

PGIBSA Report

March 2013

Board Functions (as per the Act):

1. Risk Assessment and Management

Reporting of Incidents or breaches biosecurity practices or regulations

As part of the ongoing risk review process the Board will document incidents that are identified and then apply the risk assessment method. Incident reports require the following information:

- Time/date
- Who was involved?
- Where did the incident occur, and importantly
- How the person reporting gained this information eg observation, heard about it from another person etc?

The following are examples of incidents that have been reported to the Board in recent times:

a. James Busby Tours

In October 2012, a group of wine tourists, mainly journalists, undertook a tour of wine regions in Victoria and South Australia. The itinerary primarily covers the opportunity to promote local product and to meet the winemakers from those regions. Concern was expressed from McLaren Vale growers that the tour travelled from Phylloxera Infested Zones and Phylloxera Restricted Zones directly to McLaren Vale with only a day as a gap. Information gathered, thus far, indicated that there was some entering of vineyards by the touring party in Phylloxera Infested Zones two days before arriving in McLaren Vale. There is no evidence that any of the touring party entered a vineyard on the first day in McLaren Vale. However, a footbath was available at the lunch with McLaren Vale winemakers. It is unclear if it was used or not. Ben Thomson, Best Wines, highlighted to the group the issue of Phylloxera and how they have managed it around their cellar door as a part of his presentation, four days before they arrived in McLaren Vale.

The Risk & Audit Committee reviewed the evidence thus far and identified further information was needed before recommending action and treatment. This included:

- Clarifying past practice for similar tourist groups
- What are the plans for future tours?
- Ascertain the extent that tour members enter vineyards in SA
- What steps are taken to ensure hygiene standards are maintained?

b. Day On the Green

On January 27th, Leconfield Wines (McLaren Vale) was the venue for the “Day on the Green” event. In previous years the McLaren Vale Phylloxera Committee has raised this as a risk as the event followed the Day on the Green event in the Yarra Valley (Rochford Winery). The vineyard manager of Leconfield contacted the Board who then undertook a site visit. Leconfield staff were very receptive to implement crowd control measures to ensure that access to vineyards by people

and vehicle traffic was minimised. As a follow up the Board advised the MVGWTA of our visit and suggested that they visit Leconfield. Interestingly the staff at Leconfield was unaware of the McLaren Vale Phylloxera Group and did not know some of the identities. The Board has assisted staff at Leconfield to prepare a letter from Leconfield to the promoters of Day on the Green in respect to the cleaning of trucks that will be travelling overnight from Rochford to Leconfield. As an ongoing practice the Board will monitor the Day on the Green website for future events. The next event is in Clare in August 2013.

c. Cellar Door Traffic

It has come to the notice of the Board several Cellar Door and accommodation locations are situated on sites which enable easy access to vineyards for the customers. There is no fencing or signage to assist in the management of visitors. Apart from biosecurity concerns there are also OH&S and public liability concerns. There was general discussion around the role of cellar door staff and the limitations they have to monitor visitors as they have other priorities in their job roles. It is recognized that when it comes to infrastructure decisions re fencing etc those responsibilities rest with management and not cellar door staff. Therefore the Board strategy will be to work with management on these matters in preference to cellar door staff. The Board will continue to provide education and advice to cellar door staff as requested.

d. Vine cutting importation

It was alleged that vine material from a PRZ had entered SA. Upon investigation it was found that this was incorrect and that due process, in accordance with the Plant Quarantine Standard, was followed. It was identified that the alleged incident occurred in 2009 and interstate Biosecurity were very interested in exploring this further for any potential breaches within their own State. No such breach has been identified. More importantly, the source of the vine cuttings and the recipient's interstate had both been surveyed in accordance with the National Phylloxera Management Protocol in 2007-2008 and 2009-2011.

The Board welcomes input on any incidents (similar to the examples above and including any that allegedly may have occurred sometime ago ie. years ago) that have caused concern and the Board will apply the risk assessment principles to the incident to ascertain the level of risk. The Board is particularly interested in alleged breaches of regulation (Plant Quarantine Standard) and between PEZ's and PRZ's/PIZ's

2. Policy issues

ICA-33

Biosecurity SA announced that current arrangements for ICA-33's will remain in place for the 2013 vintage for grapes coming into SA. Grapes going to NSW and Victoria from SA require a cart note showing proof of origin as an alternative to an ICA-33. The Board has recommended a distance of 20 metres between winery unloading sites and vineyard is the acceptable distance to be included in the ICA-33 requirements. This distance is based on results from a Buchanan and King (1986) study which states that phylloxera may move up to 20 metres unassisted.

Neglected vineyards

Neglected vineyards is currently a topic for consideration with the Wine Grape Council of SA who are seeking to have legislation introduced to require appropriate management of vineyards that are considered neglected. The Board has received a request from PIRSA to determine the extent of the problem that is neglected vineyards.

The Board seeks comment from regional groups and individuals as to the size of the problem i.e.

1. How many hectares in your region are considered neglected?
2. What is the damage by pests or disease that has been incurred as a direct result of neglected vineyards?

The Board is very interested to know what stakeholders consider the criteria that can be applied to determine what a neglected vineyard is. All ideas welcome

All comments are to be provided to the Board by the 30th June 2013 and can be emailed to admin@phylloxera.com.au

3. Board Research/Projects:

DNA sampling research

The Board has commenced a 3 year study to determine if DNA soil sampling can be used to ensure area freedom for PEZ's. This project is supported by GWRDC and PBCRC. The collaborators for this project are University of Adelaide, SARDI, DPI-Vic and DPI-NSW. The Board has invited the National Vine Biosecurity Committee to provide independent advice on the project. As the project progresses, the research team will be providing milestone reports.

Rootstock Trials

All of the trial sites were harvested in quick succession with the data currently being compiled. In addition, petiole and leaf blade analyses are being interpreted, as per industry standards, for reporting.

The Board is currently maintaining data collection for the drought trial at Nuriootpa Research Station, with 77 clone/rootstock combinations being assessed.

If anybody is interested in further post graduate studies based on the trial site data please contact Andrew (08 8362 0488).

Footbath Study

The Board has undertaken an initial investigation into the efficacy of a potential footbath product option. As the results showed promise, the Board is working with the product's manufacturer in assisting in the trial/registration process.

4. Regional Issues (regional concerns regarding vine health):

The Board is interested in hearing about vine health issues from the respective regions, especially those that relate specifically to pests and disease.

5. Board member selection

The Selection Committee completed the call for applications in early March 2013 and are currently considering the candidates. The Board has been advised that the Selection Committee will be making its recommendations to the Minister in May 2013.

6. Regional meeting dates

It would be helpful to the Board to know the meeting dates for your regional meetings so we can plan ahead. Please Email the dates to admin@phylloxera.com.au as soon as possible so the Board can plan ahead.