

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

31 August 2005

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE TO BE DISCUSSED AT WINEGRAPE RESEARCH FORUM

Visions for the Australian winegrape industry and future drivers will be a key theme at next week's Riverlink Winegrape Industry Research and Development Forum, to be held at 9.00am (SA time) on Wednesday 7 September 2005 at the Berri Hotel Resort, Berri South Australia.

In a keynote address, Stephen Strachan from the Winemaker's Federation of Australia will present his thoughts on '*Visions for the Australian wine industry – what are future drivers and the challenges they present?*' This will be followed by discussion of research needs for the regional winegrape industry, setting priorities for future research and development with the tri-state Riverlink horticultural research network.

Forum convenor, Peter Clingeffer (CSIRO scientist and Riverlink's Viticulture Program Leader), urged members of the Sunraysia-Riverland winegrape industry to attend the forum, stating that it was important they provide their input into future research and be aware of what research is currently happening.

'Riverlink runs a research planning forum for the winegrape industry each year, alternating its location between the Riverland and Sunraysia. I would strongly encourage all interested growers and other industry members to attend this forum next week, as outcomes from it will influence future winegrape research within Riverlink,' said Peter. 'As well as research planning, communication is one of our main objectives at the forum. We want to encourage greater awareness of winegrape related research already happening in this region, and closer interaction between regional scientists and industry.'

Riverlink is a unique tri-state research network servicing horticultural industries in Sunraysia-Riverland. It consists of:

- CSIRO Plant Industry, River Ave Merbein Victoria
- SA Research and Development Institute (SARDI) Research Centre, Bookpurnong Road Loxton SA
- Department of Primary Industries, Cnr 11th St and Koorlong Ave Mildura Victoria, and
- NSW Department of Primary Industries, Silver City Highway Dareton NSW

Growers and industry members wishing to attend the forum or requiring further information can contact Merryl Whyte or Sue Mason on 03 50514500 or merryl.whyte@dpi.vic.gov.au. A program is available in the 'What's On' section of the Riverlink website www.sardi.sa.gov.au/riverlink/riverlink.htm

ENDS

Further Information:

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Photograph and Interview Opportunities

See attached program. Photographs and interviews can be arranged with presenters. Riverlink Viticulture Program Leader Peter Clingeffer is available from Thursday 1 September for interview in the lead up to the forum. Please contact Merryl Whyte to arrange interview times with him or other speakers on the day.

We encourage interested members of the regional media to attend the forum (or selected sections).



**Riverlink Winegrape Industry R & D
Planning Forum**

Wednesday 7 September 2005

**Berri Hotel Resort
Riverview Drive Berri SA**

Program (SA time)

- 9.00am **Welcome**
Kevin Cock, Riverlink Chairman
- 9.05am **Importance of industry input to regional research planning
& introduction of Riverlink Council winegrape representatives**
Kevin Pfeiffer, McGuigan Simeon Wines Ltd
- 9.10am **Outline of the day's activities and aims of the forum**
Merryl Whyte and Kevin Cock (facilitators)
- 9.25am **Overview of Riverlink**
(including new strategic plan focus)
Kevin Cock, Riverlink Chairman
- 9.30am **Agency directions and specialities within Riverlink**
Peter Clingeffer, Riverlink Viticulture Program Leader
- 9.40am **Current Riverlink winegrape R & D**
Presentation of summary booklet
Peter Clingeffer, Riverlink Viticulture Program Leader
- Selected Riverlink Project Presentations**
'What's happening and ideas on future work'
- 9.50am **Winegrape maturation**
Dr Nicola Cooley, CSIRO Plant Industry Merbein
- 10.00am **Powdery mildew**
Dr Bob Emmett, DPI-Mildura
- 10.10am **Crop control**
Peter Clingeffer, CSIRO Plant Industry Merbein
- 10.20am **Measurement of water use at the vineyard scale**
Rob Stevens, SARDI Loxton Research Centre
- 10.25am Questions
- 10.30am Morning Tea

- 10.50am **Update from Riverland Wine Industry Development Committee**
Comment on identified regional research needs
- Julie Sippo IDO (introduced by Richard Dolan Riverlink Council)
- 11.00am **Update from Murray Valley Winegrape Growers Inc**
Comment on identified regional research needs
- Liz McGuire IDO (introduced by Michael De Palma Riverlink Council)
- 11.10am Questions
- 11.15am **Update on GWRDC priorities and research directions**
- Dr Jim Fortune Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation
- 11.25am Questions
- 11.30am **Outcomes from last year's forum and resulting Riverlink action**
including presentation of research package developed for GWRDC
Peter Clingeffer, Riverlink Viticulture Program Leader
- 11.50am **Review of Riverlink Winegrape Research Package and short-term research needs**
Merryl Whyte, Riverlink
- 12.45pm **Next Steps**
Peter Clingeffer, Riverlink Viticulture Program Leader
- 12.50pm Lunch
- 1.20pm **Importance of looking at long term drivers and research needs**
Kevin Cock, Riverlink Chairman
- 1.25pm **Visions for the Australian wine industry – what are future drivers and the challenges they present?**
- Stephen Strachan, Chief Executive Winemaker's Federation of Australia
- 1.50pm Questions
- 2.00pm **Review of future horticultural industry drivers/controllers for afternoon discussion groups**
- Kevin Cock, Riverlink Chairman
- 2.20pm **Outline of activities for afternoon discussion groups**
- Merryl Whyte
- 2.40pm Questions
- 2.45pm **Discussion Groups commence**
- 2.45 pm First set of discussion groups
3.15 pm Second set of discussion groups
3.45 pm Third set of discussion groups
- 4.15 pm Tea break
- 4.20pm **Reporting on discussion group outcomes**
Kevin Cock, Riverlink Council Chairman
- 4.40pm **Prioritisation and evaluation**
Merryl Whyte, Riverlink
- 5.00pm **Close and next steps**
Kevin Cock and Peter Clingeffer