

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2003/2004

The last 12 months has seen some significant changes occur within our industry.

During 2003, the Victorian and New South Wales Governments signed an Inter-Government Agreement (IGA) for the formation of an Extra-Territorial Industry Services Committee in the Murray Valley.

Victorian growers voted on October 3 2003 in favour of combining the committees. New South Wales growers were polled on August 9 2004 and voted very strongly in favour of the committee working as one committee under Victorian legislation. This now means the Murray Valley Wine Grape Industry Development Committee (herein called the IDC) will only report to one government, resulting in considerable cost and time savings.

The committee composition changed in October 2003, as several long-serving members retired. These members were Max Tolson, Colin Free, Gary Thomas and Brian Englefield. I sincerely thank each of them for their considerable effort and commitment. A particular mention to Max who gave outstanding leadership to the committee.

The IDC now comprises of the following:

John Ward	Chairman & Vic Grower Representative
Barry Cock	Deputy Chair & NSW Grower
Jeff Mitchell	Industry Representative
Bob Shields	Industry Representative
Ron Hutton	NSW Govt Representative
Andrew Murdoch	NSW Grower Representative
Stuart Holland	Vic Govt Representative
Len Schliefert	Vic Grower Representative
Jan O'Connor	Vic Grower Representative

These committee members have been selected by industry and appointed by government. They will ensure that growers receive best possible results for their levy dollars.

Our Industry Development Officer, Susan Byrne, continues to be the focal point for our grower inquiries. Susan has co-ordinated the projects very well and has been extremely helpful to all growers.

Demand changes in the international market have seen many changes in the requirement of our wineries. Growers will have to adapt to these new conditions to remain viable. The committee seeks projects that reflect these changes.

During the next 6-8 months, the IDC will be conducting forums with wine grape growers to formulate a 4-year Strategic Plan. This Plan should reflect the growers' aspirations in respect to projects and set the direction for further research in the Murray Valley region.

Enclosed are lists of projects in the current operating year and the committee's selected projects for 2005/2006. Please take the time to read and return your voting on these projects. The dollars are from your levy funds.

To conclude, I wish to thank the previous committee and chairman for a job well done. Thank you to Growers Council Chief Executive Officer, Mike Stone, for his assistance and support during the ballot voting for the new order and changes to NSW participation in the IDC.

The projects completed in 2003/2004 and those approved for 2004/2005 are shown below. For further details go to the industry website at www.murrayvalleywinegrapes.com.au.

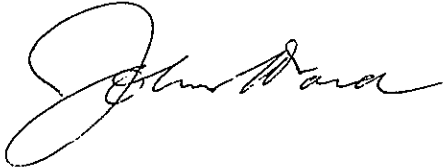
Projects Funded	Project Cost	Project Cost
	2003/2004	2004/2005
	Actual \$	Approved \$
Annual Regional Crop Forecasting	15,600	17,600
Seminars & Field Days	3,000	-
Grower Groups - Quality	21,000	11,900
Industry Development Officer	56,254	79,500
Industry Representation	6,600	-
Market Information & Statistics	28,700	-
Grapevine & Australian Viticulture Magazine - Newsletters & Publications	62,403	46,326
Improving Irrigation	-	19,720
Information Collection & Communication	-	48,692
Regional Wine Shows	4,000	3,000
Foliar Mineral Sprays	16,024	-
Vineyard Cooling	12,000	-
Managing for Colour	7,200	-
Preventing Delayed Ripening	7,200	-
National Viticulture Input	45,000	66,122
Grower Survey	11,044	12,336
Industry Development Committee Administration	67,344	74,400
Total (GST exclusive)	363,369	379,596

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

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Fax: (03) 5021 1430
Email: ashleyt@thomsons.au.com

All growers are encouraged to participate in the project approval and voting process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Ward', written in a cursive style.

JOHN WARD
CHAIRMAN
MURRAY VALLEY WINE GRAPE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE