

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2008/2009

The composition of the Committee for 2008/2009 is as below;

John Ward	Chairman & Victorian Grower Representative
Barry Cock	Deputy Chair & New South Wales Grower
Jeff Mitchell	Industry Representative
Bob Shields	Industry Representative (retired)
Ron Hutton	New South Wales Government Representative
Andrew Murdoch	New South Wales Grower Representative
Stuart Holland	Victorian Government Representative (retired)
Len Schliefert	Victorian Grower Representative (retired)
Jan O'Connor	Victorian Grower Representative
Rachael McClintock	Industry Representative (incoming)
Louise Belej	New South Wales Grower Representative (incoming)
Jonathan Drohan	Victorian Government Representative (incoming)

The 2008-2009 year for winegrape growers was the worst result in modern times. Industry morale is at a very low ebb. Many growers have been left with little income after the collapse of a major winery and very many wineries being very slow with their fruit payments.

I just wonder when pricing will reach a sustainable level and so inject some confidence back into the primary production part of the wine industry.

The Victorian Government Order under which the Murray Valley Winegrape Industry Development Committee (IDC) operates under was renewed during the last reporting period. It was pleasing to note that over 600 growers voted in the affirmative. The number of growers has contracted from 1,330 to a little over 900 in the last 4 years. To have 600 growers vote for the Order shows a very high level of support for the IDC.

The finances of the IDC are in very good shape through good cost control and diligent control of project expenditure. The IDC will be able maintain its service to the industry despite the very difficult economic times.

During the year our Committee farewelled three long serving members; Len Schliefert, Bob Shields and Stuart Holland. I thank them for their commitment and constructive contribution.

We also welcomed their Committee replacements; Louise Belej, Rachael McClintock and Jonathan Drohan. I look forward to their points of view and contribution to the Committee.

Our Industry Development Officer Liz Singh continues to do good work on behalf of all growers. Many thanks to Michael De Palma and Mike Stone for their help and cooperation.

We trust that for the industry wellbeing that the economic circumstances improve.

The projects completed in 2008/2009 and those approved for 2009/2010 are shown below. For further details go to the industry website at www.murrayvalleywinegrapes.com.au

Projects Funded	Project Cost 2008/2009 Actual \$	Project Cost 2009/2010 Approved \$
Grower Communication	22,990	41,136
Grower Groups	-	16,500
Grower-Winery Liaison Committees		12,947
Introducing Vine Biz		15,730
Phylloxera Identification Program		11,000
Spray Diary		3,300
Grower Services Manager	-	
Improving Grape Sale Prospects	-	
Industry Development Committee Administration	*85,534	75,819
Information Collection & Communication	8,085	37,433
Industry Development Officer	70,680	85,412
Regional & National Viticulture Input	67,650	68,530
Total (GST exclusive)	254,939	367,807

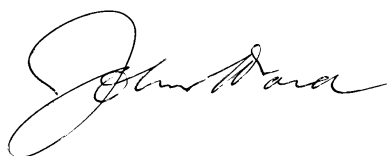
* includes New Order costs of \$11,541

The Committee continues to operate within the Order and encourages growers to contribute to the voting process by returning the voting papers to decide the projects to be approved.

Contact Liz Singh the Industry Development Officer for viticulture related assistance or Ashley Turner regarding voting or administration of levy funds.

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JOHN WARD
CHAIRMAN
MURRAY VALLEY WINE GRAPE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE