promote opportunity to members.</i> (Not discussed 7/7) <i>Action: HE to follow up status with OJ regarding biodiversity plantings at Coonawarra Siding that is subject to approval of land (State owned).</i> <p>15/9 – This work is getting publicity at present. Information session at Penley Estate on 29/10/20 at 1.45 pm to look at progress of their project. Action: HE to circulate invite to members once details are confirmed.</p> <p>Dru has been liaising with DTA and Council re planting an area at the siding with beneficial species. Not much progress except to say they are happy with the site. Location to the south of siding in the mowed area. Council will remove some of the grasses and replace with compost and soil from bypass. Suggest to plant native seed mix pre-winter and non-native mix in Spring.</p> <p><i>Action: Dru to keep chasing Council and DTA and push for project to be started in Autumn 2021. Keep an eye out for grants to assist with funding.</i></p>
4.6	Vine Improvement (CB) See action table for the heritage scoping.

5. Ongoing Commitments	
5.1	<p>Water Allocation Plan (WAP) (PB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not discussed
5.2	<p>Coonawarra VOC Sponsorship (CB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not discussed
5.3	<p>Coonawarra Cabernet Symposium - 2018, 2021 was scheduled (CK with support from RC, SM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not discussed.
5.4	<p>External Education & Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil to report.
5.5	<p>Weather Station (HL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See <i>action</i> table
5.6	<p>Rail Trail</p> <p>Not discussed</p>

6. Board Update and information	
<p>15/9 - HE provided an update as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E commerce project: 23 wineries contributed to submitting wine for the 6 pack offerings. Launch on website in early October with 4-5 mixed packs initially. Mixed cabernet selection or a mix of whites and reds – up to 16 different packs to be made up once initial sales have been considered. Have short term liquor license to accommodate wine sales over a period from October to February. Review and re-access to gauge interest for this offering going forward in to the future. 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. <i>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.</i> James Halliday Cabernet Challenge attracted 362 entries from 29 regions of Australia. 182 were assessed by 5 judges. 72 wines came from Coonawarra and 130 from Margaret River and these were split between the two regions for judging. Winners will be announced on Thursday September 24th. Footage was taken for Langfords. Coonawarra Cabernet Celebrations – Events are all listed on line and the booklet has also been printed. Large crowd events have been cancelled along with the masterclass. Cellar doors will be showcased in smaller events. Decadence tasting will proceed with 12 wineries participating. Scheduled for Friday 16th October between 5.30 and 7.30 pm at Raidis Estate but may change to the Saturday afternoon. Coonawarra Cup has also been cancelled and will be held as a normal race meeting with no marque. 	

7. Correspondence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly correspondence every Tuesday 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.

8. 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		
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

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

10. Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council (LCGWC) – Technical Sub-Committee update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discussion

11. Limestone Coast Landscape (SE NRM Board)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discussion

12. Welfare, Health and Safety Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discussion

13. Viticulture and Oenology 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"> 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. 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. Action: HE/HL to continue to pursue this suggestion and submit a proposal to Landline

- Solar project - correspondence has gone out to members regarding a proposal by P4B Solar Energy Solutions to establish a solar farm in Coonawarra to offset power usage in vineyards with stand-alone meters (usually to power irrigation pumps) where there is no shed or space to put meters and it is not financially viable.
- *Action: To encourage members to respond with feedback on this proposal. Is there scope for a Q and A session? Grant funding for such a project? Discuss at AGM/General meeting on 22/10/2020.*

Next Meeting: 9:00am 15th December 2020 – ZOOM <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89887282640>

Meeting closed at 10:10am

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	