



2007 AUSTRALIAN VINE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION INC REPORT

The Australian Vine Improvement Association operates from an office located at 31 Deakin Avenue Mildura. Current members are the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area Vine Improvement Society (MIAVIS), the Queensland Vine Improvement Association (QVIA) the Victorian and Murray Valley Vine Improvement Association (VAMVVIA) the Western Australia Vine Improvement Association (WAVIA) and Tasmanian Vine Improvement (TVI).

The primary purpose of the Association is to promote the development of the Australian viticultural industries by coordinating grapevine improvement activities throughout Australia.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL NUCLEAR GRAPEVINE COLLECTION

The Australian National Nuclear Grapevine Collection was established by AVIA in 2004 at the Dareton Research Station, Dareton NSW. The Collection consists of approximately 800 vines, representing nearly 200 clones of grapevine varieties and rootstocks. These vines have undergone ELIZA, biological indexing and PCR testing prior to being released by SARDI into the National elite grapevine collection and were the result of a GWRDC project managed by Phil Nicholas, Senior Research Scientist, South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI). All material was sourced from CSIRO Merbein, the Department of Primary Industries, Irymple and SARDI repositories. The collection is the most comprehensive collection of elite vines currently available in Australia.

A further 20 clones that make up the total collection have now been collected from SARDI and will be planted in Spring 2008.

The Nuclear Collection includes wine grape, dried fruit and table grape cultivars and a number of important rootstock cultivars which form the basis for new plantings of grape vines within Australia and can be accessed through your State Vine Improvement scheme or selected, licensed distributors.

TASMANIAN VINE IMPROVEMENT REJOINS AVIA

After an absence of 2 years, Tasmania Vine Improvement has rejoined AVIA. The Association will finalise its Committee structure over the next few months and will be a formally welcomed at the Association's AGM in April 2008.

AVIA's current membership includes representatives from NSW, WA, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania Vine Improvement Groups, with several new members likely to join in coming months.

NEW RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER APPOINTED

AVIA has appointed Hilary Davis to the position of Research & Development Officer with the Association. Ms Davis is a current employee of the CSIRO at Merbein and will work for the Association on a part-time basis.

VINE IMPROVEMENT FUTURE DIRECTIONS WORKSHOP

AVIA has been an active participant in the deliberations of the Vine Improvement Future Directions working group, established by the SA Wine Industry Council to review current vine improvement structures in Australia. The working group finalised its recommendations to the Council in September 2007 and AVIA now eagerly awaits the wine industries reaction to the list of recommendations made by the working group, which included as a fundamental principle, that there was a need for a single national vine improvement program in Australia.



AVIA WEBSITE

Information on AVIA activities, together with order forms for the coming year will be available from the AVIA website at www.avia.org.au

NATIONAL VINE ACCREDITATION SCHEME

AVIA continues to administer the National Vine Accreditation Scheme for Vine Improvement Groups and Nurseries throughout Australia. AVIA employs National Accredited auditors to provide an independent assessment of registered vine improvement Groups. All audits were successfully completed in August 2007.

The development of the original accreditation Manual was completed by Scholfield Robinson Horticultural consultancy in the late 1990's with financial support from the GWRDC and it is in part this Manual that is being used as the basis for the development of new vine health standards for the Australian grape industry.

NATIONAL VINE HEALTH STEERING COMMITTEE

AVIA is an active member of the National Vine Health Steering Committee (NVHSC).

The NVHSC meets twice yearly as a consultative group to discuss a range of issues associated with vine health and Biosecurity.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF GRAPEVINE VARIETIES AND CLONES

The second edition of the National Register of Grapevine varieties and clones was published in March 2007.

Demand has been high, with 100 copies already being sold throughout Australia and overseas. The Register was developed by Phil Nicholas from the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) with generous funding from the Co-operative Research Centre for Viticulture (CRCV).

Included with the publication will be the "Grapevine clones used in Australia" booklet that was also recently completed by Phil Nicholas with funding from the GWRDC.

The National Register is available from Winetitles or direct from AVIA. Contact AVIA on (03) 5022 8499 or fax (03) 5021 4833 for more information or visit the AVIA website.