



Update



Mr Michael Pullen
Executive Officer



Julian Connellan (B.AppSci)
Research & Development Officer

In January 2005, the Australian Vine Improvement Association (AVIA) appointed Mr Michael Pullen to the position of Executive Officer to replace Mr Kerridge, who completed his 12 month contract with AVIA in December, 2004.

In addition to Mr Pullen's appointment, AVIA appointed Mr Julian Connellan as the Association's Research & Development Officer. Mr Connellan is responsible for the maintenance of the Australian National Nuclear Grapevine Collection.

George Kerridge's contribution to AVIA

Over the 12 months Mr Kerridge's worked with the Association he visited all member vine improvement groups throughout Australia and undertook a study tour to Europe, Canada and the USA to build on existing relationships with grape breeders and suppliers, to look at rootstock trellising techniques and to investigate the potential for technology adoption in the area of vine improvement.

Chairman Mr Kym Ludvigsen praised the efforts of Mr Kerridge during his 12 month appointment and was to delighted to report that Mr Kerridge would continue to work with AVIA in a consultancy role.



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL NUCLEAR GRAPEVINE COLLECTION

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



The AVIA National Nuclear Collection at Dareton, NSW in February, 2006.

The AVIA collection is being managed by VAMVVIA's Research & Development Officer, Mr Julian Connellan and the NSW Department of Primary Industries under industry agreed protocols (see separate report in this edition).

AVIA WEBSITE

AVIA established a website in 2005. The site is in its development stage, however already contains information on AVIA activities. Contact the site on 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 and Nurseries. All audits were successfully completed in July/August 2005. The development of the original Manual was completed by Scholfield Robinson in the late 1990's with 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 Vine Industry.

NATIONAL VINE HEALTH STEERING COMMITTEE

AVIA is an active member of the National Vine Health Steering Committee. Draft guidelines have been developed to establish new vine health parameters for the Australia vine nursery industry. AVIA actively supports this initiative and will work closely with industry colleagues to further develop the draft standards.



VISIT TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA VINE IMPROVEMENT (WAVIA)

AVIA Research & Development Officer Mr Julian Connellan visited Western Australia in November 2005 where he was able to meet WAVIA's new Department of Agriculture representative, Sue Wills. An invitation to attend a WAVIA committee meeting at Bunbury proved to be a valuable experience for Mr Connellan and the WAVIA committee, where thoughts and experiences of vine improvement were freely exchanged. Following this meeting Mr Connellan joined the Department of Agriculture's social group in a tour of the Margaret River wine region.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- A review and update of the AVIA National Register of Grapevine Varieties and Clones and the development of a Catalogue of Clones under the direction of Mr Phil Nicholas (SARDI) is nearing completion.
- The Australian National Nuclear Grapevine Collection will be maintained and the cutting and distribution of high health status cuttings will commence this cutting season.
- The CSIRO list of available clones will be available from the AVIA website. Orders for material must be placed with AVIA. Contact AVIA on (03) 50514578 or fax (03) 50514526.